

THE FAVERSHAM SOCIETY

Annual Report to Members

Number 54, 2016

***‘CHERISH THE PAST, ADORN THE PRESENT,
CREATE THE FUTURE’***

The Faversham Society (company limited by guarantee)
10-13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS
Charity No 1135262, Company No 7112241

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Foreword and Introduction by the President

I am delighted to introduce the 2016 annual report. With over 1000 members and run entirely by volunteers, the Society is one of the oldest civic societies in the UK and much of its early work has since been replicated by others, especially our Open House event.

Over 50 years the Society has grown into a multi-faceted organization. The public face of the Society is on show every day in Preston Street. In addition we have specialists in all sorts of disciplines carrying on research and responding to the needs of Faversham.

The steady collection and preservation of physical evidence from Faversham's rich, historic past – archaeological discoveries reflecting many centuries of human activity, recent artefacts from everyday life, relics of Faversham's diverse industrial and maritime past, and supporting documentary archives – gives the Society a central role in the research and presentation of Faversham's history to the widest audiences.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

Richard Oldfield
President

Chair's Review 2016

Last year's AGM was held in the month of June following the July AGM in 2015, a consequence of constitutional amendments which required an SGM and delayed the AGM. Under the stewardship of Michael Frohnsdorff, who was chair of the Society until June 2016, the Society's transformation into a Company Limited by Guarantee was completed with the revision of the Articles of Association. In the second half of the year the Society's committee structure was simplified in order to enable the Board to spend more time on strategic issues, for example our external representations, Bearing Fruits, and traffic and transport. The Board now has four committees (Environment, General Purposes, Planning and the Museum) and three Working Groups (Finance, Membership, and Marketing) which report directly to it. The Board and its committees can establish Working Groups to take responsibility for particular functions (for example the Visitor Information Centre, IT and the Gallery which report to the General Purposes Committee) and Task Groups which have a limited life. The Review Panel laboured for two years to advise the Board on how best to revise the Society's Articles of Association, ably assisted by Jon Patience for whose assistance and commitment the Society is grateful. Finalising the Terms of Reference for the Society's committees will complete its work.

During the year the Society reviewed its insurances and had a Fire Safety Risk Assessment, undertook the necessary remedial action and wishes to record its thanks to Brian Wintle-Smith who takes responsibility, with Jan West, for building maintenance and health and safety. The Big Shed roof was replaced and some additional works were necessary to prevent youths playing on the roofs. The Printer Group, led by Jasmine Patience, reviewed our printing needs and, after extensive research, recommended a replacement to the Board which as a result authorised a new contract in December 2016 with significant performance gains and cost reductions.

Thanks to the work of the Finance Committee, now Working Group, and its advice to the Board, the Society's financial position has substantially improved and it is now able to maintain a Premises Fund which enables a scheduled programme of regular and preventive maintenance to be undertaken. The Society is grateful to our Treasurer, Brian Kelsey, for his sterling financial management and to the Finance Committee led by Alistair Mackay-Miller. Careful management of our finances is of course only half the story. As is evident from the Financial Report presented

here we continue to have a diverse range of income from membership subscriptions, Fleur Hall rentals, the Museum, the Visitor Information Centre, the Fleur Charity Bookshop, Open House, Open Garden and Garden Market Day, the Gallery, the John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust which gave us a grant of £25,000, grants from Faversham Town Council, Queenborough Fishery Trust, the Wheler Foundation and Swale Borough Council which in 2016, provided us with a grant of £3,600 for tourist information services. The Board is also very grateful to the many volunteers who work so hard to raise money for the Society and to provide the Society's heritage services for residents and visitors. Whilst the Fleur is the base for much of our work the Open House, Open Gardens and Town Walks raise significant money for the Society and form a very important part of its educational work.

The Society's objects are broad. The first, "to educate and inform the public in the geography, history, natural history, and architecture" of Faversham and the surrounding area, is pursued through the museum, publications, lectures and talks, Town Walks, Open Houses and Open Gardens, by engaging with education providers and by participating in events as we did last year with the Nautical Festival and a number of times in the Market Place. In April 2016 we marked the 100th anniversary of the Great Explosion with an exhibition in the Fleur Gallery. The Faversham Historians and the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group, both composed of members of the Society, work under the umbrella of the Society, contributing to its research interests in order to educate and inform. In June the Membership Secretary, Jasmine Patience, organised a 'behind the scenes' Members Open Day and in the early autumn a new members evening.

Towards the latter part of 2016 the Society began the process of cataloguing and archiving Arthur Percival's papers and his valuable collection of images - so important to our appreciation and understanding of Faversham and its history. We secured a small grant from the South East Museum Development Programme for a professional assessment of the conservation requirements and some storage materials and training. The Society plans to establish a memorial fund to enable illustrated reconstructions of the twenty lectures Arthur regularly gave on the history of Faversham to be placed on our website so that they can continue to be enjoyed by all. The Fund will be formally launched at the Society's 55th Anniversary Tea Party on 18 June 2017.

Our second object, to which the third and fourth objects also relate, is to “secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest”. This is pursued through the work of the Planning and Environment Committees with increasingly active participation by the Board. The Board, on behalf of the Society, made representations on the conservation and aesthetic impacts of yellow lines around the Guildhall, the junction at the top of the Mall and the Ashford Road, 12 Market Place, the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan, and Bearing Fruits. The Society also supported the Twenty’s Plenty Campaign and participated in the Mayor’s Faversham Future Forum.

The Society recognises the importance of re-establishing its regular lecture series and Michael Frohnsdorff has agreed to take this work forward. In 2016 Chris Wright gave a talk on *Bridges in Trouble* and Wendy Tait Mayfield gave one on *Offer the House! – A History of the Workhouse in Faversham and Beyond*. In September we held an educational evening with Swale Planners, Bryan Mulhern, Chair of Swale Planning Committee, and Simon Algar, Design and Conservation Manager in the Swale Council spatial planning team, to enable a better understanding of what the planners could do to conserve Faversham’s built heritage. In October Chris Wright, Hilary Whelan and Brenda Chester organised an interactive and constructive meeting on growth without gridlock, transport, traffic and the impact on our quality of life and the future of our conserved buildings. The Society will continue to give these issues a high priority as the town faces the challenge of more housing development.

In September Duncan Harrington gave a talk in the Fleur Hall on the Faversham Farmers Club as part of the Food Festival and in October, together with St Mary of Charity, the Society organised a lecture by Professor Paul Binski of Cambridge University on the history and significance of the wall paintings obscured by the organ in St Mary of Charity.

In January 2016 the Board established the Chair’s blog (www.favershamsociety.info) which enabled it to publish the Society’s policy positions and communicate them to others. The purpose of the site is to provide an authoritative statement of the Society’s position and to avoid the Society being misrepresented. It also enables members and other interested parties to be kept informed of the representations made by the Society by signing up to receive copies of posts as they are

published. The Board is keen to develop its communications with members through the Society's Newsletter which is edited by Stephen Rayner. As Michael Frohnsdorff wrote in the Newsletter in May "The society is a democratic forum and should not eschew controversy or healthy debate. This is one way we can seek to form, strengthen, change or oppose our ideas, providing we do not seek to stifle the opinions of those we do not agree with." In spring 2016 the Society launched a Facebook page "favershamheritagematters" to encourage discussion about what parts of our heritage we wished to conserve for our children, to spread the word and to facilitate the sharing of views. More members' contributions to the Newsletter would be welcomed and in 2017 the Board will be reviewing how we might further improve communications within and without the Society.

The Board takes its responsibility for its stewardship of the Society and its role in seeking to preserve and conserve our heritage for future generations very seriously. We need to ensure that future generations will want to inherit what we bequeath them and join in the work of ensuring it survives to be passed to their children and grandchildren.

Harold Goodwin
Chair

About the Faversham Society

Formed in 1962, the Society is a Registered Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee working to preserve the heritage and fabric of the historic town of Faversham and its surrounding parishes. Created in response to modernisation and the loss of historic buildings in Faversham, the Society aims to ensure that Faversham's individual sense of place and outstanding heritage features are not lost.

The Faversham Society is managed by the Board of Trustees through a number of committees: General Purposes, Environment, Planning, and Museum. Jacqie Hitchcock, a founding member of the Society and elected to the first Executive Committee, and Margaret Slythe, our longstanding and indefatigable fundraiser, both still regularly contribute to Board meetings in their capacity of Honorary Vice Presidents.

The Society is also represented on the following bodies:

Kent History Federation
Visit Faversham (formerly FATA)
Kent Museums Group
Swale Museums Group
Faversham Historians

The Society's functions and activities are managed and staffed entirely by volunteers without whom none of the Society's activities and achievements would be possible: the Society has no paid staff. Roles range from volunteering professional skills and expertise to working in the Visitor Information Centre, staffing the Fleur de Lis Gallery and Museum, acting as a Town Heritage Walk Guide or attending committee meetings to name but a few. All volunteers share an interest in promoting and preserving Faversham's historic and cultural heritage and the Society is indebted to them all. With more volunteers, however, more could be done.

The activities undertaken by the Society in 2016, and described below, were only possible because members gave freely of their time to volunteer and get involved. The time commitment need not be onerous and existing and new members who have time to volunteer, even for just a few hours each week, would be particularly welcome in the following areas of activity:

Sitting on the Environment Committee
Sitting on the Planning Committee
Being a Guide for the Town Heritage Walks
Working in the Visitor Information Centre, Museum and Gallery
Working in the Fleur Charity Bookshop
Assisting in the Print Room
Archaeological Research Group - working on digs, including
administrative work
Writing contributions for the Newsletter
Translating marketing leaflets
Assisting at the Chart Gunpowder Mills

If you would like to get involved and have time, expertise or both to offer,
do get in touch – contact Joanne Wintle-Smith by e-mail at
losmunchkins@hotmail.com, telephone 01795 534542 or drop into the
VIC and leave a message.

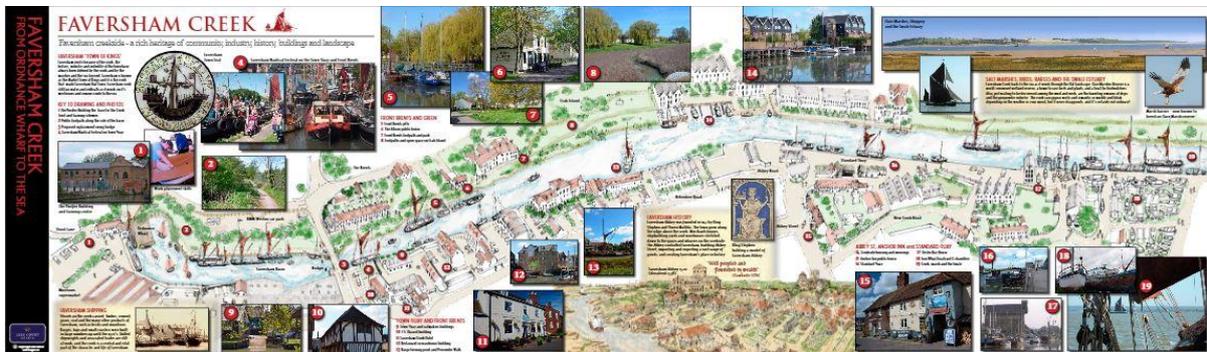
Our Activities in 2016

Committee Work

Over the period from March to August 2016, the Society's committee structure was amended so that fewer committees reported directly to the Board. This was key to enabling the Board to spend more time addressing strategic issues. With regard to the major committees, the General Purposes Committee is now chaired by the Chair of the Society. For the Environment, Museum and Planning Committees, any recommendations to be made to external bodies are required to be ratified by the Board. This change has been reflected in the terms of reference of the committees.

Environment

The Environment Committee continued its work of engaging with members, residents and visitors, raising awareness of Faversham's natural, cultural and built heritage in order to conserve it. Committee members worked to encourage a range of different groups to come together during the Nautical Festival to raise awareness of the natural and cultural heritage of the creek and to appreciate the importance of the Westbrook – the Society and the Faversham Archaeological Research Group, our community conservation group, were on Front Brents during the Nautical Festival along with the Kent Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Sponsorship was secured from the Lees Court Estate to fund the production of a banner to assist people to understand the rich and dense heritage of Faversham Creek.



The Society used the Nautical Festival to begin a public conversation, among residents and visitors, about what we valued about the town and what we would like to be here for our children and grandchildren to inherit. The discussion is on line at www.facebook.com/favershamheritagematters/ - add your voice. The

Society recognises the amount of work it has yet to do to engage more people in the conversation.

The committee engaged with Swale Planners on conservation and held a members meeting in September 2016, addressed by Bryan Mulhern, SBC Chair of Planning, James Freeman, SBC Head of Planning and Simon Algar, Swale's Design & Conservation Manager. The meeting was well attended by members and was a successful educational evening. It was agreed during the evening that there should be a further educational event on the enforcement powers of planners relevant to conservation in early 2017.

With its significant expertise in transport, mobility and traffic management, the committee organised a very successful meeting on Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan LTP4. Views of members and other residents were sought on transport problems in the town as an aid to formulating the Society's response to the Plan. Around 50 people attended the meeting and the report on the views expressed can be found at www.favershamsociety.info/traffic-management/growth-without-gridlock/

The Society supported the '20s Plenty for Faversham' campaign and will remain active on the transport and traffic management agenda: the growth and weight of traffic in the town will intensify with additional housing and much of that growth will impact negatively on the quality of our lives and on Faversham's historic fabric. Through the Environment Committee, the Society will continue to press for better management and measures to ameliorate the traffic consequence of the growth of the town.

In 2016 the Environment Committee was active in promoting alternatives to yellow lines in the town centre, in putting comments to the Board on Bearing Fruits, the Swale development plan, and began to be more active in pressing for action on listed buildings which are at risk or which are deteriorating. The committee also spent time considering plans for the restoration and regeneration of the recreation ground. In October 2016 the Board adopted the committee's recommendation that the Society suggest to the Council that there should be a second Neighbourhood Plan once the Creek Neighbourhood Plan had been approved. The proposal was subsequently put to Faversham Town Council for consideration, the outcome of which is awaited.

The Society wishes to acknowledge the major contributions made to the work of the Environment Committee by Roger Ely who retired from the committee in May 2016 and Hilary Whelan who died in November 2016.

General Purposes (formerly Operational Management)

The Operational Management Committee (OMC) was a sub-committee of the Board focused on the running and maintenance of the buildings, the co-ordination of activity and the day to day management of the Society. It effectively co-ordinated the work of the VIC, the museum, gallery, the bookshop, the Fleur Hall, health and safety, IT support, the website, publications, marketing and membership.

From August 2016 the OMC became the General Purposes Committee (GPC) with new terms of reference. It was agreed that the GPC report directly to the Board of Trustees, be chaired by the Chair of the Society and hold its meetings on the morning of meetings of the Board, thus ensuring that issues could be raised quickly with the Board.

Aided by a Review Panel, the GPC continued the work of reviewing the way in which the Society is internally structured, its administration and decision making processes. During the year the Society's insurance arrangements were reviewed and a fire inspection secured.

As with the other sub-committees of the Board, the GPC is able to establish Working Groups and Task Groups, the activities of which the committee oversees and reports to the Board. Working Groups are permanent groups, for example the VIC is a working group which reports to the GPC, all its decisions are overseen by the GPC and reported to the Board. Task groups function in the same way but they have a limited life and focus on task completion. Membership as a core function now reports as a working group of the Board to the Board and is no longer part of the GPC.

By reducing the number of committees reporting to the Board space was created in the Board agenda for more strategic discussions about, for example, the Society's external links and the Swale Development Plan. The restructuring ensured that the Board retained effective oversight of the management of the Society but released time for more thorough discussion at Board level of strategic issues and policy.

Articles Review Group

Having completed the revision of the Articles of Association recommended to and adopted by members in April 2016, the Articles Review Group continued its deliberations in 2016. Initially it undertook a review of the structure of the Society, recommending a revision to the governance structure as described above.

The Review Panel, as it became known, then considered the terms of reference of the committees which resulted from the restructuring and the changes to lines of accountability. This work was completed in mid-December and the Panel disbanded.

Planning

The Planning Committee continued its work of interacting with Swale Borough Council (SBC) and other bodies on matters relating to planning for the Faversham area. Early in 2016 the Committee considered the Housing and Planning Bill and also the proposed alterations to the National Planning Policy Framework. In February, the Planning Committee supported a proposal to rebuild the club building at Faversham Football Club. This was approved by SBC and work commenced. The Society objected to a proposal to retain two mobile homes on a site not designated by SBC as a gypsy site and this proposal was refused by SBC.

Two important listed buildings were the subject of applications. In February, the Planning Committee supported the Town Council's listed building application to install a lift and toilet for disabled people at the Guildhall because it would facilitate access for all. With regard to 12 Market Place, also owned by the Town Council, the Faversham Society commented that although the loss of the major part of a ground floor shop in a core shopping frontage was contrary to Swale Local Plan policy, the use of the first floor as offices by a user who could encourage access to them added vitality to the town centre. The use of the ground floor as exhibition space for a unique town asset would add to the visitor draw of the town. Both schemes were approved by Swale Council and implemented.

