

# Winter

Issue 23

The Seasonal Magazine  
for Felixstowe Residents

24/25



FELIXSTOWE  
TOWN COUNCIL



Santa and Rudolph Tour Felixstowe | Festive Family Fun | Mayor's Charity Cookbook  
Your Community Stories | Nominate a Community Hero | Our Environment



# LA VIDA SHOWBAR GOES LIVE IN '25



**Suffolk Sound**  
PRIDE OF THE HEART OF WILD COMPANY

7:30PM DOORS 8:00PM START

# 2024

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

CANAPÉS & WELCOME DRINK  
LIVE BAND  
SUFFOLK SOUND COUNTDOWN TAKEOVER  
MIDNIGHT DISCO

**TICKETS: LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK**  
LA VIDA SHOWBAR, SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

Tuesday 31st December 2024  
18yrs+ event. Service fees, full T&Cs via website.

# LA VIDA SHOWBAR

SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

# THE BIG 80'S COMEBACK!

WITH RUBIK'S 2 80S DUO

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**LA VIDA'S REOPENING PARTY**  
SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2025

FREE ENTRY - 18YRS+ EVENT - 9PM START. T&CS: LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK

# LA VIDA SHOWBAR

SEA ROAD, FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

AS SEEN AT:  
THE LONDON PALLADIUM  
The O<sub>2</sub> arena

AS SEEN ON:  
RuPaul's UK DRAG RACE  
BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSE



*La Voix*

SUNDAY 2ND FEB / DOORS 5PM / MEET & GREET / SHOW 7.30PM

**SUNDAY SESSIONS WITH LA VOIX**  
**TICKETS: LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK**

18yrs+ event. Service fees apply. Full T&Cs available via website.

13TH FEB

GLASS EYE COMEDY & LA VIDA SHOWBAR PRESENT

**£12 TICKET**

# LA COMEDA

FELIXSTOWE'S FINEST COMEDY NIGHT

★★★★★  
"LAUGH OUT LOUD FUNNY!"  
JOANNE FROM FELIXSTOWE



TICKET QR CODE



MC: LOUIE GREEN

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM START TIME 8PM  
LA VIDA SHOWBAR, SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

**TICKETS: LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK**

18YRS+ EVENT. SERVICE FEES APPLY. LINEUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FULL T&CS VIA WEBSITE.

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LA VIDA SHOWBAR, SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN



# Welcome from the Mayor

Hello and welcome to this Winter 24 edition!



As we enter the Christmas season which, for me, always begins when the lights are switched on in the Town Centre, my thanks goes to the Lions Club of Felixstowe, who put so much work in all year round in ensuring Felixstowe has a fantastic display of lights at Christmas. As Felixstowe is filled with festive spirit, my Civic Carol Service will take place on 19 December at 4.30pm at Felixstowe Methodist Church @ Trinity on Orwell Road. All are welcome to attend, and collection will be taken for my two charities, Breast Friends CIC and The Landguard Trust, so please do join me for this joyous event. In the run up to Christmas I will also be visiting Felixstowe's wonderful Care Homes and Felixstowe Hospital on Christmas Day, which I am looking forward to.



As Mayor, it is an honour to lead the Town in Remembrance, both on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day on 11 November, when I was accompanied by students from local schools, as we paid tribute to those who sacrifice their lives in times of War and conflict. I also took part in a short service, organised by the Wesel Association to pay respect at the graves of German service personnel who are buried at the Cemetery. Any life lost in War is a tragedy, and I am sure we will all be praying for peace in areas of the world today suffering from War and conflict.

If you are looking for a Christmas present, why not consider the Mayor's Charity cookbook, which will be on sale in the run up to Christmas? The book contains recipes from all your favourite restaurants and cafés in Felixstowe. The print of the book has been generously sponsored by the Felixstowe BID. All money raised from the sale of the cookbook will be donated to my two charities, Breast Friends CIC and the Landguard Trust. At £10, it is a great stocking filler or secret Santa gift. You can buy it from shops around the Town or from Felixstowe Town Hall. For more information about my chosen charities, and to find out about all of the exciting events we have planned for 2025, check out page 4 of the magazine.



As we move into 2025, if you are involved in a local charity look out for our Charities and Voluntary Organisations Summit. Felixstowe Town Council will be inviting charity and voluntary organisations and community groups to a day of helpful

workshops and networking, along with local businesses. The event will be an invaluable opportunity to share experiences, challenges, and advice on pathways for successful operation. Look out for an invite, or please contact the Town Hall if you are interested in attending.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cllr David Rowe,  
Mayor of Felixstowe

## Your Magazine

We would be pleased to receive relevant articles from community groups and voluntary organisations letting residents know what is happening in the Felixstowe area.

If you would like to submit an article for consideration in the next quarterly edition (**1 March**), please email [holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk) by **15 February** If possible, include hi-res images/photos and your group's logo. You don't have to send a fully-written article – bullet points or a few notes are fine to help point us in the right direction – but it must be no longer than 250 words. We will aim to cover many different articles from issue to issue and will seek to offer a fair and equal representation for community groups throughout the town. Sometimes articles may have to be edited, shortened or dropped altogether.

## Advertising

Limited advertising space will be available in future editions to support the cost of publication, with priority given to local, reputable businesses.

**Call 01394 282086 or email [enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk) for prices and to book your ad.**

Photo credit: With thanks to Stephen Squirrell and Jon Wills for the Various header images.

Thank you to Stephen Squirrell for providing the cover photo.

## Getting in Touch

Drop into the Town Hall or call us during office hours (9am – 4pm Mon-Fri) or email us at any time. We'd love to hear from you.

Phone: **01394 282086**

Email: [enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk)

Address:

**Felixstowe Town Hall  
Undercliff Road West  
Felixstowe  
IP11 2AG**

[www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://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



Felixstowe's charitable spirit took centre stage at the Mayor's Charity Bargain Hunt Auction at the historic Landguard Fort. The event, in support of the Mayor's chosen charities—the Landguard Trust and Breast Friends—featured ten teams from local organizations competing in a friendly "bargain hunt." The teams scoured the town for unique finds, which were later auctioned off during a lively cheese and wine evening.

The evening was a tremendous success, with guests eagerly bidding on the diverse items up for auction, all while enjoying a relaxed social atmosphere. By the end of the night, over £4,000 had been raised for the Mayor's charities.

Following this successful evening, the Mayor's Charities are gearing up for an exciting calendar of fundraising events in the coming months. January will kick off with a Curry Night at Bombay Nite on January 13th, followed by a romantic Valentine's Dinner at Alba Chiara on February 11th. March will bring "A Night at the Musicals" at La Vida, and April promises two big events: "Walk a Mile with the Mayor" at Landguard on April 19th, and the Mayor's Ball at Sea You on April 25th. Additionally, the Mayor's cookbook, Flavours of Felixstowe, is set to be released just in time for Christmas.

With so much on the horizon, the Mayor's Charities continue to bring the community together for memorable events and meaningful causes.

## Mayor of Felixstowe Launches Charity Cookbook: Flavours of Felixstowe

The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr David Rowe, is delighted to launch Flavours of Felixstowe, a cookbook showcasing much-loved recipes from local restaurants and cafes, in support of his chosen charities, Breast Friends CIC and The Landguard Trust. The cookbook contains recipes from over 20 restaurants and cafes in Felixstowe, and celebrates everything that is great about eating out in Felixstowe. Now you will be able to try some of your favourite restaurant dishes at home!

All money raised from the sale of the cookbooks will be donated to the Mayor's charities, Breast Friends CIC and The Landguard Trust. The print of the book was generously sponsored by the Felixstowe BID, and by the local establishments, who provided exclusive recipes to be featured, free of any charge.

The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr David Rowe, said: "Ever been out to a restaurant and thought you would love to try that dish at home? Well now you can! Flavours of Felixstowe, the Mayor's charity cookbook, features exclusive recipes from many of the much-loved restaurants and cafes in Felixstowe



and the surrounding area. The book is on sale for £10, and will make a great Christmas present! My thanks go to the Felixstowe BID for sponsoring the print of the cookbook, and to all of the restaurants who kindly provided recipes to be featured".

Dishes range from comforting cheese scones, to delicious waffles, toasts for the perfect 'working from home' lunch, and showstoppers that will certainly impress if you are hosting a dinner party.

Flavours of Felixstowe will be available to purchase from Felixstowe Town Hall, and from various shops in the town center. Please visit [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/mayors-charity-cookbook](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/mayors-charity-cookbook) for an up-to-date list of where the book can be purchased from.



## Breast Friends CIC



It has been a busy few weeks for Breast Friends. As well as the organisation that goes into the 2024 Mayoral events, the team have been busy planning for the events next year, not least the much anticipated fashion show. This will be a wonderful event with the opportunity to showcase local shops, as well as to see a number of Breast Friends models take to the catwalk. Stay tuned for more details!

We have also been busy in the run up to Christmas, with festive events at our HQ in Needham Market including a number of our community helping us to pack this year's Christmas cards ready for sale. The cards were designed by Breast Friends members and are available either from the WoolBaa, or our online shop on our website. You can also view our 2025 desk calendar, new to the shop, a great stocking filler for the festive



season, along with all of our other merchandise.

In other exciting news, we have launched a brand new group, aimed at supporting people living with secondary breast cancer. The group '2SHINE' has its first members and is led by one of our amazing members Ann, living herself with secondary breast cancer. 2SHINE is open to anyone in the UK living with a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, so please get in touch if you would like to join our welcoming community.

For any information on any of the support we offer, please head over to our website. [www.breastfriends.co.uk](http://www.breastfriends.co.uk)

# 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 Park.
- 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 Wesel 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, Citizen's Advice and the Landguard Fort Trust.
- Felixstowe Cemetery and its Gardens of Rest.

Call 01394 282086 or visit  
[www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

# Town Councillors 2024/25

Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr David Rowe

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Corrine Franklin

## Walton Ward



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



**Mike Deacon \***  
mike.deacon@felixstowe.gov.uk  
01394 211146



**Margaret Morris**  
margaret.morris@felixstowe.gov.uk  
01394 274345

## Central Ward



**Darren Aitchison**  
darren.aitchison@felixstowe.gov.uk  
07838 215 964



**Seamus Bennett \* \*\***  
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**Jan Candy \***  
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0778 527 7647

## East Ward



**Nick Barber**  
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**Bernard Price**  
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**Steve Wiles \*\***  
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## South Ward



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**Wendy Underwood**  
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## Port Ward



**Stuart Bird \*\***  
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01394 275128



**Marc James**  
marc.james@felixstowe.gov.uk  
07973 870 066



**David Rowe**  
david.rowe@felixstowe.gov.uk  
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**Michael Sharman**  
michael.sharman@felixstowe.gov.uk  
01394 213071



**Corrine Franklin**  
corrine.franklin@felixstowe.gov.uk  
07960 722 333

### Key

\* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

\*\* Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council



# 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:

11th December	Planning & Environment	9:30am
11th December	Civic & Community	7:30pm
8th January	Planning & Environment	9:30am
8th January	Ordinary Council	7:30pm
15th January	Finance & Governance	7:30pm
22nd January	Planning & Environment	9:30am
5th February	Planning & Environment	9:30am
12th February	Civic & Community	7:30pm
19th February	Planning & Environment	9:30am
19th February	Assets & Services	7:30pm
5th March	Planning & Environment	9:30am
5th March	Ordinary Council	7:30pm

Note: all meetings listed are open to the press and public, who are also welcome to attend online via Zoom. 15 minutes are set aside for public participation, during which time members of the public can speak or ask a question. Details on when meetings take place, the matters for consideration and records of decisions made are all available on our website, facebook page and twitter.

