

THE MARSH MOSAICS

AN ART TRAIL ON ROMNEY MARSH

*Celebrating one of the UK's most unique landscapes
and its famous medieval churches.*





Location

Stretching between the counties of Kent and East Sussex, Romney Marsh is one of England's most distinctive landscapes. Fourteen medieval churches survive here, each unique in character. The churches have stood as Sentinels on the marsh for hundreds of years, while the landscape around them has changed.

In 2021-22, The Marsh Mosaics were created by the local community to celebrate the heritage, wildlife and folklore of Romney Marsh. The mosaics are being displayed at the fourteen medieval churches across Romney Marsh:

Brenzett, St Eanswith (TN29 0BJ)

Brookland, St Augustine (TN29 9QR)

Burmarsh, All Saints (TN29 0JJ)

Dymchurch, St Peter & St Paul (TN29 0LD)

East Guldeford, St Mary (TN31 7PA)

Fairfield, St Thomas Becket (TN29 9RZ)

Ivychurch, St George (TN29 0AL)

Lydd, All Saints (TN29 9DX)

Newchurch, St Peter & St Paul (TN29 0DP)

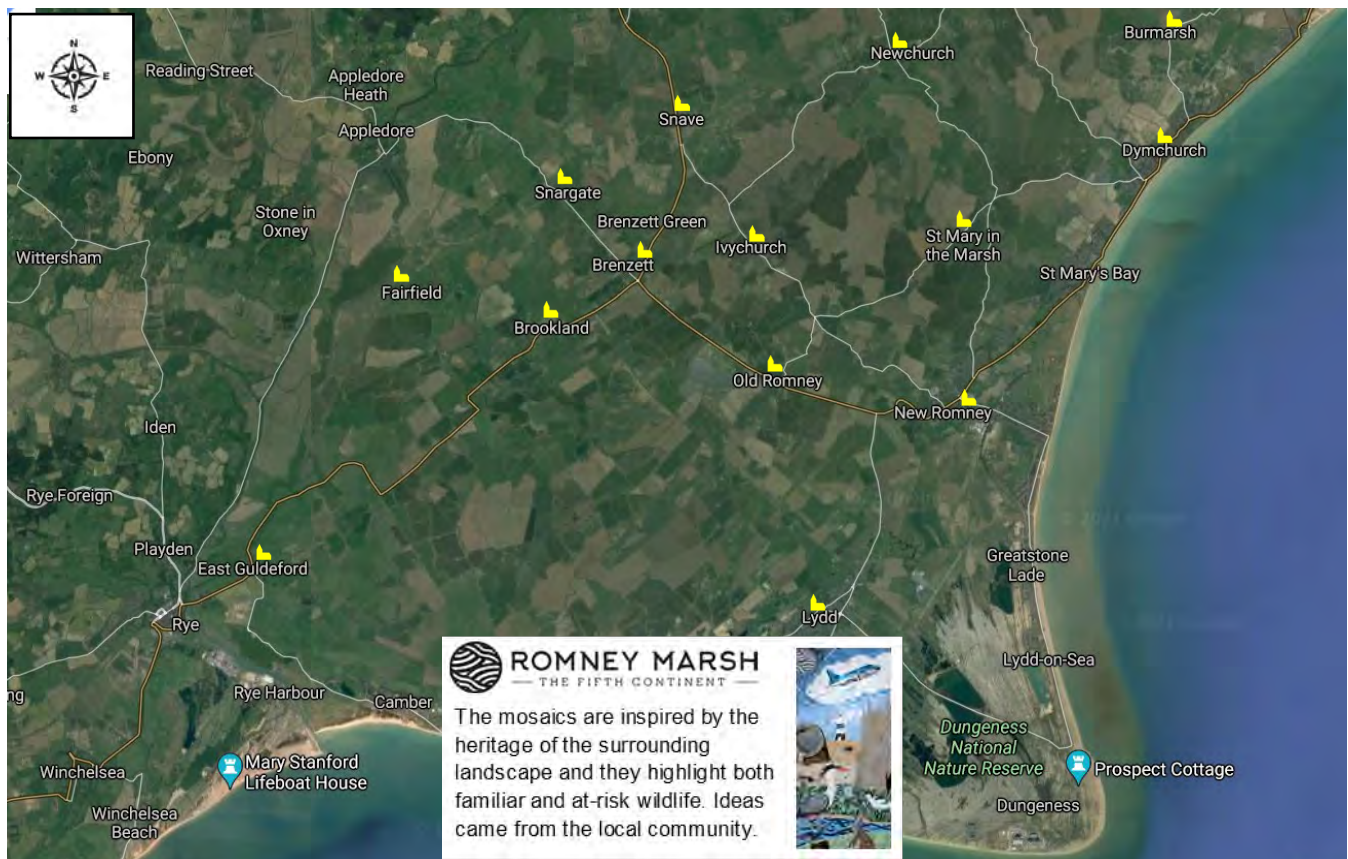
New Romney, St Nicholas (TN28 8EU)

