



# The Felixstowe Society Newsletter

**Issue Number 104**

**Contents**

**1 September 2013**

2	<b>The Felixstowe Society</b>
3	<b>Notes from the Chairman</b>
4	<b>We need your help - new Secretary</b>
5	<b>Subscriptions for 2013 and 2014</b>
6	<b>Presentation to Philip Johns</b>
6	<b>Minutes of the AGM</b>
8	<b>Presentation of Environmental Awards</b>
9	<b>Details of the Awards</b>
12	<b>Talk by the writer Ruth Dugdale</b>
13	<b>Contribution to Level Two</b>
14	<b>Hitler's Vengeance Weapons - talk by John Pyle</b>
15	<b>Free National Trust and English Heritage passes</b>
16	<b>Visit to the Royal Albert Hall</b>
17	<b>Abbeygrove - Felixstowe's Community Woodland</b>
18	<b>Beachwatch - Saturday 21 September</b>
19	<b>Guided walk around Woodbridge - Thursday 3 October</b>
19	<b>Local history talks and guided walks</b>
20	<b>Ocean Terrace, Felixstowe</b>
24	<b>Abbeygrove and Felixstowe Ferry Walks</b>
26	<b>Felixstowe Walkers - diary</b>
27	<b>Bethesda Baptist Church - Felixstowe</b>
28	<b>Megs Jenkins - actress</b>
31	<b>Commenting on Planning Applications</b>
32	<b>Planning Applications</b>
35	<b>The Grace Spitfire</b>
37	<b>Advance Notice - January Quiz</b>
37	<b>The Changing Face of .....</b>
38	<b>2013 and 2014 programme</b>
39	<b>Join the Society</b>

**Registered Charity No. 277442**





# The Felixstowe Society

The Felixstowe Society (founded 1978) is established for the public benefit of people who live or work in Felixstowe and Walton. Members are also very welcome from the Trimleys and the surrounding villages. The Society endeavours to:

**stimulate public interest in these areas,  
promote high standards of planning and architecture  
and secure the improvement, protection, development  
and preservation of the local environment.**

**Chairman:** Roger Baker, 5 Princes Gardens, Felixstowe, IP11 7RH, 282526

**Vice Chairman:** Philip Hadwen, 54 Fairfield Ave., Felixstowe, IP11 9JJ, 286008

**Secretary:** Vacancy

**Treasurer:** Susanne Barsby, 1 Berners Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7LF, 276602

## **Membership Subscriptions**

Annual Membership - single £7

Joint Membership - two people at same address £10

Corporate Membership (for local organisations  
who wish to support the Society)

Non - commercial £15

Commercial £20

Young people under the age of 18 free

The subscription runs from the 1 January.

The **Membership Secretary** is Betty Woollan, The Pines, Manor Road,  
Trimley St Mary, Felixstowe, IP11 0TU.

Members are reminded that the Society's booklets **The Cotman Walk** and  
**Walking around Felixstowe** are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

The next **Newsletter** will be distributed by the delivery team at the beginning of  
January.

**Editor:** Tony Hughes

## Notes from the Chairman

As The Society's new Chairman, it might be appropriate for me to give you a very potted CV so that you know where I've come from:-

- ❑ Moved to Felixstowe with wife, Meg, in 1969 to work for Fisons in their Corporate Planning Department
- ❑ Spent four years in Saudi Arabia working on development projects for the Saudi royal family
- ❑ Last job before retiring in 2008 was International Trade Advisor for companies in Suffolk

On behalf of the Committee, I would like say a big thank you to Phil Hadwen for the wonderful job he has done over the last few months as Acting Chairman. His knowledge of Felixstowe and his contacts in the town are truly amazing and I shall be relying heavily on him as our Vice Chairman.

And it's not just Phil: the thing that has struck me most forcibly since I joined the Committee is the dedication and the hard work which is done not just by the Committee but also by a large number of non-Committee members who perform their allotted tasks year in year out and make our Society run so smoothly.

One of my own personal tasks is to set up a website for The Society which will enable members to access up-to-date information easily. I have already presented a "first draft" to the Committee and we hope to launch within the next couple of months. It will, of course, be your website so if you want to suggest any changes or additions, please do so when you see the first draft.

Here are some of the new things that are happening:-

The Felixstowe Walkers have become an affiliated organisation. The walks are a development of the "NHS Health Walks". The Mayor started the first walk, under the umbrella of The Felixstowe Society, on 15 May. Their programme of walks will be published in the Newsletter.

Keith and Elizabeth Horn have been working hard to arrange an interesting series of Visits & Events (see the programme in this Newsletter). For the first time we are looking at offering next year a two-day trip to Leeds Castle and Winston Churchill's home, Chartwell, with an overnight stop en route. The raffle at the ever-popular Annual Dinner raised £130 which was donated to Level 2, a Felixstowe organisation which provides help and support to young people in the 10 to 25 age range.