For further information please telephone 01394 282086 or email [enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk).

## Contacting Council Staff

**Phone:** 01394 282086 (all staff)

**Email:** [enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk)

### Address:

Felixstowe Town Hall, Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG

**Website:** [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk)

**Ash Tadjrishi** – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
[townclerk@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@felixstowe.gov.uk)

**Debbie Frost** – Deputy Town Clerk  
[debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk)

**Sue Faversham** – Civic Events Officer  
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**Sarah Morrison** – Planning Administration Assistant  
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**Shaun Congi** – Financial Administration Assistant  
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**Holly Miles** – Communications Officer  
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**Janine Smith** – Assets & Services Officer  
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# Your Community Stories

## Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum



In the last edition of the magazine we said we were looking forward to the visit of our friend Patrick Kaberia, a Fairtrade farmer from Michimikuru in Kenya. Patrick arrived in Felixstowe on Friday 20 September and met local supporters at an evening reception. The next day he visited the Co-op in Hamilton Rd and met the manager, Rob Smy.

Rob then joined us, together with other business, church, Town Council and voluntary sector representatives for a breakfast meeting at the United Reformed Church. Patrick told the group how Fairtrade had helped his community over many years and had made it more resilient to the effects of climate change. Climate change, however, continued to be a major threat to tea production, causing unpredictability in the weather.



Patrick then went on to meet local children and their families at our Family Fun Day at Felixstowe library. The photo shows him talking to one of the pupils from Trimley St Mary primary school.

After Felixstowe Patrick visited Woodbridge, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Beccles and Lowestoft. Footage of his trip to Suffolk will be incorporated into a video for schools, which is due to be launched in January.

## Old Felixstowe Community Association

The Association's 51st Annual General Meeting was held in October and the main theme of the meeting was volunteering. The Community Centre is busier than ever with thirty-five groups meeting regularly and private bookings exceptionally high. However, with success brings more demands so we are looking for more volunteers to join us. Please contact me at celiapage@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to discuss this further, we are a friendly bunch!

The Community Markets continue to be extremely popular, and the Christmas Market is being held on Saturday 14th December. There will be a Grand Draw with a Christmas hamper as the main prize so please do join us, the Market opens at 10am. We are so grateful to the Parish Nurses who attend and chat to visitors and this is becoming an extremely popular service. Councillor Steve Wiles is also in attendance and is always willing to discuss any issues concerning the community.



The use of the old letter rack in the Community Centre dramatically declined during Covid when people started using email more often. During the last 12 months there has been enquiries about displaying leaflets from local charities, doctors, and event managers but the letter rack was not suitable as the leaflets 'flopped'. The Men's

Shed were asked if they could produce a specially designed leaflet holder as a replacement – and it is now in place. There is still a spot reserved for mail for the OFCA groups and organisations.

Recently the Community Association worked with the Town Council on a joint project to improve the accessibility of the Community Centre and Gosford Way Park by constructing a new path. This means that there is now easy access from both Margery Girling House and the park to the Centre.

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. Article provided by Celia Page - Chair

## Felixstowe Wesel Association - 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Wesel

On the evening of 19th September, a group of 24 from Felixstowe boarded the overnight ferry from Harwich for the 50th Anniversary Twinning celebrations in Wesel. There was a total party in all of 40 representatives including the official civic party including the Mayor Cllr David Rowe and other members travelling independently.



The busy weekend started with a barbecue at Bislich Fire Station on the Friday evening. A very enjoyable evening was had, and we thank the hosts.



Late Saturday morning the Official ceremony took place in the council chamber. There was the signing of the certificates and lots of presentations and speeches from Burgermeisterin Ulrika Westkamp and Mayor Cllr David Rowe. This was followed by a light lunch. In the afternoon, at the Popular University, Karl Hoemberg and Richard

Holland introduced the German language version of The Chronicle and there was a slideshow showing people, places and events from over the 50 years. There was lots of fun with guessing faces and places. In the evening it was the Cultural event in Wesel, and everyone was invited to join a guided tour given by two local and very informative students. It was a wonderful evening, where many of the group got to see things they had previously missed.

Sunday was an earlyish start, firstly to see the new mural, covering the side of a building, in celebration of 50 years.

This was followed by the unveiling of a memorial stone with a plaque to celebrate the 50th Anniversary situated in the area where 5 trees have already been planted, each symbolising 10 years of twinning and friendship. The Karnival band provided the musical accompaniment to this event.



We congratulate Heiko Hemmers on becoming the new Chairman of Wesel Felixstowe Association. As she steps down, we would like to thank Hanne for all she has done over the years.



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## The Felixstowe Air Cadets are Recruiting, again!



At 356 (Felixstowe) Squadron ATC, working with the wider Norfolk and Suffolk Wing, we offer a wide variety of activities and training including flying, gliding, mountain biking, trekking, navigation, paddle sports, football, athletics, swimming, fieldcraft, archery, varied parade drill at all levels, RAF Station visits, interest visits,

leadership training, STEM, radio & cyberspace training, BTEC's, shooting, formal first aid qualification training and so much more!

We also undertake Squadron / Cross Squadron level camps and competitions in East Suffolk in addition to our weeklong Adventure Training Camps, RAF Station camps and National event camps. All camps offer a wide variety of activities for all of our Cadets, at all levels.

We gather every Monday & Wednesday between 19:00-21:30 at our Squadron HQ where Cadets undertake various training and activities in addition to finding out about upcoming events and opportunities beyond Felixstowe.

If you are interested in joining us, we have a recruitment Afternoon on Sunday 19th of January from 12:00 – 15:00 at our Squadron HQ (address below, not to be confused with the Drill Hall on Garrison Lane). Potential Recruits with Parents and Guardians are invited to attend.

If you are between 12-17 Years old, and School Year 8 or above, you can join us!

Please email [356@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:356@rafac.mod.gov.uk) to sign up!

Pilot Officer Reece Seaman RAFAC | Officer Commanding | 356 (Felixstowe) Sqn ATC | RAF Air Cadets | Adastral Close off Carr Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 3RX |



## The BASIC Life Charity are celebrating 25 years in Felixstowe!



BASIC are coming up to their 25th anniversary as a registered charity.

Over that time we have become part the fabric of Felixstowe life, and we have been honoured to serve the local community in so many different ways.

It seems a lifetime ago that we opened our very first shop next to Safeway (now Morrisons) on Cavendish Park before moving to Orwell Road and then on to our present location at 17 Hamilton Road.

In April of this year we opened a new shop at 37 Theatre Street in Woodbridge to operate alongside our Felixstowe and Walton shops.

In addition we are the proud owners of The BASIC Community Cafe (formally The Laydens) in Langley Avenue and we also operate a large and vibrant online business from our two depots.

Our ethos has always been to assist those in need in whatever way we can and, in addition to making donations to groups and individuals, we have kept the prices of our stock at the same price for the entire 25 years!

Of course, we recognise that our work could not happen without our fantastic and committed staff and volunteers who continually put their heart and soul into our operation.

Finally - it is you, the customers who have enabled us to assist so many local people over the years, whether by purchasing or donating the amazing items we receive each day.

To everybody involved a massive 'Thank you'.

Article provided by Graham Denny

## Felixstowe Coastwatch Moves into Winter Season with Strong Local Support

As we move into the winter season, Felixstowe Coastwatch station will remain open seven days a week, during daylight hours, with its volunteer watchkeepers maintaining "eyes along the coast" for HM Coastguard. Incidents occur even at these quiet times of the year such as objects seen in the water or lone sailors in difficulty, plus there remains the importance of keeping an eye on hardy sea swimmers, kite surfers and paddleboarders.

The station enjoys great support from local people, for example glass artist, poet and author Dawn Jackson who lives in Martello Park and says of the Martello Tower on which the Coastwatch lookout sits: "I am thrilled to have this iconic landmark as my neighbour. Every one of the dedicated Coastwatch team are volunteers, giving up their time to keep our section of coastline safe. It's a local charity I am very proud to support."

She added: "Earlier this year I learned from one of the Coastwatch volunteers that 2024 would be the 30th anniversary of the organisation. As someone who has always loved to write poetry, this got me thinking, and shortly after that conversation, I had penned a poem for them and signed up to donate £10 a month to their cause, as my charity of the year."

Following a visit to the lookout by Dawn to learn about what Coastwatch does and the equipment used, her poem now takes pride of place on the station noticeboard:

*Sat atop Martello P,  
You'll find them looking out to sea,  
With binoculars in hand,  
They diligently scour off-land.  
The volunteers of NCI,  
Logging boats as they pass by,  
Between the rivers and the port,  
When out of sight, on cameras caught.  
Container ships, sail boats and more,  
Far out to sea or by the shore,  
Paddle boards, canoes, small craft,  
A bunch of kids, with makeshift raft.  
Watching out for you and me,  
They give their time so selflessly,  
Every day of every year,  
Come rain or shine someone is here.  
Making sure that all is calm,  
Whilst ready to raise the alarm.  
For 30 years they've manned this post,  
Keeping safe, our Suffolk coast.  
So thank you Coastwatch volunteers,  
And here's to the next 30 years!*



Left to right: Frank Moxon (Watchkeeper), Dawn Jackson, Nick Barrett-White (Station Manager)

## Friends of Felixstowe Library – Felixstowe Library Project

The Friends of Felixstowe Library have been delighted to carry out a project to refurbish an area of the library with new flooring, shelving, desking and comfy chairs. This area contains the library collections of audio CDs and large print books. It also has five new workstations with power and USB sockets and this new study area is being used on a daily basis by many people. We were delighted to welcome our generous supporters to the opening in August, and Cllr David Rowe, Mayor of Felixstowe, cut the ribbon.



We are very grateful to everyone who has supported the Friends of Felixstowe Library by attending our fundraising events. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to those who have generously contributed to this project, including Felixstowe Town Council, East Suffolk Cllrs Jan Candy, Mark Jepson and Rosie Smithson and Mr and Mrs M Hood.

Our next event is our Christmas coffee morning and book sale at the library on Saturday 14 December. Please come along for refreshments and lovely festive entertainment from the Felixstowe Community Choir



## Felixstowe Offshore Radio



2024 has seen the 60th anniversary of Radio Caroline, and our 10th year of celebrating the links between the local area and the offshore stations.

It has been a busy year, starting with events to commemorate the launch of Caroline off the coast of Felixstowe in 1964.

