

Rochester DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

SAT. 4 AND SUN. 5 DECEMBER 2021



 CHRISTMASINMEDWAY
MEDWAY.GOV.UK/CHRISTMAS

Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You



PARADES AND CAROL

11am

SEVEN POOR TRAVELLERS' PROCESSION

Led from outside The Victoria & Bull Hotel by the Town Crier, the procession will move along the high street and conclude outside Six Poor Travellers' House, where a short speech will be made.

12noon

MAIN PARADE

Led by the Mayor of Medway, the parade of costume characters and performers will start in the high street by Almon Place. It will move along the high street, turn left at Northgate into Boley Hill and finishing on the Boley Hill Stage.

4.45pm

CANDLELIT PARADE

Led by the Mayor of Medway, the parade will start in the high street by Almon Place. It will move along the high street and turn left at Northgate into Boley Hill to join the carol service on the open air stage.

5pm

CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

This year we welcome the Rochester Choral Society Choir as they lead the magical concert. Join BAE Systems Brass Band and all the festival performers in a selection of popular Christmas carols outside Rochester's magnificent Cathedral in Boley Hill, under a guaranteed snow fall.

ARE YOU DRESSED UP? THEN COME AND JOIN IN THE PARADES.
MEET AT THE START POINT AT ALMON PLACE. NEAR THE GOLDEN LION

ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET



SAT, 27 - SUN, 28 NOV
FRI, 3 - SUN, 5 DEC
FRI, 10 - SUN, 12 DEC

AT
ROCHESTER CASTLE GARDENS

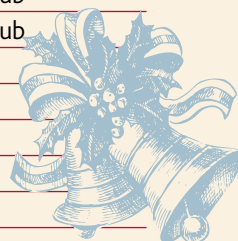
EVERY FRIDAY
FUNFAIR RIDES ONLY £1

visitmedway.org/christmas

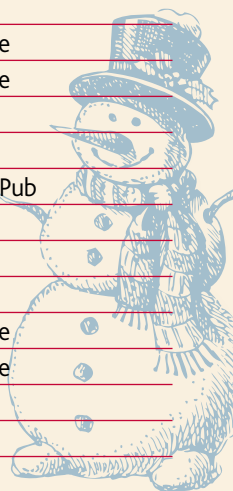
 ChristmasInMedway

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Bell Ringers Demonstrations	10am	St Mary's Meadow
Accordion (Sat only)	10am	The French Hospital
Fiddler (Sun only)	10am	The French Hospital
Kent Costume Trust Display	10am-5pm	Rochester Library
Pretending People Sing Along	10.15am	Outside The Crown Pub
Dance Alley	10.15am	Boley Hill Stage
Punch & Judy	10.15am	Guildhall Museum Forecourt
Skinner's Rats (Sat only)	10.30am	Star Hill Stage
Morrigan (Sun only)	10.30am	Star Hill Stage
Vox Anima Chamber Choir (Sat only)	10.30am	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Miss Havisham's Ladies Photoshoot	10.30am	St Mary's Meadow
Readings from Rochester Dickens Fellowship	10.30am	Rochester Library
Fred Clark	10.30am	Boar Lane Stage
The Fabulous Fezheads (Sat only)	10.40am	Boley Hill Stage
Walking Tour of Rochester	10.45am	The French Hospital
Kent Costume Trust Talk	11am	Rochester Library
Seven Poor Travellers Parade	11am	Guildhall Museum Forecourt
Accordion (Sat only)	11am	Outside Golden Lion Pub
Fiddler (Sun only)	11am	Outside Golden Lion Pub
City of Rochester Pipe Band	11am	Star Hill Stage
Fagin Photo Shoot	11am	St Mary's Meadow
Three Towns Theatre Company	11.15am	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Dance Alley	11.15am	Boley Hill Stage
Fire & Ice (Sat only)	11.30am	Star Hill Stage
Pytchwood (Sun only)	11.30am	Star Hill Stage
Punch & Judy	11.30am	Guildhall Museum Forecourt
Main Parade	12noon	Almon Place to Boley Hill Stage
Open Water (Sat only)	12.15pm	Star Hill Stage
Maggoty & Pegwitch (Sun only)	12.15pm	Star Hill Stage
The Fabulous Fezheads (Sat only)	1pm	The French Hospital
Reading from Pickwick Papers	1pm	Rochester Library
Rock Choir	1pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Pickwick Photo Opportunity	1pm	Guildhall Museum Forecourt
Fire & Ice (Sat only)	1pm	Star Hill Stage
BAE Systems Brass Band	1pm	Boley Hill Stage
Wordsmithery Writing Workshop (Sat only)	1pm	Guildhall Museum Members Room
Morrigan (Sun only)	1pm	Star Hill Stage
Bell Ringers Demonstrations	1.15pm	St Mary's Meadow
Pretending People Sing Along	1.15pm	Outside The Crown Pub



