

The Faversham Society 2019 Trustee Nominees – Personal Statements

Katie Begg

I moved to Faversham in 2016 and have fallen in love with the town I have chosen to make my family's home. Faversham's heritage and culture is what makes it such a vibrant place in which to live. I am passionate about preserving that heritage for the future and inspiring the next generation to take up that mantle in the coming years.

I have volunteered with the Society for the past two years, taking minutes for the Board, compiling the Annual Report, refreshing the website, and assisting in the Society's campaigns, including our opposition to the Cleve Hill solar power station proposal. My professional background is in communications. I have worked as a political adviser and lobbyist. I have also led the marketing, communications and policy department of a national charity, as part of the senior management team. I believe my background in communications and lobbying will prove valuable to the Society as we continue our campaigning work to preserve our past, and shape and create the future of the town. I also hope my experience of management of a national charity will prove useful to the work of the Board in overseeing the broader work of the Society.

Andrew Holden

I have had a house in Boughton under Blean since 2004 and have spent most weekends there whilst working and living in London.

We chose to leave London and move permanently to Faversham as we liked the area, with its high concentration of listed buildings and associated history, but at the same time good access to London.

Now we have moved to Sheldwich and I have recently reduced my working hours, I would like to support the Faversham Society in its work and encourage others to participate in its activities.

I qualified as an accountant and spent most of career in the public sector, spending over 20 years in the NHS (based in central London) where I was a Finance Director at two of the largest Trusts in England.

In 2011, I moved across to the private sector (working back into the NHS) where I continue to work part time, as well as working as a Non-Executive Director (currently hold the position of Vice Chair) at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, where I am used to balancing operational and financial demands at both its public board meetings and the two sub committees I chair- Performance and Finance and Audit Committee.

Brian Kelsey

I am a Chartered Accountant and have maintained a Faversham Practice for the last 30 years. I have acted as the Faversham Society's Hon. Treasurer for over 10 years.

Sophie Kemsley

I have been volunteering with The Faversham Society since December 2017. I joined because I share the Society's passion for the town and wanted an opportunity to share my skills.

I am a member of the Communications & Marketing Working Group and have played an active role in boosting the Society's presence on social media, including Facebook and Twitter. I have also set-up the 'Why I Love Faversham' Instagram page. This has all helped to increase interest and attendance at Society events, and get a wider range of people more engaged with the work which we do. It has also increased our accessibility.

I would like to join the Board so that I can play a greater role in helping to achieve the Society's vision of cherishing history and preparing for the future. I would bring a range of skills relating to communication and marketing to help ensure that the public remain aware of what the Society is doing. I also have extensive experience of working in the charitable sector, and understand the various structures and challenges that are part of this.

I am diplomatic, hard-working and enthusiastic.

Laurie McMahon

I am keenly interested in supporting the work of the Society in conserving our heritage and making it accessible to both local people (especially our children) and to visitors to the town. However we live in turbulent times, and I would like to help the Society ensure that the special character of the town and the people who live here are sustained in the face of unprecedented change.

I bring to the Board a comprehensive working knowledge of strategy and policy development in local and central government and most particularly in the NHS. In consultancy roles I have direct experience of managing large scale (and often contentious) change through the engagement of public and private stakeholders and the alignment of their interests.

In addition, I have been a visiting professor at *Cass Business School* for eight years, I am a Non-Executive Director of the *South East Coast Ambulance Trust* (SECamb), Vice Chair of the *Horsebridge Arts Centre* in Whitstable and was a founding trustee of the *Pubic Management Foundation*.

More recently I have been an active member of the Faversham Society's *Environment Committee* and have been one of the small group of local people behind the recently formed *Faversham Community Land Trust*.

Anne Salmon

Anne Salmon has been actively involved with the work of the Faversham Society for most of her life from the restoration of Chart Mills in 1969 with her father, Peter Salmon, her uncle, Jack Salmon, with Andrew Osborne and Arthur Percival. She also represented the Society at Kent Federation of Amenity Societies conferences with Peter Salmon. Anne has been on the Faversham Society Council and then the Board since 2000.

Anne has been a member of the Planning Committee since 1987 and Chair since 2000. As a Chartered Town Planner with 30 years' experience, Anne has the expertise to make representations on behalf of the Society on planning applications and planning documents at all levels. Anne represented the Faversham

Society successfully at the Public Inquiry on footpath ZF5 in 2014. Anne was a founder member of the Steering Group for the Creek Neighbourhood Plan and worked on drafting the plan and organising the public consultation. She prepared the Basic Conditions Paper and Consultation Statement for the Plan, the latter of which received specific commendation by the Inspector. Anne also co-authored the Undesignated Heritage Paper which extends protection to heritage assets not covered by listing. She was also involved in drafting the initial comments from the Society on the Cleve Hill Solar Power Station ahead of the Inquiry later this summer.

Tim Stonor

Tim Stonor lives in Tanners Street and is an active member of the Friends of the Westbrook and Stonebridge Pond, an invited member of the Faversham Town Council Public Realm Group and an active member of the Faversham Society where he is a member of the Environment Committee. A trained architect he is a Trustee of the Design Council, Director of the Academy of Urbanism and a Director of the architectural practice Morrison Brink Stonor and a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

While Tim works nationally and internationally since he moved to Faversham with his wife in 2001 he has established strong roots with children at the Abbey School and QE. Locally Tim has been active on the yellow lines issue, the 20s Plenty campaign, the A2/A251/Mall junction, traffic management and found time to help maintain the Westbrook and support the Sea Scouts.

His work in urban planning has taken him all over the world - China, New Zealand, the USA and most recently Kazakhstan. As he writes on his blog "I get to see places that often share similar issues to Faversham: how to attract visitors, keep businesses vibrant, commemorate historic events and celebrate the unique identity of a place. Faversham is not the first place to face the multiple challenges of housing growth and demand for better education and healthcare provision. We can learn from other places and contribute our own,

particular, experience.” There is more here <https://stonor-faversham.org>

Graham Warner

I've known Faversham for 30 years and lived here since 2010. I've volunteered for 8 years as a museum and Open House steward and in other roles at the Fleur de Lis, and as a trustee since 2016.

As a volunteer I've brought ideas and contributed to our work and the resources we can offer to residents and visitors. I have taken part in school visits, in organising meetings relating to history, heritage and conservation, and researched historical issues and worked to develop our education work further. I also coordinate school work experience placements within the society. I've been active in local campaigns to conserve the town's heritage.

I'm a former secondary teacher and department head of history and computing/ICT, as well as teaching in primary and special schools, FE and University.

I bring experience of working within the Society, of organising and involvement in educational projects. I believe the Society is one of Faversham's greatest assets, and I would like to contribute further to its work to preserve and defend all aspects of Faversham's heritage, to act as a local amenity and to help protect the qualities of the town that we love.

Janice West

I have been a Society member since 1992 and a Trustee for the past 9 years. My role in the Society covers a multitude of tasks from assistant treasurer, weekly testing of fire alarms, general building maintenance, health and safety and chair of the Society's General Purposes Committee.

In my private time I am the Doddington Church treasurer, a trustee of the Swale Youth Development Fund, director of the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne, president of Faversham Flower Club and chair of Doddington in Bloom group. My passion is for gardening, working my allotment, walking and playing golf.

Having worked in local government for over 40 years I gained a great deal of experience in particular in managing and maintaining public buildings and working with a wide range of people. I feel that the Society plays a very important role in the Faversham and I should like to see this success continue, indeed to grow. For this to happen the Society needs vision and a dynamic, enthusiastic and knowledgeable Board. I believe I have the commitment and expertise to make a substantial contribution to the future success of our Society by continuing as a Board member.
