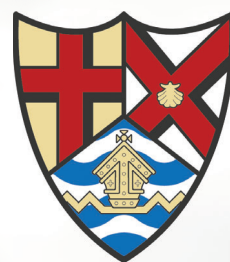


Autumn

Issue 30

The Seasonal Magazine
for Felixstowe Residents **2026**



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL



**Your Community Stories - Grant Funding Available -
Our Environment - Mayor's Charity Skydive - Arts and Music**



BOOKED YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY YET?

BIG OR SMALL, THERE'S A PARTY FOR ALL!

21st Nov: Silent Disco
25th Nov: Christmas Comedy Night
27th Nov: Drag Bingo
28th Nov: Alyssa Van Delle Cabaret

10th Dec: Christmas Disco Yoga
11th Dec: Unleash The Beast
12th Dec: Christmas Show
13th Dec: Suffolk Salsa Social

3rd Dec: TBA
4th Dec: LUNR Disco Project
5th Dec: Rude & Reckless
6th Dec: Michael Bublé Tribute

18th Dec: Christmas Drag Bingo
19th Dec: Daytime Disco 2-6pm
19th Dec: Rubik's 2 Duo 80s
20th Dec: Christmas Choir Night

**START YOUR NIGHT WITH A PRE-SHOW DINNER
DOWNSTAIRS AT LOCA**

ENQUIRE TODAY:

INFO@LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK

WWW.LAVIDASHOWBAR.CO.UK / WWW.LOCABARANDRESTAURANT.CO.UK
SEA ROAD FELIXSTOWE, IP11 2DN

Hello and Welcome to this Autumn Edition!

As summer draws to a close, Felixstowe continues to shine with the energy, generosity and togetherness that make our town so special. Over the past few months, I've had the privilege of attending several events that highlight the very best of our community.

One of the standout moments was this year's Felixstowe Carnival. The procession was full of colour, creativity and enthusiasm, with residents lining the streets to cheer on the floats and performers. The weekend's entertainment brought people together in a way that only Felixstowe can, filling the seafront with music, laughter and a shared sense of pride. My thanks go to the Carnival Committee and every volunteer who helped make it such a success.

Another highlight was Yoga on the Beach, led by Lindsey Franklin on the morning of her wedding day. Lindsey chose to begin her special day by raising money for Pitstop, Brave Futures and Dora Brown, which together form the Mayor's Charities. Her session raised over £750 and was a wonderful example of how generosity can be woven into life's most meaningful moments.

Looking ahead, one of our biggest fundraising efforts of the year is fast approaching. On 27 September, seventeen local residents will take part in a tandem skydive in support of the Mayor's Charities. The group includes representatives from charities, businesses, community organisations and families. Their willingness to step out of a



plane at 13,000 feet shows the commitment people in Felixstowe have to helping others.

Donations can be made via the JustGiving team page at www.justgiving.com/team/mayors-skydive2026, or in person at the Town Hall. Every contribution directly supports vulnerable people in our community.

We also have an exciting event coming up on 3 October at Harvest House. Ten charity teams were each given £100 to purchase two interesting items from shops across Felixstowe. These twenty items will be auctioned at the Mayor's Bargain Hunt Auction, with all proceeds going to the Mayor's Charities. It promises to be a lively evening celebrating creativity, local businesses and the spirit of friendly competition.

Felixstowe continues to show what can be achieved when people come together with kindness and purpose. Thank you for your ongoing support. It remains the greatest honour to serve as Mayor of the town I grew up in.

Cllr Darren Aitchison
Mayor of Felixstowe

Your Magazine

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

If you would like to submit an article for consideration in the next quarterly edition Winter 26 (covering the period from **1 December - 28 February**), please email holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk by **15 November**

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 Jon Wills for the cover photo and Stephen Squirrel for the various header images.

Getting in Touch

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

Phone: **01394 282086**

Email: enquiries@felixstowe.gov.uk

Address:

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

www.felixstowe.gov.uk



**Felixstowe is a
Fairtrade
Town**

A FUN NIGHT FOR A GREAT CAUSE

**FELIXSTOWE
MAYOR'S BARGAIN HUNT
AUCTION**

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026 | 7.00PM

HARVEST HOUSE, FELIXSTOWE

THE BARGAINS GO UNDER THE HAMMER!

Come along for a lively evening as the items bought by local charity teams are auctioned to raise money for the Mayor's Charities.

FEATURING RENOWNED COLORATURA SOPRANO
CHRISTINA JOHNSTON

WITH THANKS TO OUR SIX GENEROUS SPONSORS

EVERY BID HELPS LOCAL GOOD CAUSES

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MAYOR'S THREE CHARITIES
DORA BROWN | PITSTOP | BRAVE FUTURES

Come along, raise a paddle and join the fun!

An Update from the Mayor's Charities

The Mayor of Felixstowe's chosen charities for the year 2026-27 are Dora Brown, Pitstop and Brave Futures. You can find out more about the work of the charities and their plans for the year ahead, below.

Dora Brown

Dora Brown

It's been a brilliant start to our year as one of the Mayor's Charities. We are really enjoying meeting local residents and organisations, and working with Pitstop and Brave Futures to plan some exciting events for the year ahead. It's going to be busy and varied, as we have already experienced, from a chat with Laura Locke on Felixstowe Radio to the chance to show off our rubber gloves on the Carnival float!

At the same time our day to day work continues as we help local families in crisis at home to have a fresh start. Our wonderful volunteers have been working hard throughout the summer, clearing, cleaning and organising for families in need. If you are looking for a flexible, friendly and rewarding volunteering opportunity, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via the form on our website or by emailing volunteer@dorabrown.com.

We'd love to have you on the team! Shifts are on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30am and 2pm in and around Felixstowe, Ipswich and Woodbridge. It's very flexible, you can come weekly, once a fortnight, once a month or more sporadically. We also hold volunteer events, like our summer social in July where we put down our cleaning kit and enjoyed coffee, cake and catching up at Laura's house in sunny Felixstowe.



Please visit our website www.dorabrown.com for more information about Dora. And follow us on Instagram - @dorabrownhomemaking or Facebook - Dora Brown Charity to see our work in action.

Brave Futures



Be believed. Be empowered.

Brave Futures provides specialist, trauma-informed support to children and young people affected by sexual abuse. While our services reach children and young people across Suffolk and Norfolk, we are proud to provide dedicated support within Felixstowe, helping local children and families access the specialist support they need closer to home.

Recent research highlights the scale of sexual abuse, with estimates now suggesting that 1 in 6 children experience sexual abuse before the age of 18. This significant change from previous estimates reminds us that more children may be affected than we previously thought.

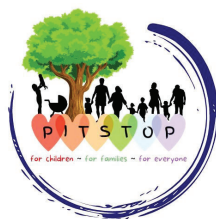
Through one-to-one support and specialist sessions, we provide children and young people with a safe space to talk, be listened to and begin to make sense of what has happened. We also support parents and carers and work with schools and professionals to improve understanding, strengthen safeguarding and help adults recognise the signs of abuse and respond appropriately.

Demand for our specialist support continues to grow, with increasing referrals and more children waiting for help.

Together, we can help children affected by sexual abuse feel heard, supported and give them the tools to reclaim their childhoods.

Find out more about our work: bravefutures.org

Pitstop: Our Busiest Summer Yet!



What a summer it has been for Pitstop! We have had our busiest summer yet, and it has been wonderful to see so many people coming together to support our local community.

Over the summer months, our team of fantastic volunteers have been busier than ever, with pop-up events, jumble sales and free summer meals, alongside all the usual work that goes on behind the scenes at Pitstop. None of it would be possible without our volunteers, supporters, donors and the local community who continue to get behind what we do.

We are also incredibly excited to have been chosen as one of the Mayor's Charities this year, alongside Brave Futures and Dora Brown, and we cannot wait to see what the year ahead brings. There is certainly lots to look forward to!

September is set to be another action-packed month. We will be at Jenny Riddell-Carpenter's Community Day on 12th September, followed by a Quiz Night at the Felsto Arms on 17th September. On 19th September, we have a Music Day and Bargain Hunt at the Grosvenor, followed by Thanksgiving at St Edmund's on 26th September.

Then, on 27th September, some of the Pitstop team will be taking a very big leap for the Mayor's Charity Skydive!

And if that wasn't enough exciting news... Pitstop is a finalist in the BBC Suffolk Make a Difference Awards! WOW!

We are incredibly proud of how far Pitstop has come and enormously grateful to everyone who continues to support us.

Here's to an exciting year ahead!



Dora Brown



SPONSORED BY:



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 German 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, Citizens 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 play 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 National 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 26/27

Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Darren Aitchison

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr David Rowe

Walton Ward



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



Mike Deacon *
mike.deacon@felixstowe.gov.uk
01394 282086



Tristan Gale **
tristan.gale@felixstowe.gov.uk
01394 282086

Central Ward



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



Seamus Bennett *
seamus.bennett@felixstowe.gov.uk
07818 664 751



Jan Candy *
jan.candy@felixstowe.gov.uk
07785 277 647

East Ward



Nick Barber
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07876 757268



Bernard Price
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01394 279794



Steve Wiles
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07986 566 225

South Ward



Sharon Harkin
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01394 282086



Wendy Underwood
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Port Ward



Stuart Bird
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Marc James
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07973 870 066



David Rowe
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07851 803 503



Michael Sharman
michael.sharman@felixstowe.gov.uk
01394 213071



Corrine Franklin
corrine.franklin@felixstowe.gov.uk
07703 575 121

Key

* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

** Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

Felixstowe Town Council

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

9 September	Planning & Environment	9:30am
9 September	Civic & Community	7:30pm
16 September	Assets & Services	7:30pm
23 September	Planning & Environment	9:30am
14 October	Finance & Governance	7:30pm
21 October	Planning & Environment	9:30am
21 October	Civic & Community	7:30pm
4 November	Planning & Environment	9:30am
4 November	Ordinary Council	7:30pm
18 November	Planning & Environment	9:30am
18 November	Assets & Services	7:30pm

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

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 Tadjirishi – 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's History Takes Centre Stage



Heritage Open Days returns from 11 to 20 September 2026, offering walks, exhibitions, performances and the chance to see familiar places in a new light.

Coordinated by the Felixstowe Society with support from local organisations and volunteers, the programme celebrates the buildings, landscapes and people that have shaped Felixstowe. All events are free, although advance booking is required for some walks and tours.

A highlight will be Journeys of Hope, a new play by the Level Two Youth Group. Telling the story of evacuees arriving in Felixstowe and the end of the Second World War, it will be performed at Felixstowe Railway Station, with the young cast disembarking from a train as part of the action.

Guided walks will explore Landguard's military history, Abbey Grove, the architecture of Thomas Cotman and the town's coastal defences. Martello Tower P, Landguard Fort, Felixstowe Museum and the Nature Reserve will also feature in the programme.

Visitors will be able to explore important buildings including Felixstowe Town Hall, the Masonic Lodge, the Spa Pavilion and Harvest House, formerly the Felix Hotel.

Exhibitions will cover the history of Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys, lost buildings, beach huts and the changing lives of people at work and leisure. Historic photographs will also appear in High Street windows close to where they were originally taken.

The full programme and booking details are available on the Heritage Open Days website. Come along, bring family and friends, and discover the history on our doorstep.

Everyone has a story - come and share ours!

Felixstowe, Come and Support Your Point



You know Landguard Point. Maybe you walked it as a kid, or you cut through on your morning dog walk without a second thought. But behind the Fort's old walls, the Nature Reserve's shingle paths and the Museum's quiet rooms is a small team and a lot of volunteers working hard to keep this place open.

Landguard Fort has stood guard at the mouth of the Orwell and Stour in defence of our shores for over 400 years. It only stays standing today, and open for tours, because people like you visit, join, and pitch in. This October our much-loved Halloween

tradition returns: a gentle Trick or Treat Evening for younger locals, complete with fancy dress and spooky doors to knock on. And later in the year



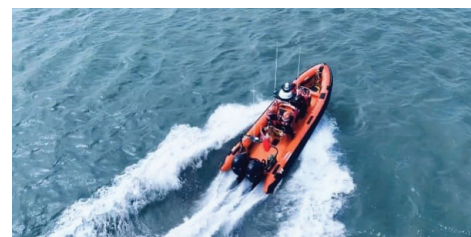
it's our family favourite Christmas event. It's your town's tradition, so come make some noise for it.

Just next door, the Nature Reserve remains one of the best patches of coastal shingle in Suffolk, a place worth protecting, walking and loving all year round.

And at Felixstowe Museum, our fourteen rooms of local history keep growing thanks to donations and volunteer hours. Pop along and see what your support helps keep alive.

Landguard Point belongs to Felixstowe. Whether it's a visit, a membership, a few volunteer hours or simply telling a neighbour, every bit of support keeps this place going for the next generation. Come and back your local landmark. Details at landguard.com.

Felixstowe's History Takes Centre Stage



The summer of 2026 proved to be another busy period for Felixstowe Lifeboat, with our volunteers balancing emergency call-outs, training, fundraising and community engagement throughout the season.

As expected, the school summer holidays saw an increase in activity along our coastline, and our volunteer crew remained on call ready to respond whenever requested by HM Coastguard. Whether assisting vessels in difficulty, supporting search operations or helping those in need on or in the water, our volunteers were prepared to answer the pager at any time of the day or night.

Away from operational duties, we were delighted to meet residents and visitors at a number of local events, including the Suffolk Show, where we promoted water safety and highlighted the work of our independent lifeboat charity.

A particular highlight of our summer events was our very own annual Felixstowe Lifeboat Shanty Night at Landguard Fort. The event brought together talented sea shanty groups and local supporters for a fantastic evening of entertainment, while raising vital funds to help keep our lifesaving service operational.

As an independent lifeboat charity, we rely entirely on the generosity of our community. Every donation, fundraising event and volunteer contribution helps ensure we can continue providing our lifesaving service across Felixstowe's coastline, the surrounding rivers and waterways, and the wider Suffolk and North Essex coast.

To keep up to date with our latest tasking, events and volunteer opportunities, follow Felixstowe Lifeboat on Facebook and Instagram. More information about our work, together with details of how to support us through online donations, can also be found at www.felixstowlifeboat.org.uk.

Felixstowe Lifeboat - For The Safety Of All.

Old Felixstowe Community Association



The Community Centre continues to thrive with many new groups making regular bookings along with plenty of private hires. As a registered charity we rely solely on volunteers and are looking for more volunteers to come forward and join our Management Committee. If you are interested, please email me on celiapage@hotmail.co.uk, we can have a chat and discuss what would be involved.

Work has now finished on the roof at the Community Centre and the scaffolding removed. The work took a lot longer than expected and was more expensive than first thought. However, the spire has been removed from the Jane Bolton Lounge and made weatherproof, all flat roofs have been replaced so will be watertight for many years to come. Of course, there was some noise and disruption whilst the work was being carried out so I would like to apologise to hirers that were affected during this time and thank them for their patience.

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

Best wishes,
Celia Page – Chair

Felixstowe Family History Society

An exciting programme awaits members and visitors of Felixstowe Family History Society, with talks covering broadcasting, local history and military records.



The season begins on Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7.30pm with the Society's Annual General Meeting, followed by Stephen Foz Foster presenting On Different Wavelengths. Suffolk broadcaster Foz looks back over 50 years behind the microphone, from the BBC and independent local radio to his current work with Radio Caroline.

On 14 October, Sarah Doig presents A Sign of the Times: Local History Told Through East Anglian Village Signs. Almost every East Anglian community proudly displays a village sign, but where did this tradition begin? Sarah explores their origins and the fascinating stories they reveal about local history.

On 11 November, Wendy Shepherd presents Military History Records in Family Research. This practical talk explores military documents and websites, along with medals, death plaques and family photographs. Wendy will explain how clues can help identify regiments and uncover family connections.



The popular Friday Drop-In Sessions, offering friendly support with family research, take place on 25 September, 30 October and 27 November, from 10.15am to noon at Broadway House, with Gail and Rachel.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm (doors open 7.15pm) at Broadway House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 9DD. Free parking is available after 6pm accessed from Highfield Road.

Visitors are warmly welcome to enjoy a raffle, refreshments and great company. Further information: Felixstowe Family History Society events or visit the Society's Facebook page.

Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum



In a very positive development for Fairtrade in Felixstowe, the Fair Trade Shop was opened at 130

Hamilton Rd on 11 August by the Mayor, Councillor Darren Aitchison. Others in the picture are (L-R) Margaret Fish, director of the Fair Trade Shop, Stephen Wyatt, chairman of the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum and Alan Muchal (with Fairtrade Ted).

The Fair Trade Shop traded in Ipswich for over 35 years but they decided to move to Felixstowe after its lease there expired. The shop will be familiar to many Felixstowe residents due to its monthly stall at Felixstowe Methodist Church at Trinity. The shop continues to stock a range of Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee, cocoa, olive oil and our, very own, Felixstowe Fairtrade chocolate bar. For churches, voluntary organisations and businesses who use a lot of tea and coffee, catering packs are available. They also sell a wide range of other fairly traded goods.

Ted & Tess have been busy over the summer – including taking part in Felixstowe carnival and making a guest appearance at the Teddy Bear Take Over Day at Felixstowe Museum. If you would like Ted & Tess to help you promote your organisation, please contact secretary@felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk

You can meet Ted & Tess in person at our Family Fun Day on 3 October at Felixstowe Library from 10am to 2pm. There will be games, activities, refreshments and, the ever popular, chocolate fountain. Everyone welcome.



Felixstowe Royal Air Force Air Cadets Are Recruiting!

356 (Felixstowe) Squadron RAF Air Cadets offers an exciting, wide ranging programme of activities and training for young people. From flying and gliding to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, adventure training, sport, fieldcraft, archery, parade drill, RAF station visits, leadership training, STEM, radio & cyberspace training, and first aid qualifications, our Cadets experience it all. Cadets also work towards BTEC qualifications in a range of subjects — with even more opportunities available as they progress. Beyond weekly training, we take part in courses, competitions and week-long camps throughout the year — locally, nationally and even internationally. All residential activities are designed to offer an exciting variety of experiences, suitable for Cadets of all ages and ability levels.



We parade every Monday and Wednesday from 19:00–21:30 at our Squadron HQ. Evenings include training, activities, and briefings on events and opportunities in Felixstowe and beyond. Membership costs just £15 per month. Come and see what we're about! Our Recruitment Evening is on Wednesday 9th September at 18:45 at our Squadron HQ (address below, this



is not the Drill Hall on Garrison Lane). Potential recruits are warmly invited to attend with parents or guardians. On the evening, you'll be able to see Air Cadets in action, with archery, flight simulator sessions, leadership tasks and more. To sign up, please email 356@rafac.mod.gov.uk

If you are in school year 7 now, you can sign up!

