

Newsletter

Summer 2017



Faversham
TOWN COUNCIL

WELCOME

Serving as Mayor last year has been absolutely marvellous, I have kept you updated through this newsletter with some of my engagements as the year has gone on and here we are, the first year over. I was very pleased to be re-elected by my fellow Councillors for the second year of office at Mayor Making on 8 May and I fully intend to make the most of the opportunity to promote the town both from within and from outside.

My Mayor's Charity last year was The Creek Trust, in recognition of their sterling efforts to raise £125,000 as a part payment towards the extra costs to install a swing bridge, as opposed to the fixed bridge which was within Kent County Council's budget to undertake this year. A plan to raise funds from the public, Swale Borough Council and Faversham Town Council to help fund the upgrade to a proper swing bridge was put together and the fundraising began. In 5 months they had reached their target and their deadline. 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.

As my year finished, I was able to donate £3,000 to the Creek Trust, £500 to the Nautical Festival and £250 to the David Smiley Bursary Fund at the Tennis Club.

This year I have chosen two principal charities, the Faversham Carnival Association and Faversham Christmas Lights. In both cases for the reasons that firstly, they bring joy to immense numbers of Faversham people and secondly, to honour the long-serving people who work tirelessly year after year to put on the show.

The Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Shiel Campbell



KALC Community Award 2017 Faversham Hero

Mary Caryer, recently retired Chair of the Arden Theatre Group, was recognised for her work to the arts in Faversham at this year's Annual Town Meeting. Mary was among three finalists whose voluntary work for the town was acknowledged. The other nominees were Steve Sherlock, Chair of the Faversham Christmas Lights and Janet Stickles, former manager of the Pilgrims Hospice shop in West Street.

Mary received a certificate signed by the KALC Chair and the High Sheriff of Kent, together with a voucher for a cream tea for two, kindly donated by Belmont House and Gardens, near Throwley (www.belmont-house.org).

If you know someone who is worthy of becoming the 2018 Faversham Hero, look out for the nomination form in the next newsletter.

The Annual Town Meeting was also supported by the many groups and charities who either received grants or worked in partnership with the Town Council during the past year. The 2016-2017 Annual Report is now ready to view on our website, or hard copies are available from our office or the library.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS

This is something that I have been looking at for a number of months. I think now is the time to share it and ask for your comments. Please take the time to read this article. I think it is a great concept and one that we should look at seriously for Faversham. So.....

What are Community Land Trusts?

There are over 225 Community Land Trusts (CLTs) countrywide and they are popping up all over the place. Our nearest two are The Isle of Sheppey and Cranbrook. To date CLTs have developed over 700 permanently affordable houses and will have developed another 3,000 homes by 2020. CLTs can provide long-term solutions to a variety of local needs, be that affordable housing, public spaces, local economy or social and community enterprises.

A Community Land Trust can be set up by a variety of bodies from the local parish council to a group of professionals or even property developers. There is a very clear and definitive set of criteria that the CLT must follow, but the underlying principle of it, is that it aims to serve the community interests as well as the individual interest.

Why set up a Community Land Trust?

House prices are continually rising, private rents are soaring. People who work in our town are finding it harder to live in our town. It has become a victim of its' own success, with the great rail and road accesses into London.

This is a new idea for us, but not an altogether new concept. There is a long history of community ownership/management in this country. For example: the original Garden Cities had a community trust that owned and managed the assets on behalf of the community.

How it Works

We would need to form a steering group, including individuals with specific skill sets i.e. architects, solicitors financial advisors etc. Then, if the project progresses, the steering group will become the founding board of the CLT. The group will need to decide on what projects it would lead and targets it would wish to achieve such as to develop affordable housing to enable young Faversham families to live and work in their town.

Next is the action plan: get initial support, hold a public meeting, create a membership base, the CLT's legal structure, start looking at sites, collecting evidence of the housing need engaging with developers / housing associations and open a bank account and start fund raising.

I hope this has given you some insight into what a CLT is: if so please visit their website: www.communitylandtrust.org.uk no doubt it will be able to answer any questions you may wish to have answered.

The questions are:

If Faversham had its own Community Land Trust would you support it?

If so, we would like to hear your views. Please write to the Town Clerk, Louise Bareham, louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk or post to our office at the Alexander Centre, Preston Street.

Cllr Claire Belsom



A SpeedWatch Group has now been set up in Faversham. If you are concerned about speeding traffic around the town and would like to volunteer some time, please go onto the website www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk and register. Click to join an existing group and search for Faversham in the drop down list. You will then need to complete an online multiple choice questionnaire, which takes about 30 minutes. Once completed, you will be contacted by the Co-ordinator to arrange some onsite training. When enough people have signed up we can ensure regular SpeedWatch roadside sessions. If you do not have access to a computer, please telephone or drop into the Town Council office.

FAVERSHAM TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In early April Faversham' Mayor Cllr Shiel Campbell attended Hazebrouck's mid-Lent celebrations. La Fête de la Mi-Carême (Carême = Lent) is a traditional Catholic festival dating from the Middle-Ages. Originally celebrated on the third Tuesday of Lent (i.e.Mardi Gras), when people were allowed to **faire gras** (= eat well) on that day as opposed to **faire maigre** (= to fast). Nowadays it is celebrated on the third Thursday in Lent and is extended to the weekend.

In Hazebrouck a few traditions have developed around the Mi-Carême celebrations:

La Fête du Lièvre (The Hare Festival) In Flemish, the language traditionally spoken in Flanders, Hazebrouck means "hare marsh" Originally, a hare was thrown from the Town Hall balcony for people to catch in exchange for a prize but this custom was cancelled in 1539 as it caused much confusion and many fights. Now the custom has been revived and this year the Mayor of Hazebrouck, Bernard deBaecker (pictured below with Mayor Shiel Campbell on his left) threw soft toy hares from the Town Hall balcony

Le lancer de noix: (The throwing of walnuts) This started as a sort of compensation for the suppression of the hare catching. Walnuts, which can easily be kept through winter were thrown in the market place. This tradition has been kept to this day. It is said that walnuts given out on that day will bring you good luck throughout the year.

It is expected that a formal invitation will be issued to Hazebrouck inviting the Mayor and his colleagues to visit Faversham on the Hop Festival weekend.

Martine Dauchez (Deputy Mayor), Bernard Debaecker (Mayor) , Shiel Campbell, Alain Rasschaert (Belgium)



The next events organised by the Town Twinning Association are as follows:

Pop Up French Cinema Night

Tuesday 27 June 2017 at 7.30pm at the West Faversham Community Centre. Film The 400 Blows, in French with English sub titles. Refreshments available from 7pm in restaurant area. Admission £5 members of the Twinning Association and Film Society, £7 non-members.

French Wine Tasting

To be held in the bar area in Alexander Centre on Saturday 7 October 2017. Email favershamtowntwinning@gmail.com for details.

Visit our Facebook page for more information on both events. For information on the Twinning Association contact Nigel Kay on 01795 531298 or email favershamtowntwinning@gmail.com

Town Hall Talks

At 12 Market Place

Free Admission by Ticket Only – please contact Hannah Tilley on 01795 503287

Thursday 22 June, 7pm to 8.30pm

Duncan Harrington FSA, FSG, LHG

Obtaining Faversham's Charters

Thursday 20 July, 7pm to 8.30pm

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh

The Kentish Cinque Ports in the Middle Ages

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12 MARKET PLACE

The Project to establish a new Town Hall for the Town and to create a world class Museum to have exhibitions to attract additional visitors to Faversham continues.

Architects have applied for Planning Permission, on behalf of the Town Council, for alterations to the building to create an accessible first floor Town Council Office and a Seminar Room and storage facilities. On the ground floor there will be a permanent exhibitions centre, an area for a rotating display. There will also be a room for the presentations of films and other audio visual presentations. At all stages consideration of security and climatic conditions are paramount. There will also be the possibility of community use of the building for some of the year.

During the month exploratory visits have been made to Kent Archives in Maidstone and the new Sandwich Town Council Museum.

The timetable is:

June 2017 Invitations to tender sent to builders

July 2017 Planning Permission obtained

September 2017 Builders appointed

February 2018 Building work complete

March 2018 Town Council Office opens

