



HISTORIC SWALE

**FAVERSHAM - ISLE OF SHEPPEY - SITTINGBOURNE
MUSEUMS & HERITAGE GROUPS**

Registered Charity No: 1177323

Annual General Meeting Report for

Historic Swale CIO 1177323

Reporting period

1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020

Prepared by

Richard Emmett MSc, GCGI, PGDip-arch

Trustee and Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Web Liaison, Fundraiser & Membership.

Dated on 3rd October 2020

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1. Governance

1.1. Trustees (during the period)

Richard Emmett - Chair - Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne
Harold Goodwin - Vice-Chair - Faversham Society
Ken Ingleton - Treasurer – Sheppey Minster Gatehouse
Liz Fuller - Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway

1.2. Voting Members and Management Committee

List of all members:

1. Blue Town Heritage Centre and Criterion Music Hall
2. Chart Gunpowder Mills
3. Dolphin Barge Museum
4. Eastchurch Aviation Museum
5. Fleur de Lis Museum / Faversham Society
6. Historical Research Group Sittingbourne
7. Kent Police Museum
8. Maison Dieu
9. Milton Regis Court Hall, Friends of
10. Minster Abbey Gatehouse Museum
11. Murston All Saints Trust (joined 20th January 2020)
12. Queenborough Guildhall Museum
13. Raybel Charters Community Interest Company
14. Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities
15. Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway
16. Sittingbourne Heritage Museum
17. Sittingbourne Society

Registered address: Heritage Hub, The Forum, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3DL.

No new documents were prepared during the period. On file exist:

Historic Swale membership form
Historic Swale Aims Poster
Historic Swale Privacy Statement
Historic Swale Complaints Policy
Data collection form

2. Public Benefit Statement, Aims and Objectives for 2020

The Trustees of Historic Swale will present the annual report and accounts for the year ended 30th September 2020 at their Annual General Meeting

("AGM") to be held on Monday 5th October 2020, and confirm they comply with the requirements of the various Charity Acts.

In line with Article 22 of Historic Swale's Constitution and the updates available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), we can hold AGMs and other members' [meetings online](#) - this has been made possible by the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 and applies until 30th December 2020.

Historic Swale operate under a Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members, other than its charity trustees using an Association Model Constitution approved and registered by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on 26th Feb 2018 which included the regulations for appointment of trustees.

2.1 Aims and Objectives for 2020

2.1.1. Historic Swale aims are: The promotion of the efficiency and effective use of charitable resources of museums, archives, the arts and heritage organisations in the Swale area of Kent whose collections are open to the public and are operated on a not-for-profit basis with the aim of advancing education, the arts and local heritage for the benefit of the public by: a) promoting the highest professional standards of work and public service of such organisations; b) encouraging public education through the promotion and maintenance of, and access to high quality museums, arts and heritage organisations; c) supporting the education, training and development of the staff and volunteers of such organisations and delivering other services to support the charitable work of such organisations; d) actively seeking partnership opportunities with heritage groups with similar interests; e) acting as a representative to other bodies; and f) to further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the trustees see fit from time to time.

2.1.2. Objectives for 2019-2020:

For the current status of the objectives see section 4.1 below for the detailed review or Appendix 1 for a summary of activities.

- 1.** Obtain funding for an administrator to manage the group data returns and manage the meetings.
- 2.** Increase the members on the Board of Trustees - 2 from each area. At present - Sittingbourne (2), Sheppey (1) & Faversham (1)
- 3.** Maintain regular meetings for the trustees and membership
- 4.** Maintain and develop a website promoting the various members
- 5.** Find networking opportunities
- 6.** By the second quarter of 2020 all members to be submitting data returns
- 7.** Increase membership to include associate membership at £10
- 8.** To provide a heritage conference open to the public

9. Promote Historic Swale (through merchandizing, publications, calendars brochures) and groups such as Visit Kent, Visit Swale etc.
10. Develop a Swale wide 'Heritage Trail' passport
11. Hold a Historic Swale Forum
12. Become self-sustainable

3. The AGM and Agenda

The holding of an Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a legal requirement at which a board of trustees is elected. It is an opportunity for members to ask questions about the direction the organisation will take in the future. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts is available in section 5 and can be discussed at the AGM meeting, and will be published on the Charity Commission's Website.

The constitution states that a quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 5% or three members. Every member has one vote.

3.1. The Agenda:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Acceptance of Previous Minutes
3. Retirement & Election of Trustees
4. The Annual Reports and Accounts
5. AGM Business
6. 2021 Objectives
7. Any Other Business
 - a. Promotion of Swale's heritage on 'Visit Swale'
 - b. SBC's Visitor Economy Action Plan
8. Guest Speaker Justin Aggett - 'Swale Migration Stories' Project
9. Close of the meeting

4. Chairman's Annual Report



the second Annual General Meeting of Historic Swale; this covers the twelve-month period of Historic Swale activities, the AGM held in October 2019. Once again, I report on the challenges which the group has faced over the last year, and I suspect that these will continue to affect us all well into 2021 and possibly beyond. Notwithstanding that, we hold this AGM via the technology of Zoom.

The major challenge has been that of the global pandemic Covid-19, which has had a substantial impact on [the](#) heritage sector as a whole. The global health crisis and the uncertainty resulting from it, profoundly affecting our member organisations', particularly since we in Swale are a volunteer sector.

By mid-March 2020, most cultural institutions across Swale were closed indefinitely or at least with their services radically curtailed, with physical exhibitions, events, and performances cancelled or postponed. In response,

there were intensive efforts to provide alternative or additional services through digital platforms, and to maintain essential activities with minimal resources. The pandemic did however, inspire and encourage new and [creative ways of connecting with our own membership and volunteer](#) base.

I am pleased that some sites were able to open in August and September.

4.1. Our Objectives - reviewed:

Due to Covid-19, many of our objectives have been thwarted. Detailed below, records our performance.

1. Obtain funding for an administrator to manage the group data returns and manage the meetings

Theresa Emmett held the position of 'temporary administrator', as a volunteer, at various times to support Historic Swale, but sadly she cannot hold this position due to too many other commitments. Historic Swale has been partially successful with obtaining funding for an administrator. Historic Swale is a partner of the Swale Migration Stories Project, principally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which has allowed Swale Community and Voluntary Service (Swale CVS) to allocate a part-time administrator for Historic Swale. However, as far as data returns are concerned, progress is slow.

The administrator supplied by Swale CVS will continue until the project concludes, which is estimated at May – August 2021 (due to the covid situation the project is looking to be extended, which is awaiting Lottery approval). After that, Historic Swale will need to source administrative support itself.

2. Increase the members on the Board of Trustees - 2 from each area. At present - Sittingbourne (2), Sheppey (1) & Faversham (1)

Historic Swale has been less successful with attracting new trustees, although there is interest. The Covid situation has perhaps made people reticent in coming forward.

3. Maintain regular meetings for the Trustees and membership

Since the last AGM, Historic Swale has held:

3 x Trustee meetings

3 x Members meetings

The last few meetings have been held using Zoom, to be Covid compliant regarding the restrictions of numbers when holding meetings.

4. Maintain and develop a website promoting the various members

The site continues to be maintained by Faversham Designs on behalf of Historic Swale. We have published new content, including new members Murston All Saints Trust, and added content for the Swale

Heritage Conference, and the Swale Migration Stories Project. The website should be continually reviewed, and any updates passed to the nominated web administrator, which is currently held by Richard Emmett.

<https://historicswale.org.uk/>

5. Find networking opportunities

Networking has been taking place, albeit hampered by the covid situation. Meetings have continued using zoom and communications by phone and email during the period. Support was offered to all members to help with grant applications that were being offered due to covid.

Wheels of Time

Eleven of our members are also part of the Wheels of Time scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to promote education in history and heritage among young children and encourage young people between the ages of 5 and 11, to visit museums and heritage sites in Kent; encourage families into our heritage attractions and promote small to medium size heritage attractions within Kent.

The Wheels of Time Core Group have been very pro-active with email communications during the current Covid Pandemic.

South East Museums Development Officer

The South East Museums Development Officer – Joanna Low, continues to work with Historic Swale to develop the scheme. The South East Museums have been very pro-active with email communications during the current Covid Pandemic.

Swale Borough Council

Swale Borough Council have been very pro-active and helpful during this period with email communications regarding the identification of funding schemes to assist members through this Covid Pandemic.

Additionally, Visit Swale, which is operated by Swale Borough Council, have also been very active with email communications during the current Covid Pandemic.

It is pleasing to see that Historic Swale have been consulted by Swale Borough Council on several issues and are referred to in the Swale Heritage Strategy document and the Tourist Economy Consultation document. See Appendix 2 for Richard Emmett's response to Swale Borough Council, on behalf of Historic Swale. I trust you all made individual responses for your heritage organisations.

Newsletter to Swale Borough Council

In July 2018 Historic Swale produced a collective newsletter to advise SBC of our activities. In February 2020 twelve of our members provided the traditional three news items in bullet point format (see Appendix

3), which were circulated with the minutes. It is hoped that a quarterly update newsletter could be re-instated.

6. By the second quarter of 2020 all members to be submitting data returns

Theresa Emmett sent round a request on 11th February 2020, following the February members meeting. One nil return received from the Police Museum. Julia Watling and Cassandra Gibbs from Swale Community and Voluntary Service has sent round requests (20th August & 30th Sept) for the data for Quarter's 1-4 for 2019 to bring us up to date. It is acknowledged that figures for 2020 will be severely affected by the ongoing Covid situation.

Current responses for 2019:

Organisation Name	Q1 Apr-June 2019	Q2 Jul-Sept 2019	Q3 Oct-Dec 2019	Q4 Jan-Mar 2020
Blue Town Heritage Centre and Criterion Music Hall				
Chart Gunpowder Mills			√	
Eastchurch Aviation Museum	√			
Fleur de Lis Museum and Gallery / Faversham Society			√	
Historical Research Group Sittingbourne	√	√	√	√
Kent Police Museum	√	Closed	Closed	Closed
Maison Dieu				
Milton Regis Court Hall, Friends of	√	√	√	√
Minster Abbey Gatehouse Museum	√	√	√	Closed
Queenborough Guildhall Museum	√	√	√	
Raybel Charters CIC				
Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities	√	√	√	
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	√	√	√	√
Sittingbourne Heritage Museum				
Sittingbourne Society	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dolphin Barge Museum				
Murston All Saints Trust	no record kept	Festival estimate	no record kept	no record kept

7. Increase membership to include associate membership at £10.

A list of potential associate member organisations is still being drawn up.

8. To provide a heritage conference open to the public

A great deal of work had been put into the proposed Swale Heritage Conference which was due to be held on Saturday 21st March 2020. The venue had been booked; speakers arranged; tickets had been put up for sale at each of the three main areas, including online through Eventbrite; and, exhibitor and stands had all been organised. Covid and the lock-down resulted in the need to postpone and issue a revised

date of Saturday 7th November 2020. Although there has been one request for a refund via Eventbrite, most ticket fees will be held over and honoured for the new date. The Trustees are proposing that this be moved again to Saturday 6th November 2021, due to the covid meeting restrictions.

Swale Borough Council are partners in the scheduled Swale Heritage Conference and it is hoped that many of the Council Members who were due to speak will still be able to do so at the rescheduled event in 2021.

9. Promote Historic Swale (through merchandizing, publications, calendars brochures) and groups such as Visit Kent, Visit Swale etc.

Delayed because of the Covid situation. The initial difficulties experienced by the group have caused a setback in meeting this objective and should now form part of our suggested objectives for 2021.

However, a potential graphic design company has been identified – the same one as used by Wheels of Time, who could be approached once the membership of Historic Swale has been agreed. Printing could be carried out by the Print Room at Swale Borough Council.

Two roller banners were designed, produced and purchased for the Swale Heritage Conference, which will still be relevant at the next scheduled date for the conference.

Partnering with the Swale Migration Stories Project is helping to promote Historic Swale.

10. Develop a Swale wide 'Heritage Trail' passport

On hold because of the Covid situation.

11. Hold a Historic Swale Forum

On hold because of the Covid situation. The trustees feel that it is essential that this takes place as networking and the cross fertilisation is very valuable. Obviously the Covid situation has impacted on our meetings, therefore it is proposed that the revised Swale Heritage Conference for Saturday 6th November 2021, will also be the Historic Swale Forum.

12. Become self-sustainable

It is expected that the administrator provided by Swale CVS could, going forward, identify potential grants and assist the trustees to apply for funding opportunities to produce merchandising and publications to generate funds for the group and to maintain the administrative post.

4.2. Summary

Whilst we have been unable to achieve some of our objectives, such as the Heritage Conference we have been able to fulfil others. Without goals, we would be without direction. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on us all throughout 2020, and although the situation has created challenges for us across the voluntary heritage sector, we are mindful that in reopening we must mitigate the effects of the virus not only for our visitors, but also for our volunteers.

Nevertheless, as with all challenges, there come opportunities. Perhaps we can put to good use the increase in time now available to our local establishments, due to not being open or with limited opening hours. Time to review our collections, explore new working practices and perhaps the use of new technology. All of which will add to the visitor experience and better tell the history of Swale once we are able to return to a safer-covid world.



5. Financial Report - Ken Ingleton (on Mayoral duties) presented by Richard Emmett Accounts

Historic Swale Accounts Year Ending 30/9/2020															
Receipts				difference on last year				£ .p							
Payments				difference on last year				£ .p							
Donations				£ -				Bank Charges				£ -			
Events				£ -				Courses, Trips, Lectures				£ -			
Fund raising/ Interest				£ -				Equipment				£ -			
Sponsorship				£ -				Insurance				£ -			
Membership				£ 450.00				Postage				-£ 4.20			
								Printing & Stationery				£ -			
								Subscriptions				£ -			
								Sundry				-£ 15.00			
								Travel				£ -			
								Website maintenance				£ -			
Total				£ 450.00				Total				-£ 19.20			
Summary				£ p				Account Balances at:				30/09/2020			
Balance from previous years				275.00											
Receipts less Payments for 2019/2020				430.80				Current Account (subject to Cheques being cleared)				4,437.84			
Balance (excluding specific funds) to date				705.80											
Ring fenced balances to date				3,732.04											
Grand Total				£ 4,437.84				Grand Total				£ 4,437.84			

Ring Fenced Monies - **total £3732.04**

£243.50 remaining monies from Swale Museum Group

£20.22 for Historic Swale heritage promotion

£1243.32 for Historic Swale Conference

£2,200.00 remaining monies from lottery Start Up grant

Our funds are made up of two stands - 'members monies' which totals £730.80 and 'ring fenced monies', which is for specific functions which totals £3707.04. Of which £1243.32 is earmarked for the Heritage Conference. £235.00 booking fee that we paid last year for the deposit of the Swale Heritage Conference has been refunded to the members funds, as there is now sufficient in the ring fenced monies. Costs have been minimal as the funding for the administrator has been paid for from the Swale Migration Stories project and secondly all meetings have been via zoom, courtesy of Faversham Society and HRGS, which has meant no room hire costs.

The board of trustees are conscious that 2020 has been difficult for the membership organisations due to the covid opening restrictions, so we are proposing that a membership 'holiday' be offered for the coming year of September 2020 until the next time fees are due which will be September 2021. This will be for all existing members, with new members wishing to join during that period still paying the 'normal joining fee' for the year.

6. Membership Secretary's Report (vacant) presented by Richard Emmett.

I am pleased to report we have one new member this year, being Murston All Saints Trust (MAST); with no lapsed members.

Whilst Allen Whitnell had agreed to cover this position in February 2020, the position was not handed over to him, due to covid and his own personal circumstances. Subsequently Paul David has also offered (September 2020) to take over this role, enabling Allen to focus on the Historic Swale website. Thank you both.

Currently Historic Swale has the following members, at £25 membership fee per organisation:

Paid up: (paid as at end of September 2020)

1. Blue Town Heritage Centre and Criterion Music Hall
2. Chart Gunpowder Mills
3. Dolphin Barge Museum
4. Eastchurch Aviation Museum
5. Fleur de Lis Museum / Faversham Society
6. Historical Research Group Sittingbourne
7. Kent Police Museum
8. Maison Dieu

9. Milton Regis Court Hall, Friends of
10. Minster Abbey Gatehouse Museum
11. Murston All Saints Trust
12. Queenborough Guildhall Museum (in the post)
13. Raybel Charters Community Interest Company
14. Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities
15. Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway
16. Sittingbourne Heritage Museum
17. Sittingbourne Society

Outstanding: (as at end of September 2020)

None!

5. Fundraising (vacant) presented by Richard Emmett

Richard Emmett applied to Swale Borough Council for £974, for funding towards the holding of the Swale Heritage Conference (now rescheduled for Saturday 6th November 2021). Monies received 7th February 2020.

6. The Future and objectives for 2021

It was hoped that Historic Swale could move forward and focus on our aims, but due to Covid the proposed Heritage Conference (originally scheduled for Saturday 21st March 2020 at the Appleyard, Sittingbourne, had to be postponed. Due to Covid, and the proposed council elections being held early next year, we are proposing to re-schedule to Saturday 6th November 2021. We will continue with the theme of 'Putting Swale's heritage on the map', with a full day programme with guest speakers.

Historic Swale was approached by Justin Aggett, of Sheppey Matters, to be a partner in a Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Swale Migration Stories'. This project includes a part-time funded administrator whose role would additionally act for Historic Swale.

It is essential that Historic Swale collates quarterly visitor numbers from our various member sites, as this will provide evidence of the impact that the group is having overall, and guide our forward planning and marketing strategy.





It is hoped that stronger links will be made with both Visit Swale and Visit Kent.







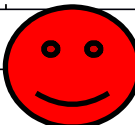
It should be noted that this group is still relatively young, and it still requires some governance documents and procedures. It is specially noted that going forward it would be beneficially to document job roles and responsibilities, to expand on those outlined in the Constitution.



6.1. Suggested objectives for 2021

- 1.** Help deliver the Swale Migration Project
- 2.** Obtain funding for an administrator to manage the group data returns and manage the meetings
- 3.** Formalise job descriptions for governance roles
- 4.** Increase the members on the Board of Trustees - 2 from each area. At present - Sittingbourne (2), Sheppey (1) & Faversham (1)
- 5.** Maintain regular meetings for the trustees and membership
- 6.** Maintain and develop a website promoting the various members
- 7.** Find networking opportunities
- 8.** Find ways to improve submitting data returns
- 9.** Increase membership - aim two new members
- 10.** To provide a heritage conference open to the public in November 2021, if covid restrictions permit
- 11.** Promote Historic Swale
- 12.** Develop a Swale wide 'Heritage Trail' passport
- 13.** Hold a Historic Swale Forum
- 14.** Become self-sustainable

Appendix 1 - 2019-2020 Objectives Reviewed:

Ref	Objective	Current Update	Status
1.	Obtain funding for an administrator to manage the group data returns and manage the meetings.	<p>Historic Swale is a partner of the Swale Migration Project, principally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which has allowed Swale Community and Voluntary Service (Swale CVS) to allocate a part-time administrator for a Historic Swale. However, as far as data returns are concerned, progress is slow.</p> <p>The administrator supplied by Swale CVS will continue until the project concludes, which is estimated at May – August 2021 (due to the covid situation the project is looking to be extended). After that, Historic Swale will need to source administrative support.</p>	 
2.	Increase the members on the Board of Trustees - 2 from each area. At present - Sittingbourne (2), Sheppey (1) & Faversham (1)	<p>Trustees: No increase or decrease.</p> <p>Richard Emmett - HRGS - Sittingbourne Harold Goodwin - Faversham Museums - Faversham Ken Ingleton - Sheppey Minster Gatehouse - Sheppey Liz Fuller - SKLR - Sittingbourne</p>	
3.	Maintain regular meetings for the trustees and membership	<p>3 Trustee meetings (February, May and August) 3 Members meetings (Oct 2019, Feb and June 2020)</p>	

Ref	Objective	Current Update	Status
4.	Maintain and develop a website promoting the various members	New members Murston All Saints Trust added, and adjusted content for the Conference, and the Swale Migration Project.	
5.	Find networking opportunities	A great deal of work had been put into the proposed conference which was due to be held on Saturday 7 th March 2020, which was postponed to Saturday 7 th November 2020. Due to be moved again to Saturday 6 th November 2021. Networking has been taking place, albeit hampered by the Covid situation.	
6.	By the second quarter of 2020 all members to be submitting data returns.	Progress has been slow.	
7.	Increase membership to include associate membership at £10.	A list of potential associate member organisations is still being drawn up.	
8.	To provide a heritage conference open to the public	Conference so close to delivery on Saturday 21 st March, rescheduled to 7 th November 2020 and to be rescheduled to 6 th November 2021.	
9.	Promote Historic Swale (through merchandizing, publications, calendars brochures) and groups such as Visit Kent, Visit Swale etc.	Thwarted by covid. Two roller banners were designed, produced and purchased for the conference. Historic Swale being promoted via the Migration Project.	
10.	Develop a Swale wide 'Heritage	On hold because of the Covid situation.	

Ref	Objective	Current Update	Status
	Trail' passport		
11.	Hold a Historic Swale Forum	On hold because of the Covid situation.	
12.	Become self-sustainable	Current administrator provided by Swale CVS could, going forward, identify potential grants and assist the trustees to apply for funding opportunities.	

Key:

Achieved



Partial success



Unachieved



Appendix 2 - Chair of Historic Swale's Response



Historic Swale Response to Consultation on Swale Visitor Economy Action Plan (consultation closing date 4.9.2020)

1. Response from: Richard Emmett, Chair of Historic Swale CIO. Historic Swale is an umbrella charity which supports member attractions and organisations in the 3 areas (Faversham, Sittingbourne, and Sheppey) which make up the Swale district to collectively showcase the diverse and fascinating heritage which the Borough offers.
2. Historic Swale welcomes the Action Plan and hopes to participate in whatever areas it can. What has to be remembered is that for the majority of our heritage sites, we are run by volunteers, who already have their own interests and responsibilities. Wherever possible we hope to work in partnership with Swale Borough Council.
3. It is noted that Historic Swale is listed as a delivery partner in the plan, I will bring the points raised to our members at the next Historic Swale members meeting, planned for October 2020. In particular, section 2.3 the annual leaflet swap (which some members already do via Wheels of Time), and linking attractions on websites; regarding 3.1 and offering 'experiences', Historic Swale members are probably well placed to offer such events, however, for many this is their retirement hobby, and not offered on a commercial basis; 4.2 – we will ask our members to provide information on disabled access.
4. Under point 2.4 and 2.5, Historic Swale was set up for cross promotional networking, however, since the removal of administration support, previously provided by Swale Borough Council, this conduit has been struggling to fulfil this external networking function. If council support could be reinstated, this would enable data collection and cross border networking.
5. The Swale Migration Stories project which is being championed by Historic Swale will create an additional attraction and is engaging young people in a heritage initiative. Historic Swale would welcome the opportunity to add this to the heritage offering.

Produced by:

Richard Emmett (Chair)

Historic Swale CIO

c/o The Heritage Hub

The Forum,

Sittingbourne

Kent

ME10 3DL

chair@historicswale.org.uk

4th September 2020

Appendix 3 - Members Newsletter bullet points Feb 2020



Historic Swale Members News Update

As at February 2020

Minster Gatehouse Museum / Sheppey local history

By Mary Thomsett SLHS Trustee and volunteer

- In November A replica of the 'horse' Grey Dolphin weathervane was sited on the roof of the Gatehouse.
- In December Father Christmas was busy in the museum giving gifts to nearly 400 children. The snow machine was busy under the Christmas tree under the archway.
- In January Dave Brown (a retired river pilot) gave an illustrated talk about the shipwrecks around Sheppey to a crowded meeting of the Local History Society.

Sittingbourne Society – from Ian Parsons

We can report the gifting of two paintings to the Milton Regis Court Hall Society.

These two paintings (of Milton Regis scenes) were part of the bequest from the estate of the late John Jordan, which, according to the terms of his will, was to be distributed by The Society for the good of the people of Milton Regis. The two paintings in question were apparently painted by John Jordan's father, we are told.

For some years, a suitable venue for display had not been found, but now, The Court Hall has very kindly offered to display them at the Court Hall itself. Therefore, the paintings have been donated to the Court Hall, & it is anticipated that they will be on display there when they open for the 2020 season.

HRGS / Heritage Hub Update for Historic Swale Meeting

from Richard Emmett - Chair

1. HRGS have launched their digitization project of their archive records.
2. We are involved in the Swale Borough Council 1920s event scheduled for 10th, 11th and 12th July. We hope to provide a 1920s history booklet, a talk on Howard Carter and Tutmania in the 1920s, a film of local events from the 1920s, a Charlton dance session, and possible a walk in the town looking at the history of the buildings.
3. We are working with DS Smith in regard with collaborating with them regarding their archiving records and the Lloyds Mill.

F:\HRGS MyCloud\HRGS\Backed up from Rees machine\HRGS\Historic Swale\Minutes\10th Feb 2020\Historic Swale Group Update Feb 2020.docx

Police Museum (Faversham) – from Paul Upton

- The Kent Police Museum has now received funding from Kent Police and will be opening in summer 2020
- Work is now focusing on artefact selection, caption research and writing, museum design and layout, and promotion
- Work has continued on sorting and listing the collections, with a significant focus on improving the storage areas. These are now in a much better state than they were a year ago

Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway – by Liz Fuller

- One of the team – a young lad by the name of Thomas has been chosen for a HLF funded course which will start in September.
- The group has been shortlisted for the Swale Volunteers Awards due to held on 13th March.
- A new fencing programme is in progress.
- Working with Emma Wiggins on a project to look at disabled access.

Sittingbourne Heritage Museum – by Allen Whitnell

- ❖ Closed over Christmas, reopening 7th March.
- ❖ Working with HRGS and others on a new Heritage Centre.
- ❖ Working on providing a database of village burial records to provide it on-line to help the public with genealogy research.

Maison Dieu – by Jonathan Carey

- a) The Maison Dieu will be closed until Easter, and will then be open till October.
- b) English Heritage are helping with repairs to the building.
- c) Concentrating on accreditation.
- d) Converting to a CIO.
- e) Held 3 open days last year that were well attended.

Fleur de Lis – by Rod Morley

- Visitor numbers are down, not sure why but less larger groups visiting.
- A small team working on updating the museum, they are looking to appeal to the younger visitor.
- Involved in the Faversham exhibition, and promoting that.

Friends of Milton Regis Court Hall activity update

Closed October till Easter.

Raybel Charters Community Interest Company – by Mark Allinson

- ✓ Have been gifted a dry dock at Lower Halstow which was donated by the Westmoreland Trust - which was very useful to store the Raybel during storm Brenda.
- ✓ Transport Trust have provided them with a grant.
- ✓ Faye Thorley has joined the team at Raybel Charters Community Interest Company as their Interpretation Creative.
- ✓ After a very successful open day on the 30th November (about 140 guests) we followed up with an information evening for Swale Councillors on the 18th December. Two councillors (Paul Stephen and James Hunt) have offered to volunteer to help with the project.

Dolphin Barge Museum – from Clive Reader

1. Building work all complete, bar a few snagging points.
2. Working with the Raybel crew as they are adjacent on the dock.
3. Now preparing to apply for a HLF bid to kit out the Museum....they are looking to appeal to make it a visitor attraction.
4. Target to open Easter 2021.
5. Plan to have open days over the summer.

Eastchurch Aviation Museum – by Peter West (peter@houstorecord.co.uk)

- Saturday 25th April 2020 Eastchurch Aviation Museum will be the host to a Military Vehicle Display.
- The new extension is now complete.
- Still negotiating with H M Prison Stanford Hill regarding the use of the grade II listed buildings. Slow but encouraging progress being made.
- If anyone has any extra stock relating to aviation, please contact Peter as we are looking to expand soon into these extra buildings.