



Faversham
TOWN · COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 to 2017





The Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell and Ms Kate Lampard DL



The Great British Spring Clean



The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Shiel Campbell and Mr Roy Campbell

Front Cover Photograph: 20's Plenty for Faversham Campaign Ellie Jupp and Amanda Russell

Mayor's Report

The Civic Year starts in May with the Mayor Making, a public Town Council event in which the Council elects the Mayor for the forthcoming year. In some councils this can be a very difficult time as members jockey for position or campaign for a certain candidate. Thank goodness Faversham is much more civilised than that and quietly elects the next most senior Councillor who has not previously been Mayor. The role is not



contested on political or popularity stakes; you can see it coming and grow into the role. Lucky me. Being offered a second year as Mayor is slightly less predictable, one might have made such a hash of it that the Council chooses not to offer it to the incumbent Mayor.

I have much to thank the Deputy Mayor Trevor Abram for, he has been extremely supportive and stepped in to assist very ably both with Council meetings and Civic functions with his wife, the Deputy Mayoress, Margaret Abram. This year Cllr John Ogden-Starkel moved abroad and at the ensuing by-election Cllr Antony Hook was elected, we welcome him onto the team and look forward to working together. I have much to be grateful for from my fellow Councillors, we work collectively to bring forth outcomes for the town that are, in our opinion, the best of the options available at the time or unfortunately sometimes just the least worst of the possible options!

In keeping with the time, we have many ways of communicating information to and from the Council and the local citizens. Most council meetings are open to the public and the notices for these are on the town noticeboard in Central Car Park, notices and minutes of all meetings are also available on the website www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk. There is an email questionnaire scheme, Faversham Voice and a Facebook and Twitter presence.

This year the Town Council took on the running of the Local Engagement Forums, an opportunity for the public to voice their opinions

and get their questions answered in an informal environment. These meetings were formerly run by Swale Borough Council and extended out into the villages too, so we try now to encourage and encompass the issues concerning our neighbouring villages too. We get regular updates from the police and fire services about local issues and as required, speakers from other organisations such as healthcare, highways, environmental agencies etc to inform us about current issues of concern. They are interesting and informative and open to all, I would urge you to attend. The next one will be in the Guildhall on Tuesday 11 July.

This year much progress has been made behind the scenes following the purchase of 12 Market Place to function as a permanent exhibition space for Magna Carta and Charters and to be available for other community or exhibition purposes. The Town Council staff will, in due course, be moving into offices upstairs, bringing a disused space in the Town Centre into use. By having a loan from the Public Works Loan Board on a very low, fixed interest rate, rather than rent to pay, allows us to predict future costs whilst increasing the asset base of the Council. The timing of lease dates has meant that the office staff are now housed temporarily in what was the Mayor's Parlour in the Alexander Centre, until the building alterations at 12 Market Place have been completed. The Mayor's Parlour has relocated to the Committee Room of the Guildhall. It has been an absolute pleasure to be able to see the ground floor of 12 Market Place used for a variety of community events in the heart of the town.

Normal council business has continued through the year and the Town Clerk has been hard at work trying to bring us into shape with a reorganisation of the committee structure. And Council business has progressed with our programme of 4 weekly full council meetings and many committee meetings and workshops outside. We moved to fortnightly Planning Meetings as we were without a Consultant for the committee for some time and it also meant that we did not miss the odd planning application for which the timeframe available fell between two of the 4 weekly meetings.

The Creek Neighbourhood Plan has been working its way through the processes this year – first the official Inspector had to approve it – that

was done but with one quite major change which then triggered a Judicial Review. That has now been judged upon and the plan became ready to go to referendum which took place on 4 May. We hope that a successful outcome will mean that we can soon have a working swing bridge and sluice gates to bring the upper basin back into use.

The 20's Plenty Campaign, which has had full Council support, has been steered through the Joint Transportation Board and is now awaiting signoff at Kent County Council level. The 20's Plenty Group has worked tirelessly and collaboratively to get this done and it is good to see projects like this come to fruition through the initiatives and consistent persistent effort of the local people.