Old Romney, St Clement (TN29 0HP)

Snargate, St Dunstan (TN29 0EW)

Snave, St Augustine (TN26 2QJ)

St Mary in the marsh, St Mary the Virgin (TN29 0BY)



You can learn more about the history of each church and find a free audio tour at www.romneymarshchurches.org.uk

THE MARSH MOSAICS AND TEACH ME

Teach Me, run by artist Yolanda Houston, undertakes public art projects and commissions throughout the South East, as well as running community arts classes from their studio in New Romney. Yolanda and her team were engaged to work on The Marsh Mosaics project alongside the Fifth Continent Scheme's Cultural Heritage Officer, Didier Rochard, helping to take the project from an "idea" to reality. The creation of ten beautiful new artworks, involved thousands of individual pieces of tile!

During Autumn-Winter 2020, a callout to the community was circulated: What did people wish to see in the mosaics? What did people wish to celebrate about Romney Marsh? What scenes or stories did people wish to highlight? Over 300 suggestions were received, including over 250 artwork ideas in different mediums, from drawing, painting and photography, to stained glass, collage and even origami. The initiative was supported by Romney Marsh Art Society, The Marsh Academy and local churches, leading to a wealth of wonderful and diverse ideas.



Yolanda Houston (left) with Georgia Small, a Trustee of Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust

Yolanda and her artistic team worked with Didier Rochard and the ten churches involved to refine the suggestions into artistic designs that could be achieved using tile mosaic. Incredibly, the majority of suggestions have been incorporated! Between March and July 2021, 33 workshops were held at different locations across Romney Marsh, including several of the local medieval churches. In 2022, the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust supported a follow-on project to create four further mosaics, completing the set of all 14 medieval churches on Romney Marsh. The new works were unveiled during JAM On The Marsh festival in July 2022, as a trail embracing all 14 churches, accompanied by an online exhibition.

Community workshops involved schools, scouts and cubs, and community organisations such as South Kent MIND and New Romney Hub, as well as the wider public. A wide range of people were involved, over 500 in total, aged from 5 to 90. During the workshops, participants practised by making a coaster, inspired by the flora, fauna and heritage of Romney Marsh, before adding some tiles to one of the marsh mosaics. The vast majority of participants were trying the art of mosaics for the first time. The project was a huge team effort and we are delighted to have the completed works on display in the local churches. These beautiful mosaics have been designed and created by the Romney Marsh community for all to enjoy, in a celebration of this special place. Well done to everybody involved!

THANK YOU TO THE ARTISTIC TEAM:

Yolanda Houston, John Houston, Barbara Down, Didier Rochard
Jenni Gurner, Oliver Gurner, Richard Gurner
Becky Blackmore, Steve Holbrook, Danielle Virgo
Special thanks to volunteer Dilly Rich and to students from Teach Me's glass and mosaics classes. Thanks also to the church wardens and PCC members for their ideas and support.

For further information see www.teachmecourses.co.uk, www.fifthcontinent.org.uk and www.romneymarshchurches.org.uk



A selection of coasters made by participants

With thanks to our funders National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, The Lochlands Trust and Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust. Thanks also to JAM On The Marsh for additional support with publicity.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. EANSWITH, BRENZETT TN29 0BJ

Set amongst trees, St. Eanswith's is one of the smaller churches on the Marsh, probably having its origins in the 7th century; although no sign remains of a Saxon building. The present church was commenced in the late 12th century.