First, we had a gathering at the Caroline commemorative stone

on March 27th, to mark the arrival of the MV Caroline 60 years ago. Then at 12 noon on March 28th, the anniversary of the official opening was celebrated by the reopening of Felixstowe Museum for 2024, by a gathering of Caroline DJ's past and present, which featured on both the ITV National & Anglia News.

In addition, we have given a number of talks during the year, in Great Bentley (Essex), Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds & Sudbury, and Felixstowe (three times), plus one via zoom to Saxmundham!

Felixstowe Museum invited us to put on an additional display looking back 60 years to when Caroline was anchored off Felixstowe, and the Felixstowe Society arranged for us to use The Hut for a 'pop up' display during the Heritage Open Days weekend.



We are delighted to have been invited by the Museum to put together a new display for 2025 (opening around Easter), and we have a further five talks booked too, so it's another busy year ahead!

To find out more, or to contact us, please visit:  
[www.facebook.com/felixstoweandoffshoreradio](http://www.facebook.com/felixstoweandoffshoreradio)

## Felixstowe Lions Club



Well, it has been a busy few months for the Lions, here are some highlights

Our annual Golf Day held at Alnesbourne Priory Golf Course. The winners this year was Lord of the pins. On the day £539.00 was raised and was donated to the RNLI.

In conjunction with the New Century Leo's, we arranged our

first car wash with Felixstowe Fire Station. The amount raised was £950.00 which was divided between the Leo's charity and Fire Fighters Charity.

The annual Steam Model Exhibition, raise just over £1400 at the event of which £500.00 was donated to the Air Ambulance.

This year was the Lion's first year sponsoring the Felixstowe and Walton under 10's. Which the team all got new kits.

Some of the Lions have also been working hard at various garden projects in the town.

Some dates for your diaries for 2025: 22nd February - Pig Race, 13th April - Model Truck Fest, 20th April - Easter Egg Hunt and 18th May - Dog Show.

As we go to print this will be the last article before Christmas, so we would like to thank all our supporters and volunteers who have helped us throughout the year. We wish all a very Happy Christmas and a joyful 2025.

Follow us on Facebook for more details on more of the above.

For more information about Lions of Felixstowe please see our web page for more details [felixstowelions.org.uk](http://felixstowelions.org.uk)

## Felixstowe Family History Society

The Felixstowe Family History Society have enjoyed a variety of speaker subjects during the Autumn namely Migration through the UK, History of Parham Airfield, Admiral Sir Philip Vere Broke and Carl Giles and his adopted town of Ipswich.



We hold our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at Broadway House. Our first meeting of 2025 is Wednesday 8 January 2025 when Graham Murchie visits to tell us about The Eyes of the Few - Bawdsey Radar Trust.

Further dates for your diary - 12 February - The River Gipping Trust by Gerry Crease and 12 March You'll Make a Lovely Sergeant - the WW1 Experience of Flora Sandes by Janette Robinson. More speaker details on our website [www.felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net](http://www.felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net). Free parking available after 1800 at the rear of the meeting place, accessible from Highfield Road, Felixstowe IP11 7BZ for Wednesday meetings.



We also offer Friday drop-in sessions for genealogy support (drop in dates - 31 January, 28 February and 28 March 2025 1015-1200 noon) at Broadway House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD with Nick Smith. Maybe make 2025 the year you start your family tree research or come along for support with any brick walls in your search.

Members are free. Non-members £3. If you'd like to join us, please visit our website for membership details.

We have a raffle and refreshments at the end of the meeting to socialise with visitors and members.

If you have any questions, contact us via the website. We look forward to seeing you soon.



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## Felixstowe Town Council Charities and Voluntary Groups Summit



On 20 February 2025, Felixstowe Town Council is hosting a Charities and Voluntary Groups summit at Felixstowe School. The Summit, which will be hosted from 10am-3pm, will provide the opportunity for local charities and voluntary groups to connect, network and to share their experiences of operating in Felixstowe and the surrounding area. Attendees will be provided with the opportunity to join a series of workshops on different topics relevant to running a charity or voluntary organisation. Lunch will be provided.

If you are part of a charity or voluntary organisation based in Felixstowe and the surrounding area, and you are interested in attending, please contact [holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk). You can book your tickets for FREE at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/felixstowe-town-council-charity-and-voluntary-groups-summit-tickets-1104426933689](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/felixstowe-town-council-charity-and-voluntary-groups-summit-tickets-1104426933689). We ask that you kindly do not book more than two tickets per charity organisation. If you are planning attend, we also ask that you complete this a short survey to identify what you are most interested in learning about, and to register what the greatest challenges are that you charity or voluntary organisation has faced. You can complete the survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQ8WK3J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQ8WK3J).

If you are a local business who may be willing and able to offer advice, or a short workshop at the Summit, please contact [mayor@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@felixstowe.gov.uk). Whether you have a knowledge of the law, safeguarding, marketing, social media and communications or managing volunteers, we would like to hear from you. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Hire the Town Hall for All Your Meeting and Mini-Conferencing Needs

Looking for the perfect venue for your meetings or mini-conferences? The Town Hall Chamber in Felixstowe offers a professional and elegant setting.

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## Felixstowe Rotary Club



We were delighted to arrange for 24 young carers with supporting staff to have a fun weekend away in October at PGL Bawdsey. It was good to hear from two members of the Suffolk carers staff yesterday at our club meeting how well it went for the youngsters as obviously it was a special treat for them.

Initially they were reticent about taking part in the various events at Bawdsey. However, once they gathered confidence there was no stopping them. They were involved in such activities as kayaking, high swing, challenge course, abseiling and silent disco.



You will find on the below links supplied by Suffolk Carers details of the event, photos and feedback from the children. It so impressed our members what we have been able to do for these young people many of who come from challenging lives. We hope we can do it all again in the future.

## CHRISTMAS IN FELIXSTOWE



**7 DECEMBER** **Christmas Craft Market**  
Great Eastern Square, Hamilton Road. From 10 am  
Local Crafts • Live Music • Freshgold Radio  
Festive Treats

**14 DECEMBER** **Christmas Craft Market**  
Great Eastern Square. Hamilton Road  
From 10 am • Local Crafts  
Live Music • Freshgold Radio  
Waffle Shack Festive Treats

**20 DECEMBER** **FREE Ice Rink Opening**  
Great Eastern Square. From 11 am  
Arrival of Santa Express • Santa's Grotto  
Children's craft workshop • Waffle Shack Festive Treats  
Pop Chorus • Freshgold Radio • Mini FunFair  
Ice rink & Funfair open 20th, 21st, 22nd,  
23rd: weather permitting





## Edible Felixstowe - Our First Growing Year



We have had a busy and productive first year for our project to grow publicly accessible food in the town. Here is a look back to last winter:

Since January 2024 we have:

- Set up our CIC Edible Felixstowe, started a bank account (both harder than you'd think!) and successfully applied and obtained a couple of grants from the council to get us off the ground;
- Talked to Felixstowe Town Council, East Suffolk Council and the Library service to gain permissions to grow edibles in under utilized ground, as well as talking to local businesses to get them involved by having edible planters outside their premises;
- We successfully launched our project in April and promoted ourselves at various local public events throughout the season;
- We've found some brilliant and loyal volunteers who share our vision (huge thanks to them!);
- We've prepared ground, grown and planted an abundance of seeds and young plants, watered (a lot!) and people have harvested loads of herbs, tomatoes, strawberries and edible flowers among other produce;
- We have gained over 400 followers on our social media pages;
- We ran 2 free cooking demonstrations of jam and gins with our friends at Roseberry Café;

- We rounded off the season by holding our Grow, Cook, Eat festival at the end of September championing local food and drink, with a custom made smoothie bike, delicious home cooked seasonal food, gluts of excess veg, and live music – a great day was had by all!

Work is continuing through autumn and winter to rehouse herbs and keep the blue planters in Hamilton Road full of interest. If you need herbs over winter, there are sage, rosemary, chives, and thyme outside the Library, please snip away!

As well as huge thank you to our brilliant band of volunteers, who, among other things watered like crazy to keep our plants going all summer; we would like to thank anyone who has joined our Facebook Group and Instagram page; anyone who has stopped to talk to us in the town about the project while we were gardening (we've heard some lovely comments) and any organisation or business who have interacted with us.



Over the winter we hope to launch our new website [ediblefelixstowe.org.uk](http://ediblefelixstowe.org.uk) to keep everyone up to date with our project as we move into 2025, in the meantime check out our Facebook Group and Instagram page. We are currently exploring areas to grow veg next year, If anyone or any business or organisation would like to get involved in 2025 we would love to hear from you!

Keep it local over Christmas and see you next year!  
Kate and Heidi, Co- Directors

## Felixstowe Garden Club



Felixstowe Garden Club enjoyed an interesting Autumn programme of events. Julian Ives from [dragonfli.co.uk](http://dragonfli.co.uk) joined us to discuss Natural Pest control in the Garden, Chris Wiley entertained us with Sustainability in Horticulture and Steve Gallant stepped in to talk about Tools with a Mission [www.twam.uk](http://www.twam.uk).

We held a successful Autumn mini show in October despite a challenging growing season. Members enjoyed our summer outing to Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden and East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens.



Some dates for your 2025 diary:

14 January – Chris Parfitt – Plants, Trees and Flowers on a journey across the Himalayan Kingdom.

11 February – Ruth Goudy, Kiln Farm Nursery – 125 years in Horticulture

11 March – Joanne Hull – Benton End Flowers



We meet every second Tuesday of the month at Old Felixstowe Community Centre. Meetings start at 1900 and free refreshments are available from 1830. Free parking outside the hall and on street parking. Visitors are welcome £5 cash on the door.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you will spread the word and encourage friends and family to join us, you would be very welcome. Membership renewal in January 2025. Also, we are looking for more committee members in 2025. Please have a chat, we would welcome your support. Thank you to all who currently support the Club.

Please visit our website [www.felixstowedistrictchs.onesuffolk.net](http://www.felixstowedistrictchs.onesuffolk.net) or Facebook page. Hope to see you in 2025.

## Felixstowe Allotment Association



Autumn is here, with many allotment plots now in need of a good tidy up. Furthermore, it's change over time as some tenants move on or just

surrender their plots for a variety of reasons. The clean-up process ahead of winter digging (yes I still dig) is also the realisation that the year of growing is nearly done save the winter greens that remain.



Mind you, after a great year for fruit production in particular, this summer has seen a vast increase in all things creepy. The cabbage white butterfly and its eggs have absolutely covered my sprouts, cabbages and the like. I've tried all manner of tricks to reduce their number but I have to admit I've failed. The plants have been eaten by the ever growing caterpillars and therefore I have dug them all up and composted what little was left!

That's the joy of have an allotment, being able to enjoy the gluts and then face the reverse when mother nature takes over and in the case of my brassica's wins. There's always next year and the local shops will bail me out when the wife is seeking winter vegetables or my allotment buddies will take pity on us.

The Town Council continue to see a turn around on the allotment sites across town, especially now as the tenancy agreements are renewed or otherwise. The allotment association seeks to work with our landlord to obtain full use and benefit from the sites and we offer our members access to a small shop and seeds at a reduced price from a prize winning local seed merchant.

