

= Herne Bay , Kent =

Herne Bay / hɜːrn / is a seaside town in Kent , South East England , with a population of 38 @, @ 563 . On the south coast of the Thames Estuary it is 7 miles (11 km) north of Canterbury and 5 miles (8 km) east of Whitstable . It neighbours the ancient villages of Herne and Reculver and is part of the City of Canterbury local government district . Herne Bay 's seafront is home to the world 's first freestanding purpose @-@ built Clock Tower , built in 1837 ; from the late Victorian period until 1978 , the town had the second @-@ longest pier in the United Kingdom .

The town began as a small shipping community , receiving goods and passengers from London en route to Canterbury and Dover . The town rose to prominence as a seaside resort during the early 19th century after the building of a pleasure pier and promenade by a group of London investors , and reached its heyday in the late Victorian era . Its popularity as a holiday destination has declined over the past decades , due to the increase in foreign travel and to a lesser degree exposure to flooding that has prevented the town 's redevelopment .

= = History = =

The town of Herne Bay took its name from the neighbouring village of Herne , two kilometres inland from the bay . The word herne , meaning a place on a corner of land , evolved from the Old English hyrne , meaning corner . The village was first recorded in around 1100 as Hyrnan . The corner may relate to the sharp turn in the minor Roman road between Canterbury and Reculver at Herne .

One of the oldest buildings in Herne Bay is the late 18th @-@ century inn , The Ship , which served as the focal point for the small shipping and farming community which first inhabited the town . During this time , passenger and cargo boats regularly ran between Herne Bay and London and boats carrying coal ran from Newcastle . From Herne was easy access by road to the city of Canterbury or to Dover , where further passage by boat could then be obtained across the English Channel to France .

The 1801 census recorded Herne Bay , including Herne , as having a population of 1 @, @ 232 . During the early 19th century , a smugglers ' gang operated from the town . The gang were regularly involved in a series of fights with the preventive services until finally being overpowered in the 1820s . In the 1830s , a group of London investors , who recognised Herne Bay 's potential as a seaside resort , built a wooden pier and a promenade on the town 's seafront . This and the subsequent building of a railway station led to the rapid expansion of the town ; between 1831 and 1841 the town 's population grew from 1 @, @ 876 to 3 @, @ 041 . The London businessmen intended to rename the town St Augustine 's , but the name was unpopular with residents and the " Herne Bay " remained . In 1833 , an Act of Parliament established Herne Bay and Herne as separate towns . Local landowner Sir Henry Oxenden donated a piece of ground for the site of the town 's first church , Christ Church , which was opened in 1834 . In 1837 , Mrs Ann Thwaytes , a wealthy lady from London , donated around £ 4 @, @ 000 to build a 75 feet (23 m) clock tower on the town 's seafront . It is believed to be the first freestanding purpose built clock tower in the world .

During the 1840s , steamboats began running between Herne Bay and London . There was a type of beach boat unique to Herne Bay and nearby Thanet , known as the Thanet wherry , a narrow pulling boat about 18 feet (5 m) long . These boats were mainly used for fishing ; however , with the advent of tourism and the decline of fishing , they became mainly used for pleasure trips . A document dated 1840 records the town as having the following schools , all of which are now defunct : Haddington boarding school , Oxenden House , The British School , Prospect Place and Herne Street School . The village of Herne was often called Herne Street around this time . The same document also mentions the still @-@ existing Rodney Head , The Ship and Upper Red Lion inns .

In 1912 , the first " Brides in the Bath " murder by George Joseph Smith was committed in Herne Bay . BBC scriptwriter Anthony Coburn , who lived in the resort , was one of people to conceive the idea of a police box as a time machine for Doctor Who . During World War II , a sea @-@ fort was built off the coast of Herne Bay and Whitstable , which is still in existence . The coastal village of

Reculver , to the east of Herne Bay , was the site of the testing of the bouncing bomb used by the " Dam Busters " during the war .

== The pier ==

The original wooden pier had to be dismantled in 1871 after its owners went into liquidation and sea worms had damaged the wood . A shorter 100 metres (328 ft) long iron pier with a theatre and shops at the entrance was built in 1873 . However , it was too short for steamboats to land at . The pier proved to be unprofitable and a replacement longer iron pier with an electric tram began to be built in 1896 . At 3 @, @ 600 feet (1 @, @ 097 m) , this pier was the second longest in the country , behind only the pier at Southend @-@ on @-@ Sea .

The town 's heyday as a seaside resort was during the late Victorian era ; the population nearly doubled from 4 @, @ 410 to 8 @, @ 442 between 1881 and 1901 . Much of the resulting late Victorian seafront architecture is still in existence today . In 1910 , a pavilion was added to the landward end of the pier . By 1931 , the town 's population had grown to 14 @, @ 533 . At the beginning of World War II , the army cut two gaps between the landward end of the pier and the seaward terminal as a counter @-@ invasion measure . The pier 's two gaps were bridged for pedestrians however after the war .

1963 marked the end of steamboat services from the pier . In 1970 , a fire destroyed the pier 's pavilion and plans began to replace it with a sports centre , which was opened in 1976 by former Prime Minister Edward Heath . The centre section of the pier was torn down by a storm in 1978 , leaving the end of the pier isolated out at sea . It has not been rebuilt due to the cost ; however , residents and businesses in the town have campaigned for its restoration . The sports centre was demolished in 2012 , leaving a bare platform .

== Governance ==

Since 1983 , the Member of Parliament for North Thanet , covering northern Thanet and Herne Bay , has been the Conservative Roger Gale . At the 2010 general election , he won a majority of 13 @, @ 528 with 52 @. @ 7 % of the vote in North Thanet . Labour won 21 @. @ 5 % of the vote , Liberal Democrats 19 @. @ 4 % and United Kingdom Independence Party 6 @. @ 5 % .

Herne Bay , along with Whitstable and Canterbury , is in the City of Canterbury local government district . The town contains the five electoral wards of Heron , Herne and Broomfield , Greenhill and Eddington , West Bay and Reculver . These wards have thirteen of the fifty seats on the Canterbury City council . As at the 2011 local elections , twelve of those seats were held by the Conservatives and one by the Liberal Democrats .

== Geography ==

Herne Bay is centred at 51 ° 22 ' 14 " N 1 ° 7 ' 37 " E in northeast Kent , on the coast of the Thames Estuary . The town is 1 mile (2 km) east of the town of Whitstable and 7 miles (11 km) north of the city of Canterbury . The village of Herne is just to the south , and the village of Reculver is 1 mile (2 km) to the east . The town 's suburbs are Hampton , Greenhill and Studd Hill in the west , Eddington and Broomfield in the south , and Beltinge and Hillborough in the east . The drowned settlement of Hampton @-@ on @-@ Sea once existed beside what is now Hampton .

The landscape of the town has been largely influenced by the Plenty Brook , which flows northward through the centre of the town and into the sea . It is thought to have been a much larger stream in ancient times . The coastline has two distinct bays , separated by a jut of land created by silt from the outflow of the brook into the sea . The first buildings in the town were built along the east bay , a short distance from the brook outflow , where the road from Canterbury met the sea . The town has since spread across both bays , across the Plenty Brook valley and onto the relatively high land flanking both sides of the valley . The land to the east of the valley reaches a height of 25 metres (82 ft) above sea level and to the west reaches 10 metres (33 ft) . Cliffs are formed where this high

land meets the sea .

The rising land beside the coast , between the valley and the eastern cliffs , is known as ' The Downs ' (no relation to the North or South Downs) . This area has been named a Site of Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area for Birds . The whole of the north east Kent coast has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest . The geology of the town consists mainly of London Clay , overlaid with brickearth in the west . The sand and clay of The Downs are subject to landslips .

The Plenty Brook now passes through the town 's drainage system , allowing buildings to be built over the top . The brook has been prone to flooding during heavy rain , especially in inland areas , which regularly causes problems for people living in the Eddington area in southern Herne Bay .

