

1527

Faversham Grammar School

Faversham Grammar School was founded by John Cole, before the Dissolution. Cole made Faversham Abbey the trustee of the school. The building is now a Masonic Lodge.

The Old Grammar School, Faversham. Postcode: ME13 7BQ.



1538

Dissolution of Faversham Abbey

Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1538. Faversham Abbey was almost completely obliterated and its grammar school forced to close. Abbey rubble was used to strengthen royal defences.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School playing fields, site of Faversham Abbey. KAS members being shown Abbey plan by Brian Philp, Kent Archaeological Society, 2011.



1546

Faversham granted borough status

Henry VIII confirmed the town's autonomy and rights.



Town Charter of Incorporation issued by Henry VIII, photograph: Faversham Town Council

War and Politics

Social and Economic Themes

1551

Former Mayor of Faversham, Thomas Arden, is murdered

Wealthy from Dissolution property deals, Thomas Arden was strangled and stabbed in his own home, Arden House, by 'Black Will' and others at the instigation of his wife, Alice, who helped dump his body in the churchyard. She was burnt at the stake in Canterbury.

Arden House, on part of the Abbey lands which Thomas had bought, photograph by Simon Harriyot.



Social and Economic Themes



1559

Creek Sluice built

The sluice was needed to retain water at high tide and then release it to scour the waterway and prevent the creek silting up. It cost Faversham £140 5s 4d (over £32,700 today) to construct a wooden sluice gate and winch mechanism.

Detail from a drawing dated 1532 of Dover sluices (not to scale)
British Library, Cotton MS Augustus I.i.19

1572

Queen Elizabeth I Visits Faversham

Queen Elizabeth I spent two nights in Faversham in September, 1572. Her visit cost the town £44, 19s, 8d, equivalent to around £7,800.

'Faire Shewes and Pastimes' for Elizabeth I at Elvetham in 1591.
Royal Collection RCIN 1024755



1574

New Market House built

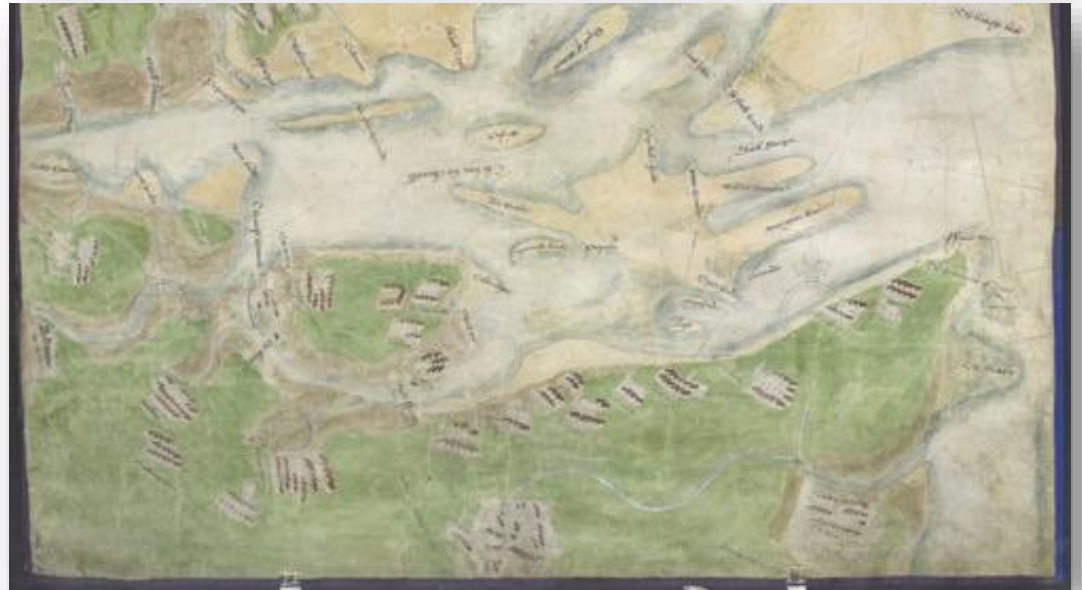
The new market house became the third Guildhall in 1603, the Elizabethan pillars are clearly visible but the building above is Regency.



1585

Grain shipments

In 1585/6 three Faversham merchants, Roger Jenkins, Thomas Bradbury, and John Philpot supplied over one-third of all English wheat shipped along the coast from the provinces to London. Grain was also used for brewing and some was exported.



1558-1603

Gunpowder

'Stout provision of saltpetre', a key ingredient of gunpowder, was required by Elizabethan Privy Council for the defence of the realm. Faversham's streams, woodland, and coastal transport made the town ideal for gunpowder manufacture. The Home Works was founded during Elizabeth I's reign and was an intrinsic part of the Military Revolution.

Print by Domenico Beccafumi, c. 1550-60, depicting a gunner, British Museum.