St Catherine's Bridge has been an issue this year as Network Rail have taken to closing it on big weekends as they are anxious about increased footfall upon it. The deck of the bridge needs repair and strengthening and this will be done next year, bringing the bridge back into full use. It is acknowledged that there is no disabled or wheeled access over this bridge, but it is close to the station underpass where wheeled vehicles can use the slopes.

This year we said goodbye to our Planning Consultant, John Sell, who has ably assisted the Council in their representations to Swale Borough as consultees in the planning process for over 20 years. We welcome the new Planning Consultant James Ford who has recently been appointed to the role.





I have had a thoroughly enjoyable year representing the Council at many local functions and representing Faversham at many County functions, even internationally at our twin town Hazebrouck! It is a terrific honour to be able to do so.

The Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell





Town Councillors

The Town Council has 14 Councillors, who are elected to represent one of the four wards in the town. Councillors are elected to serve a period of four years.

*Also Swale Borough Councillor for the Ward

| | Councillor | Ward | Party | Contact Details |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|--|
|  | Shiel Campbell Samandra Upper St Ann's Rd Faversham ME13 8SY | Watling | Cons | shielcampbell@uwclub.net Home: 533297 Mob: 07791 567145 |
|  | Trevor Abram 28 Lakeside Ave Faversham ME13 7FE | St Ann's | Cons | trevor_abram@yahoo.co.uk Home: 530379 Mob: 07712 594872 |
|  | Bryan Mulhern* 56 Park Rd Faversham ME13 8EU | Abbey | Cons | bryanmulhern@btinternet.com Mob: 07850 247810 Home: 538498/533985 |
|  | Ted Wilcox* 50 Lower Rd Faversham ME13 7NG | Watling | Cons | ted.wilcox@btinternet.com Home: 533004 Mob: 07711 476769 |

| | Councillor | Ward | Party | Contact Details |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|---|
|  | Anita Walker* 124 St Mary's Road Faversham ME13 8EE | Abbey | Cons | anitajwalker@yahoo.co.uk Home: 531192 |
|  | David Simmons* Whitehill House Brogdale Rd Faversham ME13 0DN | Watling | Cons | dhsimmons@btconnect.com Home: 532100 Mob: 07850 872342 |
|  | Nigel Kay* 13 Preston Park Faversham ME13 8LH | St Ann's | Cons | Nigel@kayna.plus.com Home: 531298 Mob: 07710 487129 |
|  | Mike Cosgrove* 22 Ospringe Place Faversham ME13 8TB | St Ann's | Cons | mike_cos@hotmail.com Home: 591790 |
|  | Geoff Wade 5 Priory Rd, Faversham ME13 7EJ | Watling | Cons | geoff.wade@thedavingtoncentre.com Home: 530646 |
|  | Ben Martin Orchard Cottage Canterbury Rd Faversham ME13 8LY | Priory | Indep | cllrbenmartin@gmail.com Mob: 07734 559089 |

| | Councillor | Ward | Party | Contact Details |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|---|
|  | Claire Belsom 1 Orchard Cottage 9 Ashford Rd Faversham ME13 8XJ | Priory | Indep | Clairebelsom@mail.com Mob: 07775 560359 |
|  | Peter Flower 6 New Creek Rd, Faversham ME13 7BU | Abbey | Cons | pecard@btconnect.com Home: 537030 Mob: 07743 695946 |
|  | Nick Green 1 Dorset Place Faversham ME13 8PP | St Ann's | Cons | nick@jittermugs.co.uk Home: 01795 533121 |
|  | Antony Hook 48 Hazebrouck Road Faversham ME13 7QZ | Abbey | Lib Dem | favershamfocus@gmail.com Mob: 07732 161865 |

Faversham Town Council's office is located on the ground floor of the Alexander Centre and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. You can contact a member of staff using the details below.

