

Kent Events 2020

	Cluster	Date	Location	Event	Lead	Description	Theme	Audience	International
Jan	E	until 12th Jan	Margate, Turner Contemporary	Turner Prize	TP & Turner Contemporary	One of the best known prizes for visual arts in the world arrives at Turner Contemporary until 12 January 2020, presenting work from four of the most exciting and contemporary artists to win the prize.	Culture	Contemporary Cultured	DE / NL / FR
Feb	W	8th Feb - 1st Mar	Hever Castle, Edenbridge	Snowdrop Festival	Hever Castle	A heavenly carpet of snowdrops will provide a magical trail for visitors to follow. Around 80,000 snowdrop bulbs have been planted in the gardens over the past few years including a mix of single and double snowdrops, interspersed with some unusual varieties such as the yellow tipped 'Wendy's Gold', a giant galanthus called 'Colossus' which at 9 inches is one of the tallest snowdrops you can find and Galanthus 'Green Brush' with its unusual green tipped flowers.	Active/outdoors	Green Spacers	DE / NL
Mar	W		Ashford	McArthur Glen Designer Outlet 20th Anniversary	Ashford Designer Outlet	This will see a major launch of the new expansion with all of the new stores and services up and running.	Family	Social seekers Traditionalist	Chi
Apr	N	Throughout April	Faversham	Hanami Festival	Brogdale Collections	Hanami (花見, "flower viewing") is the Japanese festival dedicated to cherry blossom (sakura) and plum blossom (ume) and is celebrated across Japan every year. Brogdale is one of the only places in the UK to celebrate Hanami, with The National Fruit Collection at Brogdale holding over 350 flowering cherry varieties with the added bonus of celebrating all the other blossoming fruit trees. The blossom includes Apples, Pears, Quince, Plums and more. With over 4000 fruit tree varieties it really is a sight not to be missed!	Active/outdoors	Social seekers Green Spacers	DE / NL
May	N	1st -3rd	Rochester	Rochester Sweeps Festival	Medway Council	Rochester's annual Sweeps Festival recreates the joy and laughter enjoyed by chimney sweeps at their traditional holiday. It was the one time of the year that the sweeps could leave the soot behind and have some fun. Key events include: *Jack-in-the-Green Awakening ceremony *Splat! The Sweeps big picnic *Sweeps procession parade through Rochester High Street *Morris dancing *Street performers, stalls and childrens activities	Family	Culture 360	
	W	7th-10th	Chiddingstone	Chiddingstone Literary Festival	Chiddingstone Castle	Over the four days, a full programme of talks, workshops, tastings is presented. The line-up includes renowned War Horse author Michael Morpurgo who leads the family day on Bank Holiday Friday, along with workshops from festival favourites Aardman Animations and musical performances by Pericles Theatre Company, both back by popular demand. Maggie O'Farrell, the awarding-winning novelist, joins us to talk about her latest book, Hamnet, based on the true story of Shakespeare's son who died aged 11. Ex-Editor-in-Chief of UK Vogue, Alexandra Shulman shares insights from her book Clothes and Other Things That Matter. Best-selling historians Tom Holland and Andrew Roberts discuss their latest books, Dominion and Churchill: Walking With Destiny respectively.	Culture	Culture 360	
	E	21st -25th	Dover	80th anniversary of Dunkirk Rescue	Dover Castle	The year 2020 will mark the 80th anniversary of the evacuation of more than 300,000 Allied soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk, France between May 26th and June 4th 1940, during World War II. British, French, Canadian, and Belgian troops had been forced back to Dunkirk by the advancing German army and the rescue operation was designed in the Secret Wartime Tunnels at Dover Castle	Heritage	Culture 360	NL / FR / US
	E	23rd - 25th	Dover	Dover Castle WWII Weekend	Dover Castle	Embrace the atmosphere and action of the 1940s as Dover Castle's celebrated WWII Weekend returns for another bank holiday spectacular. Get stuck into family fun on the home front, with hands on activities for kids, live music and nostalgic vintage entertainments. Headlining each day is a tense, action-packed battle between the allied and German forces featuring striking pyrotechnics and real-life vintage army vehicles.	Heritage	Culture 360 Traditionalist	NL / FR / US
	W	runs until September	Royal Tunbridge Wells	Jazz on the Pantiles	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Live jazz at the Bandstand on the Pantiles starts from around May going on until the end of September each year. This very popular live, outdoor event packs out the Pantiles and begins at 7pm going on until approximately 10pm. From dixieland to swing, from African roots to Cuban spice, from classic jazz to big band styles you'll be able to immerse yourself in a wide ranging genre of music that has an individual attraction for each of us.	Culture	Contemporary Cultured Culture 360	

June	E	19th - 21st	Broadstairs	Broadstairs Dickens Festival	Thanet District Council	Author Charles Dickens visited Broadstairs in Kent regularly from 1837 until 1859. In 1937, to commemorate the centenary of the author's first visit, Gladys Waterer, the then resident of Dickens House, conceived the idea of putting on a production of David Copperfield and of having people about the town in Victorian dress to publicise it. Thus the Broadstairs Dickens Festival was born and, with the exception of the years of World War 2, has been held annually in the third week of June ever since. Follow in Charles Dickens' footsteps by coming to Broadstairs and savour the delights of the town which he described as "the freshest, freest place.	Culture	Social seekers Culture 360 Traditionalist	
	W	6th-7th	Sevenoaks	Glorious Gardens Festival	Penshurst Place	A celebration of the historical gardens of Penshurst Place where records date back to 1346. The weekend will include exhibitions from the Chelsea Flower Show award winning UK Bonsai association as well as demonstrations including natural dyes, tours of the gardens and much more!	Active/outdoors	Green Spacers	DE / NL
	E	13-14th	Sandwich	Sandwich's Le Weekend	Sandwich Town Council	Head to this historic medieval market town for a weekend full of French frivolities! With an authentic French Market running in the streets, sit and relax to watch the street concerts or the live outdoor music. For those with more energy, join in the French Breton street dancing party or head over to the Anglo French Medieval encampment on the quay green.	Food & Drink	Traditionalist	
	E		Thanet	15th Anniversary of Westwood Cross	Westwood Cross Shopping Centre	15 years since Westwood Cross Shopping Centre opened. Full Details TBC	Family	Social seekers Traditionalist	
	W	26th-28th	Sevenoaks	Penshurst RunFest	Penshurst Place	Arriving in the Penshurst Place parkland for the very first time, we're pleased to, this year, be hosting the inaugural Penshurst Run Fest - a festival jam-packed with running, music, activity tents, family fun runs, walks and much more!	Family Active / Outdoors	Culture 360 Social Seekers	DE / FR / NL
	E	26th - 11th July	Deal	Deal Festival of Music & Arts		One of the highlights of the cultural calendar in Kent, the Deal Festival of Music & The Arts has become one of the landmarks of the English music festival scene. Bringing music and arts lovers from far and wide to enjoy concerts, exhibitions and other events from world-class artists in an eclectic selection of venues and settings, its a music festival like no other!	Culture	Contemporary Cultured Culture 360	
	E		Whitstable	Whitstable Biennale	Whitstable Biennale	Whitstable Biennale brings people together to experience some of the most exciting and celebrated new visual art being made in the UK today in film, performance and sound	Culture	Contemporary Cultured Culture 360	
N	9th	Rochester / Higham	Dickens 150	Medway Council	ON 9th June 1870, notable author Charles Dickens died at his home at Gad's Hill Place, Higham. 2020 marks 150 years since his death	Culture	Social seekers Traditionalist	DE / NL / FR / US	
Jul	E		Whitstable	Whitstable Oyster Festival		A weekend of celebrations for the humble oyster will feature them being caught, eaten and paraded at the Whitstable Oyster Festival.	Food & Drink	Culture 360 Traditionalist	
	W	11th July	Maidstone	Leeds Castle Classical Concerts	Big Plan Group	For over forty years people have been enjoying this spectacular outdoor event, bringing together one of the country's greatest orchestras, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and one of its finest conductors, John Rigby.	Culture	Contemporary Cultured Culture 360	
	N	10th - 14th	Rochester	Rochester Dickens Festival		The 2020 Summer Festival will be very special, and the schedule will not be to the normal formula; to mark the 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens' death there will be a five day event from Wednesday 10th June 2020 to Sunday 14th June 2020, which will incorporate the Rochester Dickens Festival on Saturday and Sunday	Culture	Social seekers Traditionalist	DE / NL / FR / US
	E	12th	Capel-le-Ferne	Battle of Britain Memorial Day		Dedicated to the heroic and selfless deeds of the men who fought the Battle of Britain, 10 July to 31 October, 1940.	Heritage	Traditionalist	
	W	10-12 July	Detling	Kent County Show	Kent Event Showground	The Kent County Show is a showcase event for farming, countryside and rural life. The three day event brings together the very best of Kent with animals and food, fun and excitement and above all a sense of what 'The Garden of England' has to offer.	Family	Social seekers Green Spacers Traditionalist	
	E	4th July	Canterbury	Canterbury Medieval Pageant	Canterbury BID	Commemorating Henry II's pilgrimage to Canterbury and astonishing public apology in 1174 this colourful parade features historical characters, local schools and community and re-enactment groups, giants, music and medieval mayhem for all ages (even middle-ages!).	Heritage	Traditionalist	
	W	Jul-24	Maidstone	500th anniversary of Field of the Cloth of Gold	Leeds Castle / Hever Castle	In June 1520, Henry VIII and King Francis I of France met near Calais at the 'Field of Cloth of Gold' in an attempt to strengthen the bond between the two countries. Each king tried to outshine the other, with dazzling tents and clothes, grand feasts, music, jousting, and games. King Henry VIII travelled from London, stayed at Leeds Castle and departed from Dover to sail to Calais	Heritage	Traditionalist	

	E	13th -15th	Littlestone Golf Club	Junior Open	The R&A	Littlestone Golf Club in Kent has been chosen to host the Junior Open in 2020. The R&A-organised event, which was first launched in 1994, takes place every two years, and is open to boys and girls aged under 16 who are entered by their prospective national federations	Active/outdoors	Niche Green Spacers Traditionalist	
	E	16th -19th	Royal St George's, Sandwich	The 149th Open Championship	The R&A	The 149th Open Championship will return to Royal St George's for the first time since 2011, showcasing the world's best golfers compete for the Claret Jug	Active/outdoors	Niche Green Spacers Traditionalist Adrenaline Junkies	DE / NL / FR / US
	E	29th -31st	Royal Cinque Ports	Senior Amateur Championship	The R&A	As previous hosts of the celebrated Open Championship, Royal Cinque Ports will welcome the the Senior Amateur Championship, first staged in 1969 by The R&A	Active/outdoors	Niche Green Spacers Traditionalist	
Aug	E		Dover	Dover Regatta	Port of Dover	Taking place in Dover Harbour and along the esplanade, this free-family-fun packed event celebrates Dover's wonderful maritime heritage. Enjoy a host of nautical activities, demonstrations & performances throughout the day including Hovercraft, port vessels, Dover Lifeboat, & Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club yacht races.	Family	Social seekers Traditionalist	
	E	27th - 1st September	Dover + surrounding areas	White Cliffs Walking Festival	Dover District Council / White Cliffs Ramblers	A week of 40 different walks to suit all interests and abilities. The festival, organised by the local White Cliffs Ramblers Group is one of the top walking events of the year in the UK. In 2018, over 1,200 walkers visited the historical area from the UK and abroad	Active/outdoors	Green Spacers	
	E	7th -14th	Broadstairs	Broadstairs Folk Week		The Broadstairs Folk Week has been running annually since 1965 and takes place in various venues across the seaside village of Broadstairs. It covers a wide range of different folk and roots style music as well as the blues, samba, traditional world music and even Cajun. With over 500 events to attend, performances vary from gigs to dances, workshops, poetry and storytelling sessions and children's events.	Culture	Culture 360	
	E	August (date TBC)	Ramsgate	British Freestyle Kitesurfing Championship	Active Ramsgate/British Kite Sports Association	National championships with taster sessions for spectators	Active/outdoors	Adrenaline Junkies Green Spacers	
