



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2017

Present:

Francesca Lynch (Chair), Aidan Pilcher and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)
Cole Collins, Georgia-Ruby Diaper, Logan Hollis-Roberts, Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Kai Hoang, Erika Lempek and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Abigail Dunnett, Evie Reke and Sarah Gorski (Langer Primary Academy)
Elise Gorski, Chloe Nimmo, Keeley Ripper and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2)
Ebany Churchill, Tom Davies, Kirsty Laird, Victoria Walker and C Fell-Nicholls (Felixstowe Academy)
Peppy Barlow and Sally Wilden (Woven Theatre Company)
Clare Baker (Felixstowe Forward)
Councillor Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Trimley St Mary School, Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure) and Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25th JANUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 25th January 2017, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Colneis School told the Forum that since the last meeting in January they have been continuing to learn about WW2. They have visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford where they explored the aircraft which were used by both the British and the Germans during the Battle of Britain. They also experienced the D-Day landings and learnt about some of the extreme personal experiences.

Colneis School reported that they were continuing to prepare for the upcoming SATs tests, which are due in early May. They have been working through practise questions and will be revising all the relevant topics over the remaining weeks.

The Colneis representatives told the Forum about their school play 'Jungle Book' which they are performing over three evenings. The cast and crew have been working hard during lunchtimes and after school in order to be ready for the opening night. The first full dress rehearsal takes place soon and the children of Fairfield Infant School were going to be their first audience.

Their school representatives have recently been conducting research with their classrooms in order to find out how 'safe' the children felt whilst at school. One issue that was raised by a number of children was how they would evacuate the school building if a fire alarm went off during assembly time, when there are 360 children in the school hall at one time. As a result of this the school planned a fire drill during assembly time. This went very well and everybody was out of the building and correctly accounted for in 4 minutes !

5. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum that their school was looking into providing 'wrap around care', which means having breakfast and after school clubs so that parents can leave their children from 8 in the morning till 6 at night. A survey has gone out to parents to assess the need but they had already started a breakfast club which was very popular.

The representatives reported that they had presented in their assembly a cheque for £356 to EACH which was raised at their Christmas performances and by children and staff who did not buy presents for each other but made a donation instead.

They had recently held a World Book Day where everyone had to dress up as a book character. At the recent Parents Evening the school ran a Book Fair where any books that were sold, the school would get commission. This achieved over £180 which they plan to use to choose new books for their Library.

Grange School representatives told the Forum that Mrs Reynish Memorial Garden at their school was coming along nicely. The ground had now been cleared and materials and plants ordered. They were looking forward to seeing the finished garden.

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum how they really enjoyed helping at the Fabulous Fairtrade Fun Fiesta on 6th March. Unfortunately probably due to the terrible weather very few people attended. The audience did enjoy the play they performed and also their students who watched it at their assembly. If there was another event like this hopefully more schools would be involved.

They had attended the Raising the Flag for the Commonwealth Event on Monday 13th March. It was good to see other schools being represented on such a special occasion and the children especially enjoyed the drink and biscuits afterwards !

Cllr Doreen Savage said she had really enjoyed the Fairtrade Fun Fiesta on 6th March and learnt a lot. She asked the Forum if they knew whether a banana could float ? The answer is Yes ! She thought the quiz was very good too and that no-one seemed to know the correct answers. She thanked everyone who took part and she had really enjoyed the play.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

The representatives from Causton Junior School told the Forum about a survey they had done on what the children would like to see in the town with the money from the Youth Forum budget. The results were as follows, in order of popularity:

Outdoor Gymnastics
Outdoor Theatre
Ice Skating Rink or Roller Skating Rink
Den Building Area
Graffiti Wall

They were looking forward to hearing what the overall outcome would be.

After the talk by Martin Andrew, Road Safety Scheme Officer, Suffolk County Council at the last Youth Forum meeting, Causton Primary School had their own Council Meeting where they had discussed becoming Road Safety Officers, everybody was very keen so this was now being looked into. They also meet up with their counterparts at Maidstone Infant School to discuss issues across their federation and had enjoyed a shared lunch. This was a new initiative and it seems to be a very successful way of sharing news from the schools with each other and tackling issues together as a team. This was hoped to continue into the next school academic year.

Causton School representatives told the Forum about a very exciting event which happens annually. This was the visit of the Cavemen for the Year 3's topic day. For three years the cavemen have come into their school and educated the children about the Stone Age era in a creative and surprising way, which everyone loves. At lunchtime the Cavemen go into their canteen and eat their food in their own unique way ! It was hoped that they would visit their school again next year.

Red Nose Day was soon approaching and everybody had been invited to dress in as many red items of clothing as possible and to donate £1 towards this very worthy charity.

7. LANGER PRIMARY ACADEMY

The representatives from Langer Primary Academy told the Forum that since the last meeting they have purchased the water fountain for their playground and it was hoped to be installed for the beginning of the Summer Term. Their site manager had been refurbishing their Library and the books they had brought from their fundraising events will soon be available for students to borrow. Everyone is very excited to see and use the new Library and the School Librarians feel it will encourage the younger children to enjoy reading in the new area.

Langer Primary Academy reported that they were really excited as their school had been entered into the Tesco Bags for Help Grant. If successful they hoped to buy some outside play equipment as their old equipment has been deemed unsafe. They encouraged everyone shopping in Tesco to place a green coin in their charity box.

Due to preparation of their SATs Year 6 School Council were unable to attend the Raising of the Commonwealth Flag Ceremony however Year 4 and school representatives were able to attend and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Cllr Doreen Savage asked the representatives from Langer School how much they needed in total to replace their play equipment and they confirmed that it was approx. £12000.

8. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY ITEMS

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy reported that the Academy was very busy preparing for GCSE's and A Level's. They had been busy filming for the BBC School Annual News Day, which involved simultaneously creating video, audio and text-based news reports, and publishing them on their school website, to which the BBC aims to link it to the School Report map.

They had just completed the Head Boy and Head Girl elections and Tom and Kirsty won Head Boy and Girl ! They had found it a great learning curve and they learnt what happens in a real life elections.

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum that they were holding lots of Red Nose activities to raise money for Red Nose Day. These included cake sales and car washes and much more.

A Member of the Youth Forum asked what percentage of the school had voted for the school elections. The representative confirmed that over 60% voted and they believe that it was probably down to all the interest in the American elections that students were interested enough to vote.

9. **LEVEL2 ITEMS**

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum they had a busy year so far with 358 different young people visiting them and a total number of contacts of 1750. Their weekly Year 6 sessions were very popular. At these sessions young people are free to use all the hub facilities including creative arts, games consoles, air hockey, pool, exercise bikes, computers, board games and much more. There is no charge for these open sessions, but there is a tuck shop if people wanted to buy food.

At Level2 they have an early intervention Topic Room which takes on a different topic every 2-3 weeks. They had recently looked at recycling, smoking, relationships and community involvement. Staff are always around if you wanted a chat or find out ways of getting involved with Level2. One way that young people can get involved with the project other than sessions is to become a Youth Representative. At the moment that are 8 young people who meet every 3 weeks to discuss ideas and encourage feedback from other young people accessing the sessions.

The representatives told the Forum that some of their young people had visited two local residential care homes where they had chatted to the elderly, played games and served tea and cake. It was a great chance for the generations to come together to socialise and learn from each other.

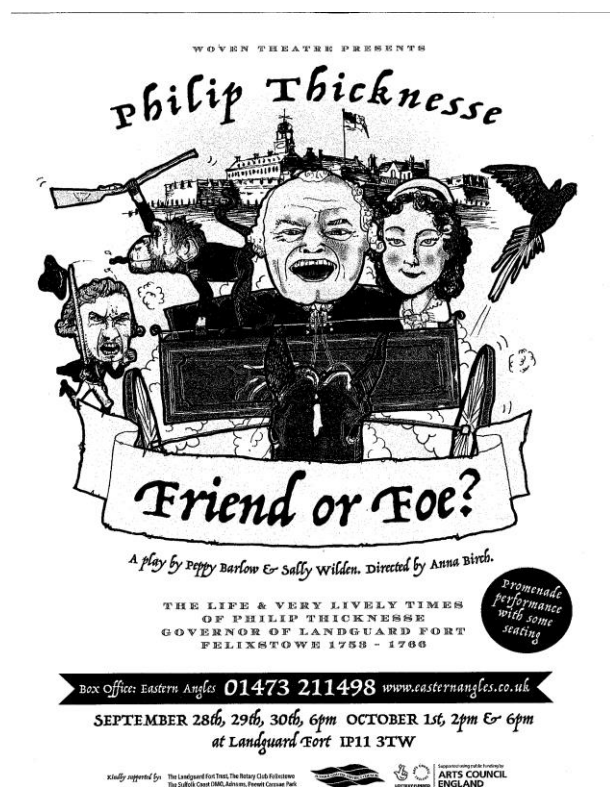
In the Easter holidays they have lots of activities including a dedicated Year 6 trip to Flux Freestyle, the trampolining centre and Cineworld. If you are interested in attending please contact them for a booking form. A list of all that is on offer to children in Year 6 is as follows:

- Weekly Open Access Sessions
- Holiday Activity Trip and Visits
- 1 to 1 Mentoring Services
- Youth and Family Mentoring
- Support for young people with gender or sexuality issues
- Support for young people not in school for whatever reason
- Small group sessions from June to October for those students who may need a little extra support to make a positive transition to High School for whatever reason
- Use of our hub by way of class treat or an alternative learning environment for a particular curriculum element such as PHSE.

The representatives from Level 2 told the Forum that they were one of the Mayor's charities. They had lots of fundraising events that everyone can get involved with to raise much needed money to support the work of Level 2. If you are interested you can find out by visiting their website or following them on Facebook.

10. PLAY AT LANDGUARD FORT

Peppy Barlow from the Woven Theatre Company thanked the Forum for inviting her and Sally Wilden back since their last visit in January. She wanted to update the Forum on progress and ask if there were any questions concerning the resource pack that they had now sent out via email to all schools. They circulated a poster (see below) which gives a flavour of their event:



Peppy explained that the resource pack for Primary Schools relates to learning activities in 3 main areas. The first is history and helps schools to prepare to visit Landguard Fort, which at the moment is not being used to its full potential and also matches the school curriculum. The second is looking at extracts from the script they had written, looking at language, in particular words that were used in the 18th Century and the difference in today's society. Also looking at social status of the different characters and the difference of the status of these characters in today's world and who society look up now ie celebrities. The third and last area was cartoon art. Peppy explained that there was a lovely portrait of Philip Thicknesse, the Governor of Landguard Fort between 1753-66 but if you look at the cartoons of the time which were drawn of him by people who knew him they were not very nice and very rude! She would like schools to draw cartoons of people to exhibit in the Fort and these may also be used on sticks during the play by the actors. As the Academy was attending today's Youth Forum she mentioned the workshop which was being run by the Directors of the play and there would also be auditions for small acting parts.

A Member of the Forum asked if they were willing to come into schools to explain and go through their resource pack. Peppy confirmed that they would love to be invited to visit the local schools and if you were interested in this please contact her direct via email which is: peppytrack@uwclub.net Cllr Doreen Savage said that sometimes things can get lost within schools so could all Youth Forum Members take back the message that the resource pack has been all emailed to schools.

11. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Clare Baker, Felixstowe Change Coordinator, Felixstowe Forward told the Forum that part of her role was organising events in Felixstowe. She wanted to share with the Forum details about the Multi-cultural Event Festival which was being held on Saturday 12th August which would be taking place in the town centre, Hamilton Road Shared Space Area. There would initially be a meeting in April for people who would be interested in this and if you knew anyone who would be interested please ask them to contact her via email: Clare.Baker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk At the moment they have had interest from the Polish, Hungary, Germany and African Cultures and also various stalls were planned including Healthwatch Suffolk. Clare then gave Youth Forum Members a poster about the event to put up in their schools.

12. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Doreen Savage told the Forum that they had received a letter from the High Sheriff of Suffolk thanking them for their impressive contribution to the local community and he wanted to recognise this by presenting them with a special certificate in recognition of their work. The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Jan Garfield also wrote to the Members congratulating them on their contribution and work towards Felixstowe Youth Forum. Lorna Monsen, the Mayor's Secretary then presented the Certificates from the High Sheriff of Suffolk and a letter from the Mayor to a representative from each school.

Doreen Savage explained to the Forum that the Youth Forum Budget for 2016-2017 of £2000 would need to be spent before 31st March 2017 the end of the financial year or the money would be lost. One of the things that the Youth Forum had talked about was an outside cinema event. Sarah Shinnie, Active Communities Officer, Suffolk Coastal District Council is planning to organise an outdoor cinema event on the weekend of 28th – 30th July which is the first weekend of the school holidays, and there will also be a Youth event on the 10th August and 20th August. All events will be at the Beachside Events Area at the back of the Leisure Centre. Sarah Shinnie is looking for suggestions of PG films with a seaside theme if possible, and they are planning to show 3 different films which they hope will be free for people to attend. Films suggested so far are 'Finding Nemo' and 'Pirates of the Caribbean'. Families will be able to bring their own rug/seats and picnics. The 2 days in August will be where businesses will be invited to promote their business. This is where a table tennis table could be hired to trial for a more permanent one to be purchased using next financial year's budget, 2017-2018. The Forum members agreed that this year's funding should be used to support the outdoor cinema events. Doreen Savage asked for Members to vote, and this was unanimous and therefore agreed.

13. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Members agreed the dates for March 2017- March 2018 as distributed with Agenda. The Chairmanship for May and July 2018 were also agreed, dates to follow. The dates agreed are as follows:

22 nd March 2017	-	Chairman: Colneis Junior School
17 th May 2017	-	Chairmen: Klingsfleet Primary School
28 th June 2017	-	Chairmen: Langer Primary School AT SPA PAVILION 4pm – 5.30pm
1st November 2017	-	Chairman: Level2
31st January 2018	-	Chairman: Causton Junior School

- 28th March 2018 - Chairman: Felixstowe Academy
- May 2018 date TBC - Chairman: Grange Community Primary School
- July 2018 date TBC - Chairman: Trimley St Mary

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 17th May 2017** (to be Chaired by Kingsfleet Primary School or if they were not able to attend Causton Junior School would substitute) at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall.