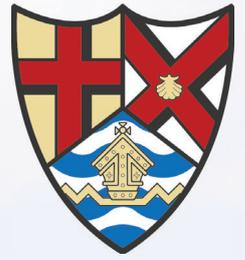


Spring

Issue 28

The Seasonal Magazine
for Felixstowe Residents **2026**



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL



**Your Community Stories - UK Town of Culture Competition -
Our Environment - Nominate a Community Hero**



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**SCAN
ME**

Hello and Welcome to this Spring Edition!

I can hardly believe that my year as Mayor of Felixstowe is almost at an end; time truly does fly. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding year, and I have had the privilege of visiting so many organisations and community groups. At recent AGMs in particular, I have once again been struck by the extraordinary number of people in Felixstowe who give up their time to ensure local groups continue to run and thrive. We owe them all a heartfelt thank you. Their dedication is the backbone of our community.

As I write this, I have crocuses blooming in my garden and there are welcome signs that spring is on the way. Children are beginning to look forward to the Easter holidays and, of course, chocolate eggs. Yet only a short while ago it felt decidedly wintry when we gathered for the postponed St Elizabeth's Hospice Charity Dip. The Christmas Day event had to be cancelled due to unsafe sea conditions, but on a very chilly Valentine's Day hardy participants and supporters congregated on the beach once more.



Despite the biting cold, there was a wonderful warmth of spirit and camaraderie. Many entrants wore the festive costumes they had planned for Christmas Day; Father Christmases, angels and elves lined the shore before dashing into the sea. I can assure you it was absolutely freezing when we entered the water, and yet some brave souls did more than dip, they actually swam.

Throughout the year there have been many highlights. It was a great honour to represent Felixstowe Town Council at the House of Lords as finalists in the National Association of Local Councils Star Council Awards in the Climate Response category. It was also a valuable opportunity to meet councillors from across the country, share experiences and exchange ideas for good practice.

I have also been involved in our Expression of Interest for the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate and showcase everything that makes Felixstowe special. Beyond our rich community spirit, we are fortunate to have a thriving creative community, a proud history and heritage, vibrant businesses and beautiful natural spaces. This bid is about the people of Felixstowe and what you believe makes our town unique, so I encourage everyone to share their thoughts through the Town Council survey and help shape our submission. You can read more, and find a QR code which will direct you to the surveys, on page 24.

It has also been a pleasure to join celebrations for Chinese New Year hosted by the Chinese Community Association, attend the inspiring WAMFest launch events celebrating women in the arts, and visit the newly refurbished Sailing Club at Felixstowe Ferry, all wonderful examples of the energy and diversity of activity in our town.

Supporting the Mayor's charities has been one of the greatest joys of my year. From a creative and thoroughly enjoyable painting session hosted by Felixstowe Opportunity Group to a fantastic quiz evening at St Philip's Community Hub in Walton, complete with an excellent host, a challenging quiz and a marvellous spread of food, these events have been tremendous fun while raising vital funds to provide warm welcomes, practical help and compassionate care within our community. When you pause to reflect on all that goes on here, from arts and music to sport, heritage and simple acts of kindness, you realise what a remarkable town we are privileged to call home.

To round off the year in style, I warmly invite you to join us for the Mayor's May Ball on 1 May. It promises to be a wonderful evening of celebration, community spirit and entertainment, a chance to dress up, come together and enjoy a truly special night while supporting our local charities. I do hope you will come along and be part of it.

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 Summer 26 (covering the period from **1 June - 31 October**), please email holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk by **15 May**

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 for prices and to book your ad.

Photo credit: Thank you to Stephen Squirrell for the cover photo and various header images

Getting in Touch

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

Phone: **01394 282086**

Email: enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk

Address:

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

www.felixstowe.gov.uk



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Town**

An Update from the Mayor's Charities

This year'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.

St Philip's Pop-Up & Hub



The rain has caused us some issues at our Hub with a leaky roof and a front door that desperately needs replacing! Thanks to the volunteers for keeping things running.

We held The Mayor's Charity Quiz on 7th February at our St Mary's Church Hall and what a success. A delicious ploughman's, great questions and a superb raffle raising £801.

A One Big Thank You to Edible Felixstowe who supplied 6 fruit trees which have been planted in the grounds of The Hub by the Team from Green Light. The weather was awful, pouring with rain however they did a fantastic job. In a few years we hope to have a harvest of apples and pears to share with the community.



The St Philips Community Hub welcomes all on Tuesday its The Pop-Up Shop- no referral needed £3 per bag. We open at 10am for a cuppa with the shop opening at 11am-12. Walton Parish Nurses visit every other week. Help and support is always on offer.

Hub on Thursday opens at 10am-1.30pm come along enjoy company and a cuppa, delicious cakes and pastries with lunch served at midday. No payment is taken however donations are always welcome We have a craft table or bring along your own knitting crochet painting etc. Walton Parish Nurses are in attendance and support is available from Carolyn with benefit applications, bus passes, blue badge, form filling and much more. We can also signpost you to further help. Helpline number 07394177634



As we come to the last few months of our year as one of the Mayors Charities we look forward to

Escape Room & Murder Mystery Games Night
21st March 7pm £10 per ticket at FOG text 07377608962

Mayors Fashion Show Catwalk on the Coast at St Johns Church Thursday 16th April £15 per ticket

Mayors May Ball
1st May at Sea You £55.00 per ticket

We would love to see you at some of these events please look out for more information.

Carolyn Jones



Felixstowe Opportunity Group – Update



It has been a busy and exciting start to the year at Felixstowe Opportunity Group (FOG). We are delighted to share that our new flooring has now been fully completed throughout the main areas of the building – and it looks absolutely fabulous! The transformation has made the space brighter, warmer and more welcoming for the children and families who attend our sessions each week. It's amazing what a difference it has made, and we are so grateful for the support that helped us make this improvement possible.

We are also thrilled to be relaunching Roses Community Gardening Group on 29th April. The group meets to nurture our outdoor space into a thriving community garden that everyone can enjoy. No gardening experience is needed, just a willingness to get involved, meet new people and help things grow.

The Charity Painting Afternoon was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended. All attendees went home with a beautiful painting and even those who claimed not to be creative went home with a beautiful painting.

Finally, we recently held our AGM and were pleased to welcome two new trustees to the board. Their enthusiasm and skills will help strengthen FOG as we continue to grow and support families in our community.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support



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



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

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

Town Councillors 2026

Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Corrine Franklin

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Darren Aitchison

Walton Ward



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



Mike Deacon *
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Tristan Gale
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01394 282086

Central Ward



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Seamus Bennett * **
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Jan Candy *
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East Ward



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South Ward



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Wendy Underwood
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Port Ward



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Marc James
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David Rowe
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Michael Sharman
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Corrine Franklin
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07703 575 121

Key

* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

** Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council



Felixstowe Town Council

The Council comprises 16 Members representing five wards who are elected every four years. Council also delegates some of its functions to its Committees. Please note forthcoming meeting dates below:

11th March	Planning & Environment	9:30am
18th March	Finance & Governance	7:30pm
25th March	Planning & Environment	9:30am
8th April	Civic & Community	7:30pm
15th April	Planning & Environment	9:30am
22nd April	Assets & Services	7:30pm
29th April	Planning & Environment	9:30am
13th May	Planning & Environment	9:30am
13th May	Annual Town Meeting	7:00pm
20th May	Annual Council Meeting	7:00pm

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

For further information please telephone 01394 282086 or email enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk.

Contacting Council Staff

Phone: 01394 282086 (all staff)

Email: enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk

Address:

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

Website: www.felixstowe.gov.uk

Ash Tadjrishi – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
townclerk@felixstowe.gov.uk

Debbie Frost – Deputy Town Clerk
debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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



Your Community Stories

Felixstowe Celebrates Its Heritage with a Week-Long Festival

Felixstowe will be celebrating its rich and varied heritage this September with a week-long Festival of Heritage, running from 14–20 September, culminating in the much-anticipated Heritage Open Days on 19 and 20 September.

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, and this year Felixstowe is proud to be opening more than 20 venues across the town to the public free of charge. From historic buildings and hidden spaces to exhibitions and community hubs, residents and visitors alike will have the opportunity to explore places that are not usually accessible and to discover new stories about the town.

What makes this year especially exciting is the broader celebration of what heritage means to Felixstowe. The Festival of Heritage will explore not only built heritage, such as historic architecture and landmarks, but also cultural heritage, including traditions, creativity and local stories, as well as natural heritage, highlighting Felixstowe's unique coastal environment and green spaces.

Throughout the week, the festival will feature a wide range of activities including guided walks, talks, workshops, exhibitions and family-friendly events, all designed to showcase the many layers of Felixstowe's past and present.

The Felixstowe Society, who organise the event, are keen to involve the wider community and are inviting local groups, organisations and individuals to take part by hosting events or activities during the festival week. Whether you represent a history group, arts organisation, environmental group or community project, your contribution could help bring Felixstowe's heritage to life.

For those passionate about the town's past, present and future, September promises to be a vibrant celebration of Felixstowe's identity and shared heritage.

Contact David Gledhill
gledhilld@me.com



Felixstowe Library - What's on offer

Top Time - Every Tuesday - 2pm in The Hadwen Room33

Come along to our social group for older people and join in with our activities. Get involved with games and chat with others in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Stay and Play - Every Thursday 10.15am - 11.45am Children's section

Stay & Play groups for parents and babies. Socialise and meet other parents and carers at our Stay & Play sessions for preschool children and their adults.

Open Space - Every Thursday - 2pm in The Hadwen Room

If you're looking to meet new people and find out about local events and resources to support your wellbeing, come to an Open Space drop-in. Everyone is welcome.

Wordplay and Tot Rock - Every Friday 9.10am & 10.10am sessions - Children's section

Story time and nursery rhyme fun for preschoolers.

Baby Bounce - Every Friday 11.10am - Children's section

Age 0-1yrs - meet new parents and enjoy songs and sensory activities with your baby.

Lego Club - Every Saturday 10-3pm - in The Hadwen Room

Join us for our weekly Lego Club! Get involved in fun creative building activities in the welcoming space of the library. Let your imagination run wild and create something unique!

Sunday Fun Day - 2nd Sunday of the Month 10.30am-2.30pm

Fun crafts and activities in the Children's section. A different theme each month.

Barclays Bank - each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-5pm.

Help with anything from money management and financial health, to buying or improving your home and supporting your business.

Halifax - fortnightly - Wednesdays 9am - 3pm. 4th March, 18th March, 1st April, 15th April and 29th April Felixstowe Community Banker

East Suffolk Council - Every Friday - 10am-4pm

A drop-in service run by the council to help and support any ESC queries.



Room Hire:

- The Hadwen Room - Max 40 people
 - The Room at the top - Max 40 people
 - Small meeting room - Max 4 people
- Cost: £11 per hour for community/charity/private bookings, £16.50 per hour for commercial/statutory bookings

Opening Hours:

Monday 10am - 4pm	Friday 9am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 9am - 5.30pm	Saturday 9am - 5pm
Wednesday 9am - 7.30pm	Sunday 10am-4pm
Thursday 9am - 5.30pm	

Out of hours book return is available at this library.

Crescent Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7BY

Felixstowe - Suffolk Community Libraries
www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/libraries/felixstowe

Email: library.help@suffolk.gov.uk

Friends AGM will be on Saturday 14th March 2026 10:30am in the First Floor Matting Room. Refreshments served from 10.15. All library card holders welcome.

Discover, Explore, Support Landguard: A New Season Rooted in Community



Some of Felixstowe's most treasured places are preparing to open their doors once more. Landguard Fort, Felixstowe Museum and Landguard



Nature Reserve are not simply destinations on the edge of town – they are living, breathing spaces shaped by centuries of history, the rhythms of nature and, above all, the people who care for them.

Whether you're a familiar face or stepping onto the peninsula for the first time, Landguard offers a rare meeting point where past, present and future sit side by side.

Landguard Fort: History Brought to Life



Despite it being the winter season Landguard Fort is looking forward to our two Christmas weekends on the 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th. This is a great opportunity to see Father Christmas, see the beautifully decorated fort and enjoy our snow machines and twinkling

lights. This event is being supported by Felixstowe Museum and the Felixstowe Lions club. As our last hurrah of 2025 it would be amazing to see you there so don't miss out!

Although we are closed over the winter this does not mean the Fort is silent. Our wonderful volunteer team will be doing maintenance on site as well as working on improvements to our facilities and displays so that when we reopen our doors in 2026 visitors old and new will be able to enjoy the site. We will open from February half term next year and then open every weekend until Easter giving you even more time to come and visit us.

The Fort relies on volunteers both in the open and closed season, without our volunteer team we would not be able to open and maintain this wonderful piece of heritage. If this sounds like something you would like to do please contact us via operations@landguard.com

Felixstowe Museum: Stories of a Town and Its People

A short walk from the Fort, Felixstowe Museum offers a different kind of journey – one rooted in the everyday lives, memories and milestones of the town itself. Housed in the former Landguard Submarine Mining Establishment, the Museum brings together personal objects, local stories and shared heritage.



Almost entirely volunteer run, the Museum is a testament to community dedication. Volunteers welcome visitors, curate displays, care for collections and delve into the town's past to keep its stories alive, everything from seaside holidays and wartime experiences to the evolution of the port.

Landguard Nature Reserve: Protecting a Fragile Landscape (more information on page 10)



Beyond the historic buildings lies Landguard Nature Reserve, one of Suffolk's most important wildlife habitats.

A dedicated volunteer team works year round to protect this delicate environment. They monitor wildlife, maintain paths, install protective cordons and help visitors understand why certain areas need space and care.

By keeping to paths, respecting wildlife and taking time to learn about the Reserve, every visitor plays a part in its long term protection.

Why Your Visit Matters

What unites the Fort, Museum and Nature Reserve is their reliance on people – those who volunteer, those who visit and those who choose to support them. Admissions, donations and event income fund essential conservation, maintenance, exhibitions and education. In a challenging climate for heritage and environmental sites, every visit truly counts.

More than that, visiting shows that Felixstowe's heritage and natural environment matter. These are places to learn, reflect and enjoy. As the new season begins, Landguard invites you to be part of its story. Discover the past. Explore the landscape. Support what matters. Discover, Explore, Support Landguard.



Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum

Over the last 12 months we have worked hard to increase our links with other organisations and businesses in Felixstowe. Particularly fruitful has been our collaboration with the Felixstowe Business Improvement District (BID) to produce and distribute the Felixstowe Fairtrade Chocolate Bar under their brand name 'Love Felixstowe'. The first batch of 576 bars sold out in November and a further batch of 576 was ordered for the Christmas period, with the bars selling well.

Our mascot, Fairtrade Ted, has been a big help in promoting the bar and has become quite a hit on social media – pictured visiting shops and cafes selling the bar. (Our headline photo shows him with 'Mr Cobbler' – one of our big supporters -

who produced and sells our Fairtrade Ted mug.) We were also very grateful to our Mayor, Corrine Franklin, for launching the bar together with children from Colneis and Trimley St Mary primary schools. This was filmed for our schools video, which can be seen on our website www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk

We are currently working with the Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve to see how Fairtrade Ted might help in promoting our joint aims on nature, biodiversity and climate justice. We are hoping that, fairly soon, Ted will be joined by a companion 'Fairtrade Tess', with local children being invited to help produce a 'back story' for them. Follow us on Facebook to find out more.





Old Felixstowe Community Association

The Community Centre is thriving and with many more people moving to the area I would like to share with you a taste of what is happening at the Centre.

Here is a snapshot of the groups and organisations that meet on a regular basis:

For the younger in our community, we have Rainbows, Guides, Jigzaw Dance and Dance Inspiration.

Fitness classes, aerobics, pilates, yoga, keep fit, line dancing, tai chi for arthritis and Latin salsa.

Other groups that meet include, Flower Club, Garden Club, Allotment Association, Stroke Support Group, Parkinsons Felixstowe, Felixstowe and Villages Carers Group, ActivLives, Bowls Club, Table Tennis, WI groups, Canasta U3A, Hope Trust, Ipswich Dementia Action Alliance, Jubilee Club, Martello Group, Suffolk Community Strings, Peace Glass Crafters (stained glass) and Felixstowe Active Retired group.

If you would like more information and contact details about any of the groups, please contact the Administrator on 07494 599265

The Community Markets continue to be extremely popular, and are held on the second Saturday of the month from 10am – midday (except for June and August). There are lots of stalls selling home-bakes and preserves, hand-stitch and knits, jewellery, books, jigsaws, pre-loved and craft goods, we also hold a great raffle at every Market. The ladies from the WI will welcome you in the Coffee Lounge where a hot drink and delicious cakes are on offer; it is also a great time to catch up with friends. We are so grateful to the Parish Nurses and Councillor Steve Wiles who attend and chat to visitors, this is becoming an extremely popular service.

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

Felixstowe Family History Society



The Felixstowe Family History Society has enjoyed a fascinating Winter season of talks, including presentations from the Suffolk Women's Land Army Trust and The Landguard Trust.

Our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at Broadway House.

We look forward to welcoming Sandra Gold-Wood, on Wednesday 11 March 2026, who will be speaking about The Canary Girls – the women munitions workers of WW1 and WW2. More information can be found at: <https://www.canary-girls.com>

Dates for Your Diary

- 8 April – Quiz and Social Evening with Paul Voller
- 13 May – Joshua Chard, The 'Suffolk Hero' with Chris Broom
- 10 June – Thomas Cavendish: A navigator who wasn't averse to a bit of piracy too! with Cathy Shelbourne

Members: Free, non-members: £3 Membership details: www.felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net Free parking is available after 18:00 at the rear of Broadway House (access via Highfield Road, Felixstowe IP11 7BZ). Doors open at 19:15 for a 19:30 start.

We also hold a raffle and refreshments at the end of each meeting, offering a chance to chat with members and visitors.

Family History Drop In Sessions:

Our new team—Gail, Janet and Rachel—will be available to help with family history queries on the following Fridays:

- 27 March 2026
- 24 April 2026
- 10 June 2026

Sessions run from 10:15 to 12:00 noon at Broadway House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD. If you have any questions, please get in touch via our website. We look forward to seeing you soon—don't forget to note dates in your diaries.



Felixstowe Coastwatch gearing up for the Busy Summer Season

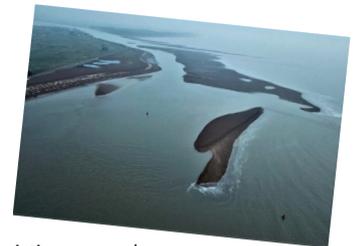


Felixstowe Coastwatch has been active over the winter period taking on new volunteer recruits and starting their training. The station has taken on eight new watchkeepers over the last couple of months, and in order not to overload the training team, it now has a short waiting list in operation for further recruits. Winter time is naturally a quieter period for watchkeeping, given that there are less people

and vessels on the water than in the warmer months. It is a good time though for training new recruits as they are able to build their skills before the peak periods of activity come along. This consists of working through a number of progression papers, each on a different theme, as well as taking a marine VHF radio qualification and having practical experience of watchkeeping, logging and reporting during watches.



Thanks to the generosity of local organisations and individuals, the station is in the process of replacing its two webcams with new versions. British made, they will be compatible with developments at the national level of Coastwatch which will see HM Coastguard able to view them remotely, as part of an ever-growing network of cameras along the coastline. The new webcams will continue to complement the existing pan and zoom cameras that the station has, one at the Clifflands car park overlooking the Deben entrance and one on the radar tower at Landguard Point. This, together with the other equipment – and people – that the station has, means that Felixstowe Coastwatch is ready to protect and support those on or near the water this year.



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Our Environment

Edible Felixstowe



Our 2026 Community Orchard Project Edible Felixstowe CIC were recently awarded a grant from East Suffolk



Council to start a community orchard throughout the town, in publicly accessible areas, to grow fruit trees, which, when mature enough to produce fruit will be available for anyone to pick. These trees will further enhance bio-diversity within the town, along with locally grown edibles for the town to enjoy!

At the time of writing (mid-February) we have, with the help of our wonderful volunteers along with students from the Green Light Trust, planted 17 fruit trees at Bath Hill, Opal Kitchen and Bathroom Showroom, Lynwood Avenue and St Phillips Church in Wadgate Lane. We hope to plant another 15 trees before the end of the month in other locations. Fruit trees need to be planted while they are dormant so it has been a great winter activity to get people involved and get outside in the miserable weather that we have been experiencing!

We hope that this will be the start of a larger scale project if we can secure more funding and that we can introduce more locations and varieties of trees in the future. Please visit our website for information on where you can find these trees and for more information on this exciting project!

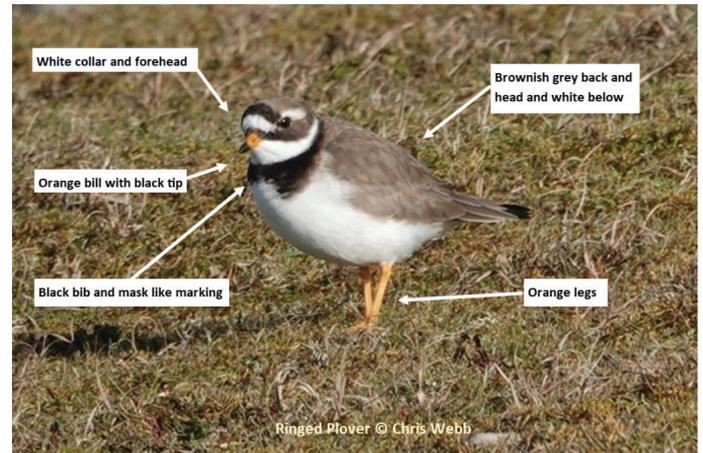
The growing season will soon be upon us and following the success of last year's Seed Library at Felixstowe Library we are hoping to repeat this again this year - look out for our silver boxes there towards the end of March, we have a supply of seeds but if anyone wants to donate any seeds to this venture all you have to do is put them in an envelope with the variety and date collected and pop them in the relevant section of the boxes.

