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- Faversham Gets Active



FAVERSHAMTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

A Year as Mayor

Cllr Josh Rowlands, Mayor of Faversham

It has been a real pleasure to represent Faversham as Mayor this past year. Some eyebrows were raised when I was elected due to my age, but I want to thank all the residents who have supported me and made this year so special.

Events I attended have been as varied as ever from supporting the Faversham Carnival and Hop Festival, along with other town council events. Of course, being mayor has meant attending events outside of Faversham too, the highlight of these was representing the town at the installation of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in Dover. But we were also lucky to see history being made in Faversham with the installation of the High Sheriff of Kent, Jonathan Neame, taking place at St Mary of Charity in Faversham. My fellow councillors and I wish him well and every success in his year in post,

Finally, a large part of being the Mayor of Faversham is raising money for my chosen charities, last year I chose Keep Talking Services and Abbey Physic Garden. I am so pleased to say through events and generous donations from the public we raised £9,000! This year I have chosen Strode Park Foundation and Faversham Strikeforce as my charities.



Cllr Josh Rowlands, Mayor Faversham, with the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Sir George Zambellas and his wife Lady Amanda

As Mayor of Faversham, I would be delighted to be invited to your event, please contact **Adrienne Begent** for more information on **01795 503286**.

Faversham Cinque Ports

Cllr Trevor Martin

Faversham holds a distinctive place in history as one of the original Cinque Ports. The Cinque Ports Confederation, a unique alliance of coastal towns in Kent and Sussex, was originally established in the 12th century to support the crown by providing ships in times of war. Faversham's inclusion in this esteemed group underscores its historical significance and maritime heritage.

The Mayor Cllr Josh Rowlands invited me to join him when making a podcast with the Society for Nautical Research 'The Mariners Mirror' about Faversham's Maritime history and how being a Cinque Port still affects the Town.

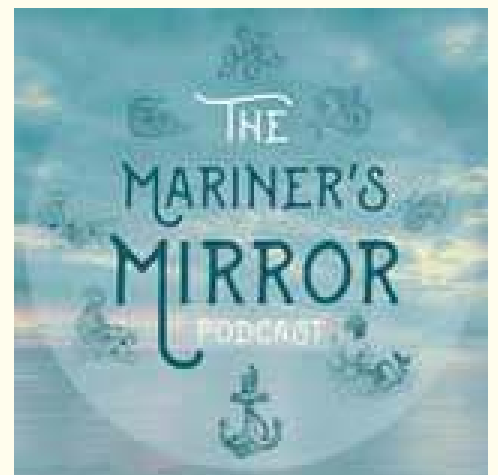
The Cinque Ports are often referred to as the Cradle of the Royal Navy. As such the Lord Warden, Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle is a direct appointment of the King as it was the Cinque Ports who were in effect the Royal Navy providing ships when needed for some 300 years.

Today, The Confederation consists of 14 towns all of whom are unique but share a common bond looking to help each other particularly with tourism and those maritime links.

Faversham's designation as a Cinque Port is a testament to its enduring importance in England's maritime history. The town's contributions to trade, defence, and industry have left an indelible mark on the region. As Faversham continues to thrive, this rich heritage remains a source of pride and inspiration for residents and tourists alike.

You can listen to The Mariner's Podcast on Spotify at <https://spoti.fi/4kwGCrc> or via your preferred podcast platform.

More information on the Confederation of the Cinque Ports can be found here <https://cinqueports.org/>.



Next Steps Forward for Pedestrians

Cllr Julian Saunders

Kent Highways (KCC) have now completed the construction of the Cross Town Walking Route running from Lower Road to Faversham Rec.



Cross Town Walking Route running from Lower Road to Faversham Rec.

The central government funded project which includes two new zebra crossings, narrowed road junctions and additional traffic calming is a big step forward in encouraging compliance with the town wide 20mph scheme and creating a safer environment for pedestrians.

However, there are still a significant number of locations where residents have difficulty crossing local streets and remain concerned about the speed of traffic and over the last year the Town Council has been starting to develop fresh plans for additional projects helping pedestrians move round the town more quickly and safely.

Development funding from KCC has allowed us to have some initial work done on a North South Walking Route running from Abbey School through the Town Centre to the Creek Bridge and onto the Brents and North Preston. As part of this we have been able to commission some detailed design work for a zebra crossing on Cross Lane and pedestrian improvements on Partridge Lane which will particularly help residents coming from the Brents and in North Preston and improvements at the Bramblehill Road/Bridge Road and Briton Road/Forbes Road junctions. Separate discussions have also been taking place with the County Council over introducing a surface level crossing on the A2 London Road.

Construction of these designs and other elements of a North South route went into the Town Council's submission for support from the Active Travel consolidated funding that KCC have received from Active Travel England. Getting feedback on these ideas is key and later in the year we plan to have a public exhibition presenting the ideas for a North South route and displaying the designs which have already been developed.

Neighbours by chance. Working together by choice. We make this a better place to live. Together.

One of Faversham Town Council's ambitions in this coming year's Action Plan is to promote the expansion of the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes throughout Faversham, working in conjunction with the Citizens in Policing team. There are currently 7 schemes across Faversham, but many areas are yet to be covered.



Neighbourhood Watch is the largest volunteer-led crime prevention charity in the country, working in communities to support them in being safer, more resilient places to live. They provide resources, projects and networks that support volunteers and communities to work together to prevent crime, raise awareness around safety initiatives and community resilience, and connect neighbourhoods.

We want to build on the community spirit seen during Covid lockdowns, where neighbours looked after neighbours, and are actively seeking more volunteer co-ordinators to set up schemes in their area – it could be a single street, an apartment block or a wider residential area. If a scheme is already in your area – find out how you can be part of it.

Evidence has shown where residents work together in Neighbourhood Watch schemes, antisocial behaviour has seen a decline.

If there isn't one in your area and you would like to set one up, please contact Louise Bareham on 01795 503286 or louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk to discuss further.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the residents of Faversham who joined us for the Neighbourhood Watch engagement session on 12th April. Your warm welcome and active

participation made the event a great success, and it was fantastic to see so many people taking an interest in keeping our community safe and connected.

Neighbourhood Watch is all about community spirit, getting to know your neighbours, looking out for one another, and working together to prevent crime. Small actions, such as checking in on a neighbour, reporting anything suspicious, or simply being a visible presence on your street, can make a big difference. When we stay alert and informed, we help create an environment where crime is less likely to take hold. By continuing to be an active member of your Neighbourhood Watch scheme, you're not only helping to deter crime, you're also building stronger bonds with those around you. This sense of community makes Faversham a safer and more welcoming place for everyone.

Just a friendly reminder: if you witness an incident that is an emergency, where a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, please dial 999 without hesitation.

Additionally do also take a look at the Kent Police website for volunteering opportunities, volunteering with Kent Police allows for a wider work force that best represents the communities it serves. With valuable input from volunteers, Kent Police can continue to grow and serve in the best way possible.

Sam Brookes, Volunteer Watch Liaison Officer

Kent Police, Citizens in Policing Team - samuel.brookes@kent.police.uk



Faversham Hopper

It's better by bus!

Did you know we accept:

- KCC Child Travel Saver Bus Pass
- KCC 16+ Travel Saver Bus Pass
- KCC & National Older Person's Bus Pass
- KCC & National Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- KCC & National Disabled and Companion Bus Pass



or alternatively our fares are:

- £2 around Faversham and Oare
- £3 to and from the Villages
- cash and cards accepted



FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL



Faversham Hopper

Your Local Community Bus Service

Need a reliable, local bus service to get you where you need to go? The Faversham Hopper is here to help!

Serving key areas in Faversham, including the Town Centre, Lower Road, Love Lane, and ALDI, as well as our rural communities in Oare, Newnham, Doddington, and Lynsted, .

A local bus service **open to everyone**, whether you're commuting, shopping, or visiting friends. Operated by volunteer drivers and supported by local councils. **Wheelchair-accessible minibus running on a fixed timetable.** Affordable fares, with concessionary bus passes accepted!

Want to join our amazing group of volunteer drivers?
To volunteer all you will need is to be enthusiastic about supporting your local community, be aged over 30 and have Category D1 on your licence*

Telephone 01795 803286 or email: hopper@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk for more information



£2 around Faversham & Oare £3 to/from the villages



FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Wedding Ceremonies at The Guildhall

Nestled in the heart of Faversham's historic Market Place, the Guildhall offers a distinctive setting for intimate weddings.

Originally constructed in 1574 as a market hall, this Grade II listed building exudes centuries of charm and character. The Council Chamber, adorned with portraits of past mayors, provides a unique backdrop for civil ceremonies and partnerships, accommodating up to 50 guests, including the couple.

Available for bookings seven days a week, the Guildhall allows couples to exchange vows amidst the vibrant atmosphere of market days, adding a lively touch to the occasion.

We have been delighted with the feedback from some of our recent wedding couples.

"We want to say thank you for all your help with our wedding at the Guildhall two weeks ago. We had the most wonderful day, everything was perfect, and we particularly appreciated your supportive, calm guidance in the planning of it. Thank you."

Tracey and Gordon

"Just a short note to thank you for everything you did in connection with our wedding last Tuesday, from our initial meeting through to our departure after the event. We had a fabulous day and all of our guests loved the opportunity to be part of our ceremony in such an iconic location."

Jeremy and Patricia

In March 2025 the Guildhall hosted a very successful Wedding Fair featuring a variety of local suppliers, an additional Wedding Fair is scheduled for Saturday 13th September at 10am and we would be delighted to discuss your wedding requirements with you.

For more information on how we can help you plan your perfect wedding at the Guildhall, call:

Rob on 01795 503286 or email: weddings@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.



Erika and Ian



Ed and Dylan

Report from Faversham's Town Ranger

Faversham's Town Ranger, Joseph, has been busy over the past year helping to improve the local environment through a series of litter picks in different areas of the town and helping to co-ordinate the Faversham Recreation Ground volunteers.

The Faversham Rec volunteers have been engaged throughout the year on a number of tasks including planting flower beds, planting trees, and restore benches.

Joseph has planted and helped to maintain the numerous flower planters around town, helping to ensure they provide a vibrant welcome to residents, and visitors, to the town at all times of the year.

Assisting the Facilities Manager, Joseph, has helped to set up the Town Council's latest allotment site at Perry Court, and throughout the year assists all the allotment sites with general maintenance assistance and helping to recruit new tenants.

Joseph has worked to remove graffiti from public spaces to help ensure that problem areas are cleaned quickly and reducing the likelihood of recurrence.

Other general tasks have included assisting the Facilities Manager with general maintenance of the Town Council's buildings, including the project to repair and repaint the frontage of the Town Hall building.

As with the rest of the Town Council's staff, Joseph has been busy helping act as a Marshal at the many town events throughout the year including the recently held Faversham Festival of Transport, which attracts many visitors to the town every May.

If you notice an area of environmental concern and feel that Joseph can help, please contact him on **01795 503286** or by email: joseph.hannah@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.



Shaping Our Community's Future

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Town Council will be carrying out a series of surveys to help shape the future of our community, in light of the proposed local government reorganisation.

Our first survey focused on travel habits - where residents travel for work, leisure, and medical appointments. The findings from this survey broadly aligned with expectations and helped to confirm existing assumptions about local movement patterns. When residents travel outside of Faversham, the majority of journeys are made in an easterly direction, predominantly towards Canterbury.

The Town Council will be considering the current four models of local government reorganisation and intends to argue that the residents of Faversham feel more aligned with the east of the county rather than the north or west.

Our second survey asks how much you value local services and community assets in Faversham. Your responses will help guide the Town Council's position in any future discussions or consultations about local government changes. While the details of the reorganisation remain uncertain, we're committed to ensuring that your views inform our decisions.

We'll continue to ask for your input through future surveys, so please do take a moment to complete them, either online or by returning paper copies to the Town Hall. Your voice truly matters and helps shape the decisions we make on your behalf.

The survey can be returned by hand to 12 Market Place or placed in an envelope and posted to:
FREEPOST Faversham Town Council no later than 31st August 2025.

Faversham Town Council - Shaping our Community's Future Survey

1. How important is Faversham Recreation Ground to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. How important is King George V Playing Field, The Mount, to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. How important is Oare Gunpowder Works to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. How important are small neighbourhood parks and open spaces such as those in Bysing Wood Road, Millfield, and Whiting Crescent? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. How important is Faversham Library to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6. How important is the Family Centre at Bysing Wood to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7. How important are events in the Town Centre to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. How important are the public conveniences in Central Car Park to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9. How important are public conveniences at Faversham Rec to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10. How important are the public conveniences at Oare Gunpowder Works to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11. How important are clean footpaths and streets to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12. How important are streets free from graffiti and flyposting to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

13. How important are streets free from litter to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

14. How important are well maintained litter bins to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

15. How important are well maintained floral displays and planters to you? 1 being not at all and 10 extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

16. How important are clean signs and street names to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

17. How important are well maintained benches to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

18. How important is free parking after 6pm to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

19. How important are safer streets to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

20. How important is CCTV to you? 1 being not at all and 10 being extremely important.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

21. Please tell us your age range:

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+

22. What gender do you identify as?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Not listed ☐ Prefer not to say

23. Please indicate the 5th digit of your post code – ME13 *

Visit by the Grolier Club

Justin Croft

On Monday 12th May Faversham received a visit from 20 members of New York's Grolier Club, a society of book lovers founded in 1884.

Members of the Grolier Club include prominent American librarians and trustees of museum and library collections. Our American visitors were eager to see our Magna Carta. They enjoyed a special tour of the Charters exhibition and were shown the books of the Doddington Parish Library, housed in the town council offices. They learned a little more of the history of Faversham during lunch in the Guildhall, before heading to Canterbury to visit the cathedral library.



Members of the American Grolier Club visiting Faversham's Magna Carta exhibition

Their Faversham visit was part of a week-long tour of English libraries, which included a visit to the Royal Library at Windsor and to the annual rare book fair in London's Saatchi Gallery. While they were very impressed with the world-class importance of Faversham's ancient documents and the way in which they were displayed, they were especially struck by the expertise, enthusiasm and dedication of the team of volunteers who look after them. Several of them told us that their visit to Faversham was one of the highlights of the week and how much they were inspired by the level of community engagement — they hoped they could apply some of what they experienced in Faversham to their own projects in the United States.



Members of the American Grolier Club visiting Doddington Library in the Town Hall

High praise indeed from a group used to working with well-funded and prominent exhibitions in American museums, and confirmation that we have something very special to be proud of here in Faversham. The Grolier Club have made a significant donation to the Charters and Doddington library project as a token of thanks.

Faversham 2025: What's On – Highlights and Upcoming Events

Faversham is buzzing with activity in 2025, offering a fantastic calendar of events for families, locals, and visitors alike.

Our most recent big event was the hugely popular Faversham Festival of Transport, held over the weekend Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May. Hundreds of people flocked to the town centre to enjoy an impressive display of vintage cars, classic motorcycles, steam vehicles, and heritage buses. With live music, children's entertainment, food stalls, and heritage bus tours, the festival delivered a brilliant atmosphere and celebrated the town's proud transport heritage. The event returns next year on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May 2026.

Next on the calendar is the return of the Faversham Pirate Festival on Sunday 13th July 10-6pm at The Town Quay and Front Brents. Now in its second year, this lively event brings swashbuckling fun to the town with music, games, pirate-themed entertainment such as Cannon displays from the Sheppey Pirates and appearances from Captain Jack Sparrow himself. It promises a fantastic day out for the whole family.

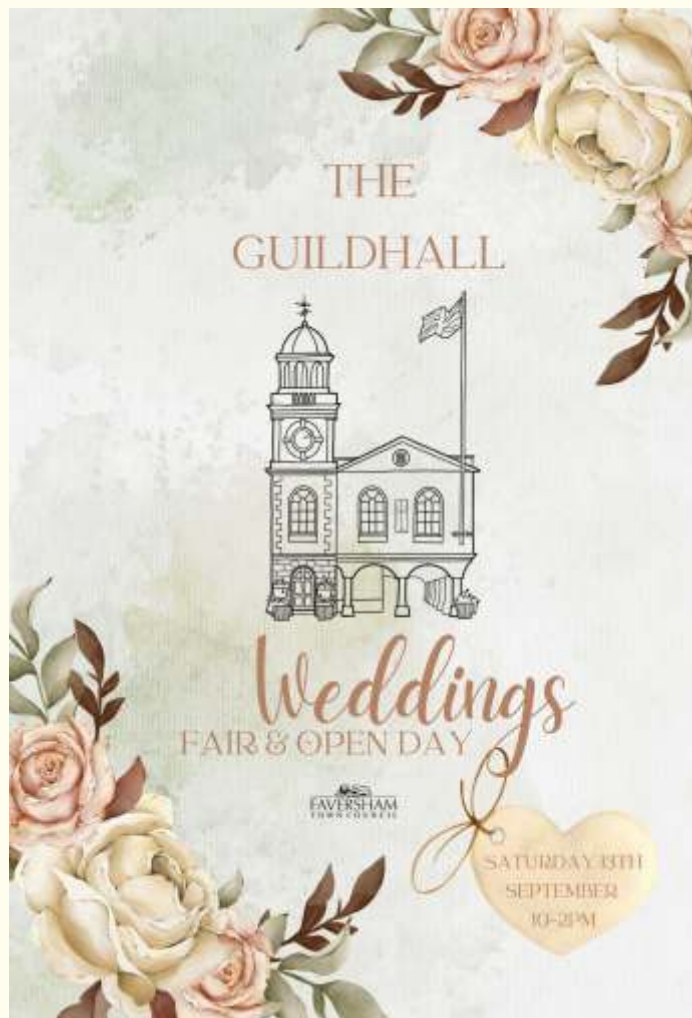
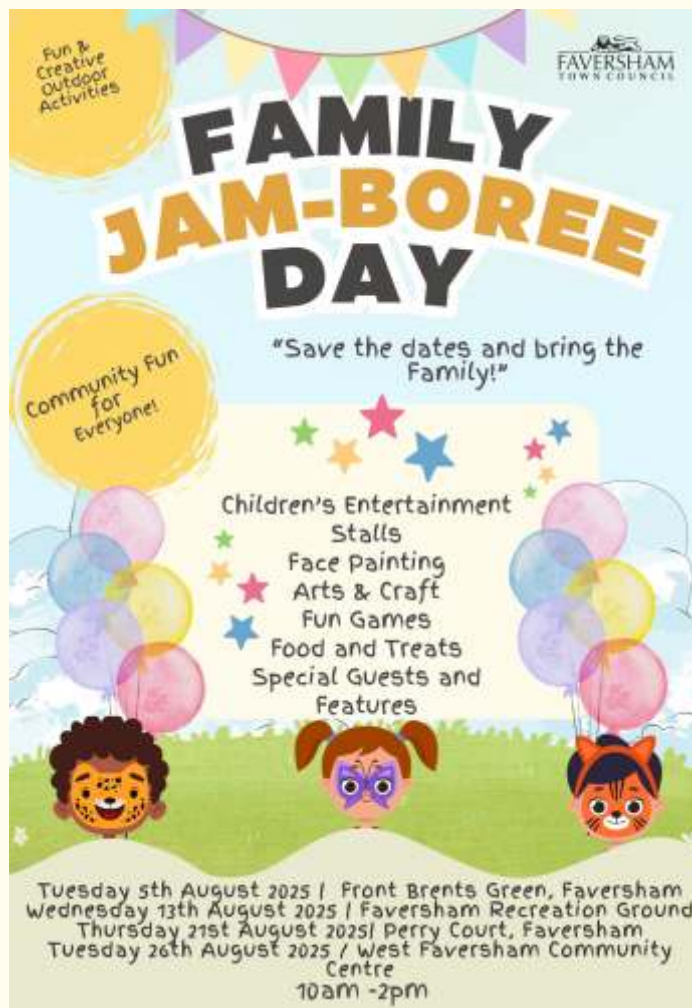
New for 2025, the Family Jamboree Days add even more fun, with themed entertainment, workshops, and pop-up performances that bring the community together in a vibrant, creative atmosphere. These free events include face painting, crafts, games, and entertainment —perfect for keeping the kids entertained during the school holidays.

Looking into autumn, the much-loved Medieval and Tudor Faversham returns, offering reenactments, stalls, and hands-on history.



Experience the magic of Faversham—where history and fun unite!





Flying High for Pride and Freedom

Cllr Josh Rowlands, Mayor of Faversham

Flying the Pride and Ukrainian flags from Faversham Town Council buildings is a powerful act of solidarity and local leadership, particularly in light

of Kent County Council's decision to stop doing so. These flags represent more than symbolism—they reflect a commitment to inclusion, support, and international human rights.



The Pride flag stands as a visible commitment to equality, respect, and safety for the LGBTQ+ community. In a time when hate crimes and discrimination remain a reality, visibly supporting Pride sends a strong message that Faversham is a welcoming and inclusive place for all residents, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. It shows that the town values diversity and is proud to stand up for its LGBTQ+ community.

Similarly, flying the Ukrainian flag is a demonstration of solidarity with a sovereign nation facing invasion and ongoing humanitarian crisis. While the war in Ukraine continues, with thousands displaced and civilian lives affected daily, symbolic support from communities around the world remains deeply meaningful. It communicates empathy, awareness, and a recognition of the global stakes involved in upholding democratic values and human rights.

By continuing to fly both flags, Faversham Town Council can differentiate itself as a compassionate, progressive, and community-focused authority. It's a reminder that even small towns can make a stand and show the world what values they hold dear—especially when others step back. At a time when silence can be misconstrued as indifference, flying these flags is a simple but profound statement of unity, care, and moral clarity.

Faversham Gets Active

Faversham's Active Travel Month was a resounding success, celebrating walking, wheeling, and cycling across the town.

Faversham's Active Travel Month was a resounding success, celebrating walking, wheeling, and cycling across the town. The enthusiasm kicked off on Sunday 1 June with the Active Travel Day at Faversham Rec, featuring all-ability cycling, static bike challenges, guided walks and a stand from SwaleCycle-re-Cycle offering affordable bikes for just £10, refurbished by HMPSwaleside.

Throughout June, the town buzzed with energy from a creative Stroll, Snap & Sketch session, alongside walks through Oare Marshes, Ham Marshes, historic town trails, and themed routes like the cross-town walk. Other highlights included a puncture-repair workshop helping cyclists stay on the road and women's wildlife walk. Our thanks to the Faversham Walking with History Guided Walks, Faversham Footpaths Group, Bird Wise, Boots on Adventures, Swale Borough Council and Cycling UK for their support.

This vibrant festival built upon Faversham's introduction of a town-wide 20mph limit and improvements to walking pathways under the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), reinforcing the council's commitment to safe, active journeys. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many locals appreciating the chance to rediscover the town, make new friends, improve fitness, and enjoy the mental wellbeing benefits of time outdoors.



Faversham Town Council has become White Ribbon Accredited in recognition of their commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls.

Faversham Town Council is committed to working towards ending men's violence against women by becoming White Ribbon Accredited, aligning with White Ribbon UK, the leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women.



As a White Ribbon Accredited organisation the town council will deliver a comprehensive multi-year plan to transform our staff culture, systems, and the wider community we operate in.

Some of the actions that have been taken include appointing officers and councillors as Ambassadors to advocate positive attitudes and behaviour and raising awareness within our local community.

Cllr Josh Rowlands, Mayor Faversham said "Becoming White Ribbon Accredited is an important step for Faversham Town Council in our commitment to ending violence against women and girls. This accreditation is not just a badge, it's a pledge to take real action, challenge harmful attitudes, and create a culture of respect and safety within our community. We are proud to stand alongside White Ribbon UK in this vital work and encourage everyone in Faversham to be part of the change."

MEETING CALENDAR 2025				
	Start Time	Jun	Jul	Aug
Town Council (2 nd Mon)	7pm	9	14	11
Planning Committee (2 nd and 4 th Mon)	6pm	9 23	14 28	11
Active Travel Committee (1 st Thurs)	7:30pm	5	3	
Community Committee (3 rd Mon)	7:30pm	16	21	
Environment Committee (2 nd Wed)	7:30pm	11	9	
Heritage, Buildings, and Creek Committee (1 st Wed)	7:30pm	4	2	
Policy & Resources Committee (1 st Mon)	7:30pm	2	7	

ABBEY WARD Cllr Josh Rowlands (Mayor of Faversham) Cllr Laura Coniam Cllr Charles Gibson* Cllr Hannah Perkin*	PRIORY WARD Cllr Alex Eyre* Cllr Peter Cook
ST ANN'S WARD Cllr Rob Crayford Cllr Kieran Golding* Cllr Robert Newman Cllr Julian Saunders	WATLING WARD Cllr Becky Jones Cllr Ben Martin Cllr Claire Martin (Deputy Mayor)* Cllr Ben Martin*
Cllr Carole Jackson* SBC Member only, for St Ann's Ward carolejackson@swale.gov.uk	Cllr Antony Hook KCC Member for Faversham Antony.hook@kent.gov.uk

* Swale Borough Councillors

All Town Councillors can be contacted through the office on **01795 503286** or our website has details of their email addresses **www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk**.