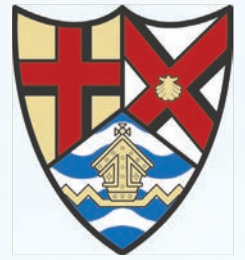


Summer

Issue 21

The Seasonal Magazine
for Felixstowe Residents

2024



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL



Felixstowe Carnival | Launch of Love Green Felixstowe | Edible Felixstowe |
Civic Award Winners Announced | Meet the New Mayor |
Your Community Stories | Town Twinning 50th Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LA VIDA SHOWBAR



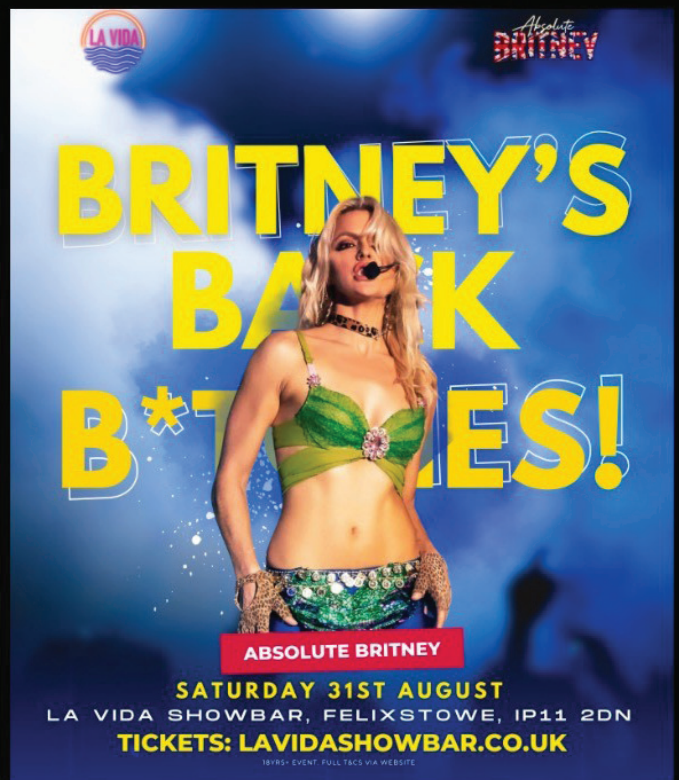
**SATURDAY 15TH JUNE:
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LA VIDA SHOWBAR, SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN



Welcome from the Mayor

Hello and welcome to this Summer 24 edition!



It is a great honour to have been elected Mayor at the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2024. To be made Mayor of the Town you have called home all of your adult life is very special, and I am looking forward to an exciting year. I will be supported by Cllr Corrine Franklin, who I have every confidence will be a wonderful Deputy Mayor.

The theme for my year is service. We have so many people and organisations in our Town who serve others and it is what makes Felixstowe such a caring and fantastic community. Many of these people are volunteers making personal sacrifice to serve and help others. During my year I would like to meet as many people and organisations who serve our Town and thank you for what you do, so please do contact me via the details below to arrange a visit!



This brings me nicely on to my charities for the forthcoming year. I have chosen Breast Friends CIC and the Landguard Trust. Breast Friends support a community of breast cancer patients from diagnosis, during treatment, surgery and beyond. The Landguard Trust preserve the very special area of the Landguard Nature Reserve, the Fort and the Felixstowe Museum. We will host a number of fundraising events in support of the charities throughout the year. The first of which is my Civic Service, which will be hosted at St John's Church on 16 June at 3pm. The service is open to all, so please do come along and join us. You can read all about my two fantastic chosen charities on the next page. Please keep a look out for more information on an exciting upcoming events over the year ahead. We hope so see you there!

I am looking forward to a great year ahead celebrating Felixstowe, particularly during special year, as it is the 50th Anniversary year of our town twinning with Wesel. You can read about events to mark the occasion on page 7 of the magazine. This Summer 24 edition of Felixstowe Town Council's seasonal magazine is packed with information about everything to look forward to locally over the next three months. The fantastic Felixstowe Carnival is back from 26-28 July. The much-loved Felixstowe Book Festival is also to be hosted in Harvest House again this year, and tickets are on sale now. You can learn more about the recent launch of 'Love Green Felixstowe' and Edible Felixstowe, and how to involved on pages 11-13. A shortened version of Felixstowe Town Council's Annual Report is also available to read on pages 24-26, so be sure to check it out to learn more about the Council's undertakings over the previous year.



Cllr David Rowe, Mayor of Felixstowe

If you would like to contact the Mayor, you can do so by emailing mayor@felixstowe.gov.uk.

To request the attendance of the Mayor at an event, please email sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk and request a Mayoral Engagement Form.



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 September - 30 November**), please email holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk by **15 August**. 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 Mike Bowden and Kate Cain for the cover photo of the 2023 Love Felixstowe Festival, and to Stephen Squirrel for various header images.

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's chosen charities for the year 2024-25 are The Landguard Trust and Breast Friends CIC. You can read more about the charities, the important work they undertake in Felixstowe and the surrounding area, and an exciting year of upcoming charity events below.

Landguard Trust



The Landguard and Felixstowe Conservation Trust (Landguard Trust,) partners with Landguard Fort, Felixstowe Museum and the Landguard Bird Observatory, to conserve and promote the historic buildings and artefacts and protect the natural environment on this piece of land at the southern-most point of Felixstowe.



We also manage Landguard Nature Reserve which is a designated Local Nature Reserve (LNR) due to its value to the local community and a Site of Special Scientific Interest



(SSSI) because of its high wildlife conservation value, such as its rare, vegetated shingle habitat and botanical species.

With a Grade 1 listed building, an accredited Museum and a 33-hectare nature reserve, found next to the Harwich Haven and the Port of Felixstowe, we are both a visitor

attraction and a volunteering hub. Conservation and learning are at the heart of everything we do, focusing on the key themes of history, maritime and nature.

Collaborating with our stakeholders we aim to take Landguard forward in the next stages of its evolution, and with the support of the Mayor will improve facilities for the local community, and visitors, while safeguarding the nationally Important historical site and protecting the unique natural environment. We are supporting the Fort in their plans to improve visitor facilities and are helping the Museum to manage its collection.



We will soon be unfolding exciting plans to improve understanding of the Nature Reserve and provide to educational facilities as well as reintroducing a new fresh water habitat.

Many of our half a million visitors to Landguard every year come to see the activities in the Port and on the river, so we are planning to improve and install new ways to interpret what is happening in the Haven.

We are delighted to have been selected as one of the Mayor's Charities, alongside Breast Friends, and are looking forward to working on some exciting Fundraising events during the forthcoming year.



Breast Friends CIC



Breast Friends CIC are thrilled to have been selected as one of Felixstowe Mayor's Charities for this year, alongside Landguard Trust. Our mission is to connect people affected by breast cancer and to raise awareness of the disease, providing vital support to our community.



Breast Friends CIC offers a variety of support services to anyone with an experience of breast cancer at any stage of their journey. Our online peer support hubs provide a safe and welcoming space for people to share their experiences, ask questions and find encouragement.

We also organise a whole range of face-to-face, community-based

events, including wellness walks, creative workshops, lunches and more, allowing connection and friendship with others that completely understand how it feels to navigate a breast cancer diagnosis. Additionally, our Menopause and Surgery Kits offer tangible support and are carefully curated to include the essential information and products for anyone experiencing



the symptoms of menopause after breast cancer or that are facing breast cancer related surgery.

This year, as one of Felixstowe Mayor's charities, we are excited to expand our outreach and strengthen our presence within the community. By raising awareness, providing support, and creating a network of care, we aim to have a significant

and positive impact in the Felixstowe community, ensuring nobody affected by breast cancer needs to take their next steps alone.

If you've been affected by breast cancer, we'd love you to join us. Visit our website www.breastfriends.co.uk for more information and to find out how.

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 Germans 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 Services Ltd.)
- 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 David Rowe

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Corrine Franklin

Walton Ward

Amanda Folley *
amanda.folley@felixstowe.gov.uk
01394 282086



Steve Wiles **
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Mike Deacon *
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01394 211146



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Margaret Morris
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Central Ward

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East Ward

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Corrine Franklin
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07960 722 333



Bernard Price
bernard.price@felixstowe.gov.uk
01394 279794



Key

* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

** Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council



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:

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|
| 12th June | Civic & Community | 7:30pm |
| 19th June | Planning & Environment | 9:15am |
| 19th June | Ordinary Council | 7:30pm |
| 3rd July | Planning & Environment | 9:15am |
| 10th July | Assets & Services | 7:30pm |
| 17th July | Planning & Environment | 9:15am |
| 31st July | Planning & Environment | 9:15am |
| 14th August | Planning & Environment | 9:15am |

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
debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk

Sue Faversham – Civic Events Officer
sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk

Sarah Morrison – Planning Administration Assistant
sarah.morrison@felixstowe.gov.uk

Shaun Congi – Financial Administration Assistant
shaun.congi@felixstowe.gov.uk

Holly Miles – Communications Officer
holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk

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

Your Community Stories

FACTS



Felixstowe Area Community Transport Service (FACTS) is delighted to have recently benefited from a donation of £5,000 from the Fred Alford Charitable Trust. Operations Supervisor, Laura Kempson explained, "This generous donation from a valued supporter has come at a time when we have just launched a fundraising campaign to raise £30,000 for the purchase of a new modular building to replace our existing office, as it is now beyond economic repair".



FACTS offer affordable and accessible transport to anyone of any age whose access to public transport is limited by an impairment. Our Garrison Lane base consists of an office pod, plus a mess/storage area for our volunteers. The office is the base of our operations; it is from here staff take bookings from passengers and co-ordinate our vehicles, volunteers, and operations.

FACTS Chairman, Simon Jennings added, "The hugely welcomed funds from the Fred Alford Trust, a Charitable body that last year helped to finance a new accessible minibus for our fleet, lays the very foundations for this essential project. FACTS have allocated funds towards groundworks and ancillaries, but is seeking support from grant makers, local businesses, and individual donors as the total cost of the project is expected to be around £30,000".

If your business can also help us to fund our office redevelopment, please do get in touch - by calling 01394 282857 or emailing admin@factsbus.org.uk Individual donations can be made online, via our website at factsbus.org.uk/donate.

Felixstowe Wesel Association - 50th Anniversary



In April the twinning between Felixstowe and Wesel (Germany) reached its 50th anniversary. 30 visitors from Wesel arrived in Felixstowe on 19th April for a weekend of events to celebrate this milestone and the continuing active friendship.

Events started with the 50th Anniversary Celebration Reception at Harvest House with invited guest including previous Mayor Cllr Seamus Bennett and Burgermeister Ulrike Westkamp, representatives from organisations which have links with Wesel, past Mayors and members of the association. There were representatives from the Wesel Fire Service who, along with the Felixstowe Fire Service, were the initial groups to foster the link before the official twinning took place. The Mayor and Burgermeister signed a new charter of continuing friendship between the two towns. The afternoon concluded with a wonderful afternoon tea supplied by members of the Felixstowe Wesel association.

Other events over the weekend included dinners at the Fish Dish and The Alex as well as a party at SeaYou, all organised by the Felixstowe Wesel Association.

Other upcoming events include the Wesel Karnival Prince and Princess taking part in Felixstowe Carnival, a Wesel/Felixstowe Football match at Dellwood Ave, the Fire Cadets Summer Camp and Wesel Yachts visiting Felixstowe Sailing Club.

If you would like to be involved with the Felixstowe Wesel Association, we would love to hear from you. We hold several social events during the year including Quiz Nights and St Nikolaus Fest. Why not visit our Felixstowe Wesel Association Facebook page or email Felixstowe.Wesel.Assn@gmail.com for more details.



Felixstowe Carnival



The Carnival weekend is fast approaching. If you are watching along the Saturday procession route, why not dress up in costume and give us a wave? This year's Royal Court will be taking part in the procession as usual. Details will be published on our Facebook page.



