



One of the many delightful tasks that I have undertaken so far has been the opening and prize-giving at the Cinque Ports Mayors' Bowls Tournament. This event has run for over 40 years and each year teams from all of the 15 Cinque Ports enter a two day competition

for a silver trophy cup. Now I have never really played bowls before so it was very interesting to see them all assembling with uniforms and bowling bags etc, and to have the game explained to me (briefly). I was able to play the first ball of the day on Saturday and then I returned on Sunday afternoon to meet with the Mayors from the Cinque Ports towns that were playing and watch the last hour or two of play.

It was wonderful to see that Faversham had won the trophy on its own turf! So, rather than presenting the first prize, I was accepting it instead. Well done to Faversham Bowls team for such a great performance and bringing the trophy home. We have not had the honour of that for many a year and I was as proud as Punch of the whole team and the excellent hosting by the Faversham Bowls Club.

The Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell

Trafalgar Day Sunday 16 October

The Town Council is pleased to be supporting Faversham's Sea Cadets at this year's Trafalgar Day Parade where 250 cadets will march through the town to attend a service at St Mary's of Charity Church at 2pm. The Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL will be taking the salute outside the Guildhall and will be joined by civic dignitaries.



Faversham Local
Engagement Forum
Wednesday 12 October
7pm
The Guildhall

Turning the Tide on the Creek

Once again Faversham Creek was thronged with barges and boats from a bygone era when Faversham was a centre for North Kent's nautical trade. On a weekend blessed with sunshine, five Sailing Barges and the Steam Tug *Barking* assembled between Town Quay and Faversham Reach along with many smaller boats for the fourth annual Nautical Festival and what a spectacle it was.

Edith May, moored on Front Brents jetty, hosted the Track Dogs while the Front Brents Green thronged with market stalls, ice cream sellers, BBQ stands and musical groups as well as a bouncy castle and craft beers. On Town Green and Swan Quay traditional boat repair by Alan Staley, and sailmaking by Wilkinson Sails were on display and the Faversham Sea Cadets did a roaring trade with their BBQs. Twelve bands and singers wooed the crowds with traditional folk music music, encouraged by a supply of champagne and oysters from *Binella* or fine ales from *The Anchor* bar

The Nautical festival has become one of Faversham's fixtures since Lena Reekie arranged the first event four years ago, and hopefully it will go on for many more years. It was a golden opportunity for our 2 – 3000 visitors to be able to look over the interior of the barges, and we are eternally grateful to the owners of *Lady of the Lea*, *Decima*, *Hoop*, *Repertor* and *Edith May* for allowing the general public onto their boats in order to experience and understand something of our nautical heritage.

The event was co-ordinated by Faversham Rotary Club in association with the Brents Community Association and the Faversham Creek Trust and it was the generosity of our sponsors that allowed this event to happen. Faversham Town Council along with Shepherd Neame were principals amongst our many sponsors.

Cllr P Flower

Faversham Carnival Saturday 15 October

The illuminated procession through our historic town centre starts at 6.30pm from the Recreation Ground and goes via Newton Road, Station Road, into Preston Street, Court Street.

Carnival Fun Fair in the Recreation Group opens from Thursday evening, with fireworks after Carnival on Saturday, courtesy of Forrest Amusements.

Come and enjoy this historic parade and welcome the visiting Carnival Courts.

Cllr Bryan Mulhern, President of the Carnival Club

The Allotments



The allotments are back under the umbrella of the Town Council. On Saturday 20th August, the councils' Allotment Management Group, Claire Belsom, Ted Wilcox, Ben Martin and Peter Flower, made site visits to all the allotments and what a wonderful day it was. Earlier in the week rain had been forecast but we awoke to a lovely blue sky, sunshine and a rather blustery wind but at least no rain.

Our first stop of the day was to the North Preston allotment site, tucked away along Broomfield Road, where we met Tracey, Secretary of the Allotment Association at that site. It was great to see such a variety of fruit and vegetables being grown, including a rather sizable pumpkin. Lots of poly-tunnels housing tomatoes, strawberries and chillies, after having a good chat and look around, we headed off for a whistle stop tour of St. Nicholas Road site.

This site at present is not in use and will be a mammoth task to bring back to order, I don't believe I have ever seen a bramble patch so big, it covers the site from one side to the other and is impenetrable. So we walked along the footpaths at either end of it and ate copious amounts of blackberries as we discussed our ideas of how to tackle this situation.