| | |
|--|--|
| Town Clerk – Louise Bareham louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503288 | Deputy Town Clerk - Adrienne Begent Adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503286 |
| Tourism Officer - Hannah Tilley Hannah.tilley@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503287 | Finance Assistant - Katie Stringer katie.stringer@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503287 |

| Kent County Councillor | | Ward | Party | Contact Details |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|---|
|  | Antony Hook 48 Hazebrouck Road Faversham ME13 7QZ | Faversham | Lib Dem | favershamfocus@gmail.com Mob: 07732 161865 |
| Swale Borough Councillor | | Ward | Party | Contact Details |
|  | Mike Henderson Bridge House Front Brents Faversham Kent ME13 7DH | Priory | Indep | mikeshenderson@outlook.com 07900 265337 |

Attendance Record

| Councillor | Town Council Meeting /14 | Councillor | Town Council Meeting /14 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cllr S C Campbell | 14 | Cllr M Cosgrove | 12 |
| Cllr T Abram | 13 | Cllr G Wade | 12 |
| Cllr B Mulhern | 9 | Cllr B Martin | 10 |
| Cllr E J Wilcox | 13 | Cllr C Belsom | 13 |
| Cllr A J Walker | 13 | Cllr P Flower | 14 |
| Cllr D H S Simmons | 12 | Cllr N Green | 10 |
| Cllr N Kay | 13 | Cllr A Hook | 4/4 |

Finance Report 2016-2017

Faversham Town Council

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2016

| 31st March 2015 | | 31st March 2016 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | Operating Income | |
| 261,921 | Income | 323,029 |
| 994 | Civic | 890 |
| 72 | Staffing & Professional | 0 |
| 2,128 | The Guildhall | 15,966 |
| 7,618 | Front Brents Jetty | 7,787 |
| 0 | Grants | 900 |
| 8,861 | Tourism | 7,440 |
| 44,491 | Special Provision | 10 |
| 0 | 12 Market Place | 1,099,878 |
| 326,087 | Total Income | 1,455,900 |
| | Running Costs | |
| 7,100 | Civic | 7,587 |
| 102,676 | Staffing & Professional | 122,199 |
| 25,197 | Office & Parlour Expenses | 24,913 |
| 18,847 | The Guildhall | 47,804 |
| 3,265 | Front Brents Jetty | 3,032 |
| 31,476 | Grants | 31,864 |
| 18,224 | Tourism | 19,875 |
| 0 | Public Realm Group | (884) |
| 111,637 | Special Provision | 21,099 |
| 0 | 12 Market Place | 626,560 |
| 0 | Reserves | 4,625 |
| 318,422 | Total Expenditure | 908,674 |
| | General Fund Analysis | |
| 34,789 | Opening Balance | 105,186 |
| 326,087 | Plus : Income for Year | 1,455,900 |
| 360,876 | | 1,561,086 |
| 318,422 | Less : Expenditure for Year | 908,674 |
| 42,454 | | 652,412 |
| 0 | Transfers TO / FROM Reserves | 0 |
| 42,454 | Closing Balance | 652,412 |

Unaudited

Grants Awarded 2016-2017

| Recipient | Grant |
|---|----------------|
| C.A.B. | £6,000 |
| Christmas Lights Committee | £4,000 |
| F.A.C.E. | £500 |
| Faversham & District Carnival Club | £2,000 |
| Faversham Society | £2,000 |
| Faversham Business Partnership | £9,500 |
| Brents Community Association | £3,000 |
| No Place Like Home – Dementia Awareness | £244 |
| Personal Service Group | £200 |
| Swale Youth Development | £750 |
| Faversham Hat Festival | £295 |
| Age UK | £580 |
| Rotary Club – Nautical Festival | £1,500 |
| East Kent Mencap | £350 |
| Stonebridge Allotment Association | £345 |
| Special Projects | £3,600 |
| TOTAL | £31,864 |

Budget Summary 2016/17 and 2017/18

| SUMMARY | Budget 2016/17 | Budget 2017/18 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Civic | 6,850 | 6,850 |
| Staffing and Professional | 113,700 | 120,471 |
| Office and Administration | 39,300 | 40,550 |
| Guildhall | 39,390 | 19,000 |
| Front Brents | 5,980 | 5,980 |
| Grants | 23,864 | 26,000 |
| FBP | 8,000 | 10,000 |
| Tourism | 20,300 | 26,000 |
| PRG | 10,750 | 5,000 |
| Special Provision | 82,000 | 84,887 |
| | 350,134 | 344,738 |
| Less Projected Income | 18,110 | 16,100 |
| | 332,024 | 328,638 |

