



THE FAVERSHAM SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1962

FLEUR DE LIS HERITAGE CENTRE

ESTABLISHED 1977

**ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS
NUMBER 56
2018**

**‘CHERISH THE PAST, ADORN THE
PRESENT, CREATE THE FUTURE’**

The Faversham Society (a company limited by guarantee)

10-13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS

Charity No 1135262, Company No 7112241

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Gardner Croft, 2 Castle Street, Canterbury

Independent Examiners

MHA MacIntyre Hudson 71 New Dover Road, Canterbury

Foreword and Introduction by the President

This Annual Report, packed with detail, is a testimony to the fact that The Faversham Society is flourishing. It is clear from the Annual Report that the Society is in good health with close to 250 active volunteers contributing in a host of ways to its work and close to 1,000 members and subscribers.

On behalf of all our members may I pay tribute to the Chair and Trustees for all their work, and all volunteers for all theirs; it is quite remarkable that so much is achieved by a society whose activities are managed wholly by volunteers. The volunteering spirit in Faversham is strong, and it reflects the pride and delight those who live in Faversham feel about the town, and the importance attributed to conserving the good things about the town while, recognising the need for changes, trying to influence those changes in a positive way. This has always been the Society's role.

Over the next ten years Faversham faces major challenges with increasing housing and traffic around a medieval core, the heart of the town, with over 350 listed buildings and many more "designated heritage assets".

The work of the Society over the last 55 years will count for little if we fail to ensure that future generations inherit our built and cultural heritage and value it as we do. I have had the pleasure of attending many of the Society's members' and public meetings over the last year and seen the engagement and open participation, which has been generated.

The citizens' meetings in St Mary of Charity, in which the Society has played a major part, have done a great deal to enable public participation in the determining of Faversham's future. Faversham faces many challenges with development all around it. The Society is well placed, with its membership's support, to ensure that development around this core does not damage what is special about our town.

Richard Oldfield President

Obituaries

The Society wishes to report and recognise the passing of Board Members and Vice Presidents.

Sir Roger Moate 12 May 1938, to 15 April 2019.

Roger Moate was MP for Faversham from 1970 for 27 years and a Vice-President of the Society. He was supportive of our work and more recently an active member of the Faversham Buildings Preservation Trust which purchased and restored the fine Assembly Rooms in Preston Street.

Brian Wintle-Smith December 20 December 1938 – 31 March 2019

Brian joined the Society in 2007 and quickly became very active in it. He was elected to the Board in April 2013 and latterly was very busy as Vice Chair taking responsibility for a wide range of activities and tasks with dogged determination always willing to deal with problems and challenges as they arose. Brian regularly contributed quizzes to the Newsletter which were much enjoyed by members, His passing has, as is often the case, caused us to appreciate how much he did for the Society.

Chair's Review 2018

Over the next few years, Faversham faces a great deal of change, comparable in scale to the changes wrought by the coming of the railway in the mid-nineteenth century. We know what an attractive place Faversham is to live in – and developers look for opportunities to build in and around just such beautiful towns, particularly with good transport links to London. The stance taken by Swale against housing development left the District without a supply of housing land deemed sufficient by central government and resulted in the Perry Court development. In the autumn of 2017, we held a members' meeting about "The Heart of Our Town." A strong theme emerged: we value the fact that people can converge, by walking into the market place, to mingle and meet at weekends and for festivals and events. The growth in traffic and the geographical extension of the town will discourage walking and cycling and create more congestion, as people take to their cars.

Faversham was threatened with a new road layout in the 1960s and Abbey Street was nearly condemned and cleared. Thanks to an intervention by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Faversham Borough Council launched a first "town scheme". The condemned properties were bought by the council under slum-clearance powers, and their occupants re-housed. The properties were sold to sympathetic owners who covenanted with the council to restore them under the supervision of an architect with experience of historic building care. To cover its costs, the council made a slight profit on each - buying the smaller houses for about £250 each and then selling them for about £300. Joy King, who died in July 2018, was one of the purchasers of properties in Abbey Street, an antique dealer and interior designer, she traded as Elizabeth Eaton. The rescue and conservation of Abbey Street was a Faversham First – and we should cherish the memory and learn from it for the future.

The Watling Street, aka the A2, can no longer be regarded as a natural boundary to the development of the town, without a land supply in Swale sufficient to meet the housing targets set by Whitehall developers will be able to appeal and secure permission through the Planning Inspectorate, with their costs paid by Swale. Housing and the associated traffic, air pollution, congestion and health and education infrastructure issues took a lot of our attention in 2018 and will almost certainly do so for the next decade.¹ Swale has begun work on the next District Plan which will have to contain a housing land supply sufficient to meet central government housing targets. During 2018 the Society contributed to the landscape and heritage reviews. In March the Society organised a meeting in St Mary of Charity a meeting on *The Future of Faversham* to enable the citizens of Faversham to hear about the development of the next Swale District plan. The meeting co-chaired by Harold Goodwin and Rev Simon Rowlands heard from Alan Best, head of Swale's spatial planning team and representatives of the Prince's Foundation for Building Community and the Duchy of Cornwall. In October we held a further meeting to hear for the Duchy in more detail about their plans. Again hosted in St Mary of Charity we attracted 260 to the meeting. Many members participated in their Enquiry by Design workshops.

In July Professor Stephen Peckham, Director & Professor of Health Policy at the University of Kent met with the Board to discuss what might be done to monitor pollution at some of the presumed hot spots in the town. The Board approved a monitoring programme which is now underway – results are expected in autumn 2019. In December, we held a public meeting about traffic, pollution and congestion to discuss how best to work together to raise these issues in 2019 and to move towards reducing and mitigating the negative impacts.

There are many families in Faversham which can trace their ancestors back through many generations and the extended families of Faversham are an important part of our heritage. In February we hosted a meeting for members and guests on the challenge of securing really affordable housing so that those born in the town would be able to continue to live here and

¹ There is more detail here: www.faversham.org/history/places/abbey-street

raise families. Our speakers included Helen Whately, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, and James Freeman, head of planning at Swale Council. The meeting was packed and created the impetus for the subsequent development of a Community Land Trust.