A drive across town then brought us to the Millfield Allotments where we were met by Sandra and her team and order was resumed. Most of the allotments here come off a central path where some scarecrows can be seen keeping the birds under control. It is a beautiful site with some tall trees around its perimeter and it backs on to the solar panel farm and farmland. The site is well maintained and there is a wildlife plot where flowers are grown that will attract insects and where a bee hive is



kept, it also has 3 raised beds where the elderly or physical disabled can have a plot and there is also a shelter. Sandra and her team have some great ideas on how to improve this allotment further. We spent about an hour here as it is a large site.

Our last stop of the day was Stonebridge to meet Sally and Paul chair and secretary of the society. This is a very unique site with its slow moving waterways and it is extremely large, we spent 2 hours here totally enjoying the setting, walking over footbridges and wandering through the labyrinth of pathways. Seeing what different people were growing and having a really good look around from the allotments that were near the waterways to the ones on the bank, discussing everything from the weirs, fruit trees, fencing, gateposts, foot bridges to drainage and crop rotation amongst other things.

What an asset to our town, we are so very fortunate to have these allotments. In the future when there are opening days please visit them and enjoy!



I would like to thank and commend all of the Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers and working groups of all the sites who work so hard and give up so much of their free time so that everyone who has an allotment enjoys it and their community to the full.

Cllr Claire Belsom

Faversham Health Matters

I first became aware of The Faversham Health Matters (FHM) when I was told of the proposed closure of Kiln Court by Brenda Chester, a founder member and the chairperson. I immediately asked how I could help their campaign and on a cold Saturday morning found myself along with Brenda, Anna and Michael Bales, on a stall in the market square talking to people and asking them to sign our petition. So many people of Faversham were unaware of the proposed closure and immediately signed the petition, some telling us stories of loved ones who had stayed there being cared for by the local staff.

All in all over 1000 signatures were collected and there was a public meeting held at the Alexander Centre, attended by more than 200 people where the team from KCC attended. Unfortunately, the strong public opposition to the proposed closure was not enough to stop KCC from pursuing it and Faversham has now lost vital services to the most vulnerable in our community.

The Faversham Health Matters is a group of likeminded people whose interest is the health and social care welfare of Faversham people. It has its own Facebook page, where people can post articles that may be relevant. I now represent the Town Council on this group.

Faversham Health Matters, now a Community Interest Company, came together as a result of the Clinical Commissioning Group announcing the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) in November 2013. After a successful two year campaign the MIU at Faversham Health Centre now has a new provider, open 7 days a week 8am-8pm. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Faversham and the Friends of Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centres it also has an X-ray unit, for use by MIU patients, GP referrals and Cottage Hospital patients.

Recently the fight has been to save Osborne Court, which is a short break residential home for adults with physical and learning disabilities, not just from the town but surrounding area. Again KCC are aiming to close this facility and people will have to travel to Ashford, not an easy task on public transport for people with complex health issues. The adjoining Day Centre is due to close in December.

If you are not familiar with the buildings of Kiln Court and Osborne Court, they are at the top end of Lower Road, opposite each other near Bysingwood Primary School.

With the proposed changes and cutbacks in our NHS and social care services we will face further challenges, so Faversham Health Matters would like to hear from anyone with a relevant expertise, or if you are just passionate about ensuring Faversham, with the planned growth in housing development and population, retains and enhances the services for the wellbeing of everyone for the future.

You can contact FHM on : info@favershamhealthmatters.org or telephone on: 01795 342300.

Cllr Claire Belsom

Seeking a Solution to the Subway - *tackling the anti social behaviour under the railway*



Growing community concern about how we tackle the abuse of the subway under the railway linking The Mall and Preston Street has led to a review of responsibilities and action to ease the problems. Residents report unsightly graffiti, urination, resulting smells and fear of intimidation as deterrents to use.

Although the Town Council has no direct

responsibility, championing the cause of the community has been a priority to understand the issues and ease the problems. Steps have been taken to bring together those who are fighting a difficult battle against the anti-social behaviour that is offending regular users.

The subway is the responsibility of network rail, a local monitoring officer inspects it daily on weekdays and Swale Borough Council contractors clean it on a regular basis. Prior to the Hop Festival the subway was repainted as it was the prime route into town because the St. Catherine's footbridge was closed. Cllr. Simmons has also managed to get a tree in the front of Delbridge House cut down because it was obscuring the CCTV camera at that end of the subway. The challenge now is to obtain a camera at The Mall End of the subway as well. Councillor views are mixed on whether we should tolerate graffiti or remove it. It would be interesting to know community views on this. Since the recent repaint it has been necessary to cover over two pieces of offensive graffiti. The next step is to paint the walls through a stencil which will make the walls less attractive for graffiti.

