

**PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT
FOR YOUTH PROJECTS
BRINGS RESULTS - *a new
youth club is an inspiration
to others***

With support from the Town Council and the Swale Community Safety Partnership which paid for 12 months of Community Centre rent the Bysingwood Youth Club has been successfully established. There are now eight leaders and several voluntary helpers supporting between 20 and 30 young people that attend per night.

Similar efforts to establish a Youth Club in Davington are continuing but lack of a regular venue and volunteers to assist have held the project back. However, undaunted a bid has been submitted to 'Children in Need' for a part time youth leader to support both the Bysingwood and Davington Youth Clubs to widen opportunities for young people in the west of the town.

Achievements at Bysingwood demonstrate what can be achieved from teamwork between support services and community volunteers and serves as an inspiration to overcome the challenges being experienced in Davington.

TOWN COUNCILLOR RESIGNS

After being elected to the Town Council in May Councillor David Barker who represents Davington Priory Ward has resigned to spend more time with his family. An election will take place in March 2009 to replace Councillor Barker.

**TOWN COUNCILLORS and
THEIR WARDS**

ABBEY

Councillor Mick Gates - 01795 535301
Councillor Bryan Mulhern - 01795 538498
Councillor Anita Walker - 01795 531192
Councillor Nigel Kay - 01795 531298

DAVINGTON PRIORY

Councillor David Barker - 01795 591040
Councillor John Winlow - 01795 591706

ST. ANN'S

Councillor Tom Gates - 01795 538534
Councillor John Coulter - 01795 539046
Councillor Mark Baldock - 01795 530192
Councillor Lloyd Hobbard-Mitchell - 01795
536436

WATLING

Councillor Cindy Davis - 01795 534570
Councillor Ted Wilcox - 01795 533004
Councillor David Simmons - 01795 532100
Councillor Geoff Wade - 01795 531035

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Susan Brockman	<i>Town Clerk</i>
Julie Fettes	<i>Mayor/Town Clerk's Secretary</i>
Bill Reeves	<i>Town Sergeant</i>



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2008 ISSUE

REPORT BY THE MAYOR OF FAVERSHAM

Each year the autumn and build up to Christmas highlights that volunteers are the bedrock of our community and how their commitment and dedication gives so much pleasure to the townspeople as a whole.

Our torchlight carnival in October is the result of many months of effort by the organising committee and the rich imagination and incredible effort of the community groups that build the floats. This year I was very proud to show off our great event to civic leaders from Hazebrouck in France. The pleasure the Carnival gives each year across the generations of the families that line the streets is the reward.

A similar spirit of anticipation in the faces of the young people could be seen when Santa switched on the Christmas lights in the town centre back in November. What makes our lights particularly special is the fact that with grants from the Town Council and others together with local fund raising the lights are provided and erected by a dedicated group of community volunteers.

Over the past 10 years the town's website, www.faversham.org has been run on a voluntary basis by Peter Faulkner a former councillor. His commitment and skill has meant that the website has become the hub of communications for those wanting to know more about Faversham. My special thanks to Peter.

CLLR TED WILCOX
Town Mayor 2008/2009

KENT RURAL TOWNS INVEST IN FAVERSHAM - a Kent Rural Towns Grant secured

On behalf of the town the Faversham Enterprise Partnership (FEP) has been awarded a Kent Rural Towns Grant of £100,000 to set up a retail loyalty scheme and training for small businesses in retailing.

In addition the FEP is also working with leaders of 'Creek Creative' to establish a visitor welcome area in the creative arts centre to be developed in 2009 in the former Frank and Whittombe site on the corner of Quay Lane and Abbey Street.

Kent Rural Towns is midway through a seven year programme. It is funded by the South East Development Association (SEEDA) and rewards the vision and drive, perseverance and enthusiasm of local champions and volunteers who energise others in their community.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS COULD BE STRENGTHENED

- French twinning could be boosted

The community benefits, like increased tourism that could be gained from closer joint working between Hazebrouck, France and Faversham are being considered by the civic heads in Hazebrouck and the Town Council. There could be opportunities to attract funding with very little demands on the town's budget. A further options report will be presented for consideration in the New Year.

NEW CHILDREN'S CENTRE OPENS - *new social facilities for young mothers*

On the 1st September the St. Mary's Children's Centre opened to offer support for young mothers and single parents. It is establishing well.

St Mary's compliments the existing centre at Bysing Wood and Open Days took place at St Mary's on 30th September and Bysing Wood on 1st October to promote the help available.

Although the two centres operate independently they publish newsletters which are jointly branded. The St Mary's Centre staff have been out in the community meeting young parents to outline the support available.

The remit for attendance is for 0 to five year olds and their older siblings. To date at St Mary's Job-centre Plus has provided employment advice for single parents and the arts and craft and music classes are proving very popular. In the coming months a broad range of services will be developed to meet specific areas of need.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR THE DISABLED (FADS)

With a £10,000 grant from Invicta Radio to encourage young people to become volunteers FADS now has 42 youngsters from local schools wishing to help and be involved in this project.

Throughout the year the group has organised trips and events for family activities.