	E	July / August	Canterbury	Lambeth Conference	Canterbury Cathedral & University of Kent	The Lambeth Conference is a hugely significant event in the life of the Anglican Church. It brings together all active bishops and their spouses from across the worldwide Anglican Communion – that's more than 165 countries. The aim is to seek God's direction for the future of the Anglican/Episcopalian Church for the decades ahead	Heritage	Niche	
Sep	W	12th - 16th	Maidstone	Leeds Castle Flower Festival	Leeds Castle	See incredible floral displays inside the Castle! Be inspired by the creativity of international award-winning floral designers and enjoy a programme of specialist talks and demonstrations. There will also be the opportunity to buy beautiful flowers and garden accessories from a variety of stalls on the Pavilion Lawn.	Active/outdoors	Green Spacers	DE / NL / FR / US
	N	19th - 20th	Chatham	Salute to the 40s	The Historic Dockyard Chatham	Take part in the Dockyard's 1940's family vntage festival and be transported back in time for a weekend of vintage delight!	Heritage	Culture 360 Traditionalist	
	N		Faversham	Faversham Hop Festival	Faversham Town Council	Set in the beautiful medieval heart of Faversham, this lively and popular event recalls the traditional festivities associated with the hop harvest and celebrates the town's hop heritage. Now one of the largest free street festivals in the south east, the event boasts plenty to see and do throughout the weekend with entertainment including live music on 5 stages, arts & crafts, Morris Dancers, street performers and processions.	Food & Drink	Social seekers Green Spacers	DE / NL / FR
	E		Canterbury	Canterbury Food & Drink Festival	Canterbury City Council	Centred around the Dabe John Gardens, Canterbury Food & Drink Festival is Kent's largest and most highly-anticipated celebration of food, drink and culture, showcasing the thriving cathedral city's culinary scene, and the county's wider food and drink fayre	Food & Drink	Social seekers Traditionalist	
	E		Kent	Kent Green Hop Beer Fortnight	The Foundry, Canterbury	Celebrating Kent's brewers of just-harvested hops. The fortnight encompasses Canterbury Food & Drink Festival, Broadstairs Food & Drink Festival, Good Ales Green Hop Festival and Spa Valley Railway Beer Festival	Food & Drink	Social seekers Traditionalist	
	E	16th	Canterbury	Mayflower 400	Destination Plymouth?	2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from Plymouth UK to Plymouth Massachusetts. In 1620, Robert Cushman negotiated the lease of the Mayflower at 59 Palace Street, Canterbury for the purpose of transporting the Pilgrims to America.	Heritage	Culture 360	
	N	18th - 18th October	Gravesend	Estuary 2020		Estuary 2020 will be the second edition of the large-scale arts festival that celebrates the spectacular Thames Estuary. Taking place on the river , and along the 60 miles of South Essex and North Kent coastline, an ambitious programme of artworks and events will explore and respond to powerful themes resonant to the Estuary coastline	Culture	Contemporary Cultured	

	E	5th-8th November	Folkestone	Folkestone Triennial	Creative Folkestone	The Folkestone Triennial is an arts festival held every three years in Folkestone, England. Site-specific artworks are commissioned for what are often unusual locations around the town, a number of works remaining in place permanently after the end of each festival. Curated for the third time by Lewis Biggs, the 2020 Triennial, entitled The Plot, invites visitors to consider urban myths and their relation to verifiable realities: the gap between the story and the actuality. The Plot uses three historic Folkestone narratives as a point of departure: St Eanswythe's Watercourse; the physician William Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood; and Folkestone's industrial road 'The Milky Way'.	Culture	Contemporary Cultured	
Oct	W	1st-4th	Tenterden	Tenterden Folk Festival	Tenterden Folk Festival	Four days of folk song, music, dance, craft and traditions	Culture	Culture 360	
	E		Canterbury	Canterbury Festival	Canterbury City Council	Known as Kent's International Arts Festival, this is one of the most important cultural events in the South East. As an independent charity, the Festival brings a rich mixture of performing arts from around the world to surprise and delight audiences each October.	Culture	Contemporary Cultured Culture 360	
