

FAVERSHAM CREEK TRUST

REGENERATING FAVERSHAM'S MARITIME HERITAGE



THE SWING BRIDGE

It's taking longer than any of us expected, but KCC's Leader Paul Carter has now said in writing that we should have a swing bridge. The Director of Economic Development has taken charge of the project, stressing the Regeneration benefits, and his department is working hard to resolve problems. Faversham's right to navigation as far as Ordnance Wharf is acknowledged.

We know that our members and everyone who contributed to the Swing the Bridge Fund - in that remarkable show of community solidarity three years ago - are watching and waiting. The Creek Trust, Swale and Faversham

Councils and others have met with KCC formally and informally many times to make the point - we will have our bridge!

FOOTPATH ENQUIRY

The second public enquiry into these footpaths took place in January, with quite a few members of the Trust in attendance and speaking. The Inspector will decide whether to extinguish footpath ZF5, through Faversham Reach, from the Definitive Map, and whether to add a new footpath along the edge of the Creek, in front of Faversham Reach and Waterside Close. The estimates for the cost vary from c. £92,000 to £125,000

excluding compensation. Our two local charities, Faversham Municipal Charities and Bensted Charity, have budgeted £46,500 between them, FTC £5,000, SBC £60,000 and KCC will pay the balance.

Our Chairman, Sue Akhurst, spoke on her own behalf and for the Trust to say that we support Creekside footpaths where they may reasonably be provided. The lack of a Creekside footpath in this area is due to past oversights by our Councils and Planners. At our joint Exhibition on the Neighbourhood Plan in 2014 there was a very strong preference for any available money to be spent on an opening bridge, dredging and regeneration of the Creek rather than on footpaths. The condition of the footpaths generally around the Creek is very poor indeed, including mud and flooding on the Crab Island path and the path along Iron Wharf and beyond. Flood Lane is very seriously flooded. It would be better to invest money in improving all these existing footpaths first.

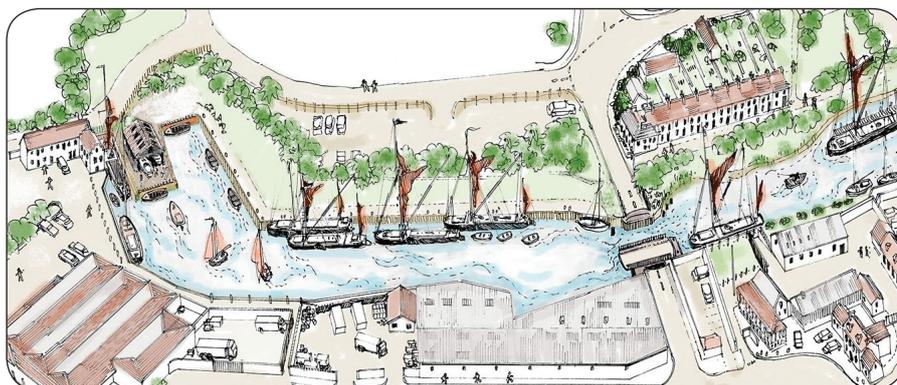
ERIC GREEN OUTSTANDING BRITISH CITIZEN

Eric Green's contribution to the community by dredging the creek over many years was recognised when he received the British Citizen Award at the House of Lords in January.



