

This visit has been organised by Bernard Gaydon.

CHART MILLS were part of Faversham's first gunpowder factory, the Home Works, and one of the first in Britain. They were established circa 1560 but the Chart Mills were rebuilt when the Government took control some 200 years later. The Mills closed in the 1930s and fell into disrepair. The Faversham Society rescued the Mills and opened them to the public in April 1969.

Chart Mills are one of the very few fully restored gunpowder mills in the country and, given a suitable water supply, are fully working. The main feature is an incorporating mill, the process where the ingredients, saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal, having been mixed together, are incorporated together to become an explosive mixture. Incorporating was the most vital process as it determined the quality, power and evenness of burning of the powder; in all there were 11 processes in the whole manufacture of gunpowder.

The Chart Mills site had 2 waterwheels driving 4 mills, and the pit of the other wheel and the circular bed stones can still be seen as can some spare edge runners on the bank beyond, moved from another site. Later a steam engine was added; the site is buried under the houses opposite.

Our guide at the Mills will be the Hon Curator, John Breeze.

BROGDALE FARM is the home of the National Fruit Collection and is the world's largest collection of fruit trees and plants at a single site. There are links between what is at Brogdale and what IoP REMS members saw at East Malling Research earlier this year.

After lunch in the Courtyard Restaurant (cost not included) we will be given an introductory talk (tea/coffee provided), describing the activities undertaken at this location. A guide will then take us on a walking tour of the orchards, where the apple crop should be at its peak. We can also expect to see the collections of pears, plums, cherries, cobnuts, strawberries and quinces. Our guide will describe the historical background of the fruit varieties in season and offer tastings while we explore.

After our tour, we will have the opportunity to ask more detailed questions, taste juices and purchase harvested fruit. Refreshments will be available at the Courtyard Restaurant. Specialty trees can be ordered. There is a marketplace offering a wide range of local farm produce, other food and drink, and crafts/sundries. (Organiser's comment: it is worth bringing bags, freezer blocks and a cool-box if practicable.)

MEET at Chart Mills, in Chart Close, Faversham ME17 7SE if travelling by car. Leave the M2 at junction 6 and follow the signs for Faversham (A251). Turn left on to the A2, then (sixth?) right into Ospringe Road (B2040). Cross railway and take the (first?) left into Lower Road. Take the first right, and immediately right again into Stonebridge Way and park near or in Chart Close (which is the first road on the right).

For those who indicate that they are travelling by train, the train due at 10:09 will be met by Bernard Gaydon at Faversham station and they will be provided with transport for the remainder of the day. That train leaves Victoria at 8:52.

Please note that there are no toilets available at Chart Mills. Those travelling by car are advised to use the facilities at the Medway Services (M2, between junctions 4 and 5), or at Morrison's (North Lane, Faversham ME13 7DY) or the public ones in Faversham's central car park. There are toilets on the trains and at Faversham station.

TIMETABLE

- 10:40 Meet outside Chart Mills, for guided visit starting at 10:45
- 12:00 Leave in convoy for Brogdale, turning left onto A2 and taking the (fourth?) right into Brogdale Road.
- 12:20 Arrive at Brogdale Farm (on the left after going over motorway) and assemble at the restaurant.
- 12:30 Lunch in Courtyard Restaurant – there should be an area reserved for us, but the cost is not included.
- 13:30 Tea/coffee and introductory talk in the Brogdale Kent meeting room
- 14:00 Walking guided tour of the National Fruit Collection.
- 15:15 Juice tasting and questions in Brogdale Kent meeting room
- 15:45 End of organised visit. Refreshments and marketplace available. Transport to station when needed.

COST £15 each for a maximum of 20.

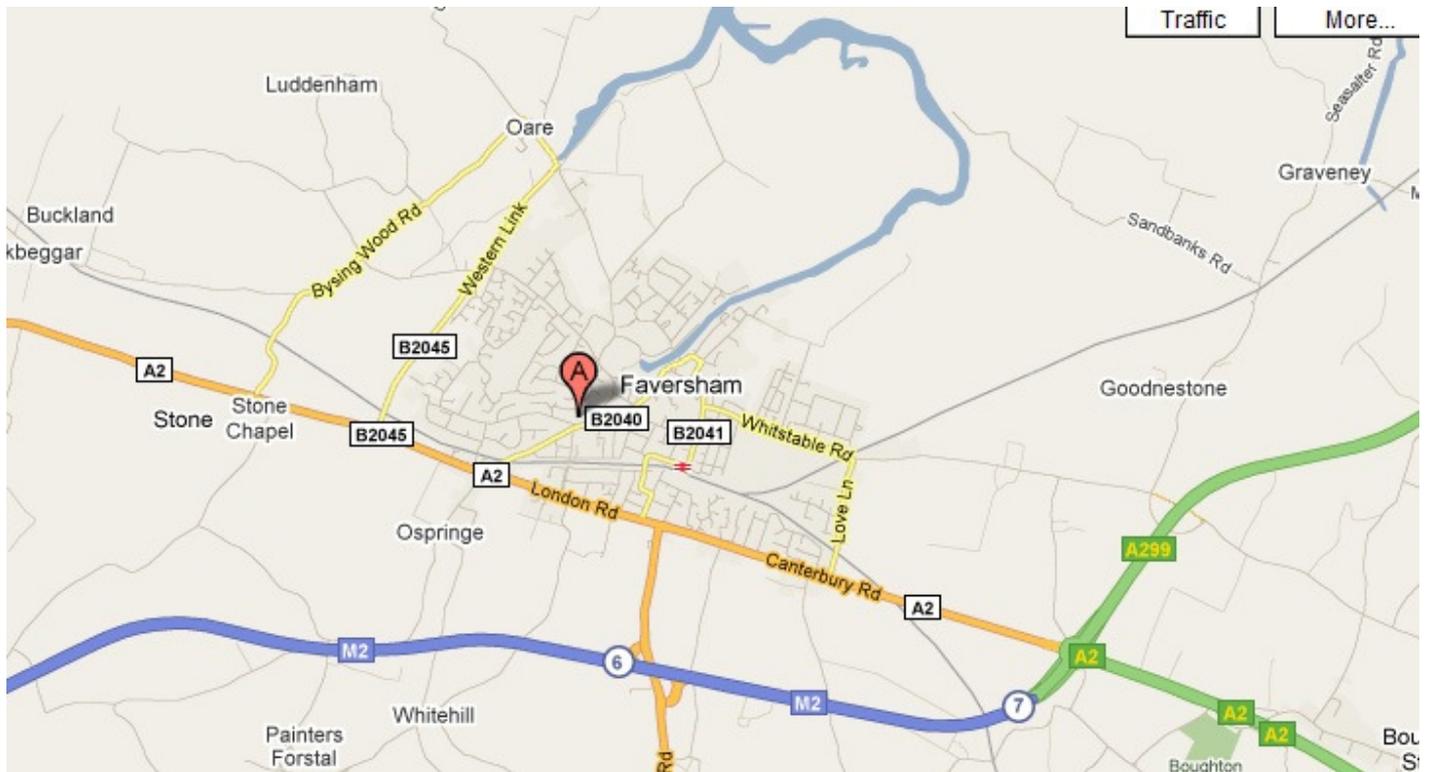
CONTACTS Bernard Gaydon 01634 861627, 07905 236243, bggaydon@theiet.org .

If you need to cancel your visit, contact REMS secretary John Belling, 07986 379935,

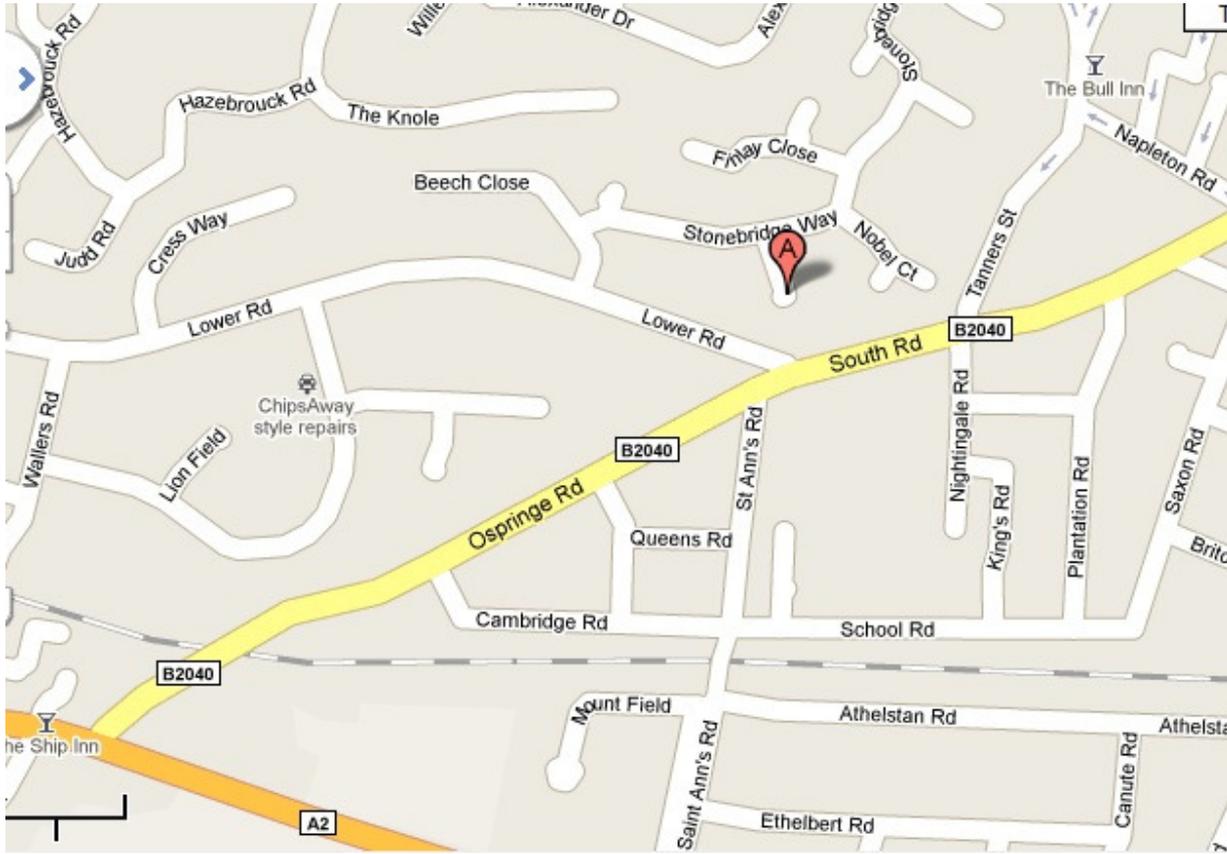
john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com

LATE ARRIVALS Phone Bernard Gaydon – especially if you have requested a lift from Faversham station.

Large scale map: note that the B2040 is Ospringle Road



Small scale map: Note that Chart Close is the road indicated by the 'A' icon, off Stonebridge Way.



Location of Brogdale Farm (ME13 8XU): note that Ospringe Road (B2040) is at the top of the map.

