

Fab Folkestone

I've just read your interview "In a Grand style" with Robert Richardson, general manager of the Grand in Folkestone and wanted to say firstly how nice it is to see Folkestone coming into the fore with your publication. Despite so many historical difficulties with businesses and therefore money pulling out of the town, we have endeavoured to maintain what is an unrivalled area of natural beauty within the garden of Kent.

For Folkestone to once again become a proud point within the county and the UK as a whole, we need to attract more and more progressive businessmen to raise the profile of the area. I highlight Mr Richardson as an example of the progressive types we need to push the boundaries of what we can do. The Grand has always lit up the Leas, but has suffered in the past from not only backwards-thinking bureaucracy by the local council but an inconsistent presentation.

I have been to The Grand on and off since about 1995 and can say, hand on heart, that The Grand has become Grand once again. And with an influx of switched-on, high-profile and PR-savvy people like Richardson, Folkestone will move out of the past and join the 21st century where it desperately, desperately needs to be.

Rebecca Tyler, Rochester