

## MAYOR'S UPDATE

**Perhaps to start I should say it's wonderful to see Faversham coming back, almost, to its normal self. Nearly all the shops, cafes, pubs, restaurants and businesses are open again, albeit still with some real operating difficulties. The Town Centre is busy again and I do welcome seeing so many families and friends meeting up after being so long apart.**

That brings me to a really important issue. May I offer my personal thanks to all those people who have volunteered their help over the last eighteen months, both continuing to volunteer to keep local organisations going despite all the difficulties, plus all the new volunteers looking after vulnerable people, helping the NHS, delivering food and medications, etc. If there was a National Award for volunteering I think Faversham would have won it.

It is clear the Town's economy is growing again and your Town Council will do all it can to help this. One really important aspect is the Town Hall, which is now the base for the Visitor Information Centre, run by the Faversham Society. It also now houses the Doddington Library in the Reading Room, which is an important local collection, one of the larger books belonged to William Cecil, first advisor to Queen Elizabeth I. 'The Hatch', a new exhibition space, is available for use by Community organisations. And most importantly the displaying of Magna Carta and the other major Royal Charters of Faversham is progressing well and the permanent charter exhibition is scheduled to open in Spring 2022. This is thought to be the most important collection of royal charters of any town in England and it will attract many more visitors to our town.

One event, which has been the most emotional of my time as Mayor, is the unveiling of the NHS and key workers memorial bench outside Bank Street Surgery. It was commemorated on 5th July 2021 with prayers led by my Chaplain Rev. Geoff Cook



*Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham on the new bench with David Harrison and Jane Saunders from NHS Property Services*



*Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham at the launch of the new St. Ayles skiff, Avocet*

and two minutes silence to remember all the NHS and key workers' selfless efforts right through the Covid Pandemic. Representatives were invited from all keyworker organisations in Faversham including doctor surgeries, pharmacies, undertakers, police, fire service, schools, shops, carers and volunteers.

Pride Day was on 21st August at the West Faversham Community Centre's amazing facility. The car park was full of colourful and exciting rides, the halls full of entertainment, a bar plus café. In the garden we had bands, a climbing wall and many stalls. This was I think the biggest event held here and all to celebrate the diversity we enjoy and support in Faversham.

May I just remind everyone how important Faversham Creek is to our Town, we are beginning to make progress in drawing attention to it and pushing for improvements. Launching the St Ayles Skiff, Avocet, built by local volunteers under the expert guidance of Alan Thorne and rowing up the Creek was exhilarating! As a result Faversham Rowing Club has been launched and now has 60 members.

Entering the Creek on the steam tug Barking built in Faversham at Pollocks Shipyard was fabulous, my thanks to Derek and the crew. What comes next? Your Town Council, along with the Creek Trust, is working hard to ensure it will be the new Creek Bridge, which will allow full use of the Creek Basin.

The Town Jetty is back in operation, thanks in particular to the generosity of Brian Pain who has led the refurbishment. There is already a waiting list for boats to moor there.

Finally, I was privileged to attend the Faversham Physic Garden on three occasions, firstly to open the new beautifully designed Moon Garden and secondly the presentation of a wheelchair made possible through money raised by our wonderful Gunpowder WI. A much-needed asset, which will allow the less physically able access to all areas, and lastly the well deserved Faversham in Bloom Awards. I would recommend a visit if you haven't already been, a very therapeutic experience.

*Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham*

# Refugees Helped by Residents

**During July I spoke with Xanthe Hatchwell, a Faversham resident and volunteer with 'Collective Aid'. Collective Aid run one of the largest material aid operations to refugees in Northern France, having taken over an existing project from Help Refugees (Choose Love) in September 2019. They distribute clothing, bedding and other non-food items to displaced people in Calais.**

Since Covid-19 and Brexit, donations and deliveries have been few and far between. Their stock levels were beginning to run extremely low while the number of people increased. With over a thousand refugees forced to sleep rough, with little access to water, food, and shelter, Xanthe asked for help in collecting blankets to help keep people warm and dry.

This was the fourth collection of it's kind that I have helped run supporting different aid charities and as seen in previous coat, tent and sleeping bag collections, the people of Faversham gave generously. Within a week I had managed to fill my car three times with donations from all over Faversham. These included baby blankets, sleeping bags, fleece rugs and newly shop bought donations that would all go over to Calais to help some of the world's most marginalised people - so THANK YOU Faversham for once again coming up trumps in the kindness stakes.

The work that collective aid and other NGOs do is genuinely life saving and you can find out more about how you can support them in what they do at [www.collectiveaidngo.org](http://www.collectiveaidngo.org).

*Cllr Hannah Perkin*



# Youth Climate Panel



**As part of the Town Council's climate emergency declaration, we wanted to make sure we actively worked with young people giving them a voice to help shape council policy, to creating activities that will make a positive difference in the town.**

The vision for the Youth Climate Panel is to work with Faversham Town Council and the community, to help to bring about a low carbon, resilient and attractive Faversham where all people are proud to live and work.

The purpose of the group is to provide a platform for the young people of Faversham interested in climate change issues, environmental issues and biodiversity and the impacts on Faversham and the wider landscape. The panel will allow young people to feed into Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council policies and actions, helping to influence future decisions, whilst providing a link with school environment groups and have climate school ambassadors.

The aim is to open opportunities for young people to get involved with community projects and volunteer roles and organise events and presentations at schools, public meetings or at town events. This will work under the Faversham Youth Council with close links to the Swale Youth Forum and other youth partners within the town and borough.

Young people have the passion and energy needed to highlight the strong actions we need to take on tackling the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. Their voices are vital, and I am excited to see the Youth Climate Panel develop.

We have been talking to young people at the recent Youth Summer Days and are planning a week long climate change exhibition in the Town Hall over October Half Term. There is even a preview evening with free pizza on offer!



Anyone interested in being part of the Youth Climate Panel, can visit the Youth Council website where you can register your details:

[www.favershamyouthcouncil.org](http://www.favershamyouthcouncil.org)

*Cllr Chris Williams*



# LOTTERY UPDATE



**Faversham and District Community Lottery had its first £25,000 jackpot winner at the beginning of August. The anonymous winner was a supporter of Faversham Strikeforce Football Club and like other lottery supporters and players they were motivated by a desire to help a good cause. "As a family, we have always been proactive in supporting the club and by joining the lottery when it started this year, this was another way to do that. I never thought that by doing the local lottery I would win the jackpot though! I would definitely recommend that others get on board and buy a ticket."**

The first jackpot is another big step forward in establishing the lottery as a key partner for local good causes in raising funds. We hope it will encourage more local residents to buy a regular ticket for the weekly draws, which take place every Saturday, and support the continued financial recovery of the local charity and community sector after eighteen months of pandemic and lockdowns.

Since the first draw at the beginning of April, the lottery has more than met our initial expectations, with over £36,000 due to be raised for good causes during the first 12 months of operation, 50 good causes signed up to take part and more than 4,000 prize winning tickets already.

We know that winning the jackpot will make a significant difference to the lucky winner's life, but more important overall is the funding that is now flowing to local good causes. Our lottery gives 60% of its income to good causes, a significantly higher percentage than the big national lotteries like Euromillions, The National Lottery and the Postcode Lottery which only set aside between a quarter and a third of their funds.

The Faversham and District Community Lottery also allows players to choose the specific good cause that they want to support, again very different from other lotteries where funding allocations are controlled by the lottery provider or external organisations. So it is great for residents whose prime motivation is to contribute to charity, or who have a particular organisation they would like to support regularly.

Cllr Julian Saunders & Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham



For good causes the lottery provides a unique opportunity to draw a wider range of supporters into fundraising. Many organisations will have members who aren't attracted to making a regular donation but will be able to manage a pound a week if it gives them the chance to win a prize and support something they care about strongly. Good causes not only benefit from receiving 50% of the profits from ticket sales from their supporters, but also receive a host of bespoke marketing materials and support as well as their own lottery web page.

So if you are an individual wanting to get involved visit [www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk](http://www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk) or ring **01795 467017** now, to find out about buying a ticket or setting up a standing order to play regularly. Tickets are only £1 and as we now know, you could win up to £25,000.

If you are a good cause who is interested remember you can sign up at any time for free. It's very easy to do and all the details are available on the web site – and summarised on a leaflet available on request.

