

FOR FELIXSTOWE

The newsletter of Felixstowe Town Council



TOWN TALK

- Lettings at the Town Hall** – The Town Council has been very pleased with the interest in weddings, now that it has received its license for marriages and civil partnerships at the Town Hall. The first wedding took place at Felixstowe Town Hall on 3rd September. We are receiving enquiries about and bookings for marriages and receptions as far ahead as 2011. The Town Hall is also available for meetings and exhibitions both during the week and at weekends and is being very well used already. We have a variety of rooms suitable for many different occasions. The Town Hall is DDA compliant and all areas of the building can be accessed by people with disabilities. The Town Council is pleased to see the Town Hall becoming an important part of our community following its refurbishment. For more details about weddings and other lettings please contact Celia Page on 01394 282086, email celia.page@felixstowe.gov.uk or visit our website at Felixstowe.gov.uk.
- Walton Community Hall** – Walton Community Hall is being used increasingly by local organisations now that it is fully available. There are still some weekend and day time slots available. For more information please contact Celia Page on 01394 282086 or email celia.page@felixstowe.gov.uk
- Building Schools for the Future** – Felixstowe will soon benefit from the National Building Schools for the Future programme. It is planned to build a new High School in the town which will be formed by the amalgamation of the Deben and Orwell Schools. The school will be built on the Orwell High School site and will serve the same catchment area as the two current High Schools. It is also planned that the school will provide facilities which will be available to and benefit the whole community. It is planned that the school will be up and running by 2012 and the detailed planning for the building and the site is now under way.
- Felixstowe Community CCTV** – The Felixstowe Community CCTV project is working well. This is one of the very few systems in the country which is operated by volunteers and is genuinely community based. The volunteers are highly trained and eventually it is hoped that there will be a total of about 25 to provide a comprehensive coverage of the system. The original system was financed by a Home Office grant and further equipment has been provided by the generosity of local businesses. The Town Council and the Chamber of Trade finance the maintenance of the system.

TOWN TALK

- Friends of the Seafront Gardens** – The Friends of the Seafront Gardens want to obtain your views about the Seafront Gardens (Town Hall, Cliff and Spa Gardens) and are looking for your support. Even if you have never visited or only infrequently visit the Seafront Gardens they need and welcome your opinion. To voice your opinion please go onto the Greenstat website – www.greenstat.org.uk select East of England/Suffolk/Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens. There are two questionnaires, one about the park and open space service (highlighted in green) and one about the Seafront Gardens (highlighted in yellow). You are invited to complete both. Your answers can be entered anonymously. For those people who do not have access to the internet, hard copies of the survey can be picked up from Felixstowe Town Hall, Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre, Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Felixstowe Library. Alternatively you may request a hard copy of the questionnaire by post by calling Caroline Driver, Secretary on 01394 444239 or email carosyv@hotmail.com. The deadline for completion of surveys is Friday, 27th November 2009. Responses will be collated and provided to Suffolk Coastal District Council to assist in the development phase of its bid for Heritage Lottery Funding under the “Parks for People Programme” for the refurbishment of the Seafront Gardens. The Friends of the Seafront Gardens are very keen to mobilise every person who is interested in seeing the Seafront Gardens restored and improved so that they have local pressure supporting the Council’s lottery application – now is the time to have your say. The Friends meet behind the Spa Pavilion on the third Saturday in each month between 10.00 a.m. – midday to work in the gardens. You are most welcome to join them and further details are available from Christopher Leffler on 01394 672279 or email chrisleffler@uwclub.net.

- **Town Council Website** – This newsletter is available on the Town Council website at www.felixstowe.gov.uk. The website is regularly updated and provides information about the Town Council and about Felixstowe. You will also be able to read about the many topics discussed at the meetings of the Town Council and its Committees. Because of the limited space in our newsletter we are not able to cover all the services provided by the Town Council. If you visit the website you will find further details about our services. We would like to include details of events taking place in Felixstowe on the website and in this newsletter. If you have an event that you would like us to publicise please contact Celia Page on 01394 282086 or email celia.page@felixstowe.gov.uk
- **Remembrance Sunday 8th November, 2009** – The 2009 Remembrance Sunday Service will take place at the Trinity Methodist Church on Remembrance Sunday 8th November, at 9.45 a.m. The service will be followed by an Act of Remembrance at Felixstowe War Memorial at 11.00 a.m. followed by the traditional laying of wreaths. On Wednesday, 11th November Felixstowe will observe the two minutes silence and you are welcome to join with Councillors and others at the War Memorial on that day.
- **Christmas Lights in Felixstowe** – Christmas may still seem a long way off but planning for the switch on of the Christmas Lights is now well under way. The Mayor will switch on the lights at 5.00 p.m. on Saturday, 28th November at the Triangle. Our Christmas Lights are provided through the wonderful voluntary effort and hard work of the Lions Club of Felixstowe with financial support from the Town Council.
- **Bank Holiday Weekend** – Felixstowe enjoyed a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend. Throughout the summer Felixstowe's weather has been some of the best in the country and we were not disappointed for the big events. On Saturday, 29th August the annual hot rod and custom car rally took place bringing lots of visitors in to the town. On Sunday, 30th August the annual Art on the Prom event was held with over 80 stalls displaying and selling original art work and many art and music events appealing to all ages. The Promenade was packed. The Town Council warmly congratulates the voluntary organising committee for Art on the Prom and particularly Mary and Stephen Wyatt. On Monday, 31st we were treated to an Edwardian Extravaganza. This was organised as part of the television production by Twofour concentrating on the regeneration of Felixstowe as a resort. It is planned to broadcast the show in spring 2010.
- **Felixstowe Skatepark** – On Tuesday, 1st September Felixstowe Skatepark was officially opened. The need for a Skatepark has been highlighted by young people in the town for many years and has been warmly welcomed as a facility by them. The site was chosen both because it services an area where there are many young people and also because it is one of the few sites in the town which both provides a safe environment for the young people using it but is far enough away from residential properties not be a noise nuisance. The Felixstowe Skatepark Association, Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Town Council have delivered this project. It is now up to the young people using the site to prove that they can do this in a sensible and responsible way.
- **Partnership with France** – Felixstowe already has a successful twinning with Wesel in Germany and a partnership with Salzwedel in Germany. It has an informal sister city relationship with Hagerstown in the USA and is exchanging friendship letters with Pudong in China. Felixstowe Town Council has recently been asked whether it would be interested in some form of partnership with the town of Voiron in France. The Chairman of the English Club in Voiron visited Felixstowe and liked the town so much that she has approached us about this. Voiron hopes to start arranging informal exchange visits with the possibility of an eventual twinning. They are particularly interested in young people, sport, choirs, clubs and societies. Voiron is located in the South East of France and is a market town with about 23 thousand inhabitants in the foothills of the Alps and within easy reach of Grenoble which has an airport with regular flights from UK destinations. The Town Council would be interested to know if there are people in Felixstowe who would like to become involved with an informal partnership with Voiron. If you are interested please contact Susan Robinson on 01394 282086 or email susan.robinson@felixstowe.gov.uk