
NEWS RELEASE

21st FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON

Sunday 27th September 2026

Folkestone, Kent – 27th September 2026

Forward comment from Race Director Ray Johnson:

“Every year The Leas plays host to a remarkable community event: The Folkestone Rotary Half Marathon and on Sunday, this blustery peak welcomed almost 1,000 runners to the start line. There were club colours, electric race day vibes and smiles as they took to the tarmac, wending their way down the promenade to Hythe and back.

This race has grown steadily since Covid and this is partly because it is so deeply rooted in the local community. As a race organised by The Folkestone Rotary Club it raises valuable funds for local charities and causes. This year, the headline beneficiary was The Gurkha Memorial Fund and, as always, the support from local businesses, fundraisers and individuals was amazing.

Providing runners don't hit a brutal head wind, the race can offer real PB potential despite some challenging hills. Perhaps it's the sea air, the invigorating course, the volunteers' good cheer or the finish line joy but The Folkestone Half Marathon welcomes back a loyal (and growing!) crowd of runners following year after year.

And, while the half marathon is undoubtedly the jewel of Folkestone, it also has a wonderful offering for junior runners drawing support from local families and giving young racers a taste of their own very own sporting event. Some of these aspiring runners are donning their racing stripes for the first time but all of them leave with a golden memory of charging down the The Leas, cheering spectators to either side, as they hurtle towards the finish line.

We must give a special mention to the Half Marathon winner Wegahta Zerom who claimed first place for Ashford AC with a blistering time of 01:10:14... almost a full five minutes before second place and beating his 2025 time by almost a full minute. Meanwhile, Caroline Mcaughtry did Tonbridge AC proud bursting across the finish line in just 01:27:35.

Everyone who took part ran a magnificent race and, as always, The Leas was stage to some heartfelt finish line celebrations.

The Folkestone Half Marathon will be back again in September 2027

But, if you can't wait that long, why not try The Folkestone Coastal 10k in May...

<https://www.nice-work.org.uk/e/folkestone-coastal-10k-13691>

Help was received with sincere thanks from over 110 marshals and assistants including Hythe, Channel & Folkestone Rotary Clubs, Nice Work and many local support volunteers including the Police Cadets. I would also like to thank our many sponsors including KAP Group, Motis Estates, Folkestone & Hythe Catering Association & McDonalds. Our thanks also to Folkestone & Hythe District Council, NHS and Riviera Residents Ltd for their valuable support.

Once again, we have received tremendous feedback from the runners congratulating us for such a great event, by way of organisation, encouragement from marshals and most importantly holding the event safely particularly with a new route due to the Road of Remembrance hill being closed."

Further feedback / information can be viewed by going to:
<http://folkestonerotary.org/half-marathon>

Full race results can be found here:

[Nice Work Race Management : Folkestone Rotary Half Marathon](#)

Race reviews and feedback here:

<https://www.nice-work.org.uk/e/folkestone-rotary-half-marathon-9459/reviews>

Next year's race will be Sunday 26th September 2027

Prize Winners for Half Marathon 2026

Children's Boy Riley Cook (3502) & Girl Olivia Miller (3920)

Open Male

(977)	01:10:14	Wagahata Zerom	Ashford A C
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Open Female

(945)	01:27:35	Caroline McAughty	Tonbridge A C
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Winning Team (Male) - Folkestone Running & Athletics Club

Winning Team (Female) - Folkestone Running & Athletics Club

We were delighted that this year's event included such a good field of runners.

A few points about the race

Total miles covered approx. 10,954

Over 1684 litres of water consumed.

Each male and female winner received £100.00 sponsored by KAP Folkestone

All runners received a special medal

Excellent feedback received – one of the most positive in Kent

Youngest runner was 17 and the eldest runner was 81

Funds raised to date £815,000 since 2006. (includes estimate £58,000 2026)

Sponsors for the event were:

Main sponsor:

KAP Group

Other key sponsors:

Motis Estates

Folkestone & Hythe Catering Association

McDonalds Folkestone

Cafe2U

Other supporters

Nice Work

Folkestone Radio

Kevin Daly

Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Pod Plus

Pictures are available via <http://folkestonerotary.org/half-marathon> where you are free to help yourself.

Report Ends

Produced by Ray Johnson, Race Director

27-09-2026

ABOUT FOLKESTONE ROTARY CLUB

The club was formed in 1923 and in 2023/24 we celebrated 100 years.

Club members have pledged to:

- serve the community, locally, nationally and globally
- promote the highest ethical standards in all areas of working life
- work for peace and goodwill worldwide

Why not visit our website www.folkestonerotary.org to learn more about Rotary in Folkestone. You may also like to look at www.rotary1120.org or www.ribi.org for further information. We also have a new corporate membership available please contact Rotarian Ray Johnson.

ABOUT ROTARY

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [Rotary](#).

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