

FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST

REGENERATING FAVERSHAM'S MARITIME HERITAGE



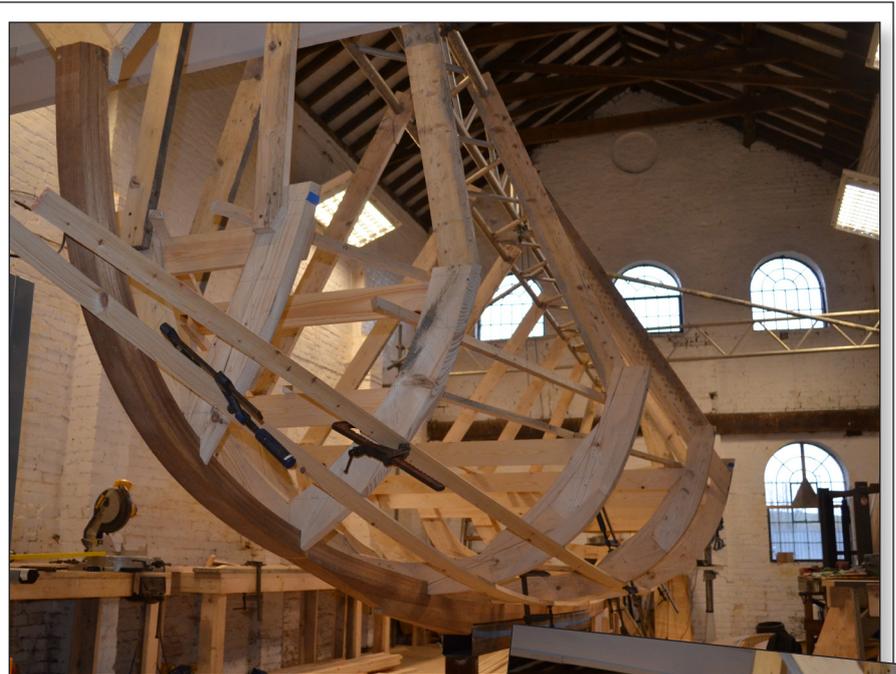
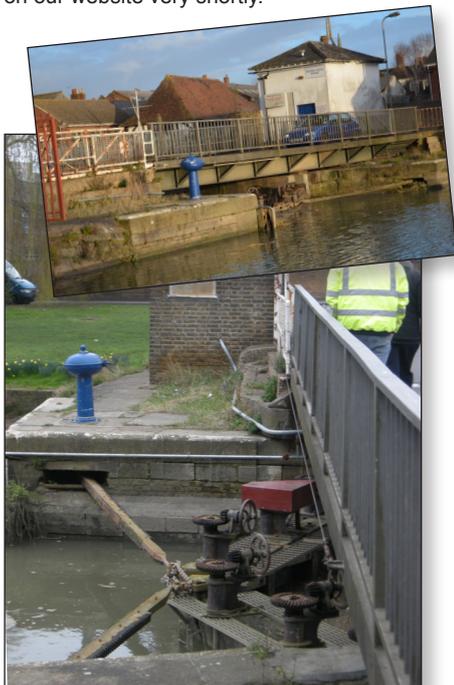
BRENTS SWING BRIDGE

The County Council is committed to replacing the Brents Swing Bridge, which has reached the end of its useful life. The construction work may start in 2016/17. They have set aside a budget of £400 000 for a fixed bridge but are prepared to put this towards the cost of an opening bridge, now estimated at around £900 000, a significant reduction on the previous estimate. The results of a chemical sampling survey of the creek bed have been analysed and the results are favourable; happily we won't need to remove contaminated material and the dredging will be relatively straightforward.

At the Bridge Steering Group meeting on 4 February, representatives from Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council, Faversham Town Council and the Creek Trust jointly agreed to launch a public fund to help cover the extra cost. The contributions of the Town Council and the Borough Council have yet to be confirmed, but given their help, augmented by private donations, there is growing confidence that the project will succeed.