I attended my first meeting of The Society's Planning Group which monitors planning applications and advises the Town and District Councils of The Society's views. One particular application concerned a major development of the derelict Hamilton House site (between Harvest House and Cliff House) which will have a huge impact on the town's cliff frontage. We expressed deep concerns about the scale and the architectural insensitivity of the developers' plans, a view which we were pleased to learn was echoed by the District Council's Planning Department.

Membership of The Society now stands at about 500. The following new members are very welcome,

Patricia Adams, Jane and Anthony Allen, Linda and Anthony Arthur, Jean Ayre, Surjit Birdy, Mary Bolton, Jenny Brabazon, Linda Bradford, June Campbell, Pam and Alan Cooper, Beryl Crabbe, Verena and Dick Daniels, Jean Dodge, Janet and Laurence Gilbert, Derek Johnson, Gwen Kadrnka, Shirley and Barry Little, Gillian Nash, Heather and Anthony Ramsey, Rosie and John Ranson, Daryl Read, Bridget and Derek Ricketts, Ina Roskams, Maureen Smy, Mary and Bryan Stephens, Pat Todd, Hilary Twomey, Althea and John Unthank, Mike and Jackie Warren, Carolyn and Stephen Woodrow, Jean Young.

We have been informed of the death of Mike McKeon who was not only a member but also gave a talk at one of our Speaker Meetings on early settlements in Suffolk. Two other members are sadly no longer with us: Robert Corker and Felicity Blackwood.

My contact details are given on page 2 of this Newsletter; please contact me directly if you have any comments or suggestions which you think might benefit our Society.

## **Roger Baker**

### **We need your help**

The Felixstowe Society's Secretary, Laurence McDonald, has decided to retire as Secretary but will remain on the Committee and we are looking for a new Secretary to join us.

In broad terms, the Secretary's duties are to ensure that The Society conforms to the rules and regulations which govern the way it operates and to act as the focal point for communications which The Society receives from outside organisations.

As you can probably gather, the person would need to be well organised and have a good eye for detail. The rewards would be to play an important role in the running of The Society and to make a valuable input to the Committee's work.

If you are interested, contact Keith Horn for an informal 'no commitment' discussion on

01394 270845 or

Email: [kjandehorn@btinternet.com](mailto:kjandehorn@btinternet.com)

## **Subscriptions for 2013 and 2014**

Our records show that quite a few members of The Society have not renewed their subscriptions for 2013 which were due on January 1st of this year. Subscriptions are for each calendar year. Normally, if subscriptions for any year have not been paid by September at the latest, lapsed members will not receive the September Newsletter; however, for this year we have made an exception and have sent this September Newsletter to non-payers so that they see this reminder.

If you have not yet renewed for 2013, please send your cheque (£7 single or £10 joint, made payable to "The Felixstowe Society") to:-

Betty Woollan  
Membership Secretary  
The Pines  
Manor Road  
Trimley St Mary  
IP11 0TU

(Enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like a receipt)

If you have not already applied for Gift Aid status (which enables The Society to claim back tax on your subscription), please use the form at the back of this Newsletter to do so.

You can, of course, continue to pay your subscription by cheque in future years but why not set up a direct debit to pay it from next year onwards? It's so much simpler. Choose a date some time in January 2014 for the annual debit to start and give your bank The Society's bank details:-

### **The Felixstowe Society's Bank Details**

Barclays Bank  
Account Name: Felixstowe Society  
Account number: 40380539  
Sort code: 20-98-07

You can cancel the direct debit at any time should you wish to do so.

It would help us if you would let Susanne Barsby, our Treasurer, know that you've set up the direct debit; email her on [smbarsby@talktalk.net](mailto:smbarsby@talktalk.net) or 01394276602

We hope that you decide to renew.



### **Presentation to Philip Johns**

In recognition of Philip's hard work over the years as Chairman of The Felixstowe Society and his major contribution to The Society's success, the Committee held an informal reception after their July meeting to thank Philip and to give him a voucher to spend on wine – he is something of a wine connoisseur so the gift was much appreciated.

## **Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 21 May 2013**

1. Apologies were received from: R Baker, S Barton, J Beckett, T & R Bugg, D & E Crawford, R & J Hawkins, J Hedges, B Mathews, P Mee, A & J Reeve, Mrs M Sharman, Mr M Sharman and J Woollan

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 15 May 2012:

A motion to accept the Minutes was proposed by P Brown and seconded by L McDonald.

3. Annual Report for 2012:

A motion to accept the report was proposed by A Hughes and seconded by S Barsby.

4. Annual Accounts for 2012:

A motion was proposed and seconded to accept the accounts.

5. Election of Officers, Executive Committee, and Independent Examiner

A. Election of Officers      Nominations:-

Chairman	Roger Baker
Vice Chairman	Philip Hadwen
Secretary	Laurence McDonald
Treasurer	Susanne Barsby

The election of the above officers was proposed and seconded.

B. Election of Committee Members

The following members were proposed and seconded:-

Megan Baker, Beverley Boyce, David Crawford, Laurence Gilbert, Trish Hann, Judith Hedges, Elizabeth Horn and Keith Horn,

## 6. The Felixstowe Society Awards for the Enhancement of the Environment.

Awards were presented by Phil Hadwen to: (photos on page 8)

- Tim and Maria Brennan for their new build house at 1 Links Avenue.
- Suffolk Coastal for the new sea defences at Cobbolds Point
- The Bethesda Baptist Church received a commendation for the building and renovation of their building.

## 7. Any Other Business

Phil Hadwen expressed his thanks on behalf of The Society for the excellent work that Philip Johns did during his eight years as Chairman.

The Committee were thanked by Phil Hadwen for their support, particularly over the last six months.

John and Betty Woollan were thanked for the invaluable job that they do as Membership Secretaries. Thanks went also to Tony Hughes for producing the Newsletter and to Susanne Barsby for her proof reading.

Keith and Elizabeth Horn were thanked for all their hard work during the year, organising the trips, the Annual Dinner, and beach clean.

It was reported that there had been a large increase in membership during the last year.

A request was made for members to volunteer to write up "Speaker Evenings".

Keith Horn informed the meeting that the next beach clean is on 5<sup>th</sup> June. He also gave advanced warning of an overnight trip to Chartwell and Leeds Castle in 2014.

On behalf of The Society and the Committee, Keith Horn expressed thanks to Phil Hadwen for his work as Acting Chairman. This was seconded from the floor. Phil Hadwen was presented with a book voucher as a token of our appreciation.

The formal business of the meeting closed at 20.00.

There followed a talk by Ruth Dugdall. (see page 12)

**Presentation of the Environmental Awards  
by Phil Hadwen our Chairman on the Day**



**To Tim Brennan for the new build house at 1 links Avenue**

**To Councillor Andy Smith representing SCDC for the new sea defences at Cobbolds Point**



**To The Reverend Peter Croft representing Bethesda Baptist Church for the sympathetic expansion of the church**

*(facsimiles of the Award certificates are on the next three pages)*



# The Felixstowe Society



## Award for the Enhancement of the Environment

presented to

*Tim and Maria Brennan*

for the

*New House at 1 Links Avenue*

Architect : Robert Allerton

Builder : Elliston Steady  
& Hawes

Phil Hadwen

Chairman



# The Felixstowe Society



## Award for the Enhancement of the Environment

presented to

*Suffolk Coastal District Council*

for the

*New walkway around Cobbolds Point  
and the sea defences*

Designer : Mott MacDonald

Phil Hadwen

Builder : VolkerStevin

Chairman



# The Felixstowe Society



## Commendation for the Enhancement of the Environment

presented to

*Bethesda Baptist Church*

for a

*Sympathetic expansion of the church  
fusing the older structure with the new*

Architect : Stephen Claydon

Phil Hadwen

Builder : Elliston Steady  
& Hawes

Chairman



## **‘Send me anywhere and I will go’**

A local author with a passion for writing and an enthusiasm for using local locations in her stories were features of a fascinating talk given by Ruth Dugdall after the AGM.

Ruth’s arrival in Felixstowe as a teenager was not plain sailing but an English degree at Warwick University, followed by training as a Probation Officer gave her the confidence - and the material to embark on a writing career.

To Ruth the location of her novels is as important as the characters. She noted other authors who also used the setting as a feature of their writing. As a fan of Scandinavian Crime Noir I was intrigued by her notion that Felixstowe is as ‘cut off’ as the locations to be found in the books of Mankell, Fossum or Lackberg.

Ruth considers the psychological, ‘dark underbelly’ of life in her writing and uses locations to reflect this. She has set scenes in a Felixstowe of ‘shut-down shops, derelict out of season streets hard by the grimy, grey North Sea’.

Her experiences of working at Hollesley Bay with Category A youngsters, in the wake of the Bulger case, and the tough caseload of a Probation Officer give her novels the authenticity lacking in other novels of a similar genre. The award of the Crime Writers’ Association Debut Dagger for ‘A Woman Before Me’ was followed by rejection from major publishers but eventually it was published in 2010.

Five years is the amount of time Ruth takes to complete a novel and she was refreshingly candid about her obsession with planning exactly how many words she would write each day.

Ruth has never turned down an invitation to talk about her work, whether it be 7 people in Henley-on-Thames or book signings which she notes can be ‘terrible’ for unknown authors. She will go anywhere to talk about her books and novel writing. Ruth has now started a new novel ‘Humber Boy B’ in which she links the setting of Hull with Felixstowe.

A local author who feels that she is ‘on the cusp just getting there’, Ruth feels proud to be part of Felixstowe and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Felixstowe Book Festival.

### **Bev Boyce**



**Ruth signs her books**

## Contribution to Level Two

The proceeds from the raffle held at The Society's Annual Dinner on 22 April amounted to £130. The Committee unanimously decided to give this as a donation to the Level Two organisation.

Level Two has been working with young people in Felixstowe for 10 years from its premises (The "Hub") above Tesco in Hamilton Road. It relies entirely on voluntary grants to support its activities which need approximately £100,000 a year to continue, even at the current level. It offers a wide range of help and support to youngsters in the 10-25 age bracket; Level Two's engagement starts when they move from primary to secondary education which has been identified as a crucial transition point at which help needs to begin. Their activities include:-

- ❑ Health advice
- ❑ Mentoring
- ❑ Teaching living skills
- ❑ Job search and application advice
- ❑ Young mother support
- ❑ A quiet and supportive place to do homework
- ❑ Entertainment and holiday activities
- ❑ Providing a safe environment for meeting and socialising
- ❑ Opportunities for creative arts and music

These activities are managed by two full-time staff: Shez Southernwood (Project Manager) and Wendy O'Connor ((Project Administrator) but they rely on a large number of volunteers to offer specialist skills and supervision. They have ambitious plans for expanding the range of support they provide to local young people but, as always, this can only be achieved if more funding can be raised.

For more information or to offer support, visit Level Two's website [www.leveltwo.org](http://www.leveltwo.org) or email, [fydglevel2@btconnect.com](mailto:fydglevel2@btconnect.com).

### Roger Baker



**Roger Baker, our Chairman,  
presents the cheque to  
Shez Southernwood.**

**Also present were,  
Elizabeth Horn  
Susanne Barsby  
Keith Horn  
Wendy O'Connor  
Laurence McDonald**

# Hitler's Vengeance Weapons

Talk by John Pyle on 26 March 2013

Our speaker John Pyle, a member of Colchester Engineering Society, gave an illustrated review of Hitler's so-called vengeance weapons. He set this in the context of Germany's rearmament after World War 1 and Hitler's desire for propaganda to improve the morale of the Germans whilst reducing the morale of the people living in his target areas. John noted that the restrictions placed upon German rearmament by the Treaty of Versailles (1919) led to the building of pocket battleships and to some extent concentrated German efforts towards research and development of rocket technology instead of conventional weapons.

The first production weapon was the V-1, commonly known in Britain as a 'doodlebug' or 'buzz bomb'. This was, in effect, an early cruise missile as it flew at a fairly constant speed of about 400 mph under the power of a pulse-jet engine. It was launched from ramps on the ground; the course was set before launch with a magnetic compass mechanism. The first V-1s were launched against London in summer 1944. V-1s were also aimed at Southampton, Liege and Lille.

John discussed in some detail the defence mechanisms which were employed against the V-1. Attempting to intercept and shoot them down in air proved to be a hazardous procedure as the explosion from the V-1 could also take out the intercepting aircraft. More successful was a technique of flying very close to the V-1 and using the airflow over the interceptor's wing to tip the V-1 off course into a dive. Some V-1s were successfully destroyed short of their intended target by anti-aircraft fire from the ground and by the use of barrage balloons.

It was also noted that in the intelligence war, German double agents in Britain were instructed to indicate that the V-1s were tending to overshoot the centre of London. This resulted in the V-1s' odometers being re-calibrated before launch and as a result a larger than expected number of V-1s fell on South London and Kent, instead of central London. Members of the audience from Croydon and Orpington attested to this observation in comments after the presentation.

The V-2 was a ballistic rocket. It had a velocity approximately three times the speed of sound, so it was impossible to shoot down using interceptor fighters or anti-aircraft fire from the ground. It also could be launched from a small area of hard standing. Although it needed approximately 50 support trucks, these were difficult to spot from the air if hidden in a wooded area. It was only fuelled for 60 seconds and then went into a parabolic trajectory towards its target. With the V-2 travelling so fast, an observer on the ground might see the effect of the impact, but only later hear the sound of the explosion. From September 1944, it was used as a terror weapon against Paris and then against Antwerp, Liege and London.

John went on to discuss proposed developments, including the addition of wings to the V-2 which would have extended the range but these were not put into production. There were also plans for a two-stage rocket which might have been capable of reaching New York.



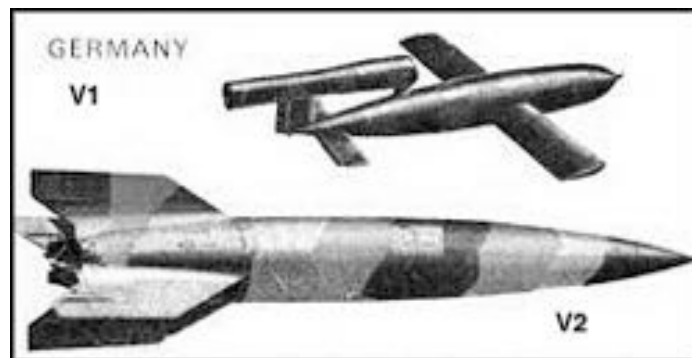
The V-3 weapon was a long-range gun which it had been planned to use against London and Antwerp. John explained with the use of diagrams how sequential firing of the gun was designed to occur as the 6" shell travelled along the barrel but there were timing problems. The V-3 required fixed operational sites. RAF Bomber Command 617 squadron, the 'Dambusters', were able to put the main site at Mimoyecques out of action.

John's V-4 was the Reichenberg flying bomb which he explained was essentially a piloted version of the V-1. It was very little used, partly because the pilot was likely to be killed or, at best, come down behind enemy lines.

Rounding off, John commented on some developments after the end of the war. In particular, that the US Navy used a form of V-1 launched from a submarine and a number of V-2s were taken back to the USA for further study. Many German scientists subsequently emigrated to the USA and worked on the US space programme.

Those present warmly thanked John Pyle for his clear, comprehensive presentation. It was an account which needed to include some technical detail, but which seemed to be pitched at just the right level for the general audience.

## John Beckett



## Free National Trust and English Heritage Day Passes

The Society's affiliation to Civic Voice means that its members can apply for day passes giving free access to any National Trust or English Heritage property.

**National Trust** passes can be obtained by writing to Gill Roxborough, Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, with contact details and mentioning membership of The Felixstowe Society. This pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.

To download the **English Heritage** pass, visit <http://tinyurl.com/civicinglish> offer. The pass is valid for one visit per Civic Voice member and is intended as a personal benefit and therefore not valid as part of a group visit. The pass, which is *not* transferable, is valid until 31 January 2014. If you don't have internet access, you can apply by post, enclosing a SAE, to the address given above for National Trust passes.

## Laurence McDonald

## Visit to the Royal Albert Hall

Tuesday 18 June 2013

By changing to Plan B we arrived at The Nation's Village Hall aka Royal Albert Hall of Sciences and Arts earlier than arranged which gave Charles one of our allocated guides the opportunity to take us back through the South porch and explain the importance of this area when developed in the mid 1800s. When we turned back towards the Royal Albert Hall and looked more closely at the exterior of this Italianate style building opened by Queen Victoria in March 1871, the glazed dome glistened in the bright sunlight. It is supported by iron framework made in Manchester and transported to London in sections by horse and cart and when lowered into position was just 5/16" out of true. Below the 135' high dome is an inscription in 12" terracotta letters that combine historical fact and Biblical quotations starting with 'This hall was erected for the advancement of the arts and sciences and works of industry of all nations in fulfilment of the intention of Albert Prince Consort' and ending 'The wise and their works are in the hand of God. Glory be to God on high and on earth peace.' Beneath this is a great mosaic frieze, depicting 'The Triumph of Arts and Sciences' in reference to the Hall's dedication in the form of 16 subjects including Music, Engineering, Sculpture, Pottery and Glassmaking.

Our other guide had arrived while Charles was explaining that as the result of a £20 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund the largest project was the building of the new south porch door 12. This enables underground access for up to 3 HGVs carrying all the equipment needed for the many events staged in the Hall and has saved nearby residents many sleepless nights. We sat down to view a video before continuing along the corridor which follows the elliptical curve of the building frequently stopping to gaze at the numerous pictures and photographs of previous events that adorn the walls. It was Golden Oldie time as we recognised the celebrities of yesteryear; boxers, ballroom and ballet dancers, opera, classical and rock stars, tennis, table tennis, squash and basketball players though I didn't know any of the Sumo wrestling competitors. Memories came flooding back of the Miss World pageant finals held here from 1969 to 1988, various musicals, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Royal Variety Performance in 2012 and the Eurovision Song Contest hosted by the BBC in 1968 after Sandie Shaw won the Contest the previous year. The Hall has hosted over 150,000 different events over the years including the regulars such as the Festival of Remembrance, the Promenade Concerts and many graduation ceremonies.

Soon we were ushered into a private box where we were fortunate to be able to watch part of a rehearsal of the English National Ballet's production of Swan Lake to be performed before The Queen that evening. On our way to the Royal Retiring Room, positioned over the North Porch we walked along the largest single woven design carpet in the world and we enjoyed the views from the Royal Box.

Hanging from the Dome, mushroom shaped flying saucers were installed in 1969 in an attempt to reduce the notorious echo. Many other methods had been tried over the years and it was said that the Hall was the only place a composer could be sure of hearing his work twice. The organ, which is covered when not in use, is the second largest pipe organ in the British Isles.

We took the lift downstairs and made our way along the underground corridor past the massive changing rooms and assembly areas for the performers and on to the HGV loading and unloading bays, the conveyor belt system and industrial size lifts.



Before leaving we enjoyed refreshments in one of the restaurants and were grateful that the German bomber pilots who used the Royal Albert Hall as a landmark saved it for us as a Nation to enjoy. Our excellent driver, Laurence of Klarners Coaches then faced the London traffic and brought us safely back to Felixstowe.

**Elizabeth Horn**

## **Abbeygrove Felixstowe's Community Woodland**

Abbeygrove is a Woodland Trust Community Woodland, planted by volunteers in 1998 and still cared for by volunteers. The Felixstowe Society played an instrumental role in the creation of Abbeygrove with The Woodland Trust and is still a major supporter of the woodland. The woodland is next to the long standing Grove Wood and the new medical centre site. It is freely open to the public at all times and a beautiful place to visit at any time of the year.

Throughout the autumn and winter Felixstowe Society member, Bob Stoner, the Woodland Trust Volunteer Warden, has organised weekly work parties. The main task in 2012/13 has been to coppice the trees on the path /ride edges. This coppicing lets more light onto the rides which will encourage more growth of tall grasses and wildflowers which in turn will be an excellent habitat for butterflies. The coppiced trees will 'bush out' and create a shrubby area alongside the rides which helps to create a range of habitats for the small mammals to enjoy; short grass in the middle of the ride, long grasses at the edges then the bushy/shrubby area before the trees. The coppiced stools are then protected from possible muntjac and rabbit damage by making baskets from the tree off cuts. The long off cuts are used by the allotment holders as bean poles, the lighter pieces as pea sticks and the remainder is put into piles throughout the woodland to be used as safe havens by small mammals and reptiles.

Work parties cease for the spring and summer to allow the wildlife to breed and feed undisturbed. Only essential work is carried out to maintain the pathways and keep the area free of litter.

Each year wildlife surveys are carried out to help the planning of future habitat creation schemes. Year on year there has been an increase in species and numbers of wildflowers, butterflies, small mammals and birds. The preserved areas of bramble are always popular with the birds and small mammals.

In 2009 the Suffolk Wildlife Trust agreed that the Abbeygrove meadow would be a suitable site for a barn owl box and The Felixstowe Society kindly agreed to sponsor a box. Barn owls hunt over rough grassland areas and then like a clear view to their roosting site. The meadow site allows the owls to hunt over the adjacent horse pastures and then have a clear line of site to the box.

For many years there have been occasional sightings of barn owls in the general area of the Cowpasture allotments and horse pastures. The SWT are concerned that barn owl numbers are decreasing because of the lack of nesting sites in our tidy countryside hence their owl box project. In 2011 a barn owl was seen twice in the vicinity of the box but it was

a great tit that took up residence and made the box his family home. In 2012 on a number of occasions 2 barn owls were seen leaving the box and it was hoped that they were in and out many more times when no one was watching and hopefully they would breed.

As part of the SWT project Bob was trained and, as is legally required, licensed to monitor and check the box. When later in the year he was checking the box for owlets he was greeted by an irate stock dove and no owlets or owls. A great shame but just this week on cleaning out the box hopefully to make it attractive to a young couple this year there was good news-- there were at least 20 old barn owl pellets in the box. Owls feed mainly on small mammals. They usually swallow their prey whole, and after digesting the flesh, regurgitate the indigestible fur and bones as pellets. Owls usually produce 2 pellets a night and usually at their chosen roosting site so there was proof that last year barn owls had at least been seriously considering using the Abbeygrove box as their family home.

If you have not visited Abbeygrove yet then do put it on your 'must do' list for 2013, it really is a gem. For more information visit the website [www.abbeygrove.org.uk](http://www.abbeygrove.org.uk)

## **Judith Hedges**

### **Robert Corker**

It is with great sadness we have to announce that Robert Corker passed away suddenly on Monday 17 June.

Robert was a key volunteer at the Abbey Grove work parties. He was a great member of the group, he loved the peace and quiet of Abbey Grove and loved helping to develop it for the enjoyment of future generations. His sense of humour will be sorely missed.

Bob Stoner, Volunteer Warden of Abbeygrove.

## **Beachwatch on Saturday - 21 September 2013**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Beachwatch Big Weekend is fast approaching and The Society will once again be taking part and we hope to see many of our Felixstowe Society members being involved in this worthwhile event. Beachwatch Big Weekend takes place over 20 to 23 September and coincides with the International Coastal Clean - Up (ICC) and in the UK the event is organised by The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and locally by Suffolk Coasts and Heaths. The Felixstowe Society will be doing its part and the beach clean-up will commence at 9.00 am on Saturday 21 September 2013. We will meet on the promenade in front of Seagull and Seashell Cottages (not far from The Fludyers Arms Hotel) and will be working south towards the Spa Pavilion. We will be recording what we have collected and this information will be passed onto the MCS. Gloves, black bags etc will be provided but please wear strong walking shoes. The clean-up lasts for about 2 hours – please join us if you can. Even if you can only come for a short time you will be most welcome. If you would like to help please let me (Keith Horne) know on 01394 270845 or email me at

[kjandehorn@btinternet.com](mailto:kjandehorn@btinternet.com). Finally a note for your diaries, our next beach clean-up will be on Wednesday 4 December commencing at 9.30 am.

## **Guided Walk around Woodbridge - Thursday 3 October 2013**

How about joining us for an interesting guided walk around Woodbridge followed by a visit to Woodbridge Museum ? This has been arranged for Felixstowe Society members and we will be meeting at Woodbridge Tide Mill at 9.50am to start at 10.00am. The walk and museum visit will take about two and a half hours.

If you would like to come please phone me on 01394 270845 or email me at [kjandehorn@btinternet.com](mailto:kjandehorn@btinternet.com). The cost will be £2.00 per person and can be paid to me on the day please. Numbers are limited so please book early. Lifts will be provided if required.

**Keith Horn**

## **Local History Talks (Felixstowe) 2013 - 2014**

St Andrew`s Church Hall, St Andrew`s Road, Felixstowe at 7.30pm

(All talks by Phil Hadwen unless otherwise stated)

**Tuesday 10 September - My Felixstowe** by Andy Smith

**Tuesday 8 October - Modern Felixstowe Postcards** by John Beckett

**Tuesday 12 November - Felixstowe Churches** (1)

**Tuesday 10 December - Felixstowe Past and Present** (2)

**Tuesday 14 January 2014 - Sport in Felixstowe** by Pat Haseman

**Tuesday 11 February 2014 - Felixstowe at War** (2)

**Tuesday 11 March - Hamilton Road** (3)

**Tuesday 8 April - Felixstowe Through the Ages**

**Tuesday 13 May - Felixstowe`s Wonderful Architecture**

**Tuesday 10 June - Felixstowe Hotels** (2)

**Tuesday 8 July - A Felixstowe Miscellany**

## **2013 Guided Walks - Sundays at 3pm**

**22 September - Sea Front Gardens Walk** - Meet outside Felixstowe Town Hall

**13 October - Tomline Walk** - Meet outside Felixstowe Leisure Centre

## Ocean Terrace, Felixstowe

Ocean Terrace, now part of Berners Road, was built in 1884, on a plot of land known as Reynolds Field, adjacent to land owned by W R Wakenham Esq. and John Berners Esq. The original owner of the land was John Chevallier Cobbold and on his death other members of the Cobbold family inherited. They subsequently sold it at auction at the White Horse in Ipswich in August 1884 to John Pells, a builder in Ipswich. The original conveyance stated that any houses in Ocean Terrace weren't to be public houses, hotels or taverns nor able to sell alcohol (probably because of the Cobbold family who owned public houses and large parts of Felixstowe).

As the houses were being built, the Freehold Land Society (FLS) was involved to help people save to purchase a house. In selling the 14 houses in Ocean Terrace it was stated that 'great care had been taken to fit these properties to be either dwellings or lodging houses and will be papered and painted'. At this stage some of the houses had been partially built. The price of each house was to be £290 with end of terrace ones at £310 and £315. **(Appendix A & B)**

The FLS was set up in Birmingham in 1847 or thereabouts by James Taylor, to help people save money to buy a plot of land on which to build a house. At this time a man could not vote unless he owned property, though as time went on all males over the age of 21 were given the vote, and much later, women. Locally, in Ipswich, one of the first pieces of land available with FLS involvement was in the California area. On that first day 140 members enrolled and the amount of money taken was £8 -17s.

By 1858 a ballot system was introduced to allocate plots of land to members. In 1866 the cost of a house on purchase was about £120 and these were mainly terraced houses. The FLSs were gradually incorporated into what we now know as building societies. In 1910 there were about 1723 societies; in 2009 there were only about 60. The Ipswich Building Society originated locally from the FLS and has been in business ever since. If one looks above No 14 Berners Road you will see a plaque with the name Ocean Terrace and initials F.L.S. **(Appendix C)**. Ocean Terrace backed onto a Military Road which used to service the Martello Tower, letter R, in the Bartlett grounds. This road in the past had been called Government Road and also Driftway.

The houses when built originally were Nos 1 to 14 (now 2 to 28 ) and the water supply was from 2/3 wells **(Appendix D)**. John Berners lived in Vernon Villa during the 1880s, was a JP and lived in the Hall at Woolverstone Park on the Shotley Peninsula. A visitors' list, in the Felixstowe Times (1907) showed that Felixstowe was a popular place for holidays. Ocean Terrace appeared to let apartments regularly, especially during the summer season **(Appendix E)**.

In 1984 a centenary party was held in the road when all the residents participated by dressing up in Victorian clothes. There was a Punch and Judy show, children's games and a cake made in the form of the terrace frontage and cut by the oldest resident at the time, Miss Smy. A section of the terrace from 1884 shows that little has changed. Some doors and windows are different and only one of the original balconies remains **(Appendix F & G)**. I hope all the details of this article are correct though further research is required relating to land ownership prior to 1882.

