

Heritage Hub Report to FTC February 2019

With no expenditure to date the Faversham Museums Together group has made considerable progress. With the failure of the HLF bid progress has been made more slowly but arguably on a more sustainable basis. Only the relocation of the Doddington Library has been funded.

The group has expanded to include additional groups in the town which are developing heritage attractions or actively engaged in initiatives which could contribute to, or benefit from the Heritage Hub.

The objective of the group is to bring together those groups with an interest in heritage to create a shared Heritage Hub to promote the heritage of Faversham and the surrounding villages and to make this heritage more accessible to residents and visitors alike.

The Groups involved

Belmont House	Faversham Town Council	Oare Gunpowder Works
Chart Mills	Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group	Shepherd Neame Brewery Museum
Doddington Library	Faversham Town Walks	Shrine of St Jude
Faversham Creek Trust	Kent Police Museum	St Mary of Charity
Faversham Historians	Maison Dieu	<i>Faversham Cricket Club</i>

The Reading Room

This is now taking shape as planned in 12 Market Place and arrangements are being made to house the Doddington Library there. There have been expressions of interest from academics from Christ Church and Kent University in undergraduate, Masters and PhD research. Registered and supervised students would be able to access and work on the archives in the Reading Room, where the archives being worked on could be stored temporarily. Despite the very considerable efforts of a small but dedicated group of local historians, there is much still to be done on Faversham's and local village history. The Heritage Hub Group needs to list the resources we have available in the town, delineate their relationship to archives elsewhere and perhaps come up with an illustrative of our research priorities for research in the next ten years.

Karen Brayshaw a librarian at the University of Kent and she has expressed interest in visiting. The books are also being listed on the national database.

The GIS Mapping

This is the core Heritage Hub project.

The GIS group at Christ Church have confirmed that our ambition is within their technical competence and that they are keen to partner with us to realise it. They recognise the educational, tourism and research value and will look for academic grant funding to support the work engaging their students in project related to it. They will take responsibility for the technical GIS aspects of the work and for hosting the GIS layers on their servers. We have agreed two initial "projects" as proof of concept:

- a. From Geology to Google (working title only)
A series of layers starting with geological maps through as many historical maps of Faversham and the Faversham Hundred that we have available to us. This will show the history of cartography as well as the evolution of the area. We are beginning work on the list

of maps and gathering together electronic copies. It will always be possible to add additional maps but if you have examples which should be included please send them in now. There is a fair amount of work to be done, beginning in earnest in January and we have a workshop at Christ Church University in early March.

- b. Gunpowder has emerged as the other proof of concept
The idea which emerged from the two evening events focused on Ordnance Wharf and TS Hazard was for a national conference on Gunpowder in Faversham to be held in 2020 in order to re-establish local awareness of the importance of the industry to our heritage. The conference would be run in partnership with Kent and Christ Church Universities and would include a programme of site visits for conference participants and others. Preliminary meetings have been held and efforts will be made to engage the National Maritime Museum and Greenwich University in January.
- c. The next GIS layers are most likely to Religion and Faversham Creek

Our ambition is to have a system which projects a map of the town and its environs on to a large table projection screen. The projection will be flexible and we – museums, schools, youth and adult groups – will be able to add to the content and use it for different purposes at different times, as it would be available online it could be used in universities and schools and for tourism promotion. It could also be used for popular planning.

There are seven principal purposes, to

1. facilitate the development of an integrated view of Faversham's history, one which integrates history and geography;
2. provide a high-quality educational resource for formal and informal education with adults and children and foster community pride in, and understanding of, Faversham's history and heritage
3. connect with the next generation to ensure that our heritage is effectively inherited and valued – that it is perpetuated.
4. provide a resource to attract day excursionists and tourists and contribute to Faversham's prosperity
5. reveal Faversham's links – historical and geographic – in Kent, with London and across the UK and around the world
6. provide a resource which can be used by ICT students in the two secondary schools in Faversham
7. provide a resource for popular planning in a way which enables Faversham to grow in a way which adds to its sense of place and maintains what is special about our town.

The interactive three-dimensional map could

- in its "rest state" provide a three-dimensional map of Faversham showing the main heritage features and attractions
- project the development of the town from pre-history to today
- be used to focus on a particular period – Roman, medieval or Georgian Faversham with additional material on the walls

- compliment our festivals and commemorative events by linking the events with related places in the town and the hinterland.
- show the history of brewing, and the development of the Shepherd Neame brewery in the town and the links with brewing through the centuries
- portray the development of the town around the creek and understand the importance of the creek and our maritime heritage in shaping Faversham and in making the town what it is.
- reveal the history gunpowder (including the addresses of 2,500 gunpowder workers) and brickmaking in the town
- enable children and adults in the town to record short pieces with sound about why particular places and things matter to them – why they are heritage?
- Show the links between Belmont House and Georgian Faversham
- Reveal the links from the origin of the Westbrook, down the creek and through to the Swale and the natural heritage of this remarkable waterway.
- Show the development of Abbey Street through the ages and its conservation
- Recreate the Abbey and its history and show the development of religion in the town

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Faversham Museums Together

16th February 2019