356 (Felixstowe) Sqn HQ Adastral Close off Carr Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 3RX, What3Words: spacing.nicer.shops



Our Environment

Grow, Cook, Eat: Celebrating Local Food in Felixstowe with Edible Felixstowe



After what has been one of the most challenging growing seasons in recent years, we're looking forward to celebrating the rewards of growing, cooking and eating locally at our third annual Grow, Cook, Eat event on Saturday 3 October.

This year sees us move to a new venue, with the event taking place at the Salvation Army Hall on Cobbold Road, from 11am-2pm.

As always, the event will champion all things local, bringing together

a wonderful mix of local food and drink producers, community groups and green-thinking organisations. There will also be a few new additions this year, including a press-your-own apple juice stall, where you can have a go at turning locally grown apples into delicious juice.

And for those who remember the fun from previous years, the smoothie bike is back! Hop on, pedal away and watch as your efforts turn fresh fruit into a smoothie.

There will be plenty more to enjoy, including delicious homemade cakes, seed swapping and activities for children. It's a great opportunity to discover what's happening in our local community, meet people who are passionate about growing and sustainability, and perhaps pick up some inspiration for your own garden or kitchen.

Entry is free, and most activities are by donation, so please come along and see what we've been up to.

Start the day with soup!

This year, we're also getting the cooking underway before the festival with a special soup-making workshop from 9am-10.30am.

Come along and learn how to make a delicious seasonal vegetable soup, accompanied by homemade soda bread. And the best bit? The soup you make will then be served for everyone to enjoy at lunchtime during the festival!

Places on the workshop are free, but spaces are limited.

To book your place, visit ediblefelixstowe.org/upcoming-events/ and follow the link to the sign-up sheet.

So, save the date, bring your friends and family, and come along to celebrate the wonderful food that can be grown, made and enjoyed in and around Felixstowe.

Grow, Cook, Eat - Share!



Felixstowe Seafront Gardens Retain Prestigious Green Flag Award

Felixstowe Seafront Gardens have once again been recognised among the country's best parks and green spaces, receiving the prestigious Green Flag Award for the 11th consecutive year.

The international quality mark, which recognises well-managed, welcoming and high-quality parks and green spaces, has also been awarded to Woods Meadow Country Park in Oulton for the third time.

The two East Suffolk spaces are among a record-breaking 2,391 sites across the UK to receive the award in 2026, as the internationally recognised Green Flag Award celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Cllr Darren Aitchison, Mayor of Felixstowe, said:

"I am delighted to see the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens receive a Green Flag Award once again. Our Seafront Gardens are one of the town's greatest treasures, enjoyed every day by residents and visitors alike, and this award is a fitting recognition of the care and dedication that goes into keeping them looking wonderful throughout the year.

"My thanks go to East Suffolk Services and the Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens, whose hard work and commitment make this achievement possible. Their efforts help ensure that this special place continues to thrive, providing a welcoming and peaceful space for everyone to enjoy. This award is something the whole town can be proud of."

The award is a tribute to the dedication of the teams, volunteers and community members who work throughout the year to maintain and enhance the Gardens.



Your Local Funeral Professionals

Serving families in Suffolk for many years



GORDON RODWELL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

79 St Andrews Road,
Felixstowe IP11 7BW
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Managing Felixstowe's Floral Displays During Prolonged Dry Weather



Due to the ongoing dry weather conditions, Felixstowe Town Council is adjusting its watering schedules to ensure the town's popular Felixstowe in Flower hanging baskets and floral displays are maintained as responsibly and sustainably as possible.

The Council's Grounds Team works in close partnership with Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, which generously provides sustainably sourced water to help keep the town looking vibrant throughout the summer months.

The Council extends its sincere thanks to the Golf Club management and team for their invaluable, ongoing support, which is vital to the success of the annual displays.

With local water resources under pressure, the Town Council's Grounds Team is adopting a targeted, prioritised watering route to conserve supplies while giving care to the displays that need it most.

The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Darren Aitchison, said:

"We know how much residents and visitors enjoy the Felixstowe in Flower displays, and our Grounds Team is working hard to keep them looking their best. However, during periods of extreme dry weather, we must balance keeping the flowers healthy with a responsible, measured approach to resource management. By prioritising key areas and continuing to work closely with our partners at the Golf Club, we are ensuring every drop is used as effectively as possible."

Whilst every effort will be made to preserve the condition of the baskets, the public may notice a slight variation in appearance during this peak dry spell. The Council will keep the situation under regular review and looks forward to resuming normal schedules as weather conditions allow.

Felixstowe Allotment Association



As an allotmenteer, much like so many we discuss the weather daily. In Spring we were concerned with excess rain, with many saying the water table would soon be fully replenished so let's not worry.

The month of May arrives by which time we have planted up our plots, large and small with vegetables and a wide variety of crops especially in my case a good mixture of seed potatoes, all in need of water.

The allotment association commenced its summer of social activities, coffee and cake once a month with additional events being considered as the growing year unfolds.

By mid June the topic of conversation is only about rain! or should I say the lack of it.

The allotment partnership meeting with the council sees us talking bore holes, hose pipes and everything in between.

The Anglian Water ban on hoses made it very clear that our harvests would require even more hard work with watering cans.

Some allotment tenants due to their particular circumstances has meant they are excluded from the hose ban but they are few in number.

So, plan B comes to past with cattle troughs and the like being brought into use to save time with tenants queuing at the taps that fortunately we have across all allotment sites in the town.

The hot weather for us all in a coastal town is in the main very welcome and beach activity can be seen daily especially as the school holidays have now started.

But, this year due to drought running a productive allotment is about hard work and graft, it's a commitment not to be undertaken lightly. Nothing is easy said my late mother, but it's worth it!



Felixstowe Garden Club

Well, I, for one, am fed up with the lack of rain to water our gardens and refill our water butts and the heat too! Not that I mind watering the plants that need it with a watering can because of the hosepipe ban (it's giving me the extra exercise I need), but because I've just come back from Norway where everything is very green and ever so slightly damp!! It's the 2nd of August as I write this and already, I'm missing the coolness and rain of the Fjords. Of course, they need all that rain to keep the fantastic waterfalls so spectacular don't they!

Coming home to such devastating news of wildfires, both locally and further afield, makes me so much more aware of the need to stop wasting our valuable resources with our careless use of water. I'm very much hoping that when you read this the situation will have changed and we begin to recover.

In our Garden Club meeting on the 8th September we will welcome Dr Andrew Barbicz speaking about The Gardens of Inverewe, where he started his lifelong career in horticulture, plus talking about the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh, where he studied for three years.

In the meeting on the 13th October we welcome Matthew Tanton Brown speaking about bulbs. I'm sure he will have many wise and witty comments on this subject; he's always a joy to listen to.

And in our meeting on the 10th November, we welcome Annette and Jan who will give us a demonstration on 'Flowers for Christmastime.' The two very talented flower arranging friends who will be a treat to watch and learn from.

Why don't you come along and have a listen? It is always entertaining and you get to meet new people with a common interest.

We meet in the Old Felixstowe Community Association building (OFCA) Ferry Road, IP11 9NB on the second Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise advised. 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 visit our Facebook page.



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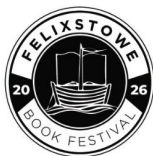
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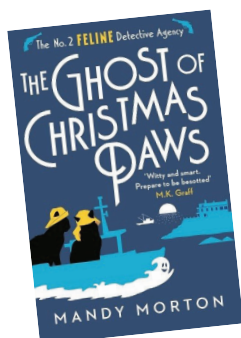




Arts and Music



Felixstowe Book Festival – A Very Special Winter Treat

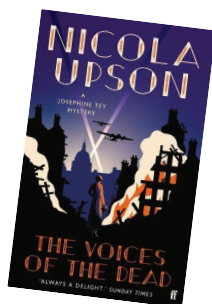


Mandy Morton and Nicola Upson, two of the Felixstowe Book Festival's favourite authors, come together to offer cracking crime reads for Christmas.

Nicola will talk about her eagerly awaited new Josephine Tey mystery, *THE VOICES OF THE DEAD*. In 1941 in the aftermath of the Blitz, Detective Chief Inspector Archie Penrose supervises the transportation of the National Gallery's most precious paintings to their new sanctuary in the slate mines of north Wales. Vacationing in the area is Josephine Tey as well as Noel Coward—who is preparing his defiant new play, in which Margaret Rutherford plays a clairvoyant.

But when a woman's grave is discovered amid the debris of a collapsed roof in the mines, Archie and Josephine are plunged into a forty-year-old mystery.

Mandy will dip into her much-loved No. 2 Feline Detective Agency series to talk about *THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAWS*, a murderous tale of ghosts and seafarers is bursting with darkly humorous feline characters with a definite nod to the work of Daphne Du Maurier and even Mr Dickens and is purrfect for settling down with by a seasonal fireside.



Join them for an afternoon of great conversation, full of Christmas spirits. Felixstowe Library Saturday 28 November 2pm to 4pm Tickets £8 (to include refreshments) available from the library from 19 October. Books for sale on the day.

Nicola and Mandy are kindly donating proceeds from ticket sales to Felixstowe Book Festival which returns 25-27 June 2027.

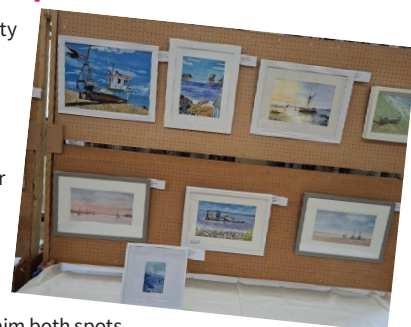


Felixstowe Art Group

We would like to thank the community for visiting our recent annual art exhibition and all those that made purchases while there.