Cllr Julian Saunders



# Creek Bridge UPDATE

**The Town Council has decided to step up the pressure on people in power to restore the working swing bridge the town wants. The bridge across the Creek, linking Abbey ward and Priory ward, should open to allow boats to pass.**



Cllr Antony Hook

It has not opened since the mid-1980s. Repair, and regular dredging, will allow new opportunities for boats to berth in the basin – bringing new visitors and jobs.

Over five years ago, Kent County Council promised to repair the bridge and sluice gates. A large amount of money was pledged by the community towards this. Kent County Council then decided their estimate for the cost was wrong and they refused to provide the difference; they estimate about £2 million is needed.

Kent's position shifted to say that Peel Ports are responsible for the repairs. Peel Ports are a vast corporation headquartered in Liverpool who own several ports. They bought the former Medway Port Authority that was privatised in 1992 and which includes Faversham Creek. Privatisation entailed not only the opportunity to make profits, but also obligations to maintain.

For several years we have gone round in circles. Kent tell us Peel are responsible, and Peel deny that they are. In June of this year we were told to expect progress from a meeting between Peel, Kent and the Ports Minister, Robert Courts MP, at the Department for Transport, but no good news came from this. Peel Ports have arrogantly refused to meet the Town Council or other local stakeholders.

The Town Council does not believe it is acceptable for this important matter to continue to go round in circles. Over the summer we commissioned our own legal advice from a senior barrister with experience in bridge issues.

His professional advice is that we would have very strong grounds to ask a court of law to force the repair of the bridge and sluice gates but that litigation would have a significant cost risk for Faversham taxpayers. The legal advice also identified that the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps MP, has a statutory power (under Medway Ports Act 1973 section 43) to issue an abatement notice against the party neglecting to repair the bridge. An abatement notice would force them to repair it. The Department for Transport has 18,000 staff including large teams of lawyers and analysts, and it's their job to regulate port companies and enforce breaches of the law and it is time for them to do their job here.

We have written to the Transport Secretary to call on him to use the power given to him in the Act, and issue an abatement notice and force Peel Ports to repair our bridge. Faversham deserves this bridge and the opportunities it will bring for generations to come.

*Cllr Antony Hook, Chair of FTC's Creek Working Group*

# Youth Summer Fun Days

On the 18th and 25th of August the youth working group put on two free summer days for the young people of Faversham. Both events were amazingly well attended, with young people and their families being able to take part in a wealth of activities, ranging from a bungee run and rock climbing at the West Faversham Community Centre, to frisbee golf and retro gaming at the recreation grounds.



*"It was great to see so many young people and their families attending this free event."*

*Cllr Chris Williams said*

As the Chair of the Youth Working Group I hope this is a kick start to youth events being a staple of Faversham Town Council events for years to come. Planning is already underway for next year's events, which I promise will be bigger and better than this year and we are also going to try and hold events in more areas of the town that historically have been missed. I want to also emphasise that the information the Town Council received over the two days is currently being collated ready to turn into actions to benefit young people town wide.

We are keen to get feedback from both young people and families who attended the days to plan on how to make them better in the future, so please get in touch via our website at [www.favershamyouthcouncil.org](http://www.favershamyouthcouncil.org) for more information and how to get involved.

*Cllr Josh Rowlands*

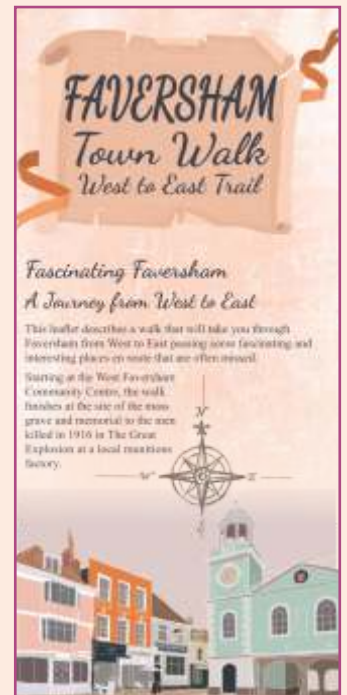


# Highlighting Faversham's best kept secrets

Faversham Town Council have been working hard to showcase the very best Faversham has to offer for both residents and visitors alike. The Town Marketing Working Group have been developing new town trail leaflets, which allow people to enjoy the diversity of features we have here including the historic buildings, lovely old streets, independent businesses, pubs and restaurants and the wider open countryside, particularly along the creek.

Claire Windridge, the Town Council's Visitor and Events Development Officer, has been beautifully recreating a broad range of different walking leaflets to suit all, whether you want a short town walk or a longer walk into the countryside and beyond. These include a 'A Journey West to East' town trail, and a range of new countryside trails, working in conjunction with the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Town Marketing Group sponsored this year's Faversham FiverFest which saw a record number of local businesses and service providers offering products and services for £5 to increase shopping and boosting the local economy. Did you know if every adult in the UK spent just £5 per week in their local shops and businesses it would mean £13.5 Billion per year going into the local economy.



Scan the QR code to download the town trails



## Rotary



If you want to make a difference in your community, start here...

Join like minded people who care about improving the lives of others and making the world a better place, whilst having fun!

JOIN THE  
**ROTARY CLUB  
OF  
FAVERSHAM**

Monday at 6.45pm for 7pm  
Faversham Golf Club

[favershamrotary.org](http://favershamrotary.org)



Sadly because of the pandemic we haven't been able to hold events this year; however The Festival of Transport will be back in 2022, including a great focus on sustainable modes of transport as well as the classic vehicles we all love. There will also be some new events in the pipeline to increase footfall and prosperity in the town centre.

For further information about what to see and do in Faversham and the surrounding area, and to download the town trails, visit [www.visitfaversham.org](http://www.visitfaversham.org).

Cllr Chris Williams

Summer in Swale Exhibition at the Town Hall during August





Following government guidelines, we are nearly back to normal opening times. We are currently open every week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 1pm so please do drop by and come in, to relax, or have a chat over a hot drink and a slice of cake.

From 21st September onwards we will be fully open from 10am – 3pm with our Café fully opening for light bites and lunch time meals, from 12pm -2pm. Tea, coffee and cake will of course still be on offer!

### Courses and Workshops

From September we will be holding several courses and workshops, including art lessons, music sessions, crochet & knitting, yoga, relaxation, French language, mindfulness, craft fun and basic IT skills.

### Rooms for Hire

The Faversham Umbrella building is on three floors and has various sized rooms which are available for hire for birthday parties for children or adults, training sessions for local businesses, music practice, yoga or keep fit workouts. We think you can find a room for almost any occasion and they are available any day of the week. Please contact us for more information and details so that we can work together and provide the right space for your requirements.

### Contact Us

For more details about visiting or to book a room see our Facebook page at: <https://facebook.com/FavershamUmbrella>  
Or ring us or email Sophie or Karen as below:

**Tel: 01795 229143**

**[sophie@favershamumbrella.org](mailto:sophie@favershamumbrella.org)**

**[karen@favershamumbrella.org](mailto:karen@favershamumbrella.org)**

Registered Charity Number 1180736



# IT'S BACK

So save the date  
for the best  
weekend in  
town next May!

**14th-15th May 2022**

**Celebrating transport  
throughout the ages, a  
packed weekend of  
transport related  
activities**

**S**aturday is all about **FREE** vintage  
bus rides around the town with  
commercial vehicles on display

**S**unday is the main car show **FREE**  
entry for visitors

**A** great event for all the family

## Faversham Town Council Calendar of Meetings

Monday 4th Oct	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 4th Oct	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Thursday 7th Oct	7pm	20s Plenty Working Group
Monday 11th Oct	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Working Group
Monday 18th Oct	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 18th Oct	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 25th Oct	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee
Monday 1st Nov	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 1st Nov	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 8th Nov	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Working Group
Monday 15th Nov	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 15th Nov	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 22nd Nov	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee
Thurs 25th Nov	9.30am	Public Spaces Working Group
Thursday 2nd Dec	7pm	20s Plenty Working Group
Monday 6th Dec	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 6th Dec	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 13th Dec	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee
Monday 20th Dec	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee

Please check details of all meetings and how to attend on the Town Council website at [www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings**



**Faversham Town Council Offices**  
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## Faversham Town Council - Staff List

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Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk
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Adam Andrews	Facilities Manager
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The entrance to Faversham Town Council offices is in Back Lane, please ring the call button to be admitted. Town Council opening hours are Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

# Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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\*\* Kent County Councillor