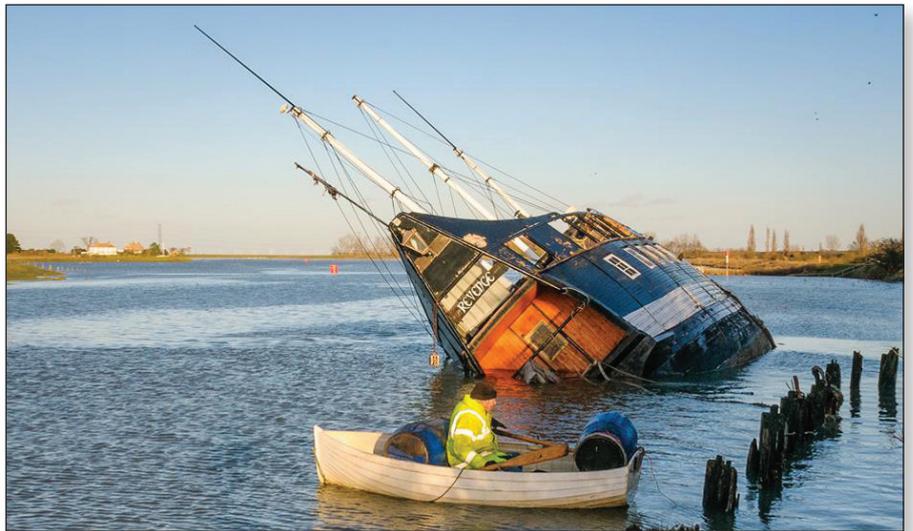
PURIFIER BUILDING

This winter our volunteers have been replacing unsightly areas of concrete in the floor of the Arthur Percival Room with black and red tiles to match the rest. John and Caroline Clarkstone from the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group are taking the opportunity to investigate. They found fascinating metal pieces and some piping and made a careful record of the finds – which were inconclusive. But there is another area to be done – who knows what will be under the remaining concrete! Special thanks to Fiona Crosfield.



FLOOD DEFENCES

The Environment Agency have been working through the winter to upgrade the flood defences at the Front Bents. The drainage pipes needed flaps installed to stop water coming in!



THE PIRATE SHIP

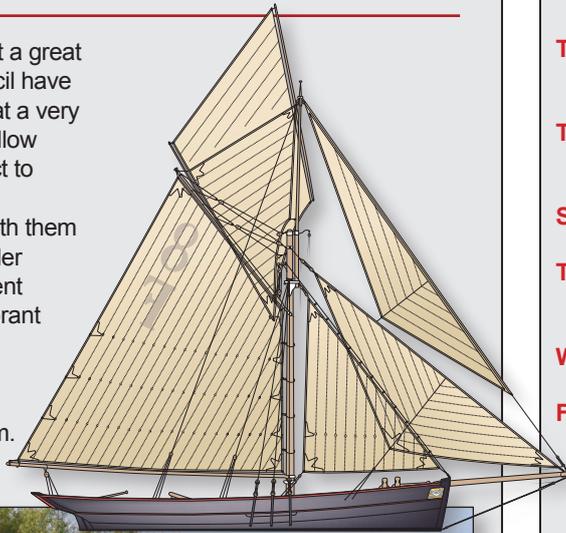
This boat abandoned on the flats near the Iron Wharf has been causing some concern and will be costly to remove. Meanwhile her masts have now been taken away to allow clear passage for passing vessels.

PILOT CUTTER *PELLEW NEWS*

Work on the *Pellew* is proceeding at a great rate in Truro, where Cornwall Council have provided a wonderful riverside site at a very affordable rent on a long lease, to allow the training and boat-building project to become viable and sustainable.

We are currently in negotiations with them to take over the adjacent land in order to construct workshops for our current trainees and others to develop a vibrant hub for traditional marine crafts.

It is deeply regrettable that we have been unable to do this in Faversham.



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 on 01795 227706 or dlr.lawther@gmail.com**

Friday 16 March

10.30 Purifier Building.
Coffee morning for Helpers

Sunday 18 March 2.30

New Royal Cinema.
Thames Barges film

Tuesday 17 April 7.30

Purifier Building.
Prof Chris Wright Talk

Thursday 31 May 7.30

Purifier Building. Talk by
John Owen

Sunday 3 June 10am-3pm

92 Abbey Street - Plant Sale

Tuesday 10 July 7.30

Purifier Building. Prof Tim
Stonor talk Faversham 20202020

Weekend 21 and 22 July

Nautical Festival

Friday 30 November 7.30

Alexander Centre Trust AGM

For Membership and Contact forms etc and for update and further information go to the website.

www.favershamcreektrust.com



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