During the event we held votes for Peoples Favourite Award, the winner was Teresa Seals for "Blue in the Blossom" in pastel. Second place was closely followed by Teresa with "Into the light", pastel artwork.

A rare occurrence for one artist to claim both spots so congratulations to her. She will be awarded our perpetual trophy and prize at our next Tuesday evening event.



We would also like to thank Jim and Gillian Liat for managing this year's event along with all their many other duties that they generously provide their time, plus thanks to all other members that give their time to make this event possible.

Tuesday Evening programme (7.30-9.30pm) at Broadway House, Orwell road schedule for any visitors that might wish to attend and check out what our Art Group has to offer (for members full schedule can be found on your programme):

8/09/26 : Carole Massey - 'Portrait in pen and ink'.
13/10/26: Claudia Myatt- 'My life in art and books'.
10/11/26: Marina Brooks- demo in oils and on
24/11/26 -Tony Osler- demo in watercolour 'Painting the seasons'

All the above events are charged at £2 for visitors, £1 members, which includes refreshments plus provides an excellent time to meet members.

Felixstowe art group offers many other events for members so if you want for information, please go to www.felixstoweartgroup.org

We also now have a Facebook group for keeping updated on exhibitions

Furtherfield



across the town to imagine a kinder Felixstowe where all life is cared for, celebrated and thriving. More than 100 people from the town and beyond have joined in role-plays, meditations and exhibitions to discover what Felixstowe could look like in 50 years, how its creature inhabitants

Furtherfield wraps up Reimagine This Coastal Town with one last event as part of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Festival of Nature

Over the course of the summer Reimagine This Coastal Town has brought residents together from

feel about the changing climate, and the ongoing creative work happening in and around the town.

In July, the organisation unveiled its public artwork commission by Ipswich based artist Lily Hammond, Rewilding the Ruins. The work is a celebration of Felixstowe's biodiversity and a reminder of the triumph of nature over neglect, reimagining some of Felixstowe's abandoned sites as reclaimed, emerging habitats for the town's wildlife. Visit the



work today, displayed on the Billboards at Manning Road to get inspired and learn more!

This autumn, Furtherfield brings the

Furtherfield

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's 'Festival of Nature' to Felixstowe for one final Reimagine This Coastal Town event. Book your place on Eventbrite to join the group on the 10th October from 2pm at Felixstowe Library for Creature Mode!

Creature Mode is a free, playful making session for all ages. Drop in on the 10th to work with local artists - design and build multisensory tools, garments, and devices that help you see, feel, and witness the world from another species' point of view.

No experience is needed. Just bring curiosity and leave with your own creature-made piece of a wilder, kinder future.

Port to Port arrives in Felixstowe September 2026

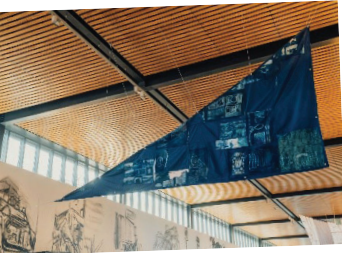
A large-scale travelling art installation by Sophie Giller.

Produced by The Art Station, in partnership First Light Festival, Lowestoft, SPILL Festival, Ipswich and Hamilton MAS, the micro arts space by the sea, Felixstowe.

Commissioned artist Sophie Giller has been working with the communities of our Suffolk Ports for the last 18 months, exploring maritime and social histories, learning new skills by studying the old crafts of sail and rope making.



In every port Giller worked along side community, volunteer and youth groups, colleges and schools to share her findings and creative skills. Creative workshops were enjoyed, conversations and art skills shared, collaborative pieces were made for the installation.



In every Port the installation evolved and grew. After showing in Lowestoft and Ipswich, the journey concludes in Felixstowe this September with an exhibition at Hamilton MAS, 5th–25th September, and installations at Felixstowe Museum 19th September and Landguard Fort 20th September during free to visit Heritage Open Days.

The Port to Port installation is made up of a collection of twelve dynamically printed large sails, a patchwork of images made and gifted

to the piece by people involved in the project. At the centre are four handmade, boat inspired wooden benches inviting visitors to sit in and with the work.

Giller, has regularly visited Felixstowe since the new year, building relationships with our local partners at Landguard Trust, Level Two Youth Project and Langer Primary Academy. Co-working with artist Holly Scholfield, Sophie delivered workshops throughout June with children, young people, partner staff and adult volunteers, to create a new sail to represent Felixstowe.



An exhibition Making Port at Hamilton MAS brings all parts of project Port to Port to Felixstowe, documenting the journey and the Suffolk community's contributions, alongside new artworks by Sophie Giller.

The exhibition will be on show at Hamilton MAS, Bent Hill, Felixstowe, IP11 7DG

- Private View / Opening Friday 4th September 6-8pm
- Open: 5th - 26th September 11am - 4pm
- Family workshop free to all Sunday 6th September 12-2pm at Hamilton MAS
- Port to Port Installation at Landguard Trust - Heritage Open Days
- Felixstowe Museum Saturday 19th September 11am - 5pm
- Landguard Fort Sunday 20th September 10am - 5pm

Port to Port is supported by Arts Council England, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, Harwich Haven Authority, Suffolk Community Foundation and Felixstowe Town Council.

Felixstowe Harmonies' autumn/winter concerts to be A 'celebration of life'



Felixstowe Harmonies has announced two exciting musical events that will celebrate life and share some seasonal spirit this autumn and winter.

On Thursday, November 5 the all-female vocal group will join local armed forces cadets, civic leaders and members of the public at St John's Church, Felixstowe, for the Festival of Remembrance. The choir will be part of a programme that commemorates the sacrifices made by local people in two World Wars as well as more recent conflicts.

Musical Director Chandra Grover said the choir was truly honoured to sing part of the festival.

'We look forward to contributing to a meaningful experience, celebrating the memories of those we cherish,' she said. 'Please join us in this heartfelt tribute as we come together in harmony and reflection.'

The festival starts at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

On Saturday, December 12, Felixstowe Harmonies invites everyone to a seasonal concert in the

beautiful setting of St Mary's Church, Walton, Felixstowe.

A Christmas Celebration: Songs for Harrison will be joyful festive celebration to the sounds of the choir's classical and seasonal repertoire, with captivating melodies guaranteed to evoke the spirit of Christmas. The concert will also be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life of Felixstowe's Harrison Cole, who tragically passed away in June this year, aged 25.

Harrison was assisting organist at King's College, Cambridge, and a former music scholar at Ipswich School. He grew up in Felixstowe and was a great friend of Felixstowe Harmonies, generously sharing his talent as piano accompanist and providing musical inspiration.

'Many members of the choir have fond memories of Harrison and we aim to make this concert a very special occasion by sharing those memories with our audience,' said Chandra.

'Harrison was a great and rare talent. His legacy will be in the fund that has been set up in his

memory at King's College, Cambridge, to help other young organists to develop their talent, and in a Felixstowe focused charity to be established in early 2027, that will support young musicians here in our community. The choir will contribute proceeds from this concert to the King's College fund.'

A Christmas Celebration: Songs for Harrison, will be on Saturday, December 12, at 2.30 pm in St Mary's Church Walton. Tickets are £12.

Felixstowe Harmonies' autumn/winter programme follows a busy summer in which they launched their original song, The Magic of Felixstowe — written by the choir and composed by Chandra — performing it at the Mayor's Civic Awards, a concert at St Peter's on the Waterfront, Felixstowe's Civic Service, and at Ipswich Music Day on the Ipswich Arts Association stage in St Margaret's Church, Ipswich.

They also brought the Magic of Felixstowe to the town's streets when they made their first appearance in the Felixstowe Carnival procession, and sang at this year's Wamfest.

For further details about the choir, events, to buy tickets and to listen to The Magic of Felixstowe go to:

felixstoweharmonies.co.uk

facebook.com/felixstoweharmonies

felixstowe.harmonies@gmail.com

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WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2026

FRI	04	EVE	7:30PM	Jim Davidson (18+)
SAT	05	EVE	7:30PM	David Live – Bowie Tribute
SUN	06	MAT	2:30PM	Neil Sands' Thanks for the Memories
FRI	11	EVE	7:30PM	Ben Portsmouth: This is Elvis
SAT	12	EVE	7:30PM	Dreams of Fleetwood Mac
FRI	18	EVE	7:30PM	Heart Breakers – Heart Tribute
SAT	19	EVE	7:30PM	The Bon Jovi Experience
FRI	25	EVE	7:30PM	Ryan Elliott as Olly Murs

OCTOBER

FRI	02	EVE	7:30PM	Psychic Sally
SAT	03	EVE	7:30PM	Gilbert O'Sullivan
FRI	09	EVE	7:30PM	The Magic of the Beatles
SAT	10	EVE	7:30PM	Kevin Bloody Wilson (18+)
SUN	11	EVE	7:30PM	Tits Up! – Comedy Play
FRI	16	EVE	7:30PM	Electronic Night
SAT	17	EVE	7:30PM	The Illegal Eagles
SUN	18	EVE	7:30PM	The Simon & Garfunkel Story
FRI	23	EVE	7:30PM	ABBA: Thank You for the Music
SAT	24	EVE	7:30PM	The Magic of The Bee Gees
SUN	25	EVE	7:30PM	Lipstick on Your Collar
TUE	27	EVE	7:30PM	Taylor Fever – Taylor Swift Tribute
FRI	30	MAT	2:00PM	Phantom Panto
SAT	31	EVE	7:30PM	The Manfreds

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NOVEMBER

06/11 - Ray Charles Tribute | 07/11 - Quo | 11/11 - Spirit of the Blitz

PRE-SHOW DINING BOOKABLE: 01394 336 336



SAT 10 OCT '26 – 7:30



SAT 6 FEB '27 – 7:30



THU 25 FEB '27 – 7:30

Health and Wellbeing

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. 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.