Stormy weather can cause the sea level by the coast to rise by up to two metres . In the past , this has caused disastrous flooding in the town , the worst in the town 's history being in 1953 . Coastal defences were subsequently constructed including groynes , sea walls and shingle beach . In the 1990s , these defences were deemed to be inadequate and an offshore breakwater , now known as Neptune 's Arm , was built to protect the most vulnerable areas of the town .

In east Kent , the warmest time of the year is July and August , when maximum temperatures average around 21 ° C (70 ° F) ; the coolest months are January and February , when minimum temperatures average around 1 ° C (34 ° F) . East Kent 's average maximum and minimum temperatures are around 1 / 2 ° C higher than the national average . Herne Bay is sometimes warmer than other parts of Kent as it is backed by the North Downs to the south . Between 1999 and 2005 , Herne Bay recorded the highest daily temperature in the United Kingdom nine times . East Kent 's average annual rainfall is about 728 mm (29 inches) , the wettest months being October to January . This was lower than the national average annual rainfall of 838 mm (33 inches) , and recent droughts have led to hosepipe bans by Mid Kent Water .

= = Demography = =

As of the 2001 UK census , Herne Bay area wards had a population of 35 @, @ 188 and a population density of 11 @. @ 3 persons per hectare .

Of the town 's 14 @, @ 732 households , 48 @. @ 7 % were married couples living together , 8 @. @ 4 % were cohabiting couples and 8 @. @ 3 % were lone parents . 30 @. @ 2 % of all households were made up of individuals and 20 @. @ 5 % had someone living alone at pensionable age . 27 @. @ 7 % of households included children aged under 16 or a person aged 16 to 18 who was in full @- @ time education . The average household size was 2 @. @ 74 .

The ethnicity of the town was 98 @. @ 5 % white , 0 @. @ 6 % mixed race , 0 @. @ 4 % Asian , 0 @. @ 2 % black and 0 @. @ 3 % Chinese or other . The place of birth of residents was 96 @. @ 3 % United Kingdom , 0 @. @ 6 % Republic of Ireland , 0 @. @ 3 % Germany , 0 @. @ 6 % other Western Europe countries , 0 @. @ 2 % Eastern Europe , 0 @. @ 6 % Africa , 0 @. @ 3 % Far East , 0 @. @ 3 % South Asia , 0 @. @ 2 % Middle East , 0 @. @ 2 % North America and 0 @. @ 2 % Oceania . Religion was recorded as 77 @. @ 3 % Christian , 0 @. @ 3 % Muslim , 0 @. @ 2 % Hindu , 0 @. @ 2 % Buddhist , 0 @. @ 1 % Jewish and 0 @. @ 1 % Sikh . 14 @. @ 2 % were recorded as having no religion , 0 @. @ 3 % had an alternative religion and 7 @. @ 4 % did not state their religion .

For every 100 females , there were 89 @. @ 9 males . The age distribution was 6 % aged 0 ? 4 years , 14 % aged 5 ? 15 years , 4 % aged 16 ? 19 years , 29 % aged 20 ? 44 years , 25 % aged 45 ? 64 years and 22 % aged 65 years and over . The town had a high percentage of residents over 65 , compared with the national average of 16 % . As a seaside town , Herne Bay is a popular retirement destination ; many modern retirement complexes are located near the seafront .

The economic activity of residents aged 16 ? 74 was 36 % in full @- @ time employment , 13 % in part @- @ time employment , 9 % self @- @ employed , 3 % unemployed , 2 % students with jobs , 3 % students without jobs , 18 % retired , 7 % looking after home or family , 6 % permanently sick or disabled and 2 % economically inactive for other reasons . This was roughly in line with the national figures , except for the number of people in retirement . This figure nationally was significantly lower

at 14 % . Of the town 's residents aged 16 ? 74 , 12 % had a higher education qualification or the equivalent , compared with 20 % nationwide . According to Office for National Statistics estimates , during the period of April 2001 to March 2002 the average gross weekly income of households in the Herne Bay area was £ 516 (£ 26 @,@ 906 per year) .