A large tomb to John Fagge and his son dominates the Lady Chapel - it was the inspiration for E Nesbit's ghost story, *Man-Size in Marble*.

A kestrel hovers against an expansive sunset.

Brenzett windmill was working in the early 1920s but was demolished in 1925. There was also a medieval mill near the church.

Romney sheep were exported worldwide. They were bred to survive the harsh conditions on Romney Marsh and they produce a high quality wool.

An **Advanced Landing Ground** (airstrip) was built near Brenzett during World War Two to support aircraft. Today the village is home to the **Brenzett Aeronautical Museum** and the **Romney Marsh Wartime Collection**.



The **Women's Land Army** worked near Brenzett during World War Two. This worker is farming **potatoes** which have been grown on Romney Marsh for hundreds of years.

A **water vole** is hiding in the grass; a species which is in decline nationally. The Fifth Continent Scheme has been improving the ditches on Romney Marsh for wildlife.

St. Eanswythe was an Anglo Saxon princess who founded an early nunnery in Folkestone. In her hands she holds the church at Brenzett, the only church in the country solely dedicated to her.

Mute swans can be seen along the ditches and dykes of Romney Marsh. If you're lucky you might also see the flash of blue of a **kingfisher**.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, BROOKLAND TN29 9QR

This church presents a very different image from others on the Marsh - largely because it has a detached wooden bell tower. Recent research shows that the tower was built in the late 13th century as an open structure. It was doubled in height to its present 60 feet and clad with shingles in the 15th century. The fine interior of the 13th century church has the highest box pews on the Marsh and a double-decker pulpit complete with sounding board.

A **marsh harrier** glides above the fields in the evening sun.

The inclusion of a **smuggler** acknowledges the famous **Battle of Brookland**, fought between Riding Officers and local smugglers. The adventures of marsh smugglers inspired writer Rudyard Kipling, who wrote the poems *A Smuggler's Song* and *Brookland Road*.

A **medieval wall painting** was uncovered in the church, depicting the murder of Archbishop **Thomas Becket** at Canterbury Cathedral.

Ancient **tithe scales** and weights can be found in the church, used to measure goods and produce.



Viper's Bugloss is a valuable food plant for insects on Romney Marsh, including rare bumblebees.

The **white stork** would have once bred on Romney Marsh. It was re-introduced nearby in 2020.

This unusual church has a separate **octagonal wooden bell tower**.

The **lapwing** is a ground-nesting bird found on marshy farmland. It has rounded wings and a distinctive call.

The ancient font in the church depicts the Signs of the Zodiac and the **Labours of the Months**; tasks in medieval rural life, carried out at different times of year. One man is **pressing grapes** to make wine; another **makes hay** with a scythe.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, BURMARSH TN29 OJJ

At 13 ft below sea level, this is the lowest of the Marsh churches, in its elevation. The south entrance is through an impressive Norman doorway, with typical rounded arch and chevron mouldings, topped by a grotesque man's face. Two of the original medieval bells dating from around 1375 are still being rung today - while the original tenor bell dedicated to the Magdalene, sadly now cracked, can be seen on the floor of the church.

All Saints Church is a small Norman church surrounded by trees. It lies 13ft below sea level and is the lowest marsh church in terms of elevation.

The Royal Military Canal flows nearby, surrounded by ploughed fields. In the distance are the uplands of the old coastline.

Burmarsh was associated with sheep farming. **Romney Sheep** were exported worldwide. They were bred to survive the harsh conditions on Romney Marsh and they produce a high quality **wool**, traditionally cut with **hand shears**.

The original **medieval tenor bell**, sadly cracked, now rests on the floor in the nave of the church. Two original medieval bells dating from c. 1375 are still rung today.



Early settlers would have used the marshland for **salt panning**. Salt was an important local commodity on Romney Marsh.

A male **black tern** in breeding plumage. These characterful birds would have once nested in the rich marshlands but sadly they can no longer be found here.