The Faversham Society supported the erection of an extension to Bysing Wood Primary School because of the extra housing which had been granted planning permission in that part of Faversham. It objected to the incorporation of open land beside 7 Giraud Drive into the garden of the property as it would undermine the open plan layout of the estate.

Swale Borough Council granted planning permission nonetheless. The Society also objected to the erection of a house in the rear garden of 60 Newton Road as backland development which would set a precedent in the conservation area. The planning application was refused by Swale Borough Council.

The Society also objected to the erection of a house on an area of open land in front of 1-3 Wells Way. This was the latest in a series of proposals for housing on similar plots in this estate. One was approved and challenged by a neighbour as being on highway land. The second was approved but following the challenge, the work was terminated by a stop notice. Swale Council refused 1-3 Wells Way.

The Society objected to the development of a house on a site adjacent to 30 Preston Park because the site was too small and affected the root protection area of a large beech tree. Swale Borough Council refused the application only in respect of the effect on the tree.

In addition to commenting on planning applications, the Chair of the Planning Committee made representations to the planning inspectorate in support of a resident who wished to challenge a heritage statement submitted with an appeal against Swale Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for a house in the garden of 19 South Road. The appeal was dismissed.

Fundraising

2016 saw the completion of the redevelopment and conservation of No.12 Preston Street: The Place Between. With 80% funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2012, an extension to the project was achieved to include the centenary commemoration of World War One, a learning aspect of the grant which will continue until 2018.

Each year the John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust provides a small annual grant to the Society. In 2016 the Society was awarded additional funding for improvements throughout the Fleur. Other donors included the Queenborough Fishery Trust, the Wheler Foundation, Swale Borough Council, and Faversham Town Council.

Visitor Information Centre

In February 2016 the VIC received a donation of a new book entitled 'Of the North Kent Marshes'. Beautifully illustrated and eloquently written by Ian Jackson and Keith Robinson, the book provides more information

about the history of the marshes and their people. The Society sold some 70 copies during the year which made a significant contribution to the Society's funds. 2016 also saw the production of a new mug exclusive to the Faversham Society. It proved to be a best seller with approximately 250 sold from April until the end of the year. In 2016 some pretty floral jugs in different sizes, stylus pens and little note pads, which support a local charity, were also introduced to the available stock. 2016's Christmas card also proved to be very popular and, as usual, the calendar, on which work had begun early in 2016, was sent all over the world.

During the year the VIC welcomed over 18,000 visitors from home and abroad and, thanks to the volunteers, very positive feedback on the service provided was received. The VIC also continued to act as a 'ticket office' for local events as well as for the Society's Open Gardens and Open House events. Although visitors came throughout the year these were the busiest periods, during which a number of the volunteers also turned their hands to providing teas and cakes in our own Georgian Garden. In addition, this year the VIC sold tickets for a massive three-day concert held at Mount Ephraim in August which put the centre in competition with on-line sales and with outlets as far away as London.

In 2016 the stalwart and willing volunteers clocked up an impressive total of almost 10,000 hours for which the Society is deeply appreciative.

Fleur Charity Bookshop

The Fleur Charity Bookshop in Gatefield Lane, hidden but not forgotten down a dark alley, had another successful year. The shop is totally reliant on book donations which continued to be plentiful, for which thanks must go to the many local residents who offered their no longer needed but interesting and unusual books to the shop. There were many bargain books to be found – prices start at 50p, most are only £1 and they rarely exceed £10. A vintage section was introduced in order to keep old books alive as well as 'collectables' for rarer books plus a 'nearly new' table. Internet sales continued to boost profits and are now an important part of the shop's income.

Volunteers ensured the book displays were changed weekly and that the window displayed a different theme each fortnight. More volunteers in 2017 would enable this to be expanded to include, for example, highlighting local or national events.

Fleur Hall

Thanks to a grant from Faversham Town Council, the Fleur Hall had a complete decorative makeover during the year. Society funding also enabled the replacement of the carpet tiles which has resulted in making the hall much lighter and brighter (some criticism of the state of the décor had previously been received).

The hall continued to be rented by a wide number of local businesses and private individuals and its rental generated revenues in excess of £7400 during the course of 2016.

Open House

Open House 2016 presented another opportunity to gain special access to properties of historical and architectural interest in Faversham and the surrounding area, some of which are not normally open to the public.

The scheme was the first of its kind when it started in 1969, and was later used as a template for the National Heritage Open Days Scheme. Since then it has been held annually on the first three Saturdays in July, with around 30 participating properties.

Faversham has nearly 500 listed buildings, many medieval, and a harbour which was part of the Confederation of Cinque Ports. As a town it dates back to pre-Roman times.

Open House 2016 attracted people from all over the UK and further afield. Many house owners taking part in Open House had a story to tell about someone who had returned from America or Australia to the town to see inside the houses in which their ancestors had lived.

Open House showcases a mixture of private homes and public buildings, such as the Abbey Farm Barns, which were part of the Faversham Abbey built in 1148 by King Stephen and Queen Matilda. The minor monastic barn is Grade 1 and the major is Grade II* listed. The 15th century TS Hazard originated as a town warehouse and is named after the ship Faversham supplied to fight the Spanish Armada in 1588. The Old Grammar School erected in 1587- an Elizabethan school complete with ancient graffiti – is now the Masonic Lodge. The town was the centre of the explosives industry between the 17th and 18th century. The surviving Chart Gunpowder Mills (now a museum) are the oldest in the world and the only preserved ones in the UK.

Private houses open to view ranged from 15th and 16th century cottages to Georgian Houses, one of which had very rare French Scenic wallpaper printed in Paris in 1818, and reputedly hung in 1836. To reflect Faversham's maritime history, a traditional Thames Sailing Barge built in 1924 welcomed visitors. For those wishing to pick up tips for making energy savings to their homes, owners of a terraced Victorian house were able to demonstrate how they had achieved such savings.

The money raised by Open House, over £4,600 in 2016, helps to protect these historic buildings and environment through the work of the Faversham Society. Handbooks, which provide a comprehensive description of each participating property, allow entry to all properties open on all three Saturdays.

Faversham Open Gardens and Garden Market Day

The Faversham Society Open Gardens and Garden Market 2016 took place on Sunday, 26 June 2016 and saw record numbers of visitors to the event. More than 1000 people from all over Kent, the Home Counties and London had bought tickets by lunchtime and on the day 36 gardens, large and small, old and new, private and community, opened their gates. Along with 30 garden-related market stalls, Faversham Open Gardens is well established as the largest open gardens event in the South East.

Of the 36 gardens, one third were gardens that had not opened their gates before to the public, or some not for a few years. Many visitors started early and had either bought their tickets in advance and had planned their routes, or were forming an orderly queue as the FOG ticket sales stall opened in the Market Place. One visitor reported that she had visited 18 gardens in four hours on foot and several others came on their bikes in order to visit as many gardens as possible. An increasing number of visitors brought their dogs and many asked where teas were being served, proving that tea and cake remains an integral part of a garden visiting day.

The event was designed to offer an enjoyable day out for families or groups of friends and the gardens included waterside gardens, a town meadow garden, walled gardens, terraced gardens and several tiny gardens, showing what can be done in a small space. A 'Hunt the Golden Pebble' competition encouraged young visitors to keep their eyes peeled for the golden prize, allowing their parents a little more time to peruse the gardens.

With stalls ranging from specialist plants, vintage gardenalia, local crafts and foods, the Garden Market lent a festival air to the town and a plant crèche on the FOG ticket stall meant visitors could deposit their larger purchases whilst they visited the gardens.

With just short of £6000 raised for the Faversham Society, Faversham Open Gardens continues to play its part in keeping Faversham's heritage in safe hands.

The planning for the 2017 event is well underway with several new gardens taking part as well as plenty of old favourites. The Society is hoping to have a visit from a famous face from TV, more known for her culinary skills but a keen professional gardener.

Faversham Open Gardens and Garden Market day will take place on Sunday, 25 June. Tickets will be available in advance from The Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, Faversham from mid-May.

Faversham Town Heritage Walks

After an exceptionally busy 2015 which reflected the attraction of the Magna Carta exhibition it is pleasing to report that in the event visitor numbers in 2016 exceeded those of 2014. In total there were 18 visiting groups in 2016 compared to 25 in 2015 and 15 groups in 2014. The profile of the groups became more diverse in their nature and included members of the Richard III Society, Barclays Pensioners and Friends of Salisbury Cathedral.

Two new walks, the Medieval Faversham Walk and the Gunpowder Walk, were introduced in the summer, both of which were well supported by members and the general public.

The aim of the guides is to illustrate this wonderful town in a light-hearted, yet informative, way. Each guide uses her or his own personality to illustrate Faversham and its history. Material is provided to help guides but the presentation is down to each individual guide.

More guides are needed to ensure these walks continue and new volunteers will be helped through training to acquire a more fulfilling knowledge of Faversham. In 2016 the guided walks raised over £1500 for the Society.

Fleur de Lis Museum

The Museum Vision paper, which provides 16 guidelines for implementation of displays, was completed in January 2016 and has been used by the Museum Project Team in planning the refurbishment of the Long Gallery scheduled to start in January 2017. The vision was augmented by a 'Fresh eyes' visit report carried out by Kate Measures in the summer and these jointly have enabled gradual and continuing improvement to the services provided by the Museum in several ways

Out of the sight of the public the Museum also made much progress in 2016. The archive assistants filled another six boxes with Legal Documents – interpreting these is tricky but very interesting! - and progress was made on interpreting and processing the Town Archives too. The Museum's Librarian continued the work of reviewing the collection and 206 books which were either duplicates or not within the Museum's Collection Policy were removed.

Thanks to Rachel Baynton and Daphne Longfield who enthused others to contribute ideas too, the displays in the Museum Foyer and window were refreshed regularly. Thanks also go to Clive Foreman who arranged the splendid exhibition on the Anniversary of the Great Explosion and also provided input into the Town Council run Remembrance Service and the displays at the Explosion Site.

The Museum continued to receive a stream of offerings which were assessed under the Collection Policy to determine whether the item is a heritage item. Christine Fagg, Catherine Turner and Daphne Longfield work to ensure that the items retained have a strong link to Faversham or the surrounding villages, are associated with the industries or, for example, concern a Faversham person. Led by Christine Fagg, progress was also made on the long term review of all the artefacts in the Museum, with over half of the planned four year programme having been completed.

Margaret Harding and Chris Wootton began work on what will no doubt be a very interesting and absorbing project - investigating Arthur Percival's archive, comprised of paper records, photographs, slides and digital records. As well as continuing to support both Kent Museums Group and Swale Museums Group, two new groups were established in the latter part of 2016: the Faversham Museums Group and the Faversham Town Council Heritage Committee. The Society is represented on both groups.

In 2016 the Museum volunteers gave a warm welcome to 1780 visitors, which raised a total of £6153 in entrance fees. The total footfall, which included Society members and people revisiting, came to 2591, which represents an increase over 2015 numbers. The Visitors Book included such comments as:

‘Fascinating. One of the most interesting and amazing local museums we have been to.’ Kent

‘Very, very helpful for our studies as we are architecture students looking at the history of Faversham.’ Kent

‘Very nice displays and interesting collections. Staff go out of their way to inform visitors.’ Canada

‘I have been here four times now and this place gets better and better.’ Kent

‘Volunteers very nice, explained and showed us around.’ Essex

‘Great fun. Kids loved it!’ Kent

‘Great to look up great grandfather’s work and living conditions – excellent display.’ New Zealand

Far too many to quote also commented on the quality of the volunteers.

Fleur de Lis Gallery

For those readers interested in statistics, in 2016 the Gallery received a total of 4781 visitors and raised £1457 in commission on sales which, when compared with the 2015 footfall of 4381 and income of £1300 represents an increase of 9% and 12% respectively. Notably this was achieved in an eleven month period in 2016 as against the twelve of 2015.

The Society presented two events, a centenary commemoration of the Uplees explosion and a further WW1 Exhibition. The Gallery also played host to four other organisations during the year: the Faversham Camera Club, Abbey School, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Faversham Cub Scouts. Celebrating one hundred years, each of these attracted a good many visitors.

In total nine individual artists exhibited their wares during the year, displaying a wide variety of work from the familiar to the unusual and indeed the quirky.



The Society was especially grateful to these individuals, the sale of whose work made a fine contribution to the Society's income and to the volunteers who made it all possible.

Libraries

The Faversham Society Reference library, housed in the Curators' room, continued to be used by members. In light of the desperate shortage of space, the whole stock of books was reviewed and redundant titles which did not further the aims of the Society removed and passed to the book shop for sale. Such redundant titles included books on flags of the world and birds' nests and dogs.

A large collection of Faversham related books remained temporarily stored in the basement awaiting integration into the main collection. Future focus will be on cataloguing the collection to a recognised international standard and re-arranging it by a standard system as used in public libraries.

The Society is also custodian of the Marlowe Society library. A major project, over half of which has been completed, has been cataloguing the collection onto computer using the internationally recognised Library of Congress system which allows searching by subjects and is used by academic libraries such as Kent University and the Shakespeare Centre of Birmingham University. The aim is to re-arrange the collection by subjects using Library of Congress classification. The work has been

undertaken to computerise the catalogue without the use of a library cataloguing package thus saving costs.

The Society is also custodian of the Doddington Parish Collection which consists of sixteenth to eighteenth century religious texts some of which are not in the British Library.

Chart Gunpowder Mills

Useful maintenance was carried out early in the year by Swale Borough Council, which has this responsibility, together with repairs to brick paving outside the Mill caused by vandals.

The commemoration of the centenary of the Great Explosion at Uplees on 2 April 1916 was a great success. Events included a moving service at the Mass Grave co-ordinated by Faversham Town Council, an exhibition in the Fleur Gallery curated by Clive Foreman and a 'trail' at Uplees with information, photographs and excavated finds produced by local residents. Several of these finds have been donated to the Fleur.

Overall, 2016 was a very good year with visitor numbers up 15% at 1159, helped by several group visits. Two are worthy of a special mention: a delightful cultural/social group from Medway, mainly Asian aged between 8 and 80, who were fascinated by the history and the attractive scenery of the former Home Works - Stonebridge Pond and the stream. A smaller group of students from the USA were on an academic tour studying the effects of industrial archaeology on the locality and also fell in love with Faversham.

John Breeze continued his work of enlarging and updating the Mills' extensive family history archive. Unfortunately, three of our committed volunteers had to retire through ill-health and mobility problems and replacements would be welcomed.

Maison Dieu

With the resignations of long standing volunteers before the 2016 season began Maison Dieu, which is in the care of English Heritage and managed by the Maison Dieu Trustees under a tripartite agreement between English Heritage, the Maison Dieu Museum Trust and the Faversham Society, lost support in some key management positions. Keeping the museum open for visitors was made a priority.

Further to advertising in the Faversham Society Bulletin, three new stewards were recruited. Other Faversham Society contacts found a volunteer to cover security alarm callouts to team up with the remaining key holder registered with the security company. This proved invaluable in the autumn as there were eight intruder callouts in the small hours of the night over a five week period – all triggered by spiders or visiting bats!

With the goodwill of stewards often being prepared to do extra duties, and with the new recruits, who quickly learned stewarding duties despite the limited time for an ideal induction period, Maison Dieu opened every weekend and supported other special opening events.

Nevertheless, the issue of volunteer recruitment and extending services remained a concern. Over the year the Trustees prioritised identifying the present daily management needs for the museum. It was agreed to target recruitment to form a new museum management committee to be introduced over 2017. Two new Trustee appointments made in 2015 and 2016 have added further expertise on the conservation of historic buildings and in developing a new publicity role for the museum. The areas of commitment to the care of the building and looking at, and attracting, a strong visitor audience are always an important part of the Trustees' role.

Two meetings were held with English Heritage representatives and in the spring a new draft tripartite Museums Association document was made available for Trustees' consideration. This was agreed in principle but the document included some action points requiring EH qualification. Both the Maison Dieu Trustees and the Faversham Society are now awaiting the production of a final draft document. At the Annual Review meeting in the autumn, the English Heritage Curator SE proposed to the Trustees that museum accreditation should be sought. Material stored with English Heritage has been identified with connections to Ospringe and they would like to target a special project to place this collection at the Maison Dieu museum. However, this would require accreditation, on which Trustees will continue to work in 2017 as part of future museum development.

Following an approach by the University of Kent at the end of 2015 for student internship placements at the museum, three lively and committed students joined the curatorial team in the spring term. With their help the condition of displays in the small upper chamber was able

to be reviewed. Research in the 1977 Excavation Report also enabled the provenance of these items to be recorded. The students' contribution also moved backlogged work forward by helping to re-pack stored items from the Roman collection in materials that met current conservation standards. The appointment of an Assistant Hon. Curator in 2016 was most welcome. She completed an induction period and added greatly to the success of the students' placements. The curator team's forward planning aims for information, gained from this year's work to be reproduced in a format to engage visitors during 2017.

Boxing Day Walk

Boxing Day 2016 saw superb weather for the walk which progressed from the side of the Creek to Nagden and round the South Swale Nature Reserve, a lovely circular walk of about six miles. After the walk, there was a light lunch in the Fleur Hall for about 30, catered by volunteers who also did the clearing up afterwards, for which they are thanked. The walk raised a total of £130 for the Society.

The Fleur Singers

The Fleur Singers continued to meet twice a month in the Fleur Hall to sing and to enjoy fellowship together. Refreshments are provided in the interval. Grateful thanks go to Andrew and Griselda Mussett and to Aileen Dickson.

Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group

The Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group (FSARG) is a group within the Faversham Society. Its Director, Dr Pat Reid, founded the group in 2005 and still guides its work, work which has added to the knowledge of the history of the Faversham area, particularly of the times before there are any records. Under the guidance of a small committee, FSARG undertakes small scale community archaeological investigations within Faversham town, Ospringe, Oare and immediate surrounding areas, investigating sites which are unlikely to be looked at by commercial archaeologists who concentrate on rescue archaeology during building work. FSARG also undertakes research and recording that does not involving digging.

In 2016, we had community involvement events at the Oare Gunpowder Works, the Nautical Festival and of course our Finds Processing in the garden of the Fleur. FSARG is grateful to people who show so much interest in what we are doing and bring us their finds to show us; these tell us yet more of the story of Faversham.



Our summer digging season was between Preston Street and Newton Road, no exciting discoveries, just more pieces of the Faversham archaeology jigsaw. At Oare earlier in the year we recorded a mystery building with the help of Gunpowder Works

volunteers. The recording of the Gravestones in St Catherine's graveyard has also nearly been completed.

FSARG provided support for finds recording for the metal detecting event on the Lees Court (Sondes) Estate, recording the finds for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and for our records. There were many interesting finds, not only coins, but other items including Crotal bells, buttons, military insignia, a Viking stirrup mount, and a Joanna and Whale knife handle.

In 2017 the investigations will concentrate on the area bounded by the Cooks Ditch and Abbey Street.

For more information go to www.community-archaeology.org.uk.

Faversham Historians

The Faversham Historians was founded nearly thirty years ago by four members of the Society to provide an opportunity for other members with particular skills or interest in local historical research, to meet together to discuss their work and common interests, and by that means to create a much greater knowledge of the immense historical and cultural heritage to be found and explored in the Faversham area. The main fruits of this enterprise have been 127 Faversham Papers (on sale in the VIC bookshop) and much of Faversham's history is now much better known.

The Faversham Historians meet four times a year on a Sunday morning in the Fleur Hall at 11.00 am for a couple of hours. Those attending are invited to talk about their own research, to comment on or help the work of others, to ask questions about aspects of the history of our area, and

to help promote historical events and talks. Faversham Papers are still occasionally produced, and members often bring along rare artefacts relating to our area that they have been able to find and purchase. The Chair, John Owen, is one of the original founding members, and is a dedicated and loyal member of the group, as is our dedicated and skilled secretary, Anne Salmon, who has taken the minutes for many years and ensures they are distributed, a task undertaken by Duncan Harrington. With 23 names on the Group's contact list, the numbers attending the quarterly meeting have fallen well below that mark but members who have moved away often remain on our contact list and read the minutes to learn about recent discoveries and have themselves supplied information about Faversham's history which they came across.

The group continues its 2016 focus on a strategy to publish the first complete history of Faversham undertaken since that of Edward Jacob in 1774. Most of the chapters have now been written, though the final form is still under discussion, for example it may appear in instalments.

There is more still to be discovered or sometimes re-interpreted, in the light of more recently discovered source material. Any member who would like to be part of this process, regardless of previous experience, would be welcomed at our meetings (contact Mike Forhnsdorff - mdf75@tiscali.co.uk).

Behind the scenes

Building Maintenance and Health and Safety

Readers will appreciate that maintaining buildings as old as the Heritage Centre, some aspects of which date back to the 1300s, is an ongoing task and so will not be surprised to learn that the expenditure in 2016 was in excess of £36,000. The majority of this figure went on replacing the leaky roof to the Big Shed and several other 'small' jobs, like a missing wall, that the re-roofing brought to light. The roofs in other parts of the complex also needed attention following a spate of vandalism and this had, unfortunately, to include the installation of unsightly barbed wire. The Society gratefully acknowledges a grant of £25,000 from the John Swire Charitable Trust towards this cost.

The automatic door mechanism to both the 'long gallery' and the disabled person's toilet had to be replaced at a cost of over £2000.

The disabled person's toilet was redecorated and a 'baby change' unit installed. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers Rachel Bayton, Daphne Longfield and Barry Wagstaff this work did not incur any labour costs. The Fleur Hall was repainted and new carpet tile flooring laid. New flooring has also been laid in both the Boston Room and the kitchen, the latter being washable and therefore more hygienic.

The Society's stalwart electrician, Mike Nicholls, continued to spend time steadily replacing the light fittings. Additionally he worked with our electrical contractor updating to more economical LED units all the track lighting and the lighting in the Fleur Hall plus tidying the wiring in the basement and modifying the alarm supply there. At the same time the old and failing emergency lighting units were replaced.

Users of the Fleur Hall will have noticed that, thanks to the sterling work of Chris Oswald-Jones, the car park no longer has a vast puddle at the bottom of the driveway.

On the recommendation of the Fire Officer the electrics were tested and some minor work and the replacement of the smoke and heat detectors carried out. A fire safety risk assessment was also commissioned in October - this was a very thorough inspection of the premises and one which classified most areas as Green (satisfactory). Three of the five recommendations were addressed in 2016, the fourth and fifth carried forward to be addressed in 2017. Regular weekly monitoring of the fire alarm was carried out together with regular portable appliance testing and the monthly checking of fire doors was introduced.

IT Support

The Group meets formally every month and have technical "hands-on" sessions as needed. This is the group's third year and it has predominantly concentrated on consolidating the new IT system.

The group has also been trialling using the server for storage of data but more work is needed to move all relevant data to the server and ensuring users can access the data confidently. Likewise, work has been done on improving the back-up regime.

Group members continue to 'troubleshoot' any IT issues encountered by volunteers. This can be time consuming but it is important that volunteers can use the IT provided.

Marketing

The Marketing Group enjoyed a busy 2016. Chaired by the late Hilary Whelan, the group produced two new leaflets during the year: a guide to the Fleur de Lis Museum for the benefit of visitors and an external promotional leaflet designed to attract more visitors. These were funded by the Queenborough Fishery Trust and the Wheler Foundation.

To work with the new visitors leaflet, directional arrows were also installed around the complex layout of the museum and these have been positively commented on.

To support the newly introduced walk, a new leaflet - 'Faversham Town Walk - Gunpowder Trail' - was produced in association with Faversham Town Council.

Promoting membership was another theme of activity. The group operated market stalls on days when there was extra footfall within the town. This enabled members to speak with the public and advise them of the many activities in which the Society was involved and the facilities available. Volunteers from the Bookshop joined in and made themselves more widely known, as well as making some sales that would otherwise not have happened. Merchandise from the shop was available but the focus was on promotion, not revenue. Starting Town Walks from the market stall also proved popular.

During 2017 some of the Museum and Town Walk material will be revised and also made available in different languages. Volunteers with language skills who could assist in translation would be warmly welcomed.

Membership

The Society welcomed 75 new members during the year, most of whom lived in Faversham but some were from Worcestershire, Hampshire and Cheshire. The total membership at the end of 2016 was 1049. Much progress was made in 2016, namely:

- formation of the Membership Working Group;
- the introduction of new subscription rates including lower rates for members on low income and senior members;
- membership card collection which saved money and increasing footfall in the Visitor Information Centre;

- continuation of the programme of improvement of membership services more strictly in accordance with the Articles of Association (as a result however numbers are not directly comparable with the previous year);
- printing Newsletter Delivery Team lists each month directly from the updated membership records, which ensures accuracy;
- reducing the number of items requiring postage and all being covered by fees, saving the Society money.

Noteworthy successes in 2016 included:

- Members' Open Day - members came along to see the Museum and the places to which the public are not normally allowed access: the archives, costumes, Curator's Office and volunteers at work. Volunteers were on hand to answer questions from members who were interested in volunteering.
- New Members' Open Evening - new members were given an informative tour of the Museum and special exhibits by our stewards, while volunteer experts talked with members about the various areas of the Heritage Centre. All then joined together in the Fleur Hall for drinks and canapés (provided from donations given at previous events), and the Chair's welcome.
- Member's Talks -- informative and fun, the series of talks on varying subjects including Bridges which did not behave as they should, Faversham Workhouse and Christopher Marlowe were enjoyed by packed audiences of members and guests. These events raised money from donations and interested new members.

Newsletter

The newsletter, circulated to members of the Society, reduced its size in 2016 from A4 to A5 and the number of contributors increased. In the vacuum created by the death of the prolific Arthur Percival, it was initially difficult to provide variety in the items appearing in the newsletter but the number of people willing and able to write for the newsletter gradually increased during the year.

A regular quiz was also included in the newsletter and a rota of history writers contributed a monthly feature on a specific aspect of Faversham's history.

Particular thanks go to Peter Stevens, whose researches, particularly into the newspaper archives, were most revealing.

Publications and Print Room

The Print Room had a typically busy year in 2016, printing 3000 copies of the Members' Newsletter and 600 copies of the 2015 Annual Report. These numbers were fewer than in previous years as more members agreed to receive publications online. Other work included photocopying interactive museum sheets for children, bus timetables, leaflets and town maps for visitors, many of which were in colour and for which a charge was made. During the year 482 copies of the 'Faversham Papers' book series, sold in the VIC, were made to replace bought copies. This series, which comprises 127 books containing mainly historical or environmental information, was augmented in 2016 by one new book 'A Look Back at Stone Street, Faversham' by Peter Stevens.

The sale of the books and colour leaflets contributed income to the Society to cover other costs. A new printer/copier was installed at the end of the year and it would be helpful if more volunteers were familiar with how it works so that the work could be shared.

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2016

Another year of successful trading and fundraising has resulted in a surplus of £28k and a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £116k, so the Society has maintained the statutory target laid down by its Reserves policy (at least six months' core expenditure). The trustees have set aside £50k of Unrestricted funds into a Designated Fund, specifically for a rolling 10-year programme to restore the integrity of all the premises at Preston Street.

The trustees propose to adhere to the principles of proper budgetary control and financial management in 2017 and future years in order to provide a firm financial basis for the continuance of the conservation and education work of the Society.

There is one new project within Restricted Funds – to carry out urgent necessary repairs to the infrastructure. The reconstruction of No 12 Preston Street is complete, and there is £7000 remaining to finalise the education programme associated with the museum. The Trustees acknowledge with thanks further grants and donations to the Society from the John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust, Faversham Town Council, Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council, Queenborough Fishery Trust and the Wheler Foundation.

Brian Kelsey BA FCA, Hon. Treasurer.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2016

	31/12/2016	31/12/2015
Fixed Assets		
Land & buildings at valuation	559,640	570,434
Computer equipment		
Current Assets		
Bank balances, Restricted Funds	58,915	70,906
Bank, Unrestricted Funds	116,190	79,485
Stock	10,380	12,747
	185,485	163,138
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	958	402
Net Current Assets	184,527	162,736
Net Assets	744,167	733,170
Represented by:		
Funds		
Restricted Funds	58,915	78,005
Designated Fund	50,000	-
Unrestricted Funds	635,252	655,165
Total Funds	744,167	733,170

Note: These accounts are published subject to Independent Review.

Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME	Actual 2016	Budget 2016	2015
	£	£	£
Interest received	876	1,000	1,000
Member subscriptions	11,838	12,000	11,727
Rents	6,753	6,000	6,750
Hall bookings	7,406	6,000	6,467
Museum entry & sales VIC and Shops:	8,074	7,000	7,031
New books and publications	19,798	20,000	20,272
Gifts, cards etc	11,445	8,000	10,429
Secondhand books	11,870	9,000	10,631
Fundraising (net):			
Open House	4,571	3,000	3,144
Open Gardens	5,706	5,000	5,106
Walks, events etc	4,307	4,000	3,401
Swale grant VIC	3,600	-	3,600
Donations, legacies and grants	13,403	4,000	4,678
Total Income	109,647	85,000	94,236

EXPENDITURE:	Actual 2016	Budget 2016	2015
Premises costs:			
Rent and rates	6,741	6,000	5,435
Insurance	9,140	8,500	8,585
Light and heat	7,341	12,000	9,455
Repairs and maintenance	11,595	14,000	16,679
Security	1,473	1,500	1,064
Museum costs	616	2,500	2,030
VIC and shops:			
New books & publications	9,970	10,000	10,472
Gifts, cards etc	4,971	4,000	4,380
Overheads:			
Printing & photocopier rental	14,105	14,000	15,059
Telephone, stationery and postage	4,057	5,000	3,259
Computer costs	138	1,000	577
Advertising and promotion	1,836	2,500	930
Subscriptions and donations	321	1,500	1,054
Legal costs		-	
Finance costs:			
Bank charges	-3,176	1,000	1,043
Independent review	2,172	1,500	1,248
	<u>71,300</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>81,270</u>
Cash Surplus for year	38,347	-	12,966
Less: Depreciation	10,794		10,794
Trading Surplus for the year	<u>27,553</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,172</u>
Bank balance - Restricted	58,915		70,906
- Unrestricted	66,191		79,485
- Designated Premises Fund	50,000		0
	<u>175,106</u>		<u>150,391</u>

Restricted Funds

Projects	1/1/2016	Funds in	Expenditure	Transfers	31/12/2016
Land Fund	45,875		-	-	45,875
Arden's House	371			-	371
					-
Panel restoration	1,000		1,000	-	-
					-
Museum fund	1,750			-	1,750
					-
No. 12 Project	19,996	750	14,013	-	6,733
					-
IT fund	9,013		436	- 6,949	1,628
Premises fund		25,000	29,391	6,949	2,558
	78,005	25,750	44,840	-	58,915

..... and a few words from individual Trustees

Ian Balding

I believe that as a Trustee I have a duty to promote Arthur Percival's legacy as a foundation member to preserve Faversham's heritage and promote sustainable development, especially our maritime heritage. I work to increase interest and promotion in Faversham through the policies of the Board.

I strongly believe that at the heart of the Society is the hard work and dedication of the volunteers and the enthusiastic support of our members. Therefore I work to keep all activities of the Board transparent, accurate and representative of our members' views and opinions. The membership has always come foremost for me.

Ted Davis

I have been a trustee for four years and a member of the Finance Committee and the Heritage Committee formed by the Faversham Town Council. It is seen as of great importance working in partnership with the local council focusing on both the historic listed buildings of the town as well as its environmental setting. Also, I was a member of the small sub-committee which rewrote the Articles of Association. Lastly, for some years now I have been a trustee of the Maison Dieu, where I am both treasurer and secretary.

Clive Foreman

During 2016 I was pleased to serve on the General Purposes Committee and the Museum Committee as well as being a member of the Articles Review Group. I also led a small team looking at publication standards and copyright issues, the work of which has resulted in a draft paper on publication standards. My major interest is enabling access to the rich collections we have in the museum and encouraging others to explore those collections. I am keen to work with other organisations in the pursuit of common aims and to encourage new work in the Faversham Papers series. My principal activity over the past few years has been curating a series of exhibitions covering the impact of WW1 on Faversham.

2016 featured the commemoration of the centenary of the Great Explosion. As you will have read earlier in this report, I curated an exhibition on that subject and worked with several other groups on projects relating to it, including the ceremony at Love Lane Cemetery. I

held a day seminar on the subject and organised the formal acceptance of an Edward medal which had been awarded to a member of the fire crew involved in the explosion into the collection.

Michael Frohnsdorff

I joined the Society in 1979 and have been active within it ever since. Having most recently served as a former chair of the Faversham Society, I have previously also held the offices of vice chair, secretary and education officer. I remain a Trustee on the Board as well as being acting chair of the Maison Dieu Board of Trustees and a link between the Society and the Faversham Historians.

Harold Goodwin

From university in York and Manchester, my first job was in Kent in 1976, in the Home Counties. Living in Ashford, I could not imagine staying long. Then I was introduced, as a "local" to Faversham by Jack Harris. Within 24 hours of first arriving in the town, I was determined to spend the rest of my life here. Since 1977 I have been privileged to live here - employment took me London, Greenwich, Leeds and Manchester but I've lived in the heart of Faversham for forty years. When Arthur Percival asked me to stand for the Board in 2014 I accepted, recognising that it was time for me to put something back into the town I have relished living in. I helped establish the Environment Committee which has broadened the work of the Society. In 2016 I agreed to stand for election to the office of Chair of the Board and was fortunate enough to be appointed. I have sought to raise the Society's public profile, strengthening its educational and advocacy work and developing our wide range of activities within the Fleur. It is a privilege to be continuing the work of the Society since its formation 55 years ago.

Jasmine Patience

My belief that the members are the foundations of the Society and the volunteers are the supporting walls is reflected in my work as a Trustee. I enjoy connecting with our members and listening to their views through email and by being available for meetings in person at the Heritage Centre and on the telephone.

I feel it is important to be "hands-on", spending a lot of time working on membership in the office with other volunteers. It is important for me to visit other areas, too, and spend time with volunteers to show them my appreciation and get to know new volunteers. My responsibilities as a

Trustee are very important to me, as we have a duty to ensure our policies are correct, always acting in the best interests of our members.

Anne Salmon

As Chair of the Planning Committee and as a planning professional, I try to ensure that any comments made to Swale Borough Council on behalf of the Society address material planning considerations. I consider that this is important because it is more likely that Swale Borough Council will take the Faversham Society seriously as an amenity society that understands how it can contribute to the consideration of proposals and policies. I would welcome more members of the Society particularly from the Board attending the Planning Committee meetings as it would generate a better understanding of the issues involved as well as ensuring that meetings are quorate.

Tim Stonor

I am a Trustee of the Society and also sit on the Environment Committee. As part of my work for the Society, I have been engaged in the development of alternative parking arrangements in the town centre, in the campaign for a town-wide 20 mph speed limit and in the proposal for a Neighbourhood Plan for Faversham.

Jan West

Since becoming a Trustee, as well as sitting on the Board, I have become involved in a wide range of functions across the Society. I have served as Secretary to the Board, acted as Assistant Treasurer, chaired the Marketing Group and been a member of the General Purposes Committee. I also sat on the website working group, have overseen building maintenance works and been called upon to undertake a plethora of admin duties. In short, never a dull moment!

Brian Wintle-Smith

I joined the Faversham Society eight years ago, initially as a Museum Steward but, over time, I have taken on a number of additional roles within the Society including management of the Gallery. I also sit on the General Purposes and Finance Committees and have been a Vice-Chair of the Board for the past two years. As secretary to the Articles Review Group I was party to establishing the Society's revised Articles of Association and introducing Standing Orders which provide a strong foundation from which the Board can operate.

Most recently I have been asked to co-ordinate a buildings repairs and maintenance team. The variety of my involvement gives me a good understanding of the organisation and how it operates, essential, I believe, for a Trustee.

Heather Wootton

I became a Trustee in 2015 and in that capacity attend the monthly Board meetings, read the many emails these generate and report to the Board on behalf of the Museum Committee.

I started volunteering originally for the Faversham Society as a FSARG member doing all the various activities associated with archaeological work - this is ongoing. In 2013 I started helping out in the Museum Curator's office becoming the lead on the Museum record keeping. I am involved in some archiving work, research and mentor some new volunteer curators. I am in the Curator's Office for at least two days a week (unless it's Archaeological season or I'm off travelling!). I am also secretary for the IT Working Group, attending its monthly meetings and keeping the records.

As Chair of the Museum Committee I organise and lead the monthly meetings. I also lead the Museum Project Group and participate in some of the project activities. I attend the General Purposes Committee monthly meeting (the Museum is the biggest single occupant of the premises). I attend some meetings with Kent and Swale Museum Group. Without the contribution of about 30 other curatorial volunteers the Museum, and Archives would suffer and my role as Chair be impossible.

Christopher Wright

As a member of the Environment Committee I am concerned with an issue that the Society has been grappling with for around 50 years: how our townscape can be conserved and improved for future generations. Today, Faversham faces a challenge from a rapid growth in housing development. It will generate traffic on our medieval road network that could lead to traffic control measures that deface the streets, buildings and open spaces that give our environment its special character. The Committee is working to raise awareness of the problem and promote imaginative solutions that have a realistic chance of success.

OBITUARIES 2016

The Faversham Society offers its condolences to the families and friends of all those members who died during the year. In particular we remember -

John Culmer was the Society's Chief Museum Curator during the late 1990s. He joined the Faversham Society in 1990 and his management skills soon led him onto the Society's Council. He took a leading role in the expansion of the museum into new premises, designing the layout of the complex and many of the displays. After the museum expansion, John's mobility problems meant that he had to work at home, but he kept in touch with what was going on. He was appointed a Vice President of the Faversham Society in recognition of the contribution he had made. In particular, John will be remembered for his courtesy, his humour and his impeccable sense of dress – always just right for the occasion.

Ken Moyler was a volunteer at the Chart Gunpowder Mills museum from about 1992 to 2014. He worked in the oil industry and one of his pieces of refined sulphur is on display in the gunpowder museum. Ken spent many happy hours in his shed workshop where he made the frame for five of the Chart Mills display boards and found copper nails and brass screws for minor repairs and maintenance. His artificial leg did not stop him reaching places that others could not and one of his last visits was up the stepladder on to the wheelhouse roof to see what the contractors were doing to repair it.

Sir John Swire was one of the Society's most loyal supporters. His Charitable Trust has contributed to projects throughout the town, including the Fleur and the Maison Dieu. His son Barnaby, a life member of The Faversham Society, has taken on much of Sir John's role in the family business. Many of the Society's volunteers will remember Swire family visits, usually on Saturday afternoons, when Sir John and Lady Swire called in to see the outcomes of their donations. The Faversham Society was represented at Sir John's memorial service in Canterbury Cathedral which Richard Oldfield attended in his role of Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Kent.

Hilary Whelan joined the Society's board in July 2015, although she had been a member of the Environment Committee for a while before that. Hilary made a major contribution to the work of the Society, first as vice chair and then chair of the Environment Committee, on the Publicity

Committee and then on the Board of Trustees. Hilary's knowledge of environmental and planning issues was invaluable. She had a forensic mind and deployed it to great effect in analysing development plans and making representations to the planning inspectorate, in writing and in person.

Jean Yeomans, a great stalwart of the VIC, had been a volunteer in the shop since its move to its present premises and for many years was also a Trustee of the Society. She catalogued the booklist which is still used today and was also the gift buyer and producer of the annual calendar. Jean carried out her duties with an enthusiasm that was infectious and it was her grit and determination that helped her fight a long illness when others would have faltered.

Who's Who – 2016

- Environment Committee:** Brenda Chester, Roger Ely (until May 2016), Michael Frohnsdorff, Harold Goodwin (Chair January to July and December), Gulliver Immink, Chris Oswald-Jones, Nigel Mannouch, Claire Martin, Tim Stonor, Hilary Whelan (Chair July until November) Graham Warner, Susan White, Chris Wright
- General Purposes Committee:** (from July 2016) Wendy Clarke, Clive Foreman, Michael Frohnsdorff, Harold Goodwin (Chair and minutes), Linda Ireland, Christine Smith, Jan West, Hilary Whelan, Brian Wintle-Smith, Joanne Wintle-Smith, Heather Wootton
- Finance committee:** (until June 2016) Ted Davis, Clive Foreman, Michael Frohnsdorff, Harold Goodwin, Alistair Mackay-Miller (Chair), Brian Kelsey, Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith
- Operational Management Committee:** (until June 2016): Wendy Clarke, Jean Foreman (minutes), Michael Frohnsdorff, Linda Ireland, Jasmine Patience, Christine Smith, Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith, Joanne Wintle-Smith (Chair), Heather Wootton,
- Planning Committee:** Shiel Campbell (part year), Nigel Mannouch, Chris Oswald-Jones, Patsy Rogers (part year), Anne Salmon (Chair), Janet Turner (Vice Chair and Secretary) Susan White
- Finance Working Group:** (from July 2016): Ted Davis, Harold Goodwin, Brian Kelsey, Alistair Mackay-Miller (Chair), Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith
- Marketing Working Group:** Rachel Baynton, Michael Frohnsdorff, Moyra Harding, Antony Millett, Anthea Nicholls, Jasmine Patience, Christine Smith, Jan West (Chair), Hilary Whelan (died 2016), Brian Wintle-Smith, Joanne Wintle-Smith, Chris Wootton
- Membership Working Group:** Linda Parker, Jasmine Patience, Walter Waller, Graham Warner
- Building Maintenance and Health and Safety:** Brian Wintle-Smith

Manager, Fleur de Lis VIC:	Christine Smith
Grants officer:	Margaret Slythe
Editor, Newsletter:	Stephen Rayner
Organiser, Open Gardens:	Lucie Neame
Organiser, Open House:	Moyra Harding
Membership Secretary:	Jasmine Patience
Editor, Faversham Papers:	Clive Foreman
Director, Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group:	Dr Patricia Reid (until June 2016), John Clarkstone (from July 2016)
Print Room Manager:	Patsy Rogers
Warden, Stone Chapel:	Clive Foreman
Fleur Hall Bookings Officer:	Linda Ireland (until November 2016), Juliet Cowgill (from December 2016)
Gardeners:	Daphne Longfield, Chris Oswald-Jones
Historians' Representative:	Michael Frohnsdorff
Museum, Archive and Library staff	
Museum Mentor (curatorial adviser):	John Harrison
Museum Committee:	Rachel Baynton, Christine Fagg, Clive Foreman (Vice chair), Mike Frohnsdorff, John Harrison, Daphne Longfield, Paul Moorbath, Rod Morley, Mike Nicholls, Dr Pat Reid, John Robertson, David Slarks, Catherine Turner, Ann Wilkinson (Curator Maison Dieu), Joanne Wintle-Smith, Heather Wootton (Chair)
Librarian (including Doddington Parochial Library):	Paul Moorbath
Assistant librarian:	Valerie Gidlow, Jonathan Hill.
Costumes:	Jennifer Shipman
Archives and computer data:	Linda Parker, Heather Wootton

Archives:	Catherine Turner
Artefacts:	Christine Fagg
Artefacts assistants:	Richard Adkins, Hilary Truscott, Chris Wootton
Archive assistants/researchers:	John Breeze, Dave Fagg, Grace Hopkins, Linda Parker, Kelly Roots, Phil Tooker, Henry Vinson
Archaeology:	Dr Pat Reid
Historians link:	Mike Frohnsdorff
Photographic archive:	John Robertson
Museum and Gallery Volunteers Co-ordinator:	Joanne Wintle-Smith
Telephone engineer:	David Slarks
Maps and electrical engineer:	Mike Nicholls
Photographic collection:	John Robertson
Displays/exhibitions:	Rachel Baynton, Clive Foreman, Daphne Longfield
Museum/Gallery Volunteers:	Helen Albery, Barbara Babbage, Rachel Baynton, Jane Bone, Sheila Breeze, John Breeze, Rob Brewer, Carolynne Brightman, Hannah Chalker, Ray Churnside, Judith Clarke, Gill Connolly, Ann Dale, Isobel Downie, Jean Duchin, Glennys Evans, Clive Foreman, Jean Foreman, Martyn Fuller, Diane Furneaux, Paul Harvey, Imogen Hepworth, Grace Hopkins, Tim Hopper, Linda Ireland, Jim Kilcoyne, Linda Macklin, June McIntyre, Antony Millett, Hilary Morley, Rod Morley, David Palmer, Beryl Pleasance, Kelly Roots, Jay Scaggs, Ted Seal, Diane Skinner, David Slarks, Alan Swan, Philip Tooker, Julia Vellam, Barry Wagstaff, Chris Warburton, Graham Warner, Susan White, Gill Winters, Brian Wintle-Smith, Joanne Wintle-Smith
Open Gardens and Market Day:	Fern Alder, Alexandra Campbell, Jane Hannath, Sarah Langton-Lockton, Amanda Mannering, Lucie Neame

Open House: Helen Albery, Annette Brooke-Taylor, Christopher Brooke-Taylor, Sheila Gibbins, Moyra Harding

Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group:

Arron Clarke, Sue Bristow, Caroline Clarkstone, John Clarkstone (Chair), Elizabeth Cook, Ron Eley, Lizzie Eyre (Treasurer), Margaret Harding, Hazel Jesset, Paul Jesset, Graham Lenox, Sheila Lenox, Caroline Manderville, Nigel Mannouch (Committee Member), Susan Miles (Committee Member), Rebecca Par, Jim Reid, Patricia Reid (Director), Keith Robinson (Committee Member), Lesley Shea, Veronica Smith, Mike Tillman (Website), Maureen Wale (Finds Coordinator), Christine Warburton, Mo Wickham, Ann Wilkinson, Nick Wilkinson (Membership), Chris Wootton (Committee Member), Heather Wootton (Committee Member)

Property Maintenance: Daphne Longfield, Mike Nicholls, Chris Oswald Jones, Rene Stringer, Sid Stringer, Barry Wagstaff, Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith

IT Support Group: Jackie Davidson, Michael Frohnsdorff (Chair), Jasmine Patience, Graham Robinson, Alan Wood, Heather Wootton, Chris Wootton

Printer Group: Jackie Davidson, Michael Frohnsdorff, Jasmine Patience, Graham Robinson, Patsy Rogers, Alan Wood, Chris Wootton

Town Heritage Walks: Colin Alderman, Barbara Babbage, Steve Bartholomew, Nuala Brenchley-Sayers, Sheila Clark, Peter Halsey, Peter Lock, Antony Millett, Jim Ransom, Pat Ross, Mike Taylor, Ann Wilkinson

Guide under training: Harvey Charter

VIC shop assistants: Wilna Bing, Pat Blackford, Pam Boorman, Rob Brewer, Christopher Brooke-Taylor, Jean Bushell, Judith Clarke, Martin Collins, Linda Cronk, Jackie Davidson, Sue Davidson, Jean Duchin, Sally Fancourt, Sheila Gibbins, Val Golding, Peter Halsey, Sheila Hulks, Anne Jones, David Jones, Dawn Kelle, Janet Killian, Peter Landon, Sarah Lipscombe, Marian McCann, Pam McLean, Angela Mitchell, Ann Morgan, Penny Newell, Mary Ransom, Patsy Rogers, Patricia Ross, Audrey

Sanderson, Christine Smith (Manager), Judy Smith, Rene Stringer, Sue Taylor, Denise Turner, Pamela Willison, Gill Woodlock,

Chart Mills

Curator post: vacant

Volunteers: John Breeze, Dave Fagg, Tony Golding, Peter Landon, Richard Meade, Rod Morley (rota organiser), Richard Parris-Piper, David Palmer, John Stockley, Phil Tooker, Chris Wootton

Fleur Charity Bookshop Team: Wendy Clarke, Chris Collins, Sue Davidson, Janis Dixon, Genevieve Ellis, Tim Fletcher, Linda Ireland, Joyce Lawless, Claire Luckham, Roy Morton, Anthea Nicholls, Linda Nolan, Richard Parris-Piper, Beryl Pleasance, Colin Simmonds, Diane Skinner, Julia Vellam, Susan White, Pamela Willison, Sarah Windsor

Maison Dieu

Steward Volunteers: Angelina Barry, Peter Cook, Rev. Penny Fenton, Dick Frier, Harold Fischer, Ray Godfrey, Ann Godfrey, Sheila Hulks, Sheila Maister, Paul Moorbatch, Graham Peter, Stephanie Peter, Keith Robinson, Julian Saunders, Kathy Scarlett, Margaret Slythe, Ann Wilkinson, Nick Wilkinson

Maison Dieu Curatorial Support:

Jane Baker, Elizabeth Eyre (Assistant Hon Curator), Pauline Houghton (Collections Cataloguer and Collections care), Margaret Slythe (Hon Archivist, Fund Raiser and Advisor), Ann Wilkinson (Hon Curator)

Newsletter Organisers

Newsletter Co-ordinator (print): Walter Waller

Newsletter Co-ordinator (email): Jasmine Patience

Newsletter Printer and distribution Co-ordinator: Patsy Rogers

Organisation Team: Martin Collins, Ann Croydon, Peter Halsey, Sheila Hulks, Ann Jones, Ann Morgan

Newsletter Delivery Team:

Janice Burr, Jean Bushell, Mary Clarke, Martin Collins, Steve Craddock, Linda Cronk, Genevieve Ellis, Penny Fenton, Ray Godfrey, Jane Hannath, Linda Ireland, David Iron, Eric Kempster, Janet Killian, Nigel Mannouch, Rod Morley, Martin Nicholls, Mike Nicholls, Philippa Poultney, Pat Ross, Audrey Sanderson, Colin Simmonds, Caroline Stockley, Kate Taylor, Mike Taylor, Janet Turner, Walter Waller, Marian Walton, Chris Warburton, Doug Warner, Susan White, Pamela Willison

Editor, Annual Report 2016:

Norma Beechey

Founded in 1962, the **FAVERSHAM SOCIETY**, run entirely by volunteers, is about heritage. It is about what we value that we inherited from our forebears and what we conserve and create for our grandchildren and their children to inherit. It will only be conserved and inherited if it is valued by future generations.

The objects of the Faversham Society are to:

- educate and inform the public in the geography, history, natural history, arts and architecture of Faversham and the surrounding area;
- secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Faversham and the surrounding area;
- preserve for the people of Faversham, of the surrounding area, and of the Nation, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Faversham in buildings and structures (including any building defined in Section 336 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990) of particular beauty or of historical, architectural or constructional interest;
- promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting Faversham and the surrounding area.

For more information about the Faversham Society and what we do, visit us at www.favershamsociety.org and on Facebook.

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