	E	Jul - Oct	Dover	80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain	The Battle of Britain Memorial	2020 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The Battle of Britain was a military campaign of the Second World War, in which the Royal Air Force defended the United Kingdom against large-scale attacks by Nazi Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe. It has been described as the first major military campaign fought entirely by air forces.	Heritage	Culture 360	NL / FR / US
Nov	W	7th-8th	Maidstone	Leeds Castle Firework Spectacular	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle is the perfect setting to watch a magnificent firework display. Bring the family on the 5th or 6th November to watch the spectacular fireworks set to themed music, including well-known theme tunes from film and television.	Family	Traditionalist	
	E		Folkestone	Folkestone Book Festival	Creative Folkestone	The Folkestone Book Festival sees a week-long celebration of events, workshops and talks from some well known and well loved authors. There has been a Literary Festival in Folkestone in some guise since 1980, growing in size and popularity over the years with past writers such as Alan Bennett, P.D. James and Jacqueline Wilson putting the event well and truly on the map	Culture	Culture 360	
	N		Rochester	Kent Wine Festival	WGOE	The Wine Garden of England Festival at Rochester Cathedral in November celebrates Kent's wine producers and honours one of the county's very first producers – a monk who championed viticulture at the cathedral more than 1,000 years ago.	Food & Drink	Culture 360	
	E	11th-13th	Canterbury	Becket 2020 Conference	Canterbury Cathedral	2020 marks an important dual anniversary for the extraordinary figure of Thomas Becket. It will be 850 years since his dramatic murder on the 29th December 1170 in Canterbury Cathedral, and 800 years since his body was moved on the 7th July 1220 from a tomb in the crypt of the cathedral into a glittering shrine. These events ensured that Canterbury became the principal pilgrimage destination in England and one of the major pilgrimage sites within Europe. This two-day conference will be attended by world renowned experts who have undertaken research into Thomas Becket, his life, death and beyond. Delegates will have opportunities to visit the Cathedral Archives and Library to view documents and records relating to Thomas Becket and to take part in special tours with access to rarely seen parts of the Cathedral.	Heritage	Culture 360	DE / NL / FR / US
Dec			Maidstone	Leeds Castle Christmas Market	Leeds Castle	Visit the Christmas Market on the lawn overlooking the Castle to discover a splendid array of seasonal gifts, toys, festive decorations, specialist food and drink.	Family	Social seekers Culture 360 Green Spacers Traditionalist	DE / NL / FR / US
			Canterbury	Canterbury Christmas Market	Canterbury City Council	The Canterbury Christmas Market sees dozens of colourful cabins spread throughout the town centre. Fantastic selections of seasonal food and drink are available to enjoy while you shop along with 60 great shops and restaurants in the award-winning Whitefriars shopping centre alone!	Family	Social seekers Culture 360 Traditionalist	DE / NL / FR / US
			Rochester	Rochester Dickensian Christmas	Medway Council	Packed with shopping stalls, Rochester becomes a feast of Victorian delights. There are lamp-lit parades, carols to be sung, Father Christmas to be met and even a guaranteed snowfall, framed by Rochester's fairytale cathedral and castle. Visitors will also see some familiar, fabled characters from Dickens' much-loved stories.	Family	Traditionalist	DE / NL / FR
All Year	E	All Year	Margate	100th anniversary of Dreamland	Dreamland	100th anniversary of Dreamland and it's Grade-listed historic scenic railway	Family	Social seekers Adrenaline Junkies	

W	All Year	Various	125th anniversary of National Trust	National Trust	The National Trust was founded on 12 January 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley. Over the last 120 years they've become one of the UK's largest charities, caring for historic properties and areas of beautiful countryside. Discover fairytale castles, historic royal residences and the home of Churchill at the many NT properties in Kent	Heritage	Green Spacers Traditionalist	DE / NL
E	All Year	Canterbury	150th anniversary of Kent Cricket	Kent Cricket	In 1870, the Kent Country Cricket Club was formed	Active/outdoors	Niche Adrenaline Junkies Green Spacers	
E	All Year	Canterbury	75th anniversary of UNESCO	UNESCO		Heritage	Niche	