

‘Front Line Kent’ Partnership

Who are ‘Front Line Kent’

Front Line Kent is a partnership between the following organisations:

The Battle of Britain Museum, Hawkinge	www.kbobm.org
The Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel le Ferne	www.battleofbritainmemorial.org
Friends of Martello 24, Dymchurch	www.martello24.net
Brenzett Aeronautical Museum/Romney Marsh War Time Collection	www.rmwcollection.co.uk
The Shorncliffe Trust, Shorncliffe, Folkestone	www.shorncliffe-trust.org.uk

Other organisations are welcome to be part of this partnership and invitations to participate will be sent out in due course

Objective

All the partners offer visitor attractions which provide experiences of the history and heritage of the area, with particular reference to its defence of its coastline. The objective of the partnership is a collaborative approach in delivering the Off Season Experience through a new ‘Heritage Pass’ which will strengthen the area’s existing seasonal offer as we establish ‘Front Line Kent’, bringing together organisations whose existence pays homage to the defence of the coastline in the Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh areas of south east Kent.

Background

The Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh areas of south east Kent has a wealth of Military assets covering many centuries. From Roman times and lost hill forts; to the Napoleonic era where prominent features remain including the chain of defences comprising Martello Towers, Forts, Redoubts and the Royal Military Canal. When our heritage is brought together and appropriately packaged, it creates opportunities to discover historic places and enjoy immersive experiences.

The partnership offers opportunity through multiple stories from across the centuries through to WW1 and WW2. This district was awash with vast military camps increasing the importance of Shorncliffe’s Military Garrison. Descendants of many wish to follow in their ancestor’s footsteps visiting places where they would have walked before moving off to conflict. Battles fought in the skies above are remembered by important sites in our district dedicated to the memory of the Battle of Britain through Memorials and Museums collections at Hawkinge and the Brenzett Aeronautical Museum and Romney Marsh Wartime Collection.

Collaboration improves opportunity through a Heritage Pass ensuring visitor interest increases to a year round attraction, supporting the local economy whilst increasing potential for a greater number of overnight stays. It also increases growth through opportunity for the participants in this project; all of whom are charities.

With greater visitor numbers the expectation is that being part of this project will sustain further opening months or at least, special event opening periods, for those unable to open year-round currently.

Present Position

The Partnership is at an embryonic stage with plenty of room for growth and sustainability. We plan to seek further collaborations with other organisations and groups providing opportunity and access to lesser known heritage assets such as the Greatstone Sound Mirrors; heritage interpretation for the PLUTO Line and Advanced Landing Grounds (see full list below), creating a series of trails from various locations through to Folkestone Harbour where troops left for battle, with many never returning.

Our product package would comprise:

- A Front Line Kent 'Heritage Pass' , offering combined ticketing to multiple attractions
- Branded family resource and activity packs
- Suggested routes to tour visitor attractions
- A 'back to nature' health and well-being feature focussing heritage walks and water-based activities on the Royal Military Canal
- Linked information packages with suggestions of places to stay and eat
- Ticketing available via TXGB distribution platform; and each organisation's existing websites

List of Potential Participants on Romney Marsh

Information about them all can be found at theromneymarsh.net/history

Admiralty Scaffolding Dymchurch

Advanced Landing Grounds Brenzett, Midley, Newchurch and St Mary in the Marsh

Auxiliary Units, Snargate Old Romney and Burmarsh

Coastguard Lookout Tower Dungeness

Crashed Plane Memorials:

Polish Memorial Dungeness

US Bomber Crash Greatstone

Johnson's Corner Snave

Dungeness Batteries

Dungeness Redoubt

Dymchurch Redoubt

Dymchurch Wall

Experimental Station Dungeness

Lade Fort Lydd-on-Sea

Lighthouses Dungeness

Lookout Posts

Martello Tower No.19 *Dymchurch*

Martello Tower No. 23 Dymchurch

Martello Tower No. 24 *Dymchurch*

Martello Tower No. 25 *Dymchurch*

Mulberry Harbour *Littlestone*

New Hall *Dymchurch*

Old Lighthouse *Dungeness*

Pillboxes

PLUTO *Dungeness and Greatstone*

RNSSS Cottages *Dungeness*

Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway (RH&DR)

Royal Military Canal

Sound Mirrors *Greatstone*

Water Tower *Littlestone*

Watch House *Littlestone*

Wireless Shed *Dungeness*

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