= = Economy = =

The advent of overseas travel and changes to holiday trends eventually caused the town 's economy to decline after the 1960s ; regular flooding of the Plenty Brook prevented redevelopment of the town centre . However , extensive seafront regeneration in the 1990s followed the creation of the Neptune 's Arm sea defence jetty . The jetty has created a small harbour used by leisure boats and from where tourists can take sailing yacht trips to a seal @-@ watching site in the Thames estuary . The Victorian gardens on the seafront were then able to be fully restored . The Central Bandstand , built in 1924 , was refurbished after years of disrepair and closure to the public . A swimming pool and cinema were added to the town centre in the early 1990s . In 2005 , a wind @-@ farm with thirty 2 @. @ 75 MW wind turbines was built 5 miles (8 km) off the coast of Herne Bay and Whitstable , generating a total of 82 @. @ 5 MW of electricity . The recent upgrades by the Council have helped improve the image of the town and raise its profile . It is hoped this will attract new investment in tourism and business by the private sector , and lead to the regeneration of the town 's economy .

In 2006 , Canterbury City Council began a public consultation to discuss the regeneration . A concern raised by the council is that the shopping centre is incoherent and fails to attract the tourists that come for the seafront . Other issues raised are the lack of holiday accommodation , car parks and clear pedestrian routes between the three main attractions in the town : the seafront , Memorial park and shopping centre . The council is considering relocating the sports centre from the pier and replacing it with other tourist attractions .

As of the 2001 census , the industry of employment of residents of Herne Bay was 19 % retail , 14 % health and social work , 11 % manufacturing , 10 % construction , 9 % real estate , 8 % education , 8 % transport and communications , 5 % public administration , 5 % hotels and restaurants , 4 % finance , 1 % agriculture and 5 % other community , social or Personal Services . Compared to national figures , the town had a relatively high number of workers in the construction and health / social care industries and a relatively low number in manufacturing and real estate . Many residents commute to work outside the town . As of the 2001 UK census , 14 @,@ 711 of the town 's residents were in employment , whereas there were only 8 @,@ 104 jobs within the town .

One of the largest employers is the centrally located supermarket , which as of January 2006 was considering further expansion . It is one of the major attractions to the town 's shopping centre , however there are fears that its expansion could lead it to become too dominant , at the cost of smaller shops in the town . Apart from tourism and retail , many jobs are also provided in the manufacturing industry , mainly located in industrial estates on the outskirts of the town , which produce goods such as kitchen furniture and factory machinery . A high number of construction jobs have been created by redevelopment of the seafront , which is expected to continue with the proposed regeneration of the town centre . The elderly population of the town has led to many Health and Social Care jobs at local care homes and at the town 's Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital . As of the 2001 census , 1 @. @ 9 % of the town 's population resided in a medical or care establishment , compared with the national average of only 0 @. @ 8 % .

= = Landmarks = =

The seafront has a 2 miles (3 km) shingle beach , which has been awarded a European Blue Flag and the yellow and blue Seaside Award for its safety and cleanliness . The seafront features a Victorian bandstand and gardens , amusement arcades , and children 's play areas . Landmarks by the seafront include the Clock Tower , the sea defence jetty , the off @-@ shore World War II sea fort and the off @-@ shore wind farm . There are seaside cafés , fresh seafood restaurants ,

guesthouses , beach huts and numerous water @-@ sports facilities .

The Memorial Park , situated near the centre of the town , incorporates a children 's play area , a large shallow duck pond often used for remote control boats , basketball and tennis courts and a large expanse of grass for field games . The park has a monument and an ' Avenue of Remembrance ' as memorials to the town 's residents killed during the two world wars .

Reculver Country park is home to the cliff top Reculver Towers , the remains of the 12th century St Mary 's Church and its distinctive twin towers . The park also contains the remains of a Roman fort , the remains of a Saxon church , a migrating @-@ bird watching spot and an information centre on the geology , history and wildlife of this area of the coast . Located on the main road between Herne Bay and Canterbury , Wildwood Discovery Park features over fifty species of native British animals , such as deer , badgers , wild boar and wolves .

Herne Mill , a late @-@ 18th century Kentish smock mill overlooking the village of Herne from a hilltop , is usually open to visitors on Sunday afternoons between April and September . A concrete funnel @-@ shaped water tower overlooks Herne Bay from the top of Mickleburgh Hill . This water tower is now used as a base for radio transmitters .

