

ROCHESTER
VISITORS
GUIDE 1990



Reproduced by Rochester upon Medway City Council

Blue Boar Guest House



This well established beautifully furnished guest house is in the High Street of the Historic City of Rochester.

The accommodation is suitable for both your long and short term stays offering Four Twins and two Double Bedded rooms with colour Television.

Although we would prefer to let the rooms as doubles, we can be prepared if you require to let a single person have the facilities of a double room.



If you would like to view the Blue Boar Guest House at any time you will be most welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future if we can be of help or service to you.

99, High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LX
Telephone: Medway (0634) 827373



Photograph: Chalfrey Studios

Welcome from The Mayor of Rochester upon Medway

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the City of Rochester upon Medway during the unique year of 1990. The twin communities of Rochester and Chatham both celebrate anniversaries. Rochester proudly proclaims 800 years since it was granted its first charter and Chatham enjoys the Centenary of the incorporation of the Borough of Chatham.

In my previous term as Mayor I was saddened to see the closure of the Naval Dockyard at Chatham after 400 years. In this term I am proud to be associated with the latest development in the Historic Dockyard, The Wooden Walls Gallery, which opens this year.

I hope that during your stay in the City you will visit some of the many attractions described in the guide and return again to further explore this fascinating city.

Councillor Barry Flack

Mayor of Rochester upon Medway 1989-1990

Verwelkomming van de Burgemeester van Rochester upon Medway

Het doet mij een groot plezier U welkom te heren tot de stad Rochester upon Medway tijdens het unieke jaar 1990. De tweeling-gemeenschappen van Rochester en Chatham vieten beiden hun verjaardagen. Rochester viert namelijk 800 jaar geleden toen een charter werd verleend en Chatham viert het 100-jarig bestaan van de inkorporatie tot de stad Chatham.

Gedurende mijn vorige termijn als Burgemeester was ik bedroefd te zien de sluiting van de Naval Dockyard in Chatham na 400 jaar bestaan meemaken. Dit termijn ben ik trots om verbonden te zijn met het meest recente project in de Historic Dockyard, de Wooden Walls Gallery, dat dit jaar geopend wordt.

Ik hoop dat U gedurende uw verblijf in de stad, sommige van de talrijke bezienswaardigheden, die beschreven zijn in de gids, zal bezoeken en dat U terug kan komen om meer te ontdekken in deze fascinerende stad.

Message de bienvenue de M. le Maire de Rochester upon Medway

C'est avec grand plaisir que la ville de Rochester upon Medway et moi-même vous accueillons en cette année exceptionnelle de 1990, année anniversaire pour les deux villes de Rochester et de Chatham. Rochester célèbre le 800^e anniversaire de l'octroi de sa Charte, et Chatham commémore son centenaire en tant que municipalité.

Lors de mon précédent mandat, c'est avec une profonde tristesse que j'ai été le témoin de la fermeture des chantiers

navals de Chatham après 400 ans d'existence. Durant ce présent mandat, c'est avec fierté que je vois mon nom associé à l'ouverture de la dernière réalisation au sein du Musée de la Marine, la "Wooden Walls Gallery" (Galerie Lathburiel).

J'espère que votre séjour dans notre ville vous permettra de découvrir quelques-unes des richesses dépeintes dans ce guide et que vous serez tenté de revenir explorer plus avant notre magnifique région.

Der Bürgermeister von Rochester am Medway heißt Sie willkommen

Es ist mir ein großes Vergnügen, Sie in der Stadt Rochester am Medway, in diesem einzigartigen Jahr 1990 zu empfangen. Die zwei Städte Rochester und Chatham feiern beide Jahrestag. Rochester ehrt sein 800-jähriges Bestehen und Chatham feiert das hundertste Jahrestag der Gründung der Stadt Chatham.

In meiner vorhergehenden Amtsperiode, als Bürgermeister, mußte ich traurigerweise die Schließung der Marinewerft, nachleben die 400 Jahre existierte, miterleben.

In dieser Amtsperiode bin ich stolz darüber, mit den jüngsten Entwicklungen in der Historischen Werft und der Wooden Walls Gallery, die dieses Jahr eröffnet wird, in Verbindung gebracht zu werden. Ich hoffe, daß Sie während Ihres Aufenthalts in der Stadt einige der vielen Attraktionen, die im Fremdenführer beschrieben werden, sehen und noch einmal kommen, um diese faszinierende Stadt doch weiter zu entdecken.

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Cover Picture

The cover photograph is part of the historic mural painted by Mr. John Townsend, F.R.E.A.D., B.A., D.C., A.C., and others, in the Court Hall Chamber, Rochester, Kent.

The photograph on the cover is of the section of the mural which is dominated by the huge statue of King John, seated on his throne, and his knights, in the foreground, and the King himself, in the background, in the act of signing the Magna Carta. The mural is a masterpiece of the art of the 13th century, and is a fine example of the work of the great English painter, John Gower. The mural is a masterpiece of the art of the 13th century, and is a fine example of the work of the great English painter, John Gower. The mural is a masterpiece of the art of the 13th century, and is a fine example of the work of the great English painter, John Gower.

The mural depicts the history of Rochester from Roman times to the modern period, including the story of the Knights Templar, the Dutch Fleet which invaded the Medway in 1667, Lord Nelson, and Charles Dickens at the Medway. The mural is a masterpiece of the art of the 13th century, and is a fine example of the work of the great English painter, John Gower.

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A History of Rochester

The City of Rochester-Upon-Medway was formed from an amalgamation of the local authorities of Rochester, Chatham and Strood.

Although each of these areas can produce evidence of human habitation from the earliest times, it is the ancient City of Rochester which today retains the most obvious signs of its antiquity by means of its great Norman Castle and Cathedral, its multitude of historic buildings and its substantial remains of the medieval city walls.

The Romans named the City Durobrivae, 'The Stronghold by the Bridge', which clearly indicates the strategic importance of the city's position as a fortified river-crossing on the main road between London and Dover. This importance reached a new peak during the Norman period, when the castle we see today was constructed and the City was granted its first Royal Charters. Unlike many castles surviving today, that at Rochester witnessed several sieges and great sieges during the Norman period and those stirring times are revived annually today in the City's Norman Festival.

Through the centuries, a number of very fine and interesting buildings dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, several of which are open to the general public, such as Eastgate House (now the Charles Dickens Centre), Richard's Charity, popularly known as the Poor Travellers' House, and the Guildhall, which today houses the City Museum. This latter building is particularly noted for its magnificent Court Hall Chamber, the fine decorative ceiling of which was the gift of Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, M.P., in 1695.

It should not be thought, however, that the old City of Rochester has a monopoly on historic buildings, for both Chatham and Strood have notable examples to interest visitors and residents of the area alike. Urban Strood has the historic 13th century Temple Manor which, as its name suggests, was founded by the Order of the Knights Templar, whilst the Rural District can boast of no less than two castles, one at Cooling, built in the 14th century, and another at Upnor, built in 1560 to protect the

ships of the Fleet which once rode at anchor in the river off Chatham Dockyard.

This latter castle is in a very fine state of preservation and, in common with Rochester Castle, it has seen action during its history. In 1667 when a Dutch fleet sailed up the river to carry out a devastating attack on the British warships riding at anchor, it was the guns of Upnor Castle which put up the stiffest resistance.

This attack serves to highlight the importance of Chatham and its Royal Dockyard in the country's naval history. Today, even though the Dockyard no longer serves the Fleet, this past importance is still recognised in the Chatham Historic Dockyard complex, which contains some of the most fascinating and beautiful Georgian buildings in the whole of the Medway area.

Defending the Dockyard from attack was of great importance and led to the construction, during the 18th and early 19th centuries, of a huge and elaborate system of fortifications. The most important of these, Fort Amherst, is one of the finest examples of a Napoleonic period fortification to be found anywhere. Fortunately, it has been preserved and restored and is open to the public, with costumed re-enactments being held regularly.

Unlike Upnor Castle, this fort did not see any hostile action but during the 19th century it was frequently the scene of elaborate and exciting siege manoeuvres, complete with detonations of huge explosive mines. One of these manoeuvres was witnessed by Mr. Pickwick in Charles Dickens' 'Pickwick Papers'.

Of course, Dickens is forever associated with the Medway Towns and in particular, with Rochester. The whole city is steeped in Dickens lore and it is entirely appropriate that every year it plays host to the internationally famous 'Dickens Festival', when thousands of people don the costume of a century ago to re-live the spirit of just one page of history from the whole volume that is Rochester-Upon-Medway.

What's on in Rochester-Upon-Medway 1990

A first-class programme of colourful, lively events is organised in and around the City each year. Make a date in your diary of the following main events in 1990. For further details please contact the Tourist Information Centre on Medway 843666.



Enjoying a cruise on the Kingswar Castle (see page 49)



An action scene from the Norman Festival



High Street dancing during the Sweeps Festival

EVENTS IN 1990

MARCH

Medway Championship Dance Festival	3rd and 10th
Schools Music Festival	19th-23rd

APRIL

Royal Engineers Museum, 50th Anniversary of Airborne Forces	29th
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MAY

Rochester Chimney Sweeps Parade	1st
Rochester Chimney Sweeps Festival	5th-7th
Dickens Festival, Rochester City Centre	31st

JUNE

Dickens Festival, Rochester City Centre	1st-5th
Admirals Cruise	High end 17th
Cycle Race	17th
River Festival, on River Medway	30th

JULY

River Festival on the Medway at Chatham and Rochester	1st
Medway Festival	10th-15th
Medway Carnival Parade and Party	14th

AUGUST

Jazz Concert	2nd
Castle Gardens Open Air Classical Concert	10th
Norman Rochester	22nd

OCTOBER

Halloween Horrors at Fort Amherst	30th
27th and 28th	

DECEMBER

Dickensian Christmas	8th and 9th
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Rochester Chimney Sweeps Festival

On the 1st May 1990 visitors to Rochester High Street will be able to see a reenactment of the traditional waking of Jack in Green.

Over the week-end of 5th-7th May 1990, Rochester will ring out the sight of Chimney Sweeps dancing beribboned ragged coats accompanied by their Jack in the Green. A sight which was fairly common throughout the country up to the early 1890's.

Although the exact origin of the May Day celebration by Chimney Sweeps is uncertain it is clearly recorded from 1735 but records can be found that date back to the mid 1650's. Today's visitors to Rochester will see at this Festival a modern interpretation of the event with local schools and organisations joining with over 45 Morris sides from all over the country. Street entertainers, folk singers, imitators stars in concert, in general a very enjoyable family day out.



Children enter the spirit of the Dickens Festival

Dickens Festival

The Dickens Festival is such an established event now that it seems far longer than 12 years ago when the City Council introduced the first Festival to celebrate its connections with the author.

In the following year the Dickens Centre was opened to the public and since then both the Festival and Centre have gone from strength to strength. It would be fair to say that Dickens has the same significance to Rochester as Shakespeare has to Stratford Upon Avon, and there is no doubt that the author has helped to put the City firmly on the tourist trail.

Back in 1978 the Dickens Festival attracted probably less than a thousand people. In 1988 officials estimated that crowds reached a staggering two hundred and fifty thousand in number over the four days of the festival.

The Dickens Festival is now a truly international event generating considerable interest in the United States of America, Europe and even Asia. The Russians love Dickens, as can be shown in the number of group visits that Soviet Students make to the Dickens Centre each year.



Dickensian characters enjoy roast chestnuts during the Dickensian Christmas.

Norman Rochester
25th-27th August 1990

- Main Events -

SATURDAY AUGUST 25th

Falconry
Archery
Sports

SUNDAY AUGUST 26th

Falconry
Archery
Court of Justice
and
Trail by Combat

MONDAY AUGUST 27th

Falconry
Champion Archer of the Medway
Contest
Charter 800 Tournament
between

A Champion of the Knights of the Temple
& A Champion of the
Knights of St. John

In 1190 AD King Richard I, known as 'Lionheart', granted Rochester its first Royal Charter, thus establishing the start of 800 years of Royal Patronage. To commemorate the 800th anniversary of Rochester's first Royal Charter, Norman Rochester 1990 focuses on the very end of the Norman era - the age of King Richard I and the 3rd Crusade.

Rochester's Mighty Castle and elegant Cathedral form an evocative back-drop to a crusaders encampment within the castle grounds that will bring to life the great crusading era with exciting displays and presentations including - Falconry, Archery, Sports, Engines of War, Troubadours and Trouveres, Music, the harsh reality of Norman Justice that was Trial by Combat and as a spectacular finale to Rochester's Charter 800 celebrations a Tournament and Joust between two champions, from the great crusading orders of the Knights of the Temple and the Knights of St. John.

Rochester Castle Moat is the setting for the 'Tiltyard'. Each day squires can be seen schooling warhorses, armourers preparing weapons and armours and knights training for the great Tournament of Champions to be held at 3.30pm on Monday August 27th as the finale of Norman Rochester and the Charter 800 Celebrations.

Each day there will also be all manner of living history presentations including:

Arming a Knight, Warhorse Training, Music, Siegecraft, Pottery, Wood Carving, Armourers and much more.

River Festival -

30th June - 1st July 1990

A celebration of the historic heritage of the river and dockyard that have long been the life-blood of Medway, the River Festival offers a full programme of exciting events, historic and modern, on the river between Chatham and Rochester.

Medway Festival -

6th - 15th July 1990

Hundreds of arts and sporting events throughout Rochester upon Medway, including the colourful Medway Carnival as a fitting climax on 14th.

Open-Air Classic Concert

4th August 1990

In the perfect setting of Rochester Castle Gardens, this delightful event features a programme of enjoyable music, followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Dickensian Christmas

8th - 9th December 1990

Rochester's Victorian High Street comes with the sounds and sights of a pre-Christmas scene 100 years ago.

Carol singers, bell-ringers, music hall, street theatre, children's show, horse-drawn vehicles, Father Christmas, special events and lots more.

See: The Panelled Hall, The Staircase, The King's Bedchamber

On 28th May, 1660, Charles II stepped foot into his first house in England in eleven years, on the eve of his restoration to the Throne. The following day he formally ordered Sir Francis Clarke to 'henceforth call this house...

Restoration House

Crow Lane, Rochester

Restoration House

- one of the finest homes in Southern England -
has strong connections with both
Charles II and Charles Dickens

Gift Shop & Tea Room

Admission: £1.50

(reductions for Groups and School Parties)



View Miss Havisham's Room

(exactly as described in Great Expectations)

Individual bookings by appointment at the Tourist Information Centre
Telephone: 0634-843666

Rochester Castle

One of the finest and best preserved in England, the great square Keep of Rochester Castle is a dramatic landmark and a symbol of the city's early history, towering above the River Medway and dominating the whole city. As the visitor approaches the Castle, it's easy to imagine the challenge offered to the would-be invaders who tried to attack from the River. The view from the top of the Keep is an unforgettable experience.

The fine Keep is one of the best examples of a Norman military building. The Romans built here to guard their bridge carrying the imperial route from the Continent to London along Watling Street. The outer walls of the Castle follow the lines of the Roman Wall in places and were built by William the Conqueror's great architect, Bishop Gundulf.

The Castle remained in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury until 1215. After holding out for two months against King John, a corner of the Keep was brought down when the King's forces undermined it and set fire to the pit props using the fat of 40 pigs.