One highlight for a member has been a fantastic row of celery, not often grown given its complexity. The picture shows the bespoke paper collar around each one to ensure a long white blanched stalk, guaranteed to bring comment from those lucky enough to chew on it perhaps helped by a liberal dose of table salt.

Article provided by Nev Farthing

## Green Impact Felixstowe: Felixstowe Environment Awards 2024



Green Impact Felixstowe is a group trying to encourage people to look after their local environment. We want to create and protect green spaces across the town and put nature at the centre of all we do and the decisions we make: planting not removing trees; taking an interest in wildlife from birds to insects and badgers to bats; encouraging clean air and clean waterways; keeping plastic from the seas. Ultimately, we aim to encourage the next generation, in particular, to love and value all that is special about our town.

Now in their fourth year, we questioned whether it is appropriate to encourage young children do the small things like looking after snails and bees when some adults in authority are having a massive negative impact on precious wildlife. However, a local businessman wisely convinced us that actually there has never been a better time to inspire the next generation.

A programme to identify 'green heroes' in schools has been launched. Schools have been provided with beautiful certificates and 'green hero' badges to award pupils who are taking positive action or encouraging others. We hope these awards will turn into nominations for the Felixstowe Environment Awards 2024. Nominations should be completed by 15 January with the winners announced in early spring. We will also recognise schools which are making a difference and individual teachers and youth leaders who are inspiring young people. For an application form or to nominate please email [litterfreefelixstowe@gmail.com](mailto:litterfreefelixstowe@gmail.com) or speak to your local school.

Sometimes it is easy to despair about the environment and threats to our green space but now is the time to show we care. Green Impact Felixstowe is grateful for the growing support amongst Town Councillors who value our countryside and are making a stand to protect it. For more information see our Facebook page: Green Impact Felixstowe

## 2024 Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony



Do you have green fingers? Every year, gardeners of all abilities enter Felixstowe in Flower. The 16 free Felixstowe in Flower competitions aim to bring colour to the town, and to award residents and businesses for their gardening efforts.

Categories range from the best hanging baskets to the most unusual containers entrants can muster. Students from local schools also enter a series of competitions, for gardening projects undertaken throughout the year.

On 17 October 2024, the Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony was hosted at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. The evening recognised the efforts entrants, their beautiful gardens, and the innovation and creativity of the students at local schools.

2025 will mark the 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower. To make sure Felixstowe in Flower is bigger and brighter than any year before, we need your help! You can find more information about everything to come, and a copy of a competition form at [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/felixstowe-in-flower](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/felixstowe-in-flower)

**DO YOU KNOW A COMMUNITY HERO?**

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## WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

### DECEMBER 2024

THU	05	<b>EVE</b>	8:00PM	<b>Christmas By Candlelight</b>
FRI	06	<b>EVE</b>	8:00PM	<b>MJ: The Legacy</b>
SAT	07	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>RocketMan</b>
SUN	08	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>The Jive Aces</b>
FRI	13	<b>EVE</b>	8:00PM	<b>FastLove</b>
SAT	14	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Tennessee Country Christmas</b>

20 DEC 2024 - 1 JAN 2025 - **Christmas Panto: Sleeping Beauty**

### JANUARY 2025

SAT	11	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Elvis On Tour (16+)</b>
WED	15	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Peter Andre in 'The Best of Frankie Valli'</b>
SAT	18	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Jimi: The Legend Lives On</b>
SAT	25	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Sex Bomb - The Music of Tom Jones</b>

### FEBRUARY 2025

SAT	01	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>The Bon Jovi Experience</b>
SUN	02	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Buddy Holly's Winter Dance Party</b>
SAT	08	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Cirque Enchantment</b>
SUN	09	<b>MAT</b>	2:00PM	<b>Fred Dinenage: Ronnie, Reggie &amp; Me</b>
FRI	14	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Ben Elton: Authentic Stupidity</b>
SAT	15	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Nine Below Zero + Dr Feelgood</b>
THU	20	<b>MAT</b>	2:00PM	<b>Dino Invasion</b>
SAT	22	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>Jim Davidson: The Next Chapter (18+)</b>
SUN	23	<b>EVE</b>	7:30PM	<b>The Simon &amp; Garfunkel Story</b>
FRI	28	<b>EVE</b>	8:00PM	<b>Adult Panto: Big Dick Whittington (16+)</b>

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**20 DEC '24 - 1 JAN '25**



**SAT 25 JAN, '25 - 7:30PM**



**SAT 8 FEB, '25 - 7:30PM**

# Celebrate Christmas in Felixstowe 2024

*with festive events from seaside to station!*

**This December, Felixstowe transforms into a magical destination filled with festive cheer, making it a must-visit whether you live in the town or planning to visit. There are dozens of events happening around the town, be sure not to miss out by following Visit Felixstowe on Facebook and Instagram for updates.**

## Christmas Light Up Day

Saturday November 30th, may have passed by the time this is delivered: it's when the festivities begin with the grand Christmas Light Up Day at The Triangle and Hamilton Road. With the biggest to date craft market starting at 10 am, visitors can explore enticing stalls amongst our town centre shops and the renowned Lions Barbecue. Families will adore Santa's Grotto, where little ones can meet Father Christmas himself. With a lineup of live music and local charm, Light up day in Felixstowe is an unforgettable experience. The highlight? The spectacular lights switch-on at 5 pm, presided over by Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr. David Rowe



## Weekend Markets and Musical Merriment

Throughout December, Felixstowe's festive flavour continues with craft markets at Great Eastern Square on December 7th and 14th. Partnering with local craft queen, Mrs I Crafts, these markets showcase local artisans with a backdrop of local live festive music, and broadcasts by Freshgold Radio, making them perfect for finding unique gifts and soaking in the festive atmosphere.

## Winter Fun for All Ages

On Friday December 20th, the town ramps up the excitement with the ever-popular opening of the free ice rink at Great Eastern Square. Visitors can glide across the ice while enjoying the arrival of the Santa Express and Santa himself in his pop up grotto at Felixstowe Wellbeing Hub. With a free children's craft workshop by Paint to The People and Ocean Boulevard's mini funfair, we're looking forward to a fabulous and festive opening day of the ice rink. Weather permitting, the ice rink and funfair will remain open until the afternoon of December 23rd, promising endless festive fun.

## And that's not all to Explore: Shops, Beach Street, and More

Beyond these events, Felixstowe's independent shops, cafes, restaurants, and bars offer cozy spots to relax and recharge. From charming boutiques to individual eateries, there's something for every taste. Don't miss Beach Street: a vibrant hub of shipping-container shops and creative outlets with an amazing array of eateries plus the new outdoor pods. Beach Street have a great schedule of festive events in December. Follow Beach Street for more info.



## A Town Full of Spirit

Felixstowe during Christmas is a celebration of community, creativity, and cheer. Whether you're marvelling at the glowing lights, finding the perfect gift, or sipping a warm drink by, the town offers an unparalleled festive experience. This Christmas, come and see Felixstowe sparkle like never before!



## Santa's Ride around Town December 2024



Rotary



**Felixstowe Lions, the Rotary Club of Felixstowe and Save the Children are again joining together to bring Christmas cheer and raise funds for worthy causes. Santa and his helpers do their best to visit as many streets as they can.**

If they don't catch you at home, or you would like to chat to Santa and take photos, please come to one of the four weekend locations shown below. Weekday evening runs all start at 6pm. For route plans, see the "What's On" section of the Visit Felixstowe website and on the day the Visit Felixstowe Facebook page for the Santa tracker details. Santa and his sleigh may wait at the entrances to cul-de-sacs if they are too narrow or busy with cars.

### DECEMBER ROUTE DETAILS

**Monday 2nd** Maybush Lane, Priory Rd, Marcus Rd, St Georges, Church Rd and roads off, Looe Rd and roads off, Sunningdale/Wentworth Drives, Quinton's Lane

**Tuesday 3rd** Trimley High Road beyond Faulkeners Way, Goslings Way, Poppyfields and The Lilacs estates in Trimley St Martin.

**Wednesday 4th** Trimley St Mary – Faulkeners Way estate – starting at the shops on the green going to Trimley High Rd covering roads off including Punchard Way, Langstons, Farriers Went, Dains Place and roads off where accessible.

**Thursday 5th** Glenfield and Fairfield Ave, Beatrice Ave, Dellwood, Fleetwood and Lynwood Ave, Lansdowne Rd, Rosemary Ave, Colneis Rd, Links Ave, Uppercfield Drive.

**Friday 6th** Grange Rd and roads off (Mill Lane to railway bridge), Coronation Drive and roads off, Mill Lane, Stour Ave and Wadgate Rd

**Monday 9th** Trimley St Martin, St Martins Green, Mill Lane & roads off.

**Tuesday 10th** Town centre - Valley Walk, Garrison Lane, Newry Ave, Goyfield Ave, Princes Gdns, Bacton Rd, Garfield Rd, Victoria Rd, Princes and Queens Rds from St Andrews Rd to Wolsey Gdns plus Orwell Rd and roads off.

**Wednesday 11th** Town centre Roads bounded by and including Tomline Rd, Hamilton Gdns, Chevalier Rd, Felix Rd, Gainsborough Rd and St Andrews (west)

**Thursday 12th** Trimley St Mary – Sprites Hall Lane, High Rd, New Rd, Chatsworth Crescent, Addington Rd, Station Rd, The Avenues and St Marys Close

**Friday 13th** Western Avenue and Westmorland Rd and roads off that are trailer accessible

**Saturday 14th** HAMILTON RD – 9.30am to 4.30pm

**Sunday 15th** MORRISONS – 10am to 4pm

**Monday 16th** Walton –Maidstone Rd and roads off Cornwall Rd, Seaton Rd and High St.

**Tuesday 17th** Trimley St Mary – Faulkeners Way estate – starting at shops on the green going to Trimley High Rd covering roads off including Fen Meadow, Thomas Ave, The Wheelwrights, Dawson Drive, The Josselyns, Woodlands Ave, Drovers Court and Mill Pouch

**Wednesday 18th** Kirton

**Thursday 19th** St Andrews Rd (east), Croutel Rd, Brook Lane, Picketts Rd, High Rd East, Foxgrove Lane, Thornley Rd, Rosebery Rd, Bath Rd, Quilter Rd, Barton Rd and Constable Rd.

**Saturday 21st** MORRISONS – 9.30am to 4.30pm

**Sunday 22nd** MORRISONS – 10.00am to 4.00pm

## Take Part in Hospice's 20th Christmas Day Dip



**Tickets are now available for brave 'dippers' wanting to take the plunge this Christmas, as St Elizabeth Hospice's Christmas Day Dip returns for the 20th year this festive season.**

The independent Suffolk charity is once again asking the local community to show its love for its local hospice by completing a fundraising dip in the North Sea, on Christmas Day, with tickets now available to purchase for £15 until 22nd December – while on the day registration also available.

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

James Fox-Golding, Events and Challenges Manager at the hospice, said: "We are so pleased to announce

the return of Christmas Day Dip for 2024.

"This year marks a landmark 20th edition of the dip, which has become a real Christmas Day staple for so many, as the local community joins together to show their support for the hospice.

"Every penny raised will make a difference to our staff, as they care for patients and their families throughout East & Mid Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney during very difficult times in their lives."

The St Elizabeth Hospice Christmas Day Dip 2024 will take place on Christmas Day at 10am, opposite Mannings Amusement on Felixstowe seafront.



Tickets include a medal. To register visit <https://register.enthouse.com/ps/event/ChristmasDayDip2024>

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

More information can be found by visiting [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/christmas-day-dip](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/christmas-day-dip)



## Music In Felixstowe - What's on this Winter?



The summer seems a long time ago with our Free Proms on The Prom in August. This is always a big event and introduces lots of new people to our brand of musical entertainment. Since then we have had a busy autumn and are now putting on more fun to brighten up the winter months.

December starts with our annual Christmas Brass and Community choir concert on December 1st at 3.00pm at St Johns Church, and in the run up to Christmas the Champagne Quartet will be playing a lunchtime selection of light music at the Orwell Hotel on December 18th at midday.

2025 starts with on New Year's Day at 3.00pm at the Orwell Ballroom with a Viennese concert given by our own professional pier orchestra – The Felixstowe Festival Orchestra.

On January 15th at midday Hattie Bennett will be giving an entertaining talk about Music and Musicians with her long time sidekick - Mr Cello! This is in aid of Cancer Research UK and is free with a collection. Again it's at the Orwell Hotel which is easily the warmest venue for the time of year.

Down at the Ferry church on January 19th at 3.00pm we will be putting on our annual Ward String Quartet by Candlelight – not real ones but with the same effect!

Another warm venue is Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club where we will be putting on an evening of songs and fun – An Evening at the Music Hall on February 1st at 7.00pm. The month ends back at the Orwell on February 26th at noon with lovely singer Rob Gildon singing a selection of opera and show songs

## Summary of concerts coming up:

- **December 1st Christmas Brass and Choir**  
3.00pm St John's Church
- **December 18th Champagne Quartet at Christmas**  
midday Orwell Hotel
- **January 1st Viennese concert**  
Orwell Hotel Ballroom at 3.00pm
- **January 15th Hattie Bennett and Cello talk in aid of CRUK**  
midday Orwell Hotel
- **January 19th Ward Quartet by Candlelight. St Nicholas**  
at the Ferry 3.00pm
- **February 1st evening at the Music Hall Ferry**  
Sailing Club at 7.00pm
- **February 26th Rob Gildon singer**  
Orwell Hotel at midday

Tickets on [www.ticketsource.co.uk/music-in-felixstowe](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/music-in-felixstowe)  
Stillwater Books and Music In Felixstowe 01394 670633  
Details on our website [www.felixstowemusic.com](http://www.felixstowemusic.com)



## Get that warm, fuzzy feeling back into your toes!

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

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

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

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

The venue is the Edwardian and rather beautiful heritage building, Harvest House. Set in beautifully well-kept gardens, on the cliff tops above the sea, it's also walking distance from Felixstowe town centre. It also attracts some more unusual events too. In the past there has been a story about a poetry juke box in a beach hut, events in a historic fort. There has been storytelling in the woods, and in beach huts, sat in seaside shelters, in a chip shop and even on a passenger ferry nearby! The festival also has writing workshops for budding writers.

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

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

## The Dorian Singers



The Dorian Singers are looking forward to their Christmas Concert on Sunday 8th December at 3.00pm. It will be at Trinity Methodist Church, Felixstowe, IP11 7AN.

We will be singing the well-known choruses from Sleepers Wake! by J S Bach and a delightful collection of carols called A Midnight Clear by John Leavitt. The programme will also include some popular carols for the choir and well-known carols for the audience to join in.

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

Please come and join us for a lovely afternoon of Christmas music.  
Article provided by Dr Brian Latchem



## Suffolk Sound



It was in May 2023 that Richie Ross and Rob Dunger sat down for a cup of coffee together. Two mates, back together, after a break of several years. The discussion led them to look at the local radio industry in Suffolk, and the huge gap left in true local broadcasting. A

new sound for Suffolk was needed, and with the words “we could do that”, Suffolk Sound launched just a matter of weeks later in July

From there, pure drive and ambition took over. The purpose was to represent the communities of Suffolk, giving them a voice and a platform in a world where news and society were becoming diluted. The music offering had to be “just right”, with tunes from the 70s though to today. Every piece of music you hear between 7am and 6pm must be recognisable, with specialist music programmes in the evenings and at the weekend

With new investors showing confidence in Suffolk Sound, plus a full supplement of advertisers, the future of the radio station was cemented. Nobody at Suffolk Sound gets paid, and directors take no dividends. The ethos of “Radio at The Heart of The Community” prevails.

Now with a complement of nearly 50 presenters, along with increased technical capacity, and a mobile outside broadcast trailer, Suffolk Sound is truly visible around Suffolk throughout the year. The Suffolk Show, Suffolk Music Day, Ipswich Fireworks, The Ipswich Christmas Lights Switch-on ... all events where we were media partners.

Wait and see where we show up in 2026 !



## Felixstowe Museum – The Beehive Café

AS OUR DOORS CLOSE for the ‘official season’, we are excited to announce that thanks to funding from Community Partnerships-East Suffolk Council (Ease the Squeeze initiatives), our doors will re-open for a new monthly Local History Café from November to April.

So many people have shared that ‘things shut down over winter’ and it can be a lonely and isolating time where you feel cut off from your community. Not everyone is able to access Facebook to keep on top of local activity and chit chat. On top of that, the cost of living challenges bring food and fuel poverty to people’s homes forcing difficult choices.

The Beehive Café at Felixstowe Museum offers a warm, welcoming space where local residents can connect with their community and where they live, through local history. The café offers a complimentary cuppa or two, including a light communal lunch. Key to the café is our passion for storytelling, as we share the lives of people, places or collection items from Felixstowe’s past.

Our first café launched on Tuesday 19 November with a sense of mystery – An Archaeological Felixstowe Find - yet to be displayed!

Our next Local History Café is Tuesday 10 December with a focus on the HMS Beehive – home to up to 40 small naval vessels and was Britain’s coastal forces’ most successful wartime base. HMS Beehive was commissioned in January 1940, tucked away in the Felixstowe dock basin between the port’s Landguard & Trinity terminals, which it shared throughout the war with a flourmill! There is so much more to discover about HMS Beehive.

Other proposed talks helping you discover or perhaps revisit Felixstowe’s past include Wallis Simpson, Felixstowe Ladies College/MCP Chapel & Felixstowe Museum itself.

The café runs from 10.30 to 2.30 to coincide with the local 77 bus or free parking within the Museum grounds. There is some discretionary funding allocated for reimbursement of public or community transport.

To book you place please contact Debbie Martin, Project Co-ordinator via email [beehive.museum@landguard.com](mailto:beehive.museum@landguard.com)



## MAYOR'S CHARITY EVENTS:

**Christmas Carol Concert**  
19 December  
Methodist Church @ Trinity

**Mayor's Curry Night**  
13 January  
The Bombay Nite

**Mayor's Quiz**  
14 January  
The Mariners, Trimley

**Valentine's Dinner**  
11 February  
Alba Chiara

**A Night at The Musicals**  
20 March  
La Vida

**Walk a Mile with the Mayor**  
19 April  
Landguard

**The Mayor's Ball**  
25 April  
Sea You

For more information, and to book your tickets, please visit [www.breastfriends.co.uk/events](http://www.breastfriends.co.uk/events) or call **01394 288191**

# Health and Wellbeing

## Suffolk Mind's Winter Round Up



Suffolk Mind's Children, Families and Young People service has already reached nearly 3,000 children, young people, educational staff and care givers in the first half term. We've been working in this area, supporting Felixstowe School Secondary students and we had a return visit to Bucklesham Primary for an assembly in October.



Through 2024, our Helpline has received more than 34,000 calls and emails from people in Suffolk seeking mental health support. We want to be someone's first call, not their last. Our Winter appeal this year is to raise enough money to fund our Helpline through 2025. It costs about £1,000 a week for our small team to answer roughly 3,000 calls and emails. Many of these calls are lifesaving and life changing. Just £2 can help us support someone. If you want to support our Helpline to run through 2025, please head to [www.suffolkmind.org.uk/thefirstcall](http://www.suffolkmind.org.uk/thefirstcall)

In early October, Suffolk Mind celebrated our first Colour Rush, with nearly 500 runners and lots and lots of coloured paint. It was an incredibly joyful event where people of mixed ages and ability could all join in the fun. Thanks to so many people's support we raised nearly £13,000



which goes to supporting local people's mental health. We're 'running' it again next year and tickets are available now. [Suffolkmind.org.uk/colour-rush](http://Suffolkmind.org.uk/colour-rush)

If you or someone you know needs support, we're here. Call 0300 111 6000 or email [info@suffolkmind.org.uk](mailto:info@suffolkmind.org.uk) to find out about our services and other local services that could help you.

## Felixstowe & Villages Carers Group – Having a Lovely Time Together



We are a group of family carers who are looking after a relative or friend. We meet once a month for a break from caring and have some wonderful events.

Because we are all carers we understand the stresses and the isolation that caring brings. This is a very friendly and welcoming group with a good sense of humour. We are looking for new members at the moment so if you are interested in meeting new people and having a relaxing time please just come along and see if our group suits you.

Recently, working with the Artlink charity, we all produced a small piece of pottery. The next month we glazed (painted) it, with some wonderful results. In December we are had a Christmas Buffet.

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 1:00pm until 3:00pm at The Old Felixstowe Community Association, Ferry Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9NB, subs £3.

Why not come and join us? For further information contact Dennis Weston at [dennisweston.49@btinternet.com](mailto:dennisweston.49@btinternet.com) or phone 07712672289, or 01473 832591.



## Could you be missing out on unclaimed benefits?

It is estimated that £15 billion of government benefits go unclaimed every year as many people don't realise that they qualify for them.

Benefits and other government support are not just for those who are out of work. Millions of households on low incomes are also losing out.

### Government support that goes unclaimed includes:

- Child benefit
- Pension credit
- Council tax support
- Universal credit

### How to check if you're eligible for benefits

If you think you might be missing out on some of these benefits, you can check by using a free online benefit calculator.

An easy-to-use option is: [www.entitledto.co.uk](http://www.entitledto.co.uk)

You can also contact Citizens Advice East Suffolk for a FREE benefit check.

How to contact CAES:

- Phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10-2 Mon-Fri)
- Email us from our website: [www.caes.org.uk/email-service](http://www.caes.org.uk/email-service)

### New Year, New Challenge? Volunteer with us!

Whatever your background, education or experience, it's likely you have skills that can be harnessed to help others in the area. We need volunteers who are willing to train as advisors, and there are opportunities to volunteer in other capacities – for example, administration, IT, publicity, research, reception. Drop into our office in Orwell Road for an introductory chat or contact us by phone or email, we look forward to hearing from you. CAES Felixstowe sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all our clients and partners.

## Felixstowe Relief Charity: Financial Support for Felixstowe Residents



Felixstowe Relief Charity (FRC) is a local charity providing assistance to residents across the town. The current cost of living crisis has provided new challenges and FRC is able to offer immediate financial help. The committee meets every month and can, therefore, ensure that decisions can be reached quickly (up to a maximum of £500 with larger amounts requiring a full committee decision). Anyone can apply, provided they have been resident in Felixstowe for a minimum of 3 years.

Over recent months, a number of grants have been approved including help with essential equipment, educational supplies or training costs. More recently, working with charity partners, food vouchers have been supplied as well as helping with those caught up in the fire in the town centre. The charity has also been pleased to fund an electric wheelchair, an oven, a mechanical bed, specialised pushchair and a laptop to support a young person in further online studies.

Felixstowe Relief Charity trustees include Cllr Darren Aitchison, Cllr Margaret Morris, Peter Finbow, Josh Hunt, Kirsty Coldwell, David Hedges, Debbie Bartlett and Birgit Bennett, who all bring many years of work in the community to their roles. The committee would like to pass on their thanks to Norman Berry for his many years of service during which time he merged five local charities.

If you are struggling financially, please don't struggle alone. For more info: Download application form ([www.felixstowe.gov.uk/grants](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/grants)). Alternatively, phone Darren on 07838 215964. Or find us on Facebook and Instagram @Felixstowereliefcharity.



# Active Felixstowe

## Felixstowe Road Runners take on Round Norfolk Relay



“So why do you do it, then?” asked the lady at the bus stop.

I was waiting to get back to Hunstanton after my 14-mile run along the beautiful North Norfolk coast – one of seventeen legs that make up a 198-mile route around the perimeter of Nelson’s county.

I’m not sure I gave an answer that made sense to her – something along the lines of challenge, teamwork and mental wellbeing. I understand from an outsider’s point of view that running can seem like a strange choice of hobby, and the Round Norfolk Relay is a particularly strange event: a dawn start in King’s Lynn - morning legs through Hunstanton, Wells and Cromer - turning inland at Great Yarmouth as the evening draws in – night legs through Bungay and Diss – graveyard shifts through Thetford and Downham Market – before finishing back in King’s Lynn the following morning. Each stage is a different length, some along coast paths and beaches, some along roads, but all with a common purpose: getting the baton round 198 miles, unscathed.

Seventeen runners and a support crew of cyclists, drivers and timekeepers from Felixstowe Road Runners made it all happen, finishing in a time of 26 hours 50 mins. We were just one of 60 teams in this year’s event, which attracted running clubs from all over East Anglia. Felixstowe Road Runners have a long history with the event, entering a team every year since 2007.



The ‘RNR’, as it’s affectionately known, is truly a unique event and always a privilege to be part of - there’s nothing like the feeling of satisfaction on hearing the baton has been carried across the finish line, and knowing you’ve done your bit. Now there’s a reason to do it, if ever there was one!



## Felixstowe Sea Cadets

In October, the Sea Cadet Corps has captured local and national attention through a series of events celebrating British naval heritage. Trafalgar Day, a significant date in the Royal Navy calendar commemorating Admiral Horatio Nelson’s historic 1805 victory at the Battle of Trafalgar, saw local and national celebrations.

On October 13, Felixstowe hosted its own Trafalgar Day parade ahead of the national celebration in London on October 20. Sea Cadet units from Norwich, Cambridge, Beccles, and Ipswich joined Felixstowe Sea Cadets for a tribute to naval history, enhanced by a performance from the Bury St Edmunds Sea Cadets Brass Band. Local residents, along with Felixstowe Mayor David Rowe and Commodore Robert Bellfield CBE ADC, attended to honour the young Sea Cadets and reflect on the importance of this heritage event.

A few days before, Felixstowe Sea Cadets had another prestigious role, providing a red-carpet guard for the launch of Maersk’s latest container ship, the Alexandra Maersk. Maersk officials and global retailer Primark hosted VIP guests for the event, which included a ceremonial christening of the ship. Sea Cadets lined the red carpet alongside the band, setting a ceremonial tone as executives celebrated Maersk’s commitment to sustainable shipping. The cadets then toured the ship, marvelling at its advanced technology and sustainable design.

These events highlighted the Sea Cadet Corps’ dedication to both tradition and innovation, giving cadets the chance to engage with history and modern maritime achievements alike.

## Get Active and Have Fun at Felixstowe Prom Junior Parkrun!



Most of us would love our kids to be a bit more active, but there can be so many barriers to getting involved in sports. There’s the cost of classes, membership and equipment, not to mention the time commitment. And maybe your child isn’t really into competition?

At Felixstowe Prom junior parkrun, we are a completely inclusive 2k event for 4-14 year olds. There are no costs involved, the event lasts only around 30 minutes, and your young one can come along as regularly as they choose to. Juniors can walk, jog, skip or run the distance - everyone is welcome and cheered on by our fantastic team of volunteers! All we need you to do is register your child with parkrun before their first session, then bring along their personal barcode each time they participate. Signing up takes only a few minutes at [www.parkrun.com/register/](http://www.parkrun.com/register/)



We meet every Sunday on the grassy area by Felixstowe Leisure Centre, warming up at around 8.50am for a 9am start. If your youngster would like to try our fun and friendly event, we’d absolutely love to see them!

You can find out more on our Facebook page, or by emailing [felixstowepromjuniors@parkrun.com](mailto:felixstowepromjuniors@parkrun.com)

# SUNDAY LUNCH

Served every Sunday between 12 noon - 2pm

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

2 COURSE  
£20.00

3 COURSE  
£24.00

Felixstowe Ferry  
1880  
Golf Club



CALL TO BOOK YOUR TABLE ON  
01394 286834



## Felixstowe Judo Club

Following a First Aid course, coach and committee member Emily Burrell worked hard for 6 months with London Hearts, the community, coaches, members, and their families to raise enough money to install a defibrillator at Kirton Church Hall, where Felixstowe Judo Club provides lessons every Monday and Friday evening. We finally got the defib installed in October providing this life saving equipment for the community in the area. Don't forget [www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk) to find your nearest defib.

Looking ahead, Felixstowe Judo Club is proud to support two students, Rocco Borrourghs and Dominic Cremer, who are entering the Regional School Championships in November to qualify for The British Schools Championships 2025 to be held March. Last year over 700 of the UK's best Judo pupils took parts in the two fast paced days of the competition held in Sheffield. Check out our social media to keep updated on their journey.

Our final class of the year will be on Friday, December 20th, and we'll reopen on Monday, January 6th, 2025. We're excited to continue fostering both the physical skills of judo and its core values—Courage, Respect, Modesty, Sincerity, Friendship, Honour, Politeness, and Self-Control. Felixstowe Judo Club welcomes students of all ages, starting from as young as 5, and looks forward to another year of growth and achievement! Visit [www.felixstowejudo.club](http://www.felixstowejudo.club) to learn more or give us a call 01394 248004



## Ipswich Skating Club

Following the summer holiday break, Ipswich Skating Club has returned to the Old Orwell High School Sports Hall off of Maidstone Road.

For beginners, our Learn to Skate sessions are available every Saturday, 2-4pm, with our trained coaches on hand to take skaters through our bespoke 'Go Sk8' learn to skate program. For those aged 14+, our social skate session returns on a bi-weekly basis, every other Wednesday from 7-9pm. Come and join us for a laid-back skating session with music and coaches on hand to help any skaters wanting assistance.

Skate hire is available for all of our sessions, free of charge! For more information, please visit our website, [www.skateipswich.com](http://www.skateipswich.com), where you can see more session details and join the club to book onto our sessions. Happy skating!

## Felixstowe Hockey – Come and Play!



The season is well and truly underway with four men's teams and three women's teams competing in the Eastern League; and a junior club meeting every Saturday morning. We've been delighted to welcome new players, younger and older to the club. Each week, over 80 adults take the field and we'd be delighted to see more! Our junior club is growing but there's room for more!

We pride ourselves on being a club that is open to players of all experience levels and age is not a barrier, with players from 12 to 62 making their debuts so it's never too early or too late! Our junior section has U9 and U11 sessions with budding hockey players starting at five - children can attend for 4 weeks free of charge and we can supply everything needed to help them make a start. Our focus is on enjoyment, respect and confidence as children learn to play and experience tournament hockey.

- Junior Training- Saturday: U9 from 0900-1000 and U11: 1000-1100
- Women's training- Tuesday: 1900-2030
- Men's Training - Tuesday: 1900-2030: Men's 3 / 4 Tuesday: 2000-2130: men's 1/2



Above all else we want the club to be a place where players play and enjoy themselves on the field and off - the clubhouse has a friendly atmosphere, there's a lively social scene and families are very welcome indeed.

So take the plunge and come along or contact us on: [secretary@felixstowehockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@felixstowehockeyclub.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.felixstowehockeyclub.co.uk>



**The Bellstone**  
CARE BY THE SEA

For vacancies and general enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Tracey or Amanda on 01394 278480 or email us: [bellstone@bellstonerescare.co.uk](mailto:bellstone@bellstonerescare.co.uk)

Feel free to check out our new website at [www.bellstonecare.co.uk](http://www.bellstonecare.co.uk) for a little insight of how we do what we do best.

# Your Community Stories



**In the short dark days of December it's nice to look back on a warm sunny Carnival weekend in July. We had a very successful event with thousands of spectators enjoying the procession, the music, the fair and the family events, all finished off with a great firework display. The Carnival Committee is already planning the 2025 weekend of 25th to 27th July.**

We thought you might like to read about some of the work that goes on behind the scenes.

The overall winner of Best In Show for the Saturday procession was Pushchair Pitstop who had a wonderful Willie Wonka float. Beckie Sturman-Hall created the design and they spent around four months preparing for the event. They had a dedicated group of around 10 volunteers



## Felixstowe Carnival Association

making all the decorations at home so that they could be attached to the float on the Friday before the procession. There were also 'outside helpers' who don't volunteer for Pitstop - Penny Parker, Catherine Buchanan and Rick Hall all played a huge role.

Their lorry (generously provided by CP Transport) was dropped off at St Johns Church on the Friday night and the volunteers worked all evening. The driver was James Robinson and it was his first procession.

Saturday morning they gathered again at 6 a.m. to apply the finishing touches and the lorry was moved into "pole position" in Colneis Road at 9 a.m. Once everything and everyone was in place, they had around 25 people on the float, the youngest being only 6 months old! They were delighted to be given the Best in Show award

as they had all put so much effort into creating such a lively and attractive float. They even gave out their own Golden Tickets which could be exchanged for free toys from Pushchair Pitstop. It was a great success. Of course, Sunday morning it all had to be dismantled which was quite sad. Well done to Liss Coates and her wonderful team of volunteers.

Pushchair Pitstop is a Felixstowe charity which provides free toys, equipment, clothes, nappies and some food to the local community. They operate from St Edmunds Hall in Langer Road and with the money received via last year's Mayors Charity they have been able to redecorate the church hall to make it a warm welcoming place for young families to visit.



## Felixstowe Master Mariners



The popular Felixstowe Master Mariners Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club for an excellent Lunch provided by DG Catering - info@dgcatersers.co.uk and liquid refreshments served by the wonderful FFSC staff.

After each lunch there is always a very interesting talk from an invited speaker, which is not necessarily nautical in content. All attendees know that any additional proceeds accumulated from the Lunch will go to chosen local nautical charities at the end of each year.

The Club Captain Ian Buckle attended the annual national Merchant Navy Day celebration in Ipswich, along with Club Committee Member Captain Timothy MacGuire. This year was the 80th anniversary of the largest amphibious landing operation of WW2 known as D-Day and the seafarers who had made the ultimate sacrifice were commemorated at the occasion.

The picture shows Captain Buckle (wearing the Felixstowe Master Mariners chain of office) along with Captain MacGuire to the right of Chaplain, Rev. Andrew Dotchin, who is very well known to many in Felixstowe during his time at St John's Church.

The variety of talks given each month at The Lunches keep all Members entertained and informed and fosters professional comradeship among Master Mariners and those involved in global Maritime Trade or just an interest in all things nautical.



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>

## Felixstowe Town Council's Response to the NFGN Masterplan



On 6 November 2024, Felixstowe Town Council finalised a statement on the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Development at its Ordinary Council Meeting. Felixstowe Town Councillors approved the Town Council's corporate response, which was submitted as part of the formal consultation process. The response called on East Suffolk Council to pause the development process to reassess the Local Plan's housing allocations for Felixstowe and review secondary education capacity. The Town Council's response was published in full on 7 November, and can be read at [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/felixstowe-town-councils-statement-on-the-north-felixstowe-garden-neighbourhood-development/](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/felixstowe-town-councils-statement-on-the-north-felixstowe-garden-neighbourhood-development/)

East Suffolk Council has since responded to the Town Council's submission to the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Masterplan Consultation, and Felixstowe Town Council is pleased to share the response received from East Suffolk Council following its submission to the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Masterplan Consultation. The full response can be viewed at [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/east-suffolk-council-response-to-town-councils-nfgn-masterplan-consultation-submission](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/east-suffolk-council-response-to-town-councils-nfgn-masterplan-consultation-submission)

## Level Two Youth Project: More Than Just a Youth Club!



At the heart of the community, Level Two is passionate about the wellbeing of young people and their families. We're committed to keeping our services free, making them accessible to everyone. Here's how we're making a difference.

### More Than a Youth Club:

A welcoming space with a large social area, featuring free access to pool tables, air hockey, game consoles, PCs, a surround sound screen, and an art studio – all with refreshments available.



### Creative Spaces:

Explore our Music, Multimedia, and Digital Arts Studio, where we offer skill-based music workshops and one-on-one music mentoring. We also host weekly Drama sessions to inspire creativity and help young people develop essential social skills.



### Outreach Bus:

Fully stocked with a games console, charging points, and refreshments, our outreach bus takes our services into the community.

### Community Allotment:

An alternative mentoring space offering holistic outdoor activities, a place to build skills, and connect with nature.



### Affordable Adventures:

We offer heavily subsidised trips, meals, outdoor activities, and events to ensure everyone can join in.

### Felixstowe's Only Sexual Health Service Provider:

Proudly part of the Ecard scheme, supporting young people's health and wellbeing.

### Tailored Support:

Bespoke 1:1 mentoring delivered by trained youth workers, available in schools, the community, or at our Level Two Hub.

### Youth Sessions:

Led by trained youth workers, covering key early intervention topics to support personal development.

### Listening to Young Voices:

We make sure our services reflect the needs and preferences of young people by actively listening to their voices. At Level Two, we're here for more than just fun—we're here for the future!

For more information, please email [fydg@leveltwo.org](mailto:fydg@leveltwo.org) or call 01394 272521.

## Felixstowe Travel Watch

### “More buses for Old Felixstowe ?”

With just two buses in the morning and the same in the afternoon, getting to and from Old Felixstowe or trying to get to the Grove Medical Centre is not easy. Suffolk County Council have asked for ideas about how best to use a £324,000 budget to improve bus services across the County. Bryan Frost Chair of our Public Transport committee has done the research and hard work and put together a bid for the County to use that money to bring in an Hourly day-time service on this no. 73 route. The bid is being enthusiastically supported by Felixstowe Town, Trimley and Kirton parish councils and will benefit all users along the route via Martlesham to Woodbridge. Let us hope it is successful.

In other good local travel news - Trimley station is being upgraded with a longer and newly surfaced platform, following on from the recent work on renovating the footbridge, fitting new lighting and fencing - but still no news about the fate of the derelict station buildings.

John Day, Vice President of the Ipswich Transport Society gave an interesting and entertaining talk about his lifetime connection with our branch line at our members meeting in October - next meeting will be in February when details of our 2025 programme of “Days out by Train” outings will be given.

Article provided by Richard Holland (Chairman)

[www.ftw.onesuffolk.net](http://www.ftw.onesuffolk.net)

## The Felixstowe Society

With over 400 members, a major aim of The Felixstowe Society is to promote high standards of planning and architecture in Felixstowe.

Consequently, The Felixstowe Society welcomed the recent Felixstowe Town Council statement concerning the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Development (NFGND) which established the Council's view on the proposals for the development of that area.

Over the last year, the members of The Felixstowe Society Committee have attended various forums, panels and workshops as part of the public consultation on NFGND organised by East Suffolk Council. The Committee agreed with much of the Town Council's statement but added these observations:

All proposals for the NFGND are yet to be submitted for outline planning consent. It will be at this time that Felixstowe Society Committee members will look at the proposal in close detail and comment accordingly.

- The Society will champion the need to ensure that all existing public open space is protected. This includes the The Grove, Abbey Grove and the adjacent playing fields.
- Furthermore, The Society will seek to influence the meaningful extension to the existing public open space to include further woodland, wetland and meadowland as compensation for the initial loss of wildlife habitat.

- The landscape character of the area will inevitably be adversely affected where housing is located, so promoting the minimum impact on views and vistas within the design of the scheme will be a high priority.

The Society has arranged the following talks to keep abreast of the latest situation on the Development -

Tuesday 28th January, 2025 the Mayor of Felixstowe, Councillor David Rowe.  
Tuesday 4th February, 2025 James Goldberg, North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Development, Enabling Lead.

\* Both talks will take place at The Salvation Army Hall, Cobbold Road, Felixstowe IP11 7EL

with doors open 7.00pm and entry £2 for Society members, £3 for non-members.

Membership of The Felixstowe Society for 2025 is now available at £10 single or £15 joint at same address. Free for under 18.

Please visit The Society's website [www.felixstowesociety.org](http://www.felixstowesociety.org) to complete an application form or contact 01394 213071.

# School News



## The Federation of Fairfield and Colneis - A Busy Autumn Term

It has been another busy term so far Fairfield and Colneis. Staff continue to work hard to give our children access to a variety of opportunities to help enhance the learning they do in the classrooms. There have been a large number of PE Events that have already taken place this year for example - from football to rugby, from hockey to cross country! These events give our children a chance to compete against other schools, to learn how to win and lose well!



At this time of year, one of the important events on our calendar is giving children a chance to join in with the Remembrance Day events that take place locally. This day allows us to help children, including our youngest children, to understand key values such as respect and sacrifice. We are always very proud to be able to join the Felixstowe

Remembrance event where representatives from our school councils lay wreaths alongside other members of the community in memory of the fallen. Those children back at school also take the time to show their respect by taking part in a whole school assembly, including a one-minute silence. Article provided by Mr Mark Girling

## Little Hoppers Nursery

Little Hoppers is a nursery at the heart of the community. We are located within St Philips Church Hall, Wadgate Road and based alongside the community hub. We are passionate about providing affordable, low cost childcare for families in the local area. We have a dedicated, hardworking and passionate team who are keen to help children thrive in their learning and development.



We are lucky that we have a large outdoor space that the children have access to for most of the year. Unfortunately, the space is not as easily accessible throughout the bad weather as it is a large, grassed area, with no undercover space. We are currently fundraising to have an undercover

area built in the garden which will allow easier access for the children to get outside in all weathers. There are many benefits of outdoor play such as keeping active and staying healthy, building confidence and independence, improving general wellbeing, learning about the world and developing children's social skills. We are beginning to fundraise for this and recently held some Halloween sponsored walks with the children, where the parents and carers raised money towards our undercover area. We will continue to fundraise and have got a Christmas raffle planned for later in the year and are hoping to get our undercover area completed early next year.

If you would like more information or would like to come and look around please get in touch we would love to see you! 01394 286 998 or email [littlehopperspreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:littlehopperspreschool@yahoo.com)

## Felixstowe School - Digital Learning Enhanced for Felixstowe Students Thanks to iPad Roll Out



A new digital age of education has been launched at Felixstowe School after all sixth form students were given an iPad to aid their learning. The school has joined other sixth form campuses within Unity Schools Partnership in issuing iPads to its students.

School leaders said the move would further enhance interactivity between staff and students and support the work in the classroom.

Xavier Norte, Director of sixth form at Felixstowe School, said: "We are proud that our sixth form is leading the way in using technology to provide high quality teaching and learning. We believe we are one of the first sixth forms in the local area to give all our students iPads - to use both in the classroom and at home. There are so many benefits for our students and our staff and everyone is very excited about this new development."



Under the programme, all students in the current sixth form has been given an iPad - with Mr Norte confirming this will continue in future years as well. Partnering with the Showbie educational app, interactive feedback - both verbal and digital - can be provided immediately while student work can be shared and discussed in the classroom.

Mr Norte added: "Staff and students have been really positive about the move and we hope this will break down any barriers by making digital learning available to all."

### Friends of Felixstowe

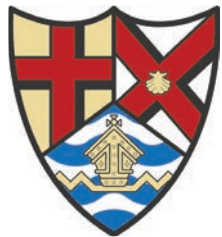
We are working on an exciting community project within the school, called Friends of Felixstowe. The aspiration of this project is to bring together providers of care in our community of Felixstowe - from pre-school to primary schools, to residential care.



This is not a one-off project, but something we hope will grow and prosper for many years to come. We currently have 27 providers who are keen to be a part of 'Friends of Felixstowe'. We are currently working on phase 1 of organising and delivering art supplies to our providers following a very generous donation from a local company.

If you have a local company who could support this project, or if you are a parent, friend or relative, or member of our local community who would be interested in getting involved in some way, please contact Mrs Stronach, Deputy Headteacher [gstronach@fxs.org.uk](mailto:gstronach@fxs.org.uk)

## Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum



**FELIXSTOWE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum is formed of students from local schools and youth groups, such as Level Two. Representatives meet six times across the year at Felixstowe Town Hall to discuss matters impacting children and young people in the town.

Representatives are given a budget of £1000 to spend on a project to benefit children and young people living in Felixstowe and the surrounding area. On 13 November, the Youth Forum held its first meeting at Felixstowe Town Hall.

If you would like to attend Youth Forum, but could not attend the first meeting, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Are you home schooled, or educated outside of the traditional system, but would still like to be involved with Youth Forum? We would love to hear from you! Please contact holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk to find out how you can become a Representative.

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## A Seasonal Updates from the Felixstowe Town Council Grounds Team



As autumn settles in, the Felixstowe Town Council Grounds Team has been busy ensuring Allenby and Gosford Way Parks, Felixstowe Cemetery and the Town Council's Allotment sites remain well-maintained throughout the changing seasons. The leaves may be falling, but the Grounds Team remain busy, clearing

paths, trimming hedges, and mowing the grass to keep our green spaces in top shape. The Grounds Team have also been planting new trees, ensuring that Felixstowe's local spaces continue to flourish year after year.

This October, the Team were thrilled to welcome Nathan Beuchet as a Ground Maintenance Apprentice. Nathan will be assisting with a variety of tasks across the Town Council's sites. His enthusiasm and commitment are already making a positive impact.



### A New Pathway for Improved Accessibility



In another exciting development, the Grounds Team has installed a new pathway connecting Old Felixstowe Community Centre to Gosford Way Park. This upgrade is designed to make the park more accessible for everyone, including those using pushchairs or wheelchairs. Whether you're visiting the play equipment, strolling through the park, or heading to the Community Centre, this new path makes it easier for all to enjoy the beauty of our local spaces.

## Unveiling of Plaque to Remember MS European Gateway Disaster



**FELIXSTOWE**  
TOWN COUNCIL



On 19 December at 11am, a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the crewmembers on the MS European Gateway, whose lives were lost when the vessel sunk on 19 December 1982. A total of six men lost their lives on that fateful day, when the MS European Gateway collided with another ship and capsized.

On 19 December 2012, a memorial was unveiled on the cliff top in the Wolsey Gardens, in remembrance of those men who lost their lives. The new plaque will detail the names of the six casualties, Tony Mason, Joseph Topp, George Heath, Graham Welton, Able Seaman Albert Coburn and Able Seaman Pewel Burzik. The new plaque will ensure that the disaster and loss of life continues to be commemorated for years to come.



# Your Community Stories

## A Chamber of Opportunity



As 2024 draws to a close, Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce reflects on its year, in a roundup of its community and business lead events.

Like most organisations, the chamber has had to look at ways to adapt and diversify, to keep up with the ever-changing economic challenges, whilst still offering the same level of support to its business community.

We've done this through a more informal approach to networking events, collaborating with local venues and extending our reach to support other organisations, to include the newly elected Mayor and his chosen charities, Breast Friends ([www.breastfriends.co.uk](http://www.breastfriends.co.uk)) and Level Two Youth Project ([www.leveltwo.org](http://www.leveltwo.org)), working closely with Felixstowe's Fair Trade Forum ([www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk)), Felixstowe Job Centre and Felixstowe School ([www.fxa.org.uk](http://www.fxa.org.uk)).

This year has seen the return of our popular Breakfast Meetings, and the introduction of our 5 in 5 format, 5 speakers with 5 minutes to showcase their business.

An afternoon tea and tour were held at the very grand and historical Harvest House.

Chamber representatives attended Felixstowe School in October, taking part in their careers networking event.

October also saw the return of the hugely successful Jobs Fair at the Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

Due to its continued success, the Jobs Fair will be moving to a larger venue in 2025. Thank you to all that have supported and grown this event with us.

Finally, we would like to express gratitude to all our members, with a special mention to Platinum sponsors, Buckle Shipping ([www.buckleshipping.com](http://www.buckleshipping.com)). Never has there been a more crucial time to join and help shape the future of local business.

For membership options and exclusive events visit:  
[www.felixstowechamber.co.uk](http://www.felixstowechamber.co.uk)

## Hire Felixstowe Town Hall for a Beautiful Wedding by the Sea



Felixstowe Town Hall is licensed for marriages and civil partnerships and provides an elegant venue, right on the seafront, with rooms of different sizes to suit all of your needs.

If you are interested in holding your marriage or civil ceremony at the Town Hall we would love to hear from you. To arrange a viewing of the facilities we have available, or for any further details on weddings at the Town Hall, please contact: Sue Faversham on 01394 288191 or email [sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk)

For more information about the facilities available at Felixstowe Town Hall, and pricings, please visit [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/weddings](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/weddings)

## Remembrance 2024



Felixstowe Town Council and the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion worked together to organise events to mark Remembrance 2024. On Sunday 10 November, a procession marched from the town centre to Felixstowe War Memorial on the seafront, where an act of Remembrance

was observed for all those brave servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives in times of conflict.

At midday, a service was delivered at the Commonwealth War Graves, in conjunction with the Felixstowe Wesel Association.

On Monday 11 November, on Armistice Day, students from local schools partook in Poppies on the Promenade. The students read "We Lay a Poppy" and a minute of silence was observed at 11am. Students lay a wreaths and artwork, designed at school.



The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr David Rowe, said "It was a privilege and an honour to partake in Remembrance 2024, and to commemorate those who gave their service and sacrificed their lives in times of war and conflict. As we remember, we think of those all around the world, who are subject to the ongoing horrors of war".

For more information about events to mark Remembrance, and timings for future years, please visit [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/remembrance](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/remembrance)

## Remembering the 1953 Floods

A total of 41 Felixstowe residents lost their lives in the 1953 Floods, which took place on 31 January, and are widely regarded as one of the worst flooding events in the East of England. The height of the storm surge is indicated by the blue line on the Flood Memorial, which is maintained by the Felixstowe Town Council Grounds Team.



Each year, a service is hosted to remember all those who tragically lost their lives in the 1953 Floods. At the service, students from local schools lay 41 candles to mark each life that was lost.

For more information about the 1953 Floods, and the service on 31 January 2025, please visit [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/flood-memorial](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/flood-memorial)

## Funding boost for biodiversity in East Suffolk



## Strength & Balance Classes Available Locally

A popular small grants scheme, aimed at grass roots projects in East Suffolk that help promote and enhance biodiversity, is being relaunched. The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum first launched its Nature First small grant scheme, thanks to funding from East Suffolk Council, in 2021. During the two years of the original scheme, the Greenprint Forum awarded grants totalling £19,727.19 to 26 projects across the district.

Examples of projects that received funding previously included:

- Pathways Care Farm created raised beds and ran a course to teach pupils, parents and staff at Beccles Primary Academy about growing and harvesting vegetables organically and sustainably.
- Saxmundham Green Team purchased tools to enable the ongoing conservation work in the town of Saxmundham.
- Waveney Bird Club constructed an eight-metre-tall swift tower to provide nesting opportunities for swifts at the Eels Foot in Theberton.
- Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts installed double swift boxes, cameras, call system and air quality sensor to Thomas Miles High School in Framingham to enable students to learn more about swifts.
- Landguard Bird Observatory purchased new nets to aid the safe trapping of migratory birds to enable the ongoing robust contribution by the observatory to national data bases.

The aim of the scheme is to support the Council's environmental vision, stated in its strategic plan, Our Direction, delivering positive impacts for nature by funding projects that contribute to the enhancement of local biodiversity and/or its understanding and appreciation by the local community.

The scheme is open now for applications. Eligible projects could include work to restore existing habitats or create to new ones, provision of nesting/roosting places for birds, pollinators and other animals, or activities to help local people of any age learn more about and enjoy their local biodiversity.

## Fresh Opportunity for Funding to Support East Suffolk Residents this Winter

Voluntary organisations and community groups have another chance to apply for an East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council 'Cost of Living Community Grant' to support individuals and families in communities throughout the district this winter. The Cost of Living Community Grant fund has already supported 17 projects across East Suffolk in round one, ranging from a network of Warm Rooms in Beccles to the Woodbridge CommunitEA Chinwag and the Emmaus Felixstowe Community Lunch.

Groups can apply for a grant of £500 to £1,500 to run projects between January and March 2025, but are encouraged to get their applications in soon – the second and final round will close on December 16.

Applications from projects that received a grant in round one, or a Warm Welcome grant from East Suffolk Council this winter, will not be eligible for funding and cannot be considered.

**CULTURE IN EAST SUFFOLK**

**EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL**

### Are you part of East Suffolk's creative sector?

Join the Culture in East Suffolk Network to access funding opportunities, events, business support, and updates!

Managed by East Suffolk Council and delivered by community and leisure partners, local residents have the opportunity to take part in free, 12-week strength and balance programmes. Classes aim to improve participants' balance, co-ordination, flexibility and confidence and are designed for individuals aged 65 or over who have recently had a fall or feel unsteady on their feet.

Classes take place weekly, lasting 60 minutes, and are led by a qualified instructor in a safe space. The exercises are designed to help people feel more confident on their feet, to get in and out of a chair and provide an opportunity to socialise with other members of the community with a shared goal to increase activity.

A number of classes are currently delivered in Felixstowe, with programmes also delivered across Woodbridge, Leiston and Saxmundham and plans to expand further in 2025.

Still unsure on what to expect?

Please read one of our participant testimonials below:

'I am on my 8th session of my strength and balance programme at Leiston and I have met some lovely people here. It has given me the confidence to go and meet more new people now. I was very nervous about going out of my house especially in the winter and as I live on my own, I didn't get to meet new people very often. I am definitely going to complete the 12 weeks now and I am really happy I started the classes.'

To refer, you can:

- Call 0333 016 2000 and speak to East Suffolk Council's Customer Services Team
  - Speak to a health professional to submit a referral on your behalf
  - Submit a self-referral via [www.activesuffolk.org.uk/strength-and-balance](http://www.activesuffolk.org.uk/strength-and-balance)
- For any further queries, please email [healthreferrals@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:healthreferrals@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

## Have you recently fallen or do you feel unsteady on your feet?

If you are aged 65 or over, you may benefit from our Strength & Balance programme.



- ✓ 12 free Strength & Balance sessions
- ✓ OTAGO specialist qualified instructors
- ✓ Exercises to improve flexibility, gait, coordination, strength and confidence

To refer, you can:

- ➔ Call **0333 016 2000** to speak to our Customer Services team
- ➔ Speak to a health professional to submit a referral on your behalf
- ➔ Submit a self-referral via: [www.activesuffolk.org/strength-and-balance](http://www.activesuffolk.org/strength-and-balance)





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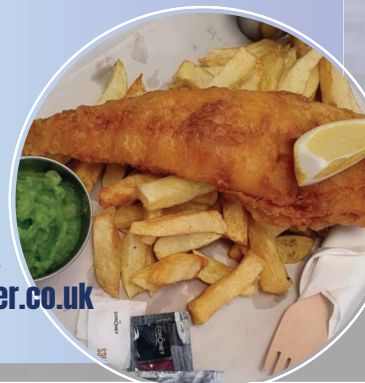
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BY THE SEA



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FELIXSTOWE  
AT  
CHRISTMAS



With special thanks to the students in Year 4 at Kingsfleet Primary School for their designs for the Mayor's Christmas card