



Progress Update February 2018

Trail Launch Date – Monday April 23rd 2018

Firstly, Welcome to all of our supporters and Thank You.

THANK YOU to all who have given support and encouragement in so many ways to the development of the Royal Marines Heritage Trail – Deal & Walmer. The Heritage Trail will be launched on Monday April 23rd 2018 and what great support you have all given since the project was first conceived.

The 2nd “**Birthday**” of the Royal Marines Heritage Trails is coming up on **Tuesday 8th March**. It was on this date in 2016 that the idea of developing a fairly simple Heritage Trail to mark the legacy of the Royal Marines was first shared as a thought with Linda Mewes from Dover Museum. “Yes - she said – **that sounds like a good idea**” and the project was born!

Within a week, Walmer Parish Council, The East Kent Mercury and Deal Town Council agreed that “...**it seemed a good idea**...” and offered initial support but crikey, did they know then how the project would grow.

On Sunday July 9th the Commandant General Royal Marines, Major General Rob Magowan CBE visited Deal on the occasion of the Annual Royal Marines Band Concert on the Memorial Bandstand. He also agreed that “...**this seemed to be a good idea**...” and very shortly afterwards agreed to become our Royal Marines Heritage Trails Patron. Thank you sir for your support.

The Royal Marines Heritage Trails – Deal & Walmer was established as a Charity and John Meardon soon became Chairman of the Trustees. Our Project was registered as a Charity on December 12th 2016.



Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in England and Wales (1170698)

ROYAL MARINES HERITAGE TRAILS

37 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DX

07596 263096

info@royalmarinesheritagetrails.org

Patron: Major General C R Stickland OBE,
Commandant General Royal Marines



January 2018 saw a change of Commandant General and I am delighted to be able to thank our new Commandant General, Major General Charlie Stickland OBE, who has recently taken over this role. He has also accepted our invitation to become our Patron of the Royal Marines Heritage Trails in this capacity. Thank you sir.



Most of you will be aware of how the Project has developed since 2016 attracting financial and other support from (in order of receipt):-

- Walmer Parish Council,
- Deal Town Council,
- Deal Sgts Mess Pantomimes,
- The MOD Covenant Fund,
- The Heritage Lottery Fund,
- The White Cliffs Walking Festival
- English Heritage – Deal Castle
- The Drapers Company,
- Dover District Council,
- Kent County Council and
- Port of Dover Community Fund.

A really huge thank you to all of our Sponsors for helping us to look forward to launching the “Royal Marines Heritage Trail – Deal & Walmer from the Bastions of Deal Castle on **Monday April 23rd 2018** at 3.00pm as part of local commemorations of the Centenary of the 1918 Zeebrugge Raid.



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These Commemorations will start with the **Dover Town Council** Annual Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying at the “Admiral Keyes Memorial” in St James Cemetery, Dover. This will be followed with a Parade led by The Band of HM Royal Marines, Collingwood from the Market Square in Dover starting at 11.30am to Dover Town Hall for the Annual Midday chiming of the Zeebrugge Bell.

The commemoration will then move to Walmer and Deal for the Launch of the Royal Marines Heritage Trail starting at 3.00pm when the Band of HM Royal Marines – Collingwood accompanied by a Squad of Royal Marine Commandos will March from the Jubilee Gates of the former South Barracks, along the Strand to Deal Castle where the Heritage Trails will be formally launched.

The Corps of HM Royal Marines will then “**Exercise the Freedom of the Borough of Deal**” with Fixed Bayonets and Colours Flying and Parade along the Seafront, past Deal Pier, down King Street and on to Deal Town Hall where the day’s events will end.

We have had some tremendous support from so many in the Corps but thanks must also go to everyone in Portsmouth, HQ RNR London and elsewhere in the country who have assisted in any way at all with the development of this Heritage Trail.

In particular however I must also thank all at the Royal Marines Museum and The National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, The Corps Secretariat, the “Globe & Laurel” and “Blue Band” Magazine’s, The Royal Marines Historical Society and all who have given their time in any way so freely (including our own Research Team here in Deal – **Judith Dore, John Puddle, Lyndon Smith, Nick Weekes, John Iveson and Linda Mewes**

Please forgive me if I have not already mentioned YOU or if you believe I have omitted anyone else who has supported us in any way. It would be a very long list but your support has also been so valuable. Thank you.

Fairly soon our Trail Booklets will be available and the Trail Markers will be in place around the former Barracks of Deal Royal Marine Depot, starting at Deal Castle. I have attached a picture of one of these Markers for your information below.

There is still a lot to do in these last three months but with your ongoing support I am sure we can look forward to a great day on Monday April 23rd 2018.





Further information on arrangements for the Launch Events will be circulated over the next few weeks.

Thank you again and should you require any further information at this time please do not hesitate to contact us by email :- project@royalmarinesheritagetrails.org

Bill Butler
Founding Trustee.



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