All the relevant parties have agreed to monitor the situation. The Town Council appeals to those abusing the subway to change their ways and help us to widen pride in our town and its amenities for the benefit of the wider community. Special thanks go to Jim Pearson of the Elephant public house who regularly adds his efforts on a voluntary basis to supplement the cleaning of the subway.

Watling Ward Councillors

News in Brief

Mr John Sell – The Town Council's Planning Consultant since 1993 announced his intention to retire in September. Councillors would like to extend their grateful thanks Mr Sell for his service to the town council.

Town Centre Parking Survey - Faversham Town Council is undertaking a survey on parking around the Guildhall and town centre in general. The survey is available via the council's website and Facebook page, or a paper version can be collected from the office. The deadline for responses is 30 October.

Lift Access to the Guildhall – We are pleased to confirm that a lift has now been installed in the Guildhall and the clock winding service has been resumed. Our thanks go to Viridor Credits in providing the Town Council with a grant to enable the works to go ahead.

Visit Faversham has officially launched a new tourism website www.visitfaversham.org for the town and surrounding area. The association believe the site's comprehensive "What's On" guide will be a valuable tool for residents and tourists alike. Visit Faversham is a collaboration between local tourism businesses and Faversham Town Council and has around 50 members. Businesses wishing to join should contact Hannah Tilley, Tourism Officer via Hannah.tilley@favershamtc.co.uk.

Litter Picking – A very successful litter picking session was held in Faversham on 8 October. The next litter pick will be Saturday 4 March 2017, as part of the Great British Spring Clean. If you are interested in organising more regular litter picks, please contact the office on 01795 503286.

Faversham's Food Festival - Hannah Tilley, the council's Tourism Officer, and Debs Smith of the Faversham Business Partnership, joined in the fun at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party during the Faversham's Food Festival. Hannah played the White Rabbit and Debs was the Queen of Hearts.

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The Future of Your Town Needs You

Faversham, as I am sure you are aware, has to take a proportion of new housing developments, as demanded by central government. The main concerns of the residents of Faversham are traffic, school and doctor places, over stretched utilities, services and infrastructure, rather than the houses themselves.

These concerns are all valid and require a definitive answer from Swale, so instead of fighting amongst ourselves over where the houses and jobs should go we should look at the town as a whole community, working to develop the very best outcome for everyone.

If the townsfolk of Faversham joined together and proposed ideas and needs for the town, which then formed a sustainable proposal to submit to the borough planning department it would demonstrate that the Town is working together to create a future plan and then the developers could be working towards something they know we would approve.

Personally, I would like to see an Ospringe Bypass, this idea has been suggested before, but KCC claim they can't afford it. However, if we worked with the developers and gained the CIL (community infrastructure levy) from them and any other gain we could impose, the road could mostly be financed privately.

What else could we gain? Well with the new road passing behind Ospringe Primary School, perhaps a new access to enable to school to expand. The car park adjacent to the A2 in Ospringe could have a shop and surgery behind it relieving traffic from the Town Centre and Town Surgeries this would reduce pollution and the AQMA (air quality management area) could be lifted.

The Abbey School would have better access through Perry Court than from the A2 allowing the school to expand and provide a new primary school for the town.

Traffic from the villages would have better access to the motorway and not forgetting the amount of local employment that this scheme could produce.

This is just one idea that I have put together, using the conversations I have had with the residents of this beautiful, dynamic, and resourceful town. Have you got any ideas for the future of Faversham? Please email me with your ideas and suggestions.

Cllr Ben Martin

BENCH SURVEY

We are carrying out a survey to find out if there is a demand for benches in a specific area or location.

Having somewhere to sit and enjoy a view or to break up a walk appears to be important to you. We'd like to hear where you think benches might be needed.

Email your suggestions, marked Bench Survey, to us at louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk or cut out this form and return to Faversham Town Council, Alexander Centre, Preston Street.

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Town Council Meetings

Monday 17 October, 7pm
The Guildhall

Monday 14 November, 7pm
The Guildhall

Monday 12 December, 7pm
The Guildhall

Monday 9 January, 7pm
The Guildhall

Dates of other committee meetings can be found on our website

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk



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Where do you think a bench might be needed?