The Shepherd's Crook highlights the **Lookers** of Romney Marsh who tended the vast herds of sheep. It also acknowledges the **ancient pub** next to the church, where services were once held while the church was restored.

The **swallowtail butterfly** is now a rare sight on Romney Marsh. It perches atop a **teasel**, an excellent native plant for wildlife.

Anglo-Roman pottery discovered near Burmarsh can now be found in the British Museum.

Stoats can be found in the fields and hedgerows of Romney Marsh.





THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, DYMCHURCH TN29 0LD

The original Norman design of the church stood until 1821 when the building was enlarged to accommodate the flourishing congregation of the town.

Inside the church, the magnificent Norman chancel arch remains, while outside two medieval scratch dials can still be found - one inside the porch and one on the south wall of the nave.

This beautiful church was built on an artificial mound to raise it above flood level.

The great black backed gull is the largest gull in the world.

Flags depict symbols from the church: The keys of St. Peter and the sword of St. Paul; the historic octagonal font; and zigzag mouldings from the original Norman doorway.

The Sandwich Tern is a rare visitor to the area and is an important conservation priority due to habitat loss.

Donkey rides once entertained visitors to the famous sandy beach.



The fishing village of Dymchurch became associated with smuggling, inspiring Russell Thornecliffe's **Dr Syn** novels. In the books, the lead character is the Vicar of Dymchurch.

The **Albert Medal** was awarded to Reverend **Charles Cobb** for saving lives at sea in 1867, following the shipwreck of the *Courier de Dieppe* off the coast here.

The **oyster catcher** is a wading bird. **Sea holly** is a distinctive coastal plant. A **Martello Tower** stands behind; a defensive fort built during the Napoleonic Wars.

The **sandy beaches** and seaside **amusements** at Dymchurch have drawn visitors for many years. The famous **Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch steam railway** also stops at the village.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. MARY, EAST GULDEFORD TN31 7PA

Built by Sir Richard de Guldeford, and consecrated in September 1505, the church is unusual in that it is constructed of brick. It is also the only one of the Marsh churches in Sussex.

An 18th century double-decker pulpit remains in the nave, while in the chancel there is a 19th century painted frieze of angels, illustrating the Six Days of Creation.

The distant **wind farm** can be seen across flat **ploughed fields**.

The shape of the **church** is highly distinctive with thick brick walls and large buttresses.

Inside the **church**, a striking **mural of angels** adorns the walls, inspired by ancient stone angel corbels.

The **Sussex emerald moth** is very rare. Its inclusion here highlights that this is the only one of the medieval marsh churches in Sussex. The others are in Kent.

Sussex red cattle graze in surrounding fields and the uplands of The Weald nearby.



The **turtle dove** is a declining species, found near ancient farmland and woodland edges. This beautiful bird has long had significance in Christianity.

A **perch**, a type of fish. The **Royal Military Canal** meets the **river Rother** near the church. The meeting of the two waterways is reflected in the colour choices here.

The **great crested newt** is a protected species. The ditches, dykes and pools of Romney Marsh provide excellent habitat for a host of different amphibians.

The **Medicinal Leech** has been included because it is a local conservation success story. Once believed to have become extinct in the UK, a population was found on Romney Marsh.



THE MARSH MOSAICS

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS BECKET, FAIRFIELD TN29 9RZ



The definitive image of a Marsh church, this church sits alone next to a water-filled dyke and is visible from a great distance across fields and grassland. Until the 1960s it was often cut off by winter flooding, when it could only be reached by boat. Inside, the church presents a perfect 18th century interior with white-painted triple-decker pulpit and box pews, complete with oval text boards.

Geese fly in a v-formation against an **expansive sunrise**.

Local folklore suggests a **candle glow** can sometimes be seen in the church at night.

The **church** stands on the edge of Walland Marsh. The land here would **flood** regularly so a causeway to the church was eventually built. In 1912, the building was in danger of collapse, so it was faithfully reconstructed using the original materials.

A **great white egret** takes flight. These large birds feed in the marshy fields and wetlands.

Cattle graze in the rich pastures near the church.



