

PROPERTY & HOME

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Chatham

WITH LOW PRICES AND A FAST COMMUTE, THIS HISTORIC MEDWAY TOWN HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE, SAYS **ANDREA DEAN**



WHAT'S NEW

ST MARY'S ISLAND, on the former Royal Naval Dockyard site, has been transformed by Countryside in partnership with Homes England into a new mixed-tenure, 1,700 home community. The final phase, called **Maritime News**, consists of one and two-bedroom apartments and three and four-bed houses. Apartments including open-plan kitchen/living/dining areas and balconies start from £260,000. The **Riverside Collection** - the last 12 houses on St Mary's Island - launches shortly. The two four-bed and ten five-bed houses all overlook the River Medway and Upnor Castle. countrysideproperties.com.



Dockside: St Mary's Island. Below: Apartments at Colonial Wharf

CHATHAM is inextricably linked to its royal dockyard, founded by Henry VIII, which built Royal Navy warships for over 400 years. Since its closure in 1984, the site has been transformed and now houses the restored Historic Dockyard Chatham, thousands of homes, a university campus, and a retail, sports and business hub.



The town centre and the area's flourishing creative sector are being boosted with funding from the government's Future High Streets and Travelling Up Funds, and various residential and commercial projects are in the pipeline. Buyers used to London prices find it very affordable and accessible, both by rail and road.

Homes in the town centre are typically two-up, two-down Victorian terraces, and there are also conversions and purpose-built flats, and larger houses on the outskirts.

"We mostly see first-time buyers

moving in from out of the area, often from London or Essex, whereas those who live in Medway try towns such as Rainham, which are regarded as more desirable," says Mark Franklin of Robinson Michael Jackson. Flats start at around the £140,000-£150,000 mark and two-bedroom houses are priced upwards from £220,000.

Countryside Partnerships and Hyde are delivering 1,400 homes at nearby **Rochester Riverside**. One-bed apartments with private outside space and four-bed houses are left in the current phase, from £250,000 and £685,000 respectively. countrysideproperties.com.

More apartments and houses are for sale at Persimmon's **Colonial Wharf**, part of the old dockyard and close to Dockside Shopping Centre. They range from £220,500 for a one-

bedroom flat to £470,000 for a four-bedroom townhouse, persimmonhomes.com.

Medway Development Company, Medway Council's own housing arm, is working on two developments, **Garrison Point** and **Waterfront**. Garrison Point is a collection of 15 one and two-bed apartments and is due for completion at the end of the year. They start from £212,000, available through Help to Buy and First Homes, the latter offering a 30 per cent discount

One and two-bed apartments at Waterfront go on sale

Later this year, Annington will be launching refurbished two, three and four-bed houses and apartments at **Sovereign Gate**,

releases 32 one and two-bed shared ownership apartments at TopHat's **Kitchener Barracks**, an innovative development of 3D modular homes, from £102,500 for 50 per cent of £205,000, starthomes.com



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