

# Summer

Issue 25    The Seasonal Magazine  
for Felixstowe Residents    2025



Felixstowe Carnival | 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower | Art on the Prom |  
Felixstowe Loves Festival | 2025 Blue Flag Award | Felixstowe Book Festival





# LA VIDA SHOWBAR GOES LIVE IN '25



**JULY '25**

**AUG '25**

4<sup>TH</sup> : LUKE HINGLEY AS MICHAEL BUBLÉ  
5<sup>TH</sup> : GUILTY PLEASURES NIGHT  
11<sup>TH</sup> : HARLEY - JACK MALE VOCALIST  
12<sup>TH</sup> : LUNR OPEN DJ DECKS NIGHT  
13<sup>TH</sup> : SUNDAY SESSIONS WITH BROOKE LYNN  
HYTES  
18<sup>TH</sup> DYLAN MORGAN MALE VOCALIST  
19<sup>TH</sup> ALL BETS ARE OFF ROCK BAND  
25<sup>TH</sup> DRAG BINGO  
26<sup>TH</sup> VIVA LAS LADYBIRDS

PLUS WEEKLY SALSA DANCE CLASSES

1<sup>ST</sup> OASIS TRIBUTE NIGHT  
2<sup>ND</sup> SIRENA HART DRAG QUEEN NIGHT  
8<sup>TH</sup> WEST END BY THE WATER  
15<sup>TH</sup> VIVA LA VIDA COLDPLAY TRIBUTE NIGHT  
16<sup>TH</sup> DIRTY MANGO'S CHARITY NIGHT  
20<sup>TH</sup> MOVIE SING-A-LONG NIGHT  
22<sup>ND</sup> SOUL TOWN LIVE AT LA VIDA  
23<sup>RD</sup> DAYTIME DISCO (3PM)  
23<sup>RD</sup> BEACH PARTY (9PM)  
24<sup>TH</sup> TALES OF A PORK CHOP JUST MAY RU  
PAUL'S DRAG RACE TOUR  
29<sup>TH</sup> DRAG BINGO  
30<sup>TH</sup> LA VIDA'S VARIETY SHOW

**SEPT '25**

6<sup>TH</sup> BEYONCÉ TRIBUTE CLUB NIGHT  
12<sup>TH</sup> 88MPH BAND NIGHT  
13<sup>TH</sup> MARK ANTHONY & ISSAC REGGAE RNR NIGHT  
19<sup>TH</sup> SHAR COOTERIE DRAG QUEEN  
20<sup>TH</sup> LUNR DISCO PROJECT  
21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY SESSIONS WITH EXTRA SPECIAL GUEST ;)  
25<sup>TH</sup> LA COMEDA COMEDY CLUB NIGHT LEGENDS  
26<sup>TH</sup> DRAG BINGO  
27<sup>TH</sup> LUSCIOUS LEONA'S CAMP NIGHT OUT

LA VIDA SHOWBAR, SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

**LIVE  
IN '25**  
AT LA VIDA SHOWBAR



LUKE HINGLEY'S UK#1 TRIBUTE TO  
**MICHAEL BUBLÉ**  
★★★★★

FRIDAY 4TH JULY 2025  
**TICKETS: LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK**

Doors 7.30pm Start 9.00pm. 18yrs+ event. Service fees/T&Cs apply.

SUFFOLK SALSA PRESENTS

**SALSA  
MONDAYS**

LEARN TO DANCE KEEP ACTIVE MEET NEW PEOPLE

CLASSES BY CLAIRE,  
OUR FULLY TRAINED &  
QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR  
HERE AT LA VIDA SHOWBAR

TIME	CLASS
7.00PM	BEGINNERS
7.45PM	BEGINNER+
8.30PM	IMPROVERS

CLASSES EVERY MONDAY INC BANK HOLIDAYS


 suffolk\_salsa   
 lavidashowbar 

**CONTACT CLAIRE ON 07920488148**

**4<sup>th</sup> JULY**

**WEEKLY**

**For All Other Events:  
lavidashowbar.co.uk**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS: @LAVIDASHOWBAR

LA VIDA SHOWBAR, SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN



**SCAN  
ME**



# A Message from the New Mayor of Felixstowe

**It was an honour to be elected Mayor of Felixstowe for 2025 by my fellow Town Councillors at the Annual Council Meeting in May. Having served as Deputy Mayor to Cllr David Rowe last year, I know I have a tough act to follow. I'm grateful to be supported by Cllr Darren Aitchison, who will serve as Deputy Mayor.**

I moved from London to Trimley St Mary in 1983, then to Trimley St Martin, and finally to Felixstowe in 1992. It has been a wonderful place to live and raise my four children. My husband and I enjoy walking our two dogs along the prom most days. Whether the sea is calm or wild, blue or grey, its beauty never fades. We often return through the seafront gardens, always appreciating the well-maintained variety of shrubs, plants and ponds.

The theme for my mayoral year is community. I aim to visit as many community groups as possible, to meet the amazing organisers and volunteers whose work strengthens our town.

It is an enormous pleasure to announce the Mayor's Charities for this year. I am really looking forward to working with Felixstowe Opportunity Group and St. Philip's Community Hub. Both these organisations are all about community. The Opportunity group has been supporting young families for more than 30 years. They have their own premises in the grounds of Felixstowe School and offer support to children with additional needs and their families. St Philip's Community Hub, located in Wadgate Road, is a warm and welcoming space for people to drop in, have a cup of tea or coffee, a piece of cake and company. They run a pop up shop once a week.

My first official engagement as Mayor was to attend the 4th Felixstowe Environment Awards on 22 May, organised by Litter-Free Felixstowe. It was an evening to celebrate the work of local schools, children and adults, whether it was litter picking, growing vegetables or school initiatives. It was inspiring to hear about all the environmental work happening in our town.

Two days later I was delighted to start off the 300th Park Run on Felixstowe Prom, with 410 participants. There were runners of all ages, and abilities, all enjoying the challenge and the satisfaction of getting to the finishing line.

Tuesday 27th May, Felixstowe saw the Beach of Dreams, with flags being carried from Brackenbury Spit to Landguard point. In Landguard Fort we heard all about this initiative and listened to poetry and music.

On the 2nd of June, we began Summer by raising the Progress Pride Flag at Felixstowe Town Hall to mark the start of Pride Month. Raising the flag was a symbol of inclusion, unity, and respect—principles we hold dear in Felixstowe, and we stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ residents, friends and neighbours. Flying



the flag proudly above the Town Hall serves as a visible reminder that Felixstowe is a place where everyone is welcome, and where love and identity are respected and embraced.

This summer is packed with exciting events that showcase the best of Felixstowe, which I look forward to being a part of. The Felixstowe Book Festival takes place from 25–29 June, offering an inspiring line-up of authors and events, (which you can read about on page 16). The much-loved Felixstowe Carnival follows from 25–27 July, featuring a dazzling procession. For more information about the theme, see page 7. Love Felixstowe Festival will bring a weekend of live music and entertainment, shining the spotlight on local businesses, from 15–17 August (more information on page 12); and on 7 September, the seafront will be transformed by Art on the Prom, with many talented local artists displaying their work. To see some of the work that will be on display, see page 15.

I was honoured to visit our Twin Town of Wesel in Germany with a Civic Delegation from 29 May–1 June. The twinning between Felixstowe and Wesel—now more than 50 years old—represents a deep and lasting friendship built on shared values, cultural exchange, and mutual respect. These ties continue to enrich both communities. Our visit to Wesel was both productive and welcoming. We toured the impressive new Rheinbad swimming pool and sauna complex, took part in a traditional festival, and visited a local gravel mine, now a lake supporting wildlife and biodiversity. I would like to thank Bürgermeisterin Ulrike Westkamp and her team for hosting us throughout the weekend.

I look forward to the year ahead and to celebrate everything that makes Felixstowe a vibrant, inclusive and community-focused town.

Cllr Corrine Franklin  
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 Autumn 2025 (covering the period from **September - 1 December**), please email [holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk) by **15 August**.

If possible, include hi-res images/photos and your group's logo. You don't have to send a fully-written article – bullet points or a few notes are fine to help point us in the right direction – but it must be no longer than 250 words. We will aim to cover many different articles from issue to issue and will seek to offer a fair and equal representation for community groups throughout the town. Sometimes articles may have to be edited, shortened or dropped altogether. Felixstowe Town Council reserves the right to publish articles at its discretion.

## 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 Jon Wills for the cover image and Stephen Squirrell for the various header images.

## Getting in Touch

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

Phone: **01394 282086**

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

are Felixstowe Opportunity Group and St Philip's Community Hub

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.

## Felixstowe Opportunity Group: Nurturing Potential, Supporting Families



**Established in 1990 by a dedicated group of parents in Trimley, Felixstowe Opportunity Group (FOG) has grown into a vital part of the local community, offering support to families with children who have additional needs. As a registered charity (No. 1004101), our mission is to promote the education, development, and wellbeing of babies and young children with special needs, while offering essential guidance and peer support to their families.**

Operating from our fully accessible premises at Felixstowe School, we provide a welcoming, inclusive, and stimulating environment for children aged 0-5. Our facilities include a spacious playroom, soft play area, a purpose-built sensory

room, and a fully enclosed garden with outdoor play equipment. These spaces are carefully designed to support children with a wide range of needs- diagnosed, undiagnosed, or based on parental concerns - while encouraging learning, creativity, and enjoyment.

We run two play sessions each week during term time:

- Tuesdays, 12:00-2:00 pm
- Thursdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Each session includes snacks, arts and crafts, singing, and outdoor play. We also provide a safe, calm space for carers to relax, connect with others, and access helpful resources and support.

Our commitment to family wellbeing extends far beyond these sessions. We collaborate with local organisations such as Mencap, which runs a Saturday group using our space, and we host two dedicated bereavement support groups for parents and carers:

• **TULIPS** – a monthly art therapy group offering creative expression, peer support, and access to counselling.

• **ROSES** – a hands-on gardening group focused on transforming our outdoor area into a therapeutic sanctuary for the whole community.

We're also proud to include Foggies Theatre Group in our family of initiatives. This inclusive performance group welcomes children of all abilities, promoting creativity, confidence, and teamwork through drama, music, and movement. Recently, Foggies celebrated a major achievement at a dance competition in Colchester, performing alongside mainstream groups and showcasing their incredible talent and spirit—a true reflection of the inclusive ethos we champion.

Looking ahead, we're filled with optimism and purpose. Our dedicated team of volunteers continues to train in key areas such as first aid, food hygiene, safeguarding, and British Sign



Language, ensuring we meet the evolving needs of the children and families we support.

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of local partners, including the Felixstowe Rotary Club, Felixstowe Lions, and Felixstowe Town Council whose generosity has helped us enhance our facilities and expand the experiences we offer.

As we move forward, our goals remain simple but powerful: to reach more families, extend our impact, and continue providing a safe, nurturing space where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

For more information, please contact us at [oppgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:oppgroup@btinternet.com) or call 01394 286399. You can also follow us on Facebook: Felixstowe Opportunity Group – F.O.G.

## St Philip's Community Hub



**St Philip's Community Hub is located on Wadgate Road in Felixstowe and if you visit Tuesday and Thursday you will be greeted by an amazing team of volunteers eager to support the community.**

On Tuesday November 22nd, 2016, we opened our Pop-Up shop for the first time and 8 years later we have expanded with what we offer, and our customer numbers have grown. At 10am we open our doors for customers to have a hot drink then at 11am we welcome them to pay £3 for their bag of groceries and do their shopping then enjoy coffee and cake.

For some people this is their outing of the week and the constancy of the Pop-Up Shop is vitally important. Every week we meet people whose lives are incredibly difficult through money worries, health problems, isolation and loneliness and difficulties with relationships.



And every week the Pop-Up Shop does just that – we pop up at St Philip's to welcome them to listen to provide food and essential items. Signpost them to our amazing Walton Parish Nurses Lorna and Lesley, to offer coffee and cake and an opportunity to chat.

Each week we welcome about 45 customers shopping for over 100 people.

We are very grateful to Lidl Walton Bakery and Greggs for all the unsold food we collect weekly.

Our churches at St Marys Walton and St Philip's and organisations who donate The Rotary Club, The Lions and St Martins Trimley.



Saxon House managed by Public Health and Communities Team have supported us also.

Following Covid which impacted on so many we saw a greater need within the community to tackle loneliness and isolation, so it was agreed that we open the Hub another day and Thursday Drop In began in May 2021 10am-1.30pm to include:

- A comfortable and inviting place for people to meet over tea/coffee and refreshments
- A place to share a meal at no cost
- A place where they are not rushed and can play games/knit/chat/make a craft



- A place that is inclusive for everybody, regardless of age or background

- Internet access for those that need assistance with applications/information

- Support with budgeting and all Finance matters in confidence-

- A presence from the Walton Parish Nursing Team Lorna and Lesley



# 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.
- 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 Coast Patrol & Rescue, 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)  
East Suffolk Services can be contacted via  
03300 166111**



**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 2025/26

Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Corrine Franklin

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Darren Aitchison

## Walton Ward



**Amanda Folley \***  
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**Mike Deacon \***  
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**Margaret Morris**  
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## Central Ward



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**Seamus Bennett \* \*\***  
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**Jan Candy \***  
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## East Ward



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**Bernard Price**  
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**Steve Wiles \*\***  
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07986 566 225

## South Ward



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sharon.harkin@felixstowe.gov.uk  
01394 282086



**Wendy Underwood**  
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## Port Ward



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



**Marc James**  
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**David Rowe**  
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**Michael Sharman**  
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**Corrine Franklin**  
corrine.franklin@felixstowe.gov.uk  
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### Key

\* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

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



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY GOLD

# 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:

11 June	Planning & Environment	9:30am
11 June	Civic & Community	7:30pm
18 June	Ordinary Council	7:30pm
25 June	Planning & Environment	9:30am
9 July	Planning & Environment	9:30am
9 July	Assets & Services	7.30pm
23 July	Planning & Environment	9:30am
6 August	Planning & Environment	9:30am
27 August	Planning & Environment	9:30am

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  
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**Sue Faversham** – Civic Events Officer  
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**Janine Smith** – Assets & Services Officer  
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# Your Community Stories

## Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce



The Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce continues to grow and thrive, proudly reaching a record 86 members at the end of March. This milestone reflects the vibrant and diverse business community in Felixstowe and our surrounding villages – and we're always keen to welcome more members, volunteers and event attendees.

We're excited to announce several upcoming events designed to connect, support and inform local businesses.

Join us on the evening of Thursday 12th June at the Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club for our popular Speed Networking event – a fast-paced and friendly way to make new contacts and grow your network.

On the morning of Friday 26th September, we're co-hosting the Felixstowe Jobs Fair at the Felixstowe Leisure Centre, helping local employers meet potential candidates and jobseekers discover new opportunities.

Looking ahead to Cyber Security Awareness Month in October, we're working with the National Cyber Security Centre, Suffolk Police, Action Fraud, and the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre to deliver two expert-led morning workshops: one for sole traders and micro-businesses, and another for SMEs and IT professionals. These are ticketed events with limited places available.

For more details and to book your place at any of these events, visit: [felixstowechamber.co.uk/events](http://felixstowechamber.co.uk/events).

Whether you're based in town or nearby villages, we're here to support you. Join the Chamber, attend an event, or get involved – and help us strengthen our local economy together.

## Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum



In the last issue of the magazine we said we were working with potential partners to source a custom designed Fairtrade chocolate bar for Felixstowe. Since then we have been working closely with the Felixstowe Business Improvement District (BID) to draw up a design for the bar and place an order. This has now been achieved and the photo shows how the bar will look – featuring the BID's brand 'Love Felixstowe'. It will be sold at various outlets in the town centre and sea front and is expected to do well, following the success of a similar bar for Beccles, launched last year.



It is hoped that the bars will be delivered in time for the main tourist season, starting in July. When we have a firm date we will arrange a launch featuring children from local schools. For the past year they have been working to raise awareness of Fairtrade locally, including production of a video for distribution to schools in the area. This term they will learn about growing cocoa, how it is made into chocolate, and how buying Fairtrade chocolate ensures fair pay and decent working conditions for producers in developing countries. The video of the launch of Felixstowe's very own Fairtrade chocolate bar will provide a fitting conclusion to this project.

## Felixstowe Carnival



Our theme for this year's Carnival is The Wonderful World of Books which we are sure will inspire some really exciting entrants for our procession on Saturday 26th July. If you wish to join in, just go to our website and download the forms. It's free to enter and you will have a great day.



Entertainment for Carnival weekend has now been booked and we are sure there will be something for everyone to enjoy. On Friday night we have The Three Chordettes, a female harmony group specialising in vintage swing and jazz hits from the 1940s and 1950s. Saturday afternoon we have talented singer/songwriters plus various bands playing music from the 60s right up to the present day. In the evening we have Shane & The Korrados and then the night's headliners will be The Counterfeit Brits. Both bands played last year and were very popular. On Sunday we have another packed afternoon of music, finishing with a wonderful tribute act called Supersonic Queen and (weather permitting) a fantastic fireworks display on the pier. Of course during Saturday and Sunday we have the craft fair in the Leisure Centre, the family fun marquee and various traders/food stalls around the event area, plus the funfair.

Just look on our website for full details. As ever, we are putting on all the entertainment for free, so please donate generously to the bucketeers so that we can re-fill the bank account ready for next year's event.

Come along to the Carnival and enjoy a wonderful community weekend in the sun (we hope!)

**Website:** [Felixstowecarnival.org](http://Felixstowecarnival.org) **Email:** [Contact@felixstowecarnival.org](mailto:Contact@felixstowecarnival.org)

## This Summer for Families at Felixstowe Museum

There is lots to see and do for all ages this summer at Felixstowe Museum, with four new displays, trails, and more! Explore Beside the Seaside, the Museum's flagship temporary exhibition, and play with the genuine amusement arcades, or step into a model of one of the first beach huts in the country! Pick up one of our trails from a friendly Museum volunteer to test your detective skills, or get creative with craft activities. In addition, this summer, Felixstowe Museum is excited to be working with the artist Clare Sams, the first Environmentalist in Residence at Suffolk Libraries, to host a textile banner workshop for younger visitors on 10th August. Further textile workshops will follow so keep your eyes peeled!



Alongside Beside the Seaside, the Museum features displays telling the story of Felixstowe from prehistoric to modern times, from mammoth teeth to dolls houses! Felixstowe Museum is open Thursday to Sunday until October half-term, and sits right next to Landguard Fort on the beautiful Landguard Peninsula. Down at Landguard you can walk the Nature Reserve, grab a bite to eat in one of the plethora of cafes, or just relax and watch the ships at the UK's busiest container port. Ask one of our volunteers about a Joint Annual Ticket which allows you to enjoy Landguard Fort and Felixstowe Museum as much as you'd like all season, all for the price of both sites combined!



## Citizen's Advice Felixstowe and District – Change in Benefits For Those With Disabilities or Long-term Health Conditions

Do you have a disability or a long-term health condition and receive State benefits? Do you know someone like this?

Millions of people are on benefits as they have a disability and / or a long-term health problem. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is now writing to some claimants and saying that they must migrate to Universal Credit (UC) by a certain date. They will usually have a three month window to complete the migration. For instance, if you are on Employment Support Allowance (ESA) you will be moved onto UC in the next few months. This called “managed migration.”

**Citizens Advice** is here to help you. There is a Help to Claim (HTC) team within Citizens Advice who are specially trained to help clients with their Managed Migration claims; the phone number for this team will be in the Managed Migration letter you will receive. The HTC team can ensure that you do not lose any transitional protection you may be entitled to so you do not lose money. It is very important that you use the HTC team rather than trying to deal with the claim on your own for this reason.

You might be receiving legacy benefits other than ESA and will therefore also receive the letter from the DWP. These benefits are: Housing Benefit, Job Seekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit (CTC), Working Tax Credit (WTC), and Income Support. For those getting CTC or WTC you will not have the three months' notice from the DWP because all tax credits are stopping on 5th April 2025. If you get the letter, you too will need to apply for UC.

People making claims for UC are often directed to make them online, but a lot of people receiving benefits do not use computers. The Government says 44% of those trying to claim UC have to make multiple attempts before they succeed because the process is long and complex. And 20% of all claims are closed by the DWP because they do not have all the information that they need from the applicants.

At Citizens Advice East Suffolk (CAES) we can help you make the call to HTC if you feel you cannot manage this on your own. A change such as this may feel overwhelming for some people – so get in touch with your local CAES office.

Please call or email CAES TODAY and we can either help over the phone, or by arranging for an appointment in one of our offices.

**TEL: 0828 278 7866 or visit our website:  
www.caes.org.uk and fill in the contact form.**

If you want to learn more about what is going on, please look at the advice about Universal Credit managed migration on our website:  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/before-you-apply/moving-to-universal-credit-from-other-benefits/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/before-you-apply/moving-to-universal-credit-from-other-benefits/)

## Felixstowe Town Council Raises the Pride Flag for the Third Year Running

On 2 June 2025, the Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Corrine Franklin, was joined by fellow Town Councillors outside Felixstowe Town Hall to raise the Progress Pride Flag, officially marking the beginning of Pride Month 2025.

Now in its third year, the annual flag-raising has become a proud tradition for Felixstowe Town Council, symbolising its continued commitment to inclusion, equality, and support for the LGBTQ+ community. The Progress Pride Flag, which builds on the traditional rainbow design to represent marginalised groups within the LGBTQ+ spectrum, flies as a visible sign of solidarity.

Speaking at the event, the Mayor said: “It is a great honour to raise the Progress Pride flag here at Felixstowe Town Hall today. This flag is a powerful symbol of inclusion, unity and respect — values that we hold dear in our community.

As we mark Pride Month, we stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ residents, friends and neighbours. We celebrate the diversity that enriches our town, and we reaffirm our commitment to equality, dignity and acceptance for all.

Let this flag serve as a visible reminder that Felixstowe is a place where everyone is welcome, and where love and identity are respected and embraced.”



## What's happening at Level Two

### Join The Jam Lab!

Level Two are excited to launch their new music group for Years 7–10 – perfect for young people who sing or play an instrument!



Mondays, 6:00–7:30 PM

Learn to play together, build confidence, and take music home to practice!

### Also at Level Two...

Young people can join our Youth Waves Podcast, recorded during our Saturday Open Access sessions (10:30 AM – 12:00 PM). This creative project gives young people a platform to share their voices on real-life topics and be featured across internet and social media platforms.

For more information, contact: [fydg@leveltwo.org](mailto:fydg@leveltwo.org)

### Supporting the Home Educated Community at Level Two

We're welcoming Home Educated young people from Year 6+ to join our weekly Home Ed Hangouts, every Tuesday (term time), 12–2 PM. They can enjoy free access to our facilities, bring lunch, relax, get creative, and make new friends!

Prefer the outdoors? Join our Home Ed Gardening Club every Thursday (term time), 12–2 PM – transport provided.

For more info, email:  
[fydg@leveltwo.org](mailto:fydg@leveltwo.org)

Community is at the heart of Level Two Youth Project.



We support young people and families aged 7–25 and continually review our services to meet current needs. If you have suggestions or ideas for community collaboration, we'd love to hear from you.

## Landguard Fort



Landguard Point is a destination of both historical and environmental significance—locally cherished and nationally recognized. It offers an engaging mix of experiences for the entire family, from a deep dive into history to outstanding natural beauty.



At Landguard Fort, visitors can step back in time to explore the area's strategic and military importance through guided tours, immersive new displays, and a calendar of events. Whether it's the dramatic Napoleonic War and World War II reenactments, the family-friendly Trick or Treat in October, or the much-anticipated Christmas Event, there's something for everyone.

Next door at Felixstowe Museum, an extensive collection of artifacts and exhibitions chronicles the social and cultural history of Felixstowe and its surroundings. The current exhibition, “Beside the Seaside,” offers fascinating insights into its popularity as a resort through history. While current issues are addressed with exhibitions like Clare Sams' “Self/Contained” sustainability focussed one. The museum welcomes visitors from April until the end of October.

We're also excited about our new website, designed to bring you even closer to the wonders of Landguard Point. And with help from Harwich Haven Authority and Greater Anglia, we are working to link arms across the Haven, enhancing accessibility and improving visitor experiences, making it easier for families to discover and enjoy all that this remarkable area has to offer.

If you're interested in getting involved as part of our volunteer teams, visiting, or simply learning more, please check out our new website or contact us via: Email: [enquiries@landguardtrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@landguardtrust.org.uk) Website: [landguard.com](http://landguard.com)



## Felixstowe Coastwatch Ready for Busy Summer Season



Summertime brings the highest levels of activity in, on and near the waters of Felixstowe. Yachts, cabin cruisers, sea angling boats, paddleboarders, windsurfers, kite surfers, kayaks, jetskis, e-foilers, swimmers (and paddlers) are all in evidence, especially at weekends, bank holidays and during the school holidays. All this on top of the busy commercial traffic generated by the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich and Mistley – including cargo ships, pilot boats, dredgers and offshore windfarm support vessels.

As usual, the experienced and qualified volunteer watchkeepers at Felixstowe Coastwatch will be acting as the eyes and ears for HM Coastguard, covering the coastline from Landguard Point in the south to Bawdsey and the Deben entrance in the north. The latter has its regularly shifting shingle banks either side of the narrow and shallow channel, and fast flowing currents. The navigation buoys have been re-positioned for the season following winter storms. As with previous years, entering or leaving the River Deben needs to be done with care and around high water to avoid vessels grounding.

In the summer, the lookout operates from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, and in the school summer holiday there will be an evening watch giving additional opening hours as late as 8pm (depending on the weather and how busy the seafront is each day). New volunteer watchkeepers are welcome and short taster visits can be arranged for those interested. Just get in touch via the Felixstowe Coastwatch website where you can also view our webcams positioned at the Martello Tower on Wireless Green and at the Clifflands car park:  
<https://coastwatch-felixstowe.co.uk>.



## Felixstowe Family History Society



Felixstowe Family History Society is a welcoming local club for members and visitors alike to enjoy a variety of speakers which have included The River Gipping Trust, the WW1 Experience of Flora Sandes and not forgetting our Quiz and social evening with our Quizmaster posing some tricky questions to challenge our guests!

Some committee members attend Family History events in The Hold, Ipswich and at other locations to offer support. We also offer Friday drop-in sessions – 27 June and 25 July - 1015-1200 noon) at Broadway House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD with Nick Smith.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at Broadway House at 1930. Free parking available after 1800 at the rear of the meeting place, accessible from Highfield Road, Felixstowe IP11 7BZ. Members are free. Non-members £3. If you'd like to join us, please visit our website for membership details.



Future dates for your diary – 11 June – Old Newspapers by Pip Wright, 9 July – Kinder Transport by Mike Levy. There are no meetings or drop-in sessions in August, but we'll be back on 10 September for our AGM followed by Suffolk Women's Land Army Trust – Nicky Reynolds. More details on our website [www.felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net](http://www.felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net).

We have a raffle and refreshments at the end of the meeting.

If you have any questions, would like to support the club or suggest a speaker, please contact us via the website. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Felixstowe Wesel Association



Back in March we welcomed a small group of Scout leaders from Wesel. They were here researching ahead of bringing a larger group over in October. With help from Felixstowe Scouts and the Association they had visits to the Town Hall, Felixstowe Museum and Landguard Fort amongst others.

In April, there was the last official visit to Felixstowe from the current Wesel Mayor, Urike Westkamp before she steps down in October. On the Friday evening Felixstowe Mayor Cllr. David Rowe invited The Wesel Mayor to the Mayor's Ball. Saturday there was a reception at the Town Hall, attended by many of the previous Felixstowe Mayors. On the Sunday morning the Wesel Mayor was invited to visit Felixstowe Museum, to see the new 'Beside the Seaside' exhibition. The party then took a rooftop tour at Landguard fort, followed by coffee and cake back at the Museum. On the Monday both the Felixstowe & Wesel Mayor's were invited by our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, to visit the Houses of Parliament for a tour.



In July we will be welcoming a party of over 60, the largest in recent years, in Felixstowe for Carnival. There will be the Wesel Karnival Prince and Princess, a marching band and members of the Wesel Fire Fighters. Look out for them in the parade.

In October we are looking to take a group to Wesel for Hansefest.

If you would like to become a member of the association, take part in our social events or maybe see if your group/club could find a twin in Wesel, then contact the secretary, Anthony, by emailing [felixstowe.wesel.assn@gmail.com](mailto:felixstowe.wesel.assn@gmail.com)

## The Tourist Information Hut

The Tourist Information Hut on the Promenade by the Pier is now open Monday to Sunday from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Opening hours are dependent upon the weather and the availability of volunteers. We need more volunteers to maintain the service so if you would like to join our friendly team for a two hour shift please pop down to the Hut during opening hours for a chat.



Visitors to Felixstowe expect to find information on what's happening in the town during their visit and we rely on businesses and organisations to keep us informed of their events and activities. If you would like visitors and residents to be aware of your events please drop details into the Town Hall for us to collect.

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# Our Environment

## Lapwing Success at Trimley Marshes



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is delighted to report that five pairs of breeding lapwing have been recorded at Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve, with 11 chicks hatched so far – a fantastic success for this near-threatened wading bird.

The Trust's team carries out extensive habitat creation and management work to provide the best possible conditions for wading birds and wetland wildlife, creating a thriving haven for nature on the Orwell Estuary.

Lapwing are one of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's 13 flagship species – species the Trust targets through dedicated conservation work to help protect and restore populations. The complex mosaic of marsh, reedbeds, pools, and scrapes at Trimley Marshes offers ideal nesting habitat, giving lapwing the space they need to raise their young successfully.

### WHAT'S ON: Bird Ringing Demonstrations

Join Joe - Reserve Warden at Trimley Marshes - for a morning of bird ringing on the reserve. A chance to see migratory and resident birds close up and learn about how to identify different species and understand their migrations.

Sunday 20th July, 8-10am  
Sunday 10th August, 8-10am  
Sunday 14th September,  
8:30-10:30am  
Sunday 12th October,  
8:30-10:30am

£8 Adult, £5 child. Booking essential, visit [suffolkwildlifetrust.org/trimleymarshes](http://suffolkwildlifetrust.org/trimleymarshes) to book.



### Dogs on Nature Reserves

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's nature reserves are precious havens for wildlife and the charity works tirelessly to make them exceptional places for nature to thrive. The Trust would like to remind dog walkers to keep their dogs on a lead and stick to paths when visiting Trimley Marshes. The reserve has ground-nesting birds, and other endangered wildlife, that can be easily disturbed by the presence of dogs.

## Edible Felixstowe had a fantastic spring, running three successful Sow 'n' Grow Sessions



Many enthusiastic growers took home pots of lettuce, herbs, spinach, edible flowers, and carrots, thanks to generous seed and compost donations from East Suffolk Council and Underwoods (Hamilton Road).

We hope those seedlings are thriving! If you need help transplanting them, contact us via our website. We've also received many vegetable plant donations from local growers—look out for them in our public beds and planters around town. Our seed library at the Library has also been a great success as well and we thank anyone who has taken seeds and donated seedlings back to us. The Seed Library will continue so long as everyone donates seeds to it!



This year, we've added new raised beds at the library, planted fruit trees, and built fresh planters on Felixstowe station platform. We're also back at the Christmas tree circle with a "salad bowl" theme, refreshing the blue planters on Hamilton Road, and renewing planters outside local businesses. Watch out for our new signs showing what's growing and when to harvest. At time of

writing we are just starting to plant out our veg for the season, and hopefully have food for everyone by the end of the summer.

We'll be planting, weeding, and watering all summer—and we'd love more volunteers to join us! No experience needed—just bring your enthusiasm for what we are trying to do!

Find us at [ediblefelixstowe.org](http://ediblefelixstowe.org), or on Facebook and Instagram.



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## Felixstowe Allotment Association



Well the chitted potatoes are now well advanced in the ground, the greenhouse tub has produced an early feed of new pots. Great, but now we seem to be in a period of drought with allotmenters having to water most crops already planted. Those allotment tenants busy cultivating

have never seen such a dry Spring (excuse the pun) and the almost daily commitment to water cannot be underestimated.

Fortunately for us, the tenancy agreements and yearly rental include access to water. It's becoming a precious commodity and I wonder if with an extended drought we can continue to use it freely. Time will tell. The Allotment Association continues to work hard to provide conversations and shared experiences for all. This month following a successful talk from Home Farm Nacton in the winter months we are to visit their fields. We will see first hand the production methods which grow a huge quantity of class 1 vegetable's sold to the larger national supermarkets let alone the Nacton home farm shop which I for one use during the year. Yes, I can't compete with some of their lovely produce.

The association shop has also seen a busy year so far with compost sales and the like only available to our members. We try to buy sensibly and don't seek to make profits as such with volunteers managing the shop most Saturday mornings until late winter arrives. Tea, coffee and cake mornings once a month have also started, always an opportunity to chat about all things allotment. Come along and join us!

## Felixstowe's Beaches Among Britain's Best Once Again with 2025 Blue Flag and Seaside Award – Now Six Years Running



Felixstowe's beaches have once again been recognised as among the best in the country, proudly earning the prestigious 2025 Blue Flag and Seaside Award for the sixth consecutive year. The awards, which highlight excellence in water quality, safety, environmental management and visitor facilities, have

been presented to Felixstowe South and Pier, alongside Southwold Pier, both achieving the coveted dual recognition of Blue Flag and Seaside Awards.

Elsewhere on the Suffolk coast, Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier (bathing/resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) beaches have once again received Seaside Awards, maintaining their consistent record of quality.

Cllr David Rowe, Mayor of Felixstowe for the year 2024-25, commented:

"It's fantastic news that Felixstowe has once again been honoured with both the Blue Flag and Seaside Award. For six years in a row, our beaches have met the highest standards for cleanliness, safety, and water quality—something the entire community can take pride in.

These accolades reflect the hard work of many and add to everything Felixstowe has to offer. From new seafront attractions and the beautifully restored Spa Gardens, to the Landguard Nature Reserve, historic Fort, and Felixstowe Museum—not to mention our many fantastic eateries."

The Blue Flag and Seaside Awards aim to improve the quality of England's coastline and spotlight the nation's top beach destinations.

The Blue Flag, managed in the UK by Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education, is internationally recognised as the gold standard for beaches and marinas. The award is only given to beaches that meet the highest level of bathing water quality as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive. To qualify, beaches must also satisfy strict environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria.

## Felixstowe Unites to Help Environment and Celebrate People Making a Difference

On 22 May 2025, the 4th Felixstowe Environment awards were presented in a prestigious ceremony held at Simpsons at the Fludyers Hotel. Organised, again, by local community group, Green Impact Felixstowe/ Litter-Free Felixstowe,



nominations were received from people across the town including many children. The new Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Corrine Franklin, who was at her first event as Mayor, presented the awards with Rebecca Leek of Suffolk Sound acting as compere for the evening.

The event attracted the largest ever number of nominations. Prior to the ceremony, founder of the awards, Debbie Bartlett visited local schools to present 'highly commended' certificates and announce the finalists. This year, as well as the inspirational children, there were also nominations for teachers and members of school staff.

Debbie said "It was an absolute pleasure to attend whole school assemblies and give out certificates – education is so important and the schools in Felixstowe are doing a great job in teaching about the Environment"

Pupils and staff from Colneis Junior, Felix Primary, Felixstowe School, Grange Primary, Langer Primary, Trimley St Mary Primary were all represented and Head Teachers as well as teachers attended the event.

Stand-out moments from the evening include an award collected by the caretaker at Grange School who has been taking an eco-friendly approach to his work, and a four year-old awarded as Green Hero for her attempts to keep plastic from going into the sea.

For more information about the winners, please see [www.facebook.com/litter-freefelixstowe](https://www.facebook.com/litter-freefelixstowe).

## Felixstowe Garden Club



The displays of daffodils is now over and the tulips too, Spring has definitely sprung and summer is well on its way (where is the time going?)

Hopefully everything in your garden is growing well, although my seeds seemed to take an age to germinate, possibly the very cold nights didn't help.

I do wish we had some more rain as my water butts are empty already, but isn't it amazing how the weeds seem to grow even without water.

This month on Tuesday 10th of June our speaker is Christine Lavelle, talking about Plants of the Amazon, in search for the giant water lily!

Visitors are very welcome, £5 cash on the door (refunded if you decide to join our membership). Free refreshments available from 6:30pm.

For more details, contact Val on 07858464932 or our Facebook page.

**FELIXSTOWE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**BRIGHT IDEA FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT?**  
**APPLY FOR OCCASIONAL GRANT FUNDING!**

ARE YOU A COMMUNITY GROUP OR ORGANISATION IN FELIXSTOWE?

WITH A BRIGHT IDEA TO BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT IN FELIXSTOWE?

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31 MAY  
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31 JANUARY



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# FELIXSTOWE LOVES

Summer Weekends 2025 Launch  
with headliners Jazzie B and Aswad

Jazzie B, the double Grammy Award winning founder of Soul II Soul, and Aswad, Britain's biggest reggae act, have been announced as headline acts at the new Felixstowe Loves events this summer; on 15-17 August and 6-7 September.

For Tickets (where needed) and more information visit here:  
Facebook <https://fb.me/e/bKlPc9fhf> and Eventbrite

Two new cultural weekends, in the Suffolk coastal destination of Felixstowe, will celebrate creativity with music, art and activities taking place across town and on the sea front. The Felixstowe Loves events are organised by Felixstowe BID and feature international, national and regional music and art, eco-activities and a large-scale community art project, The Wall of Hearts, involving hundreds of contributions from the local community.

August's headliner, Soul II Soul founder and frontman Jazzie B, needs no introduction. Writer and producer of chart and club hits, such as Back To Life and Keep On Movin', and winner of two Grammys, he was the first Sound System sound man to be awarded an OBE. He has been a regular on London radio since Kiss FM was a pirate, ran Motown in the UK and was requested to present James Brown with a Lifetime Achievement award by James Brown himself. Jazzie was awarded the Ivor Novello Award for inspiration; which described him as "the man who gave British black music a soul of its own". Don't miss him playing a beach front set to kick-off the new Felixstowe Loves weekends this summer.

Aswad are Britain's biggest Reggae act and appear at Felixstowe Loves as part of their 50th anniversary year. They've been



performing since the 1970s and their albums, such as New Chapter In Dub and Live and Direct, and tracks such as Shine and Love Don't Turn Around, have spanned decades of chart and genre defining success. The band have played major events across the globe and headlined venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall and Montego Bay's Reggae Sunsplash. They bring their sunshine reggae and dub music to Felixstowe's shoreline in September.

The Felixstowe Loves multi-venue events will include an art trail across the town and activities located at the sea front, Beach Street, The Triangle, outside The Alex and more venues to be announced.

The programme is created by the new Felixstowe BID Events Team and Noise of Art, with music and art events designed to involve the whole community, as well as featuring international artists and attracting a new wave of visitors to the town's beaches and town centre.

Most of the weekend events are free, but some events, like Jazzie B, need attendees to register for limited tickets. For those that wish to support future events there is a donation ticket.





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## WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

### JUNE

FRI	06	MAT	3:00PM	Spirit of the Blitz - D-Day Anniversary
SAT	07	EVE	7:30PM	80's Live
SAT	14	EVE	7:30PM	Sweet Caroline - Neil Diamond Tribute
FRI	20	EVE	7:30PM	The Korgis
SAT	21	MAT	11AM	Inside No. 3 with Nigel Pearce
SAT	21	EVE	2:30PM	BeatlesFest Video Screening
SAT	21	EVE	7:30PM	The Quarrymen
SUN	22	MAT	1PM	Nicky Horne: Beatles, Bowie & Me
SUN	22	EVE	7:30PM	The Upbeat Beatles
SAT	28	EVE	7:30PM	Jive Talkin'

BEATLESFEST

### JULY

SAT	05	EVE	7:30PM	The All or Nothing Experience
SAT	12	EVE	7:30PM	Purple Zeppelin
FRI	18	EVE	7:30PM	Mike Osman's 'Jethro' (16+)
SAT	26	EVE	7:30PM	Jools Holland

### AUG

02/08 - Marshall King's Showtime | 09/08 - Irish Hooley

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FXSPA.  
CO.UK

**PRE-SHOW DINING BOOKABLE: 01394 336 336**



**20-22 JUN: BEATLESFEST!**



**FRI 18 JULY - 7:30PM**



**SAT 26 JULY - 7:30PM**



**SAT 2 AUG - 7:30PM**



## Felixstowe Town Council Hosts Events to Mark VE 80



FELIXSTOWE  
TOWN COUNCIL

### Felixstowe Marks the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day

In 2025, Felixstowe commemorated the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day—a momentous occasion that brought peace

to Europe and marked the end of World War II.

To honour this historic milestone, Felixstowe

Town Council led the community in a series of commemorative events, with a special focus on an evocative Torch Parade and Beacon Lighting held on the evening of Thursday, 8 May.



### Evening Torch Parade and Beacon Lighting – A Powerful Tribute

The evening's centrepiece, organised by Felixstowe Town Council in conjunction with Felixstowe Remembers, was a symbolic Torch Parade that began at the Town Hall Gardens and proceeded to the War Memorial on Undercliff Road West.

The moving procession featured 112 flaming torches, each representing a life lost from

Felixstowe during World War II. As each individual's name was read aloud, their torch was extinguished—creating a powerful, personal tribute to the fallen. Once the final torch was dimmed, the

event concluded with the lighting of a commemorative beacon, symbolising hope and unity.

### The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr David Rowe, reflected:

*"As we commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, it was important that we remembered those who gave the ultimate*

*sacrifice, but also took the opportunity to learn lessons from the past and work for peace in our world."*

### Morning War Memorial Service – A Time for Reflection

Earlier that day, the public gathered for a short Wreath Laying Service at Felixstowe War Memorial, organised in conjunction with the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion. The service



paid tribute to those who served and sacrificed during times of war, offering a moment of solemn reflection.

### VE Day 80 Anniversary Events in Felixstowe

In addition to the Council's events on 8 May, several community-led activities took place across the town:

On 5 May The Felixstowe Triangle came alive with music and history, featuring live jazz and a display of vintage military vehicles.

On 10 May, a Wartime Tea Dance at Martello Tower P (IP11 2EF) offered residents a chance to step back in time. Attendees brought picnics and enjoyed live entertainment.

Felixstowe Town Council extended its heartfelt thanks to all who took part in these meaningful commemorations, honouring our shared history and the enduring legacy of those who served.



## Felixstowe 'VE 80'



Felixstowe  
Branch

On Bank Holiday Monday 5th May the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe Branch celebrated VE Day 80 at the Felixstowe Triangle. Alongside Debs and Paryss from the Woolbaa, who kindly decorated the Triangle with lots of donated knitted poppy items from the local community, they also ran a raffle for a 'Poppy Horse' and 'Poppy Blanket' (made by Paryss).



All the funds raised also went to the Felixstowe Poppy Appeal. Whilst listening to the nostalgic music the public had the opportunity to purchase teas/coffees and delicious cakes also provided by the local community. Everyone was entertained by 'Veteran's Do Dixie' who are all local veterans and Georgina was an outstanding soloist who sang traditional 1940's songs.



There was an added visual attraction of various vintage military vehicles on display all owned by local enthusiasts.

Felixstowe Sea Cadets were in attendance helping to raise funds but also promoting their unit. The Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion ran a tombola stall alongside everyone selling traditional Poppy Appeal merchandise. The events of the day raised over £1,600 for the Felixstowe Poppy Appeal which supports our Armed Forces, Veterans and their families.



We would like to thank everyone who participated and attended the event, which clearly showed the ongoing commitment and the support of the local community.

Fred Davies - Chairman, Royal British Legion, Felixstowe Branch

## Let Us Know You're Coming! Felixstowe Disability Pride – 11 July 2025

**Celebrating Individuals,  
Not Limitations –  
Everybody Welcome!**

### Felixstowe Disability Pride

11th July 2025

On Friday 11th July 2025, Felixstowe Prom will come alive with colour, community, and celebration for the town's first-ever Disability Pride event.

Organised by Suffolk Mobility Events – a not-for-profit partnership between Ian Bell (Suffolk Mobility Solutions) and Clare Lucas (Ducks In A Row) – this inclusive event will shine a spotlight on individuals, not limitations.

Expect a vibrant procession along the prom, an inclusive Disability Roadshow and Trade Fair at the Leisure Centre, live performances, and plenty of opportunities for connection, inspiration, and fun.

Ian was inspired by his wife Glynis, who had a stroke in 2012. In 2024, she walked Felixstowe Prom for the first time in 12 years – a powerful reminder of the importance of accessibility and independence.

That same prom will host our uplifting celebration, led by Samboomba Samba Band, two stroke survivors, stilt walkers, and a storyteller bringing the procession to life.

After attending Chester Disability Pride in 2023, Ian knew he wanted to bring the same joy and unity to Suffolk.

Come and join the fun!

Whether you're attending, exhibiting, or sponsoring – please let us know you're coming! Help us create a day to remember.

Register your attendance on Eventbrite – search Felixstowe Disability Pride.

Interested in sponsoring? Email: [felixstowedisabilitypride@gmail.com](mailto:felixstowedisabilitypride@gmail.com)  
More info: [www.felixstowedisabilitypride.co.uk](http://www.felixstowedisabilitypride.co.uk)





# Arts and Music



## Suffolks Much-Loved Unique Arts and Crafts Extravaganza Returns on Sunday the 7th September 2025



**Art Enthusiasts – Save the Date!**  
**Art on the Prom** is back with an extraordinary array of artists and crafters! Discover the creations of over 90 talented artists, potters, photographers, craftspeople, jewellers, and woodworkers, all transforming Felixstowe's Promenade into a vibrant exhibition of creativity and craftsmanship on Sunday, 7th September.

Entry is free to browse and purchase beautiful artworks and unique crafts from local creatives. Add this date to your calendar and join us to celebrate this highly anticipated event. Bring your browsing skills and your wallet, and get ready to support the thriving local artistic community.

Art on the Prom began its journey in 2002, and this year marks its 19th year. Proudly produced by Bonny Williams, Iona Hodgson and Nichola Adams, along with a dedicated team of freelance producers, we guarantee a joyful, vibrant, and successful event that benefits local artists and art enthusiasts alike.

The long established annual celebration of creativity and community will be open to the public from 10am until 6pm. Located on the Promenade, from The Pier to the Spa Gardens.



original oil paintings, there is always something for every budget. A great free family day out guaranteed, and if you fall in love with a picture or find a unique gift for a special person, then all the better.

The event would not be possible without invaluable financial and organisational support from the East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council.

This year the organisers hope to add musical entertainments and a selection of food stalls in addition to the fantastic array of arts and crafts for people to enjoy. Visitors are encouraged to come along and celebrate this much loved event and support those exhibiting, who come from across East Anglia for this one-off event. Offering everything from handmade homewares to



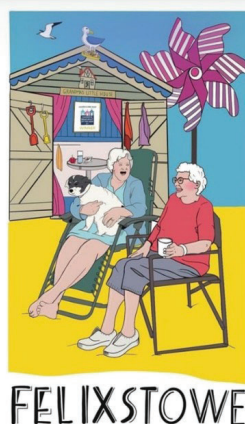
### How you can get involved:

#### Artists & Crafts people

If you are an artist or craftspeople, making anything handmade, then why not apply for a pitch and take part. Head to <https://www.artontheprom.uk/> to apply.

#### Young Artists

If you are an artist aged between 18 and 25 who is a Felixstowe resident with an IP11 postcode, you could apply for one of the free pitches for young artists. Send us an email with images of your work and tell us why you would like to take part.



#### Sponsors

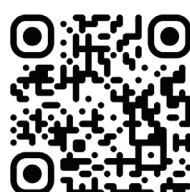
The organisers are seeking sponsorship from local business, to support this fantastic event that sees over 10,000 visitors flock to the town. This is a unique opportunity to reach a huge art buying community as well as logo placement across communications channels and on posters, and a free gazebo pitch on the day. Please contact Iona to discuss our sponsorship packages.

#### Volunteers

The organisers continue to add the finishing touches to the event and are still recruiting volunteers, so if you are interested in helping out on the day, please send us an email with the heading 'Volunteer'.

#### Musicians

If you are a musician or busker and would like to attend the event to perform, please send over links to your music and your contact details.



The email address for all correspondence is [felixstoweartontheprom@gmail.com](mailto:felixstoweartontheprom@gmail.com)

See you on the seafront in September!

Artists featured:

Theresa Seals, M Orchard, Mark Sach, Tracy Nichols, Sue Barrowclough





## Felixstowe Book Festival

Organisers of Felixstowe Book Festival were thrilled to learn recently that the Crime & Thriller Book of the Year winner was indeed Abir Mukherjee who is coming to the festival next month on Saturday 28th from 1pm – 2pm. Well known for his historical crime series “Wyndham and Banerjee” the award-winning author, Abir Mukherjee’s latest novel is a standalone. “Hunted” is a fast-moving, contemporary thriller. It’s a week before the presidential elections when a bomb goes off in an LA shopping mall. In London, armed police storm Heathrow Airport and arrest Sajid Khan. His daughter Aliyah entered the USA with the suicide bomber, and now she’s missing, potentially plotting another attack. Abir will be on stage at the Felixstowe Book Festival, in conversation with fellow crime writer from Suffolk, the popular author Ruth Dugdale.

Founder of the festival, Meg Reid says, “We are thrilled for Abir, crime writing is such a competitive category to win Book of the Year. We are not surprised that tickets to see him are already selling extremely well. However, we still have plenty of amazing authors for visitors to enjoy including A Mind to Murder: Celebrating PD James with Mandy Morton and Nicola Upson.”

The festival of books by the sea features a varied and wide mix of genres. This year Jenny Boyd (Sister-in-law to George Harrison and married to Mick Fleetwood) will be at the Festival, talking about Icons of Rock in their own words. Ian Collins will be on stage with Nicola Upson as they discuss Blythe Spirit: The Remarkable Life of Ronald Blythe who was considered one of the greatest writers on the English Countryside, best known for Akenfield – a poetic account of Suffolk farmlife. Whilst Lucy Hughes-Hallett about her book The Scapegoat: The Brilliant Brief Life of the Duke of Buckingham.

As a complete alternative, BBC regular Ben Chu discusses Exile Economics: What Happens if Globalisation Fails. Two more authors to look out for are Monica Faria-Tinta who asks with her book A Barrister for the Earth, if a planet can have rights? Monica is a barrister who advocates for not just people but for nature too. She will be in conversation with Felixstowe’s Rachel Sloane. Finally, as we are a coastal town with many sailors, Julia Jones with her new book Stars to Steer By will be celebrating the 20th Century woman sailors with an entertaining and inspiring talk.

Tickets are selling fast – to secure yours go to [www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk](http://www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk) or call into Felixstowe Library where tickets are being sold every Thursday between 10am and noon (cash only).

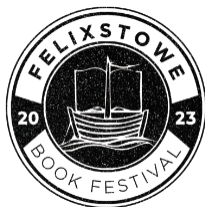
## Felixstowe Art Group

During the summer we are busy preparing for our August exhibition, our biggest event of the year. At our recent AGM we held the poster competition for this annual event. The winner was Gillian Lait with her pastel painting ‘Sunset over Felixstowe Port’. Congratulations Gillian!

This exhibition provides an excellent chance to showcase our group to the community, an opportunity for our members to display their wonderful art and a great chance for you to view or purchase original artwork at affordable prices. Cards and prints are also being offered. The excellence of entries on display are improving every year.

Start Wednesday 6th August, opening 10am - 6pm, ending on Saturday 9th August at 5pm. Entry is free, however donations are very welcome. Held at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Orwell road, Felixstowe.

In addition we have our Tuesday evening events programme at Broadway House, Orwell Road from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Some are for members only (see your programme included in membership). Those open for visitors include 22/07/25 Lorette Roberts demo and talk on keeping a sketchbook, 23/09/25 Carole Massey demo ‘Atmospheric landscapes in pastels’. A £2 fee applies for visitors. For further details visit [www.felixstoweartgroup.org](http://www.felixstoweartgroup.org) or our new Facebook page for events



## Suffolk choirs welcome American friends for a week of music-making and two exciting concerts in Felixstowe and Ipswich



A cross-Atlantic musical friendship started during the earliest days of the Covid lockdowns will be rekindled this summer when female vocal groups Felixstowe Harmonies and Stellar Acappella welcome American ensembles, Song of Seattle and PrimeTime for a week of music-making, including two exciting live concerts.

Felixstowe Harmonies will join Song of Seattle and PrimeTime for Across the Borders, at Harvest House in Felixstowe on July 2, while Stellar Acappella will celebrate Fourth of July! with the American singers at Peter’s Church in Ipswich on July 4.

It will be the first time the groups have sung together in live concerts since their musical collaboration began five years ago during the Covid pandemic.

In early 2020, as the harsh reality of the pandemic and lockdowns set in members of Felixstowe Harmonies began sharing their thoughts and feelings about isolation and how the world was changing around them. Their combined words became the lyrics to a song, Across the Borders, composed by the choir’s musical director Chandra Grover, which they recorded on YouTube.

When the song reached the ears of Patti Burklund in the US, a singer with female acappella chorus Song of Seattle, and quartet PrimeTime, she was captivated by its soulful lyrics and haunting melody.

Patti contacted Chandra to find out if the song could be arranged in the barbershop style for PrimeTime.



Felixstowe Harmonies, PrimeTime, Ipswich-based Stellar Acappella, of which Chandra is a member, and US chorus Song of Seattle, to which all four members of PrimeTime belong then recorded Across the Borders, while in isolation, under a new group name, Kingdom of United Voices.

Twenty-two Song of Seattle members are travelling from the US to Felixstowe where they will enjoy everything Suffolk’s friendliest seaside town has to offer, in between singing workshops with Felixstowe Harmonies, two public concerts, and some musical surprises.

Felixstowe Harmonies musical director Chandra Grover said: ‘Despite being thousands of miles apart, this musical collaboration stands as a testament to the unifying power of music.

‘I am incredibly proud of the singers of Felixstowe Harmonies who shared their thoughts and emotions in our very first Zoom in lockdown. Across the Borders is now bringing friends face to face to share the beauty that lies in the song.’

### Across the Borders

Felixstowe Harmonies, Song of Seattle and PrimeTime at Harvest House, Felixstowe on July 2 at 7.30pm.

Book now for an unforgettable night of inspiring and uplifting music.

**Tickets £12 (under-16s free) at [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)**

### Fourth of July!

Stellar Acappella, Song of Seattle and PrimeTime at St Peter’s Church, Ipswich on July 4, 7.30pm.

**Tickets £12.60 (under-16s free) 01473 225269 or [stpetersbythewaterfront.com](http://stpetersbythewaterfront.com)**

### Contact the groups

[felixstoweharmonies.co.uk](http://felixstoweharmonies.co.uk)

[youtube.com/@felixstoweharmonies6317](https://youtube.com/@felixstoweharmonies6317)

[facebook.com/felixstoweharmonies](https://facebook.com/felixstoweharmonies)

Song of Seattle

[facebook.com/SongofSeattle](https://facebook.com/SongofSeattle)

Stellar Acappella

[facebook.com/stellaracappella](https://facebook.com/stellaracappella)



### For further information:

Chandra Grover, musical director  
Felixstowe Harmonies  
07954 465430  
[chandra.grover@gmail.com](mailto:chandra.grover@gmail.com)



## Dorian Singers



Our final meeting as the Dorian Singers took place at Trimley St Martin Primary School in early in the year. It was sad but also uplifting as we sang, for the last time, a selection of some of our favourite pieces accompanied by our wonderful piano accompanist Marina Korneva and conducted by Brian Latchem, our 'temporary' musical director who has lead us so admirably over the last three years. Presentations were made to them as well as to Jean Shaw, our long-serving chairman.

Founded in 1981 by schoolteacher Russell Hawes and composer Jack Hawes (no relation), The Dorian Singers ([www.thedoriansingers.org.uk](http://www.thedoriansingers.org.uk)) began life as an evening class at Felixstowe College but quickly turned into a 'proper' choir, named after one of the ancient Greek modes. Among the singers at their debut concert on 31st July that year was Jean Shaw, who later became Musical Director and ultimately Chairman – a post she has held until February this year!



Over the years the choir has forged links with a number of fine local musicians, including the late Frank Davies (a former Director of Music at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook), soprano Julie Roberts and tenor Paul Bloomfield among many others. Choir members have come and gone, of course, but a few of the original intake still remain, and several other 'regulars' have left or moved away only to return to the fold at a later date. Even Musical Directors have returned!

A notable feature of the Dorians throughout their history has been the sheer diversity of their concert programmes. Over the years, the choir has performed Handel's 'Messiah', Joseph Horowitz's 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo', a medley of Abba hits and a semi-staged version of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Trial by Jury'. Other highlights have included the BBC Radio Suffolk carol concert at the Britten Studio at Snape Maltings, and their first-ever joint concert with the municipal choir from Felixstowe's twin town of Wesel.

We should like to thank our Friends who have supported the Dorians over the decades and to John Barratt at The Card Centre for advertising our concerts and handling ticket sales. Finally thanks to you all for your generosity and support over 43 years of music making.

## Pier Projects



As we step into Summer, we are excited to share two new additions to the online archive created as part of Views from Convalescent Hill which explored the heritage of rest, wellbeing and care in Felixstowe. These contributions shed new light on the knowledge that was uncovered and events that took place during the two year collaboration. These final reflections also bring the project to a close. We are so grateful to everyone who has been involved and hope you will enjoy spending time exploring the digital archive. [www.vfch-archive.co.uk](http://www.vfch-archive.co.uk)

The first contribution is by Janet Fink, a Felixstowe resident who has been instrumental in sharing her passion for social history. As a Creative Collaborator, Janet undertook research at Felixstowe Museum and Suffolk Archives to build a historical picture of Felixstowe as a place for health and convalescence, mapping the buildings and locations in the town. Having been shared through the exhibition, the scale of this heritage can now be viewed on the digital archive. Alongside this online map, Janet has also written a new article, Felixstowe and its Convalescent Spaces, which delves more deeply into the very first home to open in the town and the last to close: the Suffolk Convalescent Home and Sea Bathing Infirmary and the Bartlet Convalescent Home.

The second contribution is by artist Dana Olărescu who was commissioned and created the performative installation All Ears: A Community Listening Station. Dana traces her personal interest in the culture of sea bathing and blue therapy, shares the process of working with the esteemed Creative Collaborators and offers some reflections.

Over the next few months, we will be quietly working away on a book and planning an event focussed on socially engaged art practice in the East. Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon. [www.pierprojects.org](http://www.pierprojects.org)

## Two Sisters Arts Centre



Two Sisters Arts Centre based in Trimley St Mary facilitates live music, spoken word and drama events for the whole of the Felixstowe peninsula

Every month there are local, national and international artists to enjoy

June is no exception with jazz from three piece band NOMAD and the best of local talent showcased by Lady J's Summer Marvels

### Saturday 21st June sees the start of our FOLK & SHANTY FESTIVAL WEEKEND

**Saturday 21st** There will be free live music from 10am – 4pm at The Triangle in Felixstowe Town Centre including Armoured Man, Fickle Folk, Harbour Lights, Triangle and Soncraft – and featuring Morris dancing from 12 noon – 1pm

**Sunday 22nd 10am – 1pm** at MARTELLO P TOWER on Wireless Green (that's where Martello Park is at the end of Sea Rd) there will be live music from **ROGUE SHANTY BOUYS & HARBOUR LIGHTS**. There will also be a chance to get inside the Tower as **BLACK & WHITE PRODUCTIONS** will be doing **LIVING HISTORY TOURS** 10.30am-11am, 11.30am- 12 noon and 12.30pm – 1pm.

These will be free but TICKETED – very limited due to restrictions on numbers inside the Tower – so if you want to do this – BOOK NOW on the Two Sisters ticketsource site. PLEASE NOTE Access is by steep stairs – and the tour will involve more stairs once inside. It will not be suitable for children under 12 years.

Then **Sunday 22nd 2pm – 5pm** at Two Sisters will hold a **SHANTY CAFÉ** – entry by donation - including music from Rum Ol Boys, Ships Rations, Captain Morgan's Rum Dew and The Strumpets

**Friday 27th June 7.30pm** in association with Felixstowe Book Festival **An Evening of Poetry & Music** featuring **PAUL ARMFIELD** and guest poets.

And lastly for June **Saturday 28th June 7.30pm** Latino inspired jazz from four piece band **DB INFUSION**

July will see the likes of jazz from Chris Ingham, and evening with Louis de Bernier plus jazz cafe, spoken word and poetry events Tickets from 01394 279613 or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/two-sisters-arts-centre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/two-sisters-arts-centre)

## Wrapping up project WAVE & Beach of Dreams

On Tuesday the 27 May, we had an extraordinary day of celebration and cultural exploration for our coastline, despite the weather doing its best to rain on our parade. We were truly inspired to see the work from the Town's Level Two Youth Project and Trimley's Stennett's Community Cafe join us at Bent Hill as we were sheltering from the rain. A huge thank you to artist Blue King for leading

the procession and running the workshops with the community, inspiring them to come up with such beautiful designs. Also to Cuppa, we are very grateful that the cafe was able to host a beautiful Cyanotype workshop with Caroline Corkhill.



Across the 4 mile walk from Brackenbury Spit to Landguard Point we encountered joyous creativity from musicians to word-workers, photographers to illustrators and many more. In particular we would like to thank the commissioned artists, Adrian Wiggins for his beautiful percussion contributions throughout the day. Katy Bentall and Heidi Yeo provided insightful works at Cobbold Point covering object-making and word-work. Cath Cartman ran engaging photography workshops surrounding care-aesthetics as we sheltered from the rain in Hamilton MAS. Amy Wragg from Get on the Soapbox provided a thought-provoking recital at Landguard Fort before we were blown away by Kirsty Logan and Rabble Chorus' incredible performance to close the day. To James Crisp and Perran King for capturing the whole day beautifully on camera

We would also like to say a massive thank you to all of our volunteers, the other artists and community group leaders who brought their creativity and support to the Walking Wave. A big thank you to our funders, East Suffolk Council, Felixstowe Town Council and the Felixstowe BID, to the Mayor of Felixstowe Corrine Franklin, and Deputy Mayor Darren Aitchison for attending. To make a climate commitment with Beach of Dreams, head to: <https://www.beachofdreams.org/take-part> Photo credit: James Crisp.



# Health and Wellbeing

## Smoke Free Felixstowe - Ready to Quit Smoking? Feel Good Suffolk is Here to Help!

Are you ready to kick the habit and live a healthier, smoke-free life? Feel Good Suffolk's Smoke Free Felixstowe project is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you're looking to quit for good or just need some extra help, our community-based programme offers **12 weeks of FREE support** to help you succeed.



### We provide confidential, tailored support including:

- Allen Carr's Easyway – A proven method to shift your mindset and quit smoking.
- Nicotine Replacement Therapies & 12-week behaviour change support – Manage cravings and break habits.
- Swap to Stop (vape starter kits) – For those who wish to transition to vaping as part of their quit journey.
- Stop Smoking Group Support Sessions – Share experiences and motivation with others.
- Smoke Free App – Track your progress and stay focused.

**Drop-in sessions are available across Felixstowe** with no appointment needed, you can pop along & have chat to one of our advisors & start your smoke free journey. The following sessions are happening in Felixstowe:

- Grove Medical Centre – Every other Thursday from 15th May, 9am–12pm
- Felixstowe Library – 8th May, 29th May, 12th June, 26th June, 10th July 2pm–4pm
- Felixstowe Wellbeing Hub – Every other Tuesday from 20th May, 12pm–2pm
- The Salvation Army – 14th May & 18th June, 10am–12pm

### Take the first step today!

**Call / Text:** 07823847620

**Visit** [www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk](http://www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk) to sign up for your FREE support. Smoke Free Felixstowe is here for you—let's quit together!

## Felixstowe & Villages Carers Group

We are a group of family carers looking after a loved one or friend. We meet on the second Monday of each month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at The Old Felixstowe Community Association, Ferry Road Felixstowe IP11 9NB, for relaxation, enjoyment and a break from caring (Subs £3).

Why not come and join us? Contact Dennis Weston, 07712672289 or email : [dennisweston.49@btinternet.net](mailto:dennisweston.49@btinternet.net).



### Future Events

- **June** - Tea & Cake by the sea
- **July** - Kurling & Boccia games with Active Lives
- **August** - Sophia Michaels – Poetess
- **September** - Crazy Golf on the Front
- **October** - Board Games
- **November** - Jigsaw Team Race
- **December** - Xmas Buffet



## Felixstowe Relief Charity widens network of support

Over recent months, Felixstowe Relief Charity has assisted a large number of residents who are facing financial challenges. From food vouchers to furniture and clothes to cookers, the amount of items requested is steadily growing as word is spread about the important work of this local charity. With a robust but easy application process, families and individuals are encouraged to get in contact if they need essential equipment. There are an increasing number of requests for white goods (fridge/freezers, washing machines and cooking appliances). The only necessary criteria is that applicants must have lived in Felixstowe (including Kirton, Walton, the Trimleys and Falkenham) for a minimum 3 years.

The trustees are committed to relieving poverty and are now working with other organisations to ensure a more holistic approach. Trusted Charity Partners such as Compass, Level 2 and Pitstop are helping to provide guidance and much needed ongoing support. This joined-up approach has been very successful in assisting people to make a fresh start. The charity has also helped those with long term health conditions by providing specialist beds for conditions such as fibromyalgia as well as mobility equipment and stairlifts.

With a weekly presence at Job Club at the Salvation Army on Wednesdays (1000-1200) and Emmaus Wellbeing Club, Felixstowe Relief Charity has also been available to offer help with training costs and educational needs as residents try to get back into employment. Courses provided include dental nursing through to construction cards (CSCS) and it has proved a particularly effective way to provide practical help. One local resident said 'this charity listened... with complete compassion and no judgement... they are invaluable.' Visit [felixstowereliefcharity.org](http://felixstowereliefcharity.org)



## Felixstowe Opportunity Group's sensory room makeover

We're thrilled to share that Felixstowe Opportunity Group is undertaking an exciting project to redesign and relocate our sensory room, aiming to create a more inclusive and accessible environment for the children we support. The sensory room plays a vital role in helping children with additional needs regulate their emotions and explore their senses. By moving it to a larger, more accessible space within our building, we can better utilize equipment and ensure the area is safer and more functional for all users.

The new space will feature updated sensory resources such as bubble tubes, fibre optics, sensory toys, and music to create a soothing and engaging environment. Our volunteers and families have already expressed excitement about the improvements, with early feedback highlighting the positive impact the project is expected to have.

The refurbishment has been guided by input from volunteers, sensory specialists, and families, ensuring that the final design responds directly to the unique needs of the children while remaining inclusive.

This relocation and refurbishment reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a supportive, high-quality, and inclusive space where every child can thrive. The project exemplifies how our dedicated volunteers and community members collaborate to create better opportunities for young children with additional needs and their families.

Our volunteers are eagerly anticipating the reopening of the newly refurbished sensory room and hope it becomes a space the community will embrace and find valuable. If you would like to learn more about our project or find out how you can support us, please visit our Facebook page or contact us directly at [oppgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:oppgroup@btinternet.com)





# Active Felixstowe

## Felixstowe and Corinthians Cricket Club



Felixstowe and Corinthians Cricket Club formed in 2015 following the merger of three clubs: Felixstowe CC, Felixstowe Corinthians CC and Felixstowe and Corinthians Youth CC. Cricket has been a part of Felixstowe since 1870, and now the club boasts over 200 social and playing members.

We have a thriving junior section which caters to 5 to 15-year-olds. Training takes place on Friday evenings throughout the summer, with additional training available on Wednesdays for 5 to 11-year-olds through the ECB's All Stars and Dynamos programme. This is all included in our junior memberships for only £60 a season. Our parents will also vouch for a great social atmosphere on Friday evenings!



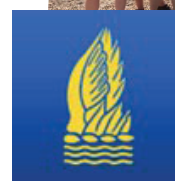
Our adult teams welcome all ages and abilities. We have three men's teams that play on Saturdays and one on Sundays, with training sessions on Wednesdays. Our ladies train on Fridays and have two teams that play on Sundays with a regular cricket ball, and one that plays midweek with a softer plastic ball – a much more relaxed way to play cricket, perfect for players who have never played the game before. Our variety of teams mean there are plenty of opportunities for new and experienced players alike to get involved with the club.

For juniors and adults, your first training session is free and membership is £60 for the season thereafter. As well as opportunities to play, members benefit from cheaper drinks at the bar and access to our regular social events.

Feel free to contact us for more information at [info@fandccc.co.uk](mailto:info@fandccc.co.uk) or find us on Facebook or Instagram!

## Women on Water at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club

Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club (FFSC) have had huge success with its Women on Water (WoW) initiative, launched in partnership with East Suffolk Community Partnership in June 2024 the initiative has gone from strength to strength. This programme is designed to inspire women of all ages and abilities to enjoy the excitement of sailing while connecting with others.



WoW welcomes everyone, from beginners eager to learn the ropes to seasoned sailors returning to the water. Sessions, which run for three hours, focus on skill development, camaraderie, and sheer enjoyment. The initiative provides an accessible, supportive environment to encourage more women into this exhilarating sport.



FFSC remains committed to inclusivity and affordability, with a modest fee of £10 for members and £25 for non-members per session. With the initiative gaining momentum, the club hopes to make a lasting impact on the community and the visibility of women in sailing.

The new season started in May, so please do follow us for updates on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn

Or please contact [womenonthewater@ffsc.co.uk](mailto:womenonthewater@ffsc.co.uk) or visit [www.ffsc.co.uk](http://www.ffsc.co.uk)

## Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowls Club Annual Tournament 2025

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



This year Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowls Club will be hosting its 94th Annual Tournament. Our tournament runs from the 21st to the 25th July with play from 9am to 5pm each day and has competitions including Ladies

Singles, Ladies Pairs, Open Triples, Mens Pairs, Under 12s and Under 18s and we attract players from all over East Anglia and beyond. On the middle Wednesday we host a drawn pairs competition which is open to all standards or player from non bowler to England International. Entry forms are available from our website [felixstoweandsuffolkbowls.chessck.co.uk/Tournament2025](http://felixstoweandsuffolkbowls.chessck.co.uk/Tournament2025)

Last years tournament saw Katherine Rednall from Norfolk win the Open Singles, Kat Bowman from Leicestershire win the Ladies singles, Charlie Beaton take the Under 18s title as well as Gary Hard, Adrian Beecroft and George Ward from the Ipswich Bowling Club take the open triples crown.

We are also running an Open Singles tournament on Monday 26th May with play from 9am to 6pm. Spectators are more than welcome to both tournaments with refreshments available on each of the days including a bar.





## Felixstowe and District Council for Sport and Recreation

At the recent Mr Cobbler Sports Awards 2024 Evening organised by the Felixstowe and District Council for Sport and Recreation, the following awards were presented by the Mayor of Felixstowe at Felixstowe Town Hall.

- Nick Barber Auctions, Sports Personality of the Year 2024 - Paul Mortimore, Felixstowe Karate Club

- Underwood Hardware - Junior Sports Personality of the Year 2024, Mark Banham Felixstowe Sea Angling Society



- Scarborough Opticians, Team of the Year 2024 Under 15/16 Team - Felixstowe Rugby Union Football Club

- Eastcliff Carpets, Club Official of the Year 2024 - Bill Cunnew, Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club

- Walton Barbers, Service to Sport The Stan Cox Memorial Trophy 2024 - David Martin Felixstowe Judo Club

- Wainwrights, Progress in Junior Sport, The Malcolm Minns Memorial Trophy 2024 - Rupert Long, Felixstowe Hockey Club

Article provided by Michael Sharman, Chairman

## Felixstowe Welcomes New Cycling Club



With support from Cycling UK Ltd. a new Community Cycle Club has been approved and will commence very shortly. Enthusiastic cyclists Danny Hepburn and Howard White have formed a new group called Pedal Felixstowe, to provide guided rides to the broad community. Danny is a highly experienced cyclist, with a passion for the sport. Howard is always keen to get oily and has undertaken many Bike Doctor sessions on behalf of SCC.

Howard said "the intention of the club is to attract the everyday cyclist, who perhaps might use their bike to pop to the shops. The routes will be carefully chosen and not too long, so as to give confidence to all, and attract those that might not have undertaken a group ride before. There are many groups for sporting riders, and we wanted to start something that moves away from that and will be at a more leisurely and inclusive pace. We hope to meet bi-weekly at The Hub in Great Eastern Square. As long as your bike is roadworthy, you can take part and we might even be able to supply bikes, with a little notice. E-bikes will be very welcome too. We will also be looking to provide basic maintenance classes and fix-it sessions."

Danny and Howard are currently finalising some training, and once complete will be raring to go. Anyone interested in Pedal Felixstowe should find us on Facebook, or our website [www.cyclinguk.org/group/pedal-felixstowe](http://www.cyclinguk.org/group/pedal-felixstowe)

## Felixstowe Rotary Club



Forty children from five junior schools in the Felixstowe area reached new heights on the 25 April when they experienced Clip n Climb sponsored by the Rotary club of Felixstowe.

Thanks to the support of Clip n Climb Ipswich this has become an eagerly anticipated annual event. The children selected by the teachers are often those with particular needs or would not otherwise be able to have such an adventure. It hard to believe that such a simply organised project can bring so much joy and happiness to these children. Whilst some assume that Clip n Climb is just a fun activity it can be so much more. With many children going through tough time, learning new skills facing challenges and developing challenges is invaluable.

Comments from the teachers included:

- "Wonderful experience the children really embraced the activity"
- "It really has made a impact on the children especially those rather nervous improving their communication skills, agility and confidence"
- "Just wonderful the children were nervous and excited but now look at their faces"



## Mayor's Cadet

At Felixstowe Town Council's Annual Council Meeting on 21 May, the Town Council welcomed a Mayor's Cadet, Flight Sergeant Frazer Lack, who will assist Cllr Corrine Franklin, Mayor of Felixstowe, with her duties over the duration of the year ahead.

In 2024/25, Felixstowe Town Council introduced a Mayor's Cadet Policy to formalise the appointment of a young person from a recognised local uniformed organisation to support the Mayor during civic events.

The initiative aims to provide a valuable opportunity for youth engagement with civic life, offering the Cadet experience in public representation, community service, and leadership.



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# Your Community Stories

## Suffolk Remembers to Return for 2025



**St Elizabeth Hospice's much-loved remembrance event, Suffolk Remembers is to set return once more for 2025.**

Every year Suffolk Remembers, sees 5,000 candles displayed along Felixstowe seafront as hundreds of people gather to remember their loved ones, as the moving remembrance service brings the annual Suffolk Day to a close.

Taking place on Saturday 21st June from 9pm-10pm, this year's event will see live performances from Pop Chorus choir and Martlesham Brass as well as a number of poetry readings.

Catherine Sheppard, Individual Giving Manager at St Elizabeth Hospice, said: "Suffolk Remembers is a very special day in the hospice calendar, bringing the community together alongside the charity to remember loved ones no longer with us and to mark the close of Suffolk Day in a poignant way.

"On 21st June, we are once again warmly inviting the Suffolk community to join us on the beautiful Felixstowe seafront for Suffolk Remembers, where we will celebrate the lives of our loved ones on the beautiful Felixstowe seafront, as we listen to a number of readings and musical performances."

Now in its ninth year, Suffolk Remembers is a free to attend event, but with each dedicated candle the hospice kindly asks supporters to consider making a donation to the independent Suffolk charity, which every year cares for



more than 4,000 patients, living with a progressive or life-limiting illness, and their families throughout East & Mid-Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

All are welcome to dedicate a candle, even if they have not previously been under the hospice's care, and the hospice is encouraging all who have lost a friend or relative to take the opportunity to join people from across the region in remembering them through Suffolk Remembers 2025, which once again is sponsored by East of England Co-op Funeral Services.

People will have the option to include a photo when making their dedications to loved ones, which will be included in the Suffolk Remembers' online gallery and a solar-powered candle will be lit and added to the hospice's physical event display on the night.

The candles will be displayed from Saturday 21st June, at Felixstowe Seafront Gardens, until 1pm on Wednesday 25th June.

To dedicate a candle and to find out further information about Suffolk Remembers visit [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/suffolk-remembers/](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/suffolk-remembers/), email [fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk) or call 01473 723600.

To find out more about St Elizabeth Hospice call 01473 727776 or visit [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk).

## Bawdsey Radar Museum



On the site of the world's first operational radar station, the Bawdsey Radar Museum is open 11am to 4pm on Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until the end of October. Don't forget kids get in free.

Special events coming up include our annual General Knowledge Quiz at Woodbridge Community Hall on Friday 13th (!) June 2025. Teams of up to 6. £7.50 per

person. Table nibbles will be provided, but feel free to bring your own feast. You can reserve a table via the website: [bawdsey-radar.arttickets.org.uk/bawdsey-radar/](http://bawdsey-radar.arttickets.org.uk/bawdsey-radar/)

In August we celebrate the world's first airborne radar experiments at Martlesham Heath. To commemorate these events the Bawdsey Radar Trust, in conjunction with the Defence Electronics History Society and the Communications and Electronics Museum Trust, will be holding an event at Adastral Park, the home to BT's research and innovation labs at Martlesham Heath on 15th August 2025. There will be two sessions open to members of the public. Session 1, on the morning of 15th August, will consist of a series of mini-presentations aimed at those with little or no technical background, and will give the opportunity to see replicas of the original airborne radar equipment.

Session 2, on the afternoon of 15th August, will consist of longer presentations for those with some technical background. Advanced booking is essential, via the website. £12.50 per person per session.

For more information contact [info@bawdseyradar.org.uk](mailto:info@bawdseyradar.org.uk) or phone 07821 162879.

## Felixstowe Lions Club

How time flies when fundraising for the community. A look at what the Felixstowe Lions have been doing in the past few months. At Christmas we raised £1469.99, also £15.00 of donations, the pig race raised £3,333.00. We had our first Model Truck Fest which was a great success raising £965.00, all of which the money will be going towards our various projects and helping the community.

We would have also held our second Dog Show; this year we are expecting the Customs Border Force dogs. Which will be different to last year.

Some of Felixstowe Lions have been busy supporting schools and their garden projects. Several schools in the area have asked for the Lions help to upgrade the gardens, using them as outdoor classrooms.

Please remember from now to September, the Lions Club of Felixstowe will be holding The Car Boot sales, which take place at the Old Cavendish Hotel site on Sea Road, Felixstowe, with gates opening at 7.30 AM for Sellers and 8:00 AM for buyers. The event concluding at 1:00 PM weather permitting.

Welcome to Guy Woodward who recently joined the club, it is always good to get new people with new ideas. So, if you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our website below.

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)

Whether you're attending, exhibiting, or sponsoring – please let us know you're coming! Help us create a day to remember. Register your attendance on Eventbrite – search Felixstowe Disability Pride. Interested in sponsoring? Email: [felixstowedisabilitypride@gmail.com](mailto:felixstowedisabilitypride@gmail.com) More info: [www.felixstowedisabilitypride.co.uk](http://www.felixstowedisabilitypride.co.uk)



## Felixstowe Sea Cadets



Wow, May has been a busy month for us at Sea Cadets, what with the VE80 day celebrations, the Suffolk Show, and all our usual training and competitions, we have been the busiest of busy bees.

### Honouring the Past: VE80 Day Celebrations

Starting on 5th May, Felixstowe Royal British Legion, supported by the Sea Cadets, set up stalls on the Triangle in the town centre to raise awareness of the Legion's vital work supporting service veterans. While the aim was serious, the weather had other ideas—strong winds meant cadets not only helped with collections but also had to hold down stalls and gazebos to stop them blowing away!



Then, on VE Day itself, 8th May, Felixstowe Sea Cadets proudly took part in the town's official commemorations, marking 80 years since Victory in Europe. Cadets formed a smart and respectful parade contingent alongside veterans, local dignitaries, and members of the community.

The evening Torchlight Procession, organised by Felixstowe Town Council and Felixstowe Remembers, was a moving tribute to the men and women from Felixstowe who gave their lives during the Second World War. As part of the ceremony, the names of the fallen were read by representatives from the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Cadets, and Felixstowe High School. Our cadets stood in silent remembrance, honouring the immense sacrifice of those who served.

### Rowing Regatta at Lackford Lake

The District Rowing Regatta took place on a lovely warm day, with teams from Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Felixstowe, and Mildenhall proudly showing off their skills in our Trinity rowing boats. The atmosphere was electric, with

cheers and shouts of support echoing from the shore as the teams raced head-to-head. For the first time ever, Junior Sea Cadets (aged 10–12) took part in the competition and proved that, even at a younger age, Sea Cadets know their stuff!

### All hands on deck at the Suffolk Show

The Suffolk Show saw our cadets and volunteers in action, representing both Felixstowe and the Eastern Area Sea Cadets. Over two busy days, cadets ran interactive displays, including knot-tying challenges, uniform demonstrations, and boating simulations. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet the public and showcase what Sea Cadets is all about.



### Making Waves: Sailing and Powerboating Season Launch

With the warmer weather upon us, boating season is officially underway! Cadets have already been out on the water at Felixstowe Ferry, taking part in both sailing and powerboating sessions.

Several cadets achieved qualifications in RYA Powerboat Level 2 and RYA Stage 2 Sailing, with many more working towards their next levels. For some of our juniors, it was their very first time at the helm – and the smiles said it all!

Waterborne training is not only exciting but builds vital skills in teamwork, leadership, and confidence – the very heart of what we do.

We're always looking for new cadets aged 9–18 and volunteers of all ages. Whether you want to get out on the water, support admin behind the scenes, or help develop the next generation – there's a place for you here at TS Landguard.

Contact us: [enquiries@FelixstoweSeaCadets.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@FelixstoweSeaCadets.co.uk)  
Parade nights: Mondays & Thursdays, 18:45–21:00  
Ready, Aye, Ready.



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.



## Langer Primary Academy



On Thursday 15th May, the entire school had a truly unforgettable day out to the Felixstowe Wheel, thanks to the incredible generosity of the Lions Club of

Felixstowe. Although it was cloudy, excited children, teachers, and helpers headed down to the wheel for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and adventure by the sea.



When they arrived at the seafront, the Felixstowe Wheel stood tall and impressive, ready to give everyone a birds-eye view of the beautiful coastline. Year groups took turns hopping into the 24 gondolas, gasping in delight as they slowly rose into the sky. From the top, we could see the beach, the pier, and even the huge container ships being loaded and unloaded at the port. For many of the children it was their very first ride on a big wheel - and judging by the smiles, it won't be their last.

But the excitement didn't stop there. After the ride, everyone was treated to a delicious 99 ice cream, every child enjoyed their icy treat whilst sitting on the promenade, watching the waves roll in.

The trip was more than just fun - it brought the whole school community together. Laughter echoed along the promenade as friends shared stories and teachers joined in the fun. It was a perfect blend of adventure and togetherness.



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to The Lions Club of Felixstowe, whose generous funding made the entire day possible. Their kindness gave our pupils an experience they will treasure for years to come. The trip to the Felixstowe Wheel was a true highlight of the school year - and one we'll all remember with huge smiles.

## St Felix Primary School



We love the summer term at Felix - the longer, warmer days bring cheer and there is always so much to look forward to. Our year 6 children have worked their socks off for their SATs tests and we are incredibly proud of them and their resilience.



Amelia in Year 6 won a competition from our new Sainsbury's in town to design their tote bag. She was invited along with some other children to cut the ribbon for their grand opening. Our children were able to welcome and hand tote bags to the very first customers.

Our children are excited about the term ahead and we look forward to sharing more of our endeavours!

Mrs Hockley

Deputy Headteacher, Felix Primary School

## Fairfield and Colneis



The Federation of  
Fairfield and Colneis



I am writing this at the beginning of the summer term, the sun is shining and the children across our schools are excited about all that is ahead of them over the next term. The summer term in any school is always really busy - we have sports days, trips, summer fairs and lots of other exciting events planned. It is also the term where lots of transition takes place. Children get to meet their new teachers for September and our oldest children get ready to leave Primary school and move onwards on their journeys into secondary schools. Change in life is inevitable and we work really hard to support our children in making this a positive experience.



We are incredibly thankful to Felixstowe Town Council for their grant funding to enable us to purchase some new outdoor climbing equipment for our early years children in Reception. This equipment is to support children with developing gross motor skills and is designed to be moved about to create different trails to climb and balance on. It is already proving very popular and has been very well received!

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## Mayor of Felixstowe Presents 2025 Civic Awards



**Felixstowe Town Council is delighted to announce this year's Civic Awards winners, presented by the Mayor of Felixstowe for 2024/25, Cllr David Rowe, at the Annual Town Meeting held at Felixstowe School on Wednesday 14 May 2025.**

### HMS GANGES AWARD Cdt Sgt William Farrow

For his outstanding commitment and rapid progression within the Felixstowe Air Cadets—demonstrating exceptional leadership, service, and dedication to the community.



### The Winners Were: MAYOR'S AWARDS



#### Liss Coates

For running Pitstop for over 5 years, helping an average of 50-60 families daily. Working with a team of 27 volunteers and always pushes to do more in the community.



#### Celia Page

For over two decades of dedicated service to the Old Felixstowe Community Association, leading its committee with passion and drive. Under her leadership, the centre has flourished—now hosting more than 40 local groups and serving as a vibrant hub for the community.

### THE COMMUNITY AWARD



#### Manna Pop Up Shop

Held at Christ Church, Grange Farm, the Manna Pop Up Shop gives exceptional support to families and individuals in need—including providing

food and quality clothing to 80-120 people every fortnight, and making a lasting difference in the local community.

#### Liz Day

As Felixstowe Ambassador for Breast Friends, Liz has been a passionate advocate and driving force, offering vital support to those in the town affected by breast cancer and raising awareness across the community.



#### Christine McIntyre

For decades of dedicated voluntary coaching, inspiring and supporting hundreds of children and young people in their swimming journeys - giving countless hours each week to help them thrive in and out of the pool.



#### Tim Clarke

For Chairing the Landguard Fort Trust for the past 17 years, during which time he transformed Landguard Fort into one of Suffolk's most successful Heritage tourist attractions.

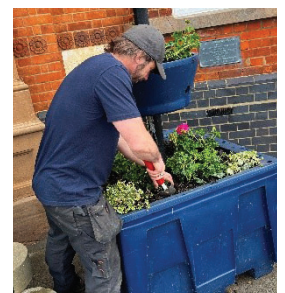


## Seasonal Updates from the Felixstowe Town Council Grounds Team: Cemetery Gate & 40 Years of Felixstowe in Flower



A new gate has been installed at Felixstowe Cemetery as part of preparations for the forthcoming cemetery extension. This development supports the ongoing effort to maintain

and enhance the site with care and long-term planning. The gate is open during cemetery hours: from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. between 1 October and 30 April, and from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. between 1 May and 30 September. It remains locked overnight.



### 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower

This summer marks a significant milestone—the 40th anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower, a cherished community tradition that continues to brighten the town year after year. In celebration, planting is already underway. The town's signature three-tier planters and tubs have been filled with vibrant geraniums, supported by compost produced locally at the cemetery. To improve water efficiency, Broadleaf P4 has been added to enhance moisture retention.

From the end of June, watering will be further supported by grey water supplied by Felixstowe Golf Club, reinforcing Felixstowe Town Council's commitment to sustainability. Hanging baskets have been installed in preparation for the launch event on 7 June, ensuring the town is in full bloom for the height of summer. Felixstowe in Flower continues to flourish—40 years on—as a lasting symbol of community pride and environmental care. To support this year's celebrations by entering one of the free competitions, please see the back page of the magazine.

# SUNDAY LUNCH

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## Planning and Environment Committee

### Planning Applications

During 2024/25 the Planning and Environment Committee considered a total of 184 local planning applications. Committee noted that on 86.3% of occasions (113 of 131 reported decisions) East Suffolk have concurred with the Town Council's recommendations.

Of those cases where there was contrasting view, a referral panel at East Suffolk Council reviewed the Town Council recommendations before deciding whether to refer the application to the District Council's Planning Committee for determination. Of the 184 applications considered, four plans were refused by both East Suffolk and Felixstowe Town Council; two which had been recommended for approval by Felixstowe Town Council were refused by East Suffolk; and, 16 were approved which Felixstowe Town Council recommended to be refused. eight applications were withdrawn and 45 are still awaiting a decision from East Suffolk at this time.

### Neighbourhood Plan Feasibility Working Group

In February, the Committee established a Working Group to explore whether Felixstowe would benefit from developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Meetings have been held with expert input from planning consultants, East Suffolk Council, Kesgrave Town Council and Lowestoft Town Council—offering contrasting but equally valuable perspectives.

The Working Group will report its findings back to the Planning & Environment Committee following its evaluation of the benefits of a Plan and what the key drivers might be for undertaking the work.

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Council received CIL payments from East Suffolk Council totalling £158,651.02 in 2024/25. These funds are held in separate Earmarked Reserves and are ringfenced to support appropriate projects within a five-year timescale allowed by legislation. Consultation has taken place to identify suitable projects and a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) has been drawn up to prioritise these in advance of delivery.

This year £100,000 has been granted towards refurbishment of Walton Recreation Ground and Seaton Road Park play equipment, and £7,650 out of an allocated £15,000 towards the refurbishment of the Allenby Park Gates from previous CIL money received during the period 2020-2023.

£30,000 has also been ring-fenced towards the Level Two Music Digital Arts Centre which has recently received planning permission.

### Climate Emergency

Council requires Councillors and staff to consider climate, air pollution and nature plans in all their decision-making processes. Since Council declared a Climate Emergency

in July 2019, the Climate Emergency Working Group meets regularly to review processes, services, products and actions and aims to raise awareness locally through the Town Council Magazine and social media. A wider 'Climate Action Group' with key stakeholders, including the Port of Felixstowe, BID, Chamber of Commerce, Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve and Litter Free Felixstowe among others have met to discuss Climate Action in the town. The latest meeting included local developers, where environmental benefits for new build developments were highlighted. A wider group meeting is currently being planned for September 2025.

### Calculating our Carbon Footprint

Council had Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates carried out in 2020 and have used these as a baseline for improvement, alongside regularly calculating its carbon footprint.