The fund was launched at the Brents on 3 March when the first donation was presented to KCC cabinet member for Economic Development Mark Dance by Chris Wright. It was an anonymous donation by a member of the Trust.

Donations made via the Trust (rather than directly to KCC) will attract valuable Gift Aid, and we will post details of how to contribute on our website very shortly.



THE TRAINING SCHEME UPDATE

Work on the new *Mayhi* continues to make good progress with the keel in place and the ribcage for the moulds built up in the traditional way from a fixed overhead beam. She will then be planked and framed up - all this in a sequence which trainees can follow.

We now have enough experience of her build to write up the syllabus of the boat-building module of the course to submit to City & Guilds for their comments and approval. Objective April.

Two prospective apprentices have been trialed and we are receiving unsolicited approaches from young people for the future. This is very encouraging for the viability of the Training Scheme.



Mayhi takes shape

PROGRESS ON THE PURIFIER

Winter means windows! Alan Thorne has made 16 frames, 3 small 2-part ones, 13 large 3-part ones, of shaped softwood with hardwood at the bottom. Volunteers are now priming and painting, getting the windows ready for double-glazed panes to be fixed, and then fitting into place. Each window aperture is a slightly different size – the joys of a heritage building.

But not just windows: Volunteers have made walls around the new staircase, and are fitting fire doors, so all will meet regulations. And a new front door system has been made, and is being painted. There will be a heavy outer door, and a glazed inner door..

What's left for Spring? The Arthur Percival

Room is due for some polish, with storage units and shining tiles. We may even get started on the repointing!

PLANNING MATTERS

Two major planning consultations took place in December and January, on the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan and on the local plan for Swale, Bearing Fruits 2031. The Trust and our colleagues, the Brents Community Association, made extensive representations to both consultations, as did some of our members. English Heritage submitted a nine-page letter on the NP, which they are now discussing with Swale planners. The next stage is for both plans to be reviewed by Independent Examiners.

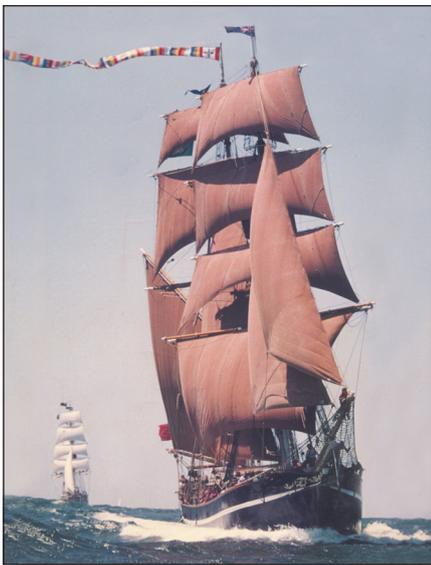
EYE OF THE WIND

The Trust hosted a successful evening on 21 February at the Fleur Hall for people who had been involved with the refit of the beautiful sailing ship *Eye of the Wind* which was brought here in 1975, after the owners met Sixer Boorman at St Katharine's Dock in London.

This Tall Ship has circumnavigated the world many times, and had Faversham shown as her home port for many years.

She was also granted the Freedom of the Town by the then Town Council. After watching historic recordings of the schooner being restored, and with many anecdotes from the audience, David Beavan from the *Leila Trust* said how people benefit from learning how to sail.

Framed copies of a fine print by a Tasmanian artist are now available from Sue Akhurst on **01795 530141** price £100.



Eye of the Wind in full sail

SUCCESSFUL PUNT LAUNCH

The beautiful 2-man punt "Kingfisher" was named and launched with great style on Sunday 22 February at Stonebridge Pond on a cold sunny morning, with a good crowd in attendance. Built under the guidance of Alan Thorne based in the Trust's Purifier Building, by a team of local people on an employability scheme organised by Brents Community Association and funded by the Dept for Work and Pensions, the punt was handed over to the team from the Westbrook Association and is already being used for clearing rubbish and litter from the non-tidal waterways.



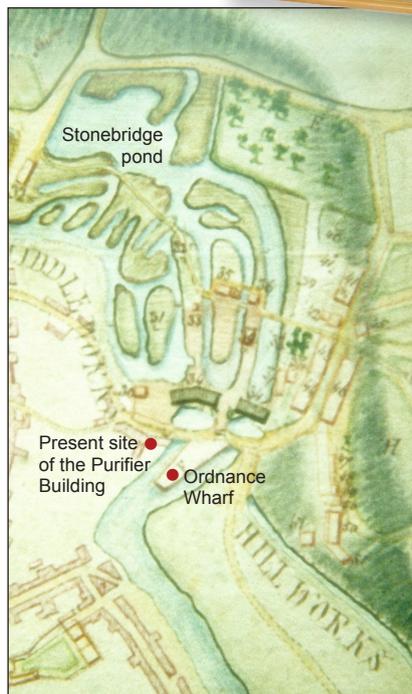
DONATION OF PAINTINGS

The Trust has been given two paintings showing barges racing in the Swale. They were made in the 1980s by the late Alistair Munro who lived at Nagden, The donor is Brenda Hyland, and we are very grateful for this thoughtful and attractive donation, which follows another made last year by Jean Yeomans who gave us a nostalgic painting by Don Sattin of a barge somewhere along the Medway. We need to consider the best use of these artworks maybe to be included in an exhibition at the Purifier Building in months to come.



GUNPOWDER OR ORDNANCE WHARF

The recent letter from English Heritage commenting on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan has prompted some of us to take a more detailed look at the history of Ordnance Wharf which lies right beside our Purifier Building. It may have started off as a small island in the creek which was much deeper than today, and the tide reached further inland. Maps and records in the public domain indicate that the Wharf was built in 1801 by the Royal Engineers as part of Faversham's gunpowder industry at the Home Works which extended upstream as far as Ospringe. Where Flood Lane now crosses the back of the Wharf was once mostly water, with five powder mills just inside the present allotment wall, and only a footpath connecting to the bottom of Brent Hill. Our series of spring Talks will start with a presentation by Dr Paul Wilkinson on the gunpowder history of that part of Faversham - on 19 March at 7.30pm.



The Home Works in 1822.

TRUST'S TWITTER SUCCESS

Welcome to Jasmine Patience who is now our publicity officer handling our press releases and enquiries. She has set up a Twitter account which you can find here: [@FavCreekTrust](https://twitter.com/FavCreekTrust) We'd love you to use it to post nice photos or information about our creek! This account is steadily gaining more followers and you can help! You can reach Jasmine on jasmine.patience@gmail.com and **07527 853685**

2015 DIARY DATES

As we go to press, we have the following dates for your diary. If you would like to volunteer at any of these events - and we need help! - please contact **Debbie Lawther on 07730 163517**

March 19 Lecture: Faversham Creek and Gunpowder - with Dr Paul Wilkinson, Fleur Hall, 7.30

April 24 Lecture: Faversham Creek Wildlife - with Bob Gomes, Fleur Hall, 7.30

May 22 Quiz: URC Church Preston Street

July 4/5: Nautical Festival; Open House at the Purifier Building; 'Purification' Art Show

July 11/12: Open House at the Purifier Building

July 18/19: Open House - at the Purifier Building - all these courtesy the Faversham Society

July 19 Afternoon: Dinghy Race

Dec: Members' Night at the Purifier

NEW LECTURE SERIES

Last year we ran a series of six fundraising talks about the Creek at the Fleur Hall. They were highly popular, but some members could not attend because they were at work. This year the lectures will be in the evenings - on different days of the week - first come, first served. Check on the website for dates and times.



Faversham Creek Trust
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