= = Transport = =

Herne Bay railway station is on the Chatham Main Line , which runs between Ramsgate in East Kent and London Victoria . Other stations on this line include Broadstairs , Margate , Whitstable , Faversham , Gillingham , Rochester and Bromley South . Herne Bay is around 1 hour and 40 minutes from London . A National Express coach service also runs between London Victoria and Ramsgate , around every two to three hours during daytime . A selection of trains run to London 's Cannon Street station , primarily for business commuting .

There is the Stagecoach in East Kent bus services 4 / 4A / 4B / 6 / 6A / 6B (branded as ' The Triangle ') running every 10 minutes to neighbouring Whitstable and to Canterbury , where many Herne Bay residents go to work and shop . Also an infrequent bus service 7 links Herne Bay to Canterbury but The Triangle routes are more frequent , quick and direct . An hourly bus service 36 runs to the seaside resort of Margate , 13 miles (21 km) to the east of Herne Bay The A299 road , also known as the Thanet Way , runs between Ramsgate and Faversham via Herne Bay and Whitstable . The road merges with the M2 motorway at Faversham . In the late 1990s , the road was converted into a dual carriageway and redirected to avoid passing through urban areas of Herne Bay and Whitstable .

= = Education = =

Herne Bay 's secondary school is the modern Herne Bay High . It is a mixed ability foundation school with about 1 @,@ 500 students . In 2002 , Herne Bay High was designated a specialist school and Sports College . In 2005 , 14 % of the school 's pupils gained at least five GCSEs at grades A * ? C including English and maths , ranking it 107th out of Kent 's 120 secondary schools . Many students commute to schools in other nearby towns , especially to the grammar schools in Faversham , Ramsgate and Canterbury .

Herne Bay Junior School , situated in the town centre , has about 500 students . It was originally established in the late Victorian era and was formerly joined with the neighbouring Herne Bay Infant school . In 2006 , Herne Bay Junior School 's Key Stage 2 results ranked 139th out of Kent 's 386 state primary schools . There is one smaller primary school in the area called Grosvenor House , which is a school for pupils permanently excluded from mainstream schooling .

The village schools are Herne Primary School , Herne Church of England Junior School , Herne Church of England Infant and Nursery School , Briary Primary School in Greenhill , Hampton Primary School and Reculver Church of England Primary School . The voluntary controlled Church of England schools are owned by the church but like the other schools , are run by Kent County Council . In 2006 , Reculver Church of England Primary School achieved the best Key Stage 2 performances of the schools in the Herne Bay area , ranking 133rd out of Kent 's 386 state primary

schools .

Canterbury College @ Herne Bay is a branch of Canterbury College in Herne Bay town centre , which provides a range of short information technology courses to adults . Whitstable Adult education Centre runs adult learning courses at various Herne Bay locations .

= = Religion = =

The Church of England has two parishes in Herne Bay : Christ Church with St Andrew 's , and St Martin 's with St Peter 's . The Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart is in Sea Street . There are Baptist churches in Spenser Road and in Reynolds Close . There is a United (Methodist and United Reformed) Church in Mortimer Street . There is also a United Reformed Church in The Meadows , Broomfield . Herne Bay Salvation Army Corps is based in Pettman Close . The Canopy Church is in South Road . The Beacon Church meets at Briary School , Greenhill , Herne Bay . Herne Bay Evangelical Free Church meets in Sunnyhill Road . Herne Bay Christian Spiritualist Church is in Avenue Road .

= = Culture = =

Herne Bay Festival happens every August with ten days of almost every event being free , including live music , performance , creative commissions , cultural treats , family fun , workshops , competitions , walks , talks , exhibitions and family entertainment .

Other summer events include Happy Days ? a programme of bandstand concerts and family entertainment , Herne Bay Carnival through the town centre , a travelling funfair at the Memorial Park and Herne Bay Bus Rally . Each summer , the council runs a gardening competition , " Herne Bay in Bloom " , which encourages residents and businesses to keep the town looking well presented .

The town is home to the Herne Bay Little Theatre , a playwrights drama society and member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain who have a 72 @-@ seat theatre in Bullers Avenue . In 2007 , the theatre won a large grant from the Big Lottery Fund to renovate and extend their building and provide improved disabled access . The theatre also has an active youth theatre and between them , they put on at least eight productions every year including a pantomime . Theatrecraft , a local theatre group , produce three shows a year including an annual pantomime at the King 's Hall theatre . Other groups and touring companies often put productions on at the open @-@ air ' Theatre in the Park ' on the grounds of Strode Park House in Herne .

The town 's only cinema , the Kavanagh , is part of a Greco @-@ inspired building that incorporates the Heron 's swimming pool and the council offices . There are a number of drinking venues , especially in the town centre and on the seafront . There are nightclubs , social clubs and many pubs , including one in the recently renovated seafront bandstand . (As of January 2013 the Bandstand is an Indian Restaurant)

= = Sports = =

The town is a popular destination for water sports ; it has clubs for sailing , rowing and yachting . The town has hosted the Zapcat powerboat racing championships . Fishing is popular on the pier and Herne Bay Angling Association competes nationally in beach and boat fishing competitions .

Herne Bay Hockey Club , Greenhill Gymnastics Club , Herne Bay Cricket Club and Herne Bay Youth Football Club are located at Herne Bay High School , a specialist sports college . The hockey club runs a ladies ' team and five men 's team , the highest of which plays in the Kent Sussex Regional 1st XI League . Herne Bay Cricket Club runs two junior teams , a men 's Sunday team and two men 's Saturday teams ; the Saturday teams play in the Kent Cricket Feeder League East .

Herne Bay Youth Football Club has 22 teams , and over 320 players aged 6 to 18 . Four teams play in the Kent Youth League and the remainder in the East Kent Youth Mini Soccer & 11 a Side Leagues .

Herne Bay Tennis Club is situated on the outskirts of town and runs multiple teams in the Kent League , East Kent League and Dover & District League . Their facilities include four all @-@ weather courts (two floodlit) , up to six astroturf courts and a purpose built clubhouse . The club offers junior coaching and runs regular club nights for players of all ages and abilities .

Herne Bay Basketball Club runs teams for men , women and juniors in the East Kent Basketball League . Herne Bay Golf Club has an eighteen @-@ hole course on the outskirts of the town . The Memorial Park contains a sports field , eight tennis courts and a basketball court which can be used free of charge . Herne Bay Bowling Club is situated next to the Memorial Park and hosts several lawn bowls Open Tournaments each year .

There is a council owned sports centre ? The Bay Sports Arena ? opened in September 2011 . There is another privately owned gymnasium in the town centre . Herne Bay Judo Club is located near the railway station and the same venue also holds clubs for table tennis and badminton . There are also two other table @-@ tennis clubs in the town . Bujinkai karate classes are held at Herne Bay Junior School .

Herne Bay Football Club , based at Winch 's Field , play in the Isthmian League Division One South . They were Kent League champions in 1992 , 1994 , 1997 , 1998 and 2012 . Also playing at Winch 's Field is Canterbury City F.C.

The town is the founder of the Roller Hockey sport with the " Herne Bay Roller Hockey club " being the first to exist in the world .

Herne Bay Judo Club , located next to the town 's railway station , has been active in the town since the 1960s . The club originated underneath the old St Marys college on station road until it moved into the purpose built dojo where it still resides .

== Media ==

There are five local weekly newspapers : YourCanterbury , the paid @-@ for Herne Bay Gazette and Herne Bay Times , providing news related only to the town , and the free KM Extra and Canterbury Adscene , providing news on the wider Canterbury district area . The KM Group owns Herne Bay Gazette and KM Extra , while Trinity Mirror owns Herne Bay Times and Canterbury Adscene . KMFM Canterbury is a radio station on frequency 106FM which serves Canterbury , Whitstable and Herne Bay . The station was founded in September 1997 as CTFM , but was rebranded after a takeover by the KM Group . Radio Cabin is a radio station aimed only at Herne Bay listeners . It airs part @-@ time and can only be accessed through the Internet. On 15th June 2016 , OFCOM announced that Radio Cabin had been successful in their bid to obtain a Community Radio Licence , meaning that they can begin broadcasting on FM within two years .

== Filmography ==

Due to the town 's traditional seaside appearance , it has often been used as a setting for television programmes and films . The seafront has been featured in programmes such as the ITV period drama Upstairs , Downstairs , the 1984 BBC seaside comedy Cockles , CBBC 's The Tweenies and the BBC comedy Little Britain . The town 's railway station was seen in an episode of the 1970s comedy Some Mothers Do ' Ave ' Em . The town has featured in movies such as Ken Russell 's French Dressing , and The Medusa Touch , starring Richard Burton . In fiction , Jeeves from the stories by P. G. Wodehouse regularly holidays at the town , spending much of his time there fishing . Herne Bay was the hometown of the three main characters in the 1990s BBC sitcom , Game On . To celebrate Anthony Coburn 's contribution to the Doctor Who series , BBC South East Today is celebrating 50 years of Doctor Who by screening the first ever episode An Unearthly Child , at the Kings Hall theatre on 22 November 2013 .

== Twin towns ==

Herne Bay is twinned with the towns of :

Wimereux in Nord @-@ Pas @-@ de @-@ Calais , France ;
Waltrop , Germany .

Since 1994 , the Herne Bay / Wimereux Twinning Association has aimed to promote friendship between the people of the two towns by organising activities , such as cycling trips and quiz evenings . Herne Bay and Waltrop have been twinned since 1976 , although as at February 2007 , their twinning association was not in operation . However , Herne Bay Rowing club promote friendship with the Waltrop rowing club by organising rowing events and visiting in each other 's towns .

= = Notable people = =

The actor and presenter Bob Holness lived in the town as a child and attended Herne Bay Primary School until moving to Ashford . Nicki Chapman , the judge on the UK television series Popstars and Pop Idol , was born and raised in the town . Originally from London , Daniel Tammet , the subject of the UK documentary The Boy with the Incredible Brain , has now moved to the town . He is an autistic savant with outstanding abilities in mathematics , sequence memorising and language learning . Lydia Cecilia Hill (1913 ? 1940) , known as Cissie Hill , lived at Westcliff ; she was a favourite of Ibrahim of Johor and former dancer . The Yorkshire @-@ born writer Will Scott lived and wrote in Herne Bay until his death in 1964 . During the late 1960s , many successful rock and jazz bands were formed around the city of Canterbury , creating a subgenre of music known as the Canterbury sound . Some of these musicians were residents of Herne Bay , including Dave Sinclair and Richard Coughlan of Caravan , and Kevin Ayers of Soft Machine . George W. M. Reynolds , one of the most popular British authors of the early Victorian era , moved to Herne Bay in 1854 and became one of the town 's Improvement Commissioners . The children 's writer Evelyn Whitaker was born there in 1844 . Héctor García Ribeyro , the Mayor of Lima in Peru during the 1950s , had part of his schooling at the now defunct Herne Bay International school . Colin Dixon , the depot manager held hostage with his family during the £ 53 million Securitas depot robbery of February 2006 , lived in Herne Bay at the time .

Frederick Christian Palmer , known professionally as Fred C. Palmer , was the main public photographer of Herne Bay in the early years of the 20th century . He photographed the detective Edmund Reid , who had hunted for Jack the Ripper and who also lived in the town . Ann Thwaytes paid for the construction of the Clock Tower . F.W.J. Palmer , Surveyor to Herne Bay Urban District Council 1891 ? 1915 , designed both phases of The King 's Hall in 1904 and 1913 . Gabrielle Davis was Sheriff of Canterbury 2009 ? 2010 and helped to save local museums from closure in 2010 . William Matthew Scott (1893 ? 1964) was a local author living at High View Avenue , and architect Ernest Trevor Spashett lived next door to him between 1959 and 1965 . William Sidney Cooper painted local scenes and is buried at Eddington cemetery . H. Kempton Dyson designed the Central Bandstand .