Committee Reports

Policy and Finance Committee

Members: Cllr Campbell (Chair), Cllrs Abram, Wilcox, Kay, Cosgrove, Wade

A revised Committee Structure has been implemented this year and the Policy & Finance Committee takes responsibility for Strategic Planning for the Council as a whole, preparing and working to a Business Plan that reflects the draft Five Year Strategic Plan, as well as revising policies and financial & legal requirements. The committee has also overseen the management of council assets including the purchase of 12 Market Place, The loan for this was obtained at a preferential fixed rate through the Public Works Loan Board and means that we have an appreciating asset and fixed repayments giving the council more security than renting offices as well as bringing into use unused office space in the town centre which will work more efficiently with the use of the Guildhall opposite. Installation of a disabled accessible lift to the Guildhall was completed last year, assisted by a grant of nearly £17,500 was obtained from Viridor Credits.

The transfer of the town allotments has been a very long process but final return of ownership to the Town Council was completed this year.

The Policy & Finance committee also continues to monitor day to day running costs such as salaries, office expenses and general administration to manage the Council.

The Mayor, Cllr Campbell, Chair

Planning Committee

Members: All Councillors

In September the Council's long time Planning Advisor John Sell retired. He had supported and advised the Council for many years on Planning Matters. This led to a restructure of the Planning Committee and dates were increased to fortnightly in order to enable comments to

be passed to Swale within the acceptable timeframe. It also took some of the pressure and formality out of deciding applications in full Council. For some time we worked very successfully with back up assistance from Swale's Planning Officers. In January/February 2017 another Planning Consultant was appointed – James Ford RIBA AABC.

Many Town Councillors have attended training sessions this year to increase their knowledge of planning issues and the material considerations to consider when planning applications are decided.

The Mayor, Cllr Campbell, Chair

Public Realm Group

Members: Cllr Wilcox (Chair), Cllrs Abram, Walker, Wade, Martin, Flower

Mr Mike Knowles (SBC), Mr Alan Blackburn (KCC)

Mr Chris Oswald-Jones (MoP), Mr Tim Stonor (MoP)

Whilst we have had some successes we have had some frustrations during the year as I have noted below.

A task group was set up to take forward the Station Road Improvement. The task group met and proposed plans with splitting the work into several separate stages but it has been impossible to get an estimate of the costs. We have been referred to the KCC agent Amey, who are talking about costs for providing both an initial review and then a full cost estimate with commuted sums to be put forward by FTC for any problems. At the moment without even a ball park figure for the works the project is on hold.

Final designs for the Preston Street Island were put forward, two similar quotes were obtained and the work agreed by the Town Council. To save the cost of a formal traffic order (around £500) it was agreed that the work could occur when a road closure order was arranged for work with SBC. The works have now been partially completed, as we await the arrival of the bespoke centre stone.

Long discussions have been held, including through Faversham Voice, about the parking around the Guildhall, including plans for building out the road with moveable planters, reinstating the yellow lines and closing the town gates on a daily basis. The options of lines or closing the gates were discussed at FTC and after discussion the reinstatement of the lines will go forward to JTB with a recommendation that a no loading restriction is added to restrict all parking.

The working group wants to install a number of benches around the town and have discussed several places, but there has been substantial opposition to the suggested sites. As a start, the installation of a bench near to the previous one in the town centre and step seats near the station have been agreed. These are being progressed and requests for other sites have been put in the FTC Newsletter.

The working group has supported the Twenty's Plenty scheme and asked questions about the Mall/A2 junction as well as investigating air pollution monitors, although a cheaper domestic model has been found to be unsuitable.

