

Film reveals history of life by the seaside

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A LOOK at life through a lens helped gain a different view of Folkestone's past.

As part of the Navigating History project, filmmaker Stephen Connolly chose to create a film focusing on 100 years of visual entertainment in the town.

Inspired by stories of a long-gone camera obscura on the seafront, Connolly began to research recollections of the seaside and its amusements.

Stephen collected footage from across the years up until the present day and interspersed it with images of old newspaper articles.

The film creates a feeling of continuity across the years - one scene filmed this summer unconsciously replicates that of 50 years ago.

So was this what Stephen was hoping to do?

"I was interested to look into the 'other side' of Folkestone," he explained. "Much has been made of



Navigating *History*

relevant to people living here today."

Stephen used voice overs from conversations to narrate the piece, creating an inclusive feel to a piece of work for and about Folkestone.

● Navigating History is hosting two events to coincide with the showing of Folkestone Obscura.

On Wednesday October 20 there will be Visions Through a Lens; from Magic Lanterns to Films at 6.30pm in the Sassoon Gallery and on Saturday October 30 there will be Contemporary Camera Obscura at the bottom of the cliff lift or in the library if it rains.

Both events are free but booking is advised on 01303 256710.

For more information on the story behind Folkestone obscura turn to page 10.

members of the aristocracy holidaying at the Metropole and The Grand, but there was a whole other community centred around the beach which is what I was interested in.

"These aristocratic holidaymakers were a flash in the pan, but the seaside community is something more enduring and something that is still