

Rochester Riverside Residents' Association

NEWSLETTER

October 2026



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

Annual General Meeting 2026

The Rochester Riverside Residents' Association must hold an AGM each year. This year the AGM will be held on **10th November 2026** at **7pm** at **The George Vaults**. We have a couple of members standing down this year and so there are spaces available to join the committee.

Roles available include Secretary as well as committee members. If you are interested in standing for a position please send details of what position you would like to apply for, a bit about your background and what you feel you could bring to the association to assist all residents.

Please could you send details to contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk by Monday 26th October 2026. The Agenda for the AGM will be shared shortly after this date.

Service Charges 2025/26

There have been many queries once again regarding service charges. If you have queries we would encourage you to send these to Hyde via the contact portal by logging into your account. The Residents' Association have been in contact with Hyde regarding the latest statements and have invited Hyde to the AGM on the 10th November 2026.

Creek Clean-Up: 20 November



Aimee and Adam from Medway Council have been in touch regarding cleaning of the foreshore towards Phase 7 of the development leading to Chatham. There is no gate at this part of the riverfront to enable access for cleaning. The council are currently obtaining quotes to install a gate to help maintain this area. In the meantime they have recently carried out a clean of the foreshore. There are gates available to enable access to Limehouse Wharf, Blue Boar Wharf and the foreshore in front of Furrell's Park. **The next Creek Clean-up event is on Friday 20 November from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.** Please email to contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk or comment on the Facebook post if you would like to attend. Coffee is provided at the end and we would really love to see you there if you can spare your time.

Leaf Living



Some residents may have heard that a company called Leaf Living have purchased Stanley Wharf (Torbay House). Leaf Living let apartments out to professionals and families. They will be taking care of the maintenance and running of the entire block and will not have services contracted to Hyde like other blocks. They will still need to pay towards the Estate Rent charge and any communal charges, but this will likely be administered via Leaf Living.

Rochester Riverside School - New Signs



The incorrect parking signs were installed at the school, which meant that parking spaces were being used all day for non-school use. New signs and yellow lines will shortly be installed to prohibit all day parking and improve safety by the school. We will monitor this change as drop-offs and pick-ups can be very busy and additional yellow lines may create problems elsewhere. Additional safety provision for crossing from the development to the school is also currently under consideration.

Furrell's Road Opening



Furrell's Road was due to open by the end of September this year. An inspection by Medway Highways was due before the road could be opened. However, there have been some delays. The latest update from Vistry is that this should be opened within the first two weeks of November. There may be further work required at a future date to illuminate the low bridge access, but the road can be opened in the meantime.

Eventide Park



Linked to the opening of Furrell's Road is the commencement of major work for Phases 4 and 5 and maintenance of Eventide Park. Eventide Park is at the far end of the development and can be used in the evening by younger people and teenagers, which has led to damage and missing bricks in the park.

Vistry are keen to reinstate the park and repair any damage but are wary of putting it back as it was if damage is the likely outcome. They will be considering a different approach that may be more hard-wearing, but repair of the Park is a priority for the start of Phases 4 and 5.

Co-op Parking Bay



The official loading bay signs have been removed by the Co-op with new signs and hatching being placed on the ground. It is important to have a loading space for the Co-op (and Costa) but it is also important to have the correct enforceable road signs in place.

These signs will be replaced as currently the blue Co-op signs are not up to code and would stop Cory's Road being adopted by the council.

Plug-In Solar Panels



As of 26th August 2026 it is legal to buy and install plug-in solar panels. Systems must be certified as a complete, compliant unit meeting the government's technical specification. Generic or uncertified imports do not automatically qualify.

In this regard we have asked for Hyde's comments on this new legislation and await an official response on their approach to this new legislation.

Outdoor Gym



The outdoor gym had a couple of pieces of faulty equipment. HAGS, the company responsible for the installation and maintenance of the gym equipment, have chosen to remove the faulty items.

We do not currently have information on whether the equipment will be replaced but we will follow up.

Apartment Blocks – Food for Animals

This is a reminder that food should not be left for pigeons or foxes in and around any of the blocks of apartments. This is a health and safety hazard and attracting vermin should not be encouraged. Identified flats will be written to and eviction is a possible outcome for repeated offences. If you see evidence of food being left out for animals, or see people doing this, please take a photo before attempting to clean up yourself. Cleaners have also been asked to take photos before cleaning up.

What's On In Rochester - November and December 2026

As the nights draw in, there's plenty happening on our doorstep. Here's our round-up of what's coming up.

Fireworks and Halloween

- The Historic Dockyard has family ghost tours from 27 to 31 October. Ghost tours of the Ropery Complex run until 8 November, and Ships & Slipways tours until 7 November. Halloween trails continue until 6 November.
- Medway Yacht Club fireworks, Saturday 7 November. Starts at 5.30pm. Visit Eventbrite for tickets.

Music at Rochester Cathedral

- Country by Candlelight, 12 November, 7.30pm
- G4 Christmas, 25 November, 7.30pm
- Christmas Carol Concerts, 12 and 13 December

Tickets and times are on the Cathedral website.

Rochester Christmas Market

Back in the Castle Gardens for three weekends, 27 November to 13 December:

- Fridays: 12pm to 9pm
- Saturdays: 10am to 9pm
- Sundays: 10am to 6pm

Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival: 5 and 6 December

The High Street comes alive with Dickensian characters, entertainment and festive atmosphere over the weekend. At Eastgate House, you can meet Mr Scrooge and other characters from *A Christmas Carol*, 11am to 5pm both days.

More Dickens and heritage

- Deck the Halls, Eastgate House: Saturday 14 November, 10am to 6pm.
- *A Christmas Carol* at Eastgate House: performed in the Grand Reception Room, 28 and 29 November and 12 and 13 December. Various times throughout the day.
- Storytelling with Victorian Father Christmas: 20 to 22 December.

Also around Medway

- Sound of the Movies, 7 November: the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra plays live film soundtracks. 3pm at The Central Theatre.
- The Mistletoe Costumed Ball, Friday 4 December, 7pm, Rochester Corn Exchange

 ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS GROUP	<i>Thank you for reading!</i>
www.rochesterriverside.org.uk	contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk