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

The **great crested grebe** is a striking bird with long head feathers. They glide on the waterways of the marsh.

Before the causeway was built, people would often have to cross by **rowing boat** in winter, or on horseback. The character's **top hat** here represents *Great Expectations*, which was filmed in the church. In the boat is the **large church key**.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, IVYCHURCH TN29 0AL

Built under the patronage of the Archbishops of Canterbury, St. George's is a substantial church measuring 133ft in length - this reflects not the size of the population of the parish, but the prestige of the archbishops. Inside, some beautifully carved 15th century choir stalls remain, and a grand Kentish ragstone font of the same period. Smugglers' tunnels are said to connect the church with the local pub. Legend has it that at times, services could not be held because of contraband stored in the aisles and pulpit.

Two **World War Two** parachutists landed in the fields beyond the church.

The **church** is very large and heavily buttressed. It has a distinctive **weather vane**.

According to local folklore, the church was once covered in **ivy**.

Surprisingly, the **wind farm** is in the parish of Ivychurch. The parish has an unusual shape, because land here was reclaimed from the sea at different points in history.

The **hay cart** acknowledges the small museum of rural life inside the church.



The churchyard has been planted with **native wildflowers**. The **short-haired bumblebee** was declared extinct in the UK, but has now been reintroduced at Dungeness.

Yellow flag irises grows along the ditches. **Orange tip butterflies** and large blue **emperor dragonflies** are a common sight in summer.

The characterful **common toad** can be found along the ditches, dykes and pools of Romney Marsh.

Blackthorn hedges were grown on the marsh to provide timber for early sea walls. They now provide important food and shelter for wildlife.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, LYDD TN29 9DX

At nearly 200 ft long this is the longest parish church in Kent. The 15th century tower is one of the tallest, with a height of 132 feet. All Saints is a magnificent church, known locally as the Cathedral of the Marsh. In the northwest corner the remains of a 4th or 5th century Romano-British basilica have been incorporated into the walls of the 13th century church. The church has a remarkable collection of monuments. These include a brass memorial to John Mottesfont, and a roundel carved in marble by John Flaxman, in memory of Anne Russell and her son.

Dungeness lighthouse and lifeboat have helped sea vessels passing Romney Marsh and Dungeness for decades.

The **Sound Mirrors** were built for military defence, to listen for approaching aircraft and ships. Lydd has a long military history.

Barnacle geese migrate long distances and are critically endangered. According to medieval folklore, the birds hatched from barnacles at sea, as their nests were never seen.

In Spring, the nests of **grey herons** can be seen from the church tower.

European eels are critically endangered. They migrate vast distances.

A **Bronze Age axe head** was found near Lydd, suggesting the area was an early trading post.



In the early days of air travel, **Lydd Airport** was often used by the rich and famous.

Due to its size, **All Saints Church** is known as the **cathedral of the marsh**. It is the longest parish church in Kent and it has one of the tallest towers.

Romney Marsh exists due to **shingle dunes**. These provided a barrier between the open sea and the old coastline, causing marshland to form.

Silhouette of a **Roman Centurion**. A place of worship has stood on this site for over 1,000 years. The remains of an **Anglo-Roman basilica** are incorporated into the walls.

The **tomb stone of Thomas Edgar**, a member of Captain Cook's crew.

The **avocet** is a striking black and white wading bird with a curved bill. They can be seen nearby at the RSPB's Dungeness nature reserve.

Brown hares can be seen in the fields on Romney Marsh—Britain's fastest native land mammal.





THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, NEWCHURCH TN29 0DP

This large church is famous for its bent tower. The first two stages of the tower, built in the 15th century, began to lean alarmingly and they were heavily buttressed to prevent the tower collapsing. Many years later, the final stage was added in an upright position, giving the tower its characteristic bent shape.

Inside is a fine Jacobean pulpit, the oldest on the Marsh. The magnificent font bears the emblems of St. Peter and St. Paul, together with the roses of York and Lancaster and the Tudor rose.

The **church** has a distinctive leaning tower. It is heavily buttressed to stop it sinking in the marshy ground.

Six bells hang in the church tower, added at different periods in history.

The **Black Bull Inn** in the village was used by smugglers. The **pink "strawberry lantern"** warned smugglers that Riding Officers were nearby.

During **World War Two**, Newchurch was home to an **Advanced Landing Ground** (airstrip). There is a memorial site in the village, with a **beacon**.



The red and white **roses** acknowledge the ancient carved stone emblems on the font in the church.

Rich farmland surrounds the church. Newchurch has a long history of farming.

Barn owls can occasionally be seen hunting over the fields at dusk. Their populations have declined significantly.

Newchurch tower windmill was reputed to have been built by Reverend Nares in 1840. The top part was pulled down in 1906.



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.





THE MARSH MOSAICS

CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT, OLD ROMNEY TN29 0HP



Originally constructed in the mid 12th century with just nave and chancel, the aisles were added in the 13th century. The interior takes the visitor by surprise with its 18th century minstrels' gallery and box pews, all painted pink! The latter transformation was carried out by Walt Disney Productions when making a film in 1963 based on the smuggling adventure *Dr Syn*, written by Russell Thorndike and set on Romney Marsh. Film director Derek Jarman is buried in the churchyard.

Distant **storm clouds** reference the great storms of the 1200s, which changed the coastline of Romney Marsh. St. Clement's was damaged by **lightning** more recently, in 2020.

Close to this picturesque church are a **large yew tree** and a **duck pond**. The church, with its unusual tower, is heavily buttressed.

Romney sheep were exported all over the world. A **Looker's Hut** can be seen in the distance here. **Lookers** tended vast flocks of sheep on the marsh.

The grave of artist and film-maker **Derek Jarman** can be found in the churchyard.

Wild flowers such as **marsh woundwort**, **marsh thistle** and **red clover** provide important food for insects. The large, pink and green moth here is an **elephant hawk moth**.



Pink shades throughout acknowledge the church's unique pink interior. In the 1960s, the church was used as a location for Disney's *Dr Syn* series. Bright colours were required for filming in technicolour, so many features were painted pink!

Pink Footed Geese are a declining species. The fields and wetlands of Romney Marsh provide important habitat.

St. Clement's has a **minstrel's gallery**, one of only two on the marsh. The **music notes** here are from *The Seafarer* by Peter Avis, a local composer and conductor whose work has been performed at **JAM on the Marsh** festival.

St. Clement is the patron saint of mariners. The **anchor** symbols and **fishing net** are a nod to the village's maritime past, before the area became landlocked. The pattern in the fishing net is inspired by the design of the unusual **pink wooden chancel gates** inside the church.





THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ST. MARY IN THE MARSH TN29 0BY

This picturesque mid-12th century church is set upon a mound, above the level of winter flooding as it would have been in the past. Outside in the south wall of the chancel a priest's door remains, and next to it a scratch dial can be seen. In the churchyard, simple wooden posts and a rail, mark the grave of E. Nesbit, author of *The Railway Children*, and other books and poems. Sheep farmer James Chittenden is also buried in the churchyard. The bloodline of New Zealand's Romney sheep can be traced to the Chittenden flock from the village.

In World War Two, an **Advanced Landing Ground** (airstrip) was built close to the village.

The **Victoria Cross** was awarded to **John Coleman**, who was born in the village.

The **church** was built on an artificial **mound** to raise it above winter flood levels.

The **star** references the ancient pub opposite the church. The **dark skies** of Romney Marsh are excellent for stargazing.

A distant **Looker's Hut**. These small huts were built across the marsh and were used by shepherds or Lookers.



The **harvest mouse** is one of the UK's smallest rodents. It is rare nationally but can be found on Romney Marsh.

Tree sparrows are declining rapidly in the UK, but a healthy population still exists on Romney Marsh.

Writer **E. Nesbit**, author of *The Railway Children*, lived nearby and attended the church. **Noel Coward**, her friend, stayed opposite the church and would sit in the churchyard to write. E. Nesbit is buried in the churchyard, where her grave is marked with a simple wooden post.

The gravestone of sheep breeder **James Chittenden**. The bloodline of New Zealand's **Romney sheep** can be traced to the Chittenden flock from the village.



THE MARSH MOSAICS



CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN, SNARGATE TN29 0EW

Built c.1200, the north and south aisles were soon added and in the 14th century a spacious east end was created. In the north aisle there is a wall painting of a great ship dated c.1500, a reminder of the nearby shipbuilding yards that existed at that time. From 1817 to 1829 the Rev. Richard Harris Barham was the vicar of St. Dunstan's, during which time he wrote his humorous tales *The Ingoldsby Legends*, some of which relate to Marsh folklore.

The Red Lion is one of many beautiful **ancient pubs** on Romney Marsh.

Smuggling was once rife on the marsh and many of the churches were used to store smuggled goods! A large seizure of tobacco was made from the belfry at Snargate.

The **large church** was built on an **artificial mound** surrounded by trees. RH Barham was once rector here, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, under pen name Thomas Ingoldsby.

Inside the church, a **painting glass panel** from the 15th Century depicts **St. Dunstan**.



Inside the church is a **large ship mural**, discovered in 1964. Folklore suggests the mural indicated the church was a safe place to store smuggled goods. It was more likely the site of a shipwright's altar. Ships were built nearby, when open water still flowed near here.

Mole hills are a common sight, but it's unusual to see a **mole**. A **badger** hides over near the trees.

The **yellow wagtail**, **marsh tit** and **curlew** are all birds found near water.

"Snargate" comes from the snare-gate or sluice gate here which controlled **water** levels in the area.



THE MARSH MOSAICS

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, SNAVE TN26 2QJ



During springtime this small church is approached through an avenue of daffodils. In the northeast chapel is a large stove, not put in for the comfort of the congregation, but to keep children warm when this part of the church was used as a school. Although now redundant, St. Augustine's is entirely maintained by the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust

A **Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress** trails red, white and blue, in reference to the nearby Johnson's Corner Memorial. The WW2 plane came down close to Hamstreet. Having already order his crew to abandon, the brave pilot, Lt. Johnson, managed to avoid nearby villages.

The **church** is surrounded by tall trees. The beacon turret may have allowed fires to be lit to warn of invasion, or to guide locals. The church was declared redundant in 1983 and it is now maintained by the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

Swans are often seen in this part of the marsh, where they feed in the fields and waterways. The Bewick's swan has red list conservation status.



The **yellowhammer** is a farmland bird. Here it sits atop the discarded medieval font, which was found in use as a rainwater butt in 1929.

Snave is known as **the daffodil church**, due to its magnificent springtime display.

The **weasel** is the UK's smallest carnivore. Stoats are larger and their tails have a black tip.

A **fox** has startled a **rabbit**. Both are often seen on the marsh, though they are not always welcome visitors for some farmers and gardeners.

ABOUT THE FIFTH CONTINENT



The Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme took its name from the Ingoldsby Legends (1837), which recognised the importance of Romney Marsh as a **fifth continent** through the statement, *'The world, according to the best geographers, is divided into Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Romney Marsh'*.



The original Marsh Mosaics project was coordinated by The Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Scheme was created to deliver a broad range of exciting projects across Romney Marsh, based on the three themes of Restore, Rediscover and Reclaim. Projects aimed to conserve or restore the built and natural character of the landscape; to provide opportunities for people to discover, explore and learn about the landscape and heritage of the area; and to help people participate in looking after and in celebrating the area's cultural and natural heritage.

To find out more visit www.fifthcontinent.org.uk

ABOUT KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) was the lead partner on the Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme. KWT is the county's leading conservation charity with more than 31,000 members and over 1000 registered volunteers. KWT manages and protects over 9000 acres of land across more than 80 different sites and nature reserves, alongside 3 visitor centres. The charity works closely with local communities, landowners and partners to protect and improve habitats in the countryside, coast and town for the benefit of the wildlife and people of Kent. KWT also campaigns against inappropriate and damaging development; and educates and inspires young people to help secure a more sustainable future and create a Wilder Kent.