The Keep is the tallest in England, standing 113 feet high; it is 70 feet square, with walls 11 to 15 feet thick. A circular stairway leads up to the battlements, which give splendid views across the city and the surrounding countryside. The Keep and curtain walls remain in good condition.

Much of the curtain walls seen today are of the 12th and 13th centuries although some of Gundulf's work of 1080 can be seen. In the west wall can be seen the remains of two buildings, probably domestic quarters. In the east wall are two 13th century mural towers. The entrance to the Castle Gardens from the Esplanade is mock Norman and was cut into the outer bastion by the Royal Engineers in 1872. The cannon seen at the top of the steps is a relic of the Crimean War.

The stark drama of this ancient and unadorned castle makes it well worth a visit in any season.

Restoration House

Restoration House - one of the finest homes in Southern England - has strong connections with both Charles II and Charles Dickens.

Formerly owned by Sir Francis Clarke, it was he - an ardent Royalist - who was instrumental in securing the King's return from exile in France.

On 28th May, 1660, Charles II stepped foot into his first house in England in eleven years, on the eve of his restoration to the throne. The following day he formally ordered Sir Francis Clarke to "henceforth call this house Restoration House".



Restoration House

Visitors will be able to see the Painted Hall, in which the King and his court entertained Nobles of Kent, and local dignitaries, prior to his departure to London, and the Crown. The Staircase, which Sir Francis Clarke had installed solely for the King's visit. The King's Bedchamber, complete with its Royal Coat of Arms and a canopy, which were added some two hundred years later. The famous industrial revolution era clock tower.

It is also worth noting that the house was exactly as Charles Dickens described in his novel "Great Expectations". The house named the house "Satis House" for the purpose of his story, and was reported to have been seen "staring in through the glass of the day before he died. Obviously, the house was to have appeared in "Edwin Drood", the novel he was writing at the time of his death.

A gift shop and Tea Room are also available to visitors.

ADMISSION: £1.50 per person
(Reduction for Groups and School Parties)
Individual bookings, by appointment only,
at the

Tourist Information Centre
Telephone: Medway (0634) 843666

The Charles Dickens Centre and Eastgate House

The buildings which comprise the Charles Dickens Centre consist of a late Elizabethan dwelling, known as Eastgate House, and an annexe built in 1923 from money bequeathed by a benefactor, Thomas Hellyar Ford.

Of the two buildings it is the 16th century Eastgate House which is of principal architectural and historical interest. The house undoubtedly acquired its name from the fact that the section of Rochester High Street in which it stands, to the east of the city wall, was formerly known as Eastgate Street. It is believed to have been built in the year 1590 for Sir Peter Burrell, an important local resident, being an Alderman and Mayor of the City of Rochester, and employed by the Admiralty as Clerk of the Chatham Dockyard.

Sir Peter's Coat of Arms and those of his first wife may be seen in various places in the building, principally on a fine decorative plaster-work ceiling on the first floor and also on a carved wooden shield set high amongst the gables on the High Street frontage of the house.

In the last quarter of the 18th century the house became a young ladies' boarding school, known as Eastgate House Ladies' College and continued to be used for this purpose until well into the 19th century. Indeed, it is as a school that Charles Dickens would have known the building and it is portrayed as such in his novel "Pickwick Papers" although it is there called "Westgate House" and placed in Bury St. Edmunds.

In the year 1897 the corporation of the City of Rochester decided, amongst other special events planned to honour Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, to establish a museum.

Eastgate House, being considered a suitable building, was accordingly purchased for the sum of £2,000.

The City Museum remained in this location until 1979 when all the collections, other than furniture, were removed to the Guildhall to allow the Charles Dickens centre to be created.



Eastgate

The centre principally occupies the 1923 Ford Annexe and consists of a series of displays charting the life of the author interspersed with imaginative tableaux depicting scenes from his works.

The very latest audio visual technology is utilised in the centre to bring the displays to life in a most remarkable way. The Charles Dickens Centre is open daily - 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (last admissions 5.00 p.m.)

ADMISSION CHARGES:-

Adults	£1.70
Child/OAP/Student	£1.10
Family (2 adults plus 2 children)	£4.70
Adult party rate	
Child/OAP/Student	£1.00
Party rates are applicable to groups of 20 or more persons.	

Charles Dickens and

Rochester Upon Medway

Rochester, Chatham and the surrounding country are synonymous with Charles Dickens. In this area much of his childhood was spent and the people he knew and the places in which he lived powerfully affected the boy's imagination. This is particularly true of Rochester which occurs frequently in his novels and in his journalistic work. The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel in Rochester High Street near the bridge appears as the Bull in 'Pickwick Papers' and as the Blue Boar in 'Great Expectations'. 'Our Town' in the latter book is Rochester; Miss Havisham's home 'Satis House' was drawn from Restoration House in Crow Lane; Uncle Pumblechook's premises were one of the black and white Tudor Houses in the High Street, and the hero Pip was indentured as an apprentice at the Guildhall.

Places Associated with the Novels

Charles Dickens Centre, see page 12

Rochester Castle - Pickwick Papers, Edwin Drood.

Cathedral - Edwin Drood, Pickwick Papers.
Chertsey's Gate - Gatehouse home of Mr. Jasper (Edwin Drood).

Mr. Topes - Mr. Dutchery's lodging (Edwin Drood).

Minor Canon Row - Minor Canon Corner (Edwin Drood).

The Vines - Monk's Vineyard (Edwin Drood); Priory Garden (Great Expectations).

Restoration House - Satis House (Great Expectations).

Eastgate House - Westgate House (Pickwick Papers); The Nun's House (Edwin Drood).

150-154 High Street - Uncle Pumblechook's Shop (Great Expectations);

Mr. Sapsa - Auctioneer, Valuer, Estate Agent, etc. (Edwin Drood).

Watts Charity - The Seven Poor Travellers (Christmas Tale 1854).

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is almost entirely set in Rochester called Cloisterham, and in it features the Cathedral, Minor Canon Row, Eastgate House - called the Nun's House, and the black and white Tudor Houses already mentioned. John Jasper lived in a wooden house erected on top of the mediaeval Chertsey's Gate at the junction of the High Street and Boley Hill. Richard Watts' Charity in the High Street known as the 'Six Poor Travellers' appears in the Christmas story called 'The Seven Poor Travellers'. In the garden of Eastgate House stands a chalet presented to Dickens in 1864 by Charles Fochter. It stood in the shrubbery garden of Gads Hill Place, Higham, where Dickens died.

Old Corn Exchange - Monks' Black (Uncommercial Traveller).

Guildhall - Great Expectations.
The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel - Pickwick Papers (The Bull) and as The Blue Boar (Great Expectations).

Fort Pitt Fields - Scene of duel between Mr. Winkle and Dr. Slammer (Pickwick Papers).

Conservative Club, Star Hill - The Theatre (Edwin Drood and Uncommercial Traveller).

Chatham (Adjoining Rochester to the East). - The Dockyard is the subject of a chapter in 'The Uncommercial Traveller'.

Lines was the site of the Army and Navy Stores (Pickwick Papers).

Strood (Adjoining Rochester to the West). - The Crispin and Crispianus - 'Uncommercial Traveller'.

Charles Dickens was five years old when his father, John Dickens, came from Portsmouth to the Navy Pay Office at Chatham Dockyard in 1816. They lived at No. 2 (now 11) Ordinance Terrace, Chatham. Charles' happiest childhood days were spent in this house with a hayfield opposite, now occupied by Chatham Railway Station.

Early in 1821 the family moved to 18 St. Mary's Place, The Brook (demolished in 1941) next to a Baptist Chapel where Rev. William Giles officiated. In a little room next to his attic bedroom Charles could read the novels his father kept there and from the attic window could probably see the view of Rochester Castle and Cathedral across the river from Chatham so effective at sunset.

