

# FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST

REGENERATING FAVERSHAM'S MARITIME HERITAGE



## A HISTORIC DAY AT THE BASIN

For the first time in 25 years, there's a working boat in the Basin. On 11th February, in cooperation with Peel Ports, a small dredger was taken in under the bridge. The wheel house had to be removed to get the boat through; that was then reinstalled at Morrisons Wharf. The dredger is privately owned and the brainchild of Eric Green and Bob Berk in response to Peel Ports' failure to invest in the creek due to lack of financial return.

The first task is to remove the mud immediately behind the gates and reveal whatever is jamming one of them. When that one is fully open it will be possible to bring in another bigger dredger.

Stringent procedures were introduced nationally in 2014 for licensing dredging, so the Faversham Creek Navigation

Company was formed as a Community Interest Company to manage this; even so, while it must recover its expenses, these will be considerably less than a commercial dredging contractor that would cost tens of thousands of pounds more.

The Navigation Co has licenses for the Creek and the Basin. The latter took 16 months to obtain and cost almost £20,000. Swale Borough Council agreed to fund this, on top of their contribution towards the Swing Bridge.

The work will be carried out over the next two years, and should be completed by the time the new swing bridge is installed in 2018. Due to the conditions of the licence, to protect nesting birds for example, the current work will cease at the end of March and restart in September.

It is a major achievement to access the Basin and make a start on its restoration. The Trust congratulates and supports everyone involved and we look forward to watching their progress.

## FIDELITY BACKS THE TRUST

This respected charity backs projects that train young people. They liked the idea of our shipwrights training scheme. With the support of the Kent Communities Fund they have given us £20,000 to open the bridge and the basin for boats to reach the training workshop in the Purifier Building. Thanks, Fidelity.



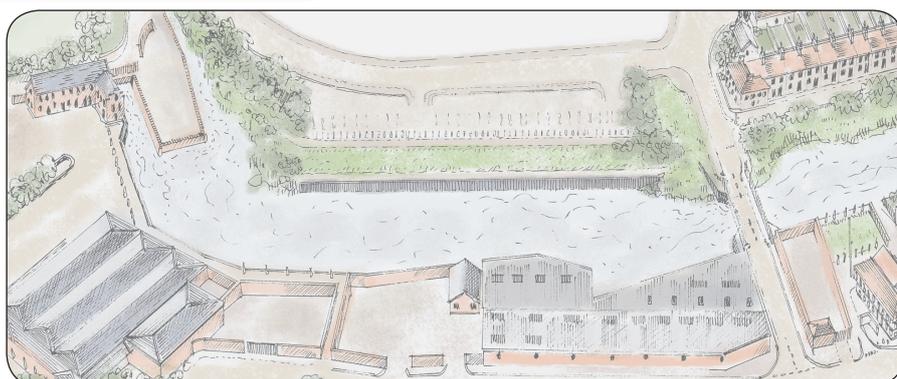
*The Faversham Creek Navigation Company at work*



## NEW MP VISITS TRUST

Faversham's new MP Helen Whately visited the Trust on 11 December 2015 and said she was very impressed and supportive of our project. She said "The creek has enormous potential and I'll be supporting the Trust in its campaign to regenerate it to the benefit of the local economy and community." Seen here with our Chairman Sue Akhurst, Gulliver Immink and Simon Foster.

*MP Helen Whately visits the Creek*



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2015 was a hectic year for the Trust, fundraising for Swing the Bridge, making the Purifier ready for the Shipwrights' Apprenticeship Scheme and supporting our partners, the Brents Community Association, with the Creek Learning Project.

We will build on this work in 2016, working with the Faversham Creek Navigation Company CIC as they begin dredging the Basin, helping the BCA to develop their courses for long term unemployed and other disadvantaged people, and supporting Faversham

Shipwrights CIC as they recruit more apprentices and develop their training courses. We are also working with our three councils (Kent, Swale and Faversham) on the Bridge Steering Group and Technical Group, and with the Rotary Club of Faversham and the BCA on the Nautical Festival. We will build relationships with local schools and voluntary organisations in the area, and will work to encourage more people to use the Creek and Basin for sailing and rowing small boats - the Dinghy Race on Sunday 5th June is just the start!

Barges at the  
2015 Thames  
Match



## CREEK PLAN

Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan. We have just been advised by Swale Borough Council that the report from the Independent Examiner, Mr Timothy Jones, is now expected in mid March. This will be six months after the Hearing rather than the anticipated six weeks.

## USEFUL GIFT

Local fisherman Blue Walpole has donated a fine dinghy to the Trust, for use in the Basin. Volunteers helped restore her to a safe and shipshape condition, and she's already started work helping clear rubbish from the moorings.



The sparkling clean restored dinghy

## A GUN IN THE MUD!

A gun found by Trust volunteers in the mud near the Purifier Building has been handed to the police. The pistol came to light while volunteers were clearing debris from the moorings behind Morrisons supermarket. The event was captured by Conrad Broadley who was visiting that day from the Northfleet, Dartford and Crayford Creek restoration projects. He will be one of the speakers in the Trust's talk series this spring. The volunteers have so far pulled out over 1000 paving bricks which could damage the hulls of vessels at low tide.



Gun toting mud larks and the now rather muddier dinghy which is berthed alongside the Purifier

## 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

**Claire Mason on 07769 223925 or [clairemason89@icloud.com](mailto:clairemason89@icloud.com)**

- 7 March** - FILM The Gunpowder Explosion of 1916  
**Fleur Hall 2pm**
- 11 April** - Peter Kennett with slides of old Faversham  
**Fleur Hall 7.30pm**
- 22 April** - Music from Twist City and Mainsqueeze **Purifier Building 7.30pm - see FCT website**
- 25 April** - Conrad Broadley on restoring creeks along the Thames **Purifier Building, 7.30pm**
- 19 May** - Chris Wright, Space, Time and Faversham Creek.  
**Fleur Hall, 7.30pm**
- 5 June** - Dinghy Race  
**Creek Basin**
- July - first 3 Saturdays** Open House Scheme & Pop-Up Café at the Purifier Building
- 23/24 July** - Nautical Festival **Town Quay and Front Benches**
- 3/4 September** - Hop Festival - Pop-up café, stall in Abbey Street
- 23 September** - Creek Trust Barn Dance **Venue TBA**
- 15/16 and 22/23 October** Artists Open Studio **Purifier Building**
- 25 November** - Creek Trust AGM **Alexander Centre**
- 2 December** - Members' Social with Carols **Purifier Building**

For Membership and Contact forms etc and for update and further information go to the website.  
[www.favershamcreektrust.com](http://www.favershamcreektrust.com)



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