



STEP SHORT

Step Up! News from November 2016



October and November have been very busy for Step Short, with a number of remembrance events and our own AGM...

We had great support for the annual Armistice Day service at the Memorial Arch on the Leas and the last of our seasonal Sunday evening renditions of the Last Post on Remembrance Sunday. The town came out in force to remember the centenary of the end of the Battle of the Somme at the Poppies on the Leas event.

And as summer drew to a close, the Mole Cafe girls on the Harbour Arm served up the last of the tea and cake for the year, having welcomed hundreds of guests, visiting mayors and history ramblers along the way. We can't wait to see you down there in the spring!

Please do get in touch if you would like to volunteer at the Mole Cafe or our visitor centre next year.



In the meantime, don't forget to look out for Step Short's newsletters and check our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for news and upcoming events.

Poppies on the Leas

To mark 100 years since the end of the Battle of the Somme, families and schools from the area came together on the Leas on Saturday 19 November 2016 to plant hundreds of steel poppies around the artwork Folk Stones.

The local community turned out in their hundreds, including pupils from St Martin's, St Eanswythe's, St Mary's and Sandgate primary schools.

Folk Stones was created by artist Mark Wallinger and features 19,240 numbered pebbles representing the British servicemen lost on the first day of Britain's bloodiest battle.

Wallinger attended the event along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Folkestone, Martin and Sheila Salmon and Folkestone and Hythe MP and Step Short's Chairman Damian Collins.

Organisers Roger Joyce of Shepway HEART Forum and Ann Berry of Step Short also took part in the ceremony.

The Mayor and Damian Collins both said a few words and Roger Joyce read a poem written by Eric Berridge, an officer from Folkestone who died during the Battle of the Somme.

Poppies on the Leas was organised by Shepway HEART Forum, Step Short and the Shorncliffe Trust.

Images [left to right, top to bottom from page 1]: Sandgate Primary School pupils; counting the Folk Stones; colourful local girls; Folkestone's Mayoress & Mayor, Sheila & Martin Salmon; Step Short Vice Chairman Ann Berry & artist Mark Wallinger; St Mary's Primary Academy children; St Martin's School; the community get planting.



Folkestone Remembers

The community gathered under the Memorial Arch on the Leas at 11.00am on Friday 11 November 2016 for our annual Armistice Day service. Local schools attending included Stella Maris Catholic Primary and Folkestone Primary Academy.

Bugler Kevin Bradley played the Last Post and Reveille; and Piper Ben Millbery played the Lament Flowers of the Forest. Wreaths were laid and poppies attached to the railings close to the top of the Road of Remembrance.



Images [left to right, top to bottom]: Bugler Kevin Bradley; Piper Ben Millbery playing alongside bugler Kevin Bradley, Royal Marine Cadets and veteran Philip Jones; WO2 Guy Sargent REME.



Bugler's Last Post

Bugler Bryan Walker played under the Step Short Memorial Arch for the last time before retiring on Remembrance Day, Sunday 13 November 2016.

For the last few years Bryan has played the Last Post every Sunday at 7pm for Step Short from the first Sunday in August until Remembrance Sunday. This has been timed to coincide with the buglers who play daily at the Menin Gate, Ypres in Belgium. The Menin Gate is a memorial to British and Commonwealth First World War soldiers who were lost in battle in the region and have no known graves.

Step Short is very grateful to Bryan for his great commitment and wish him all the best for his retirement. This poignant weekly service will resume next summer with a new bugler.





Folkestone History Ramble

Folkestone's Mayor, Councillor Martin Salmon, was just one of a number of visiting mayors and ramblers who enjoyed a refreshing cup of tea with Ann Berry and Debra Jones (pictured left) at the Mole Cafe on the Harbour Arm on Tuesday 4 October 2016.

The Mole Cafe and the Step Short Memorial Arch on the Leas were just two stops on the guided history ramble organised by the Mayor to raise funds for his three local charities: Folkestone Rainbow Centre, Folkestone Division Guides and For Young People (FYP Charity).

Step Short director and local historian Eamonn Rooney led the walk from the Town Hall on Guildhall Street to a number of sites of historical interest in Folkestone.



And finally...

The Directors of Step Short wish all our members and supporters a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

