

NEWS



Welcome to the Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative Newsletter.

Take a look inside and see more of the recent changes we have been making to Folkestone and its heritage, including building restoration and our community engagement work. We are on course to meet the expected outcomes for this scheme, achieving all the goals originally set out for this initiative.

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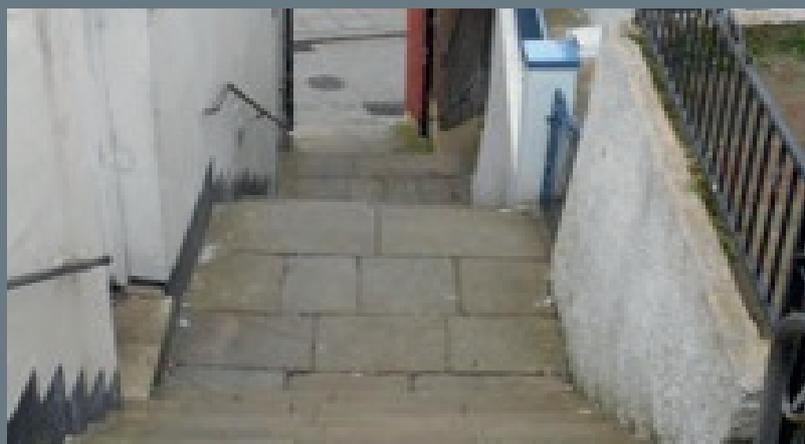
Renovation work at Rendezvous Street



Abode Renovation Lime Skills Workshop



The Parade Steps



The Bayle Steps

Rendezvous Street Completion



Before Reinstatement of Stucco Detailing



Work being done on the 1st & 2nd Floors



Reinstatement of 1st & 2nd Floors with Stucco Detailing

Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative are investing in period stucco detailing and design renovations at 30, 32 & 34 Rendezvous Street.

This restoration project is aiming to provide more architectural consistency throughout Folkestone, as well as style and taste. Folkestone based Martello architects and FTHI are working together to carefully mimic and reinstate period Stucco detailing onto the front elevation of the first and second floors of the building. New shop fronts are also being installed to bring a consistency in style to the area.

It's important to FTHI to keep maintaining and investing in updating our town as it grows and adapts. The Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative believes that the restoration of these architectural elements across Folkestone will aid the restoration of the Old Town to its former glory.

The renovations include copying original decayed old tiles from next door, using stucco detailing, which is lime, sand, and cement mix. Martello will be using their heritage expertise to produce and install the identical tiles.

Parade Steps



Thanks to Martello working in conjunction with FTHI's generous investment of £58,000, all 111 of the Parade Steps have been tastefully restored and reopened to the public. The stairs that connect the harbour to the town centre took two months to complete. Renovations included refurbishing, using traditional materials, to reinstate features, like the view of the harbour from the landings. The stairs were also re-leveled and repaired. This public realm project is working to help form stronger, more attractive, connections from the Creative Quarter and Folkestone town centre, to the harbour and seafront.

Director of Martello, Paul Kegos commented: 'It is an honour and privilege to have been given this opportunity to work in partnership with the FTHI scheme, in order to regenerate and restore this part of Folkestone's historic character.'

The improvements made to the Parade Steps were made possible by part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's grant of £1.3 million awarded to the Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative (or FTHI). FTHI consists of a partnership with Kent County Council (KCC), Shepway District Council (SDC) and the Creative Foundation. KCC has added a contribution of £400,000 and SDC £100,000. This funding is going to helping to restore and rebuild the historic environment in the Old Town.

Bay to Bayle



An enthusiastic group took part in a journey back in time on the Bay to Bayle Walk. The group was led by Dr Andrew Richardson of The Canterbury Archeological Trust who navigated the group through Folkestone's rich, engaging history. The walk began at East Wear Bay which is criss-crossed with pre-historic routes Roman ditches and an Iron Age round house. The team heard about pottery from the Bronze Age and Middle Age iron found on the site. The Roman Villa was a real highlight for the team which learned that it is part of a much larger Roman site which is as yet unexcavated. Stories of an abundance of very rare artefacts such as Neolithic flint arrow heads which are more than 10,000 years old illuminated the journey back through Folkestone's history.

The walk continued to Copt Point, through the Harbour, up The Old High Street to the current dig at The Bayle. It was a very enjoyable and informative walk for all involved and Dr Andrew Richardson brought the different ages of Folkestone's history to life.

FTHI working with East Kent College

FTHI EKC Partnership



Edge students on a site visit at The Parade Steps with the THI Project Manager and Paul Kego, Consultant from Martello

Victoria Copp-Crawley, Principal of the Folkestone campus, East Kent College, writes...

The Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative has been a great partner for East Kent College, offering a range of opportunities for students across the College to develop their professional skills in public facing environments. Our construction students have been given the opportunity to learn heritage building techniques, developing skills which are in high demand, while creative students at The EDGE have been able to take on photography assignments capturing the historic beauty of many of the area's buildings. Our student led EDGE Creative Agency has been commissioned to produce this newsletter and a range of flyers and films, our Catering students have developed their skills, providing refreshments and hospitality for a range of high profile events. It's incredibly beneficial for our students to be working on this type of project, and it's fantastic to see how eagerly they've immersed themselves in every aspect of the initiative.



Edge students making a promotional film in the Creative Quarter

We are looking forward to working more with Richard Piper, THI Project Manager and the heritage teams through the Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative. It is great to see both the renovation of Folkestone and the reinvigoration of heritage skills receiving so much support from all aspects of our local community.



Victoria Copp-Crawley, Campus Principal, East Kent College, Folkestone.

FTHI working with Catering at EKC

The Catering Department of East Kent College has been commissioned by The Folkestone Town Heritage Initiative to deliver catering services for a range of heritage events, workshops and community exhibitions. This has developed into a strong partnership which has provided the catering students with a series of professional challenges.

The students source the ingredients, prepare and cook food and take part in the logistical challenges of delivering the food to a range of offsite locations.

They experience working under pressure and to tight deadlines to ensure the food and drink arrives on time, is presented to a professional standard and most importantly tastes fantastic.

The students have designed a range of menus for these events to meet the clients needs. For one event they needed to produce cold fork buffets with stylish small taster desserts and for another small canapés accompanied with Champagne. In the recent Lime Workshops held on the 14th and 15th of February they came in during their half term break and made a series of hot soups and rolls which helped warm up the participants on a chilly and crisp day.

Ann-Marie Jones, Head of Catering said that the students really benefitted from this range of professional work. She commented that it is a particular focus of the Catering courses at East Kent College that the students become experienced in working on real world jobs where client's requirements need to be met to a professional standard. This has been a strength of the Catering courses which translate into the students developing high level communication and customer facing skills alongside a diverse range of cooking and catering skills.



Ann-Marie Jones Head of Catering, with FTHI Intern Tom Cutts



Lime Skills Workshops

Working With Abode Renovation

During the winter the Folkestone Town Heritage Initiative has been able to provide Lime skills and Mortar workshops at East Kent College.

The scope and reach of these heritage activities have broadened to include workshops at East Kent College for local community members as well as students. In February 35 local people took part in lime skills workshops. These worked as a great way for building owners, builders and residents interested in heritage skills to meet, network and share ideas and experiences whilst developing specialist lime skills. This typifies the FTHI's approach to igniting interest and facilitating the development of these valuable skills to help maintain and restore our local heritage.

The workshops are run by Eve Martin and Ben Martin of Abode from Abode Renovation who are based in Faversham. Abode visited East Kent College to work with the pupils to build their conservation skills and familiarise them in working with historic building practices.

Workshops in repointing both exteriors and interiors using lime based mortar took place. Lime is a forgiving material when used with plaster. It's permeable, making it ideal for preserving bricks and is a flexible product with low expansion. Altogether this material will aid in bolstering the longevity of contemporary and traditional buildings' structural integrity.

Repointing is essential for every household, otherwise the building will absorb too much moisture and cause damage, The repointing process involves raking out to the right depth then sweeping out all loose debris. The mortar is then applied without damaging any of the bricks. Typically a job using these skills would earn the students around £75 square metre.





A mixture of progression, bricklaying, first, and second year students took part in this workshop. The skills learned during these sessions will hopefully enable them to find work of their own, help them cultivate a better understanding of the trade areas, and furthermore benefiting their chosen area of construction they decide to progress into.

The Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative has and will continue to provide funding for these types of important workshops, having already secured funding for next year and donated equipment, ready for next year's workshops.



St Marys Primary Academy Exhibition

Photography Exhibition at the Lilford Gallery

A delightful collaboration between St Mary's Primary Academy in Folkestone, East Kent College and Shepway District Council took place December at the Lilford Gallery in Folkestone's Old High Street. The event was an exhibition of photos taken by the year 6 pupils at St Mary's and was organised by the Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative.

The event was supported by the students of the catering department at East Kent College who made a range of refreshments.

The theme of the exhibition was 'Our Heritage Tomorrow', and incorporated celebrating the parts of Folkestone the pupils liked and also something they felt could be improved. The children articulated what they would do to improve their chosen area. This aspect was important to the Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative with its focus on the regeneration of Folkestone. Richard Piper felt that seeing the exhibition through the eyes of children would be extremely interesting to everyone attending the exhibition and all those wanting to see Folkestone become the 'go to' place it used to be in the first half of the last century

The teachers from Year 6, Stephen O'Brien and his colleagues Rebecca Longley and Andrew Wright, were delighted with the results of the children's efforts. Stephen said: "Our pupils love to be out and about in the town engaged in something really constructive and we did a similar project last year".

The students from East Kent College have provided the food which proved to be a resounding success with a wide range of delicious canapes available from tempura prawns to light as a feather profiteroles created by the 14 Progression Level students and two apprentices. Head of Catering, Ann-Marie Jones said: "The students have done a wonderful job, particularly as this is the first external event they have catered for since they started at the college in September. We have been delighted to assist in this event as we encourage our students to work with the community."



Building on History

Church Street



Fellenberg College as it was



Reinstatement of Shop Front



Building Plans for New Structure

FTHI are also investing in stucco detailing and design renovations at 4A Church Street. This restoration project aims to provide more architectural consistency and style throughout Folkestone. The renovations entail copying original details and replicating them to match. The 100 year old replicas are then installed next door.

The restoration of 4a Church Street involves restoring the "Fellenberg College" sign and also renovating the property to reflect that of its neighbour's traditional style. This has been done using stucco detailing, which is partly made of lime to help preserve the building



Folkestone

Townscape Heritage Initiative