We are also anticipating running further Sow n' Grow sessions where we provide seeds and compost and give folk a chance to have a go at growing veg and herbs on windowsills at home. It's a great thing to do to promote positivity and hopefully produce something delicious to eat that you have grown from seed. It's not difficult to do and we will help you get started! These sessions are planned for the Easter holidays and towards the end of April so look out for updates on our website and social media (why not join our Facebook Group or check out our Instagram page?)



If you would like to get in touch about volunteering with us or about our upcoming events there is a contact form on our website, we also have a mailing list for anyone not on social media: ediblefelixstowe.org

A Fragile Future: Protecting Ringed Plovers at Landguard



Ringed Plover © Chris Webb

Landguard Nature Reserve is a nationally important site for both wildlife and heritage, and one of its most vulnerable residents is the Ringed Plover. These small, striking wading birds rely on Landguard's rare, vegetated shingle to nest. Instead of building traditional nests, they create shallow scrapes in the stones and lay their perfectly camouflaged eggs directly on the ground making them almost impossible to see.

Because of this, their breeding season from April to September requires careful protection. Post and rope cordons will be placed around key nesting areas to reduce disturbance and give adults the space they need to incubate their eggs. Even brief disturbance from people, dogs, kites, drones or anglers can cause adults to leave their nests, putting eggs and chicks at risk from predators and exposure. As chicks grow, they must feed on the open beach, where they remain extremely vulnerable.

To help them thrive, dogs, whether on or off lead, are not permitted within cordoned areas or on the beach directly in front of them during the breeding season. Fishing is also not allowed in front of cordons, as it can disturb birds and attract predators. These zones are clearly marked and regularly patrolled. Dogs may continue to enjoy the northern section of the reserve, and fishing is still permitted there and along the river.

Recent enforcement shows why these measures matter. In 2025, four Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for entering cordons or allowing dogs inside them, including one community resolution involving a donation and an educational meeting.

With public support, we can give Ringed Plovers the safe future they deserve at Landguard.

Article by Leonie Washington, Landguard Reserve Manager



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Felixstowe Garden Club



I do hope by the time you read this the weather has brightened up a little, and the ground has dried out a bit! It has been a very wet end to 2025 and start of 2026. Today (early February) I received a delivery of several packets of seed from a reasonably close seed merchant in Newmarket.

I've also ordered some plants from UK growers too, trying to do my bit to keep the air miles down. I'm not getting out in the garden much because of the wet, but I've started pottering around in the shed having a tidy and beginning to sow seeds of the things I'm wanting to grow this year. Hopefully, you're starting to sow a few seeds, and you may even be potting seedlings on too.

The Garden Club in Felixstowe is going from strength to strength, with quite a number of new members joining of late, which is so good to see.

At our 10th of March meeting we have Kate Elliott, head gardener of Columbine Hall near Stowmarket, with a talk entitled 'A Garden Love Affair'. On the 14th of April, we have Asa Gregors Warg, who is Beth Chatto's Head Gardener, talking to us about Gravel Gardens. On the 12th of May, we have Chris Wiley giving us some insight as to what goes on behind the scenes of Bury in Bloom.

We meet in the Old Felixstowe Community Association building (OFCA) Ferry Road, IP11 9NB. Visitors are very welcome to attend for a small fee of £3 which will be refunded should you decide to join. Free refreshments available from 6.30pm, meeting starts proper at 7pm.

Hope to see you there!

For more details contact Val White 07858464932 or go to our Facebook page.

Felixstowe Allotment Association



Having an allotment in Felixstowe is a rewarding way to grow fresh food, enjoy the outdoors, and be part of a thriving local community. The town is fortunate to have five allotment sites, both large and small, spread across the area. Together they provide space for gardeners of all ages and abilities to grow a wide range of fruit and vegetables, from traditional potatoes, onions, and beans to soft fruit, salads, herbs, and even grapevines. One of the joys of allotment gardening is learning that good food takes time.

Fast-growing crops such as radishes and lettuce can be ready in as little as four to six weeks, while courgettes and beans need a couple of months before producing a steady harvest. Other crops require patience: potatoes take around three to four months, and fruit trees and bushes may take years to reach their full potential.

This steady rhythm encourages planning, care, and an appreciation of the seasons. Keeping an allotment clean and tidy is not just about appearance; it is essential for healthy crops. Regular digging, weeding, watering, and composting all take effort, but hard work pays off.

A well maintained plot reduces pests and disease, makes planting easier, and creates a pleasant space to work in. In Felixstowe, allotments are a reminder that dedication, time, and care can turn a small patch of land into a productive and beautiful growing space.

Free, Impartial Home Energy Advice for Felixstowe Residents



Could you benefit from guidance on energy use in your home? Our team can help you understand practical ways to reduce your energy bill via efficiency savings, while also reducing your climate impact via Renewable Energy alternatives. The Deben Climate Centre has Energy Champions based in Felixstowe, who are ready to meet you and discuss your concerns and answer any questions you may have.

We are already successfully operating out of Woodbridge and have supported over 500 people with advice on their home energy. We have recently taken up residence in the Wellbeing Hub in Felixstowe, and currently our Energy Champions offer drop-in sessions on Thursday mornings between 10am and 1pm. Residents are welcome to drop in and talk through how to make your home more energy efficient. Alternatively, requests can be submitted via our website below.

We can offer advice on varied topics such as insulation and draught exclusion, energy bill tariffs, grants available and Renewable Energy options such as PV solar, home battery, heat pumps and EV charging. If you are wanting more tailored support, we can even do a Home Visit to review your options, on request. All advice is free and impartial, and we look forward to welcoming you and discussing how our community energy programme can benefit you.

Wellbeing Hub, Great Eastern Square, Felixstowe, IP11 7DY

www.debenclimate.org

zerocarbon@debenclimate.org

Felixstowe Town Council: National Recognition as Runner-Up in NALC 'Climate Response of the Year' Award

Felixstowe Town Council has been named runner-up in the Climate Response of the Year category at the prestigious Star Council Awards, organised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

The national awards celebrate innovation and leadership among parish and town councils across England. Felixstowe's recognition highlights the council's sustained and practical commitment to tackling climate change at a local level.

The council was shortlisted for a wide range of initiatives, including the introduction of its first electric operational van, energy-efficiency upgrades to the historic Town Hall, biodiversity and tree-planting projects, and water-saving schemes to support its award-winning seafront gardens. Community engagement has also been central to its approach, with environmental events and partnerships helping to encourage residents to take positive climate action.

The awards ceremony took place at the iconic House of Lords on 24 February 2026, bringing together councils and civic leaders from across the country. Representing the town was the Mayor of Felixstowe, who attended the parliamentary reception to celebrate the council's achievement and share best practice with fellow local authorities.



Although narrowly missing out on the top award, being named runner-up at a national level is a significant honour. The recognition reflects Felixstowe Town Council's continued leadership in sustainability and its determination to build a greener, more resilient future for the community.





Why you should be backing the Felixstowe BID

As Felixstowe continues to evolve, the importance of a strong, united business voice has never been clearer. The Felixstowe Business Improvement District (BID) plays a pivotal role in shaping the town's commercial future, and voting in favour of the BID is ultimately a vote for visibility, growth and long-term prosperity.

Over recent years, Felixstowe has seen a notable increase in new businesses opening their doors, renewed confidence along the high street, and footfall figures outperforming many comparable nearby towns. That momentum doesn't happen by accident. It is driven by strategic marketing, coordinated events and consistent promotion designed to attract visitors and encourage residents to shop local.

From large-scale events such as seasonal festivals, family entertainment days and town-wide campaigns like Love Felixstowe, to collaborative promotions that showcase independent retailers alongside national brands, the BID ensures the town stays vibrant, relevant and competitive. These initiatives generate spend, extend dwell

time and create reasons for people to return again and again.

Beyond events, the BID acts as the collective voice of business, lobbying for fairer business rates, improved infrastructure, enhanced town centre safety and meaningful engagement with local authorities. Individually, businesses can feel unheard. Collectively, they are influential.

A successful BID means coordinated investment, stronger branding for the town, and a platform that raises every levy payer's profile. Voting yes is not just supporting events; it's backing continued growth, increased visibility and a proactive strategy to keep Felixstowe thriving in an increasingly challenging retail landscape.



VISIT FELIXSTOWE

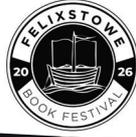


LOVE FELIXSTOWE

FOLLOW US FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS,
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Best Selling Authors Revealed for This Year's Festival of Books



Harriet Tyce, a crime-writer and former barrister and Sunday Times Best-selling author (Blood Orange) was the first author to be announced for this year's Felixstowe Book Festival. Harriet who also competed in the most recent series of BBC's The Traitors, will be in Felixstowe for the Festival which is on this year from Friday 26th through to Sunday 28th June.



Meg Reid, Director and Founder of the Felixstowe Book Festival says, "Our brochures and bookmarks are now at the printers, and we have filled all of the author slots available over the weekend. There will be plenty more exciting news announced about our attendees." We can tell you joining Harriet Tyce will be the Richard and Judy bestseller (Notes From An Exhibition), much loved novelist Patrick Gale who will be in conversation about his latest book Love Lane. There will also be historical writers there too including Susan Owens, her book, Constable's Year, was Radio 4's book of the week last month.



The festival of books by the sea is planned for Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June and is set in the magnificent Harvest House, an Edwardian building on the cliff tops at Felixstowe. Tickets go on sale from 1st April via the festival website www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk but those keen to not miss out can keep up to date by signing up to the book festival's own newsletter via their website and also by following the Felixstowe Book Festival on social media.

Meg concludes, "We have everything from Crime, History, Art and Treachery plus more besides with our visiting authors. This 14th year of the festival is going to be an absorbing and thought-provoking weekend for all booklovers and would-be writers alike."

Add the 1st of April to your diaries as that's the day that tickets go on sale via the Felixstowe Book Festival website. Go to www.felixstowebookfestival.co.uk or follow Felixstowe Book Festival on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Felixstowe Art Group



As our group year comes to an end sadly, we will see both Yvonne Smart and Liz D'arville (sisters) stepping back from many of their active roles within the group. They have both worked tirelessly in making the group the success it is, often going far and beyond that which is required. Even when they have had their own personal and health problems they have never let up in their dedication.

Yvonne has been a member since 2012 and her roles have often doubled or trebled up, including Publicity, Programme and Social secretary, Gallery manager, Assistant Exhibition Admin and for the last 9 years as our Chairman. Yvonne would like to thank Jim Liat for taking over as Chairman.

