

Report to Felixstowe Town Council following Award of Grant

The Rudolph and Santa Project, run by Felixstowe Rotary Club and Save the Children branch were delighted to be awarded £1893.08 by the Town Council as part of their occasional grant in winter 2022.

The acquisition of a new trailer had necessitated the construction of a significant galvanised steel structure to support the building of a roof, hence the size of this grant. This has protected the sleigh against all weathers, ensuring it is fit for decades more service to the people of Felixstowe.

The grant covered the costs of replacing, rebuilding, and redecorating some elements of the cladding, lighting, and electrical components to make it attractive, energy efficient, and more environmentally compliant. We were delighted that these improvements meant we could avoid the use of the diesel generator entirely, for the first time. The grant included a donation to the Men's Shed for new sign writing, as shown below.



The trailer was loaned to the Lions Club for the Town Lighting up ceremony, then used for 14 evening house-to-house runs, and four daytime static sessions, taking Rudolph and Santa to as many of the streets of Felixstowe, Walton, the Trimleys and Kirton as we could manage. Moreover, sessions in Hamilton Rd, Lidl and Morrisons gave further opportunity for citizens to enjoy seeing Santa, as well as heightening the Christmas feel in those locations.



Rudolph and Santa, with the sleigh of Christmas music and lights are always greeted with joy by residents young and old. The project also involved well over 150 local people as volunteer collectors, Santas, drivers etc. In addition, it is a major fundraiser for Save the Children Felixstowe branch and Rotary Club of Felixstowe, providing essential income for worthy projects. The final total collected in December 2022 was a record £10,242.

Both charities would like to extend sincere gratitude to Felixstowe Town Council for making this substantial grant towards materials for refitting the trailer sound and lights, enabling this much-loved community event to continue beyond its fiftieth anniversary.