

Rochester Riverside Residents' Association

NEWSLETTER

May 2025



Welcome to the fifth quarterly local newsletter! We hope that you find some useful updates and information.



Groundworks and Section 20 Notice

There has been some concern regarding the clearing of the pond area next to Furrell's Park. The reason given is that there should be more wildlife in this area (frogs, newts, pondskippers etc.) and a potential cause is the sludge and debris at the bottom of the pond. It was decided that this area needed to be tidied up and cleared out so that wildlife could thrive. By next year it should be recovered. However, the clearing out has been more exuberant than expected and perhaps plans needed to be explained and agreed before they were carried out. Certainly communication could have been better. Groundworks did hire specialists for this job.

In any case there is a tender out for a new grounds and maintenance contract. All residents should have received a letter dated 7th July 2025 regarding a change to the contractor. Within this document is a summary of the tender evaluation. You will note that the new contractor, Pinnacle FM Limited has a connection to Hyde. You can still send written observations regarding the proposals by emailing my20@hyde-housing.co.uk and referencing Lot 2 Kent: Grounds maintenance and services and works. The initial lease is for a three year period. Pinnacle and Hyde should ensure that any employees who are hired to carry out works have proper qualifications and expertise as they have been observed to have a lacksidaisical approach to maintenance. All residents are encouraged to observe and provide feedback regarding maintenance following the change that is due to come into effect from October 2025.



Summer Party - 17th August 2025

The summer event is booked for the 17th August from 1pm to 4pm at Furrell's Park.

Once again we invite all residents to bring along cakes and bakes to share with your neighbours.

This year we will again be having live music provided by Magio Strings who play a range of popular and classical arrangements from an extensive repertoire, everything from Brahms to Billie Eilish.

There will also be:

- Intra Arts who will be doing screenprinting and art activities for adults and children as well as providing an opportunity to get to know more about their activities in the area.
- Facepainting
- Air of the Dog for cold and hot drinks as well as beer on tap.
- Balloon artist
- Ice cream van
- Neighbourhood watch stand

It would be wonderful to have more volunteers so please get in contact if you can perhaps lead an activity.



Litter Picking

Belinda Lamb will be down again to lead a litter picking session of the two creeks on site and the area in front of Furrell's Park on the 28th August 2025.

The time is 10am - 12pm and the meeting point is at the first creek opposite the Co-op. All equipment will be supplied (you may wish to wear wellies or walking boots!)

It's a really great chance to tidy up the creeks as well as have fun and meet your neighbours. Children are welcome as long as they can get down into the creeks.



Waverley Paddle Steamer

The World's (yes world's) last seagoing paddle steamer is coming to Rochester for the first time. Visit waverleyexcursions.co.uk for more information. I have attached the Timetable to the mailing list email.

The Paddle Steamer will be in Rochester on the 26th September for a special 80th Anniversary VE Day 1940s cruise. This sounds like a really special event. There is also a Cruise Twinkling Thames & Floodlit Tower Bridge cruise which starts at London Tower Pier and ends in Rochester.



Cathedral - Summer 2025

The newly restored Short Scion Floatplane will be in the Cathedral from the 1st - 31st August along with a host of exhibitions and events to support this exciting event. The aircraft was built in the Short Brothers factory that was once located on Rochester Esplanade.

Exhibitions include Pioneers of Flight, Taking Flight Community Art Exhibition as well as Family Engineering Activities. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Also at the Cathedral this summer is free Adventure Golf in the Cathedral gardens. The nine-hole course introduces different bridge types to participants.

The [Rochester Cathedral Jazz and Blues Festival](#) is back for its third year. Book early to avoid disappointment. Highlights include the BBC Big Band and James Taylor Quartet.

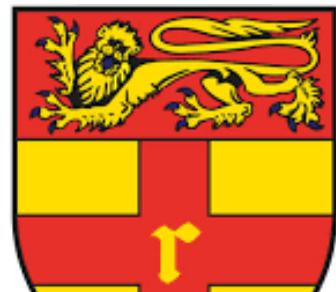


Electric Medway

Electric Medway is an organisation that looks to use digital art and immersive technology to bring people together and up-skill the next generation.

You may have seen resident Greg Robert post about Cinema Club which typically has screenings the last Wednesday of every month. This is one part of their offering which includes Hack and Young Hack, Men in Tech and Intra Stories.

To find out more please visit electricmedway.org. You can sign up to the mailing list and follow on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.



RCCF AGM

The Rochester City Centre Forum is an organisation set up to support and help the High Street but also wider Rochester area thrive. They aim to support local business on the High Street but also engage the community and maintain the unique heritage of Rochester.

There is a meeting held quarterly and anyone with an ME1 postcode is welcome to attend. The next meeting (also the AGM) is on Tuesday 22nd July at 5.45pm at The Baptist Church on Crow Lane.



Gas House Road

Medway Council have confirmed that they will be resurfacing the entry stretch of Gas House Road this month. This will involve temporary lights and one-way operation for a short time, fingers crossed overnight.

We are inviting Vistry to the next meeting with Hyde (due for September) to go into more detail regarding the plans for roads in the development as well as other points that involve Vistry more than Hyde.

Cat Cafe and MEND

There are a couple of new openings on the old High Street.

First for all animal lovers there is a new Cat Cafe, Mrs Slocombe's that is the purr-fect place for feline and coffee enthusiasts.

Website is here: mrsslocombes.co.uk

Slightly different and for all pilates enthusiasts, Sarah recently posted on the Facebook group about MEND Reformer Pilates which opens at 375 High Street on the 27th July 2025.

The website and more information can be found here: mendpilates.com

If you would like to include a notice to your neighbours for the next newsletter please email contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk



We need you!

Kat has stepped down as Chair of the Rochester Riverside Residents' Association. We are grateful and send many thanks to Kat for setting up the organisation including drafting the legal work, setting up the website and mailing box as well as her work liaising with local organisations including the council and her work investigating the variety of fees that are due as part of living in the Riverside.

Later in August we will be full steam ahead with a recruitment drive for full time members of the association. Having the association is important for having a legitimate collective to approach Hyde and Vistry but also for linking with the various local groups and communities and importantly the council.

Amanda and Gerry are amazing at keep up with the various planning applications that come with an ongoing live development.

Roger has plans to develop a Resident Handbook that will inform all about the ins and outs of the develop and nature of the joint venture between Hyde and Vistry but also go into the rich history of the area and interesting details that you may not be aware of

especially if you are new to Medway (like me).

What would be really useful is to have anyone on board who:

- Is skilled in IT to help maintain and develop the website
- Is able to help link up with local groups (including the Riverside School)
- Is able to help organise events
- Is interested in pursuing the mural in the underpass!
- Is happy to take on any persistent issues (maintenance reviews and cleanliness)

It would be amazing to have a representative from each of the blocks of flats to report on any issues specific to a certain block or things that may generally be an issue across all blocks. We do keep an eye on Facebook which is useful when people share issues but with more help we could really focus on any persistent problems.

Thank you for reading!



**ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE
RESIDENTS GROUP**

www.rochesterriverside.org.uk

You can sign up to be a member of the Residents' Association via the website. Please also let us know if you would like to join the committee!

contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk