

# FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST

## REGENERATING FAVERSHAM'S MARITIME HERITAGE



### TRAINING SCHEME PROGRESS - THREE NEW MAYHIS

Now that the training workshop roller door is up and running and the Mayhi has been lofted (all her lines and measurements accurately drawn) we can move her out and we begin laying the keel of Mayhi 2 in August, slightly delayed because Simon Grillet, our Master Shipwright, has broken the fingers of his left hand. Never mind, he's got the other one!

The good news: materials for three new Mayhis have been ordered. There's confidence for you. Hurry on the bridge.



### We've made great progress in The Purifier Building.....

with a new roller-shutter door, the trainees' kitchen and workshop sink are in, as well as the office, in addition to the new roofs, wiring and interior painting. The loo, new staircase, emergency lights and Colin Frake's workshop door are almost finished. A water heater, and two new windows are ready for installation.

Next on the list - the main front door, more windows, water supplied to the Meeting Room, and external repainting.

### FAVERSHAM OPEN HOUSE SCHEME

We participated in the Faversham Society's Open House scheme again. The Purifier Building was open all 3 Saturdays, and we had 220 visitors. We made the most of the opportunity to explain to newcomers all about the Trust, showing them the Mayhi - the template vessel for our trainees - and answered questions about the future of the Creek, our plans for activity in the Basin when the bridge has been repaired and the wharf reinstated in front of BMM Weston.

## NEWSLETTER 5

### BRENTS SWING BRIDGE

A key part of the regeneration of Faversham Creek is the provision of an opening bridge so that barges and other sailing craft can use the upper basin as a winter haven and undergo maintenance by specialist shipwrights. Members will know that the existing swing bridge is corroded and will last only for a couple of years before it must be replaced.

The KCC has a budget of about £400k to provide a fixed concrete bridge that would fulfil its responsibilities as highway authority, which is to maintain traffic access across the creek. The County will, however, cooperate in the provision of an opening bridge provided the extra cost is obtained from elsewhere.

The cheapest option now appears to be a swinging bridge similar to the existing one, which will cost in the region of £900k. Under the chairmanship of Mark Dance, the KCC's cabinet member for Regeneration, a working group has been set up to apply for funding. Over the last two months, Philippa Dickenson with support from Brenda Chester prepared a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund. The bid included not only the bridge but also dredging and construction of a reclaimed wharf along the BMM Weston frontage in the upper basin.

Sadly, we have just heard that the bid was not successful, and the team will be putting together a new bid to other sources, probably broken down into separate packages.

It's also likely that later this year, the Trust will launch a fund specifically for the bridge replacement. All of the organisations concerned, the Town Council, the Borough Council, the County Council, the Creek Trust and the Brents Community Association are united in their determination to press ahead until we achieve success.

### CELEBRATION OF FAVERSHAM CREEK

On 10 July at the Fleur Hall, the Faversham Society held a new kind of event: *A Celebration of Faversham Creek and its Heritage*. It was organised and chaired by Professor Harold Goodwin, newly elected to the Society's Board of Trustees. It presented a series of illustrated talks about Creek and what it means to the local community.

The presenters included Hugh Perks, maritime historian, on The Recreational Heritage of Faversham Creek, Dr Pat Reid, Community Archaeologist for the Faversham Society on Ghosts of Creeks Past, archaeologist Paul Wilkinson, Kent Archaeological Field School, who spoke on Faversham, the Romans and the Creek. Bluey Walpole related his experiences

of Fishing for, and from, Faversham while Nathalie Banaigs of Kent Creative Arts explained her project Faversham 365 that will be familiar to many of our members. There were contributions from Angie Simmons of the Brents Community Association, Karl Musson from Creek Creative, a comprehensive and rewarding review of local wildlife by Kevin Duvall of the Kent Wildlife Trust, and a splendid slide show of photographs from The Faversham and District Camera Club.

The Trust was represented by Chris Wright, who outlined some hypotheses about the catchment area of the Creek. The audience greatly enjoyed what was a varied and stimulating evening. The contents were filmed and we hope to see a more detailed report in due course.

### THAT DINGHY RACE

Sixer Boorman's brainchild is becoming an annual fixture for the town. Sunday June 15 saw our second dinghy race in the Basin in ideal weather with a nice breeze. Twice around the buoys for the eight boats, and won by 12 year old Ella Jameson in her laser 'Whistle'.

There was a good crowd and many followed the race along the footpath to the turning buoy at Morrisons Wharf, and back. Deputy mayor Cllr Jane Hawkins presented the cup to Ella, who looks to have a great future as a sailor; dad is shipwright and sailor, Simon Grillet.

One of the contestants, Alan Thorne, raced his brand-new nesting dinghy 'The PuriFlyer', built in the Trust's Purifier Building. It splits into two separate halves which can be stacked together for transport.



Boats in the Basin

Ella the Champion Sailor

## FAVERSHAM NAUTICAL FESTIVAL

The Creek Trust stall was very popular again this year with lots of interest in our T-shirts, mugs, maps, cards etc. The Festival has become an important event for the Trust and a valuable opportunity to spread the word about our work and its aims. It also provides the chance to meet new and existing members, and to raise much-needed funds from the profits.

Our grateful thanks go to Lena Reekie and her team, and to all our volunteers.

## MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERS

Members contribute to our funds, and to our credibility in the town. Volunteers do everything! Current membership is 388 and now runs for 12 months after joining – we send everyone an invitation to renew.

We held a Volunteers' Social event on 20 June, to say Thank You! Another is planned for the autumn.

## FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST AND THE BRENTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The BCA was set up last summer as local people on the Brents side of the Creek felt they were not being consulted on what they wanted to see happen to Faversham Creek within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The BCA has very similar aims and objectives as FCT, but with a focus on improving the lives of everyone who lives and works in the area. We are working together as members of the Steering Group to try and get a plan which the community would accept. However, when the options were taken out of the draft by the Town Council which went out to consultation in May and June, we decided to join forces and we set up the exhibition, *Let's Make the Creek Work for Faversham*.

We aim to continue to work together and are developing a grant funded project to help local people have the confidence and skills to move into work.

## PLANNING UPDATE

The *Let's Make the Creek Work for Faversham* exhibition and survey was a huge success with over 850 visitors and more than half of them completing our survey. More than 96% of respondents wanted to see a boats, jobs and community strategy with less than 1% (7 people) preferring a housing and footpath approach. We sent all the results to each Town Councillor, and followed it up with a presentation and summary report to the Steering Group on 23 July.

The group will receive the responses analyses of the Town Council's draft Plan at meetings to be held in September. Revisions should then be made to reflect the outcome of the consultation. The Plan will then go to Swale Borough Council which will have to run a further 6 weeks consultation probably before Christmas. The Plan will then go to an Independent Examiner in the spring, who will do one of three things: give the go

ahead to go to referendum; ask for changes to be made; or throw it out as not meeting requirements. There can be a local public hearing if the proposed plan is contentious. If there is to be a referendum it will be September 2015. So, watch this space

Not too much else going on with planning around the Creek – the system has a backlog because all the back office stuff has been merged with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. Just one of note – the Baltic House wine bar, Bin Ella has put in an application for structural changes providing toilet, shower etc upstairs – this despite saying no internal changes would be made when they applied for change of use.

Difficult to comment at present because at time of writing no supporting documents/drawings are available for the public to view. It is suspected that the application is retrospective and that the work has already been done.

Visitors to the Exhibition



## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Trust will be holding its annual Barn Dance fundraiser at the QE School (ME13 7BQ) at **7:30pm on Friday 12 Sept**

Caller: Ruth Cronk

Music: Faversham Steam Navigation Band.

Tickets: adults **£8**, unwaged **£6** under 5s for **free**.

A fabulous prize draw will also be held.

All tickets available from

**Sixer Boorman (01795 530121)**

## CHANGES TO THE TRUST'S CONSTITUTION

A revised set of Articles of Association and a new set of Bye-Laws for the Trust were adopted by the Board of Trustee/Directors on the 18th March 2014. Both may be viewed at <http://favershamcreektrust.com/articles-of-association/> together with Explanatory Notes.

## JOBS VACANT

After the excitements of starting-up and settling into our core work, we need people to come and help with the management of our tasks of fundraising and community interaction among other things. If YOU have administrative and communication skills, and the time to spare, and would like to be part of an enthusiastic and creative team, please let us know. We want to develop our merchandising and our volunteer activities in particular.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

This summer we've been tweeting as Creek Support @CreekHooray! A lot of photos of the Creek in various moods, and pictures of the Neighbourhood Plan sites have gained us 177 followers. We've posted on Instagram too. If you have nice photos of the Creek, help support promotion of our wonderful waterway by posting them on Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest etc, with the #favershamcreek hashtag. Thank you!



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