Discussions have taken place with Network Rail regarding updating the St. Catherine's footbridge. They considered it to be unsafe when it is likely to be heavily used and had closed it during events such as the Hop Festival. A request for a ramp was turned down and we are still in discussions of what will happen.

The Forbes Road barriers have been replaced with a much more appropriate design and the barriers under the Forbes Road bridge have been repainted, after discussions at the group meetings with the KCC manager.

SBC has arranged for implementing the parking regulation and arranged for cutting back the tree by Delbridge House to improve the CCTV and access to the subway

The chairman and town clerk met with OpenReach to agree a better location for the high speed fibre cabinet in the Market Place.

Following a request from a resident we are undertaking a survey, using Faversham Voice, of where we could add secure cycle parking around the town centre

The group have agreed that they will now organise a walk around the town centre at each meeting to check on other problems such as puddles and trip hazards.

Cllr Ted Wilcox – Chair

Community Services Committee

Members: Cllr Abram (Chair), Cllrs Walker, Kay, Belsom, Flower

This is another new committee following the recent review. The committee has prioritised the adoption of the council's Community Engagement Policy and will manage the content of the quarterly newsletters. It will also have the responsibility of the Town Council's newsletter. Other priorities will include how the Town Council will work in partnership with other groups.

Cllr Trevor Abram - Chair

Heritage Committee

Members: Cllr N Kay (Chair), Cllrs Campbell, Simmons, Wade
Hannah Tilley (Tourism Officer),
Mr Ted Davis (Faversham Society), Mr Clive Foreman (MoP)

On 20 June 2016 the Town Council completed the purchase of 12 Market Place to be a Town Hall and Exhibition space for the display of Faversham's Magna Carta and other Medieval Charters and artefacts.

Thomas Ford and Partners were selected to progress this exciting project. They have come up with an innovative design which has a central core with an entrance onto Back Lane, with stairs and a lift providing access to accessible offices and a seminar room on the first floor. This will also have facilities for secure storage of documents and artefacts in the correct climatic conditions. Planning Permission for the changes to 12 Market Place was applied for in April 2017 and the decision of the Planners is awaited.

On the ground floor there will be a large exhibition area in the front of the building and at the back there will be a cinema type facility for interactive displays and presentations. Part of the exhibition area will have a permanent display showcasing the Town's unique Medieval Heritage including Magna Carta, King Stephen's Charter to the Town and details of Stephen's life in the Town and his Abbey that was the largest in England, and also including the Charter from Henry XIII and his role in the dissolution of Faversham Abbey and its almost complete demolishing. There will also be the space and the equipment for other displays that will be rotated every few months covering such things as the Town's role as a Cinque Port, the explosives industry and the dispute between the Abbot and the Town's people for the control of the Town.

The building will be a resource that captures the imagination of people of all ages, uplifts and inspires all generations through the dynamics of its displays, exhibitions and audio visual presentations.

The purchase of 12 Market Place had two main drivers. In recent years community engagement has been at the heart of Faversham Town Council's ethos and it continues to listen to, and build, closer relationships with its people to inform decision making and extend a wider sense of belonging. The Town Council is very ambitious for the future of the town and wants to maximise the services it provides and the impact that it has on the economic and cultural life of the Town. One of the things that was holding the Council back was the lack of an accessible Town Hall like most other Town Councils own.

The other driver was the need for premises, suitable to display Magna Carta and other Town Treasures, the freehold of which could be bought to enable Heritage Lottery Fund grants to be applied for. In fact very useful meetings have already been held with the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss the Council's Project and it is hoped that there will be a continuing dialogue in the coming months.

A range of community groups, facility managers and custodians have come together to develop, raise funds and implement this project. The

heritage area of the Town Hall will be led by a curator supported by the tourism/marketing staff of the Town Council, with its public service and commercial partners. Exhibitions will be staffed principally by volunteers and an apprenticeships programme will provide the skills to sustain future knowledge going forward.

Work will start in the near future on seeking recognition of the project as an accredited museum thus increasing the likelihood of support from the HLF.