The row-makers, the anchor smiths and block-makers were seen by Charles at their work as well as the Convict Hulk, lying off Chatham Dockyard. On 23rd November each year the blacksmiths held a pageant in honour of their patron St. Clement and visited the town singing "Beat it out, heat it out, beat it out with a clink for the stout - Old Rochester!" and recalled by Dickens when writing Great Expectations in 1860.

Charles and his beloved father would go for walks to Frindsbury and Chalk, a favourite route was through Cobham Woods past Frindsbury Hall to visit the Leather Bottle Inn at Chatham.

It was not until 1856 that Dickens acquired Gads Hill Place which still stands in Higham between Rochester and Gravesend. "This is Falstaff's own Gads Hill, and I live on the top of it . . . my house . . . is one I was extraordinarily fond of when a child", he wrote in 1860. Charles had always admired this house which he would pass on walks with his father who told him that "if you were to be very persevering and were to work hard you might someday come to live in it".

Eventually he sold his house in Tavistock Square and lived mainly at Gads Hill. These

later years were clouded by domestic unhappiness resulting in the separation from his wife in 1858.

John Forster refers to Dickens' resumed walks in the countryside of his childhood "I have discovered that the seven miles between Maidstone and Rochester is one of the most beautiful walks in England". Round Cobham, skirting the park and village, and passing the Leather Bottle famous in the pages of Pickwick was a favourite walk. By Rochester and the Medway to Chatham Lines was another. He would turn out of Rochester High Street through the vines, would pass round Fort Pitt and coming back by Frindsbury would bring himself by some crossfields again into the high road.

Great Expectations was written in 1860-61 and refers more directly to Rochester than any novel since Pickwick papers published in 1836.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is the novel in which Rochester, so beloved by Dickens, is depicted as Cloisterham. During the writing of the chapters he completed, Dickens was often seen in Rochester and his last visit was on Monday 6th June 1870 when he walked over from Gads Hill accompanied by his dogs. On this occasion he was seen leaning on the fence of Restoration House and apparently examining the old mansion with great care.

Charles Dickens died on 9th June 1870 following a stroke the previous evening, after he had spent the morning and afternoon working on Edwin Drood.

He had always hoped to be buried in the graveyard in Rochester Castle Moat but it was found that it was closed to further burials as were the churchyards of Cobham and Shorne and although a grave had been prepared in St. Mary's Chapel at Rochester Cathedral, the family agreed to his burial in Westminster Abbey.

Rochester Cathedral

The Cathedral is the second oldest in England. The present building started construction under Bishop Gundulph in 1077. We know that in 604, Justus built a Saxon Church. The present building is a fine example of Norman and Early English architecture. The Crypt, which is one of the finest in the country, clearly follows the style, and it is possible to see there, the graffiti left on the walls by the soldiers of Simon de Montfort, when he sacked the Cathedral in 1264.

There are many beautiful features, one, the exquisitely carved mediaeval Chapter Room doorway; the C13 choir stalls and there is a fragment of C13 wall painting - "Wheel of Fortune". Stand in the North Transept and see how many carved heads you can count. These were all carved by mediaeval stone masons.

In 1540, the date of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, St. Andrew's Priory was refounded as the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. You can walk in the Cloister Garth Gardens and see some of the monastic remains which have recently been renovated. Beside the garden is the St. Andrews Visitors Centre, housed in the original Deanery of 1640. The Priory of St. Andrews was a Benedictine establishment. The Benedictines were renowned for their hospitality and care of visitors, and we try to continue this tradition. All are welcome at the Cathedral especially children. Sometimes we are called Children's Cathedral. Many school parties use the Cathedral as a resource centre for their History and Religious Education Studies. They also visit the Visitors/Education Centre and may eat their packed lunches there. All are welcome and can enjoy the peaceful garden.

The St. Andrew's Centre is open daily throughout the year, and on Sundays in the summer months, and serves home-made food.

It is possible to book set lunches and tea parties if prior notice is given.

Parish parties also receive hospitality, and

can use the Centre as their base when visiting Rochester.

Rochester Cathedral was the setting for last year's BBC's "Songs of Praise" on Palm Sunday. This January saw us celebrating in the Cathedral, the Institution and Installation of our new Dean, who is the 43rd Dean of Rochester since 1542. This year also sees a great celebration of the organ, which has been cleaned and renovated over the last 12 months. One of the highlights will be a concert given by Simon Preston.

The Cathedral serves the Diocese of Rochester, which now has 200 Parishes in



Cathedral

West Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Berdsey, with a population of well over 1,000,000 people.

St Nicholas Church (next to Cathedral)

The original mediaeval tower of this church, which was built in 1420, still stands. The body of the church was restored in 1675 and again between 1812 - 1814. In 1971 it was declared redundant and is now the office of the Diocesan Council. A feature of the graveyard of the church is the 500 graves of local people who died during the 1665 plague.

Charles Dickens

Centre



"Step back into Dickensian England and experience the grim reality of Victorian life!"

CITY OF ROCHESTER UPON MEDWAY

Eastgate House, High Street, Rochester, Kent

For details telephone 0634 43666

Central Rochester

The Museum was first established in Eastgate House, Rochester, in 1897. It remained in that building until 1979, when the greater portion of the collections were removed to their present location at the Guildhall.

The Guildhall itself was erected in 1687 and is arguably the finest late 17th century civic building in Kent. The main staircase and principal chamber have magnificent decorated plaster ceilings, the gift, in 1695, of Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovell, Member of Parliament for the City at that time. His portrait may be seen in the chamber, together with those of other notable M.P.'s for the city. Mounted on a cupola on the roof of the building may be seen a superb gilded weathervane in the form of a fully rigged 18th century warship. This vane was placed in its present position in 1780.

Adjoining the 17th century building are extensions of more recent date which now contain most of the Museum's exhibition galleries. These house a most interesting and varied collection relating to the local history and archaeology of the Medway area, together with displays of Victoriana, Dolls and Toys, Arms and Armour and Civic Plate and Regalia.

The Museum is open daily 10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. ADMISSION IS FREE.

Kenneth Bells Motor Cycle Museum, 144 High Street, Rochester. Open Mon-Sat. Collection of British motorcycles from 1921 to 1977, including Vincents and AJSs, and unique 1916 model manufactured by Rover. Tel: (0634) 814165.

Satis House, Bakers Walk

The building now called 'Satis House' is only part of a huge mansion that once absorbed Longley House, the Friars and the Old Hall. A 16th Century house with Regency front. Visited by Queen Elizabeth I in 1573. Not open to the public.

Old Hall, Bakers Walk

Visited by Elizabeth I in 1573. The house has some particularly fine wall paintings. Not open to the public.

Watts Charity, High Street

(Six Poor Travellers)

Open 1st March to 31st October, Tuesday to Saturday inclusive 2.00p.m. to 5.00p.m.

Founded for six poor travellers to stay one night. Tudor house with the front being added in 1771. Appears in one of Dickens' short stories for Christmas 'The Seven Poor Travellers'.



Chertsey's Gate High Street

Also known as Jaspers Gate, Cemetery Gate and College Gate. One of the old monastic precinct gates. Mentioned in Dickens' novel 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood', as the gatehouse home of Mr Jasper. Not open to the public.

The Vines, Rochester

The Mediaeval monks vineyard which now provides a peaceful haven.

The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel, High Street

An old Coaching Inn over 400 years old. Originally known as 'The Bull' but after Princess Victoria, future Queen of England, stayed there overnight it assumed the name it has today. Mentioned by Dickens in his novels 'Pickwick Papers' and 'Great Expectations'.

