



THE MARSH MOSAICS

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, NEW ROMNEY TN28 8EU



St. Nicholas' Church is the sole survivor of four medieval churches in the ancient town of New Romney, one of the original five Cinque Ports. Built in the mid-12th century, the nave retains its original low Norman arcades with alternating round and octagonal Caen stone piers. By contrast, the grand 14th century east end is spacious and light, with tall, slim piers of Kentish ragstone.

The West Door is now well below ground level, due to the shingle and mud deposited in the town by the great storm of 1287.

New Romney was one of the founding **Cinque Ports**. The **Cinque Port Crest** has the head of a lion joined to a ship.

The impressive **stone church of St Nicholas** was built shortly after the **Norman Conquest**, reflecting the power of the conquerors. **Caen stone** was brought over from Normandy.

The **crook** represents St. Nicholas and Christianity. Its inclusion also acknowledges the **Lookers** of Romney Marsh, who tended to the vast herds of sheep.

The **Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch steam railway** stops at the town.

Romney sheep were bred to survive the harsh conditions on the marsh. They were exported all over the world.

Marsh Mallow is rare but can be found on Romney Marsh. It is the food plant of the Marsh Mallow Moth.



In the 1200s, a series of **storms** devastated New Romney, destroying many buildings and causing the port to silt up. The **Great Storm of 1287** diverted the course of the river Rother, meaning the town became landlocked and the port was lost.

St Nicholas' church would have once stood next to a busy trading **port** on the estuary of the river Rother. Ships would have moored just beyond the churchyard walls.

Littlestone Water Tower can be seen for miles around.

Littlestone Golf Course has a rich sporting history.

The **bailiff sargeant's hat** acknowledges the bailiffs and jurors of Romney Marsh, who were elected at St. Nicholas' Church around the Stuppenye Tomb.

A **marsh frog** hides in the **bullrushes**. These large amphibians are known locally as "laughing frogs" due to their distinctive calls.