Liz has held the role of Membership Secretary, Exhibition Secretary and Social as well as assisting Yvonne in her roles. Yvonne wishes to thank Liz for all her help with welcome packs, memberships and Annual exhibition ensuring all are kept up to date.

Both Yvonne and Liz will continue as social secretaries which will mean their continued valued presence, and I know all members would like to offer their heartfelt thanks for all they have contributed.

We would also like to thank Carole Massey our Group President for her dedication and support as she steps down this year, and the new president to be announced at the April AGM.

For information on the group - www.felixstoweartgroup.org

The Magic of Felixstowe: Felixstowe Harmonies launches 2026 with totally original song and everyone can join in!



All women vocal group Felixstowe Harmonies are launching their 2026 season with a totally original song, The Magic of Felixstowe.

The song, with music written by Felixstowe Harmonies' musical director Chandra Grover and lyrics by the women of the choir, captures everything that Felixstowe means to them. From 'sunrise sitting by the sea,' 'coffee at Beach Street, candy floss and ice-cream', to the 'hamlet in the north and the Fort standing strong', it is 'the place where I belong'.

The Magic of Felixstowe will have its first public performance when Felixstowe Harmonies sings at WAMfest on Sunday, March 8, at 10am, as part of a full programme of events at The Orwell Hotel in Felixstowe.

The performance will be followed by a workshop which anyone can join in. With its catchy chorus and gentle seaside-inspired rhythms, the hope is that the song will become an anthem for the town, available for other choirs, vocal groups, schools and the community to enjoy singing whenever there is a reason to celebrate and be proud of Felixstowe.

Tickets for the performance and workshop are on sale at www.ticketsource.co.uk/felixstowefestivalevents

Save the Date

Saturday February 28

Come and Sing workshop with musical director Chandra Grover FLIGHT (for treble voices) by Craig Carnelia 10am - 3pm; registration from 9.45am St Mary's Church, Walton, Felixstowe Email: lovetoharmonise@gmail.com Ticket £20.00 including sheet music www.ticketsource.co.uk/comeandsing-flight

Saturday, June 6

Felixstowe Harmonies with Quattro Amici Eclectic classical and contemporary songs for summer evening 7.30pm St. Peter's by the Waterfront, Ipswich

For more information:

felixstoweharmonies.co.uk
youtube.com/@felixstoweharmonies6317
facebook.com/felixstoweharmonies

For more information about WAMfest visit the Facebook and Instagram pages and website at www.wamfestfelixstowe.art. Search WAMFest Felixstowe.

For further information:

Chandra Grover, musical director
07954 465430
chandra.grover@gmail.com

142 Art Gallery



Dock End Scrap Heap, oil on board, 35" x 48", 1959



Derelict Plough, oil on board, 24" x 30", 1971

Located on Hamilton Road, Gallery 142 has been supporting and showcasing local artists since 2019. As a Community Interest Company, the gallery is run on a not-for-profit basis and is transformed week after week by an exciting programme of exhibitions from local artists. Further information on upcoming exhibitions can be found at www.142gallery.art/exhibitions. Pop in to support local artists, you will be made most welcome.

Retrospective Exhibition of Felixstowe Artist, Ken Cuthbert's Oil Paintings at the 142 Gallery from Thursday, 30th April - Wednesday, 6th May

Artist, Ken Cuthbert, was for many years, Exhibition Secretary of the Felixstowe Art Group, and a well known and respected tutor in Felixstowe and

surrounding towns and villages. He was also a member of the Ipswich Art Society, becoming President in his later years.

Ken was born in Ipswich in 1929 and educated at the Northgate Grammar School. On leaving school he worked at the Weights and Measures Dept. in Ipswich. He started painting seriously after joining Dutch Artist, Cor Visser's classes at Ipswich Dock. His first one-man Exhibition was at the Colman Street Gallery in Ipswich in 1959. He left his job in 1972 to be a full time professional artist and tutor and had a great number of exhibitions over the years. His last painting was sold at Artspace in Woodbridge in 2024. There will be a variety of oil paintings at the Exhibition: Landscapes, Still Lifes and Abstracts, something for everyone to enjoy.



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Writing Competition - 'A Young Woman's World... in her own Words'

This competition is open to emergent young women writers between the ages of **16 and 25 to be launched at WAMFest at The Orwell Hotel on 8th March International Women's Day**

Why should you enter?

A prize of **£200** is being offered to support emergent young women writers. We want to offer you the opportunity to use the money to support and encourage your own writing. It could pay for writing materials, a visit to a place or person who inspires your writing.

What do you need to enter?

- You must be between the ages of **16 – 25** on or by 31st July 2026.
- Your principal residence should be in the **IP11** area.
- Complete application form by **30th April 2026** - <https://shorturl.at/emZes>
- Completed entries to be in by **31st July 2026**.

What do you have to submit?

A piece of original prose writing of a **1,000** word limit

OR

An original poem or song, which could be put to music, 500 word limit

- Please include a short description of your reading and writing life with your entry (Maximum of **300** words.)
- Entries should be type written.
- Results announced by **31st August 2026**

Send completed entries to:
wamfestxt@gmail.com





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WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

MARCH 2026

- THU 05 **EVE** 7:30PM **Cilla & the Swinging 60's**
- SAT 07 **EVE** 7:30PM **One Voice: The Music of Barry Manilow**
- FRI 13 **EVE** 7:30PM **Jim Davidson (18+)**
- SAT 21 **EVE** 7:30PM **FastLove: George Michael Trib.**
- WED 25 **EVE** 7:30PM **Queenz: Drag Me to the Disco**
- SAT 28 **EVE** 7:30PM **The Doobie Experience**

APRIL

- WED 01 **MAT** 2:00PM **EASTER PANTO: Rapunzel**
- FRI 03 **MAT** 2:30PM **The Ultimate Eggventure: UV Show!**
- SAT 04 **EVE** 7:30PM **Navi: King of Pop**
- MON 06 **EVE** 7:30PM **K-Pop Forever!**
- FRI 10 **EVE** 7:30PM **Coldplace - The Ultimate Coldplay Tribute**
- FRI 24 **EVE** 8:00PM **Adult Panto: The Wizard of Oz (16+)**
- SAT 25 **EVE** 7:30PM **The Magic of Motown**

MAY

- FRI 01 **EVE** 7:30PM **Bad Co Legacy**
- SAT 02 **EVE** 7:30PM **Nashville Live**
- FRI 08 **EVE** 7:30PM **Katie Hopkins: Free Range (16+)**
- SAT 09 **EVE** 7:30PM **Once in a Lifetime - Celebrating the 80's**
- FRI 22 **EVE** 7:30PM **Henning Wehn (16+)**
- TUE 26 **EVE** 7:30PM **Taylor Fever - Taylor Swift Tribute**

JUNE - 05/06 - Remember When (Matinee) | 06/06 - OMD 'Electricity'

PRE-SHOW DINING BOOKABLE: 01394 336 336

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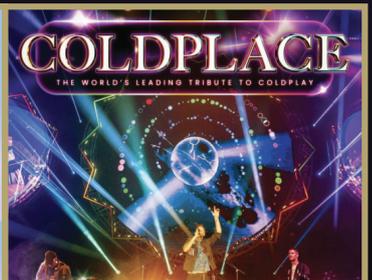
WED 25 MAR, '26 - 7:30



WED 1 APR, '26 - 2PM



MON 6 APR, '26 - 7:30PM



FRI 10 APR, '26 - 7:30PM

Health and Wellbeing

Walton Parish Nursing

Walton Parish Nursing continues to serve the local community with compassion and care through our three health drop-in clinics, at No Labels our mental health group, at our two weekly chair-based exercise classes and during home visits. A key aspect of our work is signposting individuals to appropriate services and supporting them in navigating the healthcare system. As demand for our service grows, we are seeking more volunteers to join our team. No medical qualifications are required, just a heart to serve and a willingness to learn.

It was a wonderful privilege to represent Parish Nursing Ministries UK during a recent visit to Walton Parish Nursing by Dame Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England. Dame Ruth accompanied Lorna Bellamy, Walton Parish Nurse and Anne Taylor, Parish Nursing Ministries UK Director of Nursing on a home visit to a client who receives weekly leg care as part of Walton Parish Nursing's Sole Mate service and to the weekly health drop-in at St Philip's Community Hub in Wadgate Road.

Walton Parish Nursing supports the people who live in Walton by providing three health drop-ins, a mental health support group called No Labels, sole mates, transport to medical appointments, chair-based exercise classes and home visits to give health advice, to signpost to other agencies or to simply listen, working alongside a team of trained volunteers to provide extra support and spiritual care during times of crisis or combating loneliness. We always welcome more volunteers.

More information can be found on the Walton Parish Nursing website waltonpn.org.uk or by contacting Lorna on 07969 901001/ lorna@waltonpn.org.uk or Lesley 07909 888703/ lesley@waltonpn.org.uk



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.
- Medication- Subject to eligibility, receive stop smoking medication alongside 12 weeks of support from an advisor.

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:

- Howard House (Every other Monday from 2nd Feb) 10:30am - 12:30pm
- Grove Medical Centre (Every other Monday from 9th Feb) 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Haven Health (Every other Weds from 12th Feb) 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Take the first step today! Call or Text: 07823847620

Visit www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk to sign up for your FREE support. Smoke Free Felixstowe is here for you – let's quit together!

Celebrating 25 Years of Level Two Youth Project – Share Your Story



This year, Level Two Youth Project is celebrating 25 years of supporting young people and families across Felixstowe,

and we are inviting everyone to help mark this milestone by sharing their stories.

If you are a past service user, volunteer, former employee, supporter, or someone who has memories of Level Two, we would love to hear from you.

Your experiences, reflections and moments, big or small, will help us build a picture of the impact Level Two has had over the last 25 years.

The stories shared will be used to create a documentary-style, story-led Arts Award project capturing lived experiences across the years, forming the core of this year's theme and creative programme.

If you would like to share a story, please scan the QR code to complete a short feedback form.

Alongside this, young people aged 11+ can also take part in this year's Arts Award Project, using creativity and storytelling to explore these stories. Opportunities include creative workshops, portfolio and rehearsal sessions, visits such as BBC Radio Suffolk, a London theatre trip, and performances

planned for May and July. Participants will work towards an accredited Arts Award qualification.

Young people are welcome to sign up to be part of this year's project and will need to express their interest before the end of March, please email lucindacooper@leveltwo.org to express an interest.

Help us celebrate 25 years of Level Two by adding your voice to our story.



Find Your New Direction with Adult Learning in Suffolk

REALISE FUTURES

Suffolk residents looking for a fresh start, new skills or a change in direction can take advantage of a wide range of learning and support opportunities available in their local community. With over 30 years of experience delivering government funded adult learning, our service specialises in providing courses designed around individual needs, whether you're building confidence, aiming for work, or simply exploring something new.

We offer essential skills courses in English, Maths, ESOL and ICT, such as beginner computer sessions & office based IT skills. Many of these courses lead to recognised qualifications that can support you in everyday life or help you progress into employment.

For those interested in developing vocational skills, we provide training in Counselling, Childcare, Health & Care, Customer Service and Business Administration. These practical courses give you the tools and confidence to grow professionally or move into a new area of work.

We also offer a range of supportive programmes focused on wellbeing and personal development. From confidence building and stress management to staying safe online and computer clubs, there's something to support everyone.

Our learning centres are based across Suffolk in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Newmarket, making it easy to find a course close to you. Many courses are free to attend depending on eligibility.

Contact Us: 0300 456 2050 (local rate)
www.realisefutures.org
info@rfllearn.co.uk

Felixstowe Relief Charity: Proudly Supporting Our Town



Felixstowe Relief Charity is proud to highlight the positive impact it has made in the town over the past 12 months, having donated over £55,000 to support local families and individuals facing financial hardship. This is three times the amount in the previous year.

At the heart of the charity is a strong commitment to the Felixstowe community. Its aim is to provide practical, timely support that helps residents through challenging periods while also creating opportunities. Over the last year, the charity has supported households with essential white goods (ovens, fridges, washing machines), beds & furniture, specialist health equipment and food & clothing vouchers.

Felixstowe Relief Charity also invests in long-term solutions. Funding has been provided for training courses and technical devices, enabling residents to develop new skills, improve employment prospects and access education. This forward-looking approach helps people regain confidence and build resilience.

Supporting children and young people is another key priority. The charity has worked with local schools, providing iPads and essential equipment to enhance learning and ensure pupils have access to the tools they need to succeed.

The charity works closely with trusted local partners including Compass, Pitstop, Felixstowe Lions and Level 2, ensuring support reaches those most in need across the community. Any Felixstowe resident who has lived in the town for a minimum of three years can apply for assistance (one application per household per annum). All applications are carefully considered by the trustees to ensure funds are used where they will have the greatest impact.

Residents seeking support can apply by completing the application form available on the charity's website: www.felixstowereliefcharity.org



Mind Body & Sea concludes project Vitamin Sea after supporting 172 people across East Suffolk



Mind Body & Sea CIC marks the successful conclusion of its Vitamin Sea project, an inclusive, water-based wellbeing initiative that has supported residents primarily from Felixstowe and neighbouring villages.

Launched on 1st May 2025, the project was designed to support mental wellbeing, reduce loneliness, and address social isolation by reconnecting people with nature and with each other through the local rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters that shape everyday life in and around Felixstowe.

Delivered from Levington Marina, the project offered guided river cruises, wildlife observation, beginner fishing workshops, and photography composition sessions. Central to delivery was the vessel Neverland, a versatile and stable powered boat providing comfort both inside and out. This enabled safe and accessible participation for individuals with a wide range of mobility and support needs, many of whom had limited prior access to the water despite living close to it.

Vitamin Sea was developed in close partnership with healthcare professionals and community organisations with strong local connections, including GPs and social prescribers, Turning Point, Felixstowe Area Stroke Support Group, Memory Lane, Combat2Coffee, Hope Trust, Orwell Mencap, Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, and the Shaw Trust. This collaborative approach

ensured the project reached local people who could most benefit from early, preventative, non-clinical support.

The original aim of the project was to support 150 individuals. Mind Body & Sea is pleased to report that this target was exceeded, with 172 people supported during delivery, the majority of whom lived in Felixstowe or surrounding villages. Participants included stroke survivors, individuals in addiction recovery, unpaid carers, and people experiencing poor mental health. Feedback highlighted improvements in wellbeing, confidence, and a renewed sense of connection to both place and community.

Participants were supported throughout by trained volunteers, with a careful triage process used to match individuals to the most appropriate activities. This ensured sessions were accessible, safe, and responsive to individual needs, helping people feel supported from their first step on board.

The project was made possible through funding from East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities Budget, with the support of Felixstowe councillors Rosie Smithson, Lee Reeves, Mike Deacon, and Mark Jepson. Their support reflects a shared commitment to locally focused solutions that address health inequalities and strengthen community wellbeing.

Mind Body & Sea would like to thank all participants, partners, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to the success of the Vitamin Sea project throughout 2025, and to reassure the community that the organisation will continue working closely with its local partners to provide further opportunities for time on the water in 2026.

School News

Youth Forum – Protecting Wildlife and Natural Spaces in Felixstowe



Students from Felixstowe School and representatives at Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum, Skye Furzer and Grace Foley, have kindly provided an update on the 2026 Youth Forum project.

At the Felixstowe Youth Forum we have been looking at how we can improve the sanctity and safety of wildlife around Felixstowe. As a collective we decided to invest our time and allowance into the local wildlife in order to protect their habitats during a time of heightened infrastructure around Felixstowe.

For further guidance on this topic, Leonie Washington, Manager of Landguard Nature Reserve came to our last meeting to inform us on what we can do to improve life for bugs and animals around us. Leonie suggested habitat piles, bug hotels, wildflowers and bird homes that give our wildlife a safe place to retreat as well as allowing us to monitor the spaces to see what areas of Felixstowe attract each animal or bug.

We discussed the idea of surveying the different types of species we saw use the habitats and how this could benefit the education of the local primary schools as they could investigate why this occurs and what characteristics each species has.

The Youth Forum not only gives those students in Year Six the chance to express their opinions, it also allows high school students in Felixstowe to build confidence helping to run the meetings and communicating with younger students to help convey their ideas and come to a decision of what to do as a collective. We hope the community will benefit greatly from our investment in homes for wildlife in schools and around Felixstowe as it will inspire the younger students to continue to voice their ideas and make change for areas around them.

Felixstowe International College – Felixstowe Youth Forum



Student at Felixstowe International College, Eden Blowers, writes of her favourite natural spaces in Felixstowe and the surrounding area, building on the aims of the 2026 Youth Forum project.

As a young person in Felixstowe, I want to encourage people to start appreciating nature as much as I do. One way young people can enjoy nature is going out on walks. People can appreciate going on a walk, especially during stressful periods or difficult times. As a person who loves exploring nature, I have found some hidden gems of Felixstowe that are perfect for going on walks.

The first place I would like to introduce you to is The Grove. When you walk through the woods, you are greeted by the beautiful farmland. Although some of this land is private so you can't go on it there are many beautiful places you can explore. Although my friends and I go to these areas to relax, going on walks in this area is perfect for photography, art or any creative hobby. This is an amazing, biodiverse area, with many things to explore.

Another wonderful place to explore is Levington Lagoon. My friends and I explored this area in the summer and it was pouring down with rain. The great thing about most nature reserves is that, no matter the weather, you can always go to one. This was a particularly good experience as there was hardly anyone there and it was very relaxing. The best things about these walks are that it gets you out, this gives you a break from the world in a place that feels like a tranquil paradise. I hope this inspires you to explore one of these places or find somewhere yourself as going on walks is a truly wonderful experience – especially if you find the right place!



Fairfield and Colneis

As we welcome everyone back this January, there is a real sense of optimism and excitement across Fairfield and Colneis. A new year always brings fresh energy, and it has been wonderful to see the children return to school settled, confident and ready to learn.

The autumn term was incredibly busy, with pupils across both schools enjoying a wide range of experiences – from creative projects and outdoor learning to performances, sporting events and community visits. The children have worked hard, supported by our dedicated staff, and it has been a pleasure to see them thriving both academically and personally.

Looking ahead, there is so much to be excited about. The spring term offers new topics, trips, enrichment activities and opportunities for children to challenge themselves and grow. We recently had a group of children experience singing at the O2 in London with the Young Voices choir - an amazing, once in a lifetime experience for them.

We have recently joined the Eko Academy Trust. This partnership brings valuable opportunities for collaboration, professional development and shared expertise, all of which strengthen our schools. While we are proud to be part of Eko, our identity remains firmly rooted in Felixstowe – our schools, our families and our community always come first.

Grange Primary School

Cross Country Success



A group of our enthusiastic runners took part in a cross country event at Felixstowe School this term.

The children showed incredible determination and teamwork throughout the competition. A huge thank you to Mr C for taking the children and supporting them – we're very proud of everyone who took part!

Friends of Grange PTA – Back and Bustling!

We are thrilled to announce that our Friends of Grange PTA is now back up and running! They kicked off the year with a successful Christmas Disco, which was a wonderful fundraising event and great fun for the children.

We're looking forward to many more events that the children will enjoy – but we can't do this without volunteers. If any parents, grandparents or local community members would like to support us, you would be warmly welcomed!



Spring is Sprouting at Grange

The first signs of Spring have arrived! We've planted a lovely snowdrop corner, bringing fresh life and colour to our grounds. A special thank you to Katie's Gardens for supplying the plants, and to everyone who came along to help plant them – your efforts are much appreciated.

Supporting Local Wildlife

In Year Two, our pupils have been busy supporting nature by making tasty bird sticks for the local bird population. This activity ties in beautifully with the RSPB Birdwatch, encouraging more wildlife into our gardens. Well done Year Two for helping local wildlife thrive!

Felixstowe School: A Vibrant Spring Term in Our Community



Spring has been a vibrant and productive time at Felixstowe School, with students fully involved in learning, enrichment and opportunities that reflect the strong sense of community across the school.

One of the standout moments this term was our whole-school musical, Our House. Performed to enthusiastic audiences, the production showcased the talent, commitment and teamwork of students from across all year groups. From confident performances on stage to the dedication of those working behind the scenes, the show was a wonderful example of what can be achieved when young people work together with enthusiasm and pride. Rehearsals ran alongside a full programme of learning, and the final performances were thoroughly enjoyed by families and members of the wider Felixstowe community.

In classrooms, students have continued to approach their learning with focus and determination. Across the school, pupils are engaging positively with challenge, developing their knowledge and skills, and taking pride in their progress. A wide range of enrichment activities continues to complement classroom learning, helping students to build confidence, resilience and independence.

Wellbeing remains central to school life. We continue to place a strong emphasis on positive behaviour, safety and student wellbeing, ensuring that Felixstowe School is a calm, supportive and inclusive environment.

Looking ahead to the summer term, there is much to be excited about. Students will be taking part in a number of memorable trips and visits, including a Year 10 visit to Norway in May and an overseas expedition to Thailand for our Sixth Form students later in the summer. These build on the success of our recent ski trip during the February half term. Such experiences broaden horizons, build independence and create lasting memories.

We are grateful for the continued support of our families and the wider Felixstowe community, which plays such an important role in school life.

Cookie Barista Celebrates 2 Years in Hamilton Road, Felixstowe



Cookie Barista, located on Hamilton Road, Felixstowe, is delighted to announce their 2-year anniversary after opening in Spring 2024. Over these 2 years they have introduced new initiatives designed to make their café an even more welcoming and enjoyable destination for the community.

Their hot food menu has been successful; Jacket Potatoes have proven a highlight. Purchased from the local greengrocer: Phoenix Fruiterers in Hamilton Road. Baked jacket potatoes daily and a great selection of toppings: tuna mayonnaise, cheese & beans, chilli, chicken n' sauce, meatballs...