The Society has been actively engaged in considering the implications of the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Park for Faversham and examining the likely environmental and other impacts. In March we held a members' meeting to hear their views and in July hosted a meeting with the developers to enable our members to ask questions. Initially, many of us were conflicted, in favour of renewable energy but concerned about the negative impacts of the proposals. At the second members' meeting this time with the developer and their consultants, we did not receive satisfactory responses and assurances and the Board has come out firmly against the solar power station, for this is what it is. We have concerns about access and traffic, landscape and visual impacts, the socio-economic effects and in particular the safety of the battery technology proposed. You can find more detail about our concerns on the Society's website in the Blog which carries all of the Society's policy statements.

The Faversham Society shares the widespread frustration about the lack of progress on the Swing Bridge, so essential to the maintenance of a navigable creek and the presence of the iconic Thames Barges. We supported the "Where's Our Bridge?" campaign and held a members' meeting in October, which brought together many disparate voices.

The Board is keen to contribute to conserving heritage across the town and where we see opportunities to create new heritage. Swale councillor Bryan Mulhern contributed £500, from his members' grant to the restoration of the heritage Nescafé advertisement on the side of the house in Gatefield Lane at the entrance to the Fleur car park. Together with the Town Council we have sponsored the plants which have been put in the beds at the junction between West Street and South Road and we have commissioned a stone with the town's coat of arms to adorn the junction at the bottom of Preston Street, it will be laid in 2019.

Over the last year, the Society has brought together a Faversham Museums Together group of some 15 different heritage groups which are now working together with Christ Church College to develop a new Heritage Hub platform which will facilitate better interpretation of Faversham's heritage across the town using a series of GIS layers and in ways more likely to connect with future generations.

As can be seen from the accounts the Society's finances are strong, but we are anticipating major work on the roof of the Fleur in 2019 which is likely to deplete our reserves.

In December 2018 we had 865 fully paid members and a further 57 subscribers, people still paying their membership dues but who, over the years, have not increased the amount they are paying – 922 people are actively contributing financially to the Society as members or subscribers.

We have close to 240 volunteers giving their time and energy to the work of the Society whether in its VIC, the book shop, the museum, the Open Houses and Open Gardens, Chart Mill, the Faversham Society Archaeological Group the Faversham Town Guides and not forgetting those who give of their time and expertise to the committees and the stalwarts who deliver our newsletter. The volunteers are listed later in this report, and there are reports of the work undertaken. If we have missed any, please accept our apologies.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who contribute to the Society in such a variety of ways united by a shared concern for Faversham and a determination to contribute by cherishing the past, adorning the present and creating the future. The next few years will be challenging, as we seek to sustain our built, cultural and social heritage. Faversham is a special place, we need to try to ensure that as it changes, we maintain what is special about it.

Harold Goodwin Chair

About the Faversham Society

Formed in 1962, the Society is a Registered Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee working to preserve the heritage and fabric of the historic town of Faversham and its surrounding parishes. Created in response to modernisation and the loss of historic buildings in Faversham, the Society aims to ensure that Faversham's distinctive sense of place and outstanding heritage features are not lost.

The Faversham Society is managed by the Board of Trustees through four committees: General Purposes, Environment, Planning, and Museum. Jacquie Hitchcock, a founding member of the Society and elected to the first Executive Committee, and Margaret Slythe, both still regularly contribute to Board meetings in their capacity of Honorary Vice Presidents.

The Society is also represented on the following bodies:

- Kent History Federation
- Visit Faversham (formerly FATA)
- Kent Museums Group Swale Museums Group
- Faversham Historians

The Society's functions and activities are managed and staffed entirely by volunteers without whom none of the Society's activities and achievements would be possible: the Society has no paid staff. Roles range from volunteering professional skills and expertise, to working in the Visitor Information Centre, staffing the Fleur de Lis Gallery and Museum, acting as a Town Heritage Walk Guide or attending committee meetings, to name but a few. All volunteers share an interest in promoting and preserving Faversham's historic and cultural heritage and the Society is indebted to them all.

With more volunteers, however, more could be done. The time commitment need not be onerous and existing and new members who have time to volunteer, even for just a few hours each week, would be particularly welcome in the following areas of activity:

- Sitting on the Environment Committee
- Sitting on the Planning Committee
- Being a Guide for the Town Heritage Walks
- Working in the Visitor Information Centre, Museum and Gallery
- Working in the Fleur Charity Bookshop
- Participating in the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group - working on digs, including administrative work
- Writing contributions for the Newsletter
- Translating marketing leaflets
- Assisting at the Chart Gunpowder Mills
- Cataloguing and reviewing (i.e. curating) the museum collections and libraries

If you would like to get involved and have time, expertise or both to offer, do get in touch – contact Joanne Wintle-Smith by e-mail at favsocvolunteers@outlook.com, telephone 01795 534542 or drop into the Visitor Information Centre and leave a message.

Committee Work in 2018

Four principal committees report to the Faversham Society Board of Trustees: Environment, General Purposes, Planning and Museum. This structure enables the Board to take a strategic overview of the work of the Society. For the Environment, Museum and Planning Committees, any recommendations to be made to external bodies are required to be ratified by the Board. The reports of each Committee's activity during 2018 have been prepared by Committee Chairs.

Environment

The Environment Committee supports the Board by maintaining a watching brief and developing policy and ideas for meetings and other activities to be considered by the Board. All our work is overseen and actioned by the Board. In 2018 we dealt with

- Air Pollution
- Cleve Hill Solar Park
- Creek Bridge and the upper basin
- East Kent Recycling
- Faversham Future Forum
- Really Affordable Housing
- Listed Buildings and Enforcement: Ordnance Wharf, Pett Dane, Railway Station
- Sewage
- Traffic & Congestion
- 20's Plenty

General Purposes

The General Purposes Committee has met every month throughout 2018 discussing various issues affecting the Society namely:-

- Income and expenditure for all sections making up the Society
- Shortage of volunteers
- The Visitor Information Centre
- The second-hand bookshop
- Museum visitor numbers
- Health and safety
- General maintenance
- Communications and marketing
- Membership
- The Fleur Hall
- Town walks
- Celebrations and events
- Website and social media
- The Faversham Papers and new Faversham Paper Publications
- The community photographic archive
- The Fleur gallery
- The Annual Report

The Committee also discussed and implemented the new regulations for General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in May 2018, particular thanks to Maria Newman for her work on this as Membership Secretary. Grateful thanks must be recorded to Mike Nicholls for his patience and perseverance when negotiating and overseeing the Society's utility and telephone accounts. Also, to those many volunteers who give their time

freely when dealing with small emergency jobs that crop up from time to time - we are indebted to them.