Corn Exchange

Built in 1698 with the ornate frontage being added in 1706 at the expense of Sir Cloudesley Shovell.

The original Clock, which was smaller and square in shape, was replaced in 1771. The building was originally the City Butchers' Market and did not become a Corn Exchange until the first quarter of the 19th Century.

Bridge Chapel, Explanade

It is a small chapel for the 14th Century but it is still the office of the Bridge Wardens who maintain Rochester Bridge.

Incidence, High Street

A Victorian Square restored in 1960 to provide homes for people of Huguenot descent.

Minor Cannon Row

(near of the Cathedral)

A row of seven charming 18th Century houses.

Priors Gate

The most perfect of three surviving 14th Century monastic gates, leading from St. Margaret's Street into Minor Cannon Row.

Roman Walls

Remains of the walls of the former Roman Town 'Durobrivae' can be seen at the Explanade and extensive remains of the Mediaeval walls may be seen in the High Street.

Rochester Bridge

The 1970 road bridge is at least the 6th to have crossed the River Medway at Rochester.

Dickens' Chalet

Standing in the gardens of Eastgate House is the Swiss Chalet from Gad's Hill - the last home of Charles Dickens.

It was presented to Dickens in 1864 by a French actor - Charles Fechter and arrived at Higham railway station packed in 58 packing cases. Dickens used the chalet as a summer house and study and was writing the last chapters of the 'Mystery of Edwin Drood' in the upstairs room before his death on 9th June 1870. After Dickens' death on 9th June 1870. After Dickens' death the chalet was taken to London and put on public exhibition. Dickens' family were rather offended that a "peepshow" was being made out of his chalet and had it returned to Kent where it was presented to Lord Darnley who had it erected in the grounds of his home, Cobham Hall.

In 1960 the Chalet was purchased by the Dickens Fellowship and given by them to Rochester City Corporation who erected it on its present site.

It is regretted that the public cannot be admitted to the interior of the Chalet.

St. Margaret's Street

This interesting street runs southwards from the Cathedral and Castle and contains many houses of character including Bishopscourt, the present Bishop's Palace, which was bequeathed to the Bishop of Rochester in 1674 for "maintenance of hospitality near the Cathedral". The Coopers Arms is a charming old Inn on the Pilgrims Way through Rochester. St. Margaret's Church, rebuilt 1823, has a fine 15th Century tower.

St. Margaret's Church

St. Margaret's Street

A Mediaeval church which survived until 1823. Completely rebuilt between 1824 and 1840 from the tower and belfry which were incorporated into the new building.

Fort Pitt Fields

These fields are above the New Road and have remains of fortifications built during the Napoleonic War. From the top of the hill there is a fine panoramic view of the Medway Towns, river and surrounding countryside.

Special Ways to Explore the City

Guided Walking Tours

Get the most out of your visit to Rochester by joining a guided tour. Just be at the Dickens Centre at 11.30 on Sundays or 2.15pm Saturdays and Bank Holidays between Easter and the end of September. The walks are free and your guide will be a member of the City of Rochester Society guiding team.

A stroll around our interesting city reveals centuries of history, intriguing architecture, new angles to the familiar places and a variety of anecdotes. These informal walks are for all ages and family groups.

If you have a larger party or group that would like to have an organised tour, then contact the Tourist Information Centre on (0634) 843666, evening phone Mrs Margaret Ratcliffe on (0634) 846043.

For booked groups there are different walks at any time of the year from £1 per person (minimum £10), walks with special interest - Historical, Dickensian, Architectural or Military - can be arranged for specialist groups or students. A courier service for coaches can also be booked for tours of Dickens country including Cooling, Cliffe, Gad's Hill and Cobham.

The Walks take 1 - 2 hours at a leisurely pace. If you do not have the time to join a walk then collect a "Walk round the City" leaflet available in English, French, German and Italian from the Tourist Information Centre.

Open Top Bus

Maidstone & District's green buses are a familiar sight around the City of Rochester, as a comprehensive network of services provides frequent links throughout the area. All the buses run into Chatham Bus Station, where connections can be made, this being located on the first floor of the Pentagon Shopping Centre. M&D's Travel Shop is situated close to Bay 2 in the Bus Station and here you are able to buy the full range of M&D's bus and coach tickets.

During the day on Mondays to Saturdays, there are frequent buses between Chatham,

Rochester and Strood (less frequent on Sundays), whilst there are also links to the main tourist attractions in the area. If you travel around the area by bus, you can take advantage of a money-saving Freedom Ticket.

During the school summer holiday period (28 July to 2 September), M&D will be running its Open Top Bus on the Rochester City Tour which gives you a guided tour around the area, and links all the main places of interest. A great value All-Day Ticket allows you to travel by Open Top Bus, hopping off and on at the various attractions - all for one bargain price!

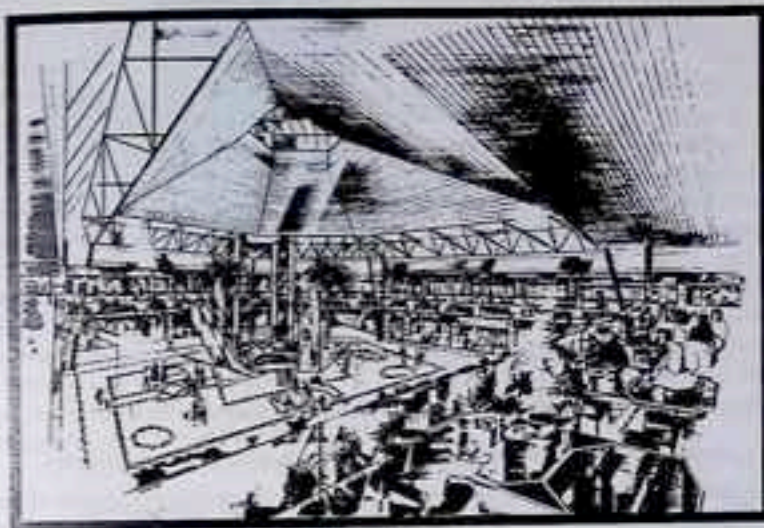
Full information about all M&D bus and coach products can be obtained from the Travel Shop in Chatham Bus Station, or by phoning the M&D Bus Times Hotline on Medway 853666.



The Mayor and Miss Rochester buy their tickets for the open top bus tour.

PENTAGON

Shopping Centre



Providing exciting modern shopping for Chatham

- Undergoing major refurbishment for completion summer 1990 -

Catering for all your fashion and convenience shopping with over 80 familiar high street names and specialist stores - including Sainsbury's, C&A, Boots, Ratners, Etam and WH Smiths.

Fully enclosed, climate-controlled shopping environment.

Central glass fronted lifts and spectacular glass atriums.

Dramatic mall café and supervised children's area.

Easy access throughout the centre.

Parking for 1,100 cars.



The Historic Dockyard

Wooden Walls, The Historic Dockyard's new £4 million exhibition, is one of the most visually exciting heritage attractions in the UK. Housed in the Historic Dockyard's unique 18th century Mast House and Mould Loft, Wooden Walls blends natural authenticity with the latest in computer graphics.

Visitors are transported back to 1758 and will experience through sight, sound and smells the conditions and working environment of the 18th century dockyard. Through the eyes of a shipwright's apprentice, 15 year old William Crockwell, visitors to Wooden Walls will see 26 different trades involved in the construction of Britain's sail powered fighting ships, one of the most complex industrial tasks of the day.

Along with Wooden Walls, The Historic Dockyard's tremendous variety of old buildings, craft demonstrations, exhibitions and events throughout the year ensure a fascinating day out for the whole family.

Visitors spend on average four and half hours at the Historic Dockyard, but it can take at least a day to view all the attractions on offer. Visitors wishing to return to the dockyard on a second occasion to complete their visit, can now do so at no extra charge.

For four hundred years Chatham was the Royal Navy's principal ship-building and repair centre. Its history is now the subject of a unique working museum making the Historic Dockyard one of Europe's top heritage attractions.

The vast 80-acre conservation site has the greatest concentration of scheduled ancient monuments in the country. In these buildings the age old crafts and skills of the Historic Dockyard are brought to life in a series of exhibitions and demonstrations. In the Sail and Colour Loft the history of flag and sail making is shown alongside demonstrations by today's skilled craftsmen. Visitors to the

18th century Ropery can view the commercial manufacture of rope using techniques and machines which were in use in Nelson's day.

The Ordnance Mews Crafts Workshops is home to talented local craftsmen and artists. Their skill with wood, metal, pottery, jewels, rope and other materials combines to produce a diverse and fascinating experience.

The former HMS Gannet, a steam and sail sloop built in 1878, is now undergoing painstaking restoration in the Historic Dockyard's ship-repair docks. An exhibition housed close to the Gannet's dock traces the history of this extraordinary ship.

The Ordnance gallery is not to be missed. Visitors can see the finest collection of Muzzle loading naval guns in the country.

Visitors can take advantage of The Historic Dockyard's knowledgeable guides or just wander around at their leisure. Catering facilities range from picnic areas and light refreshments to a high quality cafeteria in the recently renovated White Horse Shop Restaurant. Ample free parking is also available.

The Historic Dockyard is open -

Summer: 25 March to 27 October 1990 - Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays, 10.00am to 6.00pm.

Winter: 28 October 1990 to 30 March 1991 - Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 10.00am to 4.30pm.

Admission rates are: Adult £4.50; child £2.50 and concessions £4.00.

Guided tour: Adults 50p, children 25p, free.

Family Ticket: (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children) £10.00.

For further details contact The Visitor Centre at The Historic Dockyard, Chatham on 0634 812551.

THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD
CHATHAM · KENT

Four hundred years of Britain's naval heritage. This 80-acre site which boasts the UK's greatest concentration of scheduled ancient monuments is now a working museum brought to life by impressive displays. See the unique 18th century Ropery, the former HMS Gannet built in 1878, the Sail and Colour Loft, the Ordnance Mews Craft Workshops and more.

and more.

LONDON
River Thames
M25
M20
Maidstone
River Medway
Gillingham
Chatham
NORTH SEA

**Alexandra Gate, Dock Road
Chatham, Kent ME4 4TE
Tel: 0634 812551**

Fort Amherst and Chatham

It's been called the 'Mary Rose' of the Medway

The restoration of Fort Amherst in the centre of the Medway Towns is the most exciting project of its kind in the South-East, and one that has vast potential.

Constructed in 1756 to protect the Royal Naval Dockyard from landward attack, the Fort comprises of massive ditches, many gun positions, impressive bastions and a complex network of tunnels underneath the lines of defences. During the period 1802-1811 the Fort was extensively modernised with the addition of new magazines, barracks, gun batteries and guardrooms. Below the Fort, vast caves and tunnels were excavated to be used as stores and shelters. On completion the Fort mounted over 50 smooth bore cannons.

The massive Chatham Gatehouse has been restored to its original appearance and now houses a project interpretation centre and small museum on its lower floor. One of the upper floor barrack rooms has been faithfully refurbished to show the conditions in which Wellington's 'scum of the earth' had to live. Visitors can also tour the towering bastions and marvel at the huge, twisting labyrinth of tunnels hewn out of solid chalk.

During the summer months Fort Amherst often echoes to the sound of gunfire, as our resident garrison re-enacts scenes from the history of the fortress. Firing of the Fort's cannon takes place upon the first Sunday of each month during our season, and there are numerous special events on weekends and bank-holidays.

Chatham

The centre of Chatham has been steadily redeveloped over recent years with excellent shopping facilities combined with attractive Riverside Gardens.

Nelson's flagship 'Victory' was built at Chatham and a model of this ship can be seen in the Guildhall Museum, Rochester.

Royal Engineers Museum

A short drive or bus ride from central Chatham, this large new Museum in Prince Arthur Road,

Brompton is full of surprises and well worth the trip.

The lively displays give some fascinating insights into Medway's debt to Britain's soldier-engineers since the Normans built a castle at Rochester. It was 'Sappers' who designed the eighteenth century Great Lines defending Chatham Dockyard of which Fort Amherst is a part. Throughout the nineteenth century the river and its surroundings formed a backdrop for the ingenious experiments of generations of students from Brompton's School of Military Engineering, exploring every branch of fast developing new technologies.

The Museum's collections are rich and remarkably varied. There are models, uniforms, weapons, equipment and personal mementoes from almost every military campaign from 1800-1945. More unexpected are the treasures of ethnography and decorative art gathered as Royal Engineers travelled the world with an Imperial Army in the nineteenth century. Many, like the fine Ethiopian collection, are taken as the 'spoils of war', but others were acquired more legitimately, like the exquisite Court dress presented to General Chichester for his military services to the Chinese Emperor in the 1860s.

The Museum's First and Second World War galleries are full of excitement and interest for visitors of all ages. You can make your way along the duckboards of an accurately reconstructed First World War trench and glimpse the underground existence of a group of soldiers in their dugout. Walking under the searchlight beams of the Second World War's Home Front, you peer through the window of a model Medway home complete with its own telephone and a Home Guard soldier.

paperwork. Large exhibits in the Second World War gallery include a road construction scene, an HQ office set up in the back of a Bedford lorry, and a section of the famous, now-sitting Bailey Bridge. Moving models demonstrate the engineering principles behind the prefabricated Mulberry harbour, built in June 1944 to support



King Charles Hotel

The hotel features 90 bedrooms including 10 x Executive Suites. Each room has a bathroom en-suite and colour TV. We also have a bridal suite for that very special occasion. In the evening one can relax in the residents' lounge and enjoy a pre-dinner drink or even a bar snack, and a game of pool in a quiet relaxed setting. We also have a superb swimming pool for those feeling active. Our full A la carte restaurant serves excellent meals 7 days per week right up to 11.30pm. You will always be assured of a warm and friendly welcome and superb service be it a party booking or just that special meal for two.

The "King Charles Hotel" complex also includes:
The "Regency Nightclub", the "Sovereign Nightclub"
and "Excalibur"

Reservations & Enquiries:
Brompton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5QT
Telephone (0634) 830303

FORT AMHERST

BRITAIN'S PREMIER NAPOLEONIC FORTRESS At Chatham In Kent



**EXTENSIVE TUNNELS AND BASTIONS
BARRACKS • WORKING CANNON
WORLD WAR II HQ • FREQUENT DISPLAYS**

Further details on Medway (0634) 47747
Entrance off Dock Road Chatham



the Allies' advance through Normandy.
Open All Year
Tues-Fri and Spring, Summer Bank Holiday
Mondays 10-5, Sundays 11.30-5, Closed
New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter
Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day
Admission: Adult £1.00, Child/OAP/
Unwaged 50p.
Building work due during May - July 1990
means that some galleries will have to be
closed. There will be no charge for
admission to the Museum in this period.
Tel (0634) 844555 Ext 2312 for all details.

Medway Heritage Centre Trust

St. Mary's Dock Road, Chatham.
Telephone Medway (0634) 407116.

Situated in Chatham's old parish church
of St Mary, the MEDWAY HERITAGE
CENTRE tells the story of the River Medway
from Sheerness to the extent of the tidal
water at Allington, near Maidstone. By
means of photographs, paintings, models
and artifacts, the visitor is able to explore
the river and meet the generations of
Kentishmen and Men of Kent who have
worked beside it and sailed upon its
waters. We tell of Nelson and Drake, of
the naval dockyard and the Kent Oil
Refinery, of the Bridges of Rochester, of
Shorts' flying boats and Aveling's road
rollers, of the Dutch raid of 1667 and the
military defences of more recent times.
Not least do we tell of the ships of the
river, from H.M.S Victory to the last 'doble'
- now part of the display, and of barges
and paddle steamers of yesterday and
today.

Medway Heritage Centre is open on
Wednesdays and Sundays between
October and Easter, and on Wednesdays,
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
from Easter to the end of September.
Hours of opening are 10am to 4pm except
Sundays, when we are open from 2pm to
5pm.

Cost of admission is £1.00 (children
and senior citizens 50p). Facilities are
available for parties, which should be

pre-booked. Write to Medway Heritage
Centre, St Mary's, Dock Road, Chatham,
Kent, or phone 0634 407116 (during open
hours).

St. Bartholomew's Chapel, High Street

Originally part of the hospital founded
by Bishop Gundulph in 1078. The present
Hospital of St. Bartholomew's claims to
be a direct descendant and thereby the
oldest in the country.

Sir John Hawkins Hospital, High Street

Founded in 1592 by Sir John Hawkins,
the Elizabethan Navigator, for seamen.
Repaired in 1722 and rebuilt between
1789/90. The Charter of the hospital is
dated 27th August, 1594.

Kitchener Statue, Dock Road

The Bronze equestrian statue formerly
in Khartoum was unveiled in 1960.

Barfleur Memorial, New Road

An obelisk erected by the officers and
men of H.M.S. 'Barfleur' to the officers of
the ships crew who died at the Boxer
Rising of 1900, in China.

Dickens House, Ordnance Barracks

Row of Georgian houses built in 1794-
1817. Charles Dickens lived at No. 2 (now
11) from 1817-21.

Waghorn Memorial, Railway Street

Erected in 1888 to Lieutenant Thomas
Fletcher Waghorn, R.N., pioneer of the
overland mail route to India. He was born
in Chatham in 1800 and lived at Snodland.
He died in 1850 and is buried in St. Mary's
Church.

MEDWAY HERITAGE CENTRE



A Unique Exhibition

Highlighting the story of the River Medway to Present Times

Dock Road, Chatham.

Medway 407116

Open Wed - Sat 10 - 4

Sun 2 - 5

Admission:

Adults £1.20 Children 50p

Senior Citizens

THE CEDARS HOTEL

The Friendly Hotel with the Family Atmosphere

Fully Equipped Comfortable Rooms

Fully Licenced Bar

Restaurant Offering Excellent Cuisine

Open to Non Residents

Conference Facility Available



38, London Road, Strood

Medway 290277

CRISPIN & CRISPANUS (12th Century Inn)

Enjoy a delightful evening meal,
Wine and Dine in the friendly atmosphere of one
of the Oldest Inns in Kent.

Lunches Mon-Fri

Hot and Cold Bar Snacks always available
Parties catered for - Ample parking

8 London Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent
Reservations Medway 719912



Strood and Outlying Villages.

To the North of the River Medway the City is predominantly rural with many orchards, a number of old churches and there are plenty of recreational facilities in this area including Golf and Fishing.

Allhallows, at the tip of the Grain peninsula, is a popular vacation area with chalets and caravans in pleasant grassland behind its sandy beach.

Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary

At Northward Hill, to the north of High Halstow village, is a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Nature Reserve, which includes the largest Heronry in the U.K. The marshlands of the area provide a habitat for many species of aquatic birds. Open daily all year. Nature Trail from Northwood Avenue, High Halstow. Further details from the Warden, Swigshole Cottage, High Halstow, Rochester ME3 8SR.

St. Helen's Church, Cliffe

Founded late 8th Century. Present church built in 13th Century in alternative bands of flint and Kentish ragstone. Decorated pillars and painted walls.

St. James' Church, Cooling

Mid-10th Century with Norman additions. The graveyard contains 13 lozenge-shaped tombstones supposed to have been used by Charles Dickens in his novel 'Great Expectations' as the graves of Pip's brothers.

All Saints Church, Church Green, Frindsbury

Flint church over 900 years old possessing some fine Mediaeval wall paintings.

Hoo St. Werburgh Church, Hoo

This 13th Century church has a massive tower with an elegant shingled spire.

St. Nicholas Church, Strood High Street

Original Mediaeval tower still stands. The body of the church was rebuilt between 1812/14.

Cooling Castle, Cooling

Remains of 14th Century castle. Only the gateway

flanked by twin drum towers is visible from the road. Not open to the public.

Upnor

Upnor is a very attractive riverside village and is now a busy sailing centre. Upnor is the base for the 'Arethusa' a sailing vessel now used as a training ship.

Upnor Castle (open to the public) -

Admission charge

With the growing importance of Chatham Dockyard during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a fort at Upnor was built in 1559 to protect the Dockyard from attack from the river. Although Upnor was an important link in the river defences at Chatham Dockyard, it was never maintained and by 1667 it was badly neglected. It was on the 10th June 1667 that the Dutch sailed up the Medway began. Tel: Medway 402276.

Chatham Dockyard was of great importance to the British Navy at that time. It became the target for the Dutch during the war of 1666-67 and despite the defences along the river, the Medway, including Upnor Castle, was taken, led by Admiral De Ruyter, most very successful. When the Dutch left the Medway the next day, they had destroyed and captured a large number of the Royal Navy ships anchored at Chatham. The result of the raid was for many more river defences to be built to prevent such a disaster happening again.

Upnor Castle became a magazine for Ordnance Stores in 1668 having proved that it was of little value as a means of defence, and remained as such until it became the property of English Heritage.

See No. 26 on Central Map (pages 26-27)

Temple Manor, Knight Road

A 13th Century Hall House with 17th Century extensions. It was originally built by the Knights Templar, and the vaulted undercroft (13th century) can still be viewed today.

Open to the public summer only. For details please contact Medway (0634) 402276. Admission charge.

Gibraltar House Hotel

HOTEL & RESTAURANT



Gibraltar Hill, New Road,
Chatham, Kent ME4 4RY
Telephone: Medway (0634)
400120/400128/400129

All rooms are fully ensuite with:
Colour Television Direct Dial Telephone
Tea and Coffee making facilities



Gibraltar House Restaurant offers a full à la carte menu
Open seven days a week lunchtimes and evenings
Sunday traditional family lunch



Keeping YOU on the move in ROCHESTER

- Local buses in and around Rochester and Chatham, with money-saving Freedom Tickets
- Summer Open Top Bus linking the main tourist attractions in Rochester and Chatham
- Invictaway coaches direct to London
- Days out by coach at home and abroad throughout the year

See The Sights
By Open Top Bus

M&D's Open Top Bus will be
running Seven Days a Week
Between 28 July and
2 September 1990

FULL DETAILS FROM CHATHAM BUS STATION

MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT

Head Office: Luton Road, Chatham,
Kent ME5 7LH (0634) 847334

Bus Times
Hotline



Medway
832666

Hotels & Accommodation

This guide lists some of the major establishments in the area. Facilities and prices obviously vary, and visitors are advised to check individually prior to booking. Inclusion in this selection does not imply recommendation by the City Council.

There are many other guest houses in the area and further details can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre, Eastgate Cottage, High Street, Rochester, Tel: (0634) 845066.

