

Winter

Issue 19 **The Seasonal Magazine**
for Felixstowe Residents

23/24



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL



Santa and Rudolph Tour the Streets, Christmas at Landguard, Love Green Felixstowe, Felixstowe Environment Awards, Your Community Stories

LA VIDA



LA VIDA SHOWBAR, ABOVE BEACH STREET FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

26 JAN



RIGHT COMBINATION

Est. 2014

DOORS 7.30PM

DJS FROM 8PM

NORTHERN SOUL & MOTOWN

FREE ENTRY

TALC FRIENDLY VENUE (USED RESPONSIBLY & AT OWN RISK) 18YRS+ EVENT. FULL T&CS AVAILABLE VIA WWW.LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK

AN EVENING OF TOP CLASS COMEDY IN THE HEART OF FELIXSTOWE
FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024

ROBERT WHITE

AARON JAY AARON JAY RICH WILSON RICH WILSON



TICKETS CAN BE RESERVED FROM £10
 TICKETS CAN BE RESERVED FROM £10
 DOORS - 7:00PM // SHOW - 8:00PM



BOYLESQUE

HOSTED BY 7X GUINNESS WORLD RECORD HOLDER, DANIELLA D'VILLE

DOORS 7.30PM | **SATURDAY 17TH FEB 2024** | SHOW 9.00PM

@DANIELLA_DVILLE @RYANYEOMANS @SEB_ANGELIQUE @ZACKATTACKED

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH LA VIDA SHOWBAR, ABOVE BEACH STREET FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN TICKETS FROM £10.00*



WORLD'S NUMBER 1 IMPERSONATOR & MULTI AWARD WINNING ARTIST.
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SUPPORTING ACT: LUSCIOUS LEONA

FOLLOW US @LAVIDASHOWBAR DOORS OPEN 7.30PM CONCERT 9.00PM AFTER PARTY 11.00PM

For more events, please head over to our website www.lavidashowbar.co.uk

La Vida Showbar Above Beach Street Felixstowe, IP11 2DN



Welcome to the Winter Edition!

Season's greetings Felixstowe friends and I hope things are looking bright in your life, in these short, darker days when points of light are all the more appreciated – even small ones. It's a cliché, but we are blessed to live here in this friendly and very 'liveable' seaside town – I think we feel this all the more this year, with brutal conflicts disrupting and taking lives not so far to our east.

Town Council staff and councillors recently agreed on a 'vision' for Felixstowe as "A thriving and dynamic community that welcomes all people to live, work and visit in a clean and safe environment." This seems a good reflection of our town and was part of a process of sketching out the Council's 2024-2028 Business Plan, which you'll hear more about in the new year.

I hope you've been enjoying our town's amazing Christmas lights display, organised brilliantly through the tireless, skilled voluntary work of the Lion's Club of Felixstowe. The Lions are also to thank for our huge, real Christmas tree at the Triangle, installed free by Cadman Cranes (Colchester), provided at cost by Swann's nursery, Woodbridge, with additional sponsorship (and fireworks!) from our own Underwoods hardware. Meanwhile, the Rotary Club are at it again, arranging for all our streets to be lit up with a visit by Mr. S. Claus and his elves in the weeks before Christmas – do look and listen out for him and pop out and say hello – I still do... it's just one of those simple rituals that makes the season special.

Another fabulous Felixstowe tradition, the Christmas Day Dip, approaches. This is a great event and major fundraiser for St Elizabeth Hospice. More information, on how to join the hundreds who gather (near Mannings 10am) on page 7 and at www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/christmas-day-dip/. Excellent safety cover will be provided by Felixstowe Coast Patrol & Rescue – one of this year's mayor's charities. The sea temp is likely to be around 6C, which is very fresh indeed, but it is just a dip and will set you up nicely for the day's festivities and possible indulgencies – as well as earning a cosy snooze on the sofa.

I was recently privileged to travel to Wesel, Felixstowe's twin town of 50 years. We were brilliantly hosted by Burgermeister, Ulrike Westkamp – mayor of this town of 60,000 since 2004 – and joined by the mayor of Salzwedel, Olaf, who, I (and he!) discovered, loves Marmite. It was fascinating to be part of Hanse Fest - not a beer festival but one celebrating the towns' membership of the ancient Hanseatic trading league, a kind of medieval prototype EU you could say, and one which – who knew? - Kings Lynn is still a member of. We also saw the construction of Wesel's amazing new pools and saunas complex on the banks of the Rhine, due to open next year. The whole trip gave our civic connection a timely boost ahead of next year's 50th anniversary celebrations of our twinning with Wesel. Celebrations here will focus on the weekend of 20/21 April – and if you, or your club or organisation – would like to get involved in the twinning in any way, please get in touch. Any German speakers (or learners) out there especially welcome!

Very much in Christmassy spirit, I'm pleased to extend an open invitation to Felixstowe's Civic Carol Service, at St Peter & St Paul church, Church Road, on 21 December at a slightly earlier time of 16:30 – we hope good for children, families and the elderly in particular, as well as those who may find themselves on their own at this time of year. Please do come along and share refreshments afterwards. The choir of Langer Primary Academy (recently rated Good by Ofsted:) and the unique Christina Johnston will help us sing and celebrate the light of Christmas on the Winter Solstice. The collection will be for the Mayor's charities, Felixstowe National Coastwatch Institute, Coast Patrol & Rescue, Pushchair Pitstop and Boost youth charity. These fab four have organised several successful events so far, including a recent Sea Shanty evening which raised over £2000. Read more about all their work and events on the following page.



Despite all the festivities, Felixstowe Town Council acknowledges that winter is difficult for many people. Felixstowe Town Council, with East Suffolk Council, is distributing a Cost-of-Living flyer, to signpost support for those who may be struggling financially. More information about support with the cost-of-living at www.felixstowe.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support. And please do reach out to those on their own this Christmas – the heart-warming video from Charlie's bar, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh is a perfect example of this and what WB Yeats described as 'there are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met yet'. From the Emerald Isle to the Suffolk coast and beyond, let's share that simple message of shared light and friendship, especially when it's cold and dark.

Have a great Christmas Felixstowe! Enjoy all there is to celebrate in (y)our lives this special season.



Clr Seamus Bennett, Mayor of Felixstowe
mayor@felixstowe.gov.uk, seamus.bennett@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 you would like to submit an article for consideration in the next quarterly edition (**1 March - 31 May**), please email holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk by **15 February**

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 various header images and cover photo.

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

An Update from the Mayor's Charities

The Mayor of Felixstowe for the year 2023-24, Cllr Seamus Bennett, is supporting four chosen charities, Felixstowe NCI, Felixstowe Coast Patrol and Rescue, Boost Felixstowe and Pushchair Pitstop. You can read more about each of the four charities below. You can donate to the Mayor of Felixstowe Charity via Stripe, by scanning the QR code with the camera on your mobile phone.



Scan to pay

NCI Felixstowe (Coastwatch)



2023 has been a busy year so far for Coastwatch with 1800 watchkeeper shifts over 11 months covering some 6400 person/hours. We have logged 14,000 vessels, from windsurfers and paddle boards to container ships and pilots and we have reported and assisted with over 20 incidents, potentially helping to save lives. With 70 volunteer watchkeepers, many under

training, this is no small task. Everything we do is funded by donations from businesses, grants and from generous public donations throughout the year. For us, being part of the Mayor's charities for this year is a huge honour and we are so grateful to have been chosen.

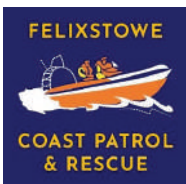
We have helped the other three charities in events run so far and are delighted to be working alongside such worthwhile and much needed organisations. We have attended the Civic reception at Sea You and will be at the Civic carol service on December 21st at St Peter and St Paul's Church.

Our major event for the Mayor's Charities, will be a quiz night at the Felixstowe Trades and Labour Club on Friday 23rd February. More news about that will be on Facebook and Social Media nearer the time. Meanwhile, we will be supporting Boost, Felixstowe Coast Patrol and Pushchair Pitstop at events planned between now and then. We are grateful for your support.

If your organisation would like a talk on the work of Coastwatch, please email felixstowe@nci.org.uk and we will organise one for you.

Article provided by Nick Barrett White, Station Manager

Felixstowe Coast Patrol & Rescue



This has been a busy year for the crew and supporters of our group. We were delighted and greatly honoured to have been chosen by our Mayor Councillor Seamus Bennett to be part of his 4 appointed charities. Our season for patrols is from Easter till October and subject to weather we have been out and about on the water every weekend and bank holiday.

This year we have increased our outreach and have visited Schools around the peninsula. Ravenswood School in Ipswich in March Orwell Park Nursery welcomed us in April

In May we were invited to talk to the pupils of Felixstowe School at their morning assemblies to advise on basic water and beach safety. About 1000 attended over the 2 days.

A group of students visited us from Newmarket school in May and enjoyed a tour of our base and were especially excited to climb on and inspect our Humber Lifeboat. May was also when Felixstowe hosted a 999 Emergency Services Day. We set up in Hamilton Road and had a great day showing members of the public our boat and talking about our Service.

June saw us at Old Felixstowe Nursery's fun day again a lot of excited children enjoyed the chance to board our Lifeboat and meet some of our Crew.

July came and we assisted the Felixstowe Triathlon from our Boat "Last Orders"

We were excited to take part in the Procession on the Felixstowe Carnival. Lee one of our crew spent the day in his Dry Suit and Life Preserver walking the entire route. One of our fellow members of the Mayor's Charities, Pushchair Pitstop, invited us to their Fund Raiser at Beach Street. Distributing some safety leaflets and raising awareness of the dangers in or near the water. Combined with one of our weekly patrol in September we supported the Shelter Big Dip. Even our Mayor joined in. Well, he does spend a lot of time in the sea!

During the year our crew are increasing their local coastal knowledge and attending other training sessions. We held a Marine Radio course during the year for some of our new crew to enable confident radio procedures. We have just attended the Trinity Park Fireworks and were pleased to show more members of the public and hordes of excited children over Last Orders.

One of the last events before we provide safety cover at The St Elizabeth Hospice on Christmas Morning is a Shanty Evening to be held at the Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club in a few weeks, Sorry a sold out event!

This season we completed 54 Patrols, Assisted 55 casualties with 6 lives saved. A total of nearly 1700 miles covered. We are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors and to all the public who contribute to our service. For more information please visit www.felixstowecoastpatrol.co.uk

Boost Felixstowe



It's been a busy few months for chaplaincy, as we started a new academic year following the summer break. We welcomed lots of excited Year 7 students who joined the school community and have had a great start to our clubs. Chess Club, Garden Club and Theology club are all up and running with more students attending than ever before.

This term, the Garden Project received the Level Five award from the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, the highest award on offer to schools, and the Garden continues to be a safe and beautiful space open to all students throughout the week. The Reflection Room is open to all, and it's been lovely to see a diverse group of students chatting and meeting new people during break times.

Pastoral support continues to be in demand for a range of issues, from bereavement to low self-confidence. Since September, we have been able to help over 40 individual students with personalised support in school.

Last month, we had the amazing opportunity to go to Parliament! A group of students from a range of year groups took part in a tour of both Houses, followed by a workshop and a Q&A with Dr Thérèse Coffey MP.

Through chaplaincy, we have been able to support students and staff this term and compliment the amazing things happening in our school community. We thank everyone for their continued support of the work of Boost.

Pushchair Pitstop



Pushchair Pitstop is a volunteer run – donation-based service located in St Edmunds church, Langer Road, Felixstowe, where you will find everything, you need for babies and children for FREE. Everything we have has been donated to us for free by the public, so therefore everything we have is given away for free!

What have we been up to?

Since being chosen as one of the mayors' charities this year, Pitstop has gone from strength to strength. This year saw our very FIRST Pitstop MANNia musical event which was kindly hosted by Mannings Amusements at which we had so much fun! We have also hosted several fundraisers (Cake sales, Quiz nights etc) and started several new projects.

This Summer we opened our 'Uniform bank' helping local families support their children's return to school and alleviating pressure by helping kit them out with uniforms, shoes, and bags.

We also teamed up with 'Multiply Suffolk' who visit us with workshops helping to promote numeracy skills within the family – ask for more info!

We have also just joined up with East Suffolk Council to host 'warm welcomes' if you'd like space to sit for a while with a warm brekky, then come and see us!

We are now in the process of making Pitstop Christmassy! Please pop in and see our Christmas range! Bags and bags of clothes, decorations, and trees are available and all for FREE! This year our Christmas party will be hosted on the 22nd of Dec 11am-1pm in St Edmunds Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome but bookings to see Santa are essential... and limited! (please see our FB page). Last year we had an Amazon wishlist and we were able to gift presents to over 300 local children, we hope to do the same this year!

PP are still looking for storage. Property needs to be local and easily accessible with lock. If anyone can help please contact Liss on 07803526590.

Have an amazing Christmas everyone! The PP Team
Our current opening times are Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9am-12pm and alternate weekend days 10am-2pm.

Please see our Facebook page for more information.

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 German 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 Services)
- 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 2023/24

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 *

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01394 211146



Margaret Morris

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01394 274345



Central Ward

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Seamus Bennett * **

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Jan Candy *

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East Ward

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Bernard Price

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Steve Wiles **

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South Ward

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Cherrie MacGregor

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01394 279826



Port Ward

Stuart Bird **

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Marc James

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David Rowe

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07851 803 503



Michael Sharman

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01394 213071



Corrine Franklin

corrine.franklin@felixstowe.gov.uk
07960 722 333



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:

Please note that the Town Hall will be closed to the public from Friday 22nd December – Tuesday 2nd January

13th December	Civic & Community	7:30pm
13th December	Planning & Environment	9:15am
10th January	Ordinary Council	7:30pm
10th January	Planning & Environment	9:15am
17th January	Finance & Governance	7:30pm
24th January	Planning & Environment	9:15am
7th February	Planning & Environment	9:15am
14th February	Civic & Community	7:30pm
21st February	Planning & Environment	9:15pm
21st February	Assets & Services	7:30pm

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
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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 Officer
holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk

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

Your Community Stories

St Elizabeth Hospice Christmas Day Dip



St Elizabeth Hospice's Christmas Day Dip is returning for 2023.

The independent Suffolk charity is once again asking the local community to show its love for its local hospice by completing a fundraising dip in the North Sea, on Christmas Day, with tickets now on sale.

Returning for the 19th time, the much-loved event will see hundreds of 'dippers' don festive outfits before plunging into the icy cold North Sea at Felixstowe to raise vital funds, through sponsorship, for St Elizabeth Hospice which every year delivers free care to on average over 4,000 patients and their families throughout East Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

Brandon Orton, Events and Challenges Fundraiser at St Elizabeth Hospice, said: "Once again we are excited to announce the return of our popular Christmas Day Dip.

"Full of festive fun and a Christmas tradition for so many, the Christmas Day Dip is always a landmark event in the hospice calendar, as the local community joins together to show their support for the hospice.

"There is no better time to register and start encouraging friends and family to sponsor you. Every pound raised really will make a difference to our staff as they care for patients and their families throughout East Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney during very difficult times in their lives."

The St Elizabeth Hospice Christmas Day Dip 2023 will take place on Christmas Day at 10am, opposite Mannings Amusement on Felixstowe seafront. Each ticket price includes a medal. To register for tickets visit www.register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ChristmasDayDip2023

Funds raised through the Christmas Day Dip will go towards the hospice's Christmas fundraising campaign, Be a Star, which helps the hospice support hundreds of patients and their families over the Christmas period.

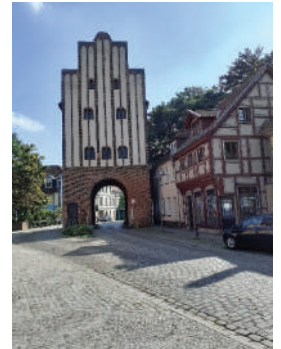
More information can be found by visiting www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/christmas-day-dip.



Felixstowe Salzwedel Association

Salzwedel? What's that? Where's that?

If you're asking yourself that question, perhaps you've never really looked at the sign as you come into town. Salzwedel is one of Felixstowe's partner towns. It's in northern Germany, 141 Km. south east of Hamburg. As a mediaeval town it was a member of the Hanseatic League, the powerful Baltic trading organization, and the town centre still has many beautiful buildings from this period.



Salzwedel was formerly part of the GDR (East Germany), but after reunification looked to make new links. The Felixstowe- Salzwedel Association was formed in 1994, so next year will be the 30th anniversary.



The main aim of the Association is to promote friendship and cultural exchange. Alternate years have seen visits from Felixstowe to Salzwedel and vice versa, when visitors can stay either in hotels or with local hosts. This pattern was disrupted by covid, but renewed again this September when a group from Felixstowe visited Salzwedel, where the hospitality was, as usual, superb. There were visits and activities arranged, and more food than most of us could cope with! We hope that a group from Salzwedel will visit here in July, and that we can match their generosity.

Between visits, The Association has social and fund-raising activities, such as the annual garden party. And there's always a raffle! The next event planned is a quiz in the new year.

If you'd like to be involved, to make new friends here and in Salzwedel, and even take the opportunity to practice your German (not compulsory!), please get in touch with Annie Deacon (annie.deacon@icloud.com). You'll be made very welcome on both sides of the North Sea.

Felixstowe's Fairtrade Status Renewed



The big news since our last article in the magazine, is that Felixstowe has been awarded Fairtrade Town status for another 3 years, based on our achievements over the past few years and our plans for the future. Fairtrade towns have to apply for renewal every few years to ensure they are active and continuing to support Fairtrade in their locality.

We have also recently held our AGM at which our long-standing chairman Alan Muchal stood down to be replaced by Robin Pattinson, a founder member of the Forum in 2007. Alan said: "I am very

pleased to be handing over to Robin who, I know, will lead our team effectively in its new phase of promoting Fairtrade in Felixstowe and beyond. Our priority over the next months, leading up to Fairtrade Fortnight in September 2024, will be on involving young people in promoting Fairtrade locally. In this



we will be working with the eight other Fairtrade Towns in Suffolk through the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns (SAFT)."

The AGM was attended by Mayor, Cllr Seamus Bennett, and former Mayor, Cllr Sharon Harkin, both of whom expressed their firm commitment to Fairtrade. The support of the mayors and their colleagues on the Town Council has been vital in ensuring the success of Fairtrade in Felixstowe and the renewal of our Fairtrade Town status.

For further information visit www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk where you will also find links to other useful sites, including SAFT.

Felixstowe Lions Club



The Lions are coming up to their busy time of year with Christmas. We have also been very busy throughout the rest of the year, including maintaining the town's Xmas lights and other events in the community. Back in July we welcomed Vice President Derek Moore of the Seal Beach Lions Club in the USA. It was good to show Derek what we have been doing here in the UK. At the same meeting the then

President David Cole handed over the reins to now President Jan Willis. In August we presented the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award to the late Bryan Grant, his daughter Tania kindly received the award at one of our meetings. We gave the same award to three of our members, David Hedges, John Gooch and Lisa Williams. The award is in recognition of dedication to the service of the club and community. September, we inducted two new members. We also held our annual Golf Day sponsored by MSC Shipping. The day was a great success raising £796.00, which is to be donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. It also saw the last Triangle sale of the season raising a total of £306.00.

A note for your diaries for next year, our popular Pig Race Saturday 24th February 2024. Please follow our social media for more details.



Thank you to all that have supported us.

For more information about Lions of Felixstowe please see our web page for more details felixstowelions.org.uk

A year of positive progress at Felixstowe Chamber



Thanks to everyone who joined us for our excellent Networking Breakfast and Tour of the Port of Felixstowe on 12th October. One of our busiest events to-date, we kicked off with a delicious breakfast at View Point Café, followed by an extensive behind-the-scenes tour of the Port – compliments of Customer Relations Manager Debbie Coe – where we learnt all about the strategic importance of Britain's premier port,

from its historic beginnings with the introduction of rail to Felixstowe to its present-day importance as a hub for the world's mega-ships...moving onto the Port's growing 'green' credentials and key role in Freeport East. A few hours very well-spent, and appreciation also to Felixstowe Travel for getting us there and back safely.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the Chamber during 2023, and for helping us to grow and move forward as the 'voice of business' in and around Felixstowe...now with nearly 90 members!



We wish you all a very enjoyable festive season and a prosperous New Year, and we are looking forward to even more exciting news, events and developments in 2024!

To sign up for any future Chamber events, or to learn more about our membership benefits, please contact Amanda Oliver, Business Officer, at amanda@felixstowechamber.co.uk

www.felixstowechamber.co.uk



Father Christmas is on his way to Landguard Fort

Tickets are selling fast for this year's Christmas at Landguard Fort. Felixstowe's (Suffolk) big festive family treat is back for 2023 on two weekends - Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December.

Come and meet the Head Elf in the North Pole Post Room, discover the reindeer stables, make festive crafts, check out the colourful Toy Workshop and sing-a-long with the musical snowmen - then visit Father Christmas in his magical grotto, with a present for every child. There will also be seasonal refreshments, including the Felixstowe Lions Club BBQ, a special Felixstowe Museum room, snow machines and twinkling lights.



Last year's event was completely sold out ahead of the event, so booking in advance is highly recommended. Entry to Christmas at Landguard Fort is by 'timed ticket' - and you can book

a 30 minute arrival slot between 11.00am and 3.30pm.

In advance (online): Children (2 to 12 years) £8.50, Adults £5.50, Family (two adults and two children) £25.00 (that's just £6.25 per person!). On the day tickets (subject to availability): Children

(2 to 12 years) £9.50, Adults £6.50, Family (two adults and two children) £30.00. Children aged one and under free.

Nicola Barker, General Manager of Landguard Fort said "Father Christmas is on his way to his magical grotto at the fort. Come and explore our fun trail with plenty of festive surprises and treats for all the family - and by booking in advance you can save money too!".

Full details and to book tickets at www.landguard.com

Town Council Continues To Receive Clear Audits

The Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 set out the responsibilities of all local councils in respect of their accounting and auditing procedures.



Felixstowe Town Council has received clear, unqualified audits for the past 10 years. Our most recent audit, for the 2022-23 Municipal Year, was concluded and published on 13th September 2023 here: felixstowe.gov.uk/financial

Internal Audit: Each year, the Council's financial accounts and statements must be examined by an independent internal auditor appointed by the town Council. The Council's current Internal Auditor is the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

External Audit: The Council is also required to complete an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). This includes the findings of the internal auditor, together with Governance and Financial Statements. The AGAR is submitted to the independent External Auditor which is appointed by the Audit Commission on a national basis. The current external auditor is PKF Littlejohn.

Felixstowe Probus 2 Club



Felixstowe Probus 2 Club was formed in 1980, when the Felixstowe & District Probus Club had a large waiting list. Subsequently two further clubs were also formed in Felixstowe.

Probus clubs are for fellowship between retired business and professional people. Many, like Probus 2 are purely male, but there are some mixed and ladies' clubs.

Probus 2 Club meets every Monday (except Bank Holidays) at the Dooley Inn, Ferry Lane, Felixstowe. On ordinary meeting days, members gather for tea/coffee and a chat from 10.00 am leading on to a short business session that commences at 10.30am. After the business session, a talk by a speaker or member follows, usually with a Q&A period before the meeting closes around 11.30 – 12.00 noon.

Once a month, normally on the 3rd Monday, we have a lunch at the Inn, gathering from 12.00 for 12.30. Three times a year, we hold a seasonal lunch for our ladies, partners, and widows of past members.

At this year's AGM at the Dooley Inn, Felixstowe which included the election of officers, outgoing chairman Mr Bill Witchalls handed over the chain of office to Mr John Brinkley, who along with newly elected vice chairman Mr John Varden will lead the club for the next 12 months. Our speakers this year have presented on a variety of interesting and informative subjects including Felixstowe First Responders, Ernest Hemingway, The Development of Felixstowe, Antarctica and The British Resistance Organisation.



For any further information about the club, please contact Shaun Rudduck, Treasurer by email shaun_rudduck@msn.com

Felixstowe Wesel Association – 50th Anniversary



An exciting programme of celebratory events for the 50th anniversary are planned for 2024 including visits between both towns for private individuals, clubs, organisations and the civic representative of both communities.

The original bond of friendship was intended to foster friendships and understanding between both communities through cultural, social, sporting, educational and other means, which will be reflected in the different things we are arranging.



On our normal events programme, October 2023 saw twenty of us in Wesel for the annual Hansefest event, November was the second of our Quiz nights in Broadway House, 6th December the traditional St NicklausFest evening meal in the Brook Hotel and our Association's Annual General Meeting will be held in January 2024.

Wesel's Carnival season runs between 11th November 2024 and climaxing at Rosemontag (before the start of Lent)

For more information email infowesel50@btinternet.com or go to www.felixwesel.onesuffolk.net

OFCA celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Association has recently held its 50th Annual General Meeting and a celebration to commemorate our golden anniversary. The Mayor, Councillor Seamus Bennett joined us for this memorable occasion, and it was lovely to see so many people gathered at the Community Centre. A photographic display and PowerPoint presentation brought back fond memories and reminded us all what a great facility we have in Old Felixstowe. A very special thank you must go to Brackenbury WI who provided a wonderful buffet.



Our ever-popular Community Market is held on the second Saturday of the month from 10am – midday (except August), so please join us to pick up a bargain and have a coffee and chat with friends. The Christmas Community Market takes place on Saturday 9th December where we will be holding a bumper raffle with a hamper as first prize.

If you would like to hire the Centre, please contact the Administrator on 07494 599265 or email ofcabookings@gmail.com.

Finally, I would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I hope to see you at the Christmas Community Market on 9th December.

Best wishes,
Celia Page, Chair

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The Felixstowe Master Mariners



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 DG Catering - info@dgcaterers.co.uk followed by a talk by an invited speaker.

The talks have recently included a wonderful presentation entitled "Operation Chaplin" by Club Member Adrian Farthing, who gave a very interesting talk about Felixstowe Missionary John Turner, who served in arctic conditions on Baffin Island in northern Canada. Adrian's talk included an incredible rescue mission in 1947, after John Turner accidentally shot himself,

whilst helping an Inuk girl carry a pail of water. It was a gripping story that should be put to film and had the audience totally absorbed. The following month "The Mariners" were given an extremely interesting talk by Mr. Gerry Creasing about the River Gipping and in particular the restoration of the locks between Ipswich and Stowmarket.

The variety of talks given each month continue to keep all Members entertained and foster professional comradeship among Master Mariners and those with Nautical interests. Excess funds support local maritime related charities in an atmosphere of high traditions, good manners, smart dress code, cordiality and friendship.



New Members are always welcome and Membership details and further information can be obtained from the FMCC web page <https://www.mastermariners.uk/index.html>

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Improving Community Infrastructure – It's a Walk in the Park!

Felixstowe Town Council has completed some much-needed work to improve facilities at Allenby Park and Gosford Way Park. These cherished local parks, which recently came under the Town Council's stewardship, underwent extensive improvements to make the paths more user-friendly. This was made possible thanks to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding. The Town Council's Grounds Team has also been hard at work refurbishing and repainting the play equipment at Allenby Park, ensuring it remains safe and enjoyable for all.



The play areas at both Gosford Way Park and Allenby Park, alongside Cavendish Park, were fully refurbished with a range of equipment suitable for toddlers, juniors and teenagers in 2018. The £265,000 project included a new Multi-Use Games Area at Cavendish Park and the widening of the 5-a-side pitch at Allenby Park. The comprehensive effort

was the result of a collaborative initiative between Felixstowe Town Council and East Suffolk Council to identify and prioritise the refurbishment of community play areas as part of an ongoing commitment to enhance local facilities.

The Mayor of Felixstowe said:

"Allenby Park and Gosford Way Park are both vital community spaces, regularly used and enjoyed by residents and visitors to Felixstowe across all age ranges and backgrounds. With the parks having recently been taken over by the Town Council, it was a fantastic opportunity to improve the spaces for all who use them."



The Town Council remains focused on enhancing the play facilities and overall experience for the community at Allenby Park and Gosford Way Park, ensuring a more enjoyable and inclusive environment for everyone.

Have Your Say on Play and Recreation in Felixstowe!

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. 85% of CIL payments received are retained by East Suffolk Council, with the remaining 15% passed on to the Town Council which must be spent within five years.

The Town Council is now working with East Suffolk Council on a project to revitalise our local public parks and leisure equipment, following a similarly successful project that resulted in significant improvements to facilities at Allenby Park, Gosford Way park and Cavendish park in 2019.

The Town Council is also exploring a number of other CIL-related projects over the long-term and the guidance shown at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Community-Infrastructure-Levy/Parish-Support/CIL-ParishGuidance.pdf details more about CIL and what it can be spent on. If you are interested in learning more about the current project and want to share your ideas on which of our parks and public spaces should be improved email by filling out this quick and easy Felixstowe Play Area Community Consultation Survey at eu.surveymonkey.com/r/HPMFK9S.





Felixstowe Allotment Association



The year is nearly through, and just like the last article, as I type, rain is falling again. Needless to say the allotment plots across town reflect the heavy and frequent rain showers but unlike many places we have had no flooding, thank goodness. The crops however survive, the bumper fruit harvest and in my case potato harvest

reinforces the desire to keep growing even if it means a few hours labour each and every week. As the clocks go back it means more morning activity as by 3pm it will be dark. New members appear at this time of year as tenants release or renew their plots with the Council.

At the Cowpasture allotment site we are seeing new faces, a number living close by on the Persimmon development. The very large plots previously rented to a single tenant are gradually being divided to allow more residents access to grow their own. The very small "allittlements" at Cowpasture are almost now fully rented including The Grove NHS plot and a soon to start "Level Two" plot agreed and approved by Felixstowe Town Council.



It will be interesting to see just how the younger element from Level Two get on with the preparation, planting and caring for their fruit and vegetables. Talking of the younger element, this summer we have seen school visits at both Cowpasture and Ferry Road sites from the local junior schools. The reception class children seemed to enjoy the opportunity to visit the plots and I did smile when a number of children informed me that potato chips come from McDonalds. They were impressed with my orange and then large white pumpkins as shown in the photograph with my grandson.

Felixstowe Garden Club



Felixstowe Garden Club have had a busy year, which included our September speaker, Andrew Brogan from Henstead Exotic Gardens (well worth a visit and just down the road in Beccles) and Michael

Perry AKA Mr Plant Geek in October who suggested we use indoor plants outdoors depending on garden conditions. We also held our Autumn Mini



Show and were delighted with the colourful exhibits and delicious traybakes prepared by members to have with our refreshments. We end our year with the Annual General Meeting formalities followed by our Christmas Party/Quiz with festive refreshments.

We have a full programme of speakers in place for

2024 – A Romp through the history of gardening, Hawk Honey Wasps, Flowers and plants of Morocco, A plant journey through Southern Africa and The Romance of the Rose to name a few, as well as our Spring Mini Show in April our Annual Show in July and Autumn Mini Show in October.

Our membership starts in January and we welcome current and new members to join us to enjoy the speakers, meet new friends and pick up gardening hints and tips.

Don't forget to keep in contact with our Facebook page and website to keep updated with Club news.



Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve – Exciting Times!



Earlier this year, I was elected as the European Citizen Science Ambassador for the UK. It is a wonderful honour and an exciting opportunity.

One of the best features of this new role is that I can share the work of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve and Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group with other

ambassadors representing the 27 member nations of the European Union. In doing so, I have also been able to make presentations to those colleagues using Zoom meetings. So far, feedback from the other ambassadors has been very encouraging.

Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group has recently joined with other climate justice workers in an initiative organized by Cambridge University to share research and results from each group's climate justice work. Part of that cooperation has been the opportunity to learn from Professor Jorge Vinales, one of the world's most respected climate change analysts.

Our citizen scientists have also developed their involvement in collaborative mapping in local landscapes. During the autumn, a presentation was made to the European Citizen Science Association about this work. It is now hoped that some collaborations between Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group and others in Greece and Italy will be possible.

In the UK, Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve and Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group have been sharing information with some of the most important organizations in UK conservation, including the National Biodiversity Network and Natural England. We hope to continue those very helpful conversations over this winter and well into 2024.

Supplied by Dr Adrian Cooper



Bigger Than Ever: The Third Annual Felixstowe Environment Awards 2023

16 November 2023: Debbie Bartlett, Founder of Litter-Free Felixstowe opened the third annual Felixstowe Environment Awards with a quote from Sir David Attenborough: 'It is easy to feel overwhelmed or powerless by the scale of the issues facing our planet but... although nature is in crisis, now is the time for action and together we can save it.'



The awards, now in their third year, saw the largest number of entrants since the start. The aim of the awards is to celebrate individuals and organisations making a positive contribution to the environment. Organised by popular local community group, Litter-Free Felixstowe, nominations were received from people across the town including many children.

Winners included children who had built bug houses, cared for hedgehogs and made posters to encourage people to take positive action to save wildlife; volunteers at the Seafront Gardens; and elderly residents who litter-pick outside their care home. The trophies presented were personalised, fully sustainable and eco-friendly wooden bird boxes, reminiscent of Felixstowe's beach huts. Certificates were also awarded to the winners and those highly commended.

The prestigious award ceremony at Fludyers Hotel, Felixstowe, saw its largest audience yet, with Mayor Seamus Bennett presenting the awards with Richard Daniel, Environment reporter from BBC Look East, who also gave the keynote speech. The evening's compere Rob Dunger from Suffolk Sound introduced the award categories which included 'Green Hero', 'Caring for Wildlife Award' and the 'Inspiring Others Award'.

A number of local schools were recognised, including Colneis School, the chaplain at Felixstowe School and the Forest School teacher at Grange. There were also individual pupils receiving awards from primary schools: Langer, Colneis, SET Felix, Grange, Trimley St Mary together with Felixstowe School. Popular restaurant, Alba Chiara won the 'Green Impact' award for its outstanding green contribution.

Stand-out moments from the evening include an award collected by a 94 year old on behalf of the residents of Foxgrove & Maynell Care Home, and a 5 year old awarded as the Young Environmentalist for her work with bugs, insects and snails. The Mayor, Seamus Bennett says the age gap proves that everyone can make a



contribution, hopes others will be inspired to join local groups or simply find a way to take positive action.

The difficult job of deciding the winners in each category of award fell to judges: the Mayor, Mark Murphy MBE, Belinda Jarvis (Treasurer of Litter-Free Felixstowe), PR Expert Helen Couch and Olly Magnus of the Magnus Group.

Mayor Seamus Bennett said 'It was a privilege to be part of Felixstowe's Environment Awards. Meeting just some of the many amazing Felixstowe residents - of all ages - taking action to care for our environment was a humbling and moving experience and one of the highlights of my mayoral year so far.'

Sponsors for the awards included Sackers, Gotelee Solicitors, Bidwells, Kingsfleet, Persimmon Homes, Buckle Shipping, and Suffolk Sound with special awards presented in memory of Nettie Trigg, Tim Lukehurst and David Underwood, recognising their contribution to Suffolk's local environment.

It is hoped that the awards will continue to grow and inspire, and proves that Felixstowe has a large number of caring people determined to come together to take care of our planet.



Notes on Litter-Free Felixstowe (LFF)

Litter-Free Felixstowe is a properly constituted, Community Interest Group of volunteers

Officially launched in November 2018 in response to David Attenborough's Blue Planet series which highlighted the impact of plastic in the sea, LFF now has 1,300 members.

Litter-Free Felixstowe undertakes regular group litter-picks on beaches and throughout the green spaces across the town. The main campaigning is focussed on raising awareness and education with regular visits to schools, nurseries and care homes. A song and video have been produced for schools to promote positive action to help the environment.

Litter-Free Felixstowe collaborates with local businesses, shops and eateries encouraging companies to sign the litter-free pledge and show support. The Litter-Free Roads & Laybys campaign is particularly targeted at road users, supported by the road haulage industry and aims to raise awareness of the impact of litter on UK Roads.

For more information, visit:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/litter-freefelixstowe>

Telephone: 01394 278794 (Debbie Bartlett)

All Photo Credits: Steve Plume Photography

LevelTwo



Hello Felixstowe from all at LevelTwo Youth Project. We wish you a really happy Christmas & look forward to supporting the young people of Felixstowe as we head into 2024. As well as all our usual services, we now have a new weekly Drama session - details on our website www.leveltwo.org

We are also working in partnership with The Grove Medical Centre & sharing ownership of a Community Allotment. This is giving us a wonderful opportunity to offer our young people all the gains from working together outside.



Another lovely partnership has also been formed between us & the Pushchair Pitstop Charity. More on this in the Spring addition, but we are working together to provide Prom dresses & Prom / Interview suits for our young people.

In addition to all the above we are also working towards creating a safe space for young people

in the Beach Street area of the town. A space where we can offer creative diversionary activities that will channel young people's energies into more positive recreational choices & for some give them options that will take them away from making poor choices. This would give us another space for 1-1 mentoring & counselling and a safe meeting space for young people & families. There are also plans eventually to provide a digital media & music space for young people. We are at the initial stage of applying for funding and any necessary submissions for Planning etc - so a way to go. I am seeing this as a "Ground force" Felixstowe Community Project - watch this space!!

Venture One - To create a Level Two Youth & Community space at Beach Street (subject to approvals)

A converted container at Beach Street would give us opportunities such as another space for 1-1 mentoring & counselling, a safe meeting space for young people & families & a visual presence in an up & coming area of Felixstowe.

Venture Two: - To create a Youth Digital, Media & Music space at Beach Street (subject to approvals)

We currently don't have a young people's Digital, Media / Music venue in Felixstowe & feel this would be a great opportunity for us as a youth project to be able to make this happen. We are seeking funding for a fully functioning studio space for video / photography editing, D'J skills, Web & Game design, digital art & music recording. So it can be a one stop media / tech centre & Music studio. As a youth provision we need to be embracing the digital world that surrounds our young people, & the addition of media / music, in a non-syllabus setting for our young people to just have a go & have fun exploring is something I feel would be of huge benefit to them.



Litter-Free Felixstowe – 5th Anniversary Celebration



Five years ago in November 2018, Litter-Free Felixstowe was formed in response to Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet series which highlighted the issue of plastic in the seas and oceans. Since the first group litter-pick which took place at Brackenbury in old Felixstowe, the Community Interest Group (CIG) has

grown to 1400 members. Volunteers continue to work hard to keep Felixstowe as litter-free as possible, clearing rubbish from the beach and all green spaces across the town.

Over the years, people have joined to assist in caring for the environment and the group has organised numerous community events to encourage involvement including the recent Felixstowe Environment Awards. Children have been encouraged to join in activities with frequent visits to school assemblies, producing an educational film and publishing of two children's books. Collaboration with business is also important with many shops and eateries in Hamilton Road already signed up to the Litter-free pledge together with national hauliers taking part in the 'Litter-free roads & laybys' campaign. In recent years, the group has won several community awards including the prestigious Green Impact Award from East Suffolk Council in 2023.

In November, the annual anniversary litter took place in the beach area near Fludyers Hotel. The group's womble character was present to greet children who also took part in the regular scavenger hunt. Free refreshments were kindly provided by Fludyers management in the Simpsons room at the hotel and a giant specially iced cake was also provided. Volunteers also enjoyed the film of the recording of the Litter-Free song which has proved very popular.

The group has ambitious plans for more community engagement in order to encourage greater environmental awareness and positive action. Last year participation in the Felixstowe Carnival was a particularly good way to publicise the group's activity with a colourful 'under the sea' float using sustainable materials. Above all, Litter-Free Felixstowe is proud to have created an organisation of individuals who care for wildlife whilst having fun and making new friends. Why not join us? Contact Litter-Free Felixstowe on Facebook or litterfreefelixstowe@gmail.com on email.



Love Green Felixstowe

The Town Council, Felixstowe BID, Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce, and Litter-Free Felixstowe are working together to 'Love Green Felixstowe' in 2024. Look out for more information in the new year on what we can all to help make Felixstowe as green as possible, reduce our collective carbon emissions and even save money along the way. We'll also be marking Earth Day, continuing to improve our environment locally – whilst thinking globally – and including a special 'Love Green Felixstowe' event as part of next years 'Love Felixstowe Festival'.

In the meantime, why not make 'Love Green Felixstowe' on of your new year's resolutions...?

But I don't know where to start... We get it. It's difficult to know how you can make a difference and it's not always as straightforward as it sounds. However, there are lots of things – big and small – that you could consider incorporating into your life which will help reduce your carbon impact and potentially save you money.

But I'm doing everything I can... Great! Tell us what the biggest change you've made – or the one that's had the biggest impact – we'd love to share your stories and hopefully inspire others to do similarly.

Email lovegreen@felixstowe.gov.uk to get involved.



Christmas IN FELIXSTOWE



Christmas Belles on stilts, a new Gonk Trail, illuminated angels, the Over 55s Brass Band, an internationally acclaimed Coloratura Soprano Christina Johnston, the return of the Maker's Market, local singer-songwriter GRAY, Felixstowe busking favourite: Nigel Ashcroft, harmonising Stellar Acappella, a free ice rink, Fresh Gold Radio, children's workshops, mulled wine and winter barbecues – these are just some of the highlights of Visit Felixstowe and Felixstowe BID's (Business Improvement District) Christmas plans.

The Lion's Christmas Switch On event and craft market on Saturday, December 2nd ignites Felixstowe's Christmas season, and Felixstowe BID is set to continue the festive mood with events centred around the town's Great Eastern Square on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December with Felixstowe's central 'Triangle' and Hamilton Road shared

space having their turn on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December.

With challenging times for both retailers and shoppers continuing, the aim of these events is always to encourage awareness of what Felixstowe has to offer, whilst improving footfall and support for the businesses, leaving people in no doubt that this is a special town. How many other towns offer some spectacular entertainment and festive fun over the month, alongside the town cafés, bars, and restaurants, Beach Street, and the Pier, all bordered by Christmas-lit beaches?

It wouldn't be Christmas in Felixstowe without the Great Eastern Square ice rink which returns on 20th December to complement the family-based entertainments at the Triangle. Rumour has it, you may even see a glimpse of the Santa Express sweeping in

from The North Pole via Felixstowe Railway Station on Wednesday 22nd! There will also be a children's craft workshop and mini fair rides at the square.