Planning

The Committee has continued with its work of interacting with Swale Borough Council and other bodies on matters relating to planning for the Faversham area and in doing so fulfilling the aim of the Faversham Society to promote a high standard of planning and architecture for the town and area. Janet Turner has been Secretary and Vice Chair for all of 2018. All recommendations are required to be ratified by the Board, and their meetings have mostly been the next week after the Planning Committee.

This has been another important year in the planning history of Faversham with several large development schemes being approved and now starting to be built and other controversial schemes submitted including a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project for a solar power station at Graveney, occupying the greater part of the marshes adjacent to the Swale Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. This is a particularly important area for wading birds and geese and also raptors. It will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate through Examination in summer 2019. The Society submitted comments on the scheme in June in response to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and is now preparing initial comments to register the Society as an interested party for the Examination stage.

In January, the Planning Committee considered a scheme for six affordable houses and two open market houses on a site at Leaveland Corner at Badlesmere on the A251. This site is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and was selected following an appraisal of sites and the need for affordable housing in the nearby parishes as a rural exception site. The scheme has been approved and works have been commenced.

Also in January, the Planning Committee considered two applications for works to the pavilion and The Lodge in Faversham Recreation Ground. The pavilion works include refurbishment and creation of replacement toilets. The Lodge will include a new café and performance space. The works form part of a Heritage-Lottery funded restoration of the Recreation Ground. Both schemes were approved and the works to the Rec. including new play equipment, railings, replanting within the avenues of trees and improvement of the skateboard area will take place in 2019.

In March, the Planning Committee objected to an application for erection of a mixed development comprising replacement business units and new housing at the Shipyard Industrial Estate. This was another test for the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan. The planning officer agreed with the Society in refusing the application that introducing new housing at the north end of the industrial estate was unacceptable and conflicted with the policies in the relevant section of the FCNP.

Following extensive works taking place at Standard House, a planning application and listed building application were eventually re-submitted and were considered by the Planning Committee in April for the restoration of the front and extensions to the rear to the full height including new gables at rear roof level and raising of the flank elevation. The curtilage was proposed to be reduced and access provided from the front. The Faversham Society objected on the grounds that the scheme was contrary to the relevant site policies in the FCNP. Despite this, Swale Council granted planning permission and the works have been completed and the building is now occupied as a holiday let.

Also in April, the Planning Committee considered the Reserved matters application for the first phase of the residential development of 200 houses at Love Lane. The site extends to Graveney Road and includes new roads and landscaping with ponds. The scheme was well-designed and fits well with the nearby conservation area. This has been approved by Swale Council and works have been commenced to create the access roads.

In May, The Planning Committee prepared comments on behalf of the Faversham Society for a revised scheme submitted to Kent County Council as the relevant planning authority for the redevelopment of an existing waste management facility and inclusion of additional land. The application has still not been taken to the relevant committee of the KCC and the Society has also objected to an application for a revised Environmental Permit.

Also in May, the Planning Committee supported an application to replace the enclosure to the maltyard of Shepherd Neame Brewery in North Lane. The proposal also includes re-cladding of the bottling store to the creek, Bridge Road and North Lane elevations, minor alterations to the water treatment works and new windows to the building on the corner of Partridge Lane. This has been approved and will make an important contribution to improving the appearance of the street. This accords with the aims of part of the Swan Quay site specific projects in the FCNP.

In June, the Duchy of Cornwall held a series of workshops including a site visit as part of an Enquiry in Public of their proposal for a Garden Village comprising 2500 houses, new retail, a school, some commercial uses, a new cricket ground and other recreational facilities. This was in advance of their submission of the scheme as part of the preparation for the Swale Local Plan. Three Board members represented the Society at the first workshop day and one on the second full day which included walks around parts of the town to identify design details and built form of the existing built development. This is one of two potential Garden villages near Faversham. The other, at North Street by nationally-known promoter Gladman is for 5000 homes and as of December 2018 had not made much contact with anyone apart from Swale Council.

In July, the Planning Committee supported proposals for the erection of side, rear and roof extensions to Newton Place surgery in Newton Road. The design is in keeping with the character of the existing building and that of the surrounding buildings. The increase in the extent of the building is much-needed in the context of the expansion of the town. The scheme has been approved by Swale Council and planning conditions are being discharged.

In July, the Planning Committee supported the conversion of the upper floors and parts of the ground floor and extension to 9 Whitstable Road to provide three new flats and connect the building at first floor level to the buildings either side in Westgate Road and Whitstable Road. The scheme was well-designed and will enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area. The scheme has been approved by Swale Council.

In October, the Planning Committee supported revised drawings for ten houses at the Oil Depot site including moorings and a Creekside walkway intended to be linked to the walkways on adjacent sites. This has been approved by Swale Council. This complies with the relevant policies in the FCNP and represents an important site to be developed and brought back into use.

Also in October, the Planning Committee supported the erection of three new buildings comprising industrial units at the west end of Sidings Close on the Jubilee Way business park. This business park is well-used and an important local employer. The scheme includes a link road through to station road and a new footpath connecting Sidings Close to Station Road. The Society recommended that the rear elevation should be constructed in brick as it is adjacent to the Recreation Ground and that the footpath was welcomed and should become a public right of way. Amended drawings have changed the rear elevations to brick and a transport statement confirms that the footpath is an important part of the site's linkage to the station and bus stops.

In November, the Planning Committee raised objection to the first of two reserved matters applications for the development of new housing at Oare Gravel Works. Concern was raised that the affordable housing was too concentrated at one end of the site. Also, the design, height and groupings of housing had been modified from the Design Brief and were much

less imaginative in their design and use of materials. Swale Council have asked for a better mix of affordable housing which will involve less concentration of the units.

Also in November, the Planning Committee objected to an extension to a listed building at 12 Abbey Street. The Swale planning officer agreed and explained in his report why the scheme was harmful to the listed building. The scheme was refused at the Swale Planning Committee on 10th January 2019.

In December, the Planning Committee supported the discharges of conditions for the scheme to develop 123 houses on the Red Brickworks at Sumpter Way. This was submitted at the same time as a reserved matters application which was also considered to be acceptable. The development of the other part of the site for 127 houses on the Yellow Brickworks was approved in January 2019.

Outside of Planning Committee meetings, the Chair of the Planning Committee was contacted by the Kent Historic Buildings Committee about the proposed demolition of an early 19th century building at 8 London Road, Teynham. The Society made representations that from the photographs, the building appeared to be pre-Victorian and made an important contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Further comments were submitted to Swale Council from Save Britain's Heritage, The Georgian Group and the nationally-known architect Ptolemy Dean. The building is now the subject of a Building Preservation Notice, which is an effective temporary listing and the application was refused because of the substantial harm to the conservation area.

There was a National consultation after the Government's autumn budget on proposed changes to the Permitted Development regime in respect of various uses including changes of use between uses acceptable in town centres, additional storeys on buildings including in town centres and on residential blocks of flats and additional storeys on buildings in out-of-town centres. The proposed relaxations also covered permanent retention of the permitted right to change warehouses to housing and a new right to knock down office buildings and erect housing under a permitted development regime. The Society objected to these proposals on the grounds that they would remove control of the mix of uses in town centres that can help councils to keep them as vibrant as possible and in respect of all the permitted development right for housing on top of or instead of existing buildings would mean that they could not ask for planning gain such as contributions towards infrastructure or affordable housing or consider suitability of the development for people with disabilities. These points have been supported by the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Town and Country Planning Association as well as other amenity societies.

Museum

A huge thanks to all the Museum volunteers for the varied and important work they do over the whole year from those who meet and guide visitors around the displays to those who work behind the scenes. 2018 was busier than each of the last four years with 2,647 visitors, (2,523 in 2017). We are part of the "Wheels of Time" initiative which attracts young visitors and the Arts Fund scheme.

In March, Museum volunteers supported the "Heritage Fair" in Faversham. Clive Foreman's exhibition in November to coincide with the WW1 Armistice was titled "How we remember" and was well received.

The Museum window has been changed regularly. There has been a succession of "pop-up" exhibitions in the Museum foyer several exhibitions working with other community groups and events including the "Plastic Free Faversham" campaigns and "Faversham Celebrates International Women's Week". Some of our newly donated items have been shown with the intention of engaging with all ages of the community. A wonderful costume display was very popular.

Behind the scenes at the Museum, much progress has been made this year, although we have had fewer volunteers than previous years.

The team processing the Arthur Percival Photographic Archive grew to a team of 3. Arthur's paper records continue to be processed by one volunteer. Both aspects are interesting and absorbing.

Society Library: The collection of rare books has been cleaned and catalogued and put into a new secure cabinet (occupying room made by our Space Review). The Faversham and Kent books have been labelled so they are easier to find. Close liaison with the second-hand book shop has resulted in various useful items being added to the main collection.

Doddington Library: The Doddington Parish book collection is looked after by the Society and housed in the attic. It consists mostly of religious books pre 1800. Some are not in the British Library. All have been cleaned and catalogued. The Collection is being added to a national database run by the British Library called the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) and will be available on-line. There has been close liaison with the new Town Hall and it is planned that the library will move to more easily accessible accommodation in their newly restored building in 2019.

There are dozens of items offered to the Museum each year. The Collection Policy guides us to decide whether the item is a heritage item. Our volunteers ensure that items we accept have a strong link to Faversham or the surrounding villages, are associated with the industries or may be concerning a Faversham person. One significant donation was over 30 designs of Ships made in the Pollocks Shipyard and the Royal Maritime Museum have been in contact with us about this (they also have a Pollocks Collection). The decommissioning of some items raised £116 for Society funds.

The current project work to refresh the displays in the Long Gallery is progressing albeit slowly, other small changes have occurred one example being the inclusion of a "Votes for Women" display.

There is also an ongoing project reviewing our document archives to make sure the collection matches the Collection Policy. We have concentrated on the Reference and Ephemera Collections. This maximises storage making provision for new contributions and allows us to check our records are accurate. Volunteers continue to catalogue and re-box the Town Council papers.

The museum received 77 enquiries in 2018, some very interesting ones, the best being from overseas members, who often visit and offer us information for our Archives. A few welcome donations were obtained but most enquirers assume the Society provides this service as part of our support to the Community.

The Museum Committee meets monthly and reports on Museum activities to the Board. Various museum volunteers continue to represent the Museum at other bodies, including Kent Museums Group, Historic Swale and the Faversham Museums Group.

Further Activity in 2018

Visitor Information Centre

2018 was a year of highs and lows, the high being the long-awaited book entitled 'Faversham in the Making' by Pat Reid, Mike Frohnsdorff and Duncan Harrington, and the lows being the loss of our dear friend Sid Skinner and then later in the year we learned that one of our former volunteers, Caroline Stevens, had died.

'Faversham in the Making' arrived in late summer and sold well and had to be republished but record sales for the year go to 'Memories of Faversham in the Great War' which we sold on behalf of the Town Council, some 160 copies disappearing off the shelves.

As far as the rest of the year was concerned we jogged along in the same routine and continued to source books of interest, welcomed nearly 20,000 visitors, did our best to 'sell' Faversham, sold a variety of books and gifts and, as usual, sold the Society's own calendar and Christmas cards in their 100s. We have often been praised for the range of information we stock and have even been cited as the best-stocked VIC in Kent.

We remain indebted to Swale Borough Council for their support and our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers, without whom the VIC would not exist.

Fleur Charity Bookshop

2018 was a positive year for the bookshop. Although there have been small changes of volunteers there remains a good, strong reliable team and plentiful quality donations arriving most weeks.

A major change is that we now have a small team dedicated to selling our rarer books online via eBay. This has enabled us to start our own charity page on the site which means no fees are incurred. We have also enrolled the society as a charity with PayPal resulting in reduced fees. This all means that we can sell more books with very little cost and so income has increased. However, we still need more help in this area to reach our full potential. We have also opened up our internet sales to include bric-a-brac but as yet have received very few donations of that kind.

Fleur Gallery

The gallery opened the year with photographic exhibitions, including Faversham streetscapes, followed by archaeological finds from the locality, various exhibits from local schools and the final exhibition in the World War One commemoration.

Local artists were also on show with many and varied art works. Sales from these increased upon last year, with a magnificent total of £6,749. This is great for the artists and good for the gallery, so we hope the upward trend continues.

The number of visitors to the gallery remained similar to last year at just over 3,560. During the latter half of the year we requested that all exhibitors steward their own exhibitions. This was to supplement the regular volunteer stewards, whose numbers had diminished over the course of the year. This has proved helpful in filling the gaps, so thank you to all the stewards, regular and temporary.

Faversham Open House

A record number of 44 properties took part in July 2018, including seven completely new to the scheme and three returning after a break. An estimated number of visits to the houses on the three Saturdays was 5,200, a small increase from 2017. Income through the sale of handbooks and local business advertisements was just under £3,500.

The event was successfully promoted by the help of Sophie Kemsley who created a Facebook account for Open House. Fliers were taken to Faversham's twin town Hazebrouk to be distributed before the event. Mike Ivatt from Creek FM, working closely with Visit Swale on the promotion of the Podcasts, did a small documentary on Open House and interviewed three home owners. Further promotion was enabled by an interview on a chat show on the radio station.

A special thanks to our dedicated team of 77 stewards who assisted owners to meet and greet their visitors, without whose help we would not be able to manage.

We are looking forward to 2019 when the Society celebrates the 50th anniversary of Open House.

Faversham Open Gardens and Garden Market Day

Once again, under a blazing blue sky, Faversham saw around 1,500 visitors arriving in the town for Faversham Open Gardens and Garden Market Day on Sunday 24th June 2018.

29 private and community gardens were open around the town both in the historic centre and as far afield as West Faversham. Visitors from all over the South-East donned their walking shoes to enjoy wildlife-haven gardens, hidden woodland and orchard gardens and plant-lover's gardens to name a few.

As well as refreshments served in the gardens, the local community got involved by serving picnic teas and refreshments in Flood Lane next door to the Stonebridge Pond allotments and Faversham Youth Music played in various locations around the town.

The Market Place was filled with colourful stalls of garden-related items from tools to plants, creating a festive feel to the town centre.

Planning for the 2019 event Sunday 30th June is well underway with plenty of new and old favourite gardens participating. This year there will also be a Plastic Free Planter competition in the Market Place where green-fingered children and adults are invited to bring along any kind of non-plastic container, the wackier the better, to be displayed on the day and judged by the market visitors.

Faversham Town Heritage Walks

We continue to enjoy the company of others as we guide them past places, and regale them with stories, that even local people have not heard, or have forgotten. Listening to visitors also increases our own knowledge.

Feedback is always welcome, and the Heritage Fair, Kent Big Weekend and Visit Swale have been valuable in extending our network and the sharing of ideas. One result is that we will now be known as Walking With History. We believe that this will make a more positive impression and lead to increased visitor numbers. The change of time of the mid-summer Saturday afternoons from 2.30 to 2.00pm was repeated and, as this has proved popular, it will continue.

Saturday morning and afternoon walks continued to be popular and we also entertained thirteen groups during the year. Four of the groups were parties of families and friends that, following a previous visit and tour, were recommended.

We continue to liaise with Shepherd Neame and Brogdale to provide visitors with an all-day experience when they visit Faversham, and we are continually looking for other ways to attract groups and societies to the town, and particularly to join us in Walking With History.

Do society members realise that they can join the Saturday walks for free? Come along and join us, preferably bringing friends and relations. Perhaps we can tempt you to join us as guides. We are all willing to help you to become confident, and competent, and a good way to start is to join with us on a Saturday and listen to our tales.

History needn't be boring, and we hope to illustrate our wonderful town in a light-hearted, yet informative, way. There is room amongst our numbers for more guides. Whilst, despite rumours, we do not make it up as we go round, each guide uses their own personality to illustrate our town and its history. We have guide material to help, but each guide "does their own thing". Please consider joining us, we will help and guide you through training and lead you to a more fulfilling knowledge of Faversham and assistance to the Society.

Faversham Society History Group

The Society continues to run a programme of talks during the winter months on historical and heritage topics. In 2018 we formed a Faversham Society History Group to organise the

talks programme and to encourage research within the Society. We continue to organise the annual Heritage Fair in the spring with the Alexander Centre and in January we organised, in the Fleur Gallery an exhibition on Faversham Townscapes”, celebrating our historic architecture, juxtaposing Robin Warren’s contemporary photographs with earlier images. This revealed how important it is to look after the details, small changes over many years can fundamentally change buildings. The Faversham Historians continue their work, independent of the Society but with many members in common.

In 2018 there were talks on a range of topics.

1. February: Jonathan Neame on Shepherd Neame’s plans for the brewery’s heritage
2. March: All around the world or: Suppose everything you believed about grammar was wrong... Michael Hoey
3. May: Faversham’s historic links with Europe, John Blackford
4. September: In Place of Fear, the History of Health Services in Faversham, John Blackford
5. September: First World War, The Backward Glance, Peter Barton
6. October: Is there potential for a new maritime museum in TS Hazard, the 15th-century town warehouse? A heritage centre or museum featuring Faversham’s maritime history, trade, the Graveney Boat and the Cinque Ports? John Owen and others
7. October: The importance of Ordnance Wharf, the creek basin and the gunpowder heritage of Faversham. What more can we do to celebrate and conserve the heritage and to raise awareness of Ordnance Wharf? John Owen, Pat Reid and others.
8. December: Faversham’s Gunpowder Heritage

We are grateful to the speakers for sharing their knowledge and contributing to the life of the Society.

With the support of Helen Whately, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, we finally secured a meeting with the railway companies to discuss the parlous condition of our Grade II-listed station. The rail company and the condition of the station are both letting Faversham down. We shall continue to press the two companies to recognise their responsibilities and to conserve and restore the fabric of the station.

Arthur Percival Memorial Fund

Work continues in cataloguing Arthur Percival’s papers, and work is underway to catalogue and digitise the collection of slides, negatives, prints and other. We published the first Arthur Percival Memorial Paper, which is the text of his 1993 Open Lecture delivered at the University of Kent on Local History in the Service of Society. Arthur believed passionately in the importance of local history, as does the Society. The point he makes about the understanding of the history of a place is as relevant today as it was a quarter of a century ago. “People planning the future of towns stand a very fair chance of getting things wrong if they do not understand their past,” he says. Copies can be purchased from the Fleur.

Publications

In addition to the printing of over 300 copies of existing Faversham Papers during 2018, editorial work has been undertaken. In February 2018 it was requested that FP No.61 should be upgraded to create a full colour 2nd edition of “The Skate Boys of 1910-1933” to complement the performance of “The Skate Boys of Faversham Town” at the Faversham Literary Festival. This involved rescanning all the available archived photographs, taking new photographs of artefacts in the Museum such as the trophies, medals and banners, and included for the first time, photographs of the original roller skate boots and spare parts. Printed on better quality paper and with perfect binding on the spine, this produced an edition worthy of the huge international success of the Faversham team in Europe and of the original research of Fred Poynter, the author.

In June 2018 FP No.129 "Sailing Barges of Faversham 1750-1919" was published, this being the second in R. Hugh Perks' trilogy and over 40 copies have been sold. Following the successful reissue of *The Skate Boys*, several projects have been started to upgrade and reissue other significant Faversham Papers: FP No.10 "Faversham History Trails", FP No.25 "Mathematical Tiles in the Faversham Area", FP No.77 "Memories of Faversham and its Sailing Barges", and FP No.100 "Old Faversham". There are also at least three new papers being worked on for publication.

Newsletter

The newsletter continues its transition in line with the Society's increased visibility. What was a general interest publication about Society matters, including a wealth of historical and cultural subjects, has become a periodical to give more publicity to the campaigns, talks, and public engagement encouraged and led by the society.

Last year, we reported that this sat awkwardly with our history features; however, this problem will soon no longer affect the newsletter because the historical content, with the honourable exception of reports from Clive Foreman, Peter Stevens and the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group, has either vanished or is about to do so.

The quarterly society journal to accommodate our historical and more academic side was to have been launched in the spring of 2018 but this has not yet materialised.

The printed version of the newsletter is expensive to print and post but efforts to make it a wholly online version have been resisted in some quarters. We hope next year's report will be more positive.

Publications and Print Room

The Print Room had a typically busy year in 2018, printing 3300 copies of the Members' Newsletter and 400 copies of the 2017 Annual Report. As more members agree to receive publications online the printing quantities can be reduced.

Other work included photocopying interactive museum sheets for children, bus timetables, leaflets and town maps for visitors, many of which were in colour and for which a charge was made.

During the year 437 copies of the 'Faversham Papers' book series, 257 A4 size and 180 A5 size, sold in the VIC, were made to replace bought copies. This series, which comprises 129 A4, books containing mainly historical or environmental information, and various A5 books, 'A Brief History of Faversham', '10 Walks in Faversham', the 'Nutshell' series and other small books. The sale of the books and colour leaflets contributes income to the Society to cover other costs.

Boxing Day Walk

Thank you to everyone who came along on Boxing Day for our walk along the Creek to Nagden and around the nature reserve, on the edge of where the Solar Panel Park is proposed to be built. The weather was cloudy on the day and the ground muddy in places, but there was a chance on the long walk to see some of the bird life and seals basking on sand banks (Linda thoughtfully had brought her binoculars for everyone to use.) Some of us later returned to the Fleur de Lis Hall for lunch. There was some delicious homemade soup, thanks to Carolynne Brightman. We also had a raffle and would also like to thank everyone who donated some super raffle prizes. Dianne Skinner also deserves special mention for helping us to clear up afterwards. We managed to make a profit of £60 for Society funds. Finally, thanks so much to Linda Ireland for her help and support in planning and shopping for the meal and leading the long walk.

The Fleur Singers

The Fleur Singers now meet on the second Monday of each month (except in August and September) from 2.30 – 4.00 p.m. The suggested entry fee is £4.00 and includes refreshments (tea, coffee, cakes) during a short interval which allows time to chat and make new friends.

The group of up to 40 sing a wide variety of well-known and enjoyable songs to piano accompaniment for pleasure and well documented health benefits.

The Fleur Singers give occasional performances to groups wishing to have a 'singalong' and for charitable events. In the last year we have been engaged by Faversham Rotary Club for two of their Pensioner Lunches at the Alexander Centre and we have also entertained at various Christmas events.

Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group

2018-19 was a very busy year for FSARG. In Faversham itself, we carried on with our search for the site of the Royal Manor house in Saxon times, concentrating on the eastern part of town as far as the Cooks Ditch and within striking distance of Gatefield Lane (which we have come to realise is the Saxon High Street). Twelve keyhole pits were excavated (see our website www.community-archaeology.org.uk for the reports) with very interesting results. In the large garden of the Market Inn we found our first major Early Saxon assemblage with organic-tempered pottery, masses of animal bone including deer and suckling pigs, iron smelting slag and a bone pin beater used in weaving. We are returning to this site for further investigations in summer 2019.

Other pits yielded an unexpectedly large amount of prehistoric material, mostly flint tools but also some prehistoric pottery. We are returning briefly to one of these pits this summer but also looking ahead to more investigations in the Cooksditch valley which is emerging as a focus for the earlier settlement in the Faversham area – maybe the Westbrook valley was too swampy?

We have worked hard on consolidating our increasingly large archive and are eternally grateful to Tesco for the secure basement space they allow us to use. This Easter we moved the last of the artefact archive to this store. There is still a considerable problem with the storage of paper records, reference books and reference collections which are needed all the time to support activity, but we live in hopes that the Fleur will find us a little corner in the building to call our own. Two FSARG people have recently taken on responsibility for the Fleur Map archive, an exceptionally well-archived resource which we value enormously.

A quite different opportunity for field work has come with a new project run by the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) investigating the history of the Sondes Estate, centred in Sheldwich. In the past, Lord Sondes was Lord of the Manor of Faversham, after the demise of the Royal Abbey. A number of FSARG archaeologists took part in large scale fieldwork up on the Downs, a great contrast to the kind of work we do in town. The lottery-funded Sondes project will carry on for at least 10 years with plenty of opportunities for volunteers.

Between fieldwork seasons, we participated in various Faversham events, notably the Nautical Festival in July and the Food Festival in September. The FSARG committee continued to meet monthly with our indispensable annual Evaluation and Planning meeting taking place in November. We did occasional informal outings – Easter 2019 was to Eltham Palace and William Morris' Red House. Our monthly sociable Film Night continues to flourish, along with other social occasions such as a summer BBQ and a Christmas dinner. Being an archaeologist is not all mud and trowels!

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2018

Another year of successful trading and fundraising has resulted in a surplus of £14k and a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £148k, so the Society has maintained the statutory target laid down by its Reserves policy (at least six months' core expenditure). The trustees have set aside £75k of Unrestricted funds into a Designated fund, specifically for a rolling 10-year programme to restore the integrity of all the premises at Preston Street.

The trustees propose to adhere to the principles of proper budgetary control and financial management in 2019 and future years in order to provide a firm financial basis for the continuance of the conservation and education work of the Society.

The Trustees acknowledge with thanks further grants and donations to the Society from: John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust, Faversham Town Council, Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council.

Brian Kelsey BA FCA, Hon. Treasurer.

**The Faversham Society
(Limited by Guarantee)
Summary Accounts
Year to 31st December 2018**

<u>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018</u>		
	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
Fixed Assets		
Land & buildings, at valuation	536,314	545,371
Computer equipment	1,738	3,475
	538,052	548,846
Current Assets		
Bank balances, Restricted Funds	57,181	59,155
Bank, Unrestricted Funds	173,228	148,270
Stock	8,960	9,611
	239,369	217,036
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	155	969
<u>Net Current Assets</u>	239,214	216,067
<u>Net Assets</u>	777,266	764,913
Represented by:		
Funds		
Restricted Funds	57,181	59,155
Designated Fund	75,000	50,000
Unrestricted Funds	645,085	655,759
Total Funds	777,266	764,913
Note: These accounts are published subject to Independent Review.		

Income & Expenditure Account		
Year to 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
	£	£
INCOME		
Member subscriptions	11,554	11,699
Rents received	13,371	13,213
Interest receivable	634	500
Museum entry & sales	8,528	8,095
TIC & shops:		
New books & publications	14,800	17,483
Gifts, cards etc	8,990	10,848
Secondhand books	17,944	16,485
Fundraising (net)		
Open houses	3,185	2,845
Secret gardens	5,073	5,406
Walks, events etc	2,012	1,881
Swale grant TIC	3,600	3,600
Donations, legacies & grants	3,862	6,252
	93,553	98,307
EXPENDITURE:		
<i>Premises costs:</i>		
Rent & rates	6,589	5,802
Insurance	9,324	8,969
Light & heat	7,815	5,994
Repairs & maintenance	17,893	12,621
Security	2,153	6,870
Museum costs	831	570
TIC & shops:		
New books & publications	9,196	9,788
Gifts, cards etc	4,099	4,895
<i>Overheads:</i>		
Printing & photocopier rental	3,079	2,916
Telephone & postage	3,626	4,948
Computer costs	53	83
Advertising & promotion	1,133	2,921
Subscriptions & donations	257	523
Legal costs	240	
Independent review	1,290	1,500
<i>Finance costs:</i>		
Bank charges	854	-1,394
	68,432	67,006
CASH SURPLUS	25,121	31,301
Depreciation	10,794	10,794
TRADING SURPLUS of General Funds	14,327	20,507

Restricted Funds					
Projects	01/01/2018	Funds in	Expenditure	Transfers	31/12/2018
Land Fund	45,875	200	-	-	46,075
Ardens House	371			-	371
Arthur Percival Memorial	4,003	-	1,602	-	2,401
Museum fund	750		-	-	750
No. 12 Project	6,733		334	-	6,399
IT fund	1,423		238		1,185
	59,155	200	2,174	-	57,181

Who's Who – 2018

Environment Committee	Claire Belsom, Janet Gethin (from December), Harold Goodwin (Chair), Ray Harrison, Gulliver Immink, Lousie Lees (from March), Simon macLachlan, Laurie McMahon (from March), Nigel Mannouch, Chris Oswald-Jones, Tim Stonor, Graham Warner, Susan White, Christopher Wright
Finance Committee	Ted Davis, Michael Frohnsdorff, Harold Goodwin, Alistair Mackay-Miller (Chair), Brian Kelsey, Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith
General Purposes Committee	Wendy Clarke, Gill Connelly, Juliet Cowgill, Michael Frohnsdorff, Harold Goodwin (Chair), Frances Hopkins, Claire Mason, Antony Millett, Maria Newman, Christine Smith, Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith, Joanne Wintle-Smith, Heather Wootton
Planning Committee	Anne Salmon (Chair), Janet Turner (Vice Chair and Secretary), Nigel Mannouch, Chris Oswald Jones. Susan White, Patsy Rogers, Guy Felton (part year)
Museum Committee	Heather Wootton (Chair), Clive Foreman (Vice chair), Paul Moorbath, Mike Nicholls, Dr Pat Reid, Catherine Turner, Mike Frohnsdorff, David Slarks, Rachel Baynton, John Harrison, Joanne Wintle-Smith, Rod Morley and Ann Wilkinson (Curator Maison Dieu).
Publications	Frances Hopkins, Clive Foreman, Mike Frohnsdorff
Building Maintenance and Health and Safety	Brian Wintle-Smith
Manager, Fleur de Lis VIC	Christine Smith
Editor, Newsletter	Stephen Rayner
Volunteer Coordinator	Joanne Wintle-Smith
Organiser, Open Gardens	Lucie Neame
Organiser, Open House	Moyra Harding
Membership Secretary	Maria Newman
Editor, Faversham Papers	Clive Foreman
Annual Report Editor	Katie Begg
Faversham Society Archaeological Group	John Clarkstone (Chair), Dr. Patricia Reid (Director), Lizzie Eyre (Treasurer), Nick Wilkinson (Membership), Mike Tillman (Website), Maureen Wale (Finds Coordinator), Keith Robinson (Committee Member), Nigel Mannouch (Committee Member), Chris Wootton (Committee Member), Heather Wootton (Committee Member)
Print Room Manager	Patsy Rogers
Warden, Stone Chapel	Clive Foreman
Fleur Hall Bookings Officer	TBC
Gardeners	Daphne Longfield, Chris Oswald-Jones
Historians' Representative	Michael Frohnsdorff
Museum, Archive and Library Staff	Museum Mentor (curatorial adviser): John Harrison, MSc, AMA Librarian (including Doddington Parochial Library): Paul Moorbath Assistant librarian: Valerie Gidlow. Costumes: Jennifer Shipman Archives and computer data: Heather Wootton, Linda Parker and

	<p>Linda Theaker Archives: Catherine Turner Archive assistants: Dave Fagg, Phil Tooker & Sam Blair Artefacts: Richard Adkins & John Robertson Artefacts assistants: Archive researchers Linda Parker & John Breeze Enquiries: Rod Morley and Linda Parker Archaeology: Dr Pat Reid Historians link: Mike Frohnsdorff Chart Mills: Rod Morley and volunteers Photographic archive: Clive Foreman & Gill Pinder Telephone engineer: David Slarks Maps and electrical engineer: Mike Nicholls Displays/exhibitions: Daphne Longfield, Rachel Baynton and Clive Foreman Museum and Gallery Volunteers Co-ordinator: Joanne Wintle-Smith Arthur Percival Photo & Document Archive project: Margaret Harding, Chris Wootton, Ian Montague and Peter Bullar</p>
<p>Museum and Gallery volunteers</p>	<p>Co-ordinator and Team Leader: Joanne Wintle-Smith. Volunteers: Helen Alberty, Pietro Bartolini, John Begg, Sam Blair, Sheila Breeze, John Breeze, Rob Brewer, Carolynne Brightman, Fliss Carlton, Ray Churnside, Jules Cowgill, Gill Connolly, Isobel Downie, Jean Duchin, Glennys Evans, Clive Foreman, Jean Foreman, Martyn Fuller, Paul Harvey, Linda Ireland, Jim Kilcoyne, Mik Larkin, June McIntyre, Antony Millett, Hilary Morley, Rod Morley, Ian Newman, David Palmer, Beryl Pleasance, Jay Scaggs, Ted Seal, David Slarks, Dianne Skinner, Alan Swan, Julia Vellam, Chris Warburton, Graham Warner, Susan White, Gill Winters, Brian Wintle-Smith, Joanne Wintle-Smith.</p>
<p>VIC volunteers</p>	<p>Wilna Bing, Pat Blackford, Pam Boorman, Rob Brewer, Christopher Brooke-Taylor, Jean Bushell, Judith Clarke, Martin Collins, Jackie Davidson, Sue Davidson, Dawn Drury, Jean Duchin, Sally Fancourt, Sheila Gibbins, Val Golding, Linda Hird, Sheila Hulks, Anne Jones, Dawn Kelle, Janet Killian, Peter Landon, Sarah Lipscombe, Pam McLean, Angela Mitchell, Ann Morgan, Penny Newell, Mary Ransom, Patsy Rogers, Patricia Ross, Audrey Sanderson, Christine Smith (Manager), Judy Smith, Rene Stringer, Sue Taylor, Denise Turner</p>
<p>Fleur Charity Bookshop volunteers</p>	<p>Wendy Clarke Genevieve Ellis Anthea Nicholls Diane Skinner Linda Ireland Julia Vellam Sarah Windsor Colin Simmonds Joyce Lawless Tim Fletcher Janis Dixon Linda Nolan Richard Paris Piper Peter Quince Claire Luckham</p>

	<p>Liz Austin George Couchman Chris Parker Isobel Downie Sandra Goodwin Jackie Davidson Leonard Lake Ian Newman Claire Mason Tina Monzamir John Bis Brown</p>
Faversham Town Guides	<p>Colin Alderman, Barbara Babbage, Steve Bartholomew, Bob Baxter, Nuala Brenchley-Sayers, Peter Lock, Anthony Millett, Jim Ransom, Pat Ross, Mike Taylor, Ann Wilkinson</p>
Open Gardens and Market Day	<p>Alexandra Iron, Jane Hannath, Fern Alder, Amanda Mannering, Sarah Langton-Lockton, Lucie Neame, Patricia Stubbs, Julie Holbrook, Karina Bateman, Sue Hendry, Linda Rumble, Harold Goodman, Norma Beechey, Jan West, James Finch-Harding, Jill Fordham</p>
Open House	<p>Moyra Harding, Helen Albery, Sheila Gibbins, Christopher and Annette Brooke-Taylor and Jill Fordham.</p>
Chart Mills	<p>Rod Morley (rota organiser), Richard Meade, Peter Landon, Richard Paris-Piper, David Palmer, Nigel Winters, John Breeze (family history), Chris Wooton (maintenance), John Stockley, Tony Golding, John Begg, Phil Tooker</p>
Newsletter Delivery Team	<p>Audrey Sanderson, Chris Warburton, Colin Simmonds, David Iron, Fran Ward, Genevieve Ellis, Janet Killian, Janet Turner, Jean Bushell, Linda Cronk, Linda Ireland, Marian McCann, Martin Collins, Martin Nicholls, Mary Clark, Mike and Kate Taylor, Mike Frohnsdorff, Mike Nicholls, Nigel Mannouch, Pamela Willison, Pat Ross, Paul Harvey, Penny Fenton, Pippa Poulteney, Ray Godfrey, Rod Morley, Susan White, Walter Waller, ean Duchin, Penny Newell, Caroline Clarkstone, Julia Frith, Marilyn Spice</p>