We are very pleased to announce that the winner of our Drawing Competition is Ayla-Rue Filby. Ayla is only 6 years old but she designed this beautiful depiction of our town.

Our headline music acts for the weekend include the Swing Machine Big Band on Friday evening. On Saturday night we have the brilliant 90s Band, Counterfeit Brits. Sunday night sees the return of the fantastic Abba tribute band, Kiss the Teacher. They were very popular last year and as 2024 is the 50th anniversary of Abba's Eurovision win, we just HAD to book them again. Bring your dancing shoes.



From mid-day Saturday and Sunday there will be the usual free family entertainment area with a Punch & Judy show and Dinosaurs, Twinkle Toes will provide activities for young children and Schools Out will organise activities for the older ones. There will also be Disco/Dance Competitions.

We have traders and food stalls along the seafront and in the event area, selling a wide variety of goods. Inside the Leisure Centre there will be a great Craft Fair. And outside there will be the exciting Fairground, bigger than ever. SO MUCH TO ENJOY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL.

We are very grateful for generous grants from East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council for their support this year. There will be many volunteer "Bucketeers" on duty over the weekend, so feel free to throw as many coins and notes into the buckets as you can afford! You can also buy tickets for our fund-raising event shown below or use the QR Code to make a donation.

The Over 50's Brass Band from Ipswich will play at a fund-raising concert on Thursday 27th June. St John's Church, Orwell Road, starting at 7.00 p.m. Tickets cost £8.00 and can be reserved by emailing: tickets@felixstowecarnival.org or phone: 01394 670760.



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Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum

We have some exciting news to share in this edition of the Town Council Magazine. We are planning a visit to Felixstowe in September by our Fairtrade champion from Kenya, Patrick Kaberia, and we are actively fund raising to make this possible.

Patrick first came to Suffolk in 2016 as part of a visit to the UK organised by the Fairtrade Foundation. He spent a week in the county, starting off with a breakfast reception at Felixstowe Town Hall, hosted by the Town Council. (The photo shows him with the former Mayor, Doreen Savage.) He also met local school children and young people at the Level 2 Youth Project and members of the public at a coffee morning.



From Felixstowe Patrick went on to visit the other Fairtrade towns in Suffolk, where he made a big impression – meeting all age groups and promoting the Fairtrade cause. The tour of Suffolk was co-ordinated by the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum and, as a result of the successful collaboration with the other Fairtrade towns in the county, we sponsored the setting up of the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns (SAFT), now with membership of all nine Fairtrade towns in Suffolk. Patrick has kept in contact with us since his visit and, in 2018, he agreed to become the Patron of SAFT.

This year Fairtrade Fortnight has moved to September and we learned that our colleagues in Wiltshire were planning to raise funds to bring Patrick to the UK for a tour of their county during the fortnight. We have now negotiated with Wiltshire an extension of the tour to include a short visit to Suffolk – provided we can raise the necessary funds to meet our share of the costs.

If things work out as planned, Patrick will arrive in Felixstowe on Friday 20th September and spend the next day in the Felixstowe/Ipswich area before moving on to Bury St Edmunds and then Beccles. Among our plans for him in Felixstowe are for him to meet young people and their parents and carers at our popular Family Fun Day to be held at the library on Saturday 21st September. As well as the opportunity to meet Patrick, there will be fun and games and a chocolate fountain – more details later.

To make the visit even more memorable, SAFT is organising a video, featuring Patrick and his family, to be produced by young people, for young people. The video will be co-ordinated and produced by the Sir John Leman School in Beccles working with local schools in the Felixstowe area, headed by Trimley St Mary Primary School. It is hoped to make the video available to all schools in Suffolk in the autumn. At a recent session of the Town Council's Youth Forum children from local schools were invited to put forward ideas for what they would like to see in the video. These ideas have been fed to the group working on the video and shared with Patrick.

Patrick's proposed visit to the UK is being financed by voluntary contributions from individuals and organisations in Suffolk and Wiltshire. We already have a number of pledges of support for the Suffolk leg and have set up a 'Just Giving' page for those wishing to support the trip. You can find out more on the Forum website at www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk



Felixstowe Master Mariners

Felixstowe Master Mariners Club is growing in popularity and now has over 100 Members, with 40 to 50 regulars attending the monthly Luncheons which are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club. The excellent Lunches are provided by DG Catering - info@dgcaterers.co.uk and liquid refreshments served by the superb FFSC staff. After each lunch there is always a very interesting talk from an invited speaker and all attendees know that any additional proceeds will go to chosen local nautical charities at the end of each year.

The talks are not necessarily nautical in content and at the Lunch at the April Luncheon Mr and Mrs MacPherson gave a very interesting presentation about Beekeeping and the lives of the honey bee and the tragic sex life of the Drone Bee. The May talk was by popular and well known shipping celebrity and long time, but poorly attending Member, Mr. David Ablitt about his energetic contribution to the local shipping industry. The variety of talks given each month continue to keep all Members entertained and informed and continues to foster professional comradeship among Master Mariners and those with Nautical interests.

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>



New Temporary Exhibitions at Felixstowe Museum



We are excited to announce two new temporary exhibitions this summer.

On June 6 we officially opened our D-Day display, commemorating the 80th anniversary, and significant moment in history. See our marvellous model Landing Ship, Tank (LST), revisit the D-Day timeline and operations and engage with stories from Suffolk. A poignant part of our display will be the reflections of two Felixstowe residents, survivors of D-Day.

In July, Views from Convalescent Hill will launch, suitably positioned outside our St Audry's room - in 1827 St Audry's became the Suffolk County Asylum. This project is led by Pier Projects in partnership with the Museum and will showcase the heritage of wellbeing, rest and care in Felixstowe and connecting to the present. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes and we are intrigued to see the final exhibition in place, which we believe will evoke a lot of memories and conversation.

August 25th commemorates 80 years since the Lancaster Bomber LM258 crashed out at sea saving the lives of people in Felixstowe. All seven crew were killed. A plaque at the Town Hall reads 'for that noble action we shall ever be indebted'. We are currently developing plans to mark this occasion.

The Beehive Café is up and running, so why not take a wander down to Landguard point and pop in for cuppa and cake – remember we are dog friendly too!

The Museum and Café are open Thursday to Sunday from 11am.

Landguard Fort



Landguard Fort is open Thursday to Sunday during term-time and 7 days a week during School Holidays.

From Henry VIII to the Cold War there is over 400 years of history to discover and explore at Landguard Fort. Come and see how the fort may have looked during its use by the army and experience what life may have been like as a soldier at Landguard.

We have Events and Trails which make excellent family days out!

On the 3rd and 4th of August Landguard Fort is under Viking Invasion as the Sae-Wylfingas living-history group show how some of our most famous coastal invaders will have lived and fought at the site of Britain's last coastal invasion. We also have a viking trail in the weeks leading up to the event where you can learn about the Norse Gods.

We also have our Sport Trail this Summer which will let families explore the types of sport that took place at the fort. This is a very sporty summer with both the European Football Championships and the Olympics so we want to celebrate our sporting history.

We are welcoming back Felixstowe School for their Gala concert on Friday 21st of June. They have a number of different musicians and it helps raise money for new instruments for the school.

We have also reintroduced our joint-tickets with Felixstowe Museum, allowing you to buy one ticket that gives you access to both and can be used once any day of the season.

Felixstowe Sea Cadets



All Aboard for a Sea Cadet Summer

As the days get longer and warmer and the water beckons, it's time to set sail on another thrilling summer adventure with the Sea Cadets.

Summer Adventures Await:

The cadets are getting ready to feel the wind in their sails and the sun on their faces as we dive into a summer packed with exciting activities both on and off the water. Whether you're mastering the art of sailing in a dinghy, zooming along on a powerboat, or catching waves on a windsurfer, there's no shortage of adrenaline-pumping fun to be had. Ashore we go hiking, camping and train for qualifications such as Duke of Edinburgh.

Cadet Spotlight:

A lot of our outstanding cadets are making waves both on and off the water. From demonstrating leadership skills to excelling in training, our cadets never cease to inspire us with their dedication and passion for the sea cadet experience.

Inclusive Community, Lifelong Bonds:

At the heart of the Sea Cadet Corps is our diverse and tight-knit community. Regardless of background or experience, every cadet is welcomed with open arms into our sea cadet family. Together, we learn, grow, and forge lifelong friendships that extend far beyond the shoreline.

Training for Success:

Our structured training programs, steeped in the traditions of the Royal Navy, are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Through lessons in self-discipline, integrity, and teamwork, our cadets are not only mastering maritime skills but also preparing for success in all aspects of life.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Also there is our dedicated team of adult volunteers, working tirelessly behind the scenes to make every sea cadet adventure possible. From organising events, fundraising and future planning, their unwavering commitment ensures that our cadets have the best possible experience on their journey with us.

Charting New Horizons:

As a charity organization, the Sea Cadet Corps is committed to providing real-world opportunities and qualifications to our cadets. Whether it's earning certifications in first aid or delving into the world of engineering, the possibilities for growth and learning are endless.

Fair Winds and Following Seas:

As we set sail into another unforgettable summer with the Sea Cadets, we extend our warmest wishes for fair winds and following seas to all our cadets, volunteers, and supporters. Together, we plan to make this summer one to remember!

Get Involved:

Are you ready to embark on your own sea cadet journey? Whether you're a seasoned sailor or new to the world of maritime adventures, there's a place for you in our crew, either as a cadet if you are aged between 10 and 18 or as an adult, you are more than welcome to join us for an upcoming event, training session, or expedition and discover the thrill of life on the water with the Sea Cadets. You can find us on Garrison Lane by the railway bridge in Felixstowe.

For more information, visit our website at www.sea-cadets.org/felixstowe or reach out to us directly at enquiries@felixstoweseacadets.co.uk. Don't miss out on the opportunity to discover the wonders of the sea and a life of adventure with Felixstowe Sea Cadets!

Felixstowe Sea Cadets 478

www.sea-cadet.org/felixstowe

Felixstowe Coastwatch Enters its Busy Season



Summer is the busiest time of year for Felixstowe Coastwatch, with many people in, on or near the water, both locals and visitors. The lookout, on top of Martello Tower P, is the eyes and ears along the coast for HM Coastguard, working daylight hours to keep everyone safe. We are now operating our extended opening times of 9AM to 5PM every day until October. During the school summer holidays we will have an additional evening watch running to 8PM when necessary.

Felixstowe Coastwatch has benefitted greatly from being one of the Mayor's chosen charities for the year ended 15th May (culminating in the Mayor's Summer Ball at Harvest House on 11th May). Fund raising events carried out with the other three chosen charities have made a big difference to our finances and will help to strengthen the capability and facilities of the station. For example, we have upgraded our IT infrastructure in the lookout, installing a new server, wiring, trunking and network sockets and doing away with the "spaghetti" that had grown up over the years.

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Old Felixstowe Community Association



Assistant Treasurer (voluntary position) – Our friendly Committee are looking for an Assistant Treasurer to support the current Treasurer with invoicing and administrative duties. This would entail around 2-4 hours work per week. This is a voluntary role that would suit a local retired person with some accounts experience although full training will be given. Experience in Excel and Quickfile would be ideal. For more information, please email Vickie at ofcatreasurermail@gmail.com.

Earlier this year it was agreed to cease the delivery by hand of the bi-monthly newsletter. It is now available online via the Association's website www.oldfelixstoweca.org.uk. Press the subscribe button and enter your email address to receive the newsletter. Please look at our website to find out more about the Association and details of some of the clubs and organisations that regularly use the Community Centre.

With the new arrangements we are no longer collecting a membership fee, but donations will be gratefully received, and these can be made to the following account: TSB Felixstowe
Old Felixstowe Community Association
Sort Code: 30 93 22 Account number: 22584960

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 Parish nurses are also in attendance and are happy to give advice and signpost you with your health issues.