Additionally, they've added a breakfast offering with daily specials encouraging customers to pick up a bacon or sausage bap with their coffee. Their opening hours have also been extended to include an earlier start to the day.

"It is so important to support independent local businesses, we see so many wonderful people working so hard" says owner Ben Stamp, "continuing to listen to our customers and to make improvements to the café has been welcomed by our regular customers." Cookie Barista is a family company, many of its employees are either family members or Felixstowe based.

Swing by Cookie Barista on Hamilton Road, Felixstowe, and treat yourself to a Jacket Potato and get yourself a FREE hot drink using the voucher in this magazine. Plus, they're continuing their Tuesday OAP discount days, their friendly team can't wait to welcome you. Open seven days a week from 9am each weekday, 10am Sundays.

Langer Primary Academy



On Friday 30th January, our school community came together to honour the memories of those who lost their lives in the Felixstowe Flood of 1953. Here at Langer, we remember especially the three children who attended our school at that time - Alison, Angela and Patricia.



In this year's memorial assembly, we reflected on the idea that 'it is said that you die twice: once at the moment of your passing, and again when the when those who knew you stop saying your name.' Together we promised as a school we will continue to speak the names of Alison, Angela and Patricia, ensuring their remain part of our shared history.

At 10am on Friday 30th January, our Year 6 pupils attended the memorial service and laid a candle for each child. They represented the school beautifully, and many attendees commented on their maturity, respect and kindness.



For the first time, we invited anyone who attended the service to join us back at school for tea, coffee and cake. We were overwhelmed by the response. Year 6 hosted with great pride - serving refreshments, greeting visitors and ensuring everyone felt welcome. Our student leadership team, Lili, Fae, Anja and Kyle, then offered tours of the school, giving former pupils and their families a chance to share their memories. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to hear stories of Langer's past and to understand their part in its future. Mrs Jo Morgan-Soane, Head Teacher, Langer Primary Academy

FREE HOT DRINK

when you buy any Jacket Potato

Valid Monday - Friday until 31st May '26

Locally sourced jacket potatoes freshly prepared includes a choice of toppings; tuna, cheese, beans, chicken n' sauce, meatballs... from £5.50



50 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7AJ





Active Felixstowe

Felixstowe Karate Club



More success for Felixstowe Karate Club. Three members undertook a grading examination resulting in Melanie Teoli and Henry Sadler gaining their 1st Dan Blackbelt.

One of the club instructors, Kirsty Wintrip, won promotion to 3rd Dan Blackbelt, the highest rank attained by a woman at the club.

The grading was overseen by Grand Master Mick Blackwell, 10th Dan, who was complimentary about the Felixstowe trio's performance.

Felixstowe head instructor Paul Mortimore, 6th Dan, was naturally very pleased with the outcome and his students' progression in the sport.

Felixstowe Prom junior parkrun: for children who love running ... and children who don't!

Is your child a keen runner? Or do they prefer to jog, skip, or simply enjoy a leisurely stroll? Whatever their preference, everyone is welcome at junior parkrun!



SUNDAY LUNCH

Served every Sunday between 12 noon - 2.30pm
NON MEMBERS WELCOME

2 COURSE
£22.00

3 COURSE
£26.00

CALL TO BOOK YOUR TABLE ON
01394 286834
(OPT 5)



Felixstowe Road Runners: A Fitting Tribute



FELIXSTOWE ROAD RUNNERS

Felixstowe Road Runners have designed a one-off training shirt in memory of three much-loved members we sadly lost in recent years.

Ben Jacobs, Collette Green, and Steven King were all talented athletes and cherished members of the club. They are sorely missed by their teammates and the wider running community.



The shirt, designed by club-member Alastair Read, feature an eye-catching design with silhouettes of Ben and Collette, and a tribute to Steven. With many extra details reflecting their passions. Over 175 shirts have been sold so far, with a proportion of each sale donated to charity.

Collette's husband, Mike, is taking on the Manchester and London marathons in two weeks in 2026, raising money for The Radiotherapy Fund at Colchester and Ipswich hospitals. Sales of the shirts have so far raised £350. If you would like to contribute, please visit justgiving.com/page/mike-green-3.

Felixstowe Prom Junior Parkrun



Felixstowe Prom junior parkrun is a timed 2k event for 4-14 year olds - we meet every Sunday on the grassy area by the leisure centre, warming up at 8.50 before heading to the start line at 9am. We are proud to be a volunteer-run community event that is free, welcoming and inclusive to all - it's all about having fun and completing the distance your way!

If your child would like to join us, all you need to do is register them at parkrun.com (it's free and only takes a few minutes!), then bring along their personal barcode. This won't be needed until they have crossed the finish line, and can be stored on a parent's mobile phone.

A SHOUT-OUT! Junior parkrun cannot happen without our amazing 'hi-viz heroes', and we are always looking for new volunteers to join us! All our roles are straightforward, and no long-term commitment is required - you only ever do the dates and roles that suit you! We can't wait to welcome some new faces - if you would like to know more, please follow us on Facebook, or email us at felixstowepromjuniors@parkrun.com



Your Community Stories

2026 Theme – The Battle of the Bands



Make some noise! We need as many bands and musicians as possible to help the 2026 Carnival procession go with a bang. We want all sorts of music ringing out along our streets on that Saturday afternoon. We can supply a lorry for anyone who wants to join in but can't walk the route. Or a couple of bands could share a lorry and compete with each other to make the most noise. If you know a band or group locally who might be interested in a fun and entertaining afternoon, tell them to get in touch. Doesn't matter what sort of music they play – Pop, Disco, Rock, Heavy Metal – or which decade they favour - everyone welcome to join us. Let's make this the loudest and longest procession ever.

We will soon be looking for our 2026 Royalty with information going out to local schools in a few weeks. But we are open to all applicants from the age of 8 so have a look at our website. There will be a Craft Fair inside the Leisure Centre so if you are a creative sort of person, maybe you would like to have a stall this year. Traders are also welcome to join us along the seafront or in the Event Area. If you'd like to volunteer there are plenty of jobs to be done. Of course we will have a stage in the Event Area with various bands and music every day. Our acts and headliners will soon be announced. The funfair will be running as usual and there will be a free family entertainment area. So much to enjoy! Come along and join us.



You can see from the 1976 programme cover that the Carnival was a much less colourful event 50 years ago. Our big act was a Tyrolean Biergarten with the amazing Bavarian Stompers providing entertainment. Our Carnival Queen that year was Susan Mary Ring – is she still in Felixstowe? We



would love to hear your stories and memories of that day. Please get in touch. All information and application forms are on our website along with plenty of photos and old programmes. Have a browse and if you have any photos to add, send them in.

Let's look forward to July 2026 - hopefully sunshine and fun - with plenty of music.

Felixstowe & Offshore Radio

Felixstowe & Offshore Radio had another busy year during 2025. We gave eight talks, mostly locally, plus one in Diss! In addition, we also contributed small selection of material on behalf of Radio Caroline to the "Anchors Aweigh - Suffolk and the Sea" exhibition hosted by Suffolk Archives at The Hold in Ipswich during the Autumn. We also took part in the Lions Club Model Railway Exhibition in October, and once again had a display at Felixstowe Museum, as well as hosting an informal radio gathering there in August.



In 2026, we already have another six talks booked, and we are also hoping to host another radio day at the Museum again, although we're unlikely to be having a display there this year.

An event to look out for at the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich is a new musical about Radio Caroline, which is on between Friday 17th April & Saturday 2nd May.

Our Facebook page is usually updated daily with both historic and current radio news, relating to Felixstowe and beyond: www.facebook.com/felixstoweandoffshoreradio

Days Out By Train

What better way to encourage everyone to use our local trains, that to invite you to join us on one of several outings we've planned for 2026.



All tours will start and finish at Felixstowe railway station or join at Trimley or Derby Road or Westerfield stations. On days out by train, we don't all stick together in a close group. The idea is to give just a little bit of reassurance if needed that there are other Felixstowe people around doing the same journey.

Your "F.T.W. Tour Guide" will be on hand and accompany you and will give advice about buying the correct ticket and escort you as we change trains along the route. We always encourage people to buy your tickets from the train conductor - they are very helpful and have tickets that are not available from the platform ticket vending machine. Group discounts apply for between 3 and 9 people travelling together so we can be almost certain that nobody on a F.T.W. trip will have to pay full fare. Your "Tour Guide" can also give advice on places to go and things to do at the destination(s).

Starting on Sat 28th March to the 9th Halesworth Day of Dance, other trips are planned to Sudbury / East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel and Wakes Colne station, Ely/Kings Lynn, Sheringham, Woodbridge, Norwich, Harwich and ending with a return to Sheringham but this time the long pretty way round via Ipswich / Lowestoft / Norwich (which can be done, if you know how, without once having to change trains!)

For more information or to request a copy of our Tours programme contact Felixstowe Travel Watch

Richard Holland (Chairman)
<https://ftw.onesuffolk.net>



Valentine's Day Dip Raises Over £40,000 for Hospice



Over £40,000 has been raised for St Elizabeth Hospice, as supporters took part in the charity's Valentine's Day Dip, following last year's Christmas Day Dip being postponed due to adverse weather.

The rescheduled event saw over 200 'dippers' don a range of fancy dress outfits before plunging into the icy North Sea at Felixstowe to raise funds, through sponsorship, for the hospice which every year delivers free care to over 4,000 patients and their families throughout East & Mid- Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

James Fox-Golding, Events and Challenges Manager at the hospice, said: "A huge well done and thank you to all our incredible dippers who

showed their love for their local hospice by taking part in our Valentine's Day Dip.

"A special thank you also to our wonderful supporters and volunteers, whose efforts made the event possible and created such a great atmosphere.

"It was a fantastic morning that raised vital funds for our services,

which provide care to so many people across our local community."

The St Elizabeth Hospice Valentine's Day Dip took place on Saturday 14 February at 10.30am, opposite Mannings Amusement on Felixstowe seafront, with sea temperatures coming in at a chilly 5 degrees Celsius.

Two brave dippers, who took the plunge for St Elizabeth Hospice, were sisters Emma Lockwood and Sian Hillier, with Sian travelling all the way from Wales to take part in the dip alongside her sister.

Emma said: "One of my best friends died under the hospice's fantastic care six years ago. He always

took part in the charity's fundraising dip, so since then I have pledged to take part in the dip in his honour.

"Today has had a fantastic atmosphere. A real buzz and it is just brilliant to support such an important local cause."

Sian added: "The journey to be here today is totally worth it. I am here to support my sister. Whatever is important to her, is important to me. It has been brilliant event and a great way to start your day!"

For more information about St Elizabeth Hospice please visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/



A Social Heart for High Road West: Why Our Doors Are Open to All

In the heart of Felixstowe, there is a building that many residents walk past every day, perhaps assuming they know exactly what goes on inside based on the sign above the door. But at the Felixstowe Conservative Club, the reality is far more inclusive than the name might suggest.