Take the first step today!

Call / 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!

Drop-in sessions are available across Felixstowe with no appointment needed, you can pop along & have chat. The following sessions are happening in Felixstowe:

- Grove Medical Centre – Every other Monday from 7th September 10:00am – 12:00pm.
- Haven Health – First Wednesday of the month from 2nd September, 3:30pm – 6:30pm.
- Howard House – Every other Monday from 24th August 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
- Felixstowe Library – 27th August, 17th September, 8th October, 29th October, 26th November 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- The Salvation Army – 30th September, 28th October, 25th November, 16th December 10:00am – 12:00pm.

Felixstowe and Villages Carers Group

Are you a family carer who is looking after a loved one? If so you will know how isolating and difficult this can be.

Once a month our group of family carers meet for friendship and fun. We have a large variety of activities, all of which are easy and enjoyable so that we can all relax and enjoy each other's company. We are looking for more family carers to become members and would be delighted to welcome you to our group. We meet on the second Monday of each month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at The Old Felixstowe Community Association, Ferry Road, Felixstowe. We pay £3 each to pay for Tea/ Coffee/ Room Hire.

Why not give us a try?

For more information please contact Dennis Weston, dennisweston.49@btinternet.com, 07712672289.

Emmaus Suffolk's Felixstowe Wellbeing Hub celebrates two years of community support



Emmaus Suffolk's Felixstowe Wellbeing Hub is celebrating two years of bringing people and local support services together, creating a welcoming space where residents can socialise, build confidence, access information and connect with essential services.

Since opening in Great Eastern Square on 6th September 2024, the Hub has become a valued base for a range of organisations supporting people in the local area.

Emmaus Suffolk provides safe, supportive homes, training and places to belong and thrive for hundreds of people each year experiencing homelessness and those vulnerable to the causes of homelessness. Through its supported accommodation, social enterprises and community hubs, individuals receive support to develop valuable skills, find hope and purpose.

The Felixstowe Hub's welcoming, informal space is helping local organisations work more closely together while making it easier for residents to access support in their community.

Organisations including Turning Point, Communities Together East Anglia and Lighthouse Women's Aid have highlighted the benefits of the Hub, from helping people build new connections and friendships to increasing confidence and providing access to support and on-the-spot assessments that may otherwise be difficult to access.

Emmaus Suffolk delivers a weekly community drop-in and digital inclusion sessions at the Hub. The space is also used by organisations including Men Can Talk, Connect for Health Social Prescribers, Felixstowe Carnival Committee, Felixstowe Relief Charity and the Lions Club of Felixstowe. More events along the lines of the Hub's recent Cancer Wellbeing Awareness Day are also being planned.

Emmaus Suffolk's Felixstowe Wellbeing Hub Coordinator, Laura Locke, said: "Emmaus Suffolk want to reach people before they hit crisis point to help them live healthier and happier lives. We're delighted that our Hub has become such a great space for people to come together and connect with such a wide range of local organisations. The anniversary open day on Wednesday 9th September from 10am to 2pm is a celebration of what we can achieve as a community when we come together. We're looking forward to welcoming as many people as possible on the day to showcase this great initiative."

If you'd like to join the event or find out more about the Hub, upcoming events or using the space for your organisation, contact Laura Locke at felixstowehub@emmaussuffolk.org.uk or visit www.emmaus.org.uk/suffolk and the Felixstowe Wellbeing Hub Facebook page.



Why Rotary's Support for Young Carers Matters

Rotary



Rotary's funding for the Bawdsey Manor residential weekend this month gave young carers something valuable that is often very difficult for them to access: time away from responsibility, pressure

and routine. These young people regularly give practical and emotional support at home, often while managing school and their own wellbeing.

The PGL weekend is designed especially for them offering much more than just entertainment; it provides respite, friendship and the chance to experience childhood in a fuller and more carefree way.

And the feedback from parents shows how strongly this support was received. Families describe children coming home full of stories, talking about activities, leaders, silent discos, games and new friendships. Several comments highlight how the experience helped children grow in confidence, including one young carer who now feels more able to do things away from the family. This shows that the value of the weekend continues long after the trip itself, helping young people build independence and self-belief.

The experience clearly had an emotional impact. Parents repeatedly describe their children as happy, excited and grateful, with one parent saying the weekend was exactly what their children needed during a difficult time at home. For families who may struggle to get away or provide these opportunities themselves, Rotary's support removes a barrier and

gives children access to experiences they truly deserve.

Perhaps most importantly, the comments show that the Rotary Club of Felixstowe's contribution is not seen simply as a donation, but as a direct investment in young people's wellbeing. The weekend helped young carers make friends, enjoy new activities, feel recognised and return home with positive memories. It gave them a sense of being valued by their community and reminded them that their own happiness and development matter too.

Youth Development Leader Andrew Rowdon said

"This is the fourth year now that our Rotary Club's money has been well spent in creating lasting benefits for young carers and their families. It has provided practical respite, boosted confidence, strengthened friendships and given children joyful experiences that they would otherwise have missed. The warmth and gratitude in the parents' feedback makes it clear that this support was not only valuable, but very much appreciated".



A New Chapter for Felixstowe Opportunity Group



Felixstowe Opportunity Group (FOG) has entered an exciting new chapter with the completion of a remarkable transformation, creating a fresh, welcoming and inspiring space for children, families and the wider community to enjoy.

Thanks to an incredible partnership with National Highways East, Eurovia Surfacing and more than 75 dedicated volunteers, our much-loved building and garden have been completely revitalised in just four and a half days. Every corner of the centre has been refreshed to create a brighter, more functional environment that will support play, learning and community activities for many years to come.

The project included the creation of a beautiful sensory room, extensive improvements throughout the building, and the complete redesign of our outdoor space into an exciting, accessible garden where children can play, explore and enjoy the outdoors. Existing areas have also been enhanced, creating a space that feels warm, welcoming and full of opportunities for imagination and discovery.

While the transformation has changed how the building looks, it has also strengthened what Felixstowe Opportunity Group has always been about - bringing people together, supporting families and providing a place where everyone is welcome. This project is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when businesses, volunteers and the local community work together with a shared vision. We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed their time, skills and generosity to make it possible. We can't wait to welcome familiar faces and new families alike to experience the new-look FOG and enjoy everything it has to offer.



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Active Felixstowe

Felixstowe Road Runners



The biggest running event in Felixstowe's annual calendar is now just a few weeks away, but there is still time to take part if you have not already registered.

The Richard Bennett Coastal 10, organised by Felixstowe Road Runners, will be taking place on Sunday, September 20 at 9.15am when hundreds of athletes will complete a ten-mile course.

The scenic route takes them along the promenade, passed Landguard Fort and through the nature reserve, then back along the prom, down to Felixstowe Ferry, before returning to the finish line near the pier.

Places are still available, so if you would like to take part, visit <https://my.raceresult.com/393658/> to enter. Alternatively, enter by scanning this QR code

SCAN TO ENTER



www.frr.org.uk

The summer season was a busy one for the road runners, with members participating in the Friday 5 series of five mile races, including the club's own Kirton 5, involving 454 participants.

There was also the annual Ben Jacobs Run-Bike-Run social event, named in memorial to former winner and course record holder Ben.

The FRR coaching team offers a variety of sessions each week.

On Tuesday nights - meet at 6.45pm at Brackenbury Sports Centre on High Road East in Felixstowe for our main club session.

All abilities are welcome.

Interval based at various locations around Felixstowe.



The road runners also provide a juniors' section, which meets on Wednesdays.

If you're interested in volunteering, or know a junior who would like to join, email juniors@frr.org.uk

To join the club, visit <https://frr.org.uk/about/membership/>

Hire the Town Hall for Meetings and Mini-Conferences



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

- Fast WiFi
- Hybrid Meeting Facilities
- Projector, Screen, Microphones & Speakers

Set in a historic building with modern amenities, the Chamber is ideal for seamless in-person and virtual events. Contact us on **01394 288194** to book.



Felixstowe Hockey Club – Hockey for Everyone



Felixstowe Hockey Club is proud to offer hockey for all ages and abilities, and one of our biggest success stories has been the growth of our Walking Hockey programme.

Launched in 2025, Walking Hockey has quickly become a popular community activity, with more than 15 people attending regularly. The sessions are led by our Chairman, Kevin Beckett, whose passion for making hockey accessible has helped people rediscover the sport, improve their physical fitness, boost their mental wellbeing, and make lasting friendships. Whether you've never played before, are returning after many years away or simply want a gentle way to stay active, everyone is welcome.

Our Junior Section is also thriving, welcoming children aged 4 to 14 every Saturday during the season. Under 8s and Under 10s train from 9.00am–10.00am, followed by Under 12s and Under 14s from 10.00am–11.00am. New joiners can enjoy three free sessions, and sticks are available to borrow.

Alongside Walking Hockey and our junior programme, Felixstowe Hockey Club has a successful competitive section with men's and women's teams playing league hockey across the East of England. We are always looking for new players, whether you're an experienced hockey player or never picked up a stick.

We're also keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering, sponsoring the club or simply supporting from the sidelines.