To find out more visit www.kentwildlife.org.uk

Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust

The Marsh Mosaics are now looked after by Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust (RMHCT). RMHCT helps to preserve and maintain the churches and ruined churches on Romney Marsh. RMHCT also runs events and supports education initiatives, including a free tour app for the churches.

To find out more, or to support the work of RMHCT through membership, donations or volunteering, visit www.romneymarshchurches.org.uk



QUIZ *Visit all of the Marsh Mosaics and answer...*

1. How many churches?
2. How many sheep?
3. How many trains?
4. How many planes?
5. How many butterflies?
6. What is the hidden theme in the Lydd mosaic?
7. What other country is acknowledged in the mosaic at St Mary in the marsh?
8. How many rodents?
9. How many amphibians?
10. How many fish?
11. How many smugglers?
12. How many birds?
13. There is a secret reference to New Romney country fair in the New Romney mosaic—what is it?
14. How many windmills?

CORRECT ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE

With thanks to our funders National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, The Lochlands Trust and Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

Thanks also to JAM On The Marsh for additional support with publicity.





QUIZ ANSWERS

Q1. FOURTEEN CHURCHES (There are 14 medieval churches on Romney Marsh).

Q2. TEN SHEEP (2 Brenzett, 1 Burmarsh, 3 Fairfield, 1 New Romney, 2 Old Romney, 1 St Mary ITM).

Q3. FOUR TRAINS (1 Dymchurch, 1 New Romney, 1 St Mary ITM, 1 Snave).

Q4. FOUR PLANES (2 Brenzett, 1 Lydd, 1 Newchurch, 1 St Mary ITM).

Q5. ELEVEN BUTTERFLIES (1 Burmarsh, 9 Ivychurch, 1 Snave (*moths at East Guldeford and Old Romney!*)).

Q6. TRAVEL AND MIGRATION THEME (Plane taking off from airport; Lighthouse guides ships passing Dungeness; Lifeboat rescues at sea; South Mirrors were built to detect aircraft and boats; Barnacle Geese, Avocets and European Eels migrate great distances; the Romans settled from mainland Europe; the Bronze Age axe head found nearby indicates the area may have been an early trading post between Ireland and mainland Europe; the church has graves of a Crusader and a member of Captain Cook’s crew; the Brown Hare is the fastest UK land mammal but most of the time crouches motionless in long grass; Grey Herons can stand motionless for long periods while hunting in the still ditches and dykes on the marsh).

Q7. NEW ZEALAND. The bloodline of New Zealand’s Romney sheep can be traced to the Chittenden flock from the village. (Fern leaf and star emblem in the sky).

Q8. FIVE RODENTS (Water Vole, Brenzett; Harvest Mouse, St Mary ITM; Hare, Lydd; Mole, Snargate; Rabbit, Snave).

Q9. THREE AMPHIBIANS (Toad, Ivychurch; Great Crested Newt, East Guldeford; Marsh Frog, New Romney).

Q10. THREE FISH (+43!) (European Eel, Lydd; Perch, East Guldeford; Herring, Dymchurch), plus Old Romney’s netted haul—we count 43!

Q11. THREE SMUGGLERS (1 Brookland, 1 Dymchurch, 1 Newchurch).

Q12. THIRTY-EIGHT BIRDS (Brenzett 3, Kestrel, Mute Swan, Kingfisher; Burmarsh 1, Black Tern; Brookland 3, Marsh Harrier, Lapwing, White Stork; Dymchurch 3, Greater Black Backed Gull, Oystercatcher, Sandwich Tern; East Guldeford 1, Turtle Dove; Fairfield 11, Great Crested Grebe, Great White Egret, Geese; Lydd 3, Grey Heron, Barnacle Goose, Avocet; Newchurch 1, Barn Owl; St Mary ITM 1, Tree Sparrow; Old Romney 4, Pink-Footed Geese, Shelducks; Snargate 3, Curlew, Yellow Wagtail, Marsh Tit; Snave 4, Swans, Green Woodpecker, Yellowhammer).

Q13. THE LOGO COLOURS of green, red, yellow, blue and purple are incorporated into the design.

Q14. TWELVE WINDMILLS (Brenzett 1, Newchurch 1, East Guldeford 4, Ivychurch 6).