Gillian Barnett's new book looks back at the history of the Community Association since its inception in 1973. It details all the key events in the development of OFCA and of the Community Centre, referencing many people who have been involved. It is available directly from Gillian on 01394 278177 or at our Community Markets.

If you would like to hire the Community Centre for a private function, please contact the Administrator on 07494 599265 or email ofcabookings@gmail.com
Best wishes, Celia Page – Chair



The Lions Club of Felixstowe

On Monday 8th April the Lions Club of Felixstowe invited the Mayor to open the workshop and storage facilities. The facility provides a workshop in the form of a recycled prefabricated building from the former Deben School site and secure container storage for the Felixstowe Christmas lights. The project provides a much-needed permanent home for both the Lions Club and the Christmas Lights.

The budget has been jointly funded by East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council supported by local building and logistics companies. The Lions Club undertook much of the peripheral works themselves – exemplifying the Lions maxim 'Together we Can'.



In addition, the facility provides a platform for Lions' charitable work bringing the community together and to raise money for the people who are in need locally and internationally. Lions is Life Changing.

The Mayor also unveiled two plaques dedicating trees planted in memory of Lion David Webb M.J.F. and Lion Bryan Grant M.J.F., valued members, who passed away recently.

For more information about the Lions Club of Felixstowe visit the website.

www.felixstowelions.org.uk

Felixstowe Rotary Club



On 5 March, the Rotary Club of Felixstowe enabled some 40 junior school children from the Felixstowe area to take up the challenge of the climbing wall. A big thank you to Clip 'n Climb for their joint sponsorship and to the staff at the Ipswich centre who were so supportive of the children.



Many of the children had not experienced this kind of activity before, but you could see their confidence grow in just half an hour of being in the climbing arena. The look of pride on their faces when they completed a climb was wonderful to watch.



The event was fully inclusive and gave so many a chance to enjoy the activity and blossom. Some of the children were going through difficult times, but nevertheless they were challenging and pushing themselves outside their comfort zone and the interaction with their peers was a joy to see.

Some of the teachers mentioned that places had been offered to the children for good behaviour, which was a great incentive, whilst others were selected to help improve their emotions and develop new life experiences. For many of the children (as one of the teachers explained) the chance to experience Clip 'n Climb was compared with the excitement of the countdown to Christmas...

At the start of the session the children didn't say boo to a goose, but by the end they were full of enthusiasm, telling me which climb they liked best, how they managed to climb higher each time and how much they wanted to do it again!

Once excited boy said, 'I have never been to Clip 'n Climb before, but I have wanted to come forever - I really, really, really loved it!'

Whilst most of us as adults probably take for granted that Clip 'n Climb is just a fun activity (which of course it is), it is so much more than this. With so many of these children going through some tough times, learning new life changing skills and improving their confidence is invaluable. The whole experience goes so much further than you think, which is why this plays such an important part in our youth development programme in Rotary

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Edible Felixstowe - A New Community Project



Edible Felixstowe CIC is a newly formed community group which aims to grow vegetables, fruit flowers and herbs all over our town. Anything produced will be accessible to anyone in the community to pick and use. With the backing of Felixstowe Town Council and East Suffolk Council we launched our project at the Love Green

Felixstowe event on April 20th where the Mayor, Seamus Bennett, planted a lavender at the centre of the Christmas Tree circle near the Triangle in Hamilton Road. Our first project was to create a herb wheel in the area used for the Christmas tree which is left unused for the rest of the year; this meanwhile gardening will be removed for the winter so that the Christmas tree will return in December.

We also have also planted edible flowers and vegetables in the four blue planters at either end of the pedestrianised area of Hamilton Road, we hope that Edible Felixstowe will apply to both people and wildlife and consequently we are including edible pollinators in our scheme to encourage wildlife into the centre of town. We are currently in talks with the Library service and Suffolk County Council and hope to be able to start planning an area outside Felixstowe Library later in the season. We have a couple of local businesses involved as well; 'Cuppa' in High Road West, who will be planting up their outside planters with veg and also 'The Grovesnor' in Ranelagh Road who are keen to have some new planters outside the pub. We would be keen to hear from any other business who would like to be involved with either planting or sponsorship.



As well as the advantages of growing food and being outside, we hope to enable people to benefit in so many ways from keeping food local and fresh, we also hope to be in a position to demonstrate how to cook different produce by way of demonstrations later in the year.



We are actively seeking volunteers either with gardening experience or those keen to gain more experience to help us increase our output, as we hope to grow the project in future seasons. We are currently meeting on Thursdays at 5pm at the Triangle to help maintain what we have planted, so please get involved if this is of interest - many hands etc!

We would also be grateful for anyone with spare seedlings or seeds or equipment or with a glut of anything to get in touch and help us share out the benefits of locally produced food to the community. We have a facebook group: edible felixstowe as well as an instagram page, alternatively our email address is ediblefelixstowe@gmail.com please do get in touch with us if you would like to be part of this project.

Article Provided by Kate White and Heidi Seary



Felixstowe Allotment Association

As I finished the last article talking about broad beans and sweet peas, just have a look at the marvellous Crimson flowers on the broad beans (see photo). A variety first grown in the 1800's and now very much back in fashion and even becoming popular with those who grow flowers. As for the sweet peas, now four feet tall and gave lovely fragrant flower at the Felixstowe in Flower Launch on 1 June.



The allotments remain oversubscribed across the town with a waiting list but the Association works hard to ensure that plots are well used and cultivated in accordance with the tenancy agreements set with the Town council and signed by each tenant. The North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood consultation period is currently underway and the Allotments Association is seeking to preserve the sites we currently enjoy and to see more opportunities for additional sites across the new development. The Cowpasture site will see Phase 2 completed at Trelawny Place which will challenge our current boundaries. We are seeking a more complete formal fencing arrangement to safeguard the plots and all that they contain, but there is plenty more to do before this is finally agreed.

This evening for tea my wife and I enjoyed a salad meal with my own new potatoes grown in a huge bucket inside my greenhouse, accompanied by fresh asparagus picked this very afternoon. The sweetcorn and early leeks are in the ground already with plenty of other small seeds also planted across the plot. The work required cannot be underestimated but the rewards of an allotment make it so worth while, so if you have the time, make contact with Felixstowe council and seek to join us. Article provided by Neville Farthing



Litter-Free Felixstowe launches Green Impact Felixstowe

For the past six years, Litter-Free Felixstowe has been working to improve the local environment. Originally starting as a plastic-free and litter-picking group, it has grown and expanded into other areas and the group is now an advocate for eco-friendly choices. Recent work with schools and businesses has highlighted a demand for a coordinated approach where residents and visitors are united in the campaign for green solutions. The annual Felixstowe Environment Awards has created a network of people of all ages who care for their local area and have become ambassadors for positive change. Green Impact Felixstowe was launched on the first day of Spring in March with local celebrity, Mark Murphy as patron and a new Facebook page. Green Impact Felixstowe.



Green Impact Felixstowe and Litter-Free Felixstowe are now working with schools to create and enhance green spaces and inspire children to consider how they can assist the Environment. This approach has been enthusiastically welcomed by primary pupils who are keen to protect wildlife and trees. The campaign includes rolling out a 'green hero' scheme to celebrate children who are enhancing and promoting a healthy, green town. They will then be encouraged to enter into the Environment Awards which are due to take place later in the year.

In April, Green Impact and Litter-Free Felixstowe took a stand at the Love Green Felixstowe event at the Triangle. A group litter-pick attracted over 60 people including many children. The brilliant Army cadets, who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards, helped on the stand and also collected many bags of litter from around the town centre. Thank you to everyone who joined in the clean-up which certainly impressed the Mayor of Wesel who was very complimentary of the fantastic community spirit on display in Felixstowe.

Join on Facebook: Litter Free Felixstowe and Green Impact Felixstowe
Article provided by Debbie Bartlett

Felixstowe Beaches Presented with 2024 Blue Flag and Seaside Award

Felixstowe's Beaches are among the best in Britain as Blue Flag and Seaside Award flies again in 2024, for the fifth consecutive year.

For the fifth consecutive year, Felixstowe's beaches are marked as some of the best in the country, with a 2024 Blue Flag and Seaside Award. Both Felixstowe (Felixstowe South and Pier) and Southwold (Southwold Pier) have received combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags whilst the beaches at Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier (bathing / resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) have received Seaside Awards.

The Mayor of Felixstowe said:

"It is fantastic news that Felixstowe, for the fifth consecutive year, has again been presented with a Blue Flag and Seaside Award. These awards recognise Felixstowe has clean and safe beaches and the bathing water meets quality standards.

This adds to all the great things Felixstowe has to offer to residents and visitors, from the new attractions along the South seafront, the historic Spa Gardens and Landguard Nature reserve, Fort and Felixstowe Museum, not to mention the many great places to eat.

Felixstowe is open for business, so why not come and pay us a visit?"

In total, 150 sites including 148 beaches in England have been presented with awards recognising the quality of the sites, the way they are managed and the facilities they offer to visitors. Just 72 beaches across the country met the high standards required for a Blue Flag award, which is the most recognised award for beaches, marinas and inland bathing waters.

Keep Britain Tidy's Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE said:

"These awards are a credit to the collective efforts of beach managers, volunteers, residents and businesses who have worked tirelessly to maintain, protect and improve some of our best-loved and most popular



beaches and we'd like to take this moment to recognise and applaud them.

"Visitors to a beach flying a Blue Flag can be assured the beach will be clean, safe and meet the highest environmental standards, as well as international bathing water quality standards.

"The Blue Flag is the world's most recognised award for beaches and marinas and, to qualify, each applicant must meet and maintain a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria.

"Seaside Awards are presented to the best beaches in England and celebrate the quality and diversity of our coastline."

Visitors to Felixstowe this summer can look forward to enjoying the award-winning beaches and pristine bathing water, proudly marked by the Blue Flag and Seaside Award. These nationally-recognised accreditations guarantee the highest standards of quality, safety, and cleanliness.

Climate Justice! Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve

Last year, Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve organized the town's first climate justice march. It was held on 2 July, and exceeded all expectations.

Since that time, we have established a 12-point agenda of climate justice solutions which local people are being encouraged to adopt into their everyday lives (see previous editions of this magazine for details).

In the Felixstowe area, we have been supported by Spotlight on Felixstowe to share our message. Social media has also been very supportive in sharing our climate justice agenda.

Further afield, many organizations have helped to carry our climate justice solutions to every part of the nation, and beyond. On Earth Day (22 April) it was interesting to see how our message was studied and shared by thousands of people and organizations who had never previously discovered us.

Earlier in April, the BBC Radio 4 programme Open Country featured our work as an example of a community-based response to the Wild Isles documentary. Although our contribution to that programme did not include any climate justice content, listeners who wanted to learn about our work soon discovered the climate justice side to our goals.

Other climate justice activists from all over the UK and Europe also continue to discover our agenda. In doing so, they are encouraging members of their own communities to organize climate justice events. So it is incredibly exciting and encouraging that they look to Felixstowe as the inspiration for what they are trying to do.

Article provided by Dr Adrian Cooper



Felixstowe Garden Club



Felixstowe Garden Club have an interesting summer programme of speakers to interest you.



We have our Pre-Annual Show preparations and demonstrations on 9 July in readiness for the Annual Show on Saturday 27 July 1130-1630 at Old Felixstowe Community Centre with free entry so bring family and friends. Our show offers beautiful exhibits of fruit, vegetables, floral displays, craft and hobbies, children's entries, plant sale with Katies Garden, delicious refreshments and grand raffle. We also have a show membership offer so pop along to find out more. Visit our website www.felixstowedistricths.onesuffolk.net or Facebook page to view the show schedule.

On 13 August, Julian Ives from www.dragonfli.co.uk will educate us on Natural Pest Control in the Garden. Bring your pest problem questions to the meeting for some good advice and solutions.

Chris Wiley joins us on 10 September to discuss Sustainability in Horticulture.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at Old Felixstowe Community Centre. Free parking outside the hall and on street parking. Visitors are welcome £5 cash on the door which is deducted from full membership if you wish to join us, you'd be very welcome.

More details from Jayne, Secretary on 01394 211739.



Love Green Felixstowe



Love Green Felixstowe is a collaboration between community groups, businesses and Felixstowe Town Council to promote environmentally friendly practices.

The aim is to create a greener

town for generations to come by encouraging and inspiring residents and visitors to care for the environment in Felixstowe.



The launch of Love Green Felixstowe took place at Felixstowe Triangle on Saturday 20 April, and signalled the start of this exciting initiative. The event was attended by a number of different community groups and organisations, including Litter-Free Felixstowe, Landguard Nature Reserve, the Felixstowe BID, Level Two and Greenprint Forum. The new Edible

Felixstowe initiative, aimed to encouraging residents to grow edible plants and produce in public spaces around the town, available to be picked and used by all, was also launched on 20 April.

To find out more about Love Green Felixstowe, visit facebook/love-green-felixstowe. To learn more about Edible Felixstowe and how you can get involved, visit the 'Edible Felixstowe' Facebook Group for regular updates. You can read more about Edible Felixstowe on page 11. If you are a local community group or organisation, and you would like to be involved in Edible Felixstowe, please email debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk.



Nominate your street for a public EV chargepoint

By 2030, 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain will be zero emission – rising to 100% in 2035. To make the shift to electric vehicles possible, accessible and reliable public charging is needed at scale.

What is Suffolk County Council doing?

Suffolk County Council has secured £6.7m funding to help develop EV charging across the county, after two successful bids to the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which supports local authorities to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.

Plug In Suffolk will install more community charging hubs as well as hundreds of on-street public chargepoints, so that people without a driveway or garage can charge electric vehicles reliably, easily, and close to their homes. Our goal is for all Suffolk households to have a safe, reliable public chargepoint within 5 to 10 minutes' walk of where they live.

To nominate your street for a public on-street EV chargepoint, please complete the short survey online by scanning the QR code or by visiting www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/requestchargepoint/. (We cannot guarantee that every suggested street will be suitable for a chargepoint, but we will investigate every suggestion made).

Talk to one of the team at evcharging@suffolk.gov.uk. You can find more information about our plans in the strategy and the FAQs here www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/transport-planning/plug-in-suffolk



Felixstowe in Flower 2024

David Button 
Independent Funeral Directors

Felixstowe 
in flower

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Launch of Felixstowe in Flower at Felixstowe Triangle on 1 June, and to the sponsors of Felixstowe in Flower 2024, who can be found on the back page of the Summer 24 Magazine. If you would like to be involved in Felixstowe in Flower, you can **enter one of the 16 FREE Felixstowe in Flower competitions for a chance to win a trophy at the illustrious Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony.**

Simply fill out the competition form on the right of the page and your details below. Tear out this page and return it to Felixstowe Town Hall for a chance to win.

For more information, visit felixstowe.gov.uk/felixstowe-in-flower or email sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk

Don't forget to fill in your details!

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Address:

COMPETITION FORM:

Do you have green fingers?

Why not enter our **FREE** Felixstowe in Flower competitions?

I would like to enter the following categories (please 'x' all appropriate boxes):

Residential Competitions (open to private homes and non-business gardens):

- Private Front Garden: Best Floral Container
- Private Front Garden: Best Planting Scheme
- Town Centre: Best Floral Container
- Floral Balcony

Commercial Competitions (open to all Felixstowe businesses & community groups):

- Commercial Premises: Garden
- Commercial Premises: Non-Garden Commercial
- Premises: Best Floral Container
- Residential Home: Best Floral Container Hotel/Guest
- House: Best Floral Container
- Public House: Best Floral Container

Open to all:

- Creative Arrangement
- Best Use of Colour
- Best Sustainable Planting
- Seaside Theme
- Best Newcomer
- Tallest Sunflower (16 years and under)



Flowers, Festivals and Footfall



With the sun making a late entrance, the big wheel starting to turn and our traders windows looking so tempting, we can finally look forward to a fantastic summer of events here in Felixstowe.

Be sure to make a date in your diaries for the return of Love Felixstowe Festival 2024 on Saturday 7th September. This year we are working with Love Green Felixstowe to bring a more environmentally responsible event and are planning how we reduce carbon impact, replace single use plastics and generally demonstrate how events can be more sustainable. This starts by only having homegrown talent, as far as we can. Local vendors and performers will be involved, extra rail carriages are being laid on to encourage train travel and the bike park will be ready to take your two wheeled transport at the Beachside Events Area.

We're planning live music and entertainment, free bike maintenance sessions, children's workshops,

a summer long trail and the great atmosphere so many of you soaked up under the sun last September. We're looking to extend the theme to the town centre this year and put on a 'Green Market' featuring sustainable goods. If you would like a stall, get in touch.

Meanwhile, there's a whole summer of Felixstowe events lined up throughout the town, if you want your event featured on the Visit Felixstowe What's On, download the events form here <https://www.felixstowebid.co.uk/events-2024>. We will feature your event on our pages and promote it via our socials. Tag @visitfelixstowe to reach our audience. Did you see the announcement for Art On The Prom on September 1st? Another Felixstowe favourite that saw record crowds last year is returning. Whether you are a local artist, an art appreciator or you just love



a potter along our prom, with dozens of unique refreshment stops, this is a great day out. 'Easelly' the best art fair in East Anglia and right next to the sea.

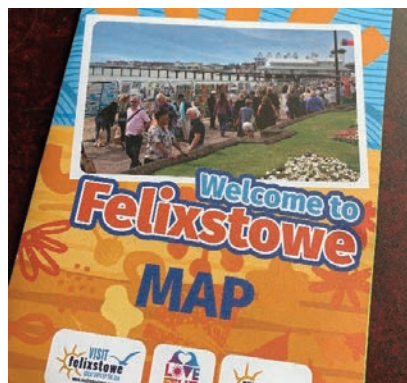
With the floral boxes, troughs and hanging baskets now adorning the town, following the launch of Felixstowe in Flower on the 1st June at the Triangle, the town is looking postcard perfect. We

continue to sponsor Felixstowe in Flower and push for essential maintenance on keeping our town looking at its best.

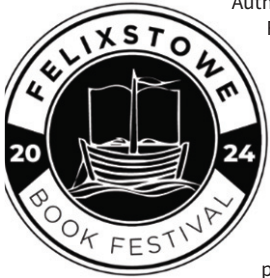
See our website www.felixstowebid.co.uk for latest news and projects.

Email manager@felixstowebid.co.uk for info and with your ideas.

Kate Cain, Manager Felixstowe BID, Visit Felixstowe and Love Felixstowe.



Felixstowe Book Festival



Authors and audiences love the Felixstowe Book Festival's unique and welcoming atmosphere. It all begins this month from Wednesday 26th through to Sunday 30th June. It's your chance to combine a weekend packed with author events with seafood suppers, walks along the prom with its colourful beach huts, perhaps also a wander in the award-winning seafront gardens and even a bracing swim. The event, now in its 12th year, is joyfully promoted around the county by colourful pictures of container ships loaded with books. This

iconic image for this Festival by the sea has been created by local artist and illustrator Rebecca Pymar.

This year's festival, has drawn Sunday Times bestseller Rachel Hore [Hidden Years - her captivating new novel of secrets, loss and betrayal - set on the beautiful Cornish coast during World War Two and the heady days of the 1960s.] Rachel will be in conversation on stage opening Saturday's programme with fellow Author, Alexandra Carey a children's author who has published her first novel [The Light that Bends Around Corners]

Following them is Jane Casey [A Stranger In The Family - the gripping new thriller featuring DS Maeve Kerrigan and DI Josh Derwent: When nine-year-old Rosalie Marshall vanished from her bed one summer night, her disappearance tore her family apart. Jane will be appearing alongside William Shaw, author of The Wild Swimmers.

Festival favorite Nicola Upson returns to share some thoughts on Daphne Du Maurier's masterful novel Rebecca, as well as drawing attention to an exhibition of crime fiction at Cambridge University, Murder by the Book, of which she has had the pleasure to be curator. Visitors can also look forward to her conversation with Mandy Morton (fellow author and festival friend) about the legacy of Daphne Du Maurier.



Festival Patron Esther Freud will interview BBC Broadcaster and Columnist Natasha Walter [Before the Light Fades: a memoir of grief and resistance.] To talk about her book which is a compelling reconstruction of her mother's life as a child of refugees and a passionate anti-nuclear protestor. The festival attracts a host of different kinds of authors, new for this year is Michael Mansfield

[The Power in The People] A barrister, famous for his work on landmark cases such as Grenfell, Hillsborough, The Marchioness disaster, Stephen Lawrence and the Birmingham Six Michael has written a book about fighting injustice and how people power is unstoppable.

Also new to this year's Felixstowe Book Festival are Nigerian Authors Chioma Okereke [Water Baby] and Stephen Buoro [The Five Sorrowful Mysteries of Andy Africa.] Water Baby is a coming-of-age story, set in the real settlement of Makoko in Nigeria and deals with the societal pressures on nineteen-year-old Baby who is trying to escape the future her father has planned for her. Stephen Buoro's book tells the story of fifteen-year-old Andrew Aziza,

who lives in Kontagora, Nigeria and is an exploration of the ordinary but impossible challenges of coming of age in post-colonial Nigeria.

Author events are followed by book signings and the chance to meet a favorite author. There's a mix of poetry and event music by the ever-popular Hose Pipe Band. You can meet very well-known, award-winning fiction authors and also get the chance to discover debut writers. Visitors can rub shoulders with experts who can talk knowledgeably and absorbingly about the environment, politics, history, science, art, economics and so much more.



The festival is held in Harvest House, on Cobbold Road in Felixstowe. A stunningly beautiful Edwardian building, flanked by beautiful gardens, on the cliff tops, overlooking the sea, just a pebble's throw from the centre of this seaside town. There are some satellite events leading up to the main festival - check out their website for full details.

For a comprehensive look at all of the exciting talks, topics and workshops planned for these years' Felixstowe Book Festival and to book your tickets go to www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk you can sign up for the newsletter to be first to hear the latest news. You can also follow them on social media @felixstowebookfestival

The Dorian Singers



By the time you read this the Dorian Singers will have started rehearsals for their Summer Concert. This will be held on Saturday 29th June 2024 at 7.30pm in Kirton Church Hall. Not only will there be some lovely light choral music for a summer evening but there will be the traditional strawberries and cream with wine or soft drinks during the interval.

The choir will be singing a delightful selection of popular music including folk songs, musical shows (The Wizard of Oz and Carousel) and well known songs like The Teddy Bears' Picnic.

There will also be Hattie Bennett's Champagne String Quartet playing pieces related to summer and sunshine.

Tickets £12 (under 18's £3) including refreshments and will be 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 summer evening of enjoyable music.

Article provided by Dr Brian Latchem

Felixstowe Art Group



Preparations now begin with members for our annual Art Exhibition which is held at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Orwell road, Felixstowe. Running from Tuesday 6th August 10am-6pm until 5pm on Saturday 10th August. Entrance is free although any donation would be appreciated. You can also vote for our best in show winner who receive a perpetual Trophy and prize. This provides an excellent opportunity to view original artworks, purchase and support local artists. Each year the quality of artworks submitted exceeds the previous years and prices are very affordable, maybe even purchasing a bargain from emerging artist making a good financial investment. So why not make a note in your diary for this event? We look forward to meeting you!



Artwork for the publicity of this event was chosen by members and the successful winner was Tom Catchpole, so congratulations.

In the meantime we have our scheduled Tuesday evening 7.30pm -9.30pm demonstrations and lectures which are held every other week. These are open to members (fee of £1) and some for guests (fee of £2) too such as Tony Osler 'Bringing the sea to life in watercolour' on the 11th June always a very popular demonstrator, see our website for our further programme.

From time to time members also have an opportunity to participate in one-day workshops usually held on a Saturday, outdoor painting are organised and also day trips which are great ways to make arty friends. No talent is required and member range from fun hobbyists too professionals visit our website www.felixstoweartgroup.org for information on joining our membership.

A happy summer to all!

Views From Convalescent Hill: Exploring the Heritage of Rest, Wellbeing and Care in Felixstowe



Views From Convalescent Hill Digital Archive

Our digital archive is now live! Head over to www.vfch-archive.co.uk to check it out. We invite you to share your own memories and photographs and contribute to this growing collection. If you would like to make a contribution to the online archive but would like some help doing so, please get in touch and we can arrange to meet in person natalie@pierprojects.org.

Workshops and Training

Workshops on editing sound have taken place to support the fantastic group of oral history volunteers who have been capturing people's memories. We have also visited The Hold - home of Suffolk Archives - for guidance on researching and using archival material which included a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour.



Great Women Celebrated in New Town Centre Mural

A new mural celebrating trailblazing women is due to be unveiled in Felixstowe.

'Leading the Way' features Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Edith Maud Cook, Emmeline, Christabel and Sylvia Pankhurst and was painted by artist Catalina Carvajal. Millicent Fawcett will be added soon to complete the mural.



The work was commissioned by WAMFest – Women in Arts and Music - to remember these significant women and their contribution to society. Suffolk-based Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was the first

woman to qualify as a physician and surgeon, while Edith Maud Cook was a pioneering aviator and parachutist. Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia and Millicent Fawcett were suffragettes and worked tirelessly for women's rights, and particularly the right to vote.

Laura Locke who organises the Felixstowe-centric WAMFest said the mural celebrates the power and creativity of women.

"We are thrilled with the mural; it is a fabulous piece of work by Catalina and applauds the achievements of women in history who have helped shape the world we live in today. We owe them so much and I am pleased that their names will be remembered.

"Catalina has been working on the project for some months – weather permitting – and I know there has been a great deal of interest in what it will be, and I think it has been worth the wait.



"The caption reads 'deeds not words' and that is what we try to achieve with WAMFest, giving women and girls of all ages the opportunity to shine."

The colourful mural, which can be seen at Great Eastern Square, was created with the support of local Councillors.

WAMFest will return in October with a mixture of live performances, literature, and art. To keep up to date please follow us on Facebook or visit our website www.wamfestfelixstowe.art

Views from Convalescent Hill exhibition launch

Thursday 4 July, 6.00 - 7.30pm, Felixstowe Museum.

This temporary display will share the methods and research that have shaped this collaborative, community-driven project. Previously unseen objects from the museum's collection will sit alongside contemporary artworks and responses by residents who have worked alongside project artist Dana Olărescu. There will also be the opportunity to listen to local memories and stories captured by oral history volunteers that personalise this history and bring it to life.

Come along and celebrate this unique part of Felixstowe history and find out more about the upcoming events programme. All welcome.

Please also keep an eye out for details of Dana Olărescu's performative installation, All Ears: A Community Listening Station, and creative collaborator Elaine Aston's new artwork inspired by Felixstowe's health-based heritage. Further details will be shared on the digital archive.

Pier Peers Artist Development Programme

We have just announced the cohort of six artists based in the East to take part in our new artist development programme Pier Peers, led by arts writer and coach Ellen Mara De Wachter. The artists taking part are; Michelle Brace, Catalina Carvajal, Cath Cartman, Stevie Mackenzie-Smith, Holly Sandiford and Rachel Wright. We look forward to working with them!

Health and Wellbeing



Citizen's Advice Felixstowe

Citizens Advice East Suffolk (CAES) Felixstowe office continues to support an increasing number of local clients with a growing number of complex issues. We have expanded our outreach services and have been able to support local charities such as Pushchair Pitstop at their sessions. We take every opportunity to take part in local events, for example the forthcoming Love To Work In Felixstowe event to be held at Felixstowe Leisure Centre on 4th October 2024.

Our offices in Orwell Road are being renovated and decorated to improve our client experience and the working conditions for our team - we are definitely here to stay!

As a Suffolk County Council partner organisation, we can help residents apply to the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) for a maximum grant of £300.00 towards expenses such as food costs, energy bills and white goods. Applicants should have a combined household income of £27,000 p.a. and household savings of less than £1,500. Contact us on 0800 278 7866 or pop into the office in Orwell Road for more information.

As a charity we rely on our team of enthusiastic volunteers and we are always looking for help across a range of roles e.g. adviser, office administration and fundraising. If you'd like to join our friendly team, drop an email to info@caes.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Our office is open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 1.00pm and we can also be contacted via email: caesfelixstowe@caes.org.uk or by the CAES phone number: 0800 278 7866. We are located on the corner of Orwell Road and Ranelagh Road in Felixstowe.

Information on our services, opening hours and volunteering opportunities can be found on our website www.caes.org.uk.

Suffolk Mind



Suffolk Mind hosts first ever mass participation fun run

On Saturday October 5, Suffolk Mind is hosting Colour Rush at Trinity Park, Ipswich.

There will be two trails for participants to choose from, a 3k trail for the whole family and a 1.5k junior trail, ideal for children aged four to six years of age.



The Colour Rush will see participants in white t-shirts (available to purchase on the Suffolk Mind website) walk, jog or run through a variety of coloured paint stations, getting covered shoulder to knee in bright powdered paint!

Anyone aged six and over is welcome to join the Colour Rush, and are encouraged to fundraise in aid of Suffolk Mind. Every £25 raised could support the running of Suffolk Mind's vital 0300 infoline for one hour, which means around 13 people could be supported on the phone.

Most recently, an older gentleman called the line very distressed because his wife of many years had passed away. He felt completely overwhelmed and frightened and didn't know how to get through each day. He was nervous of support lines but with reassurance, he allowed a Suffolk Mind operator to refer him into the Suffolk Night Owls service. He is now talking to someone regularly and feeling much calmer.

This story is just one of many examples of how the Suffolk Mind infoline supports people and while it is not a crisis line, more and more calls to the line are crisis situations.

Find out more about the Colour Rush including FAQs and ticket information on the Suffolk Mind website: suffolkmind.org.uk/colour-rush

Felixstowe & Villages Carers Group



We have recently been working with ArtLink who are holding a series of six monthly sessions with us, which are really enjoyable.

So far we have designed our own poster, made some poetry and explored drawing. All of which have been easy and good fun for all concerned.

We are a friendship group for carers, who are looking after a loved one or a friend.

Caring can be very isolating. We are a friendly group where you can relax and be yourself. We welcome new members. Come and join us.

We meet on the second Monday of each month (8 July - at the Old Felixstowe Community Association, Ferry Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9NB from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, £3 including refreshments.

Contact Dennis Weston, 07712672289, dennisweston.49@btinternet.com, or why not just come along?"

Article provided by Dennis Weston

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Local charity expands wellbeing support in the heart of Felixstowe



Local charity Emmaus Suffolk has recently expanded its Felixstowe Community Hub as demand for services increase. The charity moved its free wellbeing support hub from The Station Café to Felixstowe Library, providing a larger more private space for attendees.

Emmaus Suffolk's Hubs create a friendly and welcoming environment to meet other people in the community, get creative, and engage in meaningful conversations. The groups are open to everyone and are attended by a wide age range of people, allowing attendees to make new connections in their community.

Emmaus runs a range of hubs alongside the weekly Felixstowe session, including drop-in hubs in Sailmakers Shopping Centre, Ipswich, and groups for carers and children at the charity's community café, The Royal Oak in Ipswich.



The activities at Felixstowe Hub are flexible and attendees can get involved in craft activities, board, and card games, or just relax with new friends. Hubs are supported by Emmaus staff who can chat with attendees about any problems they're facing.

"We see every week that our Hubs help to reduce

social isolation and loneliness in the local area, and we're pleased we can now support more people in our new space!" says Emmaus Suffolk Community Manager, Emma Francis.

The Felixstowe hub provides a free and friendly space for people to come together and helps to foster a sense of belonging and connectedness. Join the hub every Wednesday, 2 pm to 4 pm at Felixstowe Library.

Find out more about Emmaus Suffolk by visiting their website www.emmaussuffolk.org

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Felixstowe Community Hospital League of Friends



In recent weeks, local artist Nigel Wallace's artwork has been acquired along with some bright crockery to bring a touch of light to the hospital staff room. His creations not only add aesthetic value but also uplift the spirits of hardworking healthcare professionals, providing them with a pleasant environment to recharge.

At Harvest House, the Health and Well-

Being Fayre served as a hub for promoting health practices, offering attendees a wealth of resources to nurture their physical and mental wellness. We attended the day to promote the work that we do and gained a few new members.

In another corner of the community, volunteers gathered at Trinity Church Hall for the Pensioner Workshop, imparting valuable knowledge to local Pensioners.



Finally on a beautiful sunny afternoon the Landguard Rotary Club were out to make local walkers and beachgoers cups of tea and to raise funds for the LOF. A hearty thank you to all our supporters. It means so much to us and the community.

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Felixstowe District Council for Sport and Recreation

The local Sports Council has some 30 affiliated sports clubs with around 5000 sports players. Working through its Executive Committee, which includes two members appointed by Felixstowe Town Council, the Sports Council has a variety of aims including:



- To encourage greater participation in sports across all sections of the community – especially younger and older people.
- To keep under review the area's sporting, recreational and play needs, and to encourage the development of facilities.
- To recognise the achievement of local sports players and club officials.

During the past year, some of the activities undertaken by the Sports Council have been:

- The Annual Sports Awards Evening, sponsored by seven local businesses.
- Small grants of £25 to assist clubs with the purchase of basic equipment.
- The provision of advice and support to affiliated clubs – especially in respect to fundraising.
- Continuing close liaison with East Suffolk Council with respect to the sports hubs in town and the proposed new leisure centre.

The above responsibilities are some potential uses of the occasional grant funding, generously provided by Felixstowe Town Council.



At the recent Mr Cobbler sports awards 2023 evening organised by Felixstowe District Council for Sport and Recreation, the following awards were presented by the Mayor of Felixstowe

Nick Barber Auctions - Sports Personality of the Year 2023
Charlie Beeton Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowls Club

Underwood Hardware - Junior Sports Personality of the Year 2023
Euan Stephenson Euan Stephenson Racing

Scarborows Opticians - Team of the Year 2023
Felixstowe Bowls Club

Eastcliff Carpets - Club Official of the Year 2023
Stuart Daynes Felixstowe and Walton United Football Club

Walton Barbers - Service to Sport - The Stan Cox Memorial Trophy 2023
Ilison Heathcote Felixstowe and Corinthians Cricket Club

Wainwrights - Progress in Junior Sport - The Malcolm Minns Memorial Trophy 2023
Hayden Berry Felixstowe Indoor Bowls Club

Framed certificates of achievement were also presented to Maelys Jacquet Felixstowe swimming club and the safety Boat and Rescue team Felixstowe ferry sailing club
Article provided by Michael Sharman, Chairman

Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowls Club Annual Tournament 2024

Our Bowls Club is situated on St Edmunds Road in Felixstowe and unique in that we are the only bowls club in the country to be surrounded by beach huts. We have had the privilege of hosting the Suffolk County team and have member players who have represented England at under 18, Under 25 and full international level. We also encourage new bowlers of any age to have a go. If you are interested in trying out this sport we have a coach, who has recently retired from International bowls after earning 100 caps for England, who is willing to introduce new players to the sport. For more information please visit our website - Felixstoweandsuffolkbowls.chessck.co.uk



This year Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowls Club will be hosting its 93rd Annual Tournament. Our tournament runs from the 22nd to the 26th July with play

from 9am to 5pm each day and has competitions including Ladies Singles, Ladies Pairs, Open Triples, Mens Pairs and Under 18s and we attract players from all over East Anglia. Entry forms are available from our website Felixstowe & Suffolk Bowls Club - Tournament 2024 (chessck.co.uk).



Spectators are more than welcome with refreshments available on each of the days including a bar.

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Calling All Women – Would You Like to Have Fun on the Water and Learn to Sail?



Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club has joined with East Suffolk Community Partnership, to offer a new opportunity called ‘women on Water’. Women on Water is a project that encourages and supports women of all ages to get on the water with other women. It doesn’t matter if you’re a newcomer, or a practised hand that would like to get back on the water. The initiative is about getting together, learning new skills and getting back on the water.

The sessions will launch in June, with each session lasting three hours, providing ample time to enjoy all aspects of sailing. Each session costs £25 and includes a one-month membership to Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club. For current Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club Members, sessions cost £10.

To find out more details, email womenonthewater@ffsc.co.uk.



Felixstowe Road Runners



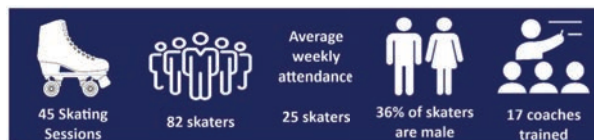
For more info scan the QR code Or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/z7u974r8>

Ipswich Skating Club



Ipswich Skating Club is a community based skating club that provides a range of skating sessions for all ages and abilities which are affordable and aimed at giving skaters opportunities to learn and progress at their own speed. Sessions are fun, relaxed and our coaches are trained to identify and adapt their sessions to meet the needs of individual skaters which means that everyone receives a tailored experience.

Since the restart of our learn to skate session in July 2023 we have had some great success:-



During the period through to Christmas we were averaging 13 skaters per week and when sessions resumed in February this increased to 25 skaters per week. Being a volunteer led club we have invested in upskilling our coaches so that they feel empowered to engage in a wider range of activities to support the skaters. Coaches have all received branded coaching kit which has made them feel valued and part of a team.

Our sessions are currently on hold as the students at Felixstowe High School are using the sports hall for their GCSE’s and A Level examinations – we wish them all the very best of luck.



Our sessions will resume in mid-July, so if you are interested in learning how to skate then please get in touch via secretary@skateipswich.com or visit our website www.skateipswich.com for further information.

You may also be interested in our “Roll into the Summer” Roller Disco which is taking place on Saturday 22nd June 2024 at Inspire in Ipswich. Tickets are available on our website.



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Your Community Stories

Suffolk Sound Named Media Partner for Operation Santa Appeal



We are thrilled to announce that Suffolk Sound, the leading radio station and voice in local news and entertainment, has been appointed as the official media partner for this year's Operation Santa Appeal, supporting local charities across Suffolk.

Operation Santa Appeal, a cherished annual initiative dedicated to bringing joy and essential resources to those in need has joined forces with Suffolk Sound to amplify its impact and reach within the community. This partnership marks a significant milestone in the stations commitment to making a positive difference where it matters most.

As the media partner, Suffolk Sound, with their main studio at Beach Street in Felixstowe, will leverage its extensive platform and influence to raise awareness, encourage auction prizes, and share inspiring stories about the incredible work of local charities involved in Operation Santa Appeal.

This news comes on the back of the recent announcement of considerable investment for Suffolk Sound which in itself runs as a not-for-profit organisation. Richie Ross, co-founder of Suffolk Sound added "The recent investment from a group of trusted business angels and investors allows us to spearhead our growth quicker than we had anticipated and forming close relationships with charities and good causes such as Operation Santa Appeal are part of that plan."

For more information about Operation Santa Appeal and to learn how you can get involved, please visit www.operationsantaappeal.com

Picture Credit: (from left) Richie Ross and Rob Dunger from Suffolk Sound and Ian Fountain from Operation Santa Appeal

Felixstowe Library



Felixstowe Library offers a huge range of services and activities to people of all ages in the local community. The library is open seven days a week and there are regular sessions for babies, toddlers and families, wellbeing drop-ins for adults, social sessions for over 50's, and IT and banking advice sessions. There are also meeting rooms for hire if you're looking for a space for a local group or charity.

Over the Summer Holidays from 13 July 2-12 year olds can take part in Reading Quest – a brand new literacy activity for Suffolk to make reading fun and engaging!

There are other activities planned in the library over the summer:

A book sale on Saturday 6th July is being held to raise funds for The Friends of Felixstowe Library from 9am-2pm.

There are also two evening author events as part of the Felixstowe Book Festival. Joy Bounds will be at the library at 7pm on 27 June and Morag Clarke is giving a talk at 7pm on 28 June. For full details go to felixstowebookfestival.co.uk

You can check out the Suffolk Libraries website at suffolklibraries.co.uk or the Felixstowe Library Facebook page for regular updates and for full details of what's on at the library over the summer. Please come in and see us!

The Arch Cascade - part of Felixstowe's history for over 120 years



The Felixstowe Society



The Seafront Gardens are one of Felixstowe's iconic landmarks, stretching along the coast for 900m from Convalescent Hill in the south to a little beyond Harvest House to the north-east. In recognition of their importance to the heritage of the town they have been designated as a grade 2 listed gardens by Historic England and establishes them on an equal footing to the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds.

One feature in the gardens (a favourite of many visitors) is the Arch Cascade and Pond. Like other water features in the gardens, it was designed in the early part of the 1900's around a natural spring that flows out near the base of the cliffs. Even in the hottest summer the spring continues to flow. A pump located in the bottom pool circulates the water back to the top of the cascade (some 3m in height) and the excess water leaves the pond through an overflow pipe that passes the 25m run to the other side of the promenade and out to sea. The bottom pond contains a variety of exotic goldfish cared for by a particularly dedicated local volunteer - Paul London who is known to all the local dog walkers as, aside from feeding the fish, he always has a selection of treats for canine visitors. Those who peer into the pond long enough will spy our native minnow and common newt taking advantage of this special water garden where nature finds a haven in a busy world.



This section of the gardens was opened to the public officially by the Lord Mayor of London in 1928. It is likely the cascade would have been created prior to this, possibly by Douglas Tollemache the original owner of Harvest House (previously The Felix Hotel) who was a keen patron of the area. Alternatively, it could have been the Urban

District Council who were responsible for much of the development of the sea front at that time. The cascade stonework is purely ornamental and is not sufficiently robust to be climbed over and is easily damaged. Children see the cascade and arch as a wonderful place to play but it was not designed for this purpose. Likewise, the cascade pools are not for paddling. Sadly, planting at the top of the cascade has been damaged and any debris thrown into the top pool can block the cascade filters putting the fish and other wildlife at risk. East Suffolk Council (ESC), who now own the gardens and manage them on behalf of the public, plan to update the signage so that visitors understand the special nature of the cascade as a significant heritage feature and not a climbing frame. ESC in consultation with the Felixstowe Town Council, volunteers and the Felixstowe Society agreed that fencing the cascade off, like some of the other ponds in the gardens, would detract from the attractiveness of the feature and is not a desirable option. However, ornamental fencing at the bottom of the bank, either side of the feature, could make it clear there would be no access to the top of the cascade. We hope in the future everyone, including children, will continue to enjoy the cascade and treat it with care so it survives another 100 years and more.

Article provided by John Smithson, Felixstowe Society

Felixstowe Town Council Civic Awards 2024

Felixstowe Town Council is delighted to announce this year's Civic Awards winners, presented by the Mayor of Felixstowe 2023-24 at the Annual Town Meeting held at Felixstowe School on 8 May 2024.



Mayors Awards

Keith Horn

For continued community service and voluntary efforts, including involvement with Old Felixstowe Community Association, the Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce, the Felixstowe Society, Felixstowe Rotary and the Ferry Road Allotments.

Laura Locke

For her role in organising WAMFest, her broadcasting commitment to Felixstowe Radio, and her support of local women's art and music.

Steve Porter

For his years of dedication to Felixstowe Carnival.

Lyndon Hunt

For his role as a voluntary Community Responder for over 10 years and coordinating the group for 2 years.

David Martin

For running Felixstowe Judo Club for over 16 years.

HMS Ganges Youth Trophy

Jake and Logan Croakin

For their fundraising efforts, inspired while caring for their father, to run over 100km in one month to fundraise over £10,000 in aid of leukaemia support.

The Community Award

Breast Friends CIC – Caroline Sturman and Janine Aldis.

For providing support to those affected by breast cancer.

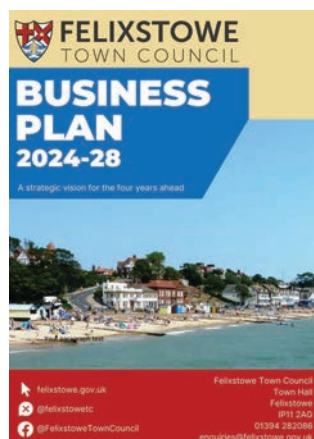
Special Commendations were awarded to Roy Gray, for his service to Felixstowe Community Hospital League of Friends, and Remus Chinery, for his volunteer work for Litter-Free Felixstowe and Pushchair Pitstop, service as Head Boy at Langer School and selfless fundraising efforts in support of those diagnosed with cancer.

If you would like to nominate a Felixstowe resident for outstanding community service to the town of Felixstowe, a nomination form can be found at www.felixstowe.gov.uk/civic-awards. Please return completed forms to sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk.

Council Adopts New Four-Year Business Plan

Public consultation on the draft new Business Plan ran from 22 March to 26 April 2024 and over 100 community groups were directly invited to respond. The Council extends its gratitude to everyone who contributed to the consultation. Your feedback led to several minor amendments, which were incorporated into the Business Plan before its adoption at the Annual Council Meeting on 15 May.

You can view the Council's Business Plan 2024-28 here: felixstowe.gov.uk/council-documents



What's On - Level Two Summer 2024



Level Two Art at 142 Gallery - 1-7 August

Join us at 142 Gallery from 1-7 August for an identity-themed exhibition featuring art by Level Two's young artists.

Summer Hangouts @ the Hub - 11 AM - 2 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays

Drop in to the Level Two hub to use facilities and hang out with friends. Open sessions most Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer holidays.

Arts Award

Work toward a Bronze Arts Award, equivalent to a GCSE grade 3-1. Attend summer workshops to create and showcase art, performances, plays, prose, and more. The theme is 'Art Inspiration Reimagined'.



Detached Sessions - Level Two Bus



Our team will be at the Skate Park on Tuesdays and Beach Street on Thursdays, promoting Level Two activities. We support young people who prefer not to engage in hub-based activities or have transport difficulties. These sessions offer conversations, advice, and well-being guidance. The C-Card scheme is available for Year 9 and up.

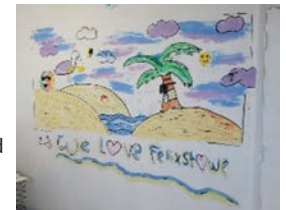


Family Picnics and Sports on the Green

Langer Park: Tuesday 13th - 11 AM - 2 PM

Morrison Park: Tuesday 20th - 11 AM - 2 PM

Join our family picnics. Bring your own food and enjoy fun on the green. The Level Two bus and sports equipment will be there.



Young Adult Session (YAS) - Wednesdays 5:30 - 7 PM

A year-round session offering a safe space for young people 16+ to hang out, play pool, and develop life skills.

Community Allotment

Drop in sessions throughout the summer, a chance to meet others and enjoy the outdoors.

For more information, please contact fydg@leveltwo.org or go to www.leveltwo.org



Felixstowe Men's Shed

We've attended a number of health fairs recently where members of the public can come and see what we offer, see some of the things we've made or refurbished and chat to some of our members. It's also a chance for us to chat to other local organisations many of whom we've been able to help along the way. The Hope Trust approached us for assistance with their gate (member Lee Hall pictured installing it) and we were able to produce a replacement and install it for them.

Our Wellness garden is blossoming and we are developing it further and hopefully we will have the greenhouse up and running very soon as well as a poly-tunnel. We've made and installed bird boxes and a bird table and now it's a pleasant place to sit and reflect or talk with other members.

Current projects inside the Shed include refurbishing an 1895 harmonium, model boats, clock restoration, walking sticks, furniture refurbishment and turned bowls to motorbike repairs. We make and repurpose items for the Shed itself such as benches and purpose-built storage.

We meet from 10-1pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Saturdays from 9-noon. You must be over 18 years of age and we accept any gender.

We are located at Unit C, Great Street Farm, near 185 High Road, Trimley St. Mary, IP11 0TN. Further information is available on our Facebook page and at www.felixstowemensshed.org.uk.

School News



Intergenerational Bonding: Langer Primary Academy and Coniston House Forge Lasting Connections



For the past ten weeks, the children of Langer Primary Academy have been on weekly visits to Coniston House, embarking on a voyage through time and shared experiences. History quizzes, craft activities, bingo battles, harmonious singing sessions, and lively seaside games have woven a tapestry of memories, enriching the lives of both the children and the residents of Coniston House.



Monday afternoons have become a highlight of the week, eagerly anticipated by the children and adults involved. Within the walls of Coniston House, laughter rings out, stories are shared, and friendships blossom across generations. At Langer Primary Academy, care, compassion, and community shine brightly as our children actively engage, embodying our core values.

At Langer Primary Academy, personal development, recognised as 'outstanding' in our recent Ofsted

inspection, guides our educational ethos. We understand that nurturing not only academic excellence but also the holistic growth of our students is paramount. Through initiatives such as this intergenerational project, we cultivate empathy, social skills, and a deep appreciation for the diverse tapestry of humanity.



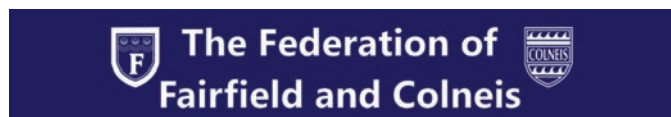
The success of this pilot project fills us with immense pride and gratitude. We are delighted that Langer Primary Academy has been chosen to extend this initiative into a year-long partnership with Coniston House. Together, we will continue to create connections, across generations, and sow the seeds of a brighter, more compassionate future.

As Head Teacher of Langer Primary Academy, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Coniston House and our dedicated staff for their willingness to support. Together, we shall continue to nurture the bonds that unite us, enriching lives and building a stronger, more inclusive community for generations to come.

At Langer everyone can achieve: we trust, we care, we aspire. Article provided by Mrs Jo Morgan-Soane



Reigns, Brains and Automobiles



The Summer Term is always a very busy time of year in our schools. Not only do we have a busy curriculum to continue to get through, we also build in lots of visits, trips and events for our children to enjoy. For example, our Year 2 children have recently visited the Transport Museum in Ipswich and our Year 5 children enjoyed their Tudor week which culminated in a day they could come in dressed as someone from this period.

It is also the time of year where children undertake end of year assessments. Our Year 6 children are currently taking their national SATs tests, as are all children in Year 6 across the country. We emphasise to the children that these are all about doing their best - to view them as a challenge and to enjoy them as much as they can! Our traditional SATs breakfast each morning also helps to foster a sense of team spirit amongst them. Article provided by Mr Mark Girling, Headteacher



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Annual Report 2023-24

A Message from the Mayor



I am pleased to present the Annual Town Report for 2023-24, highlighting the accomplishments and efforts of Felixstowe Town Council over the past year. It has been an honour to serve as Mayor of Felixstowe and Chairman of the Town Council. This report reflects our collective achievements

and the dedication of our council, staff, and community partners. While celebrating our successes, we also mourn the loss of David Underwood, who passed away shortly after being elected in May 2023. His experience as a long-serving Councillor and former Mayor of Godmanchester is greatly missed. We also acknowledge Cherrie MacGregor, who was unable to complete her term due to ill health. We look forward to filling the vacant seat early in the new Municipal Year.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Deputy Mayor Mike Deacon, my fellow Councillors, and the dedicated staff of Felixstowe Town Council for their support during my Mayoral Year. Finally, I thank all the community groups, organizations, businesses, volunteers, and residents of Felixstowe for their contributions. Your support and commitment have been heart-warming and essential in shaping a brighter future for our town. Best wishes, Cllr Seamus Bennett Mayor of Felixstowe 2023-24

**Cllr Seamus Bennett,
Mayor of Felixstowe 2023-24**

Finance and Governance Committee

Audit and Accounts Council received a clear and unqualified audit return for the 2022/23 financial year. The 2023/24 Audit will again be undertaken by PKF Littlejohn LLP in June 2024, and the audited accounts for 2023/24 will be available from September 2024. Finance and Governance Committee received two Internal Audit reports in 2023/24 with the Auditor finding Council's procedures to be sound and in good order. Business Plan 2024-28 Committee oversaw the process for the creation of the Council's latest Business Plan, covering the years 2024-28, which was recommended to Annual Council and will be available from June 2024 at www.felixstowe.gov.uk/council-documents. Following Member workshops, the draft Business Plan was put to public consultation from 22 March to 26 April 2024, with all feedback reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the new plan.

Budget and Precept

At the end of the financial year, the income outturn for 2023/24 exceeded budget estimates at 101.1%, and expenditure stood at 96.9% of budget, in spite of increased expenditure in

items such as skip and digger hire and various utilities (e.g. Town Hall Electric, Allotment Water). After several years of a freeze to the Town Council's portion of the council tax (the 'precept'), for the forthcoming 2024/25 financial year, Council agreed that a 5.54% increase would be needed. This means that annual Band D equivalent cost would increase from £70.87 to £74.80 per annum. The Town Council's element of the total council tax bill is just under 3.7%, with the other 96.3% being split between Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Constabulary. Council also holds ring-fenced funds for future projects and contingencies, known as 'Earmarked Reserves', and these are reviewed at least once annually to ensure appropriate provisions are in place.

| | 2022/23 Actual | 2023/24 Actual | 2024/25 Budget (Est.) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Balance at 1 April | £1,232,785 | £1,264,677 | £1,289,724 |
| (of which Earmarked Reserves) | (£795,445) | (£873,849) | (£952,450) |
| Total Income | £893,407 | £964,691 | £827,411 |
| Total Expenditure | £861,515 | £939,643 | £843,383 |
| Closing Balance at 31 March | £1,264,677 | £1,289,724 | £1,196,794 |
| (of which Earmarked Reserves) | (£873,849) | (£952,450) | (£953,006) |

Budget Estimates

Council's Finance & Governance Committee closely monitored and reviewed the financial position regularly. 2023-24 saw hirings and income return to pre-pandemic incomes. In calculating budget estimates for 2024-25 Council took a cautiously optimistic approach, being aware of increased costs due to the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. Due to careful budgeting in recent years, the Council's reserves are able to offer some protection against unforeseen variables.

General Power of Competence

The "General Power of Competence" was included in the Localism Act 2011 (Part 1, Chapter 1, 1-8). This power was brought into force by SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 in April 2012. The power enables eligible councils to have "the power to do anything that individuals generally may do" as long as they are not prevented from doing so by other laws. The Town Council continues to meet the criteria for eligibility and adopted the use of the General Power of Competence at its Annual Council Meeting on 15th May 2019, renewing this again on 17th May 2023.

Reserves

Council has both General Reserves and Earmarked Reserves. General Reserves ensure that there are adequate Financial Reserves to meet the needs of its operations and to ensure financial security (normally between 3 - 9 months of operational requirements). Earmarked Reserves are put aside for specified projects or for unexpected repairs which are not covered in the annual budget. Reserves can be ring-fenced for something specific i.e. CIL funds are put into specifically timed earmarked reserves or can be a standard earmarked reserve referring to the type of spending that may be requested to come from that reserve, i.e. Town Hall or Cemetery earmarked reserves.

Planning and Environment Committee

Planning Applications

During 2023/24 the Planning & Environment Committee considered a total of 195 local planning applications. Committee noted that on 60.5% occasions (118 of 195 reported decisions) East Suffolk Council has concurred with the Town Council's recommendation. Of those cases where there was contrasting view, a referral panel at East Suffolk Council reviewed the Town Council's recommendations before deciding whether to refer the application to the District Council's Planning Committee for determination. There were a total of 195 planning applications for the year 2023/24 out of these, 5 plans were refused by both East Suffolk and Felixstowe Town Council, 10 refused by East Suffolk but recommended for approval by Felixstowe Town Council and 12 East Suffolk approved while Felixstowe Town Council recommended refusal. 6 applications were withdrawn and 49 are still awaiting a decision from East Suffolk at this time. Landguard Lodge Council's Planning and Environment were instrumental in the prevention of a landmark building being demolished. Confirmation was received from East Suffolk Council, after a request from the Planning Committee, that

the Article 4 direction removing the permitted development right of demolition from Landguard Lodge, Manor Terrace, Felixstowe, was made permanent and that the building cannot be demolished unless a planning application is made and permission granted.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Council received CIL payments from East Suffolk Council totalling £158,023.77 in 2023/24. These funds are held in a separate Earmarked Reserve and are ringfenced to support appropriate projects within a five-year timescale allowed by legislation. Consultation has taken place to identify suitable projects and a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) has been drawn up to prioritise these in advance of delivery. This year £10,000 from previous CIL money received during the period 2019-20 has been granted to support the establishment of a new facility for the Lions Club to enable continuation of the provision of Christmas lights throughout the town, and £23,665 has been used to refurbish footpaths in both Allenby Park and Gosford Way Park.

Annual report 2023-24

Council Communications and Meetings

The Council engages directly with its residents, via digital platforms such as the Council's website www.felixstowe.gov.uk, tweeting from its @FelixstoweTC Twitter account and its Facebook page [facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil). A quarterly seasonal magazine is delivered to all households in

Felixstowe, giving a broader platform for community and council news as well as seasonal highlights throughout the year. Details of all Town Council Meetings and forthcoming events are displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall. Members of the public and press are welcome and regularly attend our Council and Committee meetings and a public session is held at the beginning of each meeting. Members of the public who are unable to attend in person, can joining the meeting online via a link provided on each agenda.

Civic Awards 2023/24

The Mayor presented the Civic Awards in May at the Annual Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting provides an opportunity for local electors to raise topics, ask questions and browse stalls hosted by local community groups.

Grants 2023/24



Felixstowe Town Council is committed to supporting and strengthening the many networks and community groups that help to make a positive difference to Felixstowe. Through its Annual and Occasional Grants scheme, the Town Council was able to support 37 local organisations and projects during 2023/24 with a total of £55,240 via its Occasional and Annual Grants scheme and through its community partnerships. These are just a few of the organisations we were able to help this year:

- Felixstowe Library - Audio/visual Corner
- 356 (Felixstowe) Squadron RAF Air Cadets - Get Active and Life Saving Skills
- Felixstowe Men's Shed Dinosaurs for the trail at Landguard Fort
- Lions Club of Felixstowe - Christmas Lights

Closing dates for Grant applications in 2024 are on 31 May and 30 November. Details on how to apply can be found on our website: www.felixstowe.gov.uk/council-services/grants.

Felixstowe in Flower



Council's Felixstowe in Flower initiative has contributed towards civic pride in the town since 1985. This year the launch took place on 1 June at Felixstowe Triangle. If you or your organisation would like to sponsor a basket or planter - or would like to enter one of our competitions - please contact the Town Hall. The Town Council give thanks to the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club for providing grey water run off, which we use to water the flowers, saving fresh drinking water.

Sustainable Bedding

With an aim to become more sustainable, the wooden planters in the town have been planted with perennial bedding plants. The flower beds at the Triangle and on the seafront have also been planted in this way, with vibrant plants which will become well-established over the long-term.

Christmas Funding was awarded to the Felixstowe BID (Business Improvement District) for the third year running towards the provision of a Christmas Ice Rink, which was welcomed back to Felixstowe having been unable to take place during the pandemic. The Council continued to support to the Lions Club with annual funding of £6,750 towards the provision of the Town Centre's Christmas lights.

Blue Flag



The Town Council was delighted that once again Felixstowe South and Pier were recognised as two of the country's best beaches and were awarded a Blue Flag and Seaside award by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. In order to receive the Blue Flag award beaches must comply with several criteria covering

environmental education and information, water quality, environmental management, safety, and services. Felixstowe consistently meets the criteria for 'excellent' international bathing water quality standards and, until January 2022, was the only beach in Suffolk to meet this exacting standard.

Remembrance



The Council and the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion supported several commemorative events in the town in 2023. Leading up to Amistice Day on Friday 11 November the road sign project in partnership with Felixstowe Remembers and local businesses saw poppies installed throughout the town and signs erected in 66 roads to recognise the 212 residents that were lost because of war. The Remembrance Sunday service included a record number of wreath layers, and solemnly observed by hundreds of residents. CCTV Review The Town Council, together with East Suffolk Council and the Suffolk Constabulary, is reviewing the town's CCTV provision with a view to upgrade the quality and monitoring of the cameras.

Flood Memorial



The anniversary of the North Sea Floods was remembered on 31 January 2024 with a service held at the Felixstowe Flood Memorial to remember the 41 lives lost in the the 1953 tragedy.

Flag Flying

A variety of flags have been raised throughout the year on the flagpole outside the Town Hall, this included the inaugural raising of the Progress Pride Flag during June's Pride month, the Suffolk Day Flag on 21 June, the Armed Forces flag for Armed Forces Week and the Commonwealth Day flag on 8 March. A touching service was held for Ukraine with the raising of the flag on 24 August to mark Ukraine's Independence Day. The Blue Flag and Union Jack have also been flown throughout the year.

Annual report 2023-24

Climate Emergency



Council requires Councillors and staff to consider climate, air pollution and nature plans in all their decision-making processes. Since Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, our dedicated Climate Emergency Working Group has regularly met to review processes, services, products and actions and to raise awareness locally. In addition, a wider 'Climate Action Group' with key stakeholders attended, including the Port of Felixstowe, BID, Chamber of Commerce, Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve and Litter Free Felixstowe to name but a few. The latest meeting included local developers, where progress on environmental benefits for new build developments was highlighted. From this group the 'Love Green Felixstowe' campaign has been launched.

ACTION WE'VE TAKEN SO FAR...

Council had Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates carried out in 2020 and have used these as a baseline for improvement, alongside regularly calculating its carbon footprint. In 2019, the Council's carbon consumption stood at 43.37 tonnes of CO₂, decreasing to 23.5 tonnes in 2020, and further down to 17.89 tonnes in 2023 this decrease was attributed to the adoption of electric vans and tools. Source: www.carbonfootprint.com/businesscarboncalculator.html

- Helped to launch 'Love Green Felixstowe' campaign and 'Edible Felixstowe' to encourage community planting around the town
- Single use Plastic Policy adhered to for all events
- Cycle to Work Scheme, with several employees now cycling to work Car Sharing and holding more meetings online.
- No Idling promotion in Schools
- Re-wilding in Langley Avenue
- Encouraging Wildlife at the Cemetery
- Reducing use of Herbicides or Pesticides
- Created a Green Management Plan improving the natural environment including creating new pathways in Town Council owned parks.
- Provided community allotments for the Grove Surgery and Level Two Youth Project to encourage participation in local food growing.
- Nursery created to help establish saplings and maintain plants
- Separating and recycling waste
- Replacing all lights at end of their life with LED Insulated to 270mm in uninsulated areas
- Replaced all garden tools with battery rechargeable power tools Use 100% renewable energy Suppliers
- Grey Water used for watering Felixstowe in Flower baskets
- Over 70 trees planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee, and over 300+ as part of the Woodland Trust scheme
- Electric van used as a first resort vehicle (except for towing)
- Refurbishment of Town Hall windows using highly efficient innovative glass with a very low thermal transmittance of 0.7 w/m².k.

- Grants to local organisations who want to reduce their carbon emissions and carry out environmental projects.

- Created a community orchard (micro woodland) at Cowpasture meadow.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE



The Climate Emergency Working Group will be working with the Felixstowe Youth Forum, involving High School students in its Climate Action Group. It is working in partnership with BID and other members of the Climate Action Group to plan a 'Love Green Felixstowe' event in September 2024. Council continues to work closely with community groups to support environmental projects. This year it has given grants to help set up the new Repair Café at Cuppa and is keen to hear from any organisations seeking funding to assist with local environmental projects. Council now has its own large compost and is helping the Allotment Association FAA become a 'Champion' for composting.

Improving Energy Efficiency

Following the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration made in July 2019, EPCs (Energy Performance Certificates) were obtained for all Council building and a DEC (Display Energy Certificate) produced for the Town Hall. Since then, Committee have been working to reduce further the carbon footprint of its buildings. Insulation has been increased and Winter 2023 saw the refurbishment and fitting of highly insulated glass with a u-value of the lowest thermal transmittance of 0.7 w/m².k. The glass was chosen to offer optimal insulation properties, whilst respecting the heritage and outer appearance of Felixstowe's historic Town Hall, which is located in a conservation area. Council's energy suppliers use 100% renewable energy and a 3 year fixed contract was taken out in Summer 2022. A LED light replacement programme continues replacing all faulty lights with LEDs.



Hall Hire and Weddings

Both the Town Hall and Walton Community Hall remain competitively priced venues for hire. Walton Community Hall is used by many local community groups and also for one off hires for birthday parties and special occasions. The Town Hall remains a popular venue for local weddings and rooms are also hired out to local organisations.

Town Hall

Water ingress present a few issues this year, causing part of ceiling to collapse above the bay window in the Council Chamber, which was promptly repaired. Damp is also being investigated in the front elevation of the building. Plans have been made to renovate the rear Disabled entrance which will have a new larger ramp to make it more accessible.

Broadway House

Council leases Broadway House, Orwell Road, to the Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association (FOPWA) which continues to provide a highly popular drop-in service. This year the bathrooms and rear hallway were redecorated.

Walton Community Hall

Floor renovation work has taken place this year, with the wooden floor being sanded and recoated with a polyurethane-based water lacquer. The floor has been revitalized and fortified against future damage. It will ensure the floor's longevity, preserving a key community asset for years to come. A review is currently underway to make Walton Community Hall more energy efficient. Grants will be investigated to help fund this work which will look at an holistic approach. It will ensure that the hall is well insulated and will also be looking at the possibility of using the existing air conditioning units as air source heat pumps and investigating solar panels, battery storage.

Grounds Team

The efforts of the Grounds Maintenance team over the past year demonstrate their steadfast dedication to enhancing public spaces, promoting sustainability, and preserving the assets of the Town Council. Through strategic interventions and collaborative partnerships,

they remain committed to delivering high-quality services and maintaining pleasant environments, both indoors and outdoors, for the residents of our town.

Allotments

An area in the northwest corner of the Cowpasture site, once designated as an allotment plot, has transitioned into a biodiverse space. Due to its unsuitability for traditional allotment use, it had remained vacant and overgrown since the last tenant vacated it in early 2022, and has now been repurposed to encourage biodiversity. The maintenance team ensures access to fruit trees within this area by keeping it trimmed, while also fostering a habitat for insects and birds. Measures such as removing windows from a large shed in the area aim to facilitate bird nesting, demonstrating a holistic approach to wildlife conservation within the allotment sites.

Cemetery

The Grounds Team continue to maintain Felixstowe Cemetery to a high standard, supporting funerals and interments throughout the year. Work has been carried out on the cesspit at the cemetery, as it had been filling rapidly. Observing rainwater infiltration from downpipes on the Toilet block, compounded by increased usage prompted action. A two-fold solution was implemented. Firstly, a Soakaway was installed at the Toilet block, diverting rainwater away from the cesspit, then, a land drain with a final effluent pump was integrated into the cesspit system. These interventions have substantially decreased the frequency of cesspit emptying to 1-2 times annually, enhancing operational efficiency and reducing maintenance costs.



Pathway Renovations in Allenby Park and Gosford Way Park

In response to a concern raised by a member of the public and as part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing public spaces, the Grounds Maintenance team undertook improvements at Allenby Park to enhance accessibility from the pathway to the grassed area and play area. Furthermore, new pathways have been installed at both parks by a local contractor.

Tree Planting Initiatives

Continuing our annual tradition, the grounds team has undertaken extensive tree planting endeavours across various sites. Trees, supplied by the Woodland Trust, have been planted along Langley Avenue to bolster native hedges and in other locations including the Cowpasture Meadow and some local parks. Notably, a nursery has been established at one of our allotment sites to nurture some saplings, ensuring a sustainable supply of mature trees for future landscaping projects.

Additionally, partnerships with local schools have facilitated the distribution of saplings, fostering environmental awareness and engagement within the community. Two oak trees and an ash tree, on the Ferry road Allotment site, needed to be felled due to their proximity to a house on the Laureate Fields development. Whilst unfortunate, this action was necessary for safety reasons. To mitigate the environmental impact, two oak trees were planted at Gosford Way Park, and one oak tree was planted at Allenby Park, contributing to the ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance green spaces within the community

Compost Production

In pursuit of sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the grounds team have embarked on an initiative to produce high-quality compost in-house. Utilising horse manure sourced from a local farm, along with fallen leaves and grass clippings collected from the cemetery, composting efforts are underway at the old Allotment site adjacent to the Cemetery. The first batch is expected to be ready by Spring 2025, with the aim of reducing expenditure on commercial compost and minimizing the Council's ecological footprint.

New Apprentice

Post Following the retirement of the Cemetery Supervisor, a new position, the Grounds & Maintenance Manager, was created to encompass both the previous responsibilities of the Cemetery Supervisor and the additional duties of the role. This also created a vacancy within the team and, following on from the first successful Grounds Maintenance apprenticeship post, the Council recruited another apprentice to fill the vacancy.

Lifetime Mortgage - Would I be eroding my capital?

Many customers are now coming to the end of an interest only mortgage without a plan to repay the capital. Some may have simply repaid a standard mortgage but are not sure what options may now be available to them.



ADRIAN BARNES
MORTGAGE AND
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SPECIALIST



One solution could be a Lifetime Mortgage, which in the past may have been dismissed due to the potential impact of debt rolling up.

However, several lenders have recently launched innovative products called Payment-Term Lifetime Mortgages (PTLTMs).

- These loans require borrowers to make mandatory repayments until their 66th birthday. For couples this will be until the older of the two reaches that age.
- After the age of 66 the product transitions to a standard roll-up interest lifetime mortgage, although customers can continue making repayments if they wish to. Most companies would allow customers to repay up to 10% of the amount borrowed per year without incurring a penalty.

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Another innovation is the 'interest served lifetime mortgage', also known as an 'optional payment lifetime mortgage'.

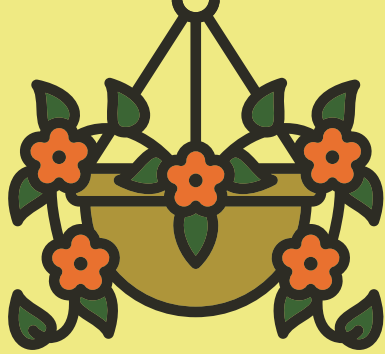
- With this option, the customer agrees to make set interest payments with the aim of reducing the total amount over the term of the loan. A number of lenders offer this product, with the added benefit that some customers may benefit from lower interest rates if they commit to regular repayments.

Contact us:
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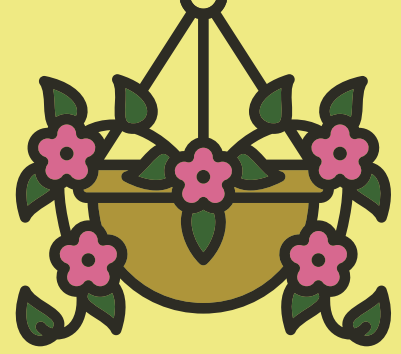


This is a lifetime mortgage. To understand the features and risks please ask for a personalised illustration. Our typical advice fee would be £1,000. A lifetime mortgage may impact your entitlement to means-tested benefits and the inheritance you may leave.





Felixstowe in flower 2024



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