Dickens Hotel
47 New Road
Rochester
Tel: 81233-4

Gordon Hotel
11 High Street
Rochester
Tel: 84256

King Road Hotel
49 High Street
Rochester
Tel: 84256

Medway Manor Hotel
11 New Road
Rochester
Tel: 847385

Royal Victoria & Bull Hotel
16-18 High Street
Rochester
Tel: 84256

Blue Boat Guest House
39 High Street
Rochester
Tel: 837513

Bridgeview Manor Hotel
Medway Road
Chatham
Tel: 811155

The Crest Hotel
Maidstone Road
Nr Rochester Airport
Chatham
Tel: 687111

Cedars Hotel
58 London Road
Strood
Tel: 200277

South Eastern Hotel
51 Station Road
Strood
Tel: 719958

The Inn on the Lake
A2, Shorne
Nr Gravesend
Tel: (047482) 3333

King Charles Hotel
Brompton Road
Gillingham
Tel: 830303

Farthing Corner Lodge
Farthing Corner
Service Area, M2 Motorway
Rainham
Tel: 377337

A WEEKEND AWAY... SUNDAY LUNCH... DINNER FOR TWO...



Whether you're planning a meal out or contemplating that special weekend away, the Crest Hotel Rochester will prove to be the ideal choice.

- 105 beautifully furnished bedrooms
- Fine food and drink served in the relaxed surroundings of Oliver's restaurant and bar
- Perfectly situated for exploring the 'Garden of England' including the towns of Rochester, Canterbury and Maidstone

Special weekend package rates are available, and up to 3 children 14 years or under can stay free in their own room when accompanied by 2 adults.

CREST HOTEL
ROCHESTER-MAIDSTONE
Maidstone Road, Chatham ME5 9SE
Tel: (0634) 887111 Telex: 965933
Fax: (0634) 684512

the Inn
on the Lake



The Inn on the Lake is a privately owned three star hotel set in 12 acres of Kentish woodland with two delightful lakes, which are floodlit during the evening. There is direct access from the A2 London to Dover road.

There are 78 bedrooms, many of which have panoramic views over the lakes. All feature a luxury private bathroom, remote control colour television, direct dial telephone, hairdryer, trouser press and tea and coffee making facilities and complimentary fresh fruit.

A Full Traditional English Breakfast and a morning newspaper are included in our charges. The restaurant specialises in traditional French and English Cuisine, carefully prepared by our international team of chefs. Every Saturday throughout the year a Dinner Dance is featured. The Hotel specialises in conferences and private functions with superb facilities for up to 320 guests.

For further information, please contact Raywood J Roger, General Manager.

Shorne, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3HB
Telephone Shorne (047482) 3333 Telex 966356

A Guide to Shopping

Rochester has a wide selection of shops, and this guide lists a few of those that may be of specific interest to the visitor.

ANTIQUES

Hard Times No 33
Cathedral Antiques, No 41
Northgate Antiques, No 48
Droods Antiques, No 62
Brownings, No 108
Memories, No 128
Rochester Fine Arts, No 88

BOOKSHOPS

Baggins Book Bazaar, No 19
Hearts of Oak, No 63
The Bookcase, No 66

PICTURE GALLERIES

Copperfields, No 37
Francis Iles, No 103
Langley Galleries, No 153
Picture Parlour, No 28

PHOTOGRAPHIC

Rochester Camera's, No 87
Camera Gear, No 175

LADIES FASHION'S

Private Lives, No 3 Northgate
Elite, No 26
H J Cobbs, No 34/36
Annelo, No 158
Wardrobe, No 6 Victoria Street

FLORISTS

Slinders, No 59-61
Bettys Florist, No 64
Lawrences Flowers, No 163A

MENSWEAR

Roystons, No 93
H J Cobbs, No 34/36
Moss Bros, No 164
Nouveau, No 137

FOR THE HOME

Craft Pursuits, 5 Northgate
Inside Out Shop, No 79
Gallery 2, No 119
Baileys, No 72
Reeves (Glass & China), No 142
Casa Lina (delicatessen), No 170
Pot Pourri, No 137B
Silk Interiors by Hennings (Silk flowers & plants), No 157

SPECIAL INTEREST

Ross Models, No 23
Road & Rail Models, No 53
Francis Iles (Needlecraft), No 73

JEWELLERS

Dennis Green, No 82
Rochester City Jewellers, No 98
Wellers, No 144
Beetle & Poker, No 173

GENERAL

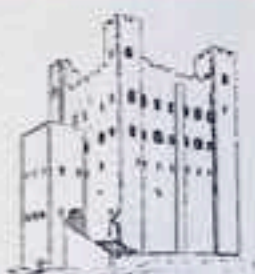
V G Stores, No 49
Summers (Stationery), No 77
Rydens Chemists, No 150

Wardrobe of Rochester

High Quality Ladies' Fashions
have moved from Fagins Alley
to superb new premises at:

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Telephone: (0634) 404117



CASTLE VIEW FOOD STORE

47 - 49 High Street Rochester

ALSO: New Store opening at
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POSSIBLY the cheapest
Confection in the High Street



PROBABLY the cheapest
Lager in the High Street



DEFINITELY the cheapest
Tobacco in the High Street



The Museum is housed in the Guildhall of the City of Rochester, the major portion of which dates from the late 17th century and has magnificent decorated plaster ceilings. The collections include local history, archaeology, arms and armour, dolls, toys and Victoriana, models of local sailing barges, fishing vessels, Shorts flying boats a Napoleonic prisoner-of-war work. The Museum also houses the Civic plate, regalia and Archives of the City.



Dept VGR 90

HIGH STREET ROCHESTER KENT Tel (0634) 848717

Opening Hours 10.00 - 5.30 daily
(except Christmas and Good Friday)

Tourist Information Centre

Eastgate Cottage, High Street, Rochester, Kent
ME1 1EW Tel No: (0634) 843666.

As well as providing full information on events and attractions mentioned in this publication, the Tourist Information Centre offers an accommodation booking service for visitors, as well as a free itinerary planning service for group organisers.

Make the TIC your first port of call in Rochester Upon Medway and you'll get a warm welcome and lots of information to help you enjoy your stay.

DON'T FORGET to buy the Rochester upon Medway 30 minute SOUVENIR VIDEO while you are there.

How to get to Rochester upon Medway

By Rail

Rochester-Upon-Medway is served by three railway stations - Chatham, Rochester and Strood, all of which have frequent services to Charing Cross and Victoria. The journey from London takes approximately 45 minutes.

By Coach

The Maidstone and District Motor Services Limited, in conjunction with other coach companies, operate regular daily services to and from Victoria Coach Station, London, with connections to all parts of Great Britain.

By Car

Rochester-Upon-Medway is just 30 miles from London, the most direct route being the A2 and the M2.

By Air

Rochester-Upon-Medway is situated 45 miles from Heathrow Airport and 43 miles from Gatwick.

By Sea

Rochester-Upon-Medway is well linked with the cross-channel ferries, Dover being 42 miles and Folkestone 40 miles distant, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate (41 miles) and a sea link with Vlissingen, (Flushing) Holland from Sheerness, only 18 miles away.

Guide to Central Area Map

(Pages 36-37)

- 1 Civic Centre
- 2 Strood Pier
- 3 Temple Manor
- 4 Bridgewarden's Chapel
- 5 Rochester Pier
- 6 Rochester Castle
- 7 Guildhall (and museum)
- 8 Jasper's Gatehouse
- 9 Corn Exchange
- 10 St. Nicholas' Church
- 11 Cathedral
- 12 Priors Gate
- 13 Watts Charity
- 14 Bishops Palace
- 15 Charles Dickens Centre
- 16 Tourist Information Centre
- 17 Restoration House
- 18 Satis House
- 19 St Margarets Church
- 20 Kenneth Bill's Motorcycle Museum
- 21 Fort Amherst
- 22 Brook Pumping Station
- 23 Heritage Centre
- 24 Chatham Historic Dockyard
- 25 Sun Pier
- 26 Upnor Castle
- 27 Rochester Police Station
- 28 Dickens House