To find out more, visit www.felixstowehockeyclub.co.uk We'd love to welcome you to Felixstowe Hockey Club.



School News



Felixstowe School: Proud of Our Students, Proud to Be Part of Our Town

There is a great deal to celebrate at Felixstowe School as we reflect on another busy and successful year.

Our students continue to impress us with their talent, commitment and willingness to embrace new opportunities. Whether they are performing on stage, representing the school in sport, developing innovative designs or supporting events in the local community, they show us every day why we are so proud to be their school.

One of the most exciting areas of growth has been music. Over the past few years, music has become an increasingly important part of school life, with more students than ever learning an instrument, singing in a choir or performing as part of an ensemble.



Our Be Instrumental! programme has helped to remove financial barriers by giving students access to affordable and, where needed, fully funded instrumental tuition. The number of individual and small-group music lessons taking place each week has risen from just 11 to more than 70, enabling students to learn everything from guitar and piano to brass, woodwind and percussion.

Around 250 students have also taken part in our choirs, including through singing assemblies across Years 7, 8 and 9. Our students have performed alongside local musicians through our partnership with the Landguard Band, taken part in concerts and community events, and represented Felixstowe on a music tour to Belgium, including a moving performance at the Menin Gate.

Students taking their ABRSM music examinations achieved a 100% pass rate, with almost a quarter gaining distinctions. These results are a

wonderful reflection of their hard work and of the dedication of our music staff.

Music is about much more than performances and examination results. It builds confidence, creates friendships and gives young people a powerful sense of belonging. We have seen students who were initially reluctant to perform grow into confident musicians who are now encouraging others to take part.

Creativity, practical learning and innovation are also flourishing through our Design and Technology department.

Felixstowe School has recently been designated as a regional Design and Technology Hub School. This recognises the strength of the work taking place in the department and gives us the opportunity to support and collaborate with other schools across the region.

Our students are developing practical skills in engineering, product design, electronics and manufacturing, while learning how creative ideas can be transformed into real solutions. These are skills that are particularly relevant in a town with such strong links to logistics, engineering, construction, technology and international trade.



We want to build on these links during the coming year by working more closely with employers in Felixstowe and the surrounding area.

In particular, we are keen to hear from local businesses that may be able to offer work-experience placements for our students next summer. Placements do not have to be limited to large organisations or traditional office environments. Our students would benefit from experiencing the full range of employment opportunities available locally, from engineering,

transport and logistics to hospitality, retail, healthcare, creative industries, construction, digital technology and public services.

We would also welcome employers who could support our wider employability programme by visiting the school, talking to students about their careers, conducting practice interviews or helping young people understand the skills, attitudes and qualities that workplaces value.

Our aim is to ensure that students leave Felixstowe School not only with strong qualifications, but also with confidence, ambition and a clear understanding of the opportunities available to them.

We are fortunate to be part of a town with a strong identity and an extraordinary range of businesses, organisations and community groups.

The support shown to our students by local residents, employers, musicians, councillors and volunteers makes a real difference.

We want our young people to feel proud of Felixstowe and to recognise that they have an important contribution to make to its future. In return, we want the school to be visible, active and fully involved in the life of the town.

We remain immensely proud of our students. They are creative, resilient and full of potential. Every concert, exhibition, sporting fixture, examination result and community event gives us another opportunity to celebrate what they can achieve.

Felixstowe School is proud to serve this community, and we look forward to continuing our partnerships across the town in the year ahead.

Felix Primary School

An amazing year at Felix has come to a close, and what a year it has been.

From the very first day, our school values of Pride, Achievement, Resilience and Kindness have been at the heart of everything we do, helping our pupils to learn, grow and succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

This year has been particularly significant as we welcomed our new Headteacher, Mr Hall, to the Felix community. His enthusiasm, vision and commitment to providing the very best opportunities for children have already had a positive impact across the school. Working alongside our dedicated staff, supportive families and wonderful pupils, he has helped continue the strong sense of community that makes Felix Primary School such a special place.

We have also been excited to launch a new partnership with Luke Chambers Football Academy. This collaboration has provided pupils with fantastic opportunities to develop their sporting skills, build confidence and experience high-quality coaching. The partnership reflects our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging children to pursue their passions.

As we look ahead to September, there is plenty to be excited about. Throughout the summer, significant building work is taking place to make our car park safer for families and visitors, while improvements to the playground will create a better space for children to learn and play. Our library is also being refreshed and decorated, ensuring pupils return to a bright and welcoming environment.

We are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved this year and grateful for the support of our families and wider community. We wish everyone a wonderful summer break and look forward to another successful year at Felix Primary School.



Your Community Stories

u3a Felixstowe



The Felixstowe Branch of u3a East Suffolk is about to restart after the summer break with a talk on the wonderful work being done by the Felixstowe Men's Shed. Thursday 1st October is the date for your diary. Coffee and tea is served from 10:00 with the meeting starting promptly at 10:30.

We meet between October and June (Not December), on the first Thursday of the month, in the Salvation Army Hall, Cobbold Road. Free tea, coffee and biscuits!

Everyone is welcome to 'try one meeting before you buy'. Our membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June and the annual subscription is £17.50. By joining, you can take part in groups from petanque, bridge and scrabble to Spanish conversation, Sunday lunches and afternoon teas!

Forthcoming topics for the monthly meetings are:

- 1st October: Felixstowe Men's Shed

- 5th November: Jim Jarvie, former HM Customs investigator

- 7th January Sutton Hoo Ship's Company Helen Everett

- 4th February Mair Wilkins Allied Health Professionals

- 4th March Emma Wilson-Downes Felixstowe School

- 1st April Sizewell C Hannah - Community Relations

- 6th May Jane Stone Harwich Pilot

- 3rd June Don Mobley Apollo 13

For further information, contact Michael Scott Felixstowe Speaker Meeting Coordinator 07498 875778

Felixstowe Wesel Association



The Felixstowe Wesel Association were pleased to welcome the Wesel Fire Cadets in July for their biannual visit. The Cadets had a full week of events planned including visits to Colchester Zoo, London, Ipswich Fire Station, Landguard Fort and Felixstowe Rifle Club. They were also invited for breakfast with The Mayor of Felixstowe at the Town Hall. The highlight for many was taking part in the Felixstowe Carnival Procession. The Cadets were camped at Peewit Caravan Park and on the Wednesday laid on a BBQ for members of the association, which is always a great evening.

Looking ahead, we have our Quiz night on Sat. 24th Oct. at Broadway House. You need a team of 6 and it cost £12 each, including a Ploughman's supper. Booking in advance.



In November we are arranging a visit to the Wesel Christmas Market, leaving Harwich on the evening of 26th November and returning on the 30th. Get in touch if you would like to join us. Rough costings are available on request.

On 6th December we have our annual St Nicklaus Fest Dinner. This will be held at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club. We welcome non-members to this popular event

If you would like to become a member, or for more information on one of our events, then please contact the Secretary, Anthony Malster, at: felixstowe.wesel.assn@gmail.com

Community News | Save The Date



**FELIXSTOWE
CHARITIES
NETWORK**

2nd

FELIXSTOWE CHARITIES SUMMIT

Bringing Charities & Voluntary
Organisations Together

**Felixstowe Charities Summit
returns this November**

**Bringing local charities and
voluntary organisations together**

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026

**| 9.30AM-3PM |
FELIXSTOWE SCHOOL**

**Felixstowe's charities,
not-for-profit
organisations and
voluntary groups are
invited to come together
for the next Felixstowe
Charities Summit, taking
place at Felixstowe
School on Thursday 5
November 2026, from
9.30am to 3pm.**

Building on the success of the network's previous gathering, the summit will offer a welcoming day of shared learning, practical ideas and valuable connections. Representatives from organisations of every size will be able to

exchange experiences, discover new approaches and strengthen relationships across the local voluntary and community sector.

Several learning sessions will run during the day, covering themes designed to support organisations in their everyday work and future development. Full details of the programme and speakers will be announced shortly. The organisers are also keen to hear from potential attendees: if there is a particular topic, challenge or area of interest you would like the summit to explore, please share your suggestion when you get in touch.

Alongside the sessions, there will be plenty of time to meet other Felixstowe charities, not-for-

profits and voluntary groups. Whether your organisation is well established, newly formed or simply looking to connect with others, the summit is an opportunity to build useful partnerships and learn from colleagues serving the same community.

To register your interest and receive further information as it becomes available, email admin@felixstowe-charities-network.org.

Please include the name of your organisation and any subjects you would particularly like to hear about. The Felixstowe Charities Network looks forward to welcoming local organisations for an informative, collaborative and inspiring day in November.

Felixstowe Library - What's on Offer?

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

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. Baby weighing facilities.

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 Funday - On the second Sunday of every 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. 9th Sept, 23rd Sept, 7th Oct, 21st Oct, 4th Nov, 18th Nov, 2nd Dec

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

A drop-in service run by the council to help and support any ESC queries including a Digital Champions drop-in advice sessions for people to access online services.

Room Hire:

- The Hadwen Room - Max 40 people
- The Room at the top - Max 40 people
- Small meeting room - Max 4 people

Opening Hours:

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

The Friends of Felixstowe Library group has supported The Annual Strawberry Cream Tea - this is a "Thank You" to all the wonderful volunteers who help with the Summer Reading Quest. A special thank you to staff member Susan Bracken who works hard to ensure this is always successful.

01394 330850
Out of hours book return is available at this library.

Crescent Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7BY

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/libraries/felixstowe

Email: library.help@suffolk.gov.uk

Already Gearing up for Santa's Tours!

Rotary
Club of Felixstowe



Santa avoided this summer's heatwave as he spent it back at the North Pole, but his elves are still hard at work in preparation for the annual tour of Felixstowe and the surrounding villages. So, when the Rotary Club of Felixstowe and Save the Children had a problem with the lights on

Rudolph's trailer, they called in at Santa's Workshop (Felixstowe Lions Branch) for the repair. Big thanks to the Lions, who have now ensured that our community will see the sleigh's full complement of colourful lights as it makes its way down our roads.

Santa and his helpers are always keen to get assistance for their special visits, so if you are able to get involved with driving, collecting or donning the red suit, we'd love to hear from you. It's the perfect way to get in the mood for the festive season, give back to your community, and raise funds for needy causes!

Please contact Paul Griffiths on p.j.griffiths@btinternet.com



Felixstowe Royal British Legion

On Saturday 20 June the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe Branch celebrated the Armed Forces week, with a celebration in the Triangle. We had numerous military vehicles and an aircraft nose cone. The Sea and Air cadets were out in force collecting funds for the Poppy Appeal. There was a military historian display of WW2 memorabilia. Everyone was treated to 'Veterans Do Dixie' band along with Miss Georgina Bloom, an outstanding 1940's soloist singing an array of wartime music. Everyone had the opportunity to purchase tea/coffees and delicious cakes also provided by the local community.

The Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion ran a soft toy raffle alongside the traditional Poppy Appeal merchandise. Money raised goes to the Felixstowe Poppy Appeal which supports our Armed Forces community, Veterans and their families in their time of need. We would like to thank everyone who participated and attended the event, which clearly demonstrated the ongoing commitment and support of the local Felixstowe community.

Remembrance 2026

Felixstowe will come together this November to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed for their country.

Remembrance Sunday takes place on Sunday 8 November, with the annual service and Act of Remembrance providing an opportunity for residents to pay their respects and lay wreaths in memory of the fallen.



The town will also mark Armistice Day on Wednesday 11 November, with a service at the War Memorial at 11am, when residents are invited to pause for the traditional two-minute silence.

Felixstowe Town Council is working alongside the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion and Felixstowe Remembers to support this year's Remembrance events.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend and join the town in remembering those who gave so much in the service of their country.

- Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 8 November 2026
- Armistice Day - Wednesday 11 November 2026, 11am

Felixstowe: Where Coast, Commerce and Community Meet



Felixstowe has always been a town that looks outward. From its sweeping seafront and rich maritime heritage to the Port of Felixstowe, Britain's busiest container port, our coastal town combines the charm of a traditional seaside destination with the energy of a modern centre for trade.

For visitors, Felixstowe offers miles of beautiful coastline, colourful beach huts, award-winning gardens and plenty of space to walk, cycle and breathe in the sea air. Its fascinating history is visible everywhere, from the magnificent Landguard Fort and historic Martello towers to the elegant architecture of the Spa Pavilion and the stories behind the town's development as a fashionable Edwardian resort.

Yet Felixstowe is much more than its landmarks. Its character

comes alive through the people and independent businesses that make the town their home. Along Hamilton Road, the seafront and throughout our neighbourhoods, independent shops, cafés, restaurants, makers and service providers offer something distinctive, personal and proudly local. Every purchase, meal and recommendation helps these businesses flourish and strengthens the wider Felixstowe economy.

With a busy programme of events, excellent transport links and a warm welcome waiting, Felixstowe is a place to discover, revisit and invest in. Whether you are enjoying fish and chips by the sea, exploring centuries of history, browsing an independent shop or building new commercial connections, there is always another side of Felixstowe to experience.

Come for the coast, stay for the character, and discover a town where tourism, trade and community thrive together for residents and visitors alike.



Local Councils and Police Join Forces to Modernise Felixstowe's CCTV



A significant investment by Felixstowe Town Council has helped deliver a major upgrade to the town's CCTV network, providing enhanced security for residents, businesses and visitors.

Working in close partnership with East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Constabulary, Felixstowe Town Council committed £42,000 from its reserves towards the project, helping to fund a state-of-the-art CCTV system that strengthens public safety across the town centre.

The upgraded network, delivered by East Suffolk Council following extensive engagement with Suffolk Constabulary and Felixstowe Town Council, includes 39 cameras, with 16 ageing cameras replaced by new Ultra High Definition (UHD) technology. The enhanced cameras provide sharper images and wider coverage of key locations and crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots.

The new system is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by West Suffolk Council, which is contracted by East Suffolk Council to monitor, record and maintain CCTV operations. Since becoming operational earlier this month, the upgraded network has already assisted Suffolk Constabulary with a number of incidents involving crime, anti-social behaviour and traffic.

The project is the culmination of many months of work by Felixstowe Town Council's dedicated CCTV Working Group, which worked closely with East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Constabulary to develop and deliver the scheme.

Cllr Darren Aitchison, Mayor of Felixstowe, said:

"The completion of this CCTV upgrade is a significant achievement for Felixstowe, only made possible through close collaboration. Felixstowe Town Council's dedicated CCTV Working Group has worked tirelessly alongside East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Constabulary to guide this project from its early concepts to full delivery. By committing £42,000 of our local reserves to this joint investment, we have ensured our town is equipped with a truly state-of-the-art security network.

"It is extremely encouraging that, within just a short time of becoming operational, the new system has already supported the reporting of local incidents. With the cameras now being actively monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, this modern system will play a vital role in deterring crime and anti-social behaviour, whilst supporting our local policing teams in responding quickly and effectively.

"This is a positive step towards making Felixstowe an even safer, more welcoming, and vibrant place for everyone who lives, works, and visits here."

Cllr Jan Candy, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health, said:

"Improvements to our CCTV provision, together with the recent Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering parts of the town, will help residents and visitors feel safer, more secure and more confident when spending time in Felixstowe. We'd like to thank Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk Police for their investment, support and partnership in delivering this important upgrade."

Felixstowe Lions Club

Felixstowe Lions Club would like to announce several exciting updates for the club.

Car Boot Sales has moved to the grounds of Felixstowe Museum. It's on every Saturday, from 9.00am until 1.00pm. The Lions hope the new location will prove popular and looks forward to welcoming sellers and visitors.

The club has also welcomed Stephen Payne as a new member, making our club a healthy one, but always welcoming others. The Lions thanked Graham Phelps for his contribution and welcomed Lorraine Cole as new President.

Meanwhile, the Lions have confirmed that their Dog Show has been rescheduled for Sunday, 27 September. Further details will be announced by the club in due course.

And we can't forget our most exciting time of the year Christmas Lighting Up Day 2026. We are looking for local singers and bands to provide live entertainment. The event will take place in the centre of Felixstowe on Saturday, 28 November 2026,



Organisers are looking for solo singers, groups and bands who can perform a 15-, 20- or 25-minute set, consisting predominantly of Christmas material.

A stage and sound system will be provided, solo singers requiring backing tracks or accompaniment can bring their own arrangements.

Anyone interested in performing is asked to email flxchristmas@rayners.org.uk with a brief description of their act and a link to a live recording, video of a previous performance or demonstration recording.

The deadline for applications is the end of September.

For more information about the Felixstowe Lions Club or to get involved, visit felixstowelions.org.uk



Felixstowe's UK Town of Culture 2028 Bid Leaves a Lasting Legacy

Felixstowe's bid to become UK Town of Culture 2028 has left a lasting legacy of collaboration, ambition and partnership, despite the town not progressing to the next stage of the national competition. Felixstowe Town Council has thanked everyone who contributed to the bid and helped showcase the town's vibrant cultural offer.

Although the town will not progress to the next stage of the process, the bid has been a significant collaborative achievement, bringing together local organisations, artists, businesses, community groups and residents to develop a shared vision for Felixstowe's cultural future.

The bid celebrated Felixstowe as a place Where the World Arrives, highlighting the town's rich heritage, thriving cultural scene, coastal identity and strong community spirit. It showcased the breadth of creative activity taking place across the town and demonstrated the ambition to build on this success in the years ahead.

Throughout the process, a dedicated steering group worked alongside Felixstowe Town Council and partners to shape the bid, drawing on local knowledge, expertise and lived experience to create a compelling submission that reflected the town's unique character.

The bid has already strengthened partnerships across the town and created new opportunities for collaboration. The ideas, relationships and momentum generated throughout the process will continue to support cultural projects and future funding opportunities, ensuring that the work undertaken leaves a positive and lasting legacy.

The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Darren Aitchison, said: "While we are naturally disappointed not to have been shortlisted, I am incredibly proud of the bid that was submitted and grateful to everyone who contributed to it. The response from our community has been inspiring, and the process has brought

together a remarkable network of people and organisations who share a passion for Felixstowe's cultural future."

David Gledhill, Chair of the Town of Culture Steering Group, said:

"Although we are disappointed not to have progressed to the next stage, I believe Felixstowe has already achieved something special. This bid brought together people and organisations from every part of our community behind a shared ambition for the town. We demonstrated that culture is not simply about events, but about creating opportunities, strengthening communities and celebrating what makes Felixstowe unique. The ideas and enthusiasm

generated through this process must not be lost. We now have a strong platform from which to develop new projects and continue building a vibrant cultural future for everyone who lives in, works in or visits Felixstowe."

Felixstowe Town Council would like to thank every organisation, volunteer, artist, business, community group and resident who supported the bid. Their enthusiasm, creativity and commitment helped showcase the very best of Felixstowe and demonstrated the strength of the town's cultural community.

