

Appendix 3

Creek Trust report on Boat Building and Related Activity in the Purifier Building

In the Purifier Building, Faversham Creek Trust hosts the workshops of traditional craftsmen Simon Grillet, Colin Frake and Alan Thorne.

Simon Grillet, Master Shipwright, works with trainees – one has just completed his Shipwright credentials. They have built Mayhi, a copy of a gentleman's sailing yacht of the early twentieth century.

Colin Frake is a famed blockmaker, doing both the metal and woodwork himself. He made the blocks for the refurbishment of HMS Victory. He also makes the Faversham Stove.

Alan Thorne makes dinghies and other small craft. Alan is also a talented woodwork and boat-building trainer.

Between 2013 and 2016 Faversham Creek Trust sponsored five 6-week courses for long term unemployed people, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions. Alan provided the woodworking component of those courses. Trainees produced small boats, which were launched in Stonebridge Pond. and other wooden items. One of the boats was given to Stonebridge Allotments to aid in keeping the waterway clear.

Faversham Creek Trust have provided 'Boat Camp' for two years, and are working now towards Boat Camp 2019. Students from the Abbey School have had an introduction to boating activity on Faversham Creek, going out on Thames Barge Repertor, visiting Alan Staley's boat yard at Iron Wharf, and seeing the workshops in the Purifier.

Then two students have had work experience with Alan Staley for a week, while eight have spent the week with Alan Thorne. Starting with wood and cable ties, they were amazed to built actual boats by 'stitching' the wood together. The students were taught to row their completed skiffs, and had impromptu races in the Basin. In 2018 the students were able to take part in several more rowing sessions on the Creek.

Starting in November 2018, Alan Thorne is providing Boat Building Experience in the Purifier. Mornings he works with adults, and with children after school, to build copies of Joansa, a rowing skiff. There have been 21 days and 8 different people so far. Students are self-referred – a couple are children who attended Boat Camp. Alan is crowd-funding the Experience so that a lack of money is not a hindrance to attending.