We foresee many other strands of the Medieval Faversham Project including:

- Research students will be given the opportunity of researching and studying Faversham's Medieval history and the result of their research will be displayed in the exhibition area
- Town walks in collaboration with the Faversham Society specifically covering the Medieval buildings in the Town
- A Medieval Fayre and other events will continue to be held annually to highlight Faversham heritage
- All local schools will be invited to have an annual visit to the exhibition and there will be a programme of activities for school age children.
- The Town's Tourism Officer will provide leaflets to encourage visitors to Faversham from the whole of the UK and this will be supported by an advertising campaign.

A Faversham Town Museums Group also has been formed and this met during the year and will meet regularly in the forthcoming year.

The cost of such an ambitious project would normally be prohibitive. However, the opportunity to buy the freehold of 12 Market Place, by way of a 50 year loan, with record low interest rates gave an opportunity to "invest" in the future of the Town that might never occur again.

The Town Council will no longer pay any rent for its offices, but will be paying repayments on the loan, the amount of which is fixed for the 50 year period.

The improvements to 12 Market Place have been split into two stages. Stage one providing the accessible Town Council offices, basic exhibition area display area and inter active display area should be completed by March 2018. The provision of first class displays and audio visual facilities will then be progressed as stage two with an aim of submitting an application for an initial HLF application in 2018 and a substantial application in early 2019. Regular updates on progress will be given in the Town Council Newsletter.

I would like to thank to thank the members of the Heritage Committee for their hard work. I hope that the next year will be as successful as the last one and all the plans we have will come to fruition.

Cllr Nigel Kay, Chair

Front Brents Jetty Committee

Members: Cllr Abram (Chair), Cllrs Martin, Flower

The jetty at Front Brents has attracted some new boat owners during this current year, and now has more than ten boats permanently moored. Dredging has continued this year to ensure sufficient depth of water to enable boats more time to berth at high tides.

Responsibility for reporting on the condition of the jetty and carrying out of minor repairs by The Front Brents Berthing Association (FBBA), has now been taken back in house by Faversham Town Council.

The additional piling referred to in last year's report has not yet been undertaken but movement of the jetty, which was arrested by means of anchors into the bank, does not appear to have worsened. Faversham Town Council is currently investigating the availability of a suitable surveyor to provide us with a full condition survey on the jetty. Upon receipt of this survey a plan of action will be formulated for ongoing maintenance, so that the jetty continues to provide a safe and affordable place for recreational boat owners mooring.

The FBBA, for the Council, has added new access ladders giving one ladder at each mooring position, making embarking and disembarking safer for the users.

The Front Brents Moorings provide a valuable income stream for Faversham Town Council which will continue to make the jetty self-funding.

The moorings across the Creek from the jetty are also managed by the Town Council and it is proposed that access ladders will now also be provided for these.

Details of the moorings and fees are obtainable from the Deputy Town Clerk.

Cllr Trevor Abram - Chair

Allotment Working Group

Members: Cllr Belsom (Chair), Cllrs Wilcox, Kay, Green

This is a new working group that was set up when the allotments came back under the wings of the Faversham Town Council from Swale Borough Council. This took place in April 2016 with a ceremony at the Guildhall.

Since then the group has met with the chairpersons, secretaries and treasurers of all three sites that are up and running. (Stonebridge, Millfield and North Preston) There was an inspection of all the sites including St. Nicholas (which at present is redundant) in August last year. This year Stonebridge has had another inspection and we will be visiting the other sites shortly. The allotments are very popular and have waiting lists. All of the committees of these sites are working extremely hard and we would like to thank them for all the hours that are voluntarily given to run the sites in a professional way.

Cllr Claire Belsom – Chair

20's Plenty for Faversham

This working group was set up last year in accordance with The Swale Joint Transport Board's recommendations after Amanda Russell had asked them to consider making Faversham a 20mph zone.

During the year, the group has been looking at how best to implement 20mph speed limit across Faversham. We have engaged with the public asking them where in Faversham they feel vulnerable to motor vehicles when walking or cycling and we have had an amazing response.

Cllrs Mike Henderson and David Simmons also provided money from their Localism fund to engage a transport planning consultant. The report that was produced by Phil Jones Associates became the backbone of the presentation that we took to The Swale Joint Transport Board in December 2016.