The full DCMS announcement and shortlist can be viewed at: www.gov.uk/government/news/shortlist-for-uk-town-of-culture-revealed.

Felixstowe Town Council Raises Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day



The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Darren Aitchison, raised the Red Ensign in the Town Hall Gardens at 10am today to mark Merchant Navy Day and recognise the vital contribution of the men and women who serve at sea.

Merchant Navy Day provides an opportunity to remember those who have served in the Merchant Navy, as well as to thank those currently working at sea and the families and shore-based workers who support them.

The Merchant Navy has a particularly important connection with

Felixstowe, home to the UK's busiest container port. The port and its maritime links play a central role in the town's economy, supporting thousands of jobs and connecting Felixstowe with communities and businesses around the world.

The Mayor of Felixstowe said:

"Here in Felixstowe, the contribution of the Merchant Navy is felt more deeply than most. The ships that berth here, the crews who sail them, and the global trade they support are central to our identity. By raising the Red Ensign today, we offer our thanks to those who serve at sea, those who support them on shore, and the families who shoulder the long absences and uncertainties that maritime life can bring."

The Red Ensign also serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in service. Among the names on Felixstowe War Memorial are Second Officer Edwin Jeans and Able Seaman John Simmen, two Merchant Navy men who died during the Second World War.

By raising the Red Ensign, Felixstowe pays tribute to all those who have served and continue to serve at sea.



Investing in Our Future: Upgrading Felixstowe Cemetery for Generations to Come



Felixstowe Town Council is continuing its long-term investment in the town's civic facilities, with significant improvements soon to get underway at Felixstowe Cemetery on Langley Avenue.

The work will see the cemetery's main entrance transformed, replacing the existing temporary gates and ageing boundary fencing with permanent, bespoke features designed to provide a fitting and lasting entrance to this important community site.

A Lasting Welcome

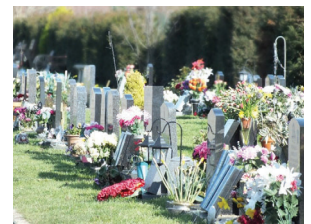
The new entrance has been carefully designed to reflect the dignity and character of the cemetery. It will feature ornate galvanised steel gates, finished with a durable black powder coating, together with a new permanent boundary arrangement.

Planning permission for the new layout has been granted by East Suffolk Council, and manufacturing of the new gates is now underway.

The improvements will not only enhance the appearance of the entrance but will also provide a more secure and welcoming approach for those visiting the cemetery.

Planning for the Future

The entrance improvements are part of a wider programme of investment and forward planning for the cemetery.



Alongside the entrance project, work continues on the cemetery extension, an important long-term initiative that will help ensure Felixstowe has sufficient burial capacity to meet the needs of the local community for decades to come.

Together, these projects demonstrate the Town Council's commitment to looking after the cemetery today while planning responsibly for future generations.

By investing in the site's infrastructure, the Council is helping to maintain a cemetery that is secure, accessible and appropriately cared for, while ensuring that its facilities continue to meet the needs of the community.

Visiting During the Works

Pedestrian and vehicle access to Felixstowe Cemetery will remain open throughout the installation works.

For further information about local infrastructure projects and Town Council services, please visit felixstowe.gov.uk or contact the Felixstowe Town Council offices.

DO YOU HAVE A BRIGHT IDEA TO BENEFIT
FELIXSTOWE?
APPLY FOR OCCASIONAL GRANT FUNDING
FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL BY
30 SEPTEMBER 2026.
MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION
FORM CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.FELIXSTOWE.GOV.UK/GRANTS

BRIGHT IDEAS TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY



ARE YOU A
COMMUNITY GROUP OR
ORGANISATION IN
FELIXSTOWE?

WITH A
BRIGHT IDEA
TO BENEFIT
THE TOWN?

APPLY FOR
OCCASIONAL
GRANT
FUNDING!

THE
DEADLINE IS
30
SEPTEMBER!



Supporting Felixstowe's Community with Occasional Grant Funding



Felixstowe Town Council is continuing its support for the many local groups, charities and organisations that help make Felixstowe a vibrant, caring and active community through its Occasional Grants programme.

For 2026/27, the Town Council has made £35,000 available to support community organisations that can demonstrate a clear need for financial assistance and whose projects provide a specific benefit to local residents. The Council is particularly keen to hear about environmental initiatives that will help enhance and protect the town.

The grants can support a wide range of projects and activities, including equipment, improvements to existing facilities, training, start-up costs and community events. The scheme helps local organisations turn good ideas into projects that make a real difference.

Recent awards demonstrate the breadth of activity supported by the programme, with grants helping organisations working across health and wellbeing, arts and culture, community activities and the environment.

Previous projects funded by Felixstowe Town Council have included:



• **Walton Parish Nursing** received funding towards improvements to its office kitchen area, helping to create a warmer, safer and more welcoming

space for clients who cannot be seen in their own homes. The grant has helped fund a new kitchenette, shelving, curtains and heating, making the space more comfortable for those seeking physical, mental or spiritual support.

• **Pier Projects** received £200 towards bursary places for local arts practitioners to attend Social Mini: Exploring Socially-engaged practice in the



Pier PROJECTS

East. The sold-out event brought more than 60 artists and practitioners together in Felixstowe to explore how creative projects can address local needs, including health inequalities, support for young people and the climate emergency. The bursary funding helped remove financial barriers for local practitioners and has already contributed to new connections, conversations and potential partnerships.



BEING WELL



IN SUFFOLK

• **Being Well in Suffolk CIC** received £450 towards room hire and publicity for free wellbeing activities in Felixstowe. The funding supported a 'Belief Change' workshop, helping participants challenge unhelpful thinking, and the ongoing Men's Walk and Talk group, which brings together 10 or more local men each week for conversation, companionship and a one-hour walk.

• **Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens** used its grant to purchase new gardening tools. The equipment is being used during the group's weekly Wednesday morning volunteer gardening sessions, which regularly attract local volunteers and make a significant difference to the amount

of work the group can undertake. The new tools have supplemented existing equipment and replaced worn-out items, including much-needed secateurs.



• **Pedal Felixstowe** received a £400 grant to purchase two specialist heavy-duty bike racks, enabling the inclusive community cycle club to transport e-bikes as well as standard bicycles. The new equipment will allow members to enjoy rides further afield, including gentle off-road routes in the Tunstall and Rendlesham forestry areas, extending the range of destinations available to riders.

Any properly constituted group, club or organisation based in Felixstowe, or operating for the benefit of its residents, can apply. Applicants must be a charity, voluntary organisation, Community Interest Company or other not-for-profit organisation, with a constitution or set of rules and a bank account requiring at least two unrelated signatories.

The Council considers applications three times a year, with deadlines of 31 May, 30 September and 31 January.

The Occasional Grants programme is an important way for the Town Council to invest directly in the people and organisations making a difference in Felixstowe. From supporting volunteers and community groups to encouraging environmental action and helping new projects get off the ground, the scheme reflects the strength and diversity of local community life.

If your organisation has an idea that could benefit Felixstowe residents, the Town Council would like to hear from you. Full guidance, eligibility information and application forms are available on the Felixstowe Town Council website. Email debbie.frost@felixstowe.gov.uk for more information.

Could your project make a difference to Felixstowe?
The next Occasional Grants deadline is 30 September 2026.

Walton Community Hall – A Venue for the Whole Community



Looking for an affordable and welcoming venue for a meeting, class, party or community event? Walton Community Hall could be just the place.

Situated on Walton High Street, the hall is a much-loved part of the local community and has an interesting history dating back to 1886, when it was built as a meeting place for the Ancient Order of Foresters. Today, the Victorian building has been transformed into a modern and versatile community venue, while retaining its character and importance to the area.

The hall has recently benefited from a major programme of improvements, including solar panels and battery storage, a new air source heat pump, Wi-Fi and improvements to energy efficiency. The hall has also been refreshed internally, creating a bright and welcoming space for hirers.

The main hall measures 9.6m x 9.6m and features a large wooden floor, making it suitable for a wide variety of activities. There is also a modern kitchen, toilets, wet room and disabled facilities.



As well as the main hall, the building has a small, private room upstairs which can be hired separately. This provides a useful space for one-to-one meetings, work sessions, advice surgeries, consultations and other professional or community-based activities where a quieter and more private setting is required.

The hall is already well used by local groups, including Scouts, Cubs

and Beavers, dance and exercise classes, as well as exhibitions and meetings. However, there is plenty of opportunity for new groups, organisations and individuals to make use of this community facility.

Walton Community Hall is available to hire during the daytime, evenings and at weekends throughout the year, making it suitable for regular bookings as well as one-off events.

Whether you are looking for somewhere to run a weekly class, hold a community meeting, organise a children's party or simply bring people together, the hall offers a

practical and accessible local venue.

With its combination of history, modern facilities and recent environmental improvements, Walton Community Hall is ready to welcome the community for many years to come.

To enquire about hiring the hall or to check availability, contact Sarah Morrison on 01394 288194 or email sarah.morrison@felixstowe.gov.uk.

Walton Community Hall

274 High Street, Walton, Felixstowe, IP11 9DS



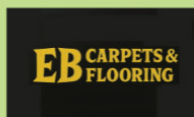
Thank you to the
sponsors of

**Felixstowe
in flower**

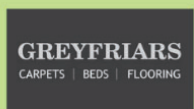
2026



DAVID BUTTON
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS



**The Felixstowe
Society**





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



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL

OCCASIONAL GRANT FUNDING NEXT DEADLINE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

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