



June  
2012

NEWS  
UPDATE

The  
Newsletter  
of Felixstowe  
Town Council

## TOWN TALK

### Annual Report by the Mayor of Felixstowe, Councillor Doreen Savage 2011 - 2012



**The tradition of the outgoing Mayor is to prepare an Annual Report for members of the Council. Trying to encapsulate a year of events is not easy, but I will try and give you a flavour of what the year has entailed.**

I think the first thing of which the Mayor becomes aware is how many wonderful organisations we have in this Town and just how hard all those people involved with those organisations work to raise awareness and money to enable them to do the work that they do for the community. The Mayor also becomes the President of many of those groups and it is in this way by attending the Annual General Meetings of the groups that you learn about the fantastic work that is ongoing year after year in Felixstowe. Some of these include The District Scouts, Carnival Association, Wesel and Salzwedel Associations and Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association. I cannot thank enough all the hundreds of people involved with charitable groups for the wonderful contribution they make to the town.

2011 was quite an auspicious year in the way of anniversaries for many organisations in the Town. It was the 90th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion, and the 125th Anniversary of the Salvation Army and the Port of Felixstowe. Each celebrated these momentous occasions and it was a privilege to be part of celebratory events.

June 2011 also saw the official opening of the Shared Space scheme and the Canopy on the Triangle. The celebration around the opening was excellent and it was an opportunity to bring together the various partner organisations who had been involved in the schemes. Shared Space still has its critics, but in the main, most people seem to be enjoying the experience of less traffic and more freedom of movement in Hamilton Road, and it is so good to see people sitting in the area just chatting and enjoying coffee - weather permitting! The Canopy has proved to be the triumph that we hoped it would be with people enjoying the space but also organisations and musicians making use of the whole area to bring a new dimension to the Town Centre. The removal of the old toilet block brought the usual round of complaints, but who can deny that we now have a town centre of which we can be justifiably proud and toilets on Crescent Road car park that are "state of the art"!

My Civic Service at the Salvation Army Hall in July was for me a wonderful occasion as was the Civic Carol Service in December, and I cannot thank the Salvation Army officers and members enough for their generosity both spiritual and financial in allowing these events to take place in their Church. The Civic Reception in September at Landguard Fort was a triumph with over 220 people enjoying all that the Fort had to offer (many discovering it for the first time) and the weather was wonderful. Celia and I had been offering up prayers for good weather - and they were answered! Again, my thanks to the volunteers and Manager of Landguard Fort for their help in making the event such a success.

Our twinning with Wesel and partnership with Salzwedel continues to be a phenomenal success story. During the Civic year there have been two visits to Felixstowe

by young people from the Conrad Duden High School in Wesel. They were entertained at the Town Hall and showed great interest in Felixstowe and the Town Hall on both visits. We must thank the Wesel Association for their continuing work to encourage exchange visits of young people as it is essential that the youth of the town continue with the twinning in the years to come. We had visits from members of the Wesel/Felixstowe Association and Peggy and I visited Wesel in October 2011 for Hansafest where we were made very welcome and shared time with the Association members in Wesel as well as taking part in the official programme of events whilst there. We also entertained visitors from Salzwedel in July 2011 and a Civic Reception was held here at the Town Hall for the visitors. Once again both these organisations are only as successful as the people involved with them make them. My sincere thanks to all of them.

For me, one of the highlights of my Civic year (and there have been many) was the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Port of Felixstowe. This was truly a community event where the Port organised a giant TV screen outside the Leisure Centre and provided music and entertainment and the best firework display ever seen in Felixstowe. I was privileged to be asked to help launch the event from the stage and I looked out over a sea of people and I understand there were several thousands on the Pier Bight and beyond. I was also lucky enough to be among the guests who were invited to the Port's other events that day which started with the visit of Princess Anne (the second time she visited Felixstowe in 2011) and to be presented to her. The events which followed included a fantastic "walk through" of the history of the Port all set out in a series of containers marking a specific period of the Port's development over the years. A fantastic dinner and another firework display concluded for me and the other guests a fabulous event that celebrated the success of the Port in Felixstowe. I think we should constantly remind ourselves of how important the Port is to the economy of our Town and how different it would be without it. I am very proud of the partnership which we share with the Port of Felixstowe and equally proud of the fact that it is on our doorstep.

Christmas in Felixstowe is brilliant, thanks to the work of The Lions Club and the committed members who ensure our town looks beautiful with the lighting scheme that is erected every year by the Lions. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Morris and I recently visited the workshop on the Port where the Lions store, repair and construct new lighting systems for the coming year. They give 1600 man hours a year to this work all on a voluntary basis and a diet of coffee and doughnuts! Lighting Up Day is now an established tradition and a fantastic community event with the highlight for the Mayor - switching on the lights and experiencing the subsequent roar of approval from the crowd when this happens. Visits to all the Nursing and Residential Homes also form part of the Mayor's Christmas programme and as previously reported I was delighted to see that the care in every home we visited was first class.

Sadly, the New Year has seen a series of deaths of well known local people including a former Councillor, Marion Warby who played a key role in the formation of the Wesel partnership in 1974. At a recent reception the Burgermeisterine gave me a book on Wesel from 1961 to 2011. There is a picture in the book of Marion walking down Felixstowe Strasse in Wesel wearing the chain of office and looking very proud. Felixstowe also said goodbye in spectacular fashion to Charlie Manning senior a stalwart of the Town during his life.

## TOWN TALK

On the 20th April I held the annual Mayor's Ball. This event is the largest fund raising event of the Civic year and thanks to the efforts of the chosen charities and very generous gifts from many individuals and companies we raised £1,400 on the night. Although numbers were down this year, it was a wonderful event enjoyed by all who were there.

On the 30th April we held the Civic Awards evening here in the Council Chamber. There were 60 people present to witness 5 chosen residents receive the Mayor's Badge and Certificate given to people who work tirelessly to help others in a variety of ways. The successful people this year were Gillian Barnett, Phil Hadwen, David Smith, Karl Wilkinson and Roy Yates. The Ganges Trophy was awarded to Ross Fraser and the Community Award was given to the Salvation Army Munch and Lunch Club. I was able at this event to present cheques for £2,000 each to my three chosen charities, Felixstowe CAB, TS Landguard Sea Cadet unit, and the Felixstowe Seafarers Centre. It was a brilliant evening recognising some of the good work that goes on in the Town year after year. The government has been promoting the Big Society since it came into office. I think they used Felixstowe as an example of what that really means. We have been doing it for a long time.

And so another Civic year comes to an end. It has been interesting, challenging at times but an honour to have been the Mayor for 2011/12. The town seems to be riding out the recession fairly well, although the year saw the closing of long established businesses like Candler's and Magpie Books. However, new shops have opened too, and I feel that the future of Felixstowe is looking good, but we must continue to support our local shops and do all we can to promote the Town in all its varying aspects.

The future of the Spa Pavilion, the decorative lighting scheme and planting of the flower beds are all things which this Council is going to have to seriously consider in the coming months. I am sure we will all rise to the challenges that will present themselves for the good of Felixstowe.

And finally, thank yous. The first must go to Peggy Osborne for her support and hard work in her role as my Escort. Peggy has carried out this role with quiet dignity and charm and I thank her most sincerely for all that she has done. The second to Celia Page who has been a fantastic Mayor's secretary making sure that the information required on every visit and event was available at all times. Thirdly, Lorna Mosen who organised the charity fund raising events including the Ball and did so brilliantly and last, but by no means least, Sue Faversham for her financial assistance.

This has not been any easy year for the staff here especially during the period of the Clerk's absence following an accident. They have kept the Town Hall running, dealt with the public in the professional way that they do day after day and done so during more changes to the layout of the offices and the installation of a new IT system and always with a smile on their faces. They have been ably supported by Rosemary Jones who has stepped into the breach on many occasions.

Thank you too, to Andy and Percy for their professionalism in their roles at the Town Hall. We are very lucky to have such conscientious and dedicated staff. The last thank you is to all of you as my colleagues on the Town Council. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Town once again as the Mayor. It has been an honour.

### Exciting events for the Town

The Town Council looks forward to the exciting months of June and July when Felixstowe joins the rest of the country celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

On Saturday, 2nd June on the Solar Store concourse, Felixstowe Travel Watch will be staging one of its occasional Public Information stalls. You'll be able to pick up the latest timetables for local bus and train services, both of which have minor alterations from the winter schedules.

On Sunday, 3rd June the Town Council is holding a Service of Thanksgiving for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen at St John's Church, Orwell Road at 3pm. Do come and join us for this special occasion.

Also on 3rd June, Gala in the Gardens is taking place. At this event the Felixstowe Carnival Queen will be crowned by the Mayor of Felixstowe at midday. This event takes place from 11am - 4pm in the Spa Gardens and for more information please contact Corinne Cappell at [corinne.cappell@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:corinne.cappell@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or telephone 01394 444577.

On Monday, 4th June the Lions Club of Felixstowe is organising a Beacon Lighting event at the Clifflands Car Park, Old Felixstowe. The event starts at 8.30pm and there will be a display by the Sea Cadets, music from the Over 50's Brass Band plus stalls and refreshments. Plenty of rousing patriotic music will be played and the evening culminates in the Beacon being lit at 10.20pm by Councillor Mike Deacon, the Mayor of Felixstowe.

There are several events happening over the Jubilee weekend and to find out more, visit the Felixstowe Events Forum at [felixstoweevents@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:felixstoweevents@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or the Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre on 01394 276770.

On Thursday, 5th July the Olympic Torch Relay comes to Felixstowe. Please join the town in celebrating this once in a lifetime event, the route is as follows: Arrives Beatrice Avenue at approximately 4.50pm, and will then go on to Hamilton Road, Orwell Road, Garrison Lane, Undercliff Road West, Sea Road, Beach Station Road and will be leaving Felixstowe at approximately 5.20pm.

The Town Council will be at the Triangle from 3.30pm onwards on 5th July giving out flags and sweets, the Over 50's Brass Band will playing from 2.30pm onwards. In addition to this there will be several other events taking place along the route so do come along and "wave the flag"!

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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Officials of the Council:  
Town Clerk: Mrs Caroline Barrett  
Technical Advisor: Mrs Rosemary Jones

### WHEN WE MEET

The Full Council meets at 7.30pm.

Feel free to come along to our meetings to see and hear what issues we are talking about. There is a public question time at the start of each meeting so that you can let us know your views on Felixstowe issues.

### Forthcoming meetings:

13th June and 8th August 2012 at Felixstowe Town Hall

**The incoming Mayor, Mike Deacon has much to look forward to in 2012. It is Jubilee Year and the Olympic Torch is coming to town – so have a great year Mike and thank you for your help as Deputy Mayor.**

## Remember ...

We want to hear your views. Please let us know by telephone or email, using the contacts shown on this page.