The presentation was presented by Amanda Russell and Tim Stonor. It was overwhelmingly supported by all members of the JTB and is now under consideration by KCC.

Cllr Claire Belsom – Chair

Tourism Report

Since April 2016, I have taken on more responsibilities and now represent Faversham Town Council on the following groups and focus groups:

- Green Grid and Partnership
- Cinque Ports
- Swale Museum Group (SMG)
 - SMG Museums marketing focus group
 - SMG Membership and governance focus group
 - SMG Mission Statement Focus Group

I also started to participate in the following groups in 2016:

- Faversham Museum Group

- Heritage Committee
- I continue to work with Visit Faversham as ex-officio on their committee group

Projects:

- The old information boards were taken down and new ones stand in their place in various locations around the town
- Produced the Area Guide for 2017
- Produced the Area Guide for 2017
- New Tourist website was launched www.visitfaversham.org
-

Activities:

- Regular visitor newsletters (electronically)
- Attended:
 - Go Travel Show (London Stadium- 25th February)
 - Excursions Travel Show (Alexander Palace- 28th January)
 - ATTA Literature exchange (Smarden- 28th March)
- Part of the Town Hall Project

Hannah Tilley- Tourism Officer

Faversham Town Twinning Association

With the support of the Town Council's former Mayor, Nigel Kay, an initiative was launched to reform a Town Twinning Association for the Town. A number of public meetings have taken place and a Committee formed. Cllr Peter Flower is the Faversham Town Council representative on the Steering Committee.

Members of the re-launched Faversham Town Twinning Association (FTTA) met their French counterparts in Hazebrouck in January 2017. Ten founder members of the independent association travelled to Hazebrouck, 40 miles from Calais, to meet representatives of Hazebrouck Council. The purpose of the meeting was to extend existing links beyond the two Councils to include cultural, recreational, sports and business organisations. The meeting was an excellent start to

developing a new closer relationship and the aim is to extend Faversham's existing twinning links to a wider range of organisations. In addition, the Association wants to promote tourism and business links between both towns and their districts.

The Association is keen to encourage local groups and societies who would like to link up with similar groups in Hazebrouck, for example, music, art, gardening, football and tennis clubs.

Martine Dauchez, Hazebrouck councillor responsible for twinning matters, was pleased that the meeting allowed the discussion of the two towns' common objectives and we intend to pursue this collaboration in order to develop twinning between the two towns.

The association held a successful fundraising quiz last year and talk on the Presidential Election. A series of further events is being planned to include French wine, beer and food tastings, French film shows and presentations.

Following the January meeting the Mayor of Faversham Cllr Shiel Campbell and members of the Twining Association were invited to attend Hazebrouck's **La fête du lièvre** (The Hare festival). On the last day of the Mi Carême celebration a hare was thrown from the Town Hall balcony for people to catch in exchange for a prize. This custom was cancelled in 1539 as it caused much confusion and many fights. It was recently revived in the form of soft toys hares being thrown from the Town Hall balcony on the last day of the Mi Carême.

Every Faversham resident is eligible for membership of the FTTA. The association has a Facebook page and plans to create an official website soon.

For more information contact: favershamtowntwinning@gmail.com or telephone Councillor Nigel Kay on 01795 531298.

Faversham Voice

Faversham Voice is your chance to have a 'say' on local issues and topics.

The Town Council is putting together a database of email addresses for residents registered to vote in Faversham. Once we have a 2000+ people on this database we intend to send out electronic surveys up to 4 times a year.

The surveys will not take long to complete, but the Town Council thought this would be an excellent way of judging public opinion on matters concerning the town.



So, if you want to have your say on what happens in the town please complete the short sign-up form over the page.



Faversham Voice

I wish to sign up to Faversham Voice. I confirm I am a registered elector of Faversham.

Full Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Email Address:

Tick here if you prefer to receive surveys in paper format

Please return to Faversham Town Council, Alexander Centre, Preston Street or email to Louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk

