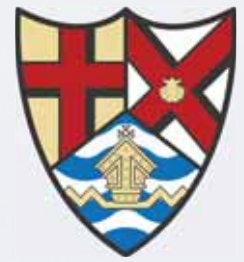


Summer

Issue 17 The Seasonal Magazine for Felixstowe Residents **2023**



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL



Love Felixstowe Festival - Felixstowe Carnival - 2023 Blue Flag and Seaside Award - Our Environment - Your Community Stories

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Meet the New Mayor

Hello and welcome to this Summer 2023 edition of Felixstowe Town Council's seasonal magazine!



First off, Felixstowe, I want to say what a massive honour it is to be writing this as the actual Mayor of Felixstowe. When I was born in 1964 – in Fleetwood Avenue, within earshot of the cricket and football at Dellwood Ave – I don't think anyone thought this wee chappy in his birthday suit would one day wear the Mayoral chain of his hometown – I certainly didn't!

The role of Mayor of the town (dating back to 1895!) currently has three main elements: to be Chair of the six Full Council meetings during the Civic Year and to support, celebrate and promote the Council, people, businesses and charities of the town. In my first 10 days as Mayor I celebrated Felixstowe resident Cynthia Nixon's 100th birthday and Cuppa café's 4th, spoke at a multicultural food festival in Ipswich and opened Felixstowe's first Emergency Services

Day. Traditionally, the Mayor has also championed a small number of local charities via fundraising events during the year. At the time of going to press we are just finalising arrangements for the charities. In the meantime, to get us off to a flying start, please do consider donating to the "Mayor of Felixstowe Charity Fund" on JustGiving – you can be sure your donation will go to an excellent cause right here in Felixstowe. Follow the QR code below to donate.

There's so much to look forward to this summer. The marvellous Felixstowe Book Festival returns 16-25 June (felixstowebookfestival.co.uk). The programme has something for everyone, with fascinating talks by top authors from near and far (including Terry Waite, a patron of the Festival), a Library Lego challenge and the one-and-only Hosepipe Band! And it wouldn't be summer without our mighty Carnival, 21-23 July (felixstowecarnival.org). This year's theme, 'Magic of the Musicals' will surely prompt many fine floats and costumes, so gather you and yours for a weekend of fab, free entertainment. But please do also bring cash and give as generously as you can, as the costs of putting on the Carnival run into the tens of thousands, and I know each year it's a real challenge for the dedicated committee volunteers to keep this great show on the road. See page 7 for details.



Later in the summer the first 'Love Felixstowe' Festival, organised by the Felixstowe BID (Business Improvement District) felixstowebid.co.uk will hit the seafront 2-3 September. Offering free entertainment, delicious food and showcasing Felixstowe's brilliant businesses, 'Love Felixstowe' paves the way for another exciting announcement, as Stage Five of the men's Tour of Britain, the UK's biggest pro cycle race, will finish in Felixstowe on 7 Sept. Building on our successful hosting of the Women's Tour finale in recent years, it's a huge honour for the town to welcome this top international event, so please do come and cheer on some of the world's best athletes as they battle it out right here in Felixstowe (Sea Road finish). More about the Tour on page 4 and Love Felixstowe on page 11.

Finally, excellent news that Felixstowe has retained the prestigious Blue Flag and Seaside Award for a fourth consecutive year. Felixstowe blazed the trail and is now one of only two East Suffolk towns with the combined awards. The criteria are tough – including having officially excellent water quality and beachside facilities – providing quality assurance for visitors, boosting our economy and sense of civic pride. More on page 14.

So, on behalf of your GOLD Standard* Town Council, here's to a sensational, sun-filled Felixstowe summer.

Cllr Seamus Bennett, Mayor of Felixstowe 2023-24

**National Local Council's Award scheme winner. See more in our Annual Town Report, pages 24-26. Follow the Mayor of Felixstowe Facebook page for regular updates. And if you'd like your Mayor to attend an event – however big or small – have a question or feedback, please email mayor@felixstowe.gov.uk*



Your Magazine

We would be pleased to receive relevant articles from community groups and voluntary organisations letting residents know what is happening in the Felixstowe area.

If your group would like to submit an article for consideration in the next quarterly edition (**1 September - 30 November**), please email holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk by **15 October**

If possible, include hi-res images/photos and your group's logo. You don't have to send a fully-written article – bullet points or a few notes are fine to help point us in the right direction – but it must be no longer than 250 words. We will aim to cover many different articles from issue to issue and will seek to offer a fair and equal representation for community groups throughout the town. Sometimes articles may have to be edited, shortened or dropped altogether.

Advertising

Limited advertising space will be available in future editions to support the cost of publication, with priority given to local, reputable businesses.

Call 01394 282086 or email enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk for prices and to book your ad.

Photo credit: With thanks to Stephen Squirrell for cover photo and various header images.

With thanks to Grace Wells from Felixstowe School for designing the Youth Forum article on page 16

Getting in Touch

Drop into the Town Hall or call us during office hours (9am – 4pm Mon-Fri) or email us at any time. We'd love to hear from you.

Phone: **01394 282086**

Email: enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk

Address:

**Felixstowe Town Hall
Undercliff Road West
Felixstowe
IP11 2AG**

www.felixstowe.gov.uk



**Felixstowe is a
Fairtrade
Town**

Who Do I Talk to About...?



Felixstowe Town Council is the council closest to its residents and is responsible for:

- The office of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayoral arrangements.
- Awarding grants to support local community groups and charities.
- Remembrance events in conjunction with the Felixstowe branch of the Royal British Legion
- The upkeep of Felixstowe's War and Flood Memorials.
- Felixstowe's Community Emergency Plan
- Felixstowe in Flower floral basket scheme and competitions.
- Allenby Park and Gosford Way Parks.
- Floral bedding at The Triangle and seafront.
- Felixstowe's Civic Awards scheme.
- Supporting the town's Twinning and Partnership arrangements with the Germans towns of Wezel and Salzwedel.
- Felixstowe Youth Forum.
- Funding the Christmas Lights (supported by the Lions Club of Felixstowe).
- Representation on local planning applications, strategic planning and consultations.
- Supporting the provision of Community Public Access Defibrillators.
- Felixstowe Town Hall - the administrative home of the Town Council, a local base for partner community services such as Suffolk County Council Registrar, open to the public for meetings and popular wedding venue.
- Broadway House - the home of Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association (FOPWA).
- Walton Community Hall - available for private and community hire.
- Allotment sites at Cowpasture, Ferry Road, Railway Hill and Taunton Road.
- Annual funding and contribution to key local service providers including Felixstowe Volunteer Coast and Rescue Patrol Service, LevelTwo Youth Project, Felixstowe Forward, Citizen's Advice and the Landguard Fort Trust.
- Felixstowe Cemetery and its gardens of Rest.

Call 01394 282086 or visit
www.felixstowe.gov.uk



East Suffolk Council provides a range of regulatory and community services across the whole of the East Suffolk district and is responsible for:

- The collection of council tax and business rates
- Local planning and building regulations
- Kerbside waste and recycling collections, including fly tipping (in conjunction with East Suffolk Norse)
- Benefits
- Community Safety
- Elections
- Housing needs
- Maintaining the resort of Felixstowe and the provision of the beach huts
- Maintenance of Felixstowe's public parks, open spaces and place areas (in conjunction with East Suffolk Norse)
- Public car parks and parking enforcement
- Licensing, Environmental and Port Health
- Leisure Services (in conjunction with Places Leisure)
- Street cleaning

Call 0333 016 2000 or visit
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk



Suffolk County Council is the top tier of local government, providing services on a county-wide basis and is responsible for:

- Highways (except motorways and Major A roads, which are the responsibility of Highways England)
- Education and Libraries
- Social Services
- Trading Standards
- Public transport
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Waste and recycling centres
- Bus passes and disabled parking permits
- Registry of births, deaths and marriages
- Most street lighting, pavements, rights of way, footpaths and cycle ways
- Adoption and fostering

Call 0345 606 6067 or visit
www.suffolk.gov.uk

Town Councillors 2023

Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Seamus Bennett

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Mike Deacon

Walton Ward

Amanda Folley *

amanda.folley@felixstowe.gov.uk
07852 147 440



Mike Deacon *

mike.deacon@felixstowe.gov.uk
01394 211146



Margaret Morris

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Seamus Bennett * **

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Jan Candy *

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Bernard Price

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Steve Wiles **

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David Underwood

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Port Ward

Stuart Bird **

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Michael Sharman

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Corrine Franklin

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Key

* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

** Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council

Member of Parliament for Suffolk Coastal:

Dr Therese Coffey MP

therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk
020 7219 7164



Felixstowe Town Council

The Council comprises 16 Members representing five wards who are elected every four years. Council also delegates some of its functions to its Committees. Please note forthcoming meeting dates below:

7th June	Planning & Environment	9:15am
14th June	Civic & Community	7:30pm
20th June	Ordinary Council	7:00pm
21st June	Planning & Environment	9:15am
5th July	Assets & Services	7:30pm
5th July	Planning & Environment	9:15am
12th July	Finance & Governance	7:30pm
19th July	Planning & Environment	9:15am
2nd August	Planning & Environment	9:15am
16th August	Planning & Environment	9:15am

Note: all meetings listed are open to the press and public, who are also welcome to attend online via Zoom. 15 minutes are set aside for public participation, during which time members of the public can speak or ask a question. Details on when meetings take place, the matters for consideration and records of decisions made are all available on our website, facebook page and twitter. For further information please telephone 01394 282086 or email enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk.

Contacting Council Staff

Phone: 01394 282086 (all staff)

Email: enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk

Address:

Felixstowe Town Hall, Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG

Website: www.felixstowe.gov.uk

Ash Tadjrishi – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
townclerk@felixstowe.gov.uk

Debbie Frost – Deputy Town Clerk
debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk

Sue Faversham – Civic Events Officer
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Sarah Morrison – Planning Administration Assistant
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Shaun Congi – Financial Administration Assistant
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Holly Miles – Communications Apprentice
holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk

Janine Smith – Assets & Services Officer
janine.smith@felixstowe.gov.uk

Your Community Stories

Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum



In the last edition of the magazine we introduced Fairtrade Ted – our new mascot. He has proved a great success in promoting

Fairtrade in Felixstowe, particularly to young people. He visited a local school and helped give away free chocolate samples in the library where he was a big hit with visiting children (see our website at www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk for pictures). Our committee has decided that involving young people in Fairtrade should be a priority over the next 12 months. We are very encouraged that Felixstowe School has played an active part in encouraging its pupils to become involved with Fairtrade, including organising a competition, with winners recently announced. We will be publicising the winning entries on our website and social media feeds during the rest of this term, so look out for these.



For younger children we are offering an appearance by Fairtrade Ted. After his hectic schedule during Fairtrade Fortnight he is now free to put in appearances at pre-schools, schools and youth groups in Felixstowe. He will be accompanied by one of our team who will be happy to talk about Fairtrade in an interesting and age-appropriate way. Contact secretary@felixstowe-fairtrade.co.uk for further information.

In other news we are really pleased to be working with other Fairtrade Towns in Suffolk to organise a conference in Woodbridge in July. Our guest speaker will be Mike Gidney the chief executive of the national Fairtrade Foundation, who lives locally. We hope our colleagues in the other towns will join us in our drive to involve young people in promoting Fairtrade across Suffolk.

Felixstowe Wesel Association



Just under one year to go until April 2024 when here in Felixstowe we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the official "twinning" or "partnership"

between our towns. The run up to those celebrations really got under way with the visit of Burgermeisterin (Mayor) Ulrike Westkamp and five others and Mayor Olaf Meining from Salzwedel for a long weekend visit. Coming after a four year break (the COVID-19 pandemic) it was a wonderful chance for them to see all the changes to our town - they loved Beach Street - and continue preparations for 2024.

The visit coincided with our Mayor Sharon Harkin's Charity Ball where everyone had a great time and we discovered the previously unknown dancing talents of some of our German guests.

We are looking forward to the visit of Wesel Fire Service cadets and the Wesel Carnival group coming here in July, our group's visit to Wesel in October and our usual programme of social events. For more information - email: infowesel50@btinternet.com or visit our website www.felixwesel.onesuffolk.net



Felixstowe Carnival 2023 'Magic of The Musicals'



This year we are thinking about all those favourite musicals we have sung along to and that have entertained us for years on both film and stage!

The Carnival weekend is Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd July 2023

Start your Carnival weekend on Friday evening with a live swing band on the main stage in the beach side events area. Bring a picnic and enjoy our proms concert. We will provide the flags!

Saturday starts with our traditional procession 1pm and moving through the town to the seafront on our normal route. The Carnival continues Saturday and Sunday on the seafront.

Between our main stage and the family area there is something for everyone to enjoy and all the entertainment is free. Don't forget to meet the Dinosaurs, visit our craft fair in the Leisure Centre, the beachside traders and our food court and bar.

We will finish the weekend with a spectacular Fireworks display at 10pm off the Pier.

Make sure you pick up our free programme for full details of the weekend and, don't forget, we need your donations to keep this a free-to-all event in the future. If you can spare us something extra to keep our annual tradition going, we would really appreciate it. Look out for those buckets, our donation station for tapping those cards and, new for this year, we are embracing technology and are using a QR code for donations.

Julie Bellamy, Chair, Felixstowe Carnival Association



Tour of Britain - Stage Five Finish in Felixstowe

To celebrate one of the UK's biggest sporting events finishing in Felixstowe this September, Felixstowe BID, Felixstowe Town Council and East Suffolk Council are working together to host Love Felixstowe. A 6 day celebratory event showcasing Felixstowe and the businesses to the local community and visitors.



On the Monday, one of the last days of the school summer holidays, there will be an array of activities for young people and families on the Beach Side events area. These will include circus workshops, climbing wall with a leap of faith challenge, a BMX cycle course and much much more.

The Thursday will see Felixstowe host stage 5 of the Tour of Britain which will see the world's best male cyclists racing finishing on Sea Road. East Suffolk has hosted different stages of the Tour since it began in 2014, and after the success of Felixstowe hosting the Women's Tour in 2021, it is exciting to welcome the Tour of Britain to the Town.

There will be activities taking place on the finish line including a business challenge and a 10km community bike ride. There will also be a Tour Village with stalls providing information, activities and representatives from some of the sponsors from the Tour of Britain.

To help the weekend run smoothly, the Council is also looking for volunteers to get involved. For more information, please email volunteer@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

For more details about the Tour of Britain, go to www.tourofbritain.co.uk

The celebrations will be taking place on 2 – 7th September 2023 in a variety of locations in Felixstowe including the High Street, Beachside Events Space, the prom and the local businesses.

Over the weekend there will be street entertainment from jugglers to musicians, an opportunity to participate and spectate. There will be a colour run for people to sign up to and art workshops to get involved in. There will be an outdoor cinema over the weekend, the films are yet to be decided, and all suggestions are welcome by email on leisure@eastssuffolk.gov.uk. Within the Beachside events area, there will be information stalls and activities underneath a marquee.

Suffolk Sound launches in Felixstowe

Welcome to the new sound of Suffolk, launching Summer 2023!

Live from our studios in Felixstowe, Suffolk Sound brings to you great chat, music and news from the regions most popular presenters!

As well as voices and friends you've grown to love over many years, we'll feature the radio stars of tomorrow, with our heart very much embedded into the community we serve from Felixstowe to Shotley, Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds and beyond.

If you're looking to find a new hobby, have an interest in radio and want to train alongside industry professionals, we want to hear from you! We have volunteer teams both on and off air. The most important quality we ask is a passion for everything Suffolk!

We'll be launching live during Summer 2023, so get involved now and follow the fun!

info@suffolksound.com www.suffolksound.com



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Level Two Youth project in conjunction with Arts Award



Proudly presents

For the first time Level Two Youth Project, in conjunction with Arts Award, is running a six week summer project for young people between the ages of 8 and 17. Activities will include dance, singing and acting rehearsals, prop and scenery making and a trip out to a local theatre to see a show (transport provided).

Level Two provides mentoring, counselling and youth club services to young people in Felixstowe's and surrounding villages.

Arts Award is an organisation that provides young people with the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification. This project offers young people the chance to gain either an 'Explore' or 'Bronze' level qualification.

Alongside the formal qualification, we hope the young people taking part will make new friends, gain confidence and be able to try something new. This six week project will run from the end of July until the beginning of September, fully supported by Level Two staff and will culminate in a fantastic stage production at Trimley Memorial Hall.

We are holding an open evening in June which will give families and young people a chance to ask questions, meet staff, try out roles and begin to build the excitement for this amazing summer production.

We are really looking forward to meeting lots of enthusiastic young people.

Contact Level Two via email at fydgleveltwo@gmail.com to register your interest and for more information, including dates and cost.

Felixstowe Men's Shed (FMS)



After four years since inception our membership stands at 35 and the workshop is busy start to finish. At the April AGM there has been a change of chairman, Tony Allen has stood down and our new chairman is Steve Harding. With an engineering background Steve is well placed to lead Felixstowe Mens Shed forward.

A new Engineering section has been formed with a dedicated area as demand has seen more and more need from converting cycles to battery power and vintage motorcycle repairs and maintenance.

A large new assembly bench has allowed a variety of work to be carried out with more ease, raised garden beds, repairs to furniture and our long-term project of Bat Boxes continues.

Why not come along and see just what is on offer?

We are located at 158 High Road, Trimley St. Mary, IP11 0TN and are open 10.00am – lunchtime, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturday mornings 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Further information and details showing past projects can be found on Facebook and www.felixstowemensshed.org.uk

Article provided by Tony Allen/Steve Harding

Calling All Mariners and those interested in Nautical Matters



The Felixstowe Master Mariners Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club for a lunch provided by local caterer KB Catering (kbcatering31@gmail.com) followed by a talk by an invited speaker.



The talks are not necessarily marine related and have recently included an interesting presentation by Club Member, old railwayman and ex-shipping executive, Chris Ridgeon, about the development of railway signalling. This was followed by an absorbing explanation of the work conducted by The Seafarers Centre based in Felixstowe and at the April Lunch a presentation by Mr. Glyn Evans, making his annual visit to our Club and an explanation of the failed attempt to sink the German pocket battleship, "Tirpitz", sheltering in the Norwegian fjords during WW2.

The object of The Club is to foster professional comradeship among Master Mariners and those with Nautical interests and to use any excess funds to support local maritime related charities in an atmosphere of high traditions, good manners, smart dress code, cordiality and friendship. This year The Club were able to support - Care Ashore, RNLI Harwich, Ocean Youth Trust South, The Marine Society and Sea Cadets, ECST, The Shipwrecked Mariners Society and Felixstowe based TS Landguard Sea Cadet Corps, The Seafarers Charity, Felixstowe & Haven Ports Seafarers Centre, 1st Felixstowe Sea Scouts and The National Coastwatch Institution.

New Members are always welcome and Membership details and further information can be obtained from the FMMC web page www.mastermariners.uk/

Picture show Members captivated by a recent talk at one of the monthly luncheons, with the River Deben flowing by in the background.

Old Felixstowe Community Association



The Community Centre remains a hive of activity with over thirty groups meeting regularly and private bookings remaining buoyant. With the summer approaching we are looking forward to the Summer Fair which is being held at the Centre on Saturday 10th June between 10am and midday. It is a chance for our regular groups to say "thank you" to the Association for the facilities we provide as all takings are in aid of the Association. There will be a variety of

stalls, games and a giant raffle so please do join us for a fun morning and raise valuable funds. The theme this year is the musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber so there are prizes for the best decorated stall, best dressed adult and best dressed child. Earlier on in the year the tree plaques that were situated next to the silver birch and apple tree went "missing." Brackenburg WI planted the silver birch, and the apple tree was funded by the Garden Club to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June of last year. The plaques have not been found so it was decided to have a wall mounted plaque instead which would record the very generous gifts by Brackenburg WI and the Felixstowe Garden Club. Marketing Force who had produced the original plaques have made the new wall mounted plaque and very generously provided this free of charge. We have seen both sides of human nature here so a big thank you to Marketing Force.

Volunteer required: At OFCA we rely on volunteers to keep the Community Centre up and running and are looking for someone to assist with small jobs around the Centre. If you are interested in joining our friendly team, please give me a call on 07572119834.

If you wish to book the Community Centre for a private function, please contact the Administrator on 07494599265 or email ofcabookings@gmail.com.

Best wishes, Celia Page, Chairman

The Lion's Club of Felixstowe



We have been busy as a club since March. With the Easter Egg hunt at the Spa Gardens and Easter Eggs at our local pubs in Felixstowe.

Our president Lion David Cole and Lion Steve Westley attended Ipswich East Fire Station on 14th April. They met Prevention officer Mel Buck, to present 100 Message in a bottle. These will be given to the local practitioners who visit care homes and vulnerable people. If you have not seen our posters these little bottles are really good. You put all your details (name, what medication your taken) on the form and place it back in the bottle, making sure you put it in the door of your fridge. If you ever need a paramedic, they will see the sticker and know to look in the fridge to be able to help you quicker. If you want more details, please see our website.

The Felixstowe Lions are back with the Car Boot sales at the Old Cavendish site, Felixstowe. Sellers are 7.30am arrival and buyers 8.00am till 1pm. £6.00 a stall. We are there on the following dates in June - 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. There is also bric-a-brac sales at the Triangle on 3rd June, 1st July and 5th August. If you don't want a stall please still come and get a bargain.

Also, we have had five new members join the club.

For more information about Lions of Felixstowe please see our web page for more details Felixstowelions.org.uk or you can email us at felixstowelions@gmail.com

Discover the 'Buzzing' New Café at Felixstowe Museum



Felixstowe Museum is open for the summer season with fresh exhibitions, an exciting new café, an arts club, longer opening hours and a brand-new website.

The Beehive Café at Felixstowe Museum is already proving a firm favourite with its delicious toasties and paninis, scones and sensational cakes which are baked locally and delivered daily. It also offers a wider choice of hot and cold drinks as well as ice cream for those hot summer days when you can sit outside and watch the ships go by.

The café is named after HMS Beehive, the Second World War coastal forces base at Felixstowe, which is celebrated elsewhere in the Museum. The walls are adorned with the work of local artists, which is for sale, and is a space for small events, art classes and creative workshops.

The café sits alongside the Museum shop which is offering new stock for the season including retro toys and Felixstowe souvenirs.

Also new for 2023 is an exhibition celebrating the Museum's near neighbour, the Port of Felixstowe, following its growth from the digging out of the original dock basin to the world class facility it is today. The display combines memories, artefacts and rarely seen port records, which all help celebrate the port's significance both locally and globally.

Due to popular demand, the Museum's exhibition celebrating the news, fashion and music of the 1980's has been refreshed and will be on display for a second year. Take a trip down memory lane, play on the video games of the day and share your memories with us - you can even buy an exclusive 'Frankie Goes to Felixstowe' T shirt.

To complete the offer for 2023, the Museum is also marking two significant events from 70 years ago - the 1953 Floods and the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It is also planned to host more events including live music in its grounds.

The Museum is open Thursday to Sunday every week and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11am to 5pm (last entry for Museum 4pm).

Entry is £4 for adults and £1 for children.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.felixstowemuseum.org or call 01394 674355.

Summer at Landguard Fort



Summer at Landguard Fort has something for everyone, from dinosaurs to ukuleles plus of course, lots of military history!

In partnership with English Heritage our team of brilliant volunteers ensure that Landguard Fort is open every day during school holidays and Thursday to Sunday at all other times, where visitors can always experience, explore and enjoy exhibits spanning more than 400 years of military, social and geopolitical history.

There's always added fun for younger visitors too with our themed trails. The 'Kings and Queens' trail runs until early June, followed by a 'Morse Code' trail until early July when it will be replaced with a 'Jurassic Fort' trail running through the summer. Everyone completing any of our trails will receive a goody-bag at the end of each visit!

As always, we've a fun-filled summer events schedule with something for visitors of all ages.

3rd June - Felixstowe Harmonies and Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir invite you to a Rock-in At The Fort in the evening. Enjoy an exciting mix of classic rock songs and modern anthems performed in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice and East Suffolk Prostate Cancer Support Group.

1st and 2nd July - Darell's Day celebrations which remember the last opposed sea invasion of England by the Dutch in 1667 and the first land battle of the Royal Marines. Hear our living historians tell the story of the hero of the fort - Captain Nathaniel Darell.

5 August - In the evening D-Ukes Ukulele band will be performing in aid of Amnesty International.

25 August - In the evening Quantum Theatre will bring their open air theatre production of 'Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny'.

For more details, including opening times and to book tickets, visit www.landguard.com.

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Felixstowe IP11 2AD

E: service@kw-autos.co.uk

W: www.kw-autos.co.uk

Could You Help Felixstowe Area Community Transport?



FACTS have been serving the Felixstowe community for over 30 years. We provide accessible community transport for anyone of any age who cannot access public transport due to physical, cognitive, or sensory impairment. We transport people to medical appointments both inside and outside Felixstowe, to the supermarket or town centre, day centres, community groups, or simply to visit friends and family.



As we head towards the summer and hopefully better weather, our buses are getting busier, and we are on the lookout for additional volunteers to help drive or assist passengers our fleet of minibuses, or even use their own vehicles to transport our more mobile passengers. We offer training for all volunteer roles through MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme), and all of our volunteers receive DBS checks.

Our volunteers are the real heart of FACTS, giving our passengers a door to door service and a friendly face to chat to. We would not be able to help as many people as we do without their support.

If you feel that you could give some of your time to help us keep the residents of Felixstowe, Trimley and Kirton out and about, or would like to know how FACTS can help you, please contact us by email at admin@factsbus.org.uk or by phone on 01394 282857.

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Felixstowe Family History Society



We meet at Broadway House, Orwell Road Felixstowe every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. We normally have a speaker with refreshments afterwards.

"Members are free but visitors are always welcome at our meetings, entry fee £3."

We also hold a "Help You" session at the same location on the last Friday of the month from 10.15am to Noon. There our researcher can assist and guide you in your Family History search.

Felixstowe Area - 'N' Gauge Group



Felixstowe Area N Gauge Model Railway Group is made up of modelers who are dedicated to N gauge. They like to get the most out of the space they have available.

N Gauge is to a scale of 1:148 which equates

to 2mm to 1 foot. We currently have about 35 members. We meet up on a Thursday evening between 7.30 pm and approx. 10 pm, at our Club Room at Great Street Farm, High Road Trimley St Mary to work on our layouts. The first Thursday of each month is a club meeting night when we talk about this and that, and occasionally model railways. As we have exclusive use of the venue various small groups hold modelling sessions during the week.

As a club we have a modular layout which is made up of units constructed by individual members. These can be assembled in formats ranging from a complete circuit of 3 tracks to a straight run. Some of the modules have additional track off the main run. Most of our members have at least one layout of their own and more of these are regularly added. We welcome new members whether they want to build a layout of their own, or help with an existing project, but don't be put off if you just want to come along for a cuppa and a chat. We hold two Open Days a year in March & October as well as our Annual Felixstowe N Gauge Show. This now has a new venue at The Memorial Hall, High Road, Trimley St. Martin, IP11 0RJ. The date for this year's show is July 15th from 10.30am until 4pm.

We visit other shows with our layouts, so there is plenty to keep us busy.

If you would like to visit us to find out more about the Group you can either contact Chris Shum on 01394 277211 or visit our web site at: www.felixstowengauge.org.uk

East Suffolk Council Project Development Update



There are two exciting projects kicking off in June within Langer Park. Firstly, work on the new play area will begin which will be an ongoing project.

This will see the existing play area removed (other than a couple of pieces of equipment which are being retained) and a newly designed play park including improved flooring being installed in its place. We had two fantastic designs submitted following the procurement process and the School Council from Langer Primary Academy helped to decide on the winning design.

The second project also starting is the installation of 3 amazing sculptures as part of the Lost Creek Play trail, funded by Felixstowe Town Council. This will be located on the East side of the park, close to the bridge at the Langer Road entrance. Once again, our huge thanks to children from Langer Primary Academy who took part in a hugely enjoyable workshop with sculptor Graeme Mitcheson to create designs for the trail. Here is a sneak preview of one of the final designs. (Photo credit: Graeme Mitcheson Sculpture, Facebook)





1. More reasons to 'get on yer bike'



We're looking forward to seeing the town's railings again once we have new bike racks installed throughout the town and prom.

East Suffolk Council, Felixstowe Town Council, Felixstowe BID and Suffolk

County Council are working together to improve the cycle parking facilities in and around Felixstowe and recently took to their saddles in the rain to

tour the town and prom to discuss where new racks could be placed.



Whether you use the existing cycle parking facilities for business or leisure in and around the town, or would want to in the future this consultation

is an opportunity for new and existing users to contribute to proposed locations in the area.

Using the information from the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy and local knowledge from the partners a list of potential sites for new and or improved cycling parking has been created and can be see visiting www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/cycling we want to hear your views on whether these are the right locations and whether there are others that should be considered. Email suggestions leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

We look forward to receiving all relevant contributions which will assist in providing users with an enhanced and well-used cycle parking facility in Felixstowe.

2. Felixstowe is making the national news

Have you noticed that our town is attracting attention in the national press? Locals and regular visitors know Felixstowe as a lively seaside town with a variety of shops, cafes, restaurants and bars, not to mention a rich heritage reflected in our local landmarks such as the Martello Towers and Landguard Fort. Now it seems we are getting noticed further afield as holiday destination and being compared favourably with our lovely but less accessible neighbours Aldeburgh and Southwold. The Guardian labels Felixstowe as the '...sweet spot of prosperous without being pretentious', while The Sunday Times picked Felixstowe as one of the best places to live in England, noting the 'rugged romantic coast of Old Felixstowe' and namechecking Beach Street '...where the cool cats like to hang out..' as well as some of our marvellous indie shops.

3. Love Felixstowe plans are growing

To celebrate one of the UK's biggest sporting events finishing in Felixstowe this September, Felixstowe BID, Felixstowe Town Council and East Suffolk Council are working together to host Love Felixstowe. A 6 day celebratory event showcasing Felixstowe and the businesses to the local community and visitors.

The celebrations will be taking place on 2nd – 7th September 2023 in a variety of locations in Felixstowe including the High Street, Beachside Events Space, the prom and local businesses and venues.

Over the weekend there will be street entertainment from jugglers to musicians, an opportunity to participate and spectate. There will be a colour run for people to sign up to and art workshops to get involved in. There will be an outdoor cinema over the weekend, the films are yet to be decided. Within the Beachside events area, there will be information stalls and activities underneath a marquee.

On the Monday, one of the last days of the school summer holidays, there will be an array of activities for young people and families on the Beach Side events area. These will include circus workshops, climbing wall with a leap of faith challenge, a BMX cycle course and much much more.

The Thursday will see Felixstowe host stage 5 of the Tour of Britain which will see the world's best male cyclists racing finishing on Sea Road. East Suffolk has hosted different stages of the Tour since it began in 2014, and after the success of Felixstowe hosting the Women's Tour in 2021, it is exciting to welcome the Tour of Britain to the Town.

There will be activities taking place on the finish line including a business challenge and a 10km community bike ride. There will also be a Tour Village with stalls providing information, activities and representatives from some of the sponsors from the Tour of Britain.

To help the weekend run smoothly, the Council is also looking for volunteers to get involved. For more information, please email volunteer@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

For more details about the Tour of Britain, go to www.tourofbrtain.co.uk

4. Felixstowe Sports Clubs – We need you!

As part of the Love Felixstowe festival, we are looking to create a video to showcase our incredible selection of sporting organisations. The professional film will promote Felixstowe as a town that boasts fitness and wellbeing as well as the more social benefits of belonging to one of our clubs. Do get in touch to be included. We want every Felixstowe sports club featured. Email your interest to visitfelixstowe.org@gmail.com

Felixstowe BID: For more info on us go to www.felixstowebid.co.uk

Want to know more about the BID? email manager@felixstowebid.co.uk

Your Community Stories

News and Views from Felixstowe Chamber



Thank you to those who attended our Soirée at The Wine Boutique at the end of March. The wine (and beer!) was flowing and there

was lots of cheese to feast upon. We heard from Suffolk GP Federation on the importance of cervical screening, and from Prostate Cancer UK on the risks and measures that men can undertake to protect their health.

Community Action Suffolk (CAS) talked to us about Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) and how CAS can help businesses to find volunteer opportunities with local charities or support the development of a new ESV policy.



New Committee member Colin Hill informed guests about his vision for The Chill Yard, located at 3b Orwell Road, Felixstowe, next to The Greenhouse Café, which is being launched at the end of May as a space for clubs, fayres and a venue for the whole community. Colin is heading up this important new project in Felixstowe, and would welcome volunteering or assistance. Please contact Colin at colin.chillie.hill@gmail.com



We are also hosting our very first Safari Networking Brunch at The Grosvenor public house on the morning of 23rd May, where we will be inviting members and non-members to 'speed date' with as many businesses as possible within the allocated time.

On the evening of 14th June, we will be revisiting Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club for a 'Media Showcase', where our local media partners will be introducing their services and updating guests on their latest news and developments.

Felixstowe Chamber was also pleased to attend Felixstowe Town Council's Civic Awards Ceremony at The Orwell Hotel on the evening of 10th May. Our Chair Paul Borrourghs, Business Officer Amanda Oliver and Committee member Rachael Jackson joined the packed room to celebrate all those who work so hard to make our vibrant community what it is, including 356 Squadron Felixstowe Air Cadet Molly Bennett, who we were lucky enough to sit next to!

An incredible total of £16,500 has been raised for the Mayor of Felixstowe's three good causes – Felixstowe Opportunity Group, Felixstowe Community Hospital League of Friends and The Compass – over her year-long tenure.

The event was also our chance to thank previous Mayor Cllr Sharon Harkin for all her enthusiasm, dedication and tireless commitment in what has been an exceptional year in our town.

We now welcome Cllr Seamus Bennett as the new Mayor and look forward

to working with him to continue his predecessor's excellent work. We know that Cllr Bennett is keen to support the Chamber's initiatives to grow and promote local businesses and the wider community.

The Chamber's training events continue, with 'Emergency First Aid at Work' courses taking place in Felixstowe on 7th June and 4th October.

We are also hoping to be able to announce details soon of our exciting Charity Ball coming up in the Autumn...keep an eye on our website and social media for further details!

To find out more about the Chamber's events programme, or how membership can benefit your business, please contact our Business Officer Amanda Oliver at amanda@felixstowechamber.co.uk.

www.felixstowechamber.co.uk



Felixstowe Rotary Club



Further to our recent advice we were shipping 8 5.5kw petrol generators value 7 k we can confirm they have now been delivered to Rotarians

in Lviv, Ukraine for distribution to those in need. This consignment nearly did not get through but, due to Rotarian Mark Davies resolving some last minute logistical issues, they arrived safely.

Rotarians in Ukraine had set up a task force to coordinate help from the Rotary world. The Rotary Club of Felixstowe's main challenge was how to get them there. We were pointed towards haulage company Waites and Stones near Swaffham where owner driver Scott Stones had already made 9 previous trips. Scott has been going right in to Ukraine delivering as Far East as Kherson and he has mentioned the devastation being wrought on so many innocent civilians. The aim is allocate supplies to those most in need. We are told that generators will most likely be allocated to community Centres where displaced people can come for shelter, food and drink as well as of course charging up various devices.

Last month, we had our most successful and biggest May Day fun run yet. We had a record 700 runners and a total of £6978.06 was raised, of which a donation of £1500 was made to our main beneficiary Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue. The weather was delightful and the prom and streets of Felixstowe was filled with spectators. It was not just the Rotary charities that benefited, but also many other local good causes due to many of the runners having their own sponsors. We were fortunate to have many local and National sponsors who we have to thank.



Our Environment



Climate Justice! – Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve



Last year, Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve organized the town's first climate justice march. It was held on 2 July, and exceeded all expectations.

Since that time, we have established a 12-point agenda of climate justice solutions which local people are being encouraged to adopt into their everyday lives (See previous editions of this magazine for details).

In the Felixstowe area, we have been supported by Spotlight on Felixstowe to share our message. Social media has also been very supportive in sharing our climate justice agenda.



Further afield, many organizations have helped to carry our climate justice solutions to every part of the nation, and beyond. On Earth Day (22 April) it was interesting to see how our message was studied and shared by thousands of people and organizations who had never previously discovered us.

Earlier in April, the BBC Radio 4 programme Open Country featured our work as an example of a community-based response to the Wild Isles documentary. Although our contribution to that programme did not include any climate justice content, listeners who wanted to learn about our work soon discovered the climate justice side to our goals.

Other climate justice activists from all over the UK and Europe also continue to discover our agenda. In doing so, they are encouraging members of their own communities to organize climate justice events. So it is incredibly exciting and encouraging that they look to Felixstowe as the inspiration for what they are trying to do.

Article provided by Dr Adrian Cooper

Felixstowe Allotment Association

Covid was a dreadful period in our lives which will be remembered for so many different reasons, good and bad. Even when the government declared everyone must stay at home, people who had allotments could still attend them because you were outside and could stay well away from each other. I commend the government on their foresight to prevent many an argument! Possibly murder!

An allotment can be a blessing and a curse. I, as the wife of an allotment holder look forward to the ripening stage of produce. I have brought you tomatoes I can hear my husband say. The following and many subsequent days I would be thrust tomatoes to do with what I will. I have made tomato chutney, sun dried tomatoes, roast tomatoes, passata, tomatoes with salad, stuffed tomatoes and tomato soup until I get to the point and hear myself say what do you want me do do with these!. I have a feeling of being exasperated with a side portion of guilt at the hours my husband has toiled on his allotment.



There is only so much one can do with 20 celeriac and as many butternut squash, but when it comes to asparagus it is a totally different story.....I love asparagus soup and my husband has two asparagus beds with a very limited season. They are picked immediately when ready and turned into a soup. (I have a very good recipe). I then feel slightly bad when my husband says have you left any fresh to have with our meal tonight. I cannot win!

There is a certain amount of satisfaction in eating fresh produce and being able to freeze sweetcorn, plums, blackberries, rhubarb etc and then feel aggrieved that there is no room left in the freezer for meat and fish or ready meals!

I had no idea when my husband asked me to write this article that I would find it to be so liberating and cathartic!! Thank you Neville.

Felixstowe Garden Club



Felixstowe Garden Club have been very busy welcoming a variety of speakers to entertain our members and visitors so far this year:

Susannah Sharman from Swann Nursery – Garden Trees and Enhancing Your Garden

Neville Stein from Suffolk Rural Suffolk New College (was Otley College) – Weird and Wacky Vegetables

Ruth Goudy from Kiln Nursery – Flower Power

Matthew Tanton Brown – Climbers and Wall Shrubs

Our summer plans involve a visit to RHS Wisley on 13 June, our Annual Show on 15 July 1130am-430pm at Old Felixstowe Community Centre, free admission – visit our Facebook page or website for more information.

8 August – Barbara Seagall – Secret Gardens of East Anglia

12 September – Andrew Brogan – Henstead Exotic Gardens

10 October – Michael Perry AKA Plant Geek – House Plants

14 November – Marc McHearne – Beth Chatto's Garden Past and Present

12 December – AGM and Christmas Party

Our membership has grown steadily this year; we welcome visitors to each meeting at £5 (which is deducted from membership if you join us) so please come along, enjoy our speakers, make friends and learn something new.

Please contact Jayne Steele, Secretary for more information on 01394 211739, Facebook or our website About Us » Felixstowe Garden Club (onesuffolk.net).

Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 1900 at Old Felixstowe Community Centre, Ferry Road, Felixstowe IP11 9NB.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Litter-Free Felixstowe – Creating a Green Impact



In March, Litter-Free Felixstowe was awarded the 2023 Green Impact award at the prestigious East Suffolk Council awards and the volunteer group is determined to increase momentum

for the campaign which is seeing historic litter removed and an important education programme rolled out. The creation of a Litter-Free pledge is a key step which will involve businesses, schools and other local organisations such as brownie and scout group. Signing the pledge allows everyone to show their support and commit to practical support as well as spreading the message. It is hoped that all shops and eateries in the town will display a window sticker to show their involvement.



Collaboration across Felixstowe is essential, there are now plans for a 'think-tank' of key businesses and individual to create ideas to reduce waste in the town. Educational visits and assemblies to raise awareness of the impact of litter are also taking place and schools will be provided with litter-free kits to use around their premises thanks to a grant from Felixstowe Town Council. The campaign also involves brownie & scout groups as well as care homes. A recent

litter-pick with the residents of Foxgrove care home proved that all ages can take part and it is hoped that visits to nursery schools will involve our very youngest residents. Work has also continued with the port and haulage community with many national companies keen to commit to changing their environmental policies and induction programmes to include the anti-litter message.

It is hoped that Litter-Free Felixstowe will continue to organise group litter-picks in key areas in Felixstowe with the next one planned in the Town Centre in support of the Felixstowe in Flower event. For Felixstowe to be successful in trying to eliminate litter and plastic waste we really do need everyone's support - to find out more and get actively involved please visit our Facebook page 'Litter-Free Felixstowe' or email: 'litterfreefelixstowe@gmail.com'.



Felixstowe Awarded Coveted Blue Flag and Seaside Award for Fourth Consecutive Year

East Suffolk's beautiful beaches have once again received national awards, ranking them amongst the best in the country.



Each year, the country's best beaches are awarded Blue Flags and Seaside Awards and once again, four of East Suffolk's beaches have been selected.

Both Felixstowe (Felixstowe South and Pier) and Southwold (Southwold Pier) have received combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags whilst the beaches at Lowestoft South of Clarendon Pier (bathing / resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) have received Seaside Awards.

Paul Wood, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration at East Suffolk Council said: "East Suffolk's beaches are hugely popular with residents and visitors, and we are delighted to once again receive these prestigious awards which reflect the quality of our beaches and the cleanliness of our coastline. This will provide an extra boost to our important tourism sector as it continues to recover from Covid restrictions. Anyone visiting East Suffolk's beaches this summer can be sure they are visiting one of the best in the country."

In total, 206 beaches in England have been presented with an award recognising the quality of the beach, the way it is managed and the facilities it offers to visitors. The Blue Flag is an international award and this year 78 locations have met the high standard required. Felixstowe is one of only two beaches in East Suffolk to be presented with both the 2023 Blue Flag and Seaside Award.

Keep Britain Tidy's Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE said: "Visitors to a beach flying a Blue Flag or Seaside Award can be assured the beach will be clean, safe and meet the highest environmental standards, as well as international bathing water quality standards."

The Blue Flag is the world's most recognised award for beaches and marinas and, to qualify, each applicant must meet and maintain a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria.

We'd therefore like to recognise and applaud all those who have worked so hard to protect and improve some of our best-loved and most popular beaches. The collective efforts of beach managers, volunteers, residents and businesses all contribute to the success of these sites in achieving the incredibly high standards demanded."

Blue Flag is an international award managed by Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education and is presented to well-managed beaches with excellent water quality and environmental education programmes. This is the fourth consecutive year in which Felixstowe has received the Blue Flag and the second consecutive year for Southwold.

The Seaside Award, run by Keep Britain Tidy, recognises and rewards beaches in England that achieve the highest standards of beach management and, in the case of bathing beaches, meet the required standards for water quality and other specified criteria.



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Celebrating 50 years as a Local Nature Reserve



Landguard Nature Reserve was designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1973 and this year celebrates its 50th year!

Covering approximately 35 hectares, the Nature Reserve's mosaic of habitats, comprising acid grassland, vegetated shingle, freshwater ponds and scrub offer opportunities for a great many invertebrates including bees, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. The varied landscape is ideal for reptiles and amphibians such as Common lizard, Slow worm, Grass snake, Smooth newt and Common frog and supports mammals including European



rabbit, that play a vital role in maintaining the grassland, Field vole, Wood mouse, European hedgehog and Red fox and an increasing number of bat species. The intertidal habitat surrounding Landguard, where the land and sea meet, plays host to star fish, crabs, barnacles, limpets, and seaweeds and offers visitors occasional sightings of marine mammals such as Common and Grey seal.

To date more than 600 species of flora have been recorded across the Landguard Peninsula. Characteristic plants include Sea kale, Yellow-horned poppy, Sea sandwort, Sea pea, Sea spurge and the extremely rare Stinking Goosefoot. First recorded in 1963, this rare Schedule 8 plant is still present and is afforded special attention to help ensure its future at Landguard.

The Nature Reserve is an important site for birds - migratory, nesting, and vagrant species, and detailed daily records of birds have been kept by the Landguard Bird Observatory (LBO) since 1983 (www.lbo.org.uk). Iconic birds of the Landguard landscape include the ground nesting Ringed plover and Common Shelduck. Other locally loved species include Wheatear, House sparrow and Starling.

Celebrating 50 years as a coastal nature reserve is a significant milestone for any protected area. Coastal nature reserves are vital for protecting and preserving the unique and diverse ecosystems that exist along our shorelines.

These areas provide habitats for a wide variety of plants and animals, many of which are threatened or endangered. They also play an important role in protecting against coastal erosion and storm surges, and in providing recreational opportunities for the public.

As we celebrate its 50-year anniversary, it is important to reflect on the successes and challenges that have been encountered. The site was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1972, in recognition of its vegetated shingle, which is a rare and fragile habitat and prior to this, in 1962 received Scheduled Monument (SM) status, forming part of the Landguard Fort and associated field works, due to the exceptional historical visible remains such as the Mine Station building, gun emplacements, searchlight buildings and tank traps.

Managing such a landscape has its challenges. The Nature Reserve welcomes approximately 150,000 visitors each year and managing the impact of visitor pressure throughout the year continues to be a priority, to ensure that the Nature Reserve thrives for another 50 fabulous years.

To honour this milestone, and raise awareness and understanding of the Nature Reserve and the many species it supports, the following is planned: Throughout the course of the year, 50 species recorded at Landguard will be highlighted and shared via the Landguard Nature Reserve Facebook page, a citizen science biodiversity project will be launched using the iNaturalist app, to identify species and create a visual record, the Nature Reserve will enter this year's Felixstowe Carnival and host a Wildlife Discovery Day on Sunday August 13th to celebrate and showcase the Nature Reserve.

We hope that visitors appreciate this unique environment as much as we do and will join us in celebrating and helping to safeguard it for future generations.

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Beach Bonkers – Velvet Swimming Crab



Perhaps something we associate more with rock pools than the sand and shingle of our Suffolk shores, nonetheless crab shells are a common strandline find. This is because although crabs themselves will grow, their carapace, or shell, does not. So the crab produces a chemical to separate itself from its shell, leaving it behind for a beachcomber to find. This moulted shell looks exactly like a dead crab with the legs, and even the eye coverings remaining. The crab hides until its skin hardens into a new shell. Moulting also allows the crab to regenerate its legs, which may be lost to a predator or a suddenly moving rock. A reflex action allows the crab to sacrifice the leg at a predetermined “break” point - actually a deep groove. There are more than sixty species of crab in the UK. The most common is the Shore Crab, greenish or brown in colour, with five sharp points on either side of the shell. One of my most beautiful beachcombing finds was this leg from a Velvet Swimming Crab, usually found on our south and west coasts. The back pair of legs are flattened for swimming. You might also find the more familiar orange, pink brown “pie crust” shell of the Edible or Brown Crab. This tends to live offshore in deeper waters. The claws have black tips. If you find a particularly large one of these on the beach it may be that you’ve actually found the remains of someone’s beach picnic!



PLEASE BEACHCOMB SUSTAINABLY. Take away as much rubbish as you can but everything else belongs on the beach. Our shingle beaches are a complex & fragile habitat - the plants & animals that live there need that driftwood, shell or stone far more than we do. Upcoming Events: BEACH CLEANING - Manor Terrace, Felixstowe with all data collected being submitted to Marine Conservation Society. Sunday 25th June 10:00-12:00 Kate Osborne is the founder of Beach Bonkers, inspiring people about the natural treasures to be found on Suffolk’s special shingle beaches. She does this by leading beachcombing walks, giving talks and taking the beach to landlocked locations. See www.beachbonkers.org.uk for more details or call Kate on 0751 255 7200



Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum Lights the Way

On Wednesday 22nd March, Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum met at Felixstowe Town Hall to discuss uses for the Youth Forum Budget. Annually, members of the Youth Forum are granted a total amount of £1,000, with which they must choose a project for the betterment of the local community. Expertly chaired by Felixstowe School, attendees from all schools proposed a selection of fantastic suggestions and, following a discussion, the winning idea was chosen.

This year, Youth Forum are lighting the way with a road safety campaign. Students elected to spend the money on reflective keyrings, embossed with the Youth Forum logo. The keyrings will be distributed to all students in Felixstowe primary schools and certain years in Felixstowe School. The keyrings can easily be attached to coat zippers or backpacks for increased visibility whilst travelling to and from school.

In previous years, the Youth Forum Budget was used to create a 'No Idling' campaign, and to discourage cars from idling around local schools, subsequently worsening air quality. A series of banners, printed with a 'No Idling' message were funded by the Youth Forum budget and displayed at schools gates. Since, some of the banners have been misplaced or have become damaged irreparably. This year, Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum elected to provide replacements in support of continuation of the campaign, using the 2022 Youth Forum budget.



Arts and Music

Felixstowe Art Group



As many readers will already know, The Group have recently closed the door to Bent Hill Gallery for the final time as the property was up for sale.

However, there is good news ...

Due to kindness of Hazel of the Yoga Studio at Beach Street, we have been offered use of the Studio on Saturday 3rd June 10.00am until 4.00pm. Along with two local artists Shaun Hinton and Rik Sadders, there will be a variety of work for sale by members of Felixstowe Art Group, including 3D work.

And there is more hope on the horizon ...

Due to another kind community spirited person, Karen, proprietor of Suffolk Living, who is relocating to the premises opposite TSB, we have been offered to share at an extremely low fee, the downstairs space with a few items of stock Karen sells in her shop.

It is appreciated being downstairs may not suit everyone but no doubt you will agree, it is a great opportunity to have at least some gallery space to not only be a source of potential income to help with the running of the Group, but also let people know about the Group's various activities plus members own exhibitions and workshops.

Once refurbishment is completed we will be given a date to move in which is anticipated some time in June and will trial up to and including Christmas.

A huge thank you to both Hazel and Karen, plus thank you to Group members Shaun Hinton and Helen Daniel for their time and help on this.

As well as the Group's website giving details of activities, the library has kindly given space to place a display board informing people about various demonstrations, talks, workshops, exhibitions etc. Do take a look.

See you soon ! Yvonne Smart

Felixstowe Book Festival is this month!



The hugely popular Felixstowe Book Festival comes around again this month with events for young and old, from the 16th - 25th June, featuring so many popular, award-winning authors including BBC Radio 4's Robin Ince, and not forgetting festival Patrons Esther Freud and Terry Waite. Meet them all in person at the stunning Harvest House on Cobbold Road in Felixstowe, Felixstowe Library and also the Two Sisters

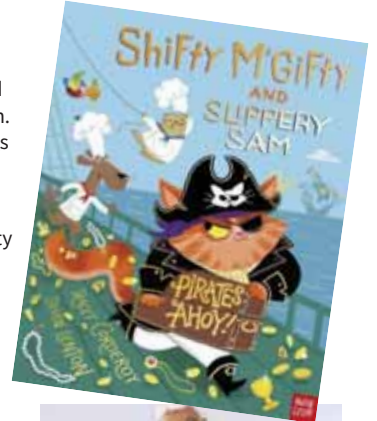
Arts Centre in Trimley St Mary. It begins with events for children and young people's festival from the 16th June and then features a plethora of award-winning authors and some local Suffolk authors too which the grown ups will enjoy.

The delightful children's author Mark Lowery will be at Felixstowe Library, (3pm on Saturday 17th June) whose Doughnuts Chips and Writing Tips session promises to rock your socks. You can also chat to James Campbell and Rob Jones authors of Teaching Pets to Play Football (Sunday 18th June from 10.30am) – both events are at Felixstowe Library.

At the same venue, this month, on Friday 16th June (and Saturday 17th

at 1pm) there are free Step into a Story sessions with James Franklin (10am), a local actor and storyteller for a fun and exciting interactive storytelling session. With promises of puppets, props, songs and silliness, with plenty of movement and some magic too!

Tickets are selling well for Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam who are back for a new doggy/baking adventure (10am Sunday 18th) with Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton, both big names in children's books (suitable for ages 3+)



Lily Graham: The Last Restaurant in Paris will be visiting Felixstowe Library, as part of the festival, on Wednesday 21st June at 7pm.

It's not all books, Martin Newell and the Hosepipe Band entertain on the evening of Friday 23rd at the Two Sisters Arts Centre.

On Saturday 24th it's your chance to hear from Suffolk author Darren Bruce – a retired Detective Sergeant with Suffolk and Essex Police, talking about his debut novel chillingly entitled The Skinned Man (2pm). Other local authors include Deb Blunt and Peter Berr. Together they will be discussing their book Slow Puncture – living well with dementia (10.30am). Jean McPherson is bringing her fascinating book all about the 70th anniversary of the terrible Felixstowe Floods 1953: Never to be Forgotten (12noon.) You can catch up with these authors and more at the Two Sisters Arts Centre in Trimley St Mary which is also playing host, on the Sunday, to a special Orwell Writers Cosy Crime Workshop from 10am.

The festival rounds off with another packed day of talks on Sunday 25th at Harvest House beginning with author Stephanie Butland: Found in a Bookshop. She is joined by acclaimed crime novelist, journalist, co-founder of the Killer Women crime authors collective and Fellow of The Royal Literary Fund, Louise Millar. Together they discuss the joy and magic of reading.

Senta Rich: Hotel 21 and Laura Kay: Wild Things are two very current authors – don't miss your chance to meet them and hear about their latest books on Sunday from 11.30am also at Harvest House. 3pm on Sunday friend and biographer, Ian Collins, and Suffolk-born author Nicola Upson will look back on a remarkable life and celebrate The Suffolk Life of Ronald Blythe discussing his unique and lasting legacy.

The Felixstowe Book Festival is completed by playwright and screen writer Peppy Barlow on Sunday afternoon (4.30pm). Peppy lives her life looking for meaning and material in

all her experiences. Her latest book is Invisible on Thursdays: A memoir of a creative woman's travels in Greece and a look into her family's history.

This is just a flavour of events, for a comprehensive line up of all authors attending check out www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk or you can pop into Felixstowe Library where volunteers are available to help you with your tickets every Thursday from 10 until 12noon.



Don't Be On Your Own! MeetUp Mondays – Felixstowe

Meet Up Mondays™



Have you heard of #MeetUpMondays? MeetUpMondays is a network of community minded pubs and cafés providing a free, weekly social space for people to get together for an hour or two, to sit and have a chat with some friendly company along with a free cuppa. All the host venues are warm, welcoming spaces that offer an opportunity for people to meet

others in their local communities and make connections which otherwise may not be possible. These can often lead to lasting friendships. Do you live in and around the Felixstowe area? Since October 2022, The Grosvenor pub in Ranelagh Road (IP11 7HA) has been hosting MeetUpMondays sessions and the group has been flourishing ever since, with new people regularly coming along. The meet ups take place every Monday from 11am – 1pm and anyone is welcome to simply turn up any week and join in. Manager, Dan Grover, says: "MeetUpMondays is a fantastic community hub where all backgrounds and diversities are welcome and have the opportunity to evolve, build confidence and develop some great friendships along the way. It is a great opportunity to give something back to those who may just want a conversation, a warm space, a cup of tea. Whatever their reasons for coming along it is widely appreciated and needed, because our group just keeps growing!! It's so wonderful hearing their stories or seeing a regular face. In most cases they have also started using the pub outside of this group too. If anyone is thinking about giving it a go, do it - where's the harm?!" For more information about the Rural Coffee Caravan's MeetUpMondays initiative and to view the full list of locations visit www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk



The Dorian Singers



The Dorian Singers Summer Concert on Saturday 10th June at Kirton Church Hall at 8.30pm will be a delightful mixture of sacred and secular music spanning over 400 years.

We are commemorating William Byrd who died in 1623 as well as celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Rachmaninov's birth. There are several pieces by women composers as well as Gilbert and Sullivan and other well-known pieces, many of which are personal favourites of members of the choir and their conductor, Dr Brian Latchem.

The choir will be performing a work written by him a few years ago called "An Abundance of Blessings", scored for Baritone solo, choir and Harp. The piece includes an Interlude for the solo harp, which will be played by the professional harpist, Anna Wynne, who is a friend of the composer. Anna has a very busy freelance career both in the UK and abroad. She has played for royalty, senior politicians and civic dignitaries in London, and made her BBC Radio 3 debut in a Halloween concert with James Bowman in 2004. She also appears with the film director, Ken Russell in a BBC Television series "A Picture of Britain".

A highlight of the Summer Concert is the traditional Strawberries and Cream with wine or soft drinks during the interval. If you haven't got your ticket for this concert they are available from The Card Centre, 6 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7AU (01394 283170), from choir members or at the door.

Pier Projects



We are continuing our programme of events and collaborations that we hope you will share with us that explore 'convalescence' - the idea of slow recovery, recuperation and repair, recalling

the history of The Bartlett Convalescent Home that opened in Felixstowe in 1926 to offer rehabilitation from illness by the sea. Events, sharing, talks and research will all take place over the next four months. Please join in! Visit our website for dates and to book artist talks, workshops and discussions. We are also thrilled to share that we will be extending this project even further!

'Views from Convalescent Hill' will be an 18 month project exploring the history and heritage of wellbeing, care and rest in Felixstowe through an exhibition, workshops, oral history collection and events. We will be working in partnership with Felixstowe Museum, FOPWA (Felixstowe Old Peoples Welfare Association), The Hold (Suffolk Archives) and hopefully, you! We want to talk to you about your experiences and knowledge to contribute to this 'living archive'. More information is coming soon. This project is supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and East Suffolk District Council through Enabling Communities Funding.

WAMFest went Madi Gras



WAMFest 2023 had a fabulous Mardi Gras event in March, bringing music, performance and dance to Felixstowe. Now in its third year, WAMFest, which champions women's creativity across the arts, staged a day-long event to coincide with International Women's Day.

On Saturday, March 4 singers, performers and dancers took over Beach Street and La Vida show bar while workshops with an arts and wellness theme took place at Hazel & Co Yoga studio, also at Beach Street. Visual artists are also invited to exhibit. We were particularly thrilled that The Mayor, Cllr Sharon Harkin, joined in the Samba dancing. In the evening WAMFest moved to The Grosvenor pub where a host of local musicians and singers took to the stage.

Organiser Laura Locke said she has been overwhelmed with support for the festival, which was recently recognised as one of Suffolk's most popular events. "We are so lucky to have such talented women in and around Felixstowe and it is always a pleasure to provide a platform for their creativity and celebrate women in arts and music with live events for everyone to enjoy. "The Mardi Gras theme brought a new dimension to the festival, and it is pleasing that purple, gold and green were also the colours of the suffragette movement, the original champions of women's rights. Our aim has always been to build a sustainable, annual event promoting equality and diversity whilst providing top quality entertainment."

WAMFest will return later this year. Full details will be published on the WAMFest website at www.wamfestfelixstowe.art

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Health and Wellbeing



Dora Brown – Who We Are and What We Do



Dora Brown

Who We Are

Dora Brown is a not-for-profit organisation working to support families with children in and around Felixstowe, Ipswich and Woodbridge. Dora has a large team of volunteers who transform homes, free-of-charge, for families living in crisis; homes which have broken down because of furniture & hygiene poverty and domestic neglect.

What We Do

We clear clutter and rubbish, deep clean and organise. With donations and our corporate partners we provide furniture, carpets, curtains, bedding, hygiene products and whatever necessities are needed. We also gift toys, cushions, fruit bowls and other nice homely things that improve family wellbeing. We provide ongoing support to help families maintain their homes longer term. The physical transformation of the home has a knock on impact on the health and wellbeing of families we support.

Dora Brown works with families suffering severe hardship for any reason. We work with families of any size, in any type of home. We treat every family and home with respect, sensitivity and confidentiality. We never judge. No matter how bad people feel their home or situation is, we're here to help. We roll up our sleeves and get stuck in

Want to help? We always welcome new volunteers. We have an Amazon Wishlist of things our families desperately need that you can buy and have sent directly to our storage. We rely on your donations, grants and our own fundraising, so we are always looking for new opportunities to fundraise. Please visit our website www.dorabrown.com or instagram @dorabrownhomemaking for more information on how you can support us.

Felixstowe Village & Carers Group

We had a lovely meeting early in March. Rebecca Garnet, a researcher from Oxford University presented to us a short survey for care recipients and their informal carers exploring their views on the way in which doctors prescribe medications.



Do you always agree with the way in which this is done? What would you change? To complete the survey go to www.oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/attitudes-towards-prescription-medications

Following this Izzy Ixer gave us a wonderfully. Relaxing and invigorating chair-based yoga session. This included exercises to improve posture and breathing. Izzy also showed us how to gain better balance and to strengthen our legs with simple exercises. We finished with a relaxation exercise after which we all felt very chilled.

We are a group of carers who are looking after a family member of a friend. We meet for relaxation, friendship and helpful information about caring.

For more information, contact: Dennis Weston, dennisweston.49@btinternet.com, 07712672289

Citizen's Advice Felixstowe



Our office building in Orwell Road may have been sold but the Citizens Advice team is still in business and working hard on behalf of clients in East Suffolk, and Felixstowe in particular.

Since our merger in April 2022 with the Citizens Advice offices in Leiston and North East Suffolk, we are now known as Citizens Advice East Suffolk, or CAES for short, providing one service for clients across East Suffolk through four main offices and six outreaches. The merger enables us to access specialist advice for clients across East Suffolk, including Felixstowe. These cover areas such as debt, housing and benefits.

Our team of volunteers continue to take calls from clients with enquiries on a wide variety of issues and we are available for timed appointments if clients prefer to see a friendly face. We hold comprehensive information on coping with the cost of living, help with energy bills, food banks and where you can keep warm with a cuppa in the town.

We have recently started a new face to face drop-in service based at Martlesham Council Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, IP12 4BP where an adviser will be available on the third Tuesday of the month from 9.00am to 12.00noon.

The Felixstowe office is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 1.00pm and you can pop in to book an appointment or request a call back conversation via telephone. Alternatively, you can call us on 0808 2787866 or send us an email via our new website, www.caes.org.uk and we will get back to you.

We are always keen to hear from anyone interested in training to become one of our volunteers, do contact us for further information.

Local charity expands Wellbeing Support in the Heart of Felixstowe



Local charity Emmaus Suffolk has recently expanded its Felixstowe Community Hub as demand for services increase.

The charity moved its free wellbeing support hub from The Station Café to Felixstowe Library, providing a larger more private space for attendees.

Emmaus Suffolk's Hubs create a friendly and welcoming environment to meet other people in the community, get creative, and engage in meaningful conversations. The groups are open to everyone and are attended by a wide age range of people, allowing attendees to make new connections in their community.

Emmaus runs a range of hubs alongside the weekly Felixstowe session, including drop-in hubs in Sailmakers Shopping Centre, Ipswich, and groups for carers and children at the charity's community café, The Royal Oak in Ipswich.

The activities at Felixstowe Hub are flexible and attendees can get involved in craft activities, board, and card games, or just relax with new friends. Hubs are supported by Emmaus staff who can chat with attendees about any problems they're facing.

"We see every week that our Hubs help to reduce social isolation and loneliness in the local area, and we're pleased we can now support more people in our new space!" says Emmaus Suffolk Community Manager, Emma Francis.

The Felixstowe hub provides a free and friendly space for people to come together and helps to foster a sense of belonging and connectedness. Join the hub every Wednesday, 2 pm to 4 pm at Felixstowe Library. Find out more about Emmaus Suffolk by visiting their website www.emmaussuffolk.org

Suffolk Mind Takes to the Skies for Mental Health



"The sky's the limit" says Jon Neal, CEO of mental health charity Suffolk Mind, as it prepares for its second year running the Suffolk Mind Skydive.

Jon and 33 others braved the skydive last year at Beccles Airfield, where they soared to around

13,000 feet before leaving the plane at 120mph. The event raised more than £26,000 through sponsorship and this year, Suffolk Mind is hoping to raise even more.

The charity provides support and information for all ages, including mental health workshops, in-school and in-work training, one-to-one counselling and dedicated late-night telephone support services.

"The minimum sponsorship for the skydive alone could fund three counselling sessions or four spaces on our core training session, The Mental Health Toolkit: The Essentials." Jon says. "It's a thrilling way to raise funds."

Suffolk-based Pitkin & Ruddock, which provides commercial air

conditioning and refrigeration services to the county, is sponsoring the event. They have already put forward 20 skydivers to take part.

Managing director Damian Nunn said: "Wellbeing in the workplace is at the heart of everything we do here at Pitkin & Ruddock. We're all very excited to take part in the skydive and we hope many others can join us on the day!"

Jon added: "Everyone has a bucket list of things they want to try at some point in their life. I'd urge anyone sitting on the fence to give it a go, the sky's the limit."

The event will be taking place at Beccles Airfield on September 30. The registration fee to take part in the skydive is

£50 and Suffolk Mind would like people to raise a minimum of £360 in sponsorship. In return, Suffolk Mind will pay the full skydive cost.

Find out more on the Suffolk Mind website:

www.suffolkmind.org.uk/skydive



'No Labels' – Walton Parish Nursing



Walton Parish Nursing continues to support people to reach their optimum well-being. Parish Nurses, Lorna and John, are committed to whole-person health care. This includes not only physical well-being but also mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

As part of this Walton Parish Nursing run a group called 'No Labels'. This is a social support group that is open to anyone who experiences mental health or emotional issues.

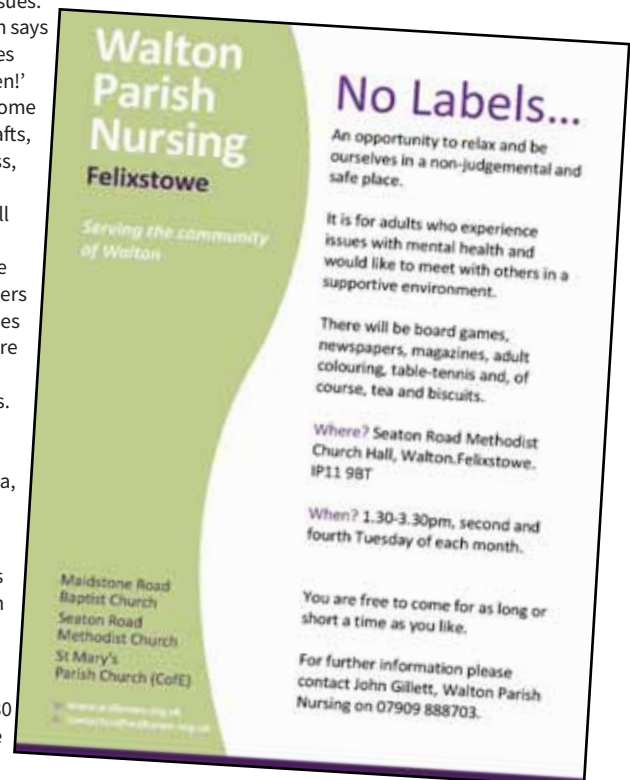
As John often says

'that includes everyone then!' Those who come engage in crafts, jigsaws, chess, table-tennis, table-football and other games. There are newspapers and magazines to read. We are always open to fresh ideas. There is of course the obligatory tea, coffee and biscuits!

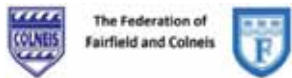
The sessions take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, between 1.30 – 3.30, at The Methodist

Church hall in Seaton Road. Supported by a wonderful group of volunteers 'No Labels' is open to adults wherever you live. (You don't have to live in Walton). You can come and stay for the whole time or just drop in for a few minutes.

It is a very friendly and relaxed group where you would be most welcome.



Coronation Celebrations at the Federation of Fairfield and Colneis



Schools should always be at the centre of the communities in which they serve and there was no better time to demonstrate this than during the King's Coronation. Celebrating such a historical event as

a community helps our children to feel part of something 'bigger' than just our schools as well as helping them to realise the significance of the event they are living through.

We were delighted that our children attended school on the Friday before the Coronation in a wide range of homemade crowns. Together with activities that took place in the classrooms, a 'special' visit from the King himself (Mr Rimmer, our Deputy Headteacher took on that role) and a cream tea event for our families, we were able to mark this occasion both as a Federation and as part of the wider celebrations that took place locally and nationally too.

Article Provided by Mr Mark Girling, Headteacher



Old Felixstowe Nursery – Family Fun Day



Old Felixstowe nursery is a registered charity, and we are hosting our annual fundraiser – all funds go directly into purchasing much needed resources for the children attending.

You will find an ice cream van, burger van, pick and mix sweets and a barista coffee van providing an array of posh hot drinks and tipples from their fully licensed bar!

For the adults we have a raffle jam packed with prizes!! Lots of local traders coming, we have a lovely mix. We've got businesses who handcraft things such as macrame, jewellery, hair accessories, personalised items, kids activity packs, garden ornaments, lamps, stained glass etc and we also have stalls selling handmade cakes and treats. We also have some bigger businesses attending such as body shop, Usborne books, FM perfume and Tropic.

There is stacks for the children to do and lots of it is free! We have Abacus entertainment in and he will be doing balloon modelling and lots of dancing, party games and races! All with prizes to be won. There will be lots of traditional games such as splat the rat, teddy tombola, target practice, lollipop guessing game and many more. The nursery is also hosting a 'summer hunt' where the children need to suss out a few child friendly riddles to find the hidden clues which lead them to a prize! A colouring competition will be in situ too with a lovely prize on the day for our chosen winner.

We also have A+ events in attendance, with bouncy castles, baby soft play, face painting, glitter tattoos, hair braiding, popcorn and candy-floss too!

The lovely team from Felixstowe Coast Patrol and Rescue coming to visit us with their standby boat.

Come along and join us for a day of fun in the sun supporting a very worthy local cause!



Felixstowe School's Rising Achievers



We have had so many achievements from our students celebrated this term, from Year 10 student Ashleigh Morling joining the Can You Dance UK Tour, to our school

badminton U16 girls team flying through competitions and finishing in second place in the Badminton County Finals. However, a notable individual is Year 11's Katie Mitton, who has just been cast in Aspects of Love at the Lyric Theatre in London, making her West End Debut at just 16 years old. Not only that, but she has also won a place at Italia Conti, a prestigious drama college in London.

Katie was "absolutely mind-blown but so grateful" when she found out she had been offered the role, saying that "performing on the West End had been a dream for so long, making it hard to believe that it was going to be a reality". Opening the show mid-May, Katie has had her GCSE exams alongside evening performances, and despite feeling the usual pressure, she has been filled with "overwhelming happiness and gratitude", walking into her exams "smiling,

knowing what the weekend was going to bring". Working alongside leading man Michael Ball in one of the West End's finest theatres, it's so joyful to see that this is only the beginning for Katie.

Another achievement is the Year 11s and Year 13s in their GCSE and A-Level exams. Students have worked exceptionally hard over the last few weeks to try their best and overcome any obstacles in their exam period. With over half of the exams completed, it's not long to go for the Year 11s and Year 13s, with some GCSE students bidding farewell to the school (whilst others are joining our Sixth Form) and our A-Level students who are parting ways with us and starting their next exciting chapter.

By Grace Wells, Year 12 Student of Felixstowe School's Sixth Form



Felixstowe Junior Park Run

Junior parkrun is a fun 2k course along Felixstowe prom and ALL young people aged 4-14 are welcome, whether you want to run, jog, skip or walk! You will get an official time each week and can earn milestone wristbands, but most of all it is about enjoying yourself with a welcoming group of kids, cheered on by our fantastic volunteers! Children can complete the course on their own (the route is fully marshalled), or with their grown-up if they wish.

Adults are also welcome to volunteer whenever they want - we are a friendly team and it's all straightforward and hugely rewarding. We meet on the grassy area by Felixstowe Leisure Centre every Sunday at 8.50am, to warm up for a 9am start. It's completely free - all you need to do is sign up at www.parkrun.org.uk, then bring along your personal barcode. For more information, please follow us on Facebook or email felixstowepromjuniors@parkrun.com

We hope to see you there soon! The Felixstowe Prom Junior Parkrun Team



Tribute to Ben Jacobs A great runner and a greater man



Felixstowe Road Runners have lost a long standing and immensely popular club member who died following an accident when out cycling with three other club members on Wednesday 17 May 2023.

Ben Jacobs was an exceptionally talented runner and competed for the club in events across Suffolk and elsewhere in the country, regularly winning in his age category and being placed very high up in overall standings, whatever the distance. He competed in all road running distances up to and including the marathon and he was a leading light on the local cross country scene where he excelled in the Suffolk Winter League and the County Cross Country Championships. He had extended his talents by competing in triathlons, right up to Ironman distance, being an accomplished cyclist and increasingly keen swimmer.



Above and beyond his prowess as an athlete, Ben was a brilliant club member and clubmate. He turned out for just about every event in which the club took part and was always at Tuesday evening training sessions. Although he was a superb athlete he had absolutely no ego or arrogance and would advise and encourage club members of all abilities and ages in a quiet, humble and supportive way. Most Felixstowe Road Runners will have experienced Ben drawing up next to them whilst they trained, before he gave a wave of acknowledgement, a word of encouragement or a supportive smile, then gliding past in his lovely running style, always up on his toes, smoothly covering the ground. His commitment to others was illustrated so well by his long standing role in the organisation of Ipswich parkrun where he would very regularly be out early checking the course before often serving as Run Director for this popular weekly event.



Felixstowe Road Runners paid emotional tributes to Ben at the Woodbridge 10k race on the Sunday after he passed away. All wore a black ribbon on their running vests. Some members ran in his memory with his name written on their shoes, others attempted to honour him with outstanding performance on this challenging course. A huge number of the Reds ran together at the back of the field beside one club member who was injured in the same cycling accident. The support from members of other clubs and from the residents of Woodbridge was extraordinary and very moving.

As individual clubmates we will miss Ben and as a running club there will always feel like a key member is missing. The running community of Suffolk will be poorer without him. We have been very fortunate to have him as a clubmate and our hearts go out to all the members of his family who have lost a husband, father, son and brother. Ben was a great runner and a greater man.

Stuart Mason, Chair of Felixstowe Road Runners

Ipswich Skating Club



Our learn to skate and social skate sessions in Felixstowe are returning in July, following a short break as the school took over the use of the hall for the Year 11s to take their GCSE's - for which we wish them all the best of luck.

If you want to learn to roller skate, or perhaps you can already skate and are looking to meet like-minded people and just want to skate for fun then come and join us! Our sessions are held in Maidstone Road Sports Hall.

Our Social Skate sessions are held on a Wednesday evening and are for those who are 14 and over that want to practice new skills they have learnt, get to know other local skaters or just simply roll around to some great music! Sessions cost just over £4 for two hours and skates can be provided if you do not have your own! We also have members of our coaching team on hand to help you should you need it. You can attend these sessions up to 3 times without becoming a member of the club!

Our Learn to Skate sessions are held on a Saturday and are much more focused at teaching you the basics of roller-skating. We have a skilled coaching team who can help you perfect your skills and progress through the levels. We do this by mixing structure with fun, the first half of the session is focused on developing skills with the second half allowing you to practice your skills independently or join in fun on skate games!

Additionally, Ipswich Skating Club also run sessions across Ipswich for those who want to learn, develop or enhance their skills as an artistic figure, free or dance skater as well as those who want to participate in speed skating and roller - hockey. In partnership with Ipswich Borough Council we provide grass roots sessions through our Social skate and Learn to skate programmes for people of all ages and abilities. We would welcome working with local organisations to give people access to exercise, the chance to make new friends and enjoy learning a new skill!

For more information on our sessions please visit - www.skateipswich.com/calendar If you'd like to find out more or have any questions then please get in contact via www.skateipswich.com/contact

Felixstowe Celebrates Community Heroes with 2023 Civic Awards

Felixstowe Town Council's Civic Awards Scheme aims to recognise and highlight local community heroes who go above and beyond for Felixstowe. The winners of the 2023 Civic Awards can be found below. Each year, up to five Mayor's Awards are presented to individuals in recognition of their efforts towards the community of Felixstowe. The HMS Ganges Youth Trophy highlights the outstanding contribution of a young person, aged 21 years or under, to the town. The Community Award highlights the role of a local community group or organisation to Felixstowe.



Community Award
Ukraine2Felixstowe

For the provision of support offered to the Ukrainian Guests in Felixstowe following Russia's ongoing, illegal invasion of Ukraine.



HMS Ganges Youth Trophy

Cameron Cammel
For his participation in Felixstowe School's Garden Club and care demonstrated towards the local environment.



Mayor's Award

Laura Baalham
For her role in Felixstowe Air Cadets and as a First Aider



Mayor's Award

Wendy Tolliday and Isabel Jenkins
For their voluntary work through Felixstowe Mencap.



Mayor's Award

Nigel Odin
For his voluntary work at Landguard Nature Reserve
Award collected by Leonie Washington



With special recognition shown to Tim Lukehurst via a Posthumous Coronation Award in recognition of his role in the formation of Litter-Free Felixstowe.



Mayor's Award

Carolyn Jones
For her voluntary work via St Phillip's Community Hub



Mayor's Award

Sarah Fitch
For provision of support offered to the local community via Cuppa café

The 2023 Civic Awards also saw a number of residents presented with Coronation Awards, in recognition of a nationally significant year and Felixstowe's fierce community spirit. The winners of the Coronation Awards are as follows:

Diana Barnard, Michael Sharman, Charles Wright, Jean Macpherson, Rob Dunger, Richard Lord, Debbie Bartlett, Pushchair Pitstop, Visit Felixstowe Volunteers, Suzanne Banks, Mollie Bennett, Katie Mitton and Libby Bone.





Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III

To support your celebrations to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, Felixstowe Town Council provided grants to local community groups and organisations. From red, white and blue bunting, fabulous bakes and a royal community get-together, photos to mark the memories of your marvellous celebrations can be found below.



Falcon Way



Brinkley Way



Felixstowe Ferry Resident's Association



St Edmund's Church



Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens



St Phillip's Community Hub

Felixstowe Community Hospital League of Friends

Annual Report 2022-23

Mayor's summary:

Summing up her year in office at the Annual Council meeting on 10th May, the Mayor of Felixstowe for the 2022-23 Municipal Year, Cllr Sharon Harkin, said: "It has been a tremendous honour to be the Mayor of Felixstowe and Chairman of the Town Council during a year of extraordinary events and unprecedented challenges. Before we delve into the achievements, it is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Graham Newman, devoted Town Councillor and previous Mayor of Felixstowe. Graham's invaluable knowledge, devotion, and service to the community of Felixstowe were truly exemplary. His loss is deeply felt by all, and we pay tribute to his years of service.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Deputy Mayor, Mick Richardson, my fellow Councillors, and the dedicated staff at Felixstowe Town Council.

The full version of the Mayor's report and the Council's Annual Report for 2022-23 can be found on our website www.felixstowe.gov.uk

Community Grants



Felixstowe Town Council is committed to supporting and strengthening the many networks and community groups that help to make a positive difference to Felixstowe. Through its Annual and Occasional Grants scheme, the Town Council was able to support 29 local organisations and projects during 2022/23 with a total of £ 45,774. via its Occasional and Annual Grants scheme and through its community partnerships.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillors consider biodiversity and environmental impact at the heart of all decision-making. Since Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, our dedicated Climate Emergency Working Group has regularly met to review processes, services, products and actions and to raise awareness locally.



ACTION WE'VE TAKEN SO FAR...

Council had Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates carried out in 2020 and have used these as a baseline for improvement, alongside regularly calculating its carbon footprint.

- Climate Action Forum with key stakeholders including the Port of Felixstowe, Chamber of Commerce and Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve
- Introduced Single use Plastic Policy
- Cycle to Work Scheme
- Car Sharing and holding more meetings online.
- No Idling promotion in Schools
- Re-wilding in Langley Avenue
- Encouraging Wildlife at the Cemetery
- Reducing use of Herbicides or Pesticides
- Separating and recycling waste
- Replacing all lights at end of their life with LED
- Insulated to 270mm in uninsulated areas
- Replacing all garden tools with battery rechargeable power tools
- Use 100% renewable energy Suppliers
- Grey Water used for watering Felixstowe in Flower baskets
- Over 70 trees planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee
- New electric van delivered August 2022.
- Refurbishment of Town Hall windows using highly efficient innovative glass with a very low thermal transmittance of 0.7 w/m².k.

Improving Energy Efficiency

Following the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration made in July 2019, EPCs (Energy Performance Certificates) were obtained for all Council building and a DEC (Display Energy Certificate) produced for the Town Hall. Guided by these documents, Committee began work to reduce the carbon footprint of our buildings, which has included increasing loft insulation and a the refurbishment and fitting of a highly insulated glass with a u-value of the lowest thermal transmittance of 0.7 w/m².k. The glass was chosen to offer optimal insulation properties, whilst respecting the heritage and outer appearance of Felixstowe's historic Town Hall, which is located in a conservation area.

Council's energy suppliers use 100% renewable energy and a 3 year fixed contract was taken out in Summer 2022. A LED light replacement programme continues replacing all faulty lights with LEDs.

Budget and Precept

At the end of the financial year, the income outturn for 2022/23 exceeded budget estimates at 115.2% (primarily due to increased hall hire revenue and Community Infrastructure Levy receipts) and expenditure stood at 92.9% of budget. Effective management of budget and reserves, the Town Council was able to freeze its portion of the council tax (the 'precept') once again for the forthcoming 2023/24 financial year, with Council unanimously voting for a 0% increase. This means that annual Band D equivalent cost will remain at £70.87, representing just under 3.5% of the total council tax bill. The other 96.5% of which is split between Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

Council also holds ring-fenced funds for future projects and contingencies, known as 'Earmarked Reserves', and these are reviewed at least once annually to ensure appropriate provisions are in place.

Summary of Council's Balances, income and expenditure:

	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Budget (Est.)
Balance at 1 April	£1,130,155	£1,232,785	£1,261,161
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£680,219)	(£795,445)	(£786,209)
Total Income	£873,020	£891,970	£789,262
Total Expenditure	£770,391	£863,594	£818,314
Closing Balance at 31 March	£1,232,785	£1,261,161	£1,232,109
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£795,445)	(£786,209)	(£750,389)

Planning Applications

During 2022/23 the Planning & Environment Committee considered a total of 189 local planning applications. 95.7% of the time (133 of 139 reported decisions) East Suffolk Council has concurred with the Town Council's recommendation. Of those cases where there was contrasting view, a referral panel at East Suffolk Council reviewed the Town Council's recommendations before deciding whether to refer the application to the District Council's Planning Committee for determination.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Council received CIL payments from East Suffolk Council totalling £116,511.36 in 2022/23. These funds are held in a separate Earmarked Reserve and are ringfenced to support appropriate projects within a five-year timescale allowed by legislation. This year £10,000 was committed to support the establishment of a new facility for the Lions Club to enable continuation of the provision of Christmas lights throughout the town.

Hall Hire and Weddings



Felixstowe Town Hall and Walton Community Hall remain competitively priced venues for hire and benefitted from recent redecoration. Many new classes regularly take place at Walton Community Hall. The Town Hall continues to be a popular and excellent value choice for weddings.

70th Anniversary of the North Sea Floods

The Flood Memorial was renovated for the 70th Anniversary of the North Sea Floods.

The bricks and stones were cleaned, the old brass plaques were replaced with laser-engraved stainless-steel plaques, a new wooden wave sculpture was installed, and a handmade oak bench installed to replace the old bench that had rotted. The Council's grounds team completed the works in-house in time for commemorative events that took place throughout the town to mark the Anniversary on 31st January 2023. A church service and a service at the Flood memorial were well attended and the highlight was a candlelight procession covering a route of many of the houses affected by the floods that night.



Allotments

The Town Council manages five main allotment sites and a micro-plot site within one of our main sites for our new 'Allittlements' scheme. This new scheme has been very successful since its launch. As of March 2023, 17 of the 20 Allittlements are occupied by and plans are already underway to add more on an adjacent vacant plot.

In addition to the implementation of new inspection software, the Allotment Tenancy Agreement has been reviewed with the aim of bringing greater clarity to the Allotment Regulations. This review was conducted with the goal of ensuring that all tenants can get the most out of their allotment. The revised agreement clearly outlines the regulations, expectations, and responsibilities of tenants, as well as the consequences of not adhering to these regulations. This has been done to create a fair and transparent system that benefits all tenants.

The Council supported the Felixstowe Allotment Association's participation in the National Open Garden Scheme, with proceeds from the visits going to various charities. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were on hand to officially open the newly refurbished community shed which serves as a hub for the passionate community of allotment gardeners.

Cemetery

The Felixstowe Town Council's grounds team has been actively working towards enhancing the local environment and promoting biodiversity. The team has successfully completed several projects and has many more planned for the upcoming year. These initiatives demonstrate the council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and improving the quality of life for the local community.

The Council's electric van was delivered in August and has been used for over 2000 miles since then. This move towards electric vehicles is a positive step towards reducing the council's carbon footprint.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee



The Town Council worked in partnership with the Felixstowe Carnival Association and East Suffolk Council to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the four-day bank holiday weekend 2-5 June 2022.

Queen's Green Canopy

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, in partnership with the Felixstowe BID, the Council installed silver birches through Hamilton Road in large wooden planters as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This initiative aims to increase tree planting across the UK, making a meaningful contribution towards the fight against climate change. Tubs throughout the town centre have been planted with perennials that are beneficial for pollinating insects. This initiative supports the council's commitment to enhancing the local environment and promoting biodiversity.

To supplement the tree planting carried out by the Grounds Team, felled trees have been replaced with saplings and along Langley Avenue a hedge made up of twisted hazel and dogwood has started to be planted, as part of a multiyear project.

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Town Council came together with the community of Felixstowe and the whole nation, to mark this profoundly significant moment in our history. Formal protocols were facilitated locally by the Town Council and an outpouring of poignant tributes were paid to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Blue flag

The Town Council was delighted for Felixstowe to be recognised, once again, as one of the country's best beaches, successfully achieving the Blue Flag and Seaside awards from the

environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. To receive the Blue Flag award beaches must comply with several criteria covering environmental education and information, water quality, environmental management, safety, and services. Felixstowe consistently meets the criteria for 'excellent' international bathing water quality standards and it was a great team effort to achieve these awards. Thanks must also go to Visit Felixstowe and East Suffolk Council as well as the army of volunteer litter-pickers who play a huge part in keeping the beach clean.



Leading up to Armistice Day on Friday 11 November the road sign project in partnership with Felixstowe Remembers and local businesses saw poppies installed throughout the town and signs erected in 66 roads to recognise the 212 residents that were lost because of war.

The crowds returned for the Remembrance Sunday service.



Remembrance



The Council and the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion supported several commemorative events in the town in 2022.

Youth Forum

The Town Council Youth Forum is a meeting of young people representing local school councils and youth projects in Felixstowe.

Chaired by the young people themselves on rotation basis, the environment continues to be a key theme and recent meetings focused on the protection of the trees and flood risk.

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Felixstowe in flower

Do you have green fingers? Why not enter our **FREE** Felixstowe in Flower competitions?

Entering is easy, with trophies and prizes presented to the winners and runners-up at our illustrious Felixstowe in Flower Awards evening.

To enter, please return this form to the Town Hall by the
30 June 2023.

I wish to enter the following competitions:

Please 'X' all appropriate boxes.

Residential Competitions (open to private homes and non-business gardens):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Front Garden: Best Floral Container | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Centre: Best Floral Container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Front Garden: Best Planting Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Balcony |

Commercial Competitions (open to all Felixstowe businesses and community groups):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Premises: Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Home: Best Floral Container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Premises: Non-Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Guest House: Best Floral Container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Premises: Best Floral Container | <input type="checkbox"/> Public House: Best Floral Container |

Open to all:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Arrangement *NEW* | <input type="checkbox"/> Seaside Theme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Use of Colour | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Newcomer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Sustainable Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallest Sunflower Competition (grown by any child under 16 years of age) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coronation Theme *NEW* | |

GOOD LUCK to all entrants!

Don't forget to fill in your details!

Name:

Telephone:

Address:

Email:

Why not enter one of our **NEW** competitions?

Felixstowe in flower

2023

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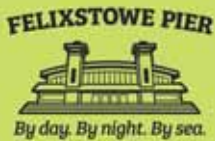
Bombay Nite



CHEUNG'S



Peter and Heather
Blemmings

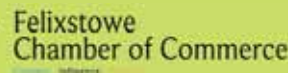


UNDERWOOD'S

Eleanor Clark



The Felixstowe
Society



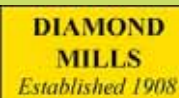
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