Lots of businesses are planning their events as well and these will be uploaded onto the Visit Felixstowe site. But, at the time of going to press, Suffolk Living are staying open until 8 pm on Friday 1st December, Landguard Fort is hosting festive events for the whole family on the 9th-10th and 16th-17th, and this year's pantomime at the Spa Pavilion is Aladdin and the Orwell Hotel has your Christmas Day or Boxing Day lunches covered! If you are looking further ahead, there are New Year's Eve events to book at The Alex and The Boardwalk.

Felixstowe BID Manager, Kate Cain, said "It's been quite a year for Felixstowe with the Tour of Britain, Love Felixstowe and Art on the Prom events boosting

our summer. Now it's time to make the most of our increasing footfall figures by tempting residents and visitors into town again to shop and enjoy themselves with the promise of three weekends of festive fun. The Lions have been busy, and this year sees new features adding to the spectacle that makes our town look so special in December. As we are drawing visitors from near and far, we will continue to promote our events in these areas and boast about our unique blend of chain, independent and vintage shops, as well as our variety of cafes, bars, pubs, restaurants, and clubs. People from outside Felixstowe can take the train straight into the town centre to enjoy some choir, craft, and community with their Christmas shopping. We would also like to thank Felixstowe Town Council for their support of our Christmas events".



Find our full programme on www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk/christmasinfelixstowe/ and keep up to date with announcements and programme changes by following Visit Felixstowe on Facebook.

Santa's Ride around Town December 2023

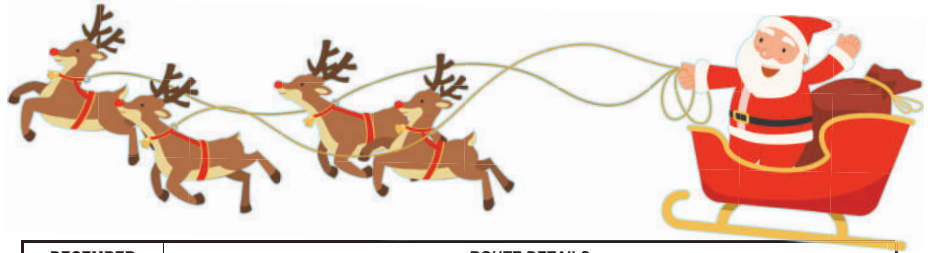
Felixstowe Lions, the Rotary Club of Felixstowe and Save the Children are again joining together to bring Christmas cheer and raise funds for worthy causes.



Santa and his helpers do their best to visit as many streets as they can. If they don't catch you at home, or you would like to chat to Santa and take photos, please come to one of the four weekend locations shown below.

Weekday evening runs all start at 6pm. For route plans, see the "What's On" section of the Visit Felixstowe website and on the day the Visit Felixstowe Facebook page for the Santa tracker details.

The sleigh may wait at the entrances to cul-de-sacs if they are too narrow or busy with cars.



DECEMBER	ROUTE DETAILS
Tuesday 5 th	Laureate Fields and Trelawny Place
Wednesday 6 th	Trimley St Mary – Faulkeners Way estate – starting at the shops on the green going to Trimley High Rd covering roads off including Punchard Way, Langstons, Farriers Went, Dains Place and roads off where accessible.
Thursday 7 th	Trimley St Mary – Sprites Hall Lane, High Rd, New Rd, Chatsworth Crescent, Addington Rd, Station Rd, The Avenues and St Marys Close
Friday 8 th	Town centre - Valley Walk, Garrison Lane, Newry Ave, Goyfield Ave, Princes Gdns, Riby Rd, Bacton Rd, Garfield Rd, Victoria Rd, Princes and Queens Rds from St Andrews Rd to Wolsey Gdns plus Orwell Rd and roads off.
Sat 9th	HAMILTON RD – 9.30am to 4.30pm
Sun 10th	
Monday 11 th	Trimley St Martin, St Martins Green, Mill Lane & roads off.
Tuesday 12 th	Grange Rd and roads off (Mill Lane to railway bridge), Coronation Drive and roads off, Mill Lane, Stour Ave and Wadgate Rd
Wednesday 13 th	Town centre Roads bounded by and including Tomline Rd, Hamilton Gdns, Chevalier Rd, Felix Rd, Gainsborough Rd and St Andrews (west)
Thursday 14 th	Glenfield and Fairfield Ave, Beatrice Ave, Dellwood, Fleetwood and Lynwood Ave, Lansdowne Rd, Rosemary Ave, Colneis Rd, Links Ave, Upperfield Drive.
Friday 15 th	Maybush Lane, Priory Rd, Marcus Rd, St Georges, Church Rd and roads off, Looe Rd and roads off, Sunningdale/Wentworth Drives, Quinton's Lane
Saturday 16th	MORRISONS – 9.30am to 4.30pm
Sunday 17th	MORRISONS – 10am to 4pm
Monday 18 th	Walton –Maidstone Rd and roads off Cornwall Rd, Seaton Rd and High St.
Tuesday 19 th	Trimley St Mary – Faulkeners Way estate – starting at shops on the green going to Trimley High Rd covering roads off including Fen Meadow, Thomas Ave, The Wheelwrights, Dawson Drive, The Josselyns, Woodlands Ave, Drivers Court and Mill Pouch
Wednesday 20 th	Kirton
Thursday 21 st	St Andrews Rd (east), Croutel Rd, Brook Lane, Picketts Rd, High Rd East, Foxgrove Lane, Thornley Rd, Rosebery Rd, Bath Rd, Quilter Rd, Barton Rd and Constable Rd.
Saturday 23 rd	MORRISONS – 9.30am to 4.30pm



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www.bellstonecare.co.uk for a little insight of how we do what we do best.

Felixstowe Community Choir

Choir members will be singing at Felixstowe Library's Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th December at 1030 (admission free) and the following day, Sunday 10th, December, for 'Christmas Brass and Choir', with Seckford Brass ensemble, a Music in Felixstowe event. Starting at 3pm it is at St Andrew's Church, St Andrews Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7EB, just off the main street. Tickets (£16 and children free) are from Stillwater Books or Music in Felixstowe 01394 548010 or on the door.



Early in 2024, as a non-profit making choir, we will be making a cheque presentation to a local charity or two, and plan to have one of our much-missed Family and Friends Concerts, commonly nick-named 'Parents Evening'! After years of going to schools to see what our children have been doing, we turn the tables and invite them to come and see what we do on a Monday night at The Orwell Hotel.

If you like to sing along to the car radio and have thought about singing with others, Felixstowe Community Choir could be the perfect one to join. Very informal and friendly, the 50 - 60 singers, men and women aged over 18, sing to live music with our music coach, Emily Bennett. The cost is £5 a night. There are no special clothes or sheet music to buy and no audition to take.

We restart choir on Monday 8th January.
Follow the choir on social media and via their website
www.felixstowecommunitychoir.co.uk

Felixstowe Book Festival



With all of this cold, blustery weather around it's hard to imagine the welcoming, warm rays of Felixstowe sunshine on your face. However, if you pop the date of next year's Felixstowe Book Festival into your diary you'll get that warm, fuzzy feeling, knowing you have a superb weekend to look forward to.

Next year's Book Festival is scheduled for the 29th & 30th June 2024. The festival was first launched in 2013 by founder Meg Reid. It's a place where you will find local, international and award-winning authors and this popular event is billed as "a celebration of Books by the Sea."

Authors and audiences love this festival's unique intimate, welcoming atmosphere. They appreciate the chance to combine a weekend packed with author events with seafood suppers, walks along the prom with its colourful beach huts (said to be the oldest in the country), a wander in the award-winning seafront spa gardens and for some even a bracing swim!

Author events are followed by book signings and the chance to meet your favourite author. There's a mix of genres, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. At the same stunning venue, you can chat with very well-known authors plus also get the chance to discover up and coming writers. The festival also attracts experts in their field who talk knowledgeably and absorbingly about the environment, politics, history, science, art, economics and more.

The venue is the Edwardian and rather beautiful heritage building, Harvest House. Set in beautifully well-kept gardens, on the cliff tops above the sea, it's also walking distance from Felixstowe town centre.

Music In Felixstowe - What's on this Winter

After a really successful summer season we're getting ready for our usual Christmas performances. This year going back to square one and putting concerts in venues we have played in the past. The first is St Andrew's Church for our Christmas Brass and Choir concert, then on New Year's Day we're back to the Orwell Hotel Ballroom, where you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Here are the details:

Sunday December 10th at 3pm St Andrew's church
"Christmas Brass and Choir"
The Seckford Brass Ensemble and Felixstowe Community Choir. Tickets £16 children free.



Wednesday December 20th at midday Orwell Hotel Library
"Christmas Is Coming"
Emily Bennett singer and Brian Theodore Ralph actor
Tickets £12 children free

Monday January 1st at 3.00pm Orwell Hotel Ballroom
"Viennese New Year's Day Concert" with the Felixstowe Festival Orchestra
Tickets £18 children free. Licensed bar.

Wednesday January 17th at midday Orwell Hotel Library
"Beethoven Archduke Trio"
Tickets £12 children free

Saturday January 27th at 3pm St Nicholas at the Ferry
"Candlelight concert - the Ward Quartet"
Tickets £15 include mulled wine

Saturday February 10th at 7.00pm Ferry Sailing Club
"Come and Sing - Songs from Musicals"
Tickets £10 children free

Wednesday February 21st at midday Orwell Hotel Library
Music for Valentines Everywhere - Champagne Quartet
Tickets £12 children free

Tickets on www.ticketsource.co.uk/music-in-felixstowe

Stillwater Books and Music In Felixstowe 01394 670633

Details on our website www.felixstowemusic.com

It also attracts some more unusual events too. In the past there has been a story about a poetry juke box in a beach hut, events in a historic fort. There has been storytelling in the woods, and in beach huts, sat in seaside shelters, in a chip shop and even on a passenger ferry nearby! The festival also has writing workshops for budding writers.

Some of the of the many fascinating speakers' audiences have been able to meet in previous years include, festival Patrons Esther Freud and Terry Waite. Plus, Tracy Chevalier, Amanda Craig, Louise Doughty, Louis de Bernières, Patrick Gale, Elly Griffiths, Maggi Hambling, Sophie Hannah, A. L. Kennedy, Prue Leith, Stephen McGann, Deborah Moggach, Jenni Murray, Stella Rimmington, Nicola Upson, Salley Vickers, and Justin Webb.

Once announced, there will be a comprehensive look at all of the exciting talks, topics and workshops planned for 2024's Felixstowe Book Festival on their website www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk If you sign up for their newsletter you'll be one of the first to hear the latest news. You can also follow them on social media @felixstowebookfestival.

Would you like to help shape a heritage and arts project?

Welcome to our volunteers!

On 3rd November we hosted an oral history training day at Felixstowe Museum led by Suffolk Archives. Six local residents learned more about methodologies and techniques in conducting oral history interviews and shared their skills and interests in this area with us too.



We are excited by the prospect of capturing the incredible knowledge that exists in Felixstowe and look forward to listening to future stories which will be deposited at Suffolk Archives in Ipswich. Thank you to all involved.

Join us as a creative collaborator.

We are looking for Creative Collaborators to help us shape the events programme, work with an artist and have their voice in an exhibition.

Creative Collaborators will join artist Dana Olărescu for six workshops in early Spring next year. These will look at sharing stories and learning about the Bartlet Convalescent Home and Felixstowe Spa Gardens, and other relevant places and institutions. Together, we will use these histories to also consider what health might mean today. No previous experience of arts or creative projects necessary.

Date for your Diary:

To learn more about the project, come see our pop-up at Felixstowe Library on 27 January 2024, 11-2pm.

Or to find out more, email natalie@pierprojects.org

'Views from Convalescent Hill' is a research and community project exploring

the heritage of wellbeing, rest, and care in Felixstowe and the surrounding area. The project will bring together local residents, Felixstowe Museum, F.O.P.W.A and Suffolk Archives to create a living digital archive, an exhibition, and include a lively events programme.

VFCH is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to support this project. We are also grateful for the support of East Suffolk District Council's Enabling Communities Fund and to our partners without whom this project would not be possible.

About Pier Projects

Since 2016 we have developed and shared contemporary art projects inspired by Felixstowe. Our programme of artist commissions, events and talks draw links between the arts and health. We work in collaboration with local communities and arts and cultural organisations. www.pierprojects.org

The Dorian Singers



The Dorian Singers are looking forward to their Christmas Concert on Sunday 10th December at 3.00pm. It is being held at Trinity Methodist Church, Felixstowe, IP11 7AN.

We will be singing a selection from Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" and some of the well-known choruses from Handel's "Messiah". The programme will also include some popular carols for the choir and well-known carols for the audience to sing.

Tickets £12 (under 18's £3) including refreshments and are available from The Card Centre, 6 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe IP11 7AU (01394 283170), from choir members, or at the door.

Come and join us for a lovely afternoon of Christmas music.

Article provided by Dr Brian Latchem

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Health and Wellbeing



Suffolk Homestart

Home-Start in Suffolk is a charity rooted firmly in the Suffolk community, using simple solutions to bring about genuine, long-lasting change for families.

As an organisation, Home-Start recruits and trains people within the community to become volunteers, who offer their time and kindness to help others who are experiencing a period of difficulty.

This network of fully trained and experienced volunteers help families with children aged from birth to 12 years through a range of challenging and difficult circumstances, such as, loneliness, isolation, mental health, domestic abuse, bereavement, health struggles, disabilities, poverty and much more.

Over the past 24 years, the charity has grown significantly and now operates as a countywide service. More families than ever are accessing their services and in the last 12 months they have provided vital support to 65 families living in the Felixstowe area through regular home-visiting and telephone support volunteers and a series of dedicated FREE groups, including the Stay and Play Group based in the trinity Methodist Church right here in Felixstowe.

The Felixstowe Stay & Play group is offered free to families in the Felixstowe area during term time and each week Family Support Coordinator Lou and her team of volunteers offer free play and a range of fun activities good for child's development to engage the children as well as an opportunity for parents to socialise and ask for support where needed.

With so many more families needing support it is important that the charity recruits and trains more volunteers to ensure they can continue to cope with the growing demand on the service. If you would like to find out more about Home-Start in Suffolk, interested in becoming a volunteer, or if you would like to attend one of our groups visit www.homestartinsuffolk.org for more details

Roseberry Cottage – Stennett's Community Café



Roseberry Cottage Enterprise: "To Enable, Not Do". We are a care company based in the Felixstowe area, supporting adults with learning disabilities to have an active part in their local community.

Part of what we do is Stennetts Community café based in Trimley, we make cakes, prepare veg, cook meals, and all manner of

cooking and catering based activities. Currently the café is closed for the winter but we are still busy making and baking!

We bake cakes for Felixstowe walking football club who meet at Brackenbury every Tuesday, we prepare buffets for a local shipping company, we make fudge for Mrs I crafts in Trimley and we have also recently started an exciting new project a Mobile Sweet Shop!!!

We will come to local care homes and sheltered housing complexes with our mobile sweet shop, bringing sweets we have packed and labelled in large old fashioned sweet jars so the residents can have the experience of an old fashioned sweet shop.

We also have handmade cards which we will sell with a stamp that the residents can write and address and we will post for them, a lovely way for folks to keep in touch with family members. We can also host coffee mornings / cake stalls at Sheltered housing complexes, bringing homemade cakes and our delicious cheese scones.

Follow us on Facebook Roseberry Cottage – Stennett's Community Café or email lisa.meadows1@btinternet.com for more information or to book a visit from our sweet shop or cake stall

Suffolk Mind



This season, many of us will be raking leaves, giving the lawn its final mow, and tidying the garden ready for spring next year.

And, with the festive season on the horizon, our attention is likely moving indoors, as we think about readying our homes for Christmas celebrations. What if you could add a new space to your home and garden, while also supporting mental health in Suffolk?



Independent charity Suffolk Mind have launched a special prize draw to help raise funds for their mental health services. Thanks to a donation from SMART Garden Offices, one lucky winner will win a 1.6 x 2.6m garden studio worth approximately £16,000. And, with each ticket costing just £20, this prize could be yours! But hurry – the prize draw closes on Monday 15 January 2024 at midnight. Find out more and enter here: www.suffolkmind.org.uk/garden Psst... you could even buy a ticket for someone as a Christmas gift!

Speaking of Christmas...

Until Tuesday 5 December, donations to Suffolk Mind can be doubled, thanks to the Christmas Big Give. So, if you're thinking of supporting the charity this season, why not choose Suffolk Mind, and support mental health in our county? Consider donating here: www.suffolkmind.org.uk/biggive

Looking to try something new in 2024?

You could sign up to Castle Guitar Quest, Suffolk Mind's fun new music challenge.

The charity has partnered with Ipswich Guitar School to provide bitesize tutorials to help participants learn to play Castle on the Hill by Ed Sheeran. Entries cost just £5 per person, and includes the opportunity to perform a special gig for friends and family at Framlingham College! Sign up to take part here: www.suffolkmind.org.uk/guitar

Felixstowe Village and Carers Group

We are a very friendly and welcoming group of family carers, looking after a loved one or a friend.

We meet together on the second Monday of every month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at The Old Felixstowe Community Association, Ferry Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9NB for a relaxing social afternoon together.

We have a varied programme of events, which is constantly changing such as tea and cake at a garden centre, chair-based yoga, bingo, crazy golf, various talks etc.

We have recently developed a relationship with ArtLink, a local art-based charity who wish to support us in the future. Recently they brought Dean, a poet, to our meeting. We were sceptical. By the end of our meeting everyone had written a really lovely poem about autumn. This was a very relaxing and happy session, which everyone enjoyed.

We would like to thank Felixstowe Town Council for awarding us a grant during 2023 which has ensured that we can provide a worthwhile and beneficial programme of events going forward. The Town Council support local charities and community groups in this way for the benefit of the local community. Details of how to apply for a grant are available from the Felixstowe Town Council offices or their website. We are actively seeking new members. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Dennis Weston on 07712672289, 01473832591 or dennisweston.49@btinternet.com.

St Phillips Community Hub



Tuesdays 11am to 12pm Pop Up Shop - £2 a bag.

Doors will now open at 10am for coffee but please it would be helpful if you do not congregate before this. All are welcome at The Pop Up no questions are asked we are here to help at all times you may find you need us every week or just now and then.

Thursdays 10am – 1.30pm Drop-in

Coffee, Cake, Craft, Chat and IT support stay for a light lunch – no charge donations welcome.

Are you struggling with loneliness?

Worried about the Cost of Living we are here to listen.

Christians Against Poverty Carolyn can help with all your financial concerns help you to budget and signpost you for further help.

Walton Parish Nurse Lorna & Lesley have a drop in Tuesdays and Thursday.

Jon Gillett retired from Walton Parish Nursing end of November and we presented him with a gift and thanked him for all his support over the years.

Next Hub 'Home' Group at St Philip's Community Hub Thursday 16th December 1.30-2.30pm.

Straight after the Hub so come early for refreshments and or lunch at 12.30pm. For more information, just pick up a flyer.

Our defibrillator has been accessed 3 times since it was installed in August 2023!

It has been another busy few months at St Phillips Community Hub with lots of celebrations in December. Our Christmas Pop Up meal for over 60 folk will be held on 5th December everyone will take home a small gift.

The **Thursday Drop In** Christmas Party on 21st December will be attended

by over 80 folk who will enjoy Christmas songs by Lee a wonderful buffet and a Christmas gift. During the year we have support from many businesses Lidl- Greggs- Walton Bakery and Tesco with unsold food. Simone Hairdressers visits our Pop-Up Shop every 6 weeks and cuts hair and Ben Taylor cleaned jewellery all at no cost.

Our congregation family and friends donate food weekly and we have also been supported by Suffolk County Council Emergency Food Provision and Fareshare. Our band of volunteers collect and sort food most days what an amazing team we have! A huge thank you to everyone that supports us!

Article provided by Carolyn Jones, St Philips Community Hub



Christmas at Felixstowe Salvation Army



At The Salvation Army, we will again be hosting the annual Christmas Tree Festival, open from 10.00am until 5.00pm daily from Tuesday 5th until Saturday 9th December. There will be late opening on Thursday until 7.00pm, and early closing on Saturday at 4.00 pm. The Christmas Trees will be decorated and displayed by local

organisations and groups. Also included will be children's craft activities and a scavenger hunt. This will also be our collection point for our toy appeal.

On Sunday 17 December at 5.30pm there will be a Carol Service, and on Saturday 23rd a Crib Service and Film Evening.

The band will also be participating at various events and venues during December in the lead up to Christmas. And on Christmas Day there will be a service at 10.30am. This will be followed by a Christmas Dinner and an afternoon together, open to anyone. So no one needs to spend Christmas Day alone. Transport is also available. For further details telephone 07500058657, or email jackie.fincham@salvationarmy.org.uk, or call into our office at Cobbold Road.

Do you live in the Felixstowe area?

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Ipswich Skating Club



Ipswich Skating Club have had a fantastic year, and we are very much looking forwards to 2024!

This year has seen the introduction of our family fun skates and discos! Both our September and Halloween disco in October were so successful

that we have decided to run these on a regular basis! Our next disco is on 16th December and will be a fun evening of games, raffles and festive music! Don your best Christmas Jumper and join the fun!

We also saw our artistic skaters have great success in the 2023 season with all our GB skaters finishing within the top 10 of their respective age categories. We also took some of our new competitive skaters to their first competition where they skated fantastically!

We have restarted our speed skating session which is open to all those who might want to do something a little different to artistic once passing Go Sk8 Grade 4!

If you want to get involved, our sessions, taking place at the Maidstone Road Sports Hall, are open to all who are looking to learn to skate, practice or enhance their current skills.

Learn to Skate

– Every Saturday
14:00 -16:00 – For all ages and abilities wanting to learn to skate safely, our GoSk8 system and trained coaches are ready to help you, in a fun and safe environment.

Social Skate –

Every Wednesday
19:00 - 21:00 – Sessions for those wanting to come along and skate with a group of friends, practice their skills or meet likeminded people. This is a non-coached session, but our coaches are on hand to provide support as needed.

Skate hire is available at all sessions with sizes 8J to 11 available.

We are also delighted to announce that we have £1000 from Felixstowe Town Council to support our Back to Skate program. The funding will be used to support the club with engaging residents from across Felixstowe to join the clubs activities, as well as enhance the skills of our coaches to in turn, improve the sessions available in Felixstowe.

Ipswich Skating Club would like to take this opportunity to thank Felixstowe Town Council for their support.

For more information or to book on to our disco please visit www.skateipswich.com, email secretary@skateipswich.com or find us on Facebook



Felixstowe Judo Club



At the 'Eastern Region Closed' competition held in Thetford in October, the talented participants from Felixstowe Judo Club not only clinched numerous gold medals but also secured an array of impressive silver and bronze accolades. Among the outstanding performers, gold medals shone brightly for Rocco Borroughs and Dominic Cremer. Dominic, who was honoured as Felixstowe Sport's 'Personality of the Year', not only secured gold in his designated weight category but also triumphed in the weight class above, demonstrating his exceptional talent and versatility.

In addition to the gold medal triumphs, the club's success extended to the silver and bronze medallists. Daisy Emmett, Will Stockley, and Emily Burrell proudly claimed silver medals, showcasing their remarkable skills and determination on the mat. Meanwhile, the commendable performance of Ryan Stevens and Tony Bui earned them well-deserved bronze medals.

Felixstowe Judo Club's achievements at the competition were a testament to the club's commitment to fostering talent and promoting the sport of Judo. These athletes, along with their fellow club members, have demonstrated their excellence in the Eastern Region, and their success is an inspiration to both aspiring and experienced Judo enthusiasts.

If you're interested in experiencing the excitement and challenges of Judo, Felixstowe Judo Club welcomes newcomers to join their classes held every Monday and Friday at Kirton Church Hall. To find out more about their programs and opportunities, visit their website at www.felixstovejudo.club or search for them on Facebook. It's your chance to be a part of a club with a rich tradition of success in Judo!

Felixstowe Beach Walkers



During October we arranged some friendly matches at Brackenbury Sports Centre.

We Played Walton on the Naze Swifts on Sunday 15th October, the games being very competitive with Walton ending up as the overall winners although our Allstars team came out on top against their Allstars team.

On Sunday 22nd October, we welcomed Kesgrave, who we have played several times before and again some very competitive games and Felixstowe Beach Walkers were the overall winners.

Our coaches Dave and Cookie were very pleased with our performances and the overall improvements with our game.

We look forward to future friendlies whether at home or away.

Your Community Stories

The Highs and Lows of Running 100 Marathons



I'm still finding it hard to believe I've actually achieved 100 official marathons, it doesn't feel possible that I've finally reached this milestone. I did my first parkrun in 2016, but didn't start running properly until 2017 - but it all really kicked off for me in 2018 when I joined the Felixstowe Road Runners Family. My first race in the red vest was the Haverhill Half Marathon, my mileage increased, and it made sense to test my limits with a marathon.



I knew after my first one at Bury St Edmunds that I wanted to run 100 marathons - I came home and immediately booked my next one in!

I find running very meditative and when you set off to run a marathon - you just have to keep moving, putting one foot in front of the other. Sheer

stubbornness keeps me going, and after a few marathons time becomes irrelevant. For me it can be a hard slog, but I do enjoy it. It's character building, I have a lot of resilience - if you can make it to the end within the time limit and you want to finish then do it!

I want to keep going for as long as my health allows. I've met plenty of older marathon runners, age is no barrier to carrying on, and I will keep running marathons for as long as I can if I still enjoy it.

By Joanna Blyth, a member of Felixstowe Road Runners



Felixstowe Town Council's Business Plan 2024-28



Your Town Councillors have been busy considering priorities for the Town Council in the process of drafting its next Business Plan, covering the years 2024-28.

Whilst both East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council have wide regulatory and statutory responsibilities across the region, Felixstowe Town Council is able to focus its limited resources on projects which specifically benefit the community of Felixstowe (see page 5 for information about what each local authority does). The Town Council aims to maximise what we can achieve for the town and the forthcoming Business Plan will outline our priorities over the next four years and help guide us to meet the challenges ahead in pursuit of our overarching vision for the town.

We aim to publish a draft version of the Business Plan in the new year for your comments and feedback. However, if you have any suggestions or ideas you wish to share - please let us know at any time. We are particularly keen to hear your thoughts to the following:

- What practical steps can the Town Council take and/or what can we do to support others in Felixstowe to reduce their environmental impact over the next four years?
- What do you think are the main priorities for your community and in what ways do you expect your Town Council to support these priorities?
- How can we help celebrate Felixstowe and promote the town as a great place to live, work, visit and shop?
- Though we receive no income from business rates we recognise the importance of a vibrant town centre (Felixstowe in Flower, Christmas events and our funding of the Christmas Lights are just some of the ways we currently support this aim). What is your vision for a thriving Felixstowe town centre and what role should the Town Council play?

We look forward to receiving your feedback, plus any other positive ideas you may have for Felixstowe by 31 January to enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk

Result of Byelection



Following the byelection held on 23rd November, the Town Council welcomes Cllr Cherrie MacGregor to its membership as a Town Councillor to the South Ward.

Cllr MacGregor officially took up their post in office in November, joining their 15 fellow Town Councillors who, as community volunteers, give up their time on an unpaid basis for the good of the town. You can find details of your local councillor(s) on page 6.

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Felixstowe Travel Watch



Our next members' meeting will be on Tuesday 13th February 2024 between 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the Salvation Army church, Cobbold Road, Felixstowe IP11 7EL on the theme of local bus services with senior managers from First Bus speaking and taking questions.

We've had a lot of comments and questions recently from our members relating to the unforeseeable disruptions caused by the road works at the top end of Mill Lane and more recently because of the damaged Mill Lane railway bridge - neither of course any fault of First Bus. Some good remarks about how the First Bus App enabled people to track the bus they were expecting to catch and the route it was taking to avoid the closed roads.

The last of our 2023 programme of "days out by train" took place early in November with 22 members on a trip to Norwich. A first time visit by train for some and others using Senior Rail Cards for the first time or the special "Hare Fares" promotion. The on-board conductor was particularly helpful, juggling our group around to be sure that all the non-card holders were "grouped up" into "three or more" to take advantage of the group travel one-third discount. I don't think anyone paid the full fare rate. More trips to look forward to in 2024.

Article provided by Richard Holland

Felixstowe Rotary



Well we have done it again with another member which is down to our hard working membership secretary Jed Payce. Ole originally comes from Randers in Denmark but decided to make his way to the UK in the 1970s working with Stena Portlink, a forwarding agent. Ole moved on to MCP PLC who were and are the owners of the port IT system in Felixstowe dock in the 1980s. Ole was important part of the MCP team who went on to introduce the system to many UK ports and also globally. He has recently retired and has decided to devote some of his spare time to

helping others and saw Rotary as ideal opportunity to fulfil some of these objectives. You will see below Ole being congratulated by our president Doug Pipe. You will also see below a group picture of Ole, Doug, Jed and Graham Leopard.

Moreover, you will see pictured a shelter box certificate bronze award being awarded by Andrew Miller, the club International Chair to the President Doug Pipe, for raising £3050 during the year 2022/23. The awards given by Shelter are for monies raised to help countries recover and rebuild after a disaster.



Landguard Rotary Club



Our Rotary Club, together with the Rotary Club of Felixstowe, have just given away over 300 pictorial dictionaries to every 8 or 9 year old pupil across the seven primary schools in

Felixstowe, Walton, and Trimley. The children have been excited to receive their gift from visiting Rotarians from the two clubs. It's a complete joy to give these Dictionaries away and the children love receiving them.

Our club, with help from the children, has also just planted over 4,000 purple crocus corms at Trimley St Mary School. This is Rotary project called Purple4Polio. This Rotary campaign is part of a worldwide Rotary campaign to eliminate the disease of Polio from across the globe. Only seven cases are left in Afghanistan and once there are no more cases within three years, then the world can be declared Polio free. We plant purple crocuses because each time a child is vaccinated then they receive a purple ink spot on one of their fingers to ensure they are not vaccinated twice.

The club has awarded a Paul Harris fellowship two times Felixstowe Town Mayor Richard Holland (1986 and 1991) for outstanding service to his local community. Right from the start Richard has been involved in our town twinning with Wesel, which celebrates 50 years in 2024. He is also recognised for his work at Broadway House and the F.O.P.W.A. Hut on the prom. Paul Harris fellowships are usually given to Rotarians for outstanding service to Rotary, but can also be awarded by Rotary Clubs to those they think have given outstanding service to their community. Well done Richard!



The Club has also been raising money for the Suffolk Punch Trust. Suffolk Punch Horses are gentle giants. One place these impressive, but critically endangered horses, are lovingly looked after is the Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley. Their 250 year old breeding programme ensures the continuing survival of the species. Our Rotary Club recently visited and saw both fully grown and younger horses, as well as other farm animals,

and an excellent restaurant, shop, and museum. We were able to hand over £600 which we raised from a late summer BBQ. The money will help purchase batteries for their sustainable solar energy initiative.

If you would like Barry to come and share his enthusiasm with you then you can send him a message via their website www.thesuffolkpunchtrust.co.uk. Pictured with Aspell, the Suffolk Punch Horse, are Barry Bloomfield, Lilly, head groom, and our President Brian Davies, along with other Club Members and Club Friends. To find out more about our club you can contact our Secretary Philip Young landguardsecretary@hotmail.co.uk.

We are keen to welcome visitors to the club and we are actively looking for new members. Why not come and join us?

School News



SET Felix Primary



We are nearing the end of a very busy term at SET Felix Primary and what an exciting term it has been! As always, we have been hard at work with our curriculum and there has been a real buzz around school with our learning.

Some of our classes held a Roman Day, and others an Egyptian Day to bring their history lessons to life. They had such fun practising baking, mummification and exploding volcanoes!



