FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Winter 2025

NEWS

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- Howl-O-Ween Fun
- South East England in Bloom
- Upcoming Events

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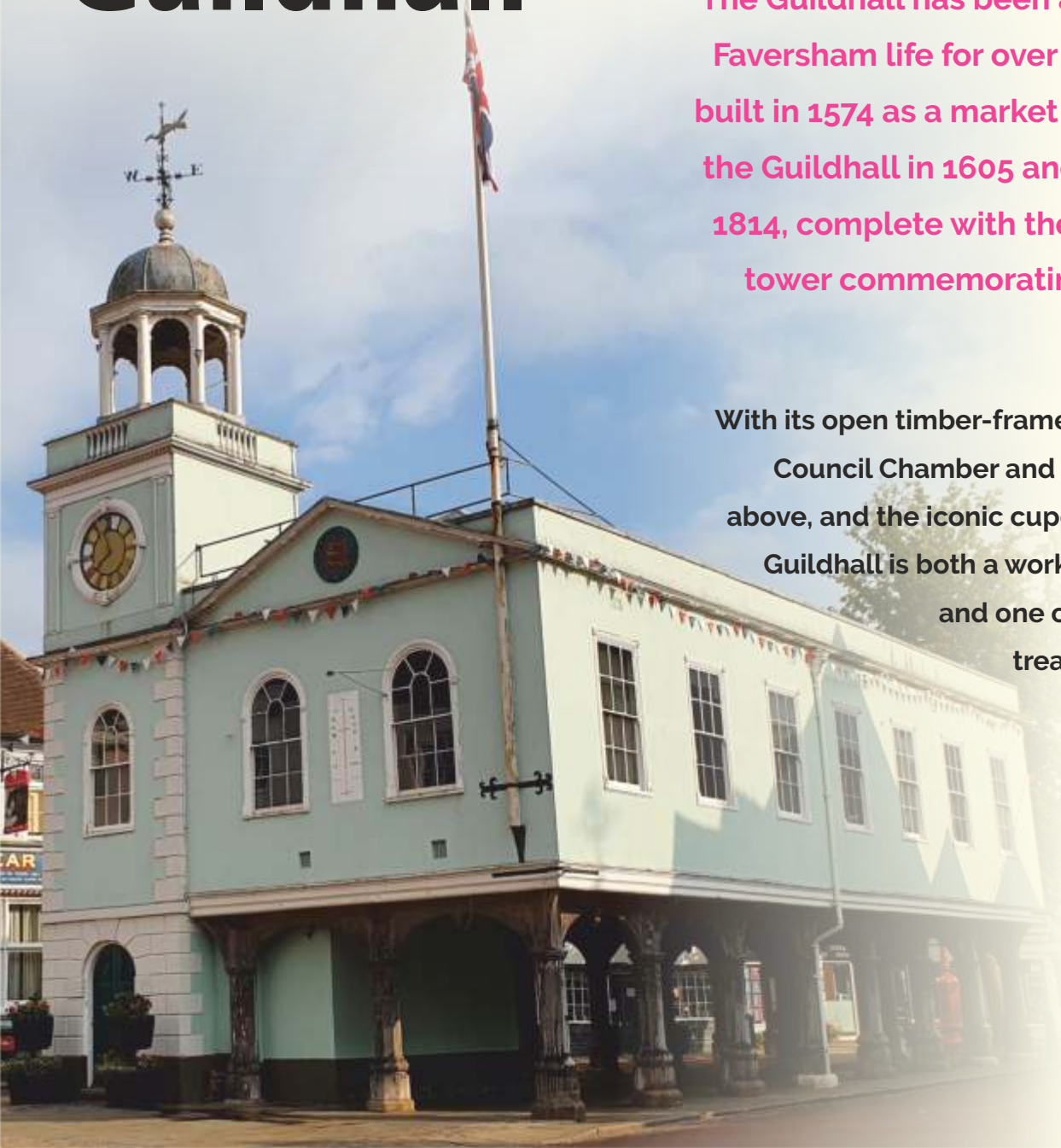
Preserving Faversham's Guildhall



The Guildhall has been at the centre of Faversham life for over 450 years. First built in 1574 as a market hall, it became the Guildhall in 1605 and was rebuilt in 1814, complete with the elegant clock tower commemorating the Battle of Waterloo.

With its open timber-framed market arcade, Council Chamber and Committee Room above, and the iconic cupola and clock, the Guildhall is both a working civic building and one of the town's most treasured landmarks.

Like all historic buildings, the Guildhall requires careful stewardship. The Town Council recently commissioned its five-yearly Quinquennial Inspection Report, which highlights essential repairs. These range from urgent tasks to longer-term improvements:

- ***Urgent works*** (low to medium cost): clearing and repairing leaking gutters and downpipes; removing unsuitable plastic bird deterrents; testing roof insulation for asbestos; and upgrading fire doors.

- ***Within 12 months*** (low to medium cost): detailed roof and elevation inspections, including localised lead removal; assessing the condition of the plaster town coat of arms; temporary repairs to defective leadwork; and improving evacuation facilities for people with disabilities.

- ***Within 12–24 months*** (medium to high cost): repairing or replacing slipped slate roof coverings; repairing or replacing decayed timber to windows, cornices, and cupola; redecorating external render, ironwork, and timber, upgrading the rainwater disposal system; and reinstating the clock with an automated mechanism.

- ***Within 5 years*** (medium cost): improving the building's thermal performance; repairing the arcade's historic oak columns and stone plinths; restoring the town clock and bell; and repairing defective plaster in the Committee Room and entrance lobby.

These works are essential to protect the Guildhall's fabric, prevent further decay, and ensure it remains a safe and accessible space for the community in the future.

Carrying out these repairs will require financial investment. The Council's regular budget cannot meet the full costs, so Faversham Town Council will need to apply for a loan of £200,000 from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This scheme allows councils to borrow funds at low interest rates to safeguard community heritage and infrastructure. The repayments will be paid from the precept.

Before any decision is made, the Council is asking for residents' views. Your support is vital. Protecting the Guildhall is not just about repairing a building, it is about safeguarding Faversham's heritage and civic heart for future generations.

Full details of the Quinquennial Report and proposed works are available on the Town Council website and at the Council offices. Please share your views on the proposal to take out a Public Works Loan to fund these essential repairs.

Together, we can ensure the Guildhall continues to stand proudly in the Market Place for centuries to come.

Have Your Say – Please return this slip to Faversham Town Council, 12 Market Place, Faversham ME13 7AE either in person or by Freepost Faversham Town Council by 31st January 2026.

I support Faversham Town Council applying for a Public Works Loan to carry out the essential repairs to the Guildhall, as set out in the Quinquennial Inspection Report.

☐ Yes, I support the proposal

☐ No, I do not support the proposal

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Email (optional): .....

Alternatively, please complete the online questionnaire using the following link or QR code:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/guildhallrestoration

Ham Marshes Judicial Review - Update

As we write this, the Court is still considering our application for permission to proceed with the Judicial Review into the Ham Marshes development. This first stage is being decided "on the papers" meaning without a hearing, and the judge may grant permission on all, some, or none of the grounds we've put forward.

If permission is granted, the case will move toward a full hearing, which is likely to take place sometime between January and May 2026, depending on court availability. If permission is refused, our legal team will have a short window to decide whether to request a renewal hearing before a different judge.

In the meantime, we continue to prepare for all possible outcomes and are incredibly grateful for the community's ongoing support. The Judicial Review is a vital opportunity to ensure that the decision-making process for Ham Marshes is fair, transparent, and environmentally sound.

We are still seeking pledges to help cover future legal costs.

Please visit our website for the latest updates and information on how to pledge your support:
https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/save-ham-marshes/

You can make a pledge of money here:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SaveHamMarshes

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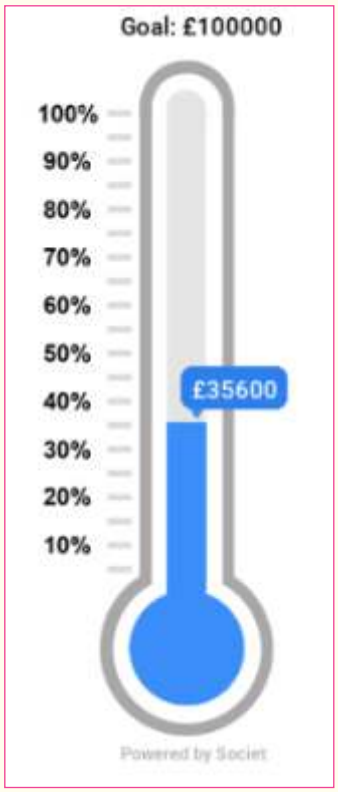
BE UPDATED
ON 10.11.25



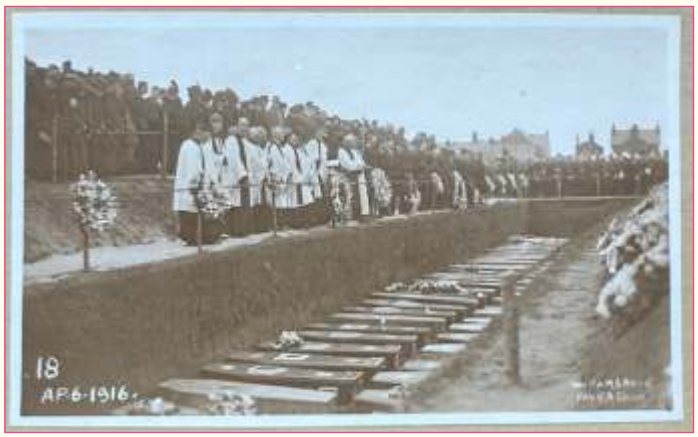
The Great Explosion

110th Anniversary *by Cllr Hannah Perkin*

On 2 April 1916, during the height of the First World War, a devastating explosion ripped through the Uplees gunpowder works on the outskirts of Faversham. More than 100 workers, many of them local people, employed to produce munitions for the war effort were killed instantly. The blast was so powerful it shattered windows 20 miles away and left a vast crater in the marshland. The event was one of Britain's worst industrial accidents.

Working with the Faversham Society we are looking to honour the memories of the people that went to work that day and never came home and the people that rushed to help despite the dangers they faced personally. We will building on some of the incredible volunteer research to bring together a number of events in April 2026 to commemorate the 110 year anniversary of the explosion.

A photographic exhibition "echos of an explosion" that ties the present with the past will run alongside other events organized by the Faversham Society and others. We will be contacting people in the Faversham that now live in houses that the workers left from that day and never returned. Please look out for your letter in the post.



KALC Community Award 2026 Nomination Form - Faversham

The KALC Community Awards Scheme provides recognition and acknowledgement to individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to their local community.

The objective of the Scheme is to highlight and celebrate those whose actions have positively impacted their local area. By recognising these individuals or groups, local councils can demonstrate the value of their community service and encourage greater involvement.

Any individual or group may be nominated, provided they live or work within the boundary of Faversham.

Your Details

1. Name:

2. Email Address or Telephone Number:

3. Your relationship to the nominee (e.g. member of the same community group):

4. Is this a nomination for an individual or a group? (Individual / Group):

Nominee's Details

5. Individual's Name or Group's Representative:

6. Name of Group (if applicable):

7. Email Address or Telephone Number:

8. Please describe on a separate sheet why this person deserves to be nominated for the KALC Community Award. Examples include:

a) Long and sustained service to the community or part of it.
b) Inspiring achievements or actions benefiting the local community.
c) Activities that have brought benefit, recognition, or credit to the area and its people.

Use a separate sheet if necessary.

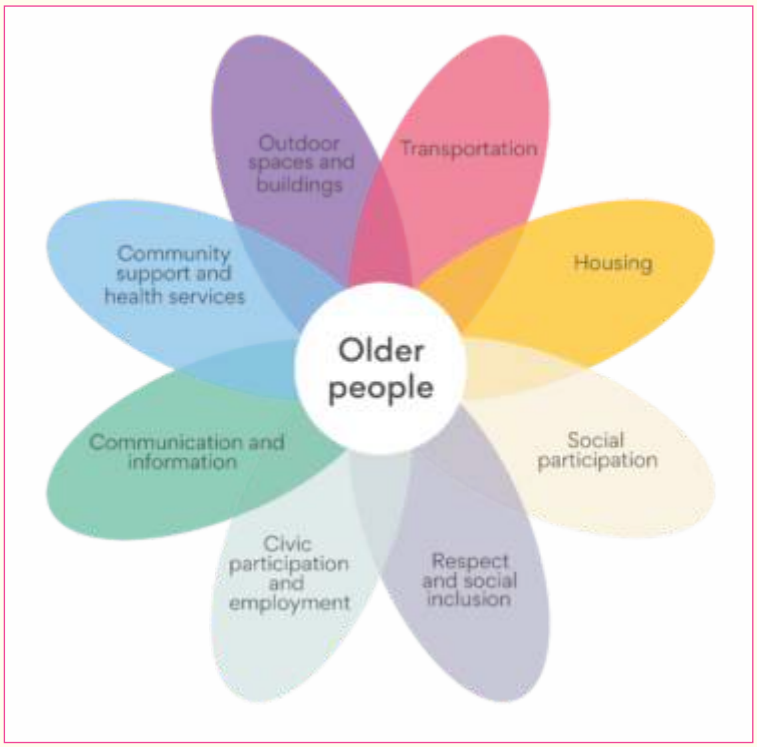
All nominations will be reviewed by Faversham Town Council, whose decision on the KALC Community Award recipient will be final. The winner will be invited to join the High Sheriff of Kent, Mr Jonathan Neame DL, at the Celebration Evening at the Shepherd Neame Brewery on 8th April 2026. The form may be completed online here https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KALC2026

Forms can be sent to FREEPOST Faversham Town Council or dropped into 12 Market Place.

Deadline to receive nominations: 6th January 2026.

Age-Friendly Faversham

The Town Council is taking important steps toward making Faversham an Age-Friendly Town and has committed to make *Faversham a place where people of all ages, particularly older residents, feel valued, supported, included and able to participate fully in community life.*



In the summer of 2024, the town council undertook its first major residents' survey since Covid. However, many residents pointed out to us that, although we had asked about the youth, there were no specific questions relating to older residents. Further investigation through the ONS 2021 Census found that Faversham had above the national average number of residents aged 50 and over, as well as a greater share of people who are economically inactive.

In October 2024 the Community Committee agreed to start the process to become an age-friendly town and an action plan was put into place. This was based around the World Health Organisation's 8 Age-Friendly Domains. While there are some areas, such as housing, where the town council can only campaign for change, we will focus our efforts on those where we can make a direct and meaningful impact.

We have been able to identify projects already underway that align to being an age- friendly town. These include schemes by our Active Travel Committee to make walking and cycling easier across the town through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the Faversham Hopper Community Bus. With over 90% of its passengers holding concessionary bus passes, it has become a lifeline to some who are now on first name terms with the volunteer drivers. Other actions include a statement in the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan ensuring that residential schemes should include a mix of accommodation for an aging population and obtaining the Working to become Dementia Friendly Accreditation.

We have set up a steering group, working with members of the Faversham Community Networking Group and Bernardette McInally, Kent County Council's appointed lead on Age Friendly areas. We have now launched the Age-Friendly survey recommended by the Centre for Ageing Better, to enable us to better understand the needs of our ageing residents.

An audit of dropped kerbs and benches is underway with the assistance of volunteers from Abbey Physics Community Garden, as well as discussions for a regular newsletter aimed specifically at the over 50's, which could be available in a variety of formats.

We have found that becoming age-friendly isn't necessarily about making major changes, but considering the needs of residents, who may face challenges as they age, and ensuring that awareness is embedded in everything we do. Our application to officially become an Age-Friendly Town will be made later this year.

You can complete the full survey online, or with the help of our Age-Friendly volunteers, who will have printed copies and offer assistance at different locations around town from January 2026. Drop into the Visitor Information Centre to pick up a paper copy or check the dates when volunteers will be available to help.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/agefriendlyfaversham

Giant Gourds Take Centre Stage at Faversham Allotment Competition

Faversham's green-fingered growers pulled out all the stops for this year's Allotment Competition, with some truly impressive pumpkins taking pride of place. Christopher Foord from the Stonebridge allotments, whose magnificent 64.5-inch pumpkin earned him first place, with it being wider than the measuring tape!

Hot on his heels was Pheonix Fisher from Millfield, taking second place with a pumpkin measuring 50.5 inches, while third place went to fellow Millfield grower Marina Rassel, whose 47-inch entry rounded off the winning trio.

The first in this annual competition celebrates the dedication and creativity of Faversham's allotment holders, who continue to cultivate both community spirit and impressive produce. Congratulations to all who took part!

Faversham Town Council Achieves White Ribbon Accreditation

Faversham Town Council is a White Ribbon Accredited organisation, joining a growing movement of organisations committed to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG).

As part of this commitment, the Town Hall was illuminated in orange on 25th November, marking White Ribbon Day and the start of the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism, a global campaign to raise awareness and take action to end gender-based violence. The orange lighting continues throughout the 16 days, symbolising a brighter future free from violence.

We encourage residents to take an active role in this important cause by signing up to become White Ribbon Champions or Ambassadors. Champions, particularly men, are vital in challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours, while Ambassadors help raise awareness and promote change in their communities. Local organisations can also show their support by taking the White Ribbon pledge and working towards their own accreditation.

Faversham Town Council is proud to stand alongside organisations such as the SATEDA (Support and Action to End Domestic Abuse) and Whitstable & District Soroptimists, who continue to lead the way in education, outreach, and support services across our region.

By becoming a White Ribbon Accredited organisation, Faversham Town Council is taking a stand and encouraging others to do the same.

To learn more, take the pledge, or sign up as a Champion or Ambassador, visit:
https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise

Faversham Bus Users' Survey

We want to understand how people in Faversham use bus services, what improvements they would like to see, and whether there is interest in forming a Faversham Bus Users' Group to give passengers a stronger voice. Your feedback will help shape future discussions with bus operators and local councils.

About Your Bus Use

1. How often do you usually travel by bus?

☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Rarely/Never
☐ Several times a week ☐ Occasionally

2. What are your main reasons for using the bus? (tick all that apply)

☐ Work/commuting ☐ Leisure/social ☐ Medical appointments
☐ Education ☐ Shopping ☐ Other (please specify)

3. Which bus routes do you use most often?

☐ 3X ☐ 660 ☐ Faversham Hopper
☐ 638 ☐ 666 ☐ Other (please specify)

4. How do you usually pay for your bus journey?

☐ Cash ☐ Travel pass/ticket ☐ Other (please specify)
☐ Contactless card ☐ Mobile app

Your Experience of Bus Services

5. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of bus services in Faversham? (Please tick one box per row)

Aspect	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Frequency of services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reliability/punctuality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Route coverage (destinations served)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cost/value for money	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accessibility (for wheelchairs, buggies, reduced mobility)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bus stop facilities (shelters, seating, information)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information and timetables (online and at stops)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cleanliness and comfort	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. What improvements would make you more likely to use buses more often?

☐ More frequent services
☐ Better evening/ weekend services
☐ More direct routes
☐ Lower fares
☐ Improved bus stop facilities
☐ Real-time information (apps/displays)
☐ Other (please specify)

Future Bus Users' Group

7. Would you support the creation of a Faversham Bus Users' Group to represent passengers and campaign for better services?

☐ Yes, definitely
☐ Possibly
☐ No

8. If yes/possibly, would you be interested in:

☐ Attending meetings
☐ Receiving updates by email
☐ Helping organise activities/campaigns
☐ Other (please specify)

9. If you would like to be kept informed about a Faversham Bus Users' Group, please leave your name and contact details (optional):

10. What gender do you identify as?

☐ Male
☐ Non-Binary
☐ Female
☐ Not Listed
☐ Other (please specify)

11. How old are you?

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

Name (Optional): _____

Email/Phone (Optional): _____

Please return this form to FREEPOST Faversham Town Council or hand deliver to 12 Market Place, Faversham, ME13 7AE. Closing date 31st January 2026.

An online version is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/favershambususers

Howl-O-Ween in Faversham!

What a paw-fectly wonderful morning in sunny Faversham! A huge thank you to all the amazing owners and their four-legged friends who joined in the Faversham Howl-o-ween Dog Parade.

From spooky skeletons to adorable pumpkins (and everything in between!), the creativity and community spirit on display were incredible.

A special shout-out to the Mayor of Faversham, who had the trickiest task of all trying to choose winners from such a fabulous line-up! With so many fantastic costumes and wagging tails, we think it's safe to say... you were all winners in our eyes.

Thank you to the businesses sponsoring the prizes and all those assisting on such a crazy morning in the town.

Faversham in Bloom Triumphs with Gold at South & South East in Bloom Awards

Faversham has once again proven its dedication to horticultural excellence and community spirit by winning Gold and being named Overall Winner in the Large Town category at the prestigious South & South East in Bloom Awards 2025.

In addition to the town-wide accolade, several local groups received Outstanding awards in the It's Your Neighbourhood category, showcasing the depth and diversity of Faversham's green efforts:

- Faversham Almshouses
- Friends of Abel's Acre
- Middle Row
- Millfield Allotment Association

Faversham In Bloom team members in Middle Row

These awards are a testament to the passion and commitment of individuals and groups who work tirelessly to enhance the town's environment and community spaces.

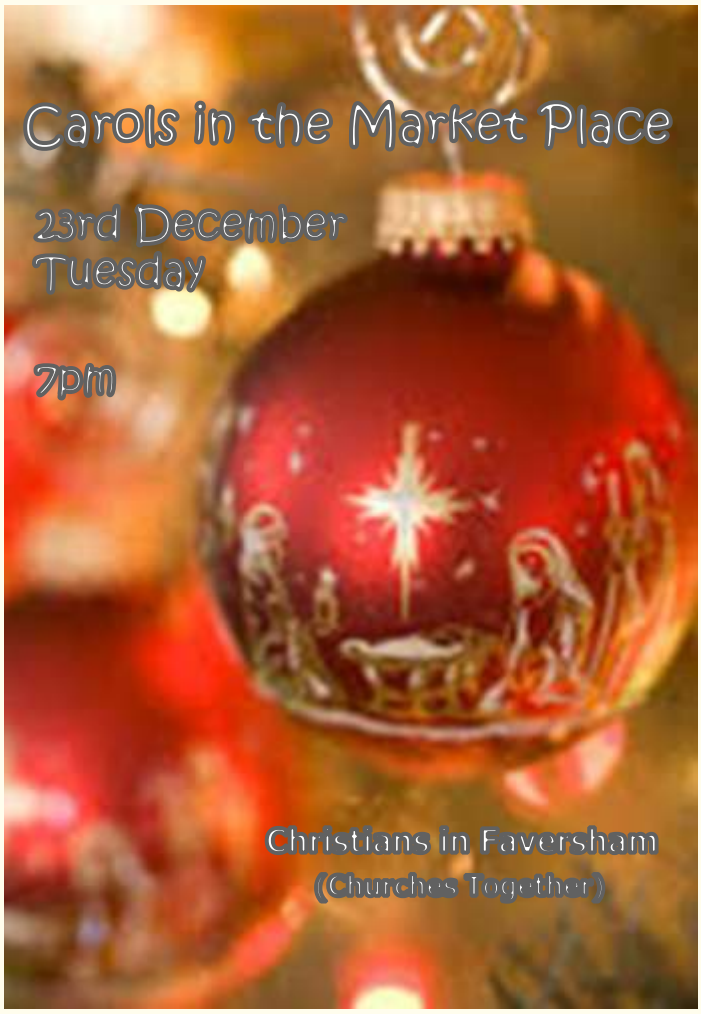
Ted Wilcox, Chair of Faversham in Bloom, shared his pride in the town's success: "We are absolutely thrilled with this year's results. Winning Gold and being named the overall winner in our category is a huge honour. It reflects the incredible teamwork and dedication of everyone involved, from our volunteers and community groups to the support from local businesses and the Town Council. Faversham continues to show what can be achieved when people come together to care for their town."

The judges were full of praise for Faversham, noting the town's charm, community engagement, and innovative approaches to gardening in challenging conditions. Their visit left them with a strong impression of a "delightful historic town" with well-maintained buildings and a community that "strives to support each other and ensure that the local environment is as pleasant as possible".

They highlighted the Physic Garden as a “real gem for the town,” commending its blend of horticulture, education, and community wellbeing. The Stonebridge Allotments, with their unique island layout, were described as “one of the most attractive allotment sites” the judges had ever visited. The Recreation Ground was praised for its vibrant use and well-maintained spaces, while the Middle Row planters and Abel's Acre were recognised for their creative solutions to planting in difficult conditions.

The judges also noted the town's strong environmental ethos, with bee-friendly planting, water recycling efforts, and a lack of litter or graffiti. They were particularly impressed by the community's resilience during a summer marked by heatwaves and water shortages and encouraged further innovation in sustainable gardening practices.

Faversham's success in this year's awards is not just a celebration of flowers and foliage, it's a celebration of community, creativity, and care. Congratulations to everyone involved in making Faversham bloom!



ABBEY WARD
Cllr Josh Rowlands (Mayor of Faversham)
Cllr Laura Coniam
Cllr Charles Gibson*
Cllr Hanah 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

Helen Whately MP for Faversham and Mid Kent
helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

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

Faversham Town Council
Town Hall
12 Market Place
Faversham
Kent ME13 7AE
01795 503286
clerk@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

MEETING CALENDAR WINTER 2025/2026

	Start Time	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26
Town Council (2nd Mon)	7pm	8	12	9
Planning Committee (2nd and 4th Mon)	6pm	8	12 26	9 23
Annual Finance Meeting	7pm		19	
Active Travel Committee (1st Thurs)	7:30pm		8	5
Community Committee (3rd Mon)	7:30pm		26	16
Environment Committee (2nd Wed)	7:30pm		14	11
Heritage, Buildings, and Creek Committee (1st Wed)	7:30pm	3		4
Policy & Resources Committee (1st Mon)	7:30pm	1		2

All Town Councillors can be contacted through the office on 01795 503286, or our website has their email addresses:
www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Faversham Town Council
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