Fagin Photo Shoot	1.30pm	St Mary's Meadow
Accordion (Sat only)	1.30pm	Outside Golden Lion Pub
Fiddler (Sun only)	1.30pm	Outside Golden Lion Pub
Skinner Rats (Sat only)	1.30pm	Star Hill Stage
Pytchwood (Sun only)	1.30pm	Star Hill Stage
Punch & Judy	1.45pm	Guildhall Museum Forecourt
Austeja Paulauskaite (Sat only)	1.45pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Walderslade Sings (Sun only)	1.45pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Pretending People Children's Workshop	2pm	Outside The Crown Pub
Miss Havisham's Ladies Photoshoot	2pm	St Mary's Meadow
Readings from Rochester Dickens Fellowship	2pm	Rochester Library
Walking Tour of Rochester	2.15pm	The French Hospital
Dance Alley	2.15pm	Boley Hill Stage
Open Water (Sat only)	2.15pm	Star Hill Stage
Maggoty & Pegwitch (Sun only)	2.15pm	Star Hill Stage
Wordsmithery Writing Workshop (Sun only)	2.30pm	Guildhall Museum - Main Chamber
Salvation Army Band	2.30pm	Guildhall Museum Forecourt
Bell Ringers Demonstrations	2.30pm	St Mary's Meadow
Rochester and Medway Soul Choir (Sat only)	2.30pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Marshall Connection (Sun only)	2.30pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Steampunk Talk	2.30pm	Rochester Library
Rochester Choral Society	2.45pm	Boley Hill Stage
Pretending People Sing Along	3pm	Outside The Crown Pub
Fire & Ice (Sat only)	3pm	Star Hill Stage
Morrigan (Sun only)	3pm	Star Hill Stage
The Fabulous Fezheads	3pm	The French Hospital
Big Sing (Sat only)	3.15pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Medway Social Singers (Sun only)	3.15pm	Blue Boar Lane Stage
Skinner Rats (Sat only)	3.20pm	Star Hill Stage
Pytchwood (Sun only)	3.30pm	Star Hill Stage
Accordion (Sat only)	3.30pm	The French Hospital
Fiddler (Sun only)	3.30pm	The French Hospital
Reading from Pickwick Papers	3.30pm	Rochester Library
Bell Ringers Demonstrations	3.30pm	St Mary's Meadow
BAE Systems Brass Band	3.30pm	Boley Hill Stage
City of Rochester Pipe Band	3.45pm	Blue Boar Lane Area
Pretending People Children's Workshop	3.45pm	Outside The Crown Pub
Open Water (Sat only)	4pm	Star Hill Stage
Maggoty & Pegwitch (Sun only)	4pm	Star Hill Stage
Candlelit Parade	4.45pm	Almon Place to Boley Hill Stage
Carols for Christmas	5pm	Outside Rochester Cathedral



Entertainment is on both days unless stated otherwise and may vary or be cancelled subject to the government guidelines.

ROCHESTER



ROCHESTER DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

- Park and ride drop-off/pick-up point
- Toilets, all have disabled facilities
- Changing Places First Aid point
- Coach pick up points Stage
- Cash point



MEDWAY.GOV.UK/CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMASINMEDWAY



ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT

EASTGATE HOUSE

Christmas Through the Ages

Discover how Christmas traditions and customs have changed over the centuries with displays and decorations throughout the house. Suitable for all ages. No booking required. Price includes admission.

1 Dec 2021 – 9 Jan 2022.



CHARLES DICKENS' WRITING CHALET

Standing in Eastgate Gardens, this is the private space where the great author worked on some of his best loved novels and publications. Medway Council is currently working with The Dickens Fellowship to raise funds to restore and conserve. At present the chalet is too fragile for visitors to go inside.

ROCHESTER CASTLE

Get a bird's eye view of the Dickensian Christmas festival from the top of the keep. Having survived three sieges, the castle has many tales to tell, so come and explore. Adults £7.20, concessions £5.15, children £3.10. Open: 10am-4pm (last entry 3.15pm).



GUILDHALL MUSEUM

Built in 1687, the Guildhall Museum is one of the finest 17th century civic buildings in Kent. It featured in Dickens' novel *Great Expectations* – it is where Pip was brought by Mr Pumblechook. Free to enter.

Santa's elves trail

Santa's elves have visited our museum at night and made lots of mischief, can you find the pictures of them and tell us what they have done? Under five's trail £1.

Elf Competition

Come and name two cheeky elves and be in the chance of winning complimentary tickets to visit one of our historical sites: Rochester Castle, Eastgate House or Upnor Castle. Please visit the museum to take part.

Wordsmithery Writing Workshop

Sun, 5 Dec, 1pm

Drop-in Christmas writing workshop with fun exercises. Suitable for 12+.

The Empty Chair at Christmas

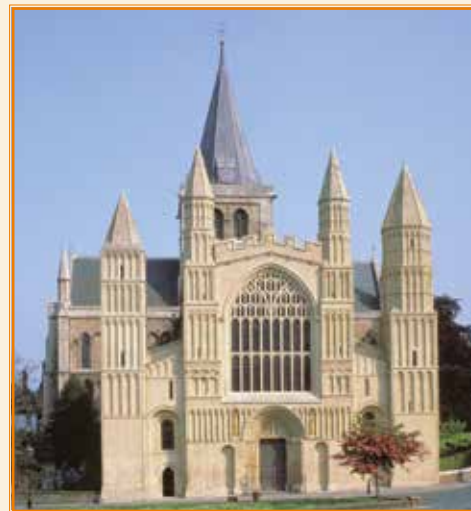
Sun, 5 Dec, 2.30pm-4.30pm

Poets from Wordsmithery Empty Chair Poetry Trail: will read poems in a Christmas themed show.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The ideal port of call for all visitors to the area. It is wheelchair accessible and offers a full tourist information services.

Open: 9am-6pm. visitmedway.org



ROCHESTER ART GALLERY

All That Remains – 30 Years in the Making Textiles by Neil Bottle explores family stories, nostalgia and memories using exquisitely layered cutting edge digital design and precious fragments of the artists archive of family photographs. @rochesterartgallery.

Free. Supported by Arts Council England.



OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS

10.30am – 4.30pm

ROCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and enjoy live street theatre performances of Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol*. There is also a bookshop and café.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Sat, 4 Dec

8.30am	Silent Prayer
8.45am	Morning Prayer
11am	The Royal Marines turn the page
12.30pm	Christmas Carol service*
3pm	Christmas Carol service*
4pm	Cathedral closes
Café open: 10am – 4pm	

Sun, 5 Dec

8am	Holy Communion
9am	The Cathedral Eucharist
12noon	Café opens
12.30pm	Christmas Carol service*
3pm	Christmas Carol service*
3pm	Cathedral closes

* A service of favourite Christmas carols and readings, lasting about 30mins – all are welcome.

10am – 4pm

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Climb the tower and enjoy spectacular views of Medway. Also, come and visit our cake and Christmas gift stalls. Refreshments will be available throughout the day. St Margaret's is one of the distant churches noted by Mr Pickwick and friends in Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers*.



PRETENDING PEOPLE THEATRE AND FAIRYTALE ENTERTAINMENT

Victorian street musicians perform street music, with a variety of traditional Victorian tunes, modern skiffle music and of course Christmas songs. There is also interactive Dickensian workshops for children. Come along and join in.



AFTERNOON TEA

The Queens Hall, Corn Exchange

Dine under the glittering chandeliers and spoil yourself with a quintessentially English pastime. Email to book:

cornexchange@medway.gov.uk

Keep up-to-date: [f](#) [t](#) [@](#) Enjoy Medway



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

PUNCH & JUDY

Guildhall Museum Forecourt

Come and watch the youngest full member of the Punch and Judy fellowship perform the traditional family fun show. By Josh Neville who is just 13.

FAGIN

Fagin will be loitering up and down the high street, spot him before he "picks" you!



RUNAWAY PRESENTS AND ANGEL DELIGHT

Christmas walkabouts by Dizzy O'Dare. This is what happens when Christmas angels and naughty elves use Santa's fairy dust and a little festive cheer to bring Christmas presents to life.

ROCHESTER LIBRARY ENTERTAINMENT

Readings in the Adult Library

10am – 4pm

The Rochester & Chatham Dickens Fellowship

1.15pm and 3.30pm

will be reading *The Ghost of Christmas Past* from the Charles Dickens Novel *A Christmas Carol*.

Kent Costume Trust Exhibition

Will be a display of Victorian artefacts and themed on Family Christmas Traditions.

Kent Costumes Trust

11am

A talk will be given by Susan Ilott.

Rochester Community Hub Activities

10am – 4pm

Jaspers Café will be open (Saturday only) Within the café will be live music and a children's craft table.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CAFÉ

The Queens Hall, Corn Exchange

10am-11.30am - Teas, coffee and cakes.

11.45am-2.45pm - Hot meals and puddings.

3pm-5pm - Teas, coffee and cakes.

10am – 7pm

FESTIVE PRODUCE FAIR

Boley Hill

The Festive Produce Fair will run during the Dickensian Christmas festival, offering an abundant assortment of delicious seasonal and festive treats that are locally crafted. You will find everything from cheese to chutney and delightful baked specialities to enjoy.





MEDWAY

LIGHT

NIGHTS

A FREE SPECTACULAR
FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

WILL TRANSFORM

Rochester's

ICONIC BUILDINGS
AND SPACES




INTO WORKS OF ART

FRIDAY,
11 FEBRUARY

AND

SATURDAY,
12 FEBRUARY
6-9PM

Visitmedway.org

   VisitMedway

#MedwayLightNights

Medway
Council
Serving You