While we are proud of our club's long history in Felixstowe, today we are a "Conservative Club" in name only. We are, first and foremost, a non-partisan social hub dedicated to providing a warm, safe, and affordable space for everyone in our town.

Supporting Our Town through the Cost of Living

We understand that for many in Felixstowe, the rising cost of living has made "going out" feel like a luxury. We believe that socialising and staying connected to your neighbours shouldn't be a financial burden.

That is why we've kept our membership fee at just £26.00 for the entire year. We often say it's "cheap as chips"—roughly 50p a week—because we want our facilities to remain accessible to all. However, we also believe in an "open door" policy: non-members are always welcome to walk in, find a comfortable seat, and enjoy a drink at our resident-friendly prices.

More Than Just a Bar: A Place for Connection

Whether it's a quiet afternoon reading the paper or a lively evening catching up with friends, our club serves as a vital "third space" for Felixstowe. For many of our regulars, the club is a frontline defence against social isolation—a place where the staff know your name and there is always a friendly face to talk to.

We pride ourselves on being a space where people from all walks of life, regardless of their background or political leanings, can come together. We aren't here for debates; we're here for community.



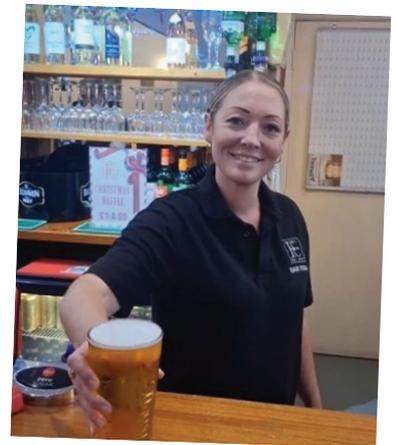
A Hidden Gem for Every Resident

If you've never stepped inside, we invite you to see what we're really about. You won't find a "stuffy" atmosphere or a formal dress code - just a clean, welcoming environment and a team that is proud to serve the people of Felixstowe.

Our doors are open to everyone - the lifelong residents, the newcomers, and the visitors alike. We are more than just a name; we are your local social club, and we can't wait to welcome you. We are also dog friendly, so you don't have to leave your furry companion at home!

We are proud to offer you the following:

- Inclusive Environment: Everyone is welcome, regardless of political affiliation.
- Accessibility: Open to both members and non-members.
- Affordability: Full membership is just £26.00 per year/£13.00 for seniors
- Community First: A safe, friendly space to socialise and meet neighbours.



Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce – Connect. Influence. Support.



Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce

Felixstowe's business community is gearing up for an exciting lineup of events that reflect the energy, collaboration, and professional opportunity that the Chamber brings to local enterprises. From Speed Networking on Friday 13th February to a series of '5 in 5' networking events, brunch meet-ups, and themed sessions like Cyber Security Escape Room & Networking and the festive Quiz-mas in December, there's something for every business owner, entrepreneur, and professional keen to grow connections and sharpen their skills.

But the Chamber isn't just about events, it's about community, visibility, and shared success. Members receive one-third off ticket prices on most events, and Gold and Platinum tiers enjoy free tickets, making meaningful engagement more affordable. Platinum members benefit further from three free places at every event, priority promotional opportunities, and bespoke media exposure across the Chamber's digital channels, powerful tools for raising a business's profile locally and beyond.

Attending a Chamber event isn't merely about collecting business cards; it's about building trust, exchanging insights, and tapping into Felixstowe's collective experience. Whether you're a start-up founder seeking mentors, an established company aiming to influence local economic conversations, or a service provider wishing to give back to your community, the network and resources on offer are invaluable.

Joining the Chamber means joining a voice, one that connects, supports, and champions local business every step of the way.
www.felixstowechamber.co.uk



Felixstowe Lion's Club

It has been an extraordinary few months for the Felixstowe Lions Club, festive celebrations, and exciting new developments for the year ahead.

This year saw a brand-new competition, for school children to design a Christmas light for the town. After careful judging, Maya Rusu from Colneis School was selected as the winner. Her festive design was proudly unveiled during the town's Christmas switch-on ceremony. The day itself was a great success, raising £1,000.

The festive fundraising continued with the popular Christmas Grotto and Landguard BBQ events, which together raised £1,585.15. Another highlight was the annual Santa Run, which raised an outstanding £2,544.50. The Lions extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped organise the run, took part, donated, and lined the streets to show their support.

Looking ahead, the Club has been working hard to secure a new venue for its popular Car Boot Sale following the loss of access to the Old Cavendish site. The Club is pleased to announce that the Car Boot Sale will now take place in the grounds of The Conservative Club, 28 High Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 9JB. The event will run every Saturday from 4th April through to 26th September. Pitch fees have been set at £6.00 for cars or SUVs and £10.00 for larger vans or multiple stalls.

The Lions' calendar for the year ahead is already filling up with exciting community events:

- 5th April – Easter Egg Hunt
- 17th May – Dog Show
- 19th April – Radio Truck Fest
- 11th October – Steam Rally

With thousands of pounds raised for local causes, new initiatives launched, and a full calendar of events planned, it has truly been an amazing few months for Felixstowe Lions Club – and the year ahead promises even more opportunities to serve the community.



Felixstowe Air Cadets – Looking Forward!

The Air Cadets of Felixstowe are looking forward to a packed 2026 already. Flying, competitive sport, adventure training, road marching, first aid qualification training, leadership exercises and courses, annual camps at RAF Stations, a weeklong training camp in Thetford, shooting, fieldcraft and more are all currently advertised to our 35 strong Felixstowe Air Cadets.

This year I am particularly focused on getting more 'air' into the air cadets, utilising the flying opportunities to maximum effect and offering more ground-based training sessions at Squadron level so our Air Cadets have sound aviation knowledge. Our Training program lead, Sergeant Powell, is focused on expanding our military skills, Duke of Edinburgh Award and adventure training offer to ensure our youngsters are fit and resilient to face the future after they depart the Squadron, plans and dates to make this happen are already confirmed or well into the planning phase!

To build on our already solid output driven offer, we need more volunteer Staff to make that happen, if you are interested in becoming a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer please do get in touch via our email.

If you or someone you know is currently in school year 7 (first year of high school), they can become a Felixstowe Air Cadet this September, our open evening is the 09/09/2026 @ 1845hrs, please email us to sign up.

Flight Lieutenant Reece Seaman RAFAC Officer Commanding
356 (Felixstowe) Squadron ATC 356 HQ Adastral Close, IP11 3RX
oc.356@rafac.mod.gov.uk



Rotary Club of Felixstowe - Charity Boxing Dinner 2026

On Friday the 15 May 2026 at 1800 hrs the Brackenbury Sports Centre will once again open its doors for another great evening of exciting amateur challenge matches and prestige local bouts promoted by Harwich Boxing Club in conjunction with England Boxing.

Alongside the main event, guests will be served a delicious 3 course dinner, encouraged to enter a raffle with three great prizes and take the opportunity to win big by correctly guessing the winning corner of each of 6 chosen bouts.

Another outstanding selection of signed Boxing Gloves, Football Shirts and Other Sporting Memorabilia will also be auctioned during the evening.

Now in its 11th year, this Annual Charity Boxing Dinner has to date raised over £174,000 and the incredible generosity of our supporters allows the Club to donate not only to major charities, but also to continue supporting other deserving causes in our local community. Prostate Cancer Research, as the main beneficiary of this year's event, will receive a donation of 50% of the net funds raised on the night. Priced at £1,000.00 and £850.00 respectively, we still have a small number of Premium and Standard tables seating 10 people available.

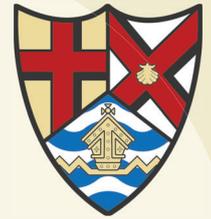
For companies, or groups of friends who are unable to commit to a full table, these could be made available on a shared basis as individual tickets at £85 per person. The prices quoted do of course include the 3 course dinner. Amateur boxing can be massively important in the development of disadvantaged children and young adults so if you can't make the event but would like to support the Rotary Club of Felixstowe Charitable Trust, then we also have a range of corporate sponsorship options available. These include sponsoring Individual Bouts, Challenge Bouts, the Ring, Raffle, Bar, Light & Sound, Doctor & Paramedics and the MC.

With the amazing support of the many companies that have already committed to this year's event, we hope to crack the £200,000 milestone this coming May – if you are able to help and would like further information then please do get in touch!

Ole Krebs, Rotary Club of Felixstowe – Boxing Team
E: olekrebs@virginmedia.com M: 07711 186551



Felixstowe Explores Bid for UK Town of Culture 2028



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL

Felixstowe Town Council is delighted to announce that Felixstowe is exploring the submission of an Expression of Interest to take part in the inaugural UK Town of Culture 2028 competition, an exciting new national initiative designed to celebrate the cultural identity, creativity and heritage of towns across the country.

Building on the success of the UK City of Culture programme, this new award aims to shine a spotlight on towns with strong cultural stories, vibrant community life and ambitious, locally driven ideas for the future. It presents a significant opportunity for towns to showcase what makes them distinctive, while strengthening cultural activity and civic pride for years to come.

A TOWN WITH A NATIONAL AND GLOBAL STORY

As a coastal community with a proud heritage and a dynamic present, Felixstowe is uniquely placed to tell a story of both national and international significance. Our historic seaside character, long-established cultural traditions and strong voluntary sector sit alongside our globally recognised role as a gateway to the world.

This powerful combination, local charm and global reach, defines Felixstowe's distinctive "World in a Town" identity. From arts and performance to maritime heritage, community festivals, youth initiatives and neighbourhood events, the town's cultural life is rich, varied and deeply rooted in community participation.

The Town Council believes that the UK Town of Culture competition offers an exciting platform to celebrate these strengths, raise Felixstowe's profile nationally, and support long-term cultural development that benefits residents, businesses and visitors alike.

SHAPED BY THE COMMUNITY

The deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest is **31 March**. However, before any final decision is taken, the Town Council is committed to ensuring that any potential bid is genuinely shaped by the community.

In recent months, the Council has been actively consulting with local stakeholders, including community groups, charities, businesses and schools through a series of dedicated workshops. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities to listen, share ideas and better understand what matters most to those who contribute so much to Felixstowe's cultural life. The insights gathered are helping to inform and strengthen the town's Expression of Interest, ensuring it reflects the priorities, aspirations and lived experiences of our community.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has taken part in these workshops or provided feedback so far. Your contributions have been thoughtful, constructive and inspiring, and they are already helping to shape a stronger and more representative vision for Felixstowe.

Local voices will continue to play a central role as this work progresses. Culture in Felixstowe is created and sustained by its people - through arts and heritage organisations, schools, community groups, sports clubs, musicians, event organisers, local businesses and countless volunteers. Their experience, ideas and ambitions must inform the direction of travel.

Residents are invited to share what culture means to them, what they value most about the town, and what they would like to see developed in the future. Whether you are actively involved in cultural activities or simply passionate about where you live, your perspective matters.