In 2019, the Council's carbon consumption stood at 43.37 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, decreasing to 23.5 tonnes in 2020, and further down to 17.89 tonnes in 2023 this decrease was attributed to the adoption of electric vans and tools. Source: [www.carbonfootprint.com/businesscarboncalculator.html](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/businesscarboncalculator.html).

### Plans For the Future

In 2024/25, Felixstowe Town Council successfully secured a grant from East Suffolk Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Rural Business and Community Hub Fund. This funding will support a major environmental upgrade to Walton Community Hall, aimed at significantly reducing its carbon footprint. Planned works include the installation of a new air conditioning/air source heat pump system for the main hall, solar panels with battery storage, and replacement of the last remaining single-glazed windows with double glazing. These improvements will create a warmer, more energy-efficient space—helping to lower running costs and enhance usability for community groups year-round.

A new Cemetery Extension Project Group has also been established to explore options for future burial provision. Proposals under consideration include green burials and the implementation of a borehole to support water conservation. For the planned new buildings, sustainable features such as green roofs and grey water systems are being investigated to align with the Council's environmental commitments. The Council remains committed to supporting environmental initiatives in partnership with local organisations.

The Climate Emergency Working Group will continue leading the Council's environmental response, working with the Felixstowe Youth Forum to involve local students in climate action. It is also partnering with Felixstowe BID and the wider Climate Action Group to help reduce the town's carbon footprint.

## CLIMATE ACTIONS WE'VE TAKEN SO FAR...

- Grant applications encouraged for local organisations who want to reduce their carbon emissions and carry out environmental projects.
- Grant given to support environmental projects in the town including to the Edible Felixstowe initiative and to the Lions Club towards changing Christmas lights to LED. Another grant to the Lions Club supported improvements to local school gardens.
- Electric van used as a 'first resort' vehicle wherever practicable (except for towing).
- Replaced the majority of garden tools with battery rechargeable power tools.
- Council now creates all its own compost and is helping the Felixstowe Allotment Association become a 'Champion' for composting.
- Supported the 'Love Green Felixstowe' festival and 'Edible Felixstowe' to encourage community planting around the town.
- Single use Plastic Policy adhered to for all events.
- Cycle to Work Scheme expanded, with several employees now cycling to work.
- Car-sharing and holding more meetings online.
- 'No Idling' campaign via the Youth Forum promoted in schools.
- Re-wilding along Langley Avenue.
- Encouraging Wildlife at the Cemetery.
- Reducing use of herbicides and pesticides.
- Created a Green Management Plan improving the natural environment including creating new pathways in Town Council owned parks.
- Provided community allotments for the Grove Surgery and Level Two Youth Project to encourage participation in local food growing.
- Nursery created to help establish saplings and maintain plants
- Further separation and recycling of waste.
- Replacing all lights at end of their life with LED.
- Insulated to 270mm in uninsulated areas.
- Used 100% renewable energy suppliers – this will be continued when the contract ends.
- Grey water used for watering Felixstowe in Flower baskets - with thanks to Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club!
- Over 70 trees planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee, and over 300+ as part of the Woodland Trust scheme.
- Refurbishment of Town Hall windows using highly efficient innovative glass with a very low thermal transmittance of 0.7 w/m<sup>2</sup>.k.
- Created a community orchard (micro woodland) at Cowpasture meadow.



# Finance and Governance Committee

## Audit and Accounts

The 2024/25 Audit will be undertaken by PKF Littlejohn LLP in June 2025, and the audited accounts for 2024/25 will be available from September 2025. Finance and Governance Committee receives six-monthly Internal Audit reports. In 2024/25, the Internal Auditor found Council's procedures to be all in order and made some helpful recommendations

## Business Plan

The Business Plan for 2024-2028 was approved by Council on 15 May 2024 and is available to view online at [felixstowe.gov.uk/Business-Plan-2024-28](https://felixstowe.gov.uk/Business-Plan-2024-28)

## Budget and Precept

At the close of the 2024/25 financial year, Felixstowe Town Council recorded an income outturn of 102.0% against budget estimates, with expenditure at 96.9% of the approved budget. This was achieved despite increased costs in certain areas, including PPE, skip and digger hire, and rising utility expenses such as Town Hall electricity and water supply at the allotments.

After several years of maintaining a 0% increase in its portion of the council tax, followed by a 5.54% increase in 2024/25, the Council agreed that a further 3.2% increase would be required for the 2025/26 financial year. This means that the annual Band D equivalent charge will rise from £74.80 to £77.19—representing just under 3.7% of the overall council tax bill.

The remaining 96.3% is shared between Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, and Suffolk Constabulary.

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Budget
Balance at 1 April	£1,264,677	£1,289,724	£1,328,665
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£873,849)	(£954,450)	(£984,068)
Total Income	£964,679	£1,028,285	£909,037
Total Expenditure	£939,643	£989,332	£913,616
Closing Balance at 31 March	£1,289,713	£1,328,677	£1,324,086
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£952,450)	(£984,068)	

## Budget Estimates

Council's Finance & Governance Committee closely monitored and reviewed the financial position regularly. Due to careful budgeting in recent years, the Council's reserves are able to offer some protection against unforeseen variables.

## General Power of Competence

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

# Assets and Services Committee

## Town Hall

Extensive refurbishment works were carried out during the year to address longstanding damp issues affecting several areas. The programme included external repointing, internal waterproof plastering, and redecoration, resulting in a significant improvement to the overall condition, appearance and usability of the building.



Council also approved the replacement of the lift motor after a fault was identified during routine servicing to ensure continued safe operation.

Accessibility has also been enhanced with the installation of a new, more durable ramp at the rear disabled entrance - an upgrade that has been well-received by users and community groups.

Routine maintenance ensures that the Town Hall continues to be well-used as a civic and community space, with a steady number of public and private bookings throughout the year, including weddings, civic functions, and numerous local events and meetings.

## Broadway House

Broadway House continues to serve the local community through its lease to the Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association (FOPWA), which was successfully renewed for a further five years. New signage has been installed in the foyer to highlight Broadway House's connection to Felixstowe Town Council and to identify the building as a Council-owned asset.

## Walton Community Hall

Walton Community Hall remains a vibrant and well-used facility, welcoming new groups for our growing list of regular hirers. A key achievement this year was the successful approval of a grant application for environmental improvements at Walton Community Hall. Funding secured via the East Suffolk Rural Business and Community Hub Fund will enable plans to proceed for heating upgrades and wider energy efficiency measures. These works include replacing the ageing air conditioning unit and improving insulation, forming part of a holistic approach to reducing the building's carbon footprint.

## Allotments

Allotment management has remained proactive, with regular inspections resulting in the prompt issuing of cultivation orders where necessary. Over the winter, two large vacated areas at the Railway Hill and Ferry Road sites presented opportunities for improvement and reconfiguration.

## Cemetery

In response to requests from visitors, additional taps were added to the newer

areas of Felixstowe Cemetery to allow for water to be accessed when maintaining loved one's graves. After concerns were raised regarding motorbikes and scooters using the Cemetery road, a cut through barrier was installed by the grounds team at the pedestrian entrance to discourage the use of the road by motorbikes and scooters.

## Allenby Park Gates

Following recommendations from the A&S Committee, the feasibility of refurbishing the gates at Allenby Park was explored and, in March, Kingdom Forge was selected to carry out restoration work on the gates. This has involved removing the gates and adjoining railings so they can be shot blasted and then new metal welded in before finally painting and reinstalling them at the park. The restoration is expected to be complete by June 2025.

## Gosford Way/OFCA Path

In response to a concern raised by a member of the public and as part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing public spaces, a new path was installed at the entrance of the Gosford Way Play Area, besides the OFCA car park, allowing unbroken pedestrian access from Margery Girling Residential home to the Old Felixstowe Community Hall and to access the play area without having to walk through the car park.

## Compost

In 2024, the Grounds Team began to investigate whether a high-quality compost could be made in-house for use within the planters used for Felixstowe in Flower. Compost was made at the cemetery where horse manure, collected from a local stable, has been mixed with fallen leaves and grass clippings collected from the Cemetery.

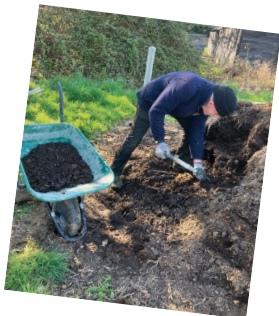
The first batch has been a success and is being used in the planters as well as some being donated to the Level Two Allotment. The Grounds Team aim to produce all compost needed in-house going forward. This has reduced costs as we avoid the need to buy in compost and further reduce the Town Council's environmental impact.

## Landguard Restoration

The Town Council's Grounds Team carried out restoration at Landguard Nature reserve in December 2024 to refurbish and replace the access steps on the rifle butts.

## New Apprentice Post

In October 2024 the Town Council recruited a new Apprentice to the Grounds Team.





# Annual report 2024-25

## Civic and Community Committee

### Council Communications and Meetings



The Council engages directly with its residents, via digital platforms such as the Council's noticeboard, website [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk), and Facebook page [facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil](https://facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil).

Following the Council's decision to suspend its use of X (formerly Twitter), it recently

adopted the use of Bluesky and Instagram, to broaden its digital reach.

A quarterly seasonal magazine is delivered to all households in Felixstowe, giving a broader platform for community and Council news, as well as seasonal highlights throughout the year.

Details of all Town Council Meetings and forthcoming events are displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall. Members of the public and press are welcome and regularly attend our Council and Committee meetings and a public question session is held at the beginning of each meeting. Members of the public who are unable to attend in person, can join the meeting online via a link provided on each agenda.

### Civic Awards 2024/25

The Mayor presented the Civic Awards at the Annual Town Meeting in May, recognising outstanding service and contributions to the community. Five Mayor's Awards were presented to individuals who have gone above and beyond in support of Felixstowe.

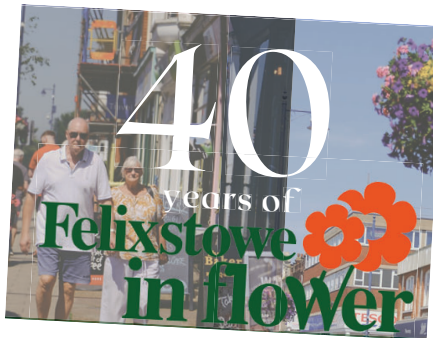


### Occasional Grants

Felixstowe Town Council is committed to supporting the many local organisations and community groups that contribute to the wellbeing and vibrancy of the town. Through its Annual and Occasional Grants schemes, the Council awarded funding to 43 local organisations and projects during 2024/25, totalling £54,257.45. See instead <https://felixstowe.gov.uk/council-services/grants/> for further information and an application form

### Felixstowe in Flower

Council's Felixstowe in Flower initiative has contributed towards civic pride in the town since 1985. The launch event for the 40th Anniversary will take place on Saturday 7 June from 10 – 12 noon at the Triangle. If you or your organisation would like to sponsor a basket or planter - or would like to enter one of our competitions - please contact the Town Hall.



The Town Council gives thanks to the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club for providing grey water run off, which is used to water the flowers, saving fresh drinking water.

### Remembrance and VE80



Felixstowe Town Council, in partnership with the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion, supported several commemorative events in 2024/25.

Residents, veterans, and civic dignitaries gathered at the War Memorial at the annual Remembrance Sunday service and parade in November 2024 to honour the sacrifices of the Armed Forces. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the community, and a two-minute silence observed in tribute to the fallen.

On 8 May 2025, to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the Council raised the VE80 flag, held a wreath-laying service with the Royal British Legion and hosted a moving Torch Parade and Beacon Lighting, delivered in conjunction with Felixstowe Remembers.

The Torch Parade featured 112 Torch Bearers, each representing a life lost to Felixstowe in the Second World War. As they processed past the War Memorial, each bearer extinguished their torch in a powerful act of remembrance.

### Flood Memorial



The anniversary of the North Sea Floods was marked on 31 January 2025 with a commemorative service at the Felixstowe Flood Memorial.

The event paid tribute to the 41 lives lost in the 1953 tragedy and was attended by members of the community who came together in remembrance.

### Blue Flag

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

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



### Flag Flying

Throughout the year, a variety of flags have been flown on the flagpole outside the Town Hall to mark national days, community events, and significant commemorations.

Highlights included the second raising of the Progress Pride Flag during Pride Month in June, the Suffolk Day Flag on 21 June, the Armed Forces Flag for Armed Forces Week and VE80 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. In addition, both the Union Jack and the Blue Flag have been flown during the year in recognition of national pride and Felixstowe's award-winning seafront.



# 40

years of

# Felixstowe in flower

Join us in celebrating 40 years of Felixstowe in Flower.

Enter one of the 16 FREE Felixstowe in Flower competitions for a chance to win a trophy at the illustrious Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony.



## COMPETITION FORM:

Do you have green fingers?

Why not enter our FREE Felixstowe in Flower competitions?



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

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

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

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

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

**Open to all:**

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

**Allotment Competitions**

- ☐ Best Newcomer
- ☐ Best Allotment
- ☐ Best Allotment

Don't forget to  
fill out your  
details below!

Fill in your details here:

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Address:

Please return form to  
Felixstowe Town Hall or email  
[sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk)  
By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025