

After 150 metres the footpath crosses the stream and continues with the stream now on your left - continue until you arrive at Stonebridge Way.



Keeping the 'shaw' on your left continue along the footpath to the end of Hazebrook Road and then turn right into The Knole. The stream on your right is a tributary of The Westbrook.

Faversham is twinned with Hazebrook in Northern France in an area known as Hauts-de-France. Originally a small market town it became an important junction in the 1860s. During the two world wars Hazebrook was an important military target, and many British soldiers are buried in the cemeteries around the town.

Will take you into Hazebrook Road. Just past Cremer Place (named after the owner of a local brickworks) on your right, cross the road and after about 150 metres on the left join the footpath alongside the 'shaw' which

Faversham, helping to provide clean air. This is a 'shaw', or small wood/copse, at various times managed for growing willow to make charcoal for the gunpowder industry. A stream with watercress beds runs through the copse, which is a protected area as it is considered to be a vital lung for Faversham, helping to provide clean air.



Road and note the wood on the left hand side. Reach Wildish Road and Jay's Stores. Turn right along Wildish Bank into Blaxland Close - continue down the Close until you bank Horsford Walk. After 150 metres there is a path down the opposite the entrance to the supermarket (Sainsburys) turn right Road towards Faversham and



Starting at the West Faversham Community Centre the first stage of our walk is through a housing estate to a 'shaw', or small wood.

1 West Faversham Community Centre

Above the bank are several houses dating mostly from the 1930s which are collectively known as Manor Pound - after the pound into which their owners could be traced. The site of the Pound is marked further up South Road inset into the bank.

Opposite notice the grassy bank, which in Spring is a riot of wildflowers, notably celandine, and although it is now in a built up area, some of its natural flora has survived. There are other instances of wildflowers in Faversham, and indeed even in heavily built up parts of the town, interesting plants are to be seen clinging to crevices in brickwork and masonry.

Cross The Westbrook just past the bridge on your right and walk forward into Nobel Court, turn right and you will see a footpath in the top right hand corner of the close leading to South Road.

The house on the left hand side of the footpath was originally the Gatekeeper's Cottage, and you have just passed through the original entrance to the Home Works Munitions Factory.

Chart Mills was closed in 1934 as the area was vulnerable to attack from Europe - the factory moved to Ardeer in Scotland, which has since closed, and all the black powder used in the UK is now imported. The Mills had two waterwheels driving four mills, and the pit of the other wheel and the circular bed stones of the other three mills can still be seen today. Later, a steam engine was added but that site is now underneath the adjacent housing estate.

Chart Gunpowder Mills was part of Home Works Munitions Factory and the oldest in the area - it was an 'Incorporating Mill' where ingredients were mixed and chemically incorporated, a process which determines quality, power and evenness of burning.

Mills survived to be rescued and restored by The Faversham Society. Inside one mill remains with all its original machinery, including a waterwheel and 3-ton edge-runners. It is open April-October, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, 2-5pm.

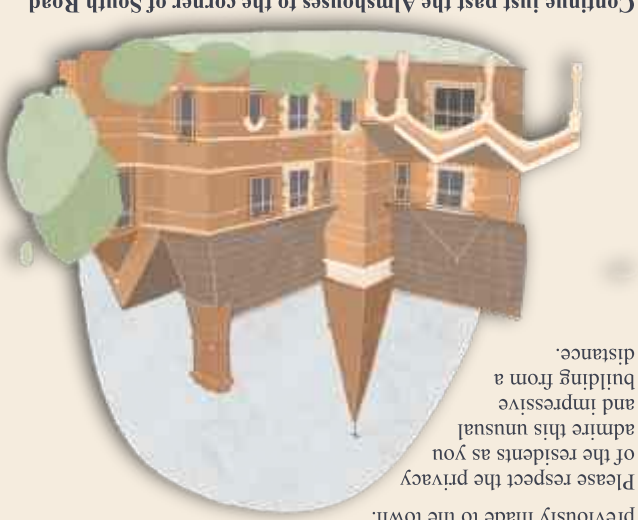


2 Chart Gunpowder Mills

Notice the houses on the left appear to have basements - these are actually the ground floors of the properties as the houses were built in a former brickfield. The brick-earth was removed from what is now the gardens, and Stone Street was the roadway through the site.

Retrace your steps, cross the road and turn left into Stone Street. Three in Faversham. rope was made, one of at least was once a rope walk, a place where straight line. Alongside this old road and right along Cross Lane, notice that this was originally laid out in a

Continue just past the Almshouses to the corner of South Road and Napleton Road.



Turn left along South Road and cross Tanners Street. Almshouses. These were financed by the sale of several old and smaller buildings scattered throughout the town together with a generous bequest. They are 470 feet long and built with local brick, but with a central stone built chapel. The Almshouses are managed by the Faversham Municipal Charities, set up after the implementation of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, to administer all of the charitable bequests. Please respect the privacy of the residents as you admire this unusual and impressive building from a distance.

3 Faversham Almshouses

FAVERSHAM West to East Trail

This walk will take you through Faversham from West to East passing some fascinating and interesting places en route that are often missed. It starts at the West Faversham Community Centre and finishes at the site of the mass grave and memorial to the men killed in 1916 in The Great Explosion at a local munitions factory.

The West to East Trail is one of three Town Trails where you can explore Faversham's rich past, steeped in heritage with its medieval and royal history.

If you have enjoyed this walk, then why not enjoy the other two trails - The Gunpowder Trail and A History Trail, available for download using the QR code opposite.



Map Key

- Trail Route
- Places of Interest
- Footpath

Guided Town Walks

Led by volunteers from The Faversham Society, each guide brings their own knowledge, background and expertise to each walk which lasts approximately 1½ hours. Walks start at 12 Market Place, ME13 7AE. For current costs and timings visit www.favershamtownwalks.org.

For further information about what to see and do in Faversham and the surrounding area, contact the Visitor Information Centre:

Tel: 01795 534542
Email: ticfaversham@btconnect.com



www.favershamsociety.org

Explore Faversham

Known as a medieval market town and port, the town has evolved to provide visitors and residents a warm welcome, with a choice of experience and a place to enjoy the fruits and local produce the area is famous for. There are over 300 listed buildings in Faversham, recording its extraordinary historical past.

Today you can browse the range of independent shops, galleries (Creek Creative), inns and tea rooms in the town's historic market place or quay side at Standard Quay.

Faversham Markets

Faversham Markets take place on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, with 'Best of Faversham, Arts, Crafts and Food Market' on the first and third Saturday of the month.

For further information visit www.favershammarket.org.



Faversham Countryside Trails

The countryside and coastal area surrounding Faversham is a rich and varied landscape of downland, woods, orchards and coastal salt marshes with a wealth of wildlife and an internationally important bird sanctuary. The long distance Saxon Shore Way, taking its name from a series of fortifications built in the latter years of the Roman occupation, forms part of the coastal trail running from Hastings to Gravesend.

A series of eight circular walks of varying distance showcasing what the area has to offer can be downloaded by visiting www.visitfaversham.org.



This leaflet has been published by Faversham Town Council with support from The Faversham Society - information correct at time of going to press.



www.visitfaversham.org



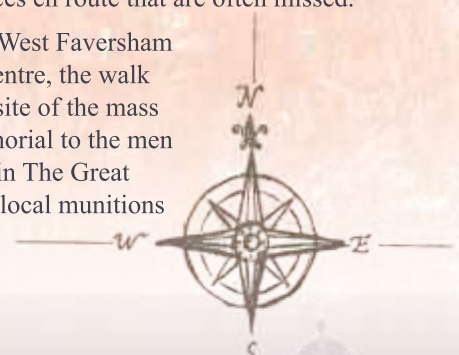
www.favershamsociety.org



Fascinating Faversham A Journey from West to East

This leaflet describes a walk that will take you through Faversham from West to East passing some fascinating and interesting places en route that are often missed.

Starting at the West Faversham Community Centre, the walk finishes at the site of the mass grave and memorial to the men killed in 1916 in The Great Explosion at a local munitions factory.



4 The Cottage Hospital

Further along Stone Street on the left hand side you will see The Cottage Hospital, which was built by Mrs W T Townsend-Hall as a memorial to her husband, a Director of John Hall & Son owners of several local gunpowder sites. An additional wing was added in 1922 as part of Faversham's war memorial.



5 War Memorial Garden

Opposite the Cottage Hospital is The War Memorial, sited on the former Cottage Hospital vegetable patch. The original stone cross of the war memorial remains on the corner of Roman Road, but notice it doesn't have any names engraved on it. Those who died in the Great War of 1914-19 were inscribed on a panel in the parish church of St. Mary of Charity.

The current Memorial Garden dates from 2014 and now contains tablets with the names of all the Faversham men killed as a result of conflict. Research has led to many more names being inscribed than was on the existing memorials in Ospringle, Preston, Davington and Faversham. Alongside the Memorial Garden is Dorset Place, which was also the site of a rope walk.

Continue along Stone Street to Preston Street. Those wishing for a coffee can find refreshments by turning left, but our walk continues by turning right towards the Railway Station.



6 The Assembly Rooms

Walking up Preston Street on the right hand side you will see the Victorian Assembly Rooms. This handsome Italianate building was built in 1849 after a fire the previous year destroyed an earlier building dating from 1830.

Assembly rooms were built as gathering places for the higher social classes and were open to members of both sexes - of particular interest to single ladies who otherwise could not socialise outside the home. For many years The Assembly Rooms were a great success, hosting a variety of important events, including a dinner held by the Lord Mayor of London to celebrate the arrival of the railway to the town.



In about 1869 the Rooms were hired to the equivalent of the Territorial Army, and by 1911 arrangements were made for the War Office to accept full responsibility for the site.

In 2010 a new charitable trust, the Faversham Buildings Preservation Trust, was formed to buy the Rooms and the purchase was made possible with the help of a substantial loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund. In 2017 interior restoration was completed, and The Assembly Rooms became available for public and private use.

7 United Reformed Church

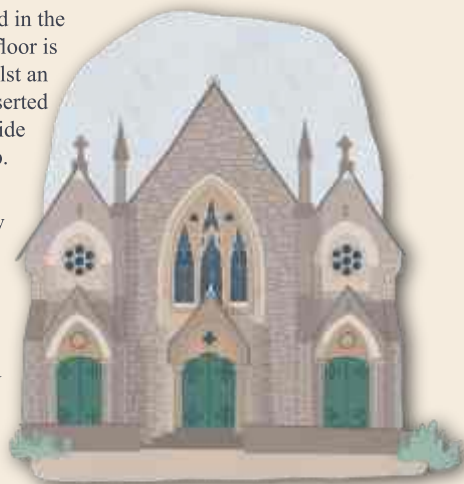
Continue walking up Preston Street towards the Railway Station.

On the left hand side stands the United Reformed Church. Built in 1861 by the Wesleyan Methodists on the site of an earlier 'chapel'. Two other Methodist sects the 'Bible Christians' and the 'Primitive Methodists' - also had congregations in town. When Methodist union was brought about in 1932, the three congregations united for worship in this church.

The interior was altered in the 1980s and the ground floor is now a church hall, whilst an extra floor has been inserted at gallery level to provide a new place of worship.

Turn left between the URC and the Railway Hotel, along Solomon's Lane.

At the rear are the schools built by the congregation; last used as classrooms in about 1965 - they are now sheltered residential accommodation.



Continue along Solomon's Lane and cross Newton Road into Chapel Street, pedestrianised at this end.

The trees of Faversham Recreation Ground can now be seen but first we must cross St Mary's Road and St John's Road to arrive there.

8 Faversham Recreation Ground

Admire the views of Faversham Recreation Ground in all directions - it is a well used amenity enjoyed by all ages.

The 20-acre Faversham Recreation Ground site was purchased in 1860 and laid out, and a gardener's lodge erected, by the Trustees of the Municipal Charities.

The cost was between £5,000 and £6,000 which, except for £500 subscribed by townspeople, was met from Henry Wright's charity. The Ground is now maintained by Swale Borough Council and offers first class facilities for football, rugby, bowls, and tennis. In 2019 refurbishment works were undertaken and railings reinstalled around the perimeter. Other amenities include a children's playground, jogging track, and gym equipment. An old parish boundary stone can be seen not far from the gardener's lodge, now used by the Rugby Club as their HQ.



9 Engine Shed and Turntable



Exit the Recreation Ground via the railway bridge near the Pavilion.

The first, long section crosses the Whitstable and Thanet railway line and, immediately beyond the railway tracks a derelict building can be seen on the left hand side.

This is the Engine Shed and engine turntable built when Faversham was a terminal station. On the right another derelict building is the carriage sheds. Swale Heritage Strategy recognises the importance of these structures and in 2020 efforts have begun to restore them and bring them into amenity use.



10 Faversham Cemetery

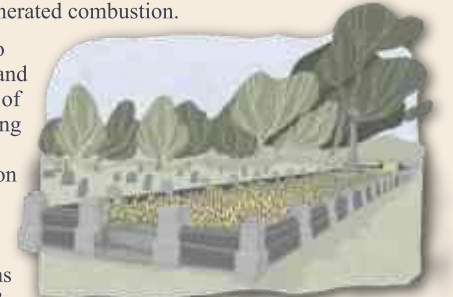


Exit the pathway down the first set of steps on the left, a section of land fenced in is the entrance to the former Rail Yards Air Raid Shelter, at the end of which after 60 metres there is a gateway into Faversham Cemetery.

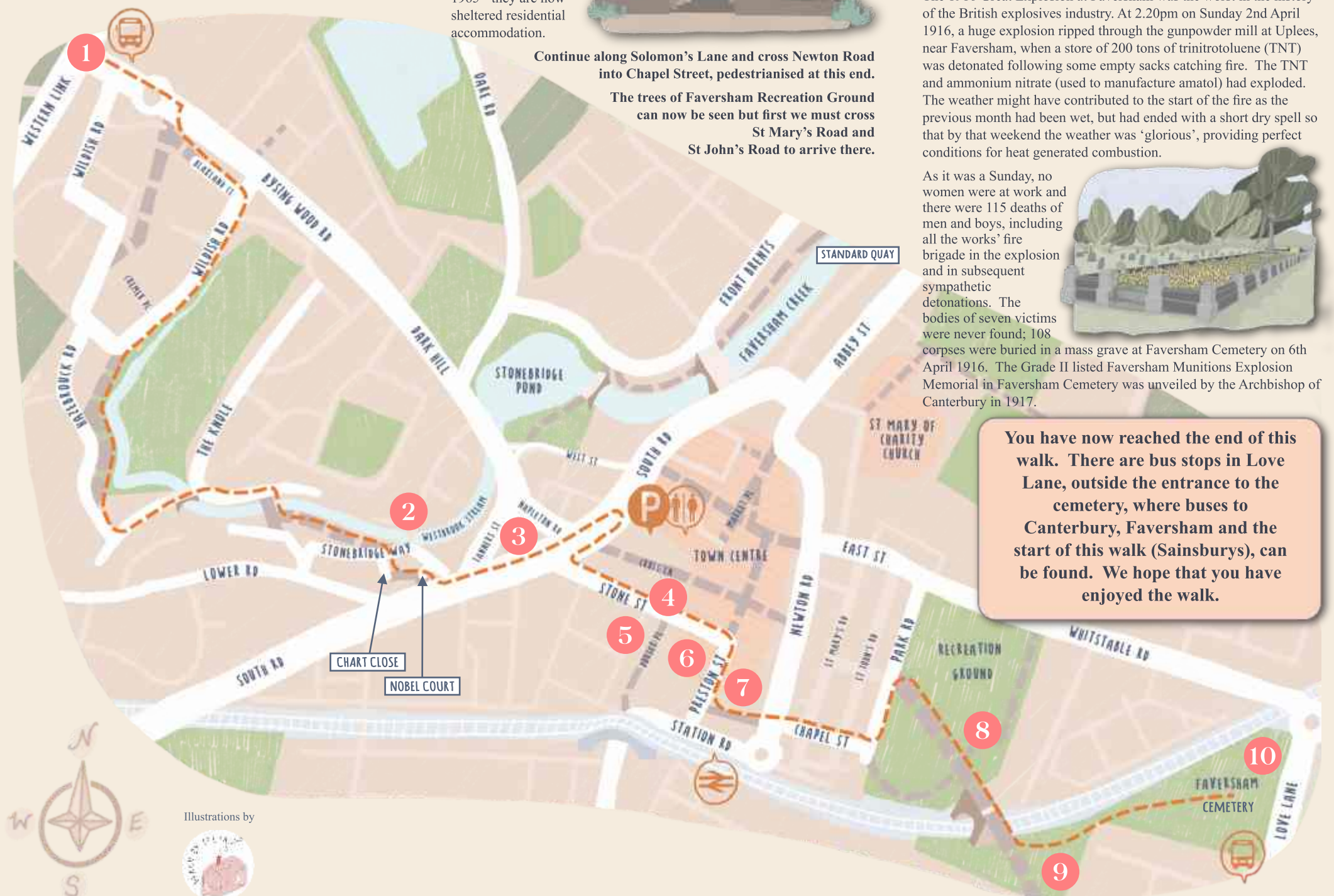
You are now in an annex to Faversham Cemetery. The paths are well maintained and walking through these grounds, with many natural trees dotted around, is a pleasure. As you approach the chapel and Love Lane entrance, along the central roadway, the Faversham Munitions Explosion Memorial to the victims of the 1916 Great Explosion is on your left hand side.

The 1916 Great Explosion at Faversham was the worst in the history of the British explosives industry. At 2.20pm on Sunday 2nd April 1916, a huge explosion ripped through the gunpowder mill at Uplees, near Faversham, when a store of 200 tons of trinitrotoluene (TNT) was detonated following some empty sacks catching fire. The TNT and ammonium nitrate (used to manufacture amatol) had exploded. The weather might have contributed to the start of the fire as the previous month had been wet, but had ended with a short dry spell so that by that weekend the weather was 'glorious', providing perfect conditions for heat generated combustion.

As it was a Sunday, no women were at work and there were 115 deaths of men and boys, including all the works' fire brigade in the explosion and in subsequent sympathetic detonations. The bodies of seven victims were never found; 108 corpses were buried in a mass grave at Faversham Cemetery on 6th April 1916. The Grade II listed Faversham Munitions Explosion Memorial in Faversham Cemetery was unveiled by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1917.



You have now reached the end of this walk. There are bus stops in Love Lane, outside the entrance to the cemetery, where buses to Canterbury, Faversham and the start of this walk (Sainsburys), can be found. We hope that you have enjoyed the walk.



Illustrations by