The Council is particularly keen to hear from younger residents to ensure that any bid reflects the aspirations, creativity and energy of the next generation. Their voices will help shape a forward-looking vision that supports opportunity, inclusion and pride in place.

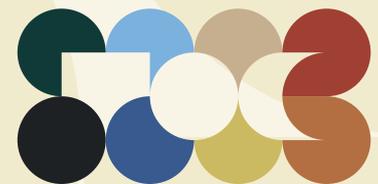
HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Two short surveys are now available:

- **Public Survey** – for residents, organisations and businesses
- **Young People's Survey** – Specifically designed for younger members of the community



The surveys are quick to complete and open to anyone who lives, works in, or has a connection to Felixstowe. Scan the QR codes above to have your say!



This is an opportunity for the whole community to come together and help shape Felixstowe's cultural future. By contributing your ideas and insights, you can help ensure that our town's story — rooted in heritage, enriched by diversity and connected to the wider world — is confidently presented on the national stage.

Felixstowe has always been a town defined by both its strong sense of place and its outward-looking spirit. The exploration of a UK Town of Culture bid reflects that ambition: celebrating who we are today, while shaping an inspiring vision for tomorrow.

Felixstowe in Flower – A Community in Bloom



Felixstowe Town Council's Felixstowe in Flower scheme has been brightening the town with stunning floral displays since it was first introduced in 1985. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a town-wide celebration of colour and community spirit, showcasing the very best of Felixstowe each summer.

From 60 Baskets to a Town in Bloom



Felixstowe in Flower started with just 60 hanging baskets sponsored by local firms and organisations. These early supporters took a leap of faith, backing a new idea with enthusiasm and civic pride. From these small beginnings, the scheme has expanded into a comprehensive celebration, with flowers adorning streets, public spaces and community areas across the town.

Generosity at the Heart of the Scheme

Felixstowe in Flower thrives thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organisations and residents. Each hanging basket, tub and trough is made possible through sponsorship, and expertly maintained by the Town Council's Grounds Team throughout the season.



Business sponsors are recognised with plaques displaying their name and logo on their sponsored displays, in prominent locations such as Hamilton Road, Walton High Street and Sea Road. Sponsorship not only promotes local enterprise but also reflects a shared commitment to enhancing the town for residents and visitors alike.

Many residents also choose to sponsor baskets in memory of loved ones, a thoughtful way to celebrate a life while contributing to the beauty of Felixstowe. These memorial displays are cared for daily by the Grounds Team, combining remembrance with community pride.

All sponsors are acknowledged and thanked at the Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony, which celebrates the generosity and support that make the scheme possible.

Free Competitions for Everyone

Participation extends far beyond sponsorship. Felixstowe in Flower runs a variety of free competitions for residents, businesses, gardeners and allotment holders. With 14 categories there is something for everyone to enjoy, regardless of experience level.

Winners are invited to the prestigious Awards Ceremony, where they receive trophies in recognition of their contributions. These competitions highlight the talent and creativity within the town while fostering a sense of community pride and friendly rivalry.

Get Involved

You can help make Felixstowe even more beautiful by sponsoring a tub, trough or hanging basket, or by entering one of the free competitions. To find out more about sponsorship or competitions, visit www.felixstowe.gov.uk/felixstowe-in-flower or email sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk.

Felixstowe in Flower is a shining example of what a community can achieve when residents, businesses and the Town Council work together. From the very first 60 baskets to the hundreds of displays across town today, it is generosity, pride and civic spirit that keep the town blooming season after season.



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 and return to the Town Hall!

Fill in your details here:

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Address:

Walton Community Hall – A Refreshed Venue for the Whole Community



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL

Walton Community Hall, a cherished Victorian landmark in Walton, has been serving the community since 1886, originally built as a meeting place for the Ancient Order of Foresters. Over the years, it has hosted countless local groups, classes, meetings, and events, and today remains a hub for community life.



A Versatile Space for Hire

The hall is available for hire throughout the year, including daytimes, evenings, and weekends, making it perfect for parties, classes, meetings, and exhibitions. The main hall measures 9.6m x 9.6m and features a large wooden floor, modern kitchen, toilets, a wet room, and full disabled facilities.

Many local groups already enjoy regular sessions here, including Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, dance and exercise classes, and community exhibitions.

Booking Information:

To make a booking or for further information, contact Sarah Morrison on **01394 288194** or email sarah.morrison@felixstowe.gov.uk.

Refurbishments Completed

Thanks to generous support from the East Suffolk Council UKSPF Rural Business and Community Hub Fund, Walton Community Hall has recently undergone a major refurbishment and environmental upgrade:

- **Solar panels and battery storage** installed to reduce energy costs and improve sustainability.
- **New air source heat pump** replacing the old air conditioning unit, with wall-mounted vents for faster and more efficient heating.
- **Wi-Fi installation** to support hirers and allow the Town Council to monitor energy usage and savings from the solar panels.
- **Double-glazed windows** will be installed for comfort and improved energy efficiency.
- **Upstairs cosy room** created for smaller meetings and consultations.
- **Hall repainted**, giving the space a fresh, welcoming look.



These improvements, funded through the grant and local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), ensure the hall is now modern, eco-friendly, and ready for use by the community.

A Hall with History

Walton Community Hall has long been at the heart of local life. When structural issues made the building unfit for modern use, a major refurbishment project in partnership with Orwell Housing Association and local builders Elliston, Steady and Hawes transformed the premises. Today, the hall sits alongside three flats over two floors, while the community space retains its charm, now fully safe, accessible, and fit for purpose.

With its blend of history, modern facilities, and completed eco-friendly upgrades, Walton Community Hall is ready to welcome the community for events, classes, and gatherings for many years to come.

Occasional Grant Funding Ideas, Fuelling the Community of Felixstowe



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL

Felixstowe Town Council is proud to support the many organisations, clubs and charities that help make Felixstowe such a vibrant and caring place to live, work and visit. Through our Occasional Grants programme, we provide vital financial support to groups whose projects bring clear benefits to local residents.

For the forthcoming financial year, the Council has allocated £35,000 to assist community organisations that demonstrate a genuine need for funding and contribute to the vision and aims for Felixstowe. We are particularly keen to support environmental initiatives and projects that enhance and protect our local area.



Applications are welcomed from any properly constituted group based in Felixstowe, or operating for the benefit of its residents. Grants are considered three times a year, with **deadlines on 31 May, 30 September and 31 January**.

In Round 3 of this year's funding, the Council was delighted to award £12,360.98 to a range of projects. Some of the projects funded include support for Music in Felixstowe to host free community music events, the Felixstowe Creative Arts Trust for the 2026 Folk & Shanty Festival, the Landguard Conservation Trust for wildlife monitoring and conservation, and Langer Primary Academy for a sensory room in their SEN hub. Other recipients included Walton Parish Nursing for kitchen and office refurbishment and Pedal Felixstowe to expand community cycling initiatives.



These grants reflect the creativity, generosity and dedication of our local volunteers, whose work strengthens the fabric of our community. From arts and culture to wellbeing, sport and environmental conservation, Felixstowe thrives thanks to their efforts.

The deadline for the next round of Occasional Grant Funding is **31 May 2026**. If your organisation has a project that would benefit residents, we encourage you to explore the Occasional Grants scheme. Full details, guidance and application forms are available via the Town Council website: www.felixstowe.gov.uk/occasional-grants.

Celebrate Felixstowe's Community Heroes – Civic Awards 2026 Now Open



Every year, Felixstowe Town Council proudly recognises the remarkable people and organisations who make our town such a supportive, vibrant and caring place to live through its annual Civic Awards scheme.

These awards are a chance to shine a spotlight on those who have voluntarily gone the extra mile – the individuals, young people and groups whose dedication, kindness and commitment have made a real difference to life in Felixstowe.

Behind so much of what makes our community special are volunteers and organisations quietly giving their time, energy and expertise for the benefit of others. The Civic Awards are our opportunity to say a heartfelt “thank you” and to celebrate their achievements publicly.

Who Will You Nominate?

We are inviting residents to tell us who their community heroes have been over the past year. Whether it's someone who has supported neighbours in times of need, led a successful local initiative, inspired young people, or strengthened community life in countless unseen ways, we want to hear their story!

Nominations are now open for the following awards:

Mayor's Award

Presented to up to five local people in recognition of their outstanding personal contribution to the community.

HMS Ganges Youth Trophy

Awarded to a local young person (aged 21 or under) or to an organisation supporting young people in Felixstowe. This category celebrates the positive impact of young residents and those who champion opportunities for the next generation.

The Community Award

Presented to recognise the significant contribution made by a local organisation to the life of the town.

How to Submit a Nomination

If you know an individual or organisation deserving of recognition, please complete a nomination form and tell us why their contribution stands out.

Completed entries should be emailed to: Sue Faversham, Civic Events Officer: sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk Or returned them to Felixstowe Town Hall.



The closing date for nominations is **31 March 2026**.

Help Us Celebrate What Makes Felixstowe Special

The Civic Awards are about more than recognition - they are about community pride. They remind us that Felixstowe thrives because of the people who care enough to make a difference.

Take a moment to reflect on those who have inspired you this year – and make sure their efforts are recognised. Your nomination could help ensure that their contribution is celebrated by the whole town.



Felixstowe Town Council – Civic Awards Nomination Form
Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community? Or a local organisation making a real difference in Felixstowe? Felixstowe Town Council wants to celebrate their efforts – nominate them for a Civic Award today!

Your Details:

Name

Email Address

Contact Number

Nomination Details: I would like to nominate (Name of person / Organisation)

.....

Award Category (please tick one):

- Mayor's Award** Presented to up to five individuals from the community.
- HMS Ganges Youth Trophy** Awarded to a young person or youth organisation.
- Community Organisation Award** Recognise a local community organisation.

Reason for Nomination

Please provide a brief explanation of why your nominee deserves this award:

Submitting Your Nomination

- **By Post:** Return your completed form to Felixstowe Town Hall, Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG.
- **By Email:** Send a scanned or digital copy to sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk
- **Online:** Complete a digital nomination at www.felixstowe.gov.uk/civic-awards

Deadline: Nominations must be received by **31 March** to be eligible for consideration. Late submissions may not be considered. Thank you for helping us recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals and organisations in our community!



The Perfect Venue

for a beautiful beachside wedding

Felixstowe Town Hall is a historic venue, originating from 1892, licensed for marriages and civil partnerships.

With unparalleled seafront views and convenient access to the Felixstowe seafront gardens, it is the perfect venue for your special day.



Contact Us:  01394 288191  sue.faversham@felixstowe.gov.uk  www.felixstowe.gov.uk/weddings

DO YOU KNOW A COMMUNITY HERO?

NOMINATE THEM FOR A CIVIC AWARD!

find a nomination form at
www.felixstowe.gov.uk/civic-awards

TELL US WHO
YOU THINK
DESERVES TO BE
RECOGNISED WITH
A CIVIC AWARD!

DEADLINE
31 MARCH