Music and the arts are so important to us as a school and we have had some lovely experiences this term to celebrate them. Our resident music teacher, Mrs Dalton, has been working with many students with piano, guitar and nuvo toot lessons.



M and M Theatre Productions visited and performed The Jungle Book – it's not every day you have a human sized bear bounding around your school hall!



Rocksteady Music are a company who provide fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons. We had a visit from Tommy who introduced us to different rock instruments and we had a blast! I know the children are going to be over the moon when they visit again next term!



Our school council, along with some other students, were delighted to represent SET Felix at the Armistice service and lay a handmade wreath on the memorial. They carried their banner with pride – we will remember them.

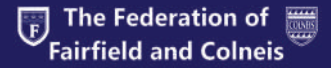


Another exciting venture we have taken part in, is a competition for The Happy News newspaper where the children had to design a mural showing what makes them happy. I'm sure, like me, you will love the designs and variety.

We still have so much to look forward to before the end of term including our Christmas performances from Acorns (our reception class) and Cedar and Elder (Our Year 1 and 2 classes), a Christmas concert, celebrating all of our musicians, and our Christmas service at St Mary's Church in Walton – we just love singing the Christmas songs!

Merry Christmas everyone. Mrs Hockley Deputy Headteacher

The Joy of Giving



Our school values play a central part in the work we do every day with our children and staff. It is vital that schools not only prepare children academically for the future but also spend time focusing on what it is to be a well-rounded and positive role-model to others.

Recently, our school councillors from both Fairfield and Colneis have come together to wrap and prepare gifts to support the Salvation Army 'Be a Star' campaign. This is a campaign that provides toys and presents at Christmas time to those families who are in need. We were hugely appreciative of the large number of donations of toys and gifts that we received from our school community and were delighted to be able to support such a worthwhile cause.



The councillors spent an enjoyable morning at Fairfield preparing the gifts for delivery to the Salvation Army. Not only was this a really positive opportunity for us to engage with the local community, it helped us to model to our children some of our values, such as that of compassion and gratitude.

Mr Mark Girling
Headteacher

Felixstowe School – The Magic of Music at Bawdsey Manor



On the last weekend in September, over 50 students and staff decamped, along with lots of instruments, to the idyllic Bawdsey Manor for a weekend of music making and adventure. We arrived on Friday morning and went straight into choir, pop (band) or saxophone lessons for all. This was followed by an energetic outdoor session run by the PGL staff on either the Jacobs Ladder or the assault course. Helmets were donned, smiles broke out and everyone tried something new.

The theme for the weekend was magic, and the orchestra, guitar ensemble and other ensembles chose repertoire accordingly. From Harry Potter, to Take That and Aladdin there was a diverse repertoire list, so hopefully something for everyone! Four outdoor activity sessions, a brilliant game of ambush in the dark (that basically involved hiding in the dark for about an hour which was strangely zen) and archery tag which involved being about to shoot each other ensured good fun for pupils and teachers alike.



The students were excellent throughout the whole weekend – kind, thoughtful, willing to step outside their comfort zones and wholly cooperative. The weekend culminated in a final shared performance in the Main Hall, which was well received by all. It was genuinely a pleasure to run this trip and it is my sincere hope that this trip will grow year on year so that all the students in Felixstowe, who are interested in music and performance, get the opportunity to work collaboratively in such a wonderful venue with each other.

By Mrs Kent, Head of Music at Felixstowe School



Citizens Advice East Suffolk comprises the former Felixstowe, Leiston and North East Suffolk Citizens Advice entities. These were merged in 2022, under a single Chief Officer, Chiara Saunders, but an office is maintained in each area.

The outreach services at Kesgrave and The Oaks Family Hub are proving popular for service users who are unable to travel into the town centre and we hope to continue these services into the New Year.

We are involved in community events and recently attended the Talk Money event at Felixstowe Library, where we were on hand to give advice on financial issues.

The cost of Christmas can place stress on family finances, our advisers are able to offer budgeting advice and guidance on managing debts. With the Cost of Living crisis affecting many people, particularly with food costs, we are able to support clients including referring them to the pop up shops operated by the Basic Life charity and to St John's Pantry. We also have specialist advisers trained in energy advice who can be consulted via phone or email, see below for details.

The Felixstowe office is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 1.00pm and you can drop 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 the website, www.caes.org.uk and we will get back to you. It is now possible to book a video appointment with a dedicated member of staff, email us for further details.

We close for Christmas on Friday 22nd December and reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 and wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Renamed National Landscapes

New name and brand underpin ambitious targets for nature

On Wednesday 22 November all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales are becoming National Landscapes, including two in Suffolk and Essex.



Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape



Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB will become the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape, reflecting the

extension into Essex and the Stour estuary in 2020. Likewise, the Dedham Vale AONB is now the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Both were designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.

The new name reflects their national importance; the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do.

This is a significant milestone for the UK and the next step in fully realising the National Landscapes' vision to be the leading exemplars of how thriving, diverse communities can work with and for nature in the UK: restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, whilst also nurturing people's health and wellbeing.

National Landscapes teams have been at the forefront of delivering natural solutions to the main challenges facing the nation for many years. The new brand underscores their commitment to redoubling their efforts and engaging with a wider audience. In 2019, teams set themselves the most ambitious targets for nature in the sector and continue to work to meet them.

By 2030, National Landscapes aim that, within their boundaries: at least 200,000 hectares of the most valuable natural areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest or SSSIs), which equates to 1 ¼ times the size of London, will be in favourable condition; 100,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside of SSSIs will be created or restored, which is roughly nine times the size of Manchester; and 36,000 hectares of woodland, which is a little smaller than the Isle of Wight, will have been planted or allowed to regenerate.

National Landscapes Partnerships will also focus on habitat restoration to ensure the protection of some of our most endangered species and increase their work to help more people to enjoy time spent in beautiful places.

Because of their size and scope, National Landscapes are ideally positioned to address the environmental issues the UK is facing. There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK, covering 14% of England, Wales and Northern Ireland including moorland, farmland, coast, forests, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, a Geopark and International Dark Sky Reserves. They are the UK's nearby countryside - 66% of people in England (44 million) live within 30 minutes of a National Landscape and at least 170 million people visit them every year.



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Royal British Legion, Felixstowe Branch – Remembrance 2023



Felixstowe really does a great job in remembering the fallen from all sides during times of conflict. As the custodians of Remembrance, the Royal British Legion, are at the centre of this.

At the Triangle in town we have the Field of Remembrance, this is made up of a cross for every person from Felixstowe killed during the 1st or 2nd World War. There are 164 crosses for WW1 and 112 for WW2, every year members of the community also lay their own crosses to remember their relatives or friends.

During the Remembrance period we take part in the national Poppy Appeal, where all the money raised goes to helping the RBL with their welfare and support work for serving military, veterans and their families. In Felixstowe



we have stalls in Morrisons and the large CoOp in town, and I would like to thank the managers and staff of those stores for all the help they give. We also hold a launch event at the Triangle which this year saw performances from

the brilliant Veterans Do Dixie, a band made up of Veterans from around the area. We also had members of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment there with one of their vehicles, along with a number of vintage military vehicles. Cadet units took part in a parade through the shared space finishing at the Triangle for an address from myself and Reverend Dotchin. I would personally like to thank everyone that helped with Poppy Appeal this year; the people that spent hours manning the stalls, the volunteers that delivered and collected all of the tins and boxes to local businesses and of course everyone that donated.

One of the main events during Remembrance is The Festival of Remembrance, which takes place at the Spa Pavilion. It was an amazing evening with great entertainment and a very moving Act of Remembrance. We had performances from the Ipswich Piping Society, Christina Johnston, Felixstowe Harmonies and the Corps of Drums and Band from The Royal Hospital School. All of the local cadet units also took part on stage each doing a 10 minute demonstration. The Act of Remembrance was led by the RBL Branch Chaplain, Reverend Dotchin and the music was provided by the excellent RBL Leiston Band. We had almost 300 people in the audience, which is the most we've had since bringing it back to the Spa 3 years ago – our aim is to continue to increase this number every year.



On Friday 10th November we held our Schools Service at the War Memorial, this is aimed specifically at children and all the local schools are invited. They lay crosses and tributes that they have made in class, a few students are also

asked to read part of the service.

On Saturday 12th November we held an Armistice Day Service at the War Memorial where we were joined by a couple of hundred people. During the service the Mayor and I laid wreaths and maroons were fired to mark to beginning and the end of the silence.



On Remembrance Sunday we held a church service at St John's in Orwell Road, this was followed by a parade, involving soldiers from 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, Sea, Army and Air Cadets and members from local Scout and Guides units. The parade marched down to the War Memorial where we held a service accompanied by the band from the Salvation Army. It was amazing to see so many people down there, I don't know exactly how many but I would estimate over 1000 in the gardens and along the prom.

All in all we do so much as a town for Remembrance and I would like to thank every single person involved with organising or taking part in any of these events. As a veteran I can assure you that having the support of the local community, businesses and groups means so much to all Veterans, serving military and their families. Thank you Felixstowe.

The Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion is going strong with over 90 members, we are always on the look out for new committee members, so if you would like to get involved with supporting the military community and organising events please let us know.

You can get in touch with me via 07838 215964 or felixstowe.chairman@rbl.community

Darren Aitchison BEM - Chairman

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Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony



On 28 November, the green thumbs of Felixstowe gathered at the Town Hall for the annual Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony. The evening celebrated the town's keenest gardeners. All ages were present, with Awards ranging from the school painting competition to best private and commercial gardens.

Felixstowe in Flower celebrates a diverse range of categories. Whether you're a school, a business, love to spend your evenings and weekends at the allotment, or you're just an enthusiastic gardener - there's a category for you!

You can find a list of categories and an entry form www.felixstowe.gov.uk/council-services/felixstowe-in-flower. There's plenty of time to enter, too! Return completed forms to the Town Hall, or email sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk by 30 June 2024.

If you're not a gardener, but you appreciate a fabulous floral display, why not sponsor a floral hanging basket, erected around the town centre and seafront between ? and ?. Whether you live locally, or you're a business and want to get your name



our there, for a small fee, we will erect and water a beautifully planted hanging basket, tub or floral trough, adorned with a personalised plaque in recognition of your support. More information about sponsoring a tub, basket or trough is available at www.felixstowe.gov.uk/council-services/felixstowe-in-flower.



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How much you can release typically depends on a few factors; your home's worth, your age and your health. The higher the home's value and the older you are, usually, the more you can release.

Right now, while you may be experiencing difficulties securing financial support through other options such as credit cards, loans and mortgages. Some equity release providers are helping customers unlock more than 55% of their property's value. As an example, if your home was worth £295,000- (the average house price in the UK) you may be able release more than £162,000 subject to criteria.*

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