

Report to the Felixstowe Town Council on the use of the grant of £400 given to Music in Felixstowe in December 2017

introduction

Music in Felixstowe is a small charity, based in Felixstowe, which was formed 10 years ago by Hattie Bennett, a professional cellist, to promote the appreciation of music in Felixstowe, with the following objectives:

- 1) to bring top class musicians to Felixstowe, and give them a platform for performance of professional standards of music for the benefit of the residents of the town and the surrounding area.
- 2) to offer a wide ranging programme each season, so that a variety of styles and types of music to appeal to a wide range of people could be accessed.
- 3) to enable young people to perform in public, which can take the form of arranging a series of concerts in the summer holidays at which talented youngsters are invited to perform. Felixstowe Town Council has supported Music in Felixstowe to do this many times in the past, as have District Councillors through their locality budgets. Some 8 concerts were staged in 2017 at which at least 15 young people, playing either solo or in groups, were able to impress audiences of up to 50 each time.
- 4) to bring live music to the elderly, and facilitate ease of access for them to enjoy good music, which we have done for many seasons by staging musical performances at 11.30 on Wednesday mornings at the Orwell Hotel. This hotel has a good, intimate atmosphere in His Lordships Library, and easy, level access. We are now working with the FACTS bus to enable easier transport to these events.

Use of the Grant of £400 given in December 2017

This grant was used to enable Music in Felixstowe to hire performance space at the Orwell Hotel for 5 concerts, as detailed below:

1) *Wednesday 3rd January* The von Bennett family playing a selection of jazz, rock and pop standards, along with Andy Lewis, singer

2) *Wednesday 14th February Valentine's Day Concert* The Quartetto Familia , (2 violins, 2 violas, and cello) played music from Mozart and Borodin

3) *Wednesday 28th March* *The Keith Virley Four* played jazz

4) *Wednesday 18th April The Ward Piano Quintet* played Brahms Piano Quintet and Mozart's Piano trio together with Andrew Leach on piano.

On each occasion His Lordships Library was full (50 people) with many disabled and elderly able to attend. On the final occasion the concert had to be moved into the dining room due to popular demand. Felixstowe Town Council contributed £50 to cover the cost of room hire on each occasion.

5) *Monday 1st January New Year's Day Viennese Gala* with the Festival Orchestra. This concert of Viennese music was a sell-out and took place in the Orwell Hotel Ballroom. For this Felixstowe Town Council contributed £200 to the cost of the room hire.

Future Plans

In addition to the regular monthly daytime concerts and monthly weekend concerts, Music in Felixstowe will be commissioning and presenting '***Felix the Cat***' a musical involving children from all the local primary schools conducted by Geoff Lavery at Causton School.

It will also present 8 Young Musicians Showcase performances over the summer holidays. In addition, we will look to funders to help us present a ***Free Open air Orchestral Prom Concert on the sea front*** on Sunday August 11th, to attract both townsfolk and tourists to Felixstowe and its musical life.