**Alan Reeve**

On a portion of the estate, **FOURTEEN HOUSES**, forming "Ocean Terrace," have been erected, for the elevation of which and other details see accompanying plan. The two end houses contain five, and the intermediate houses four bedrooms each, and great care has been taken to fit these properties for either Dwelling or Lodging houses. Each house will be papered and painted, and possession will probably be given in about three weeks after the ballot, until which time no interest will be charged. Several of the houses are already in a forward state and may be inspected. The following additional information will be of service:

**SECOND BALLOT.**

No. of House.	Price of House.	Fortnightly Payments.	No. of House.	Price of House.	Fortnightly Payments.
1	£ 315	£ s. d. 1 5 0	8	£ 290	£ s. d. 1 3 2
2	290	1 3 2	9	290	1 3 2
3	290	1 3 2	10	290	1 3 2
4	290	1 3 2	11	290	1 3 2
5	290	1 3 2	12	290	1 3 2
6	290	1 3 2	13	290	1 3 2
7	290	1 3 2	14	310	1 4 4

All Conveyances will be free of cost, and no bonus will be charged; each allottee who obtains a house will be required to have 5 per cent. of the purchase-money either to his credit in the funds of the Society, or must be prepared to pay the same at the time of the Ballot. The Houses are insured against fire, and the premiums will be charged in the Members' pass books.

The Ballots for these Properties will take place at the **Lecture Hall, Tower Street, Ipswich, on Thursday Evening, August 28th, 1884**, at half-past Seven o'clock precisely. If you desire to participate in the same it will be necessary that you *sign your name and enter the number of your pass book* against the particular Ballot you intend to enter for, and forward it to me not later than 8.30 on Tuesday Evening, the 26th of August.

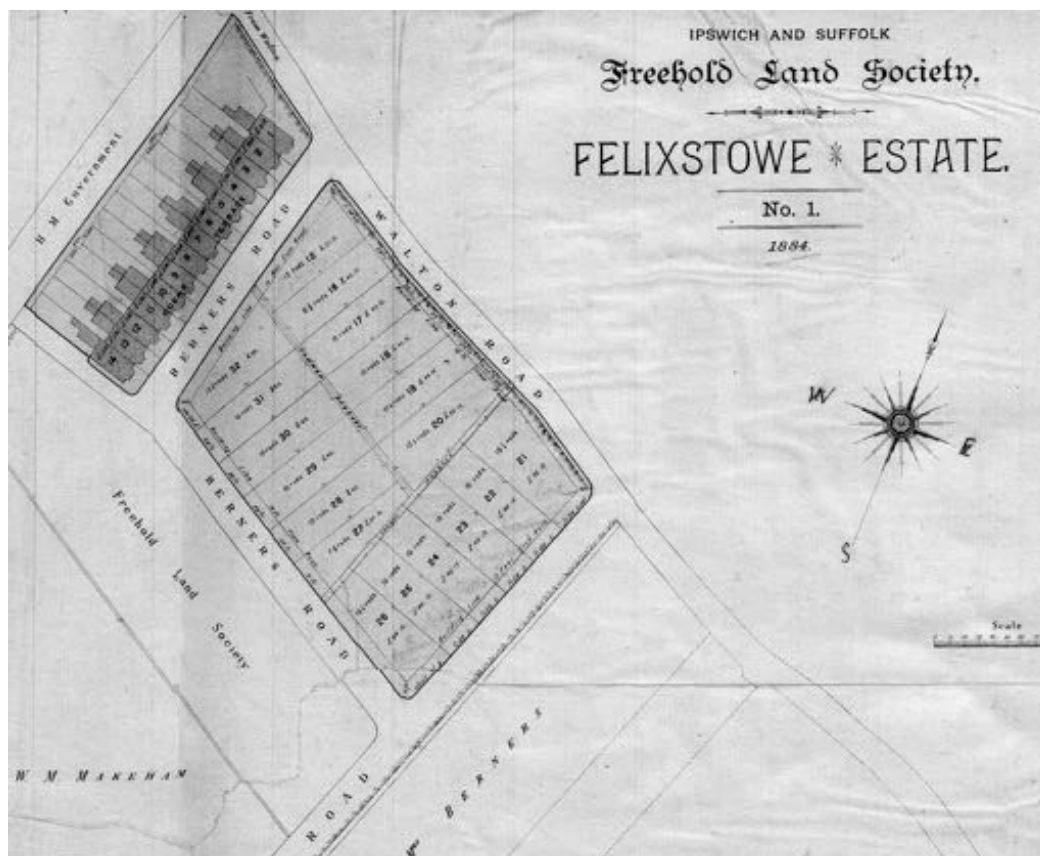
A member may enter for both Ballots if desired, and the Ballots will be taken in the order denoted above.

It will also be essential that you either attend the balloting personally, or depute some one to act on your behalf, otherwise you will forfeit your claim to participate in the Ballot.

The Committee feel it necessary to add, that applicants to whom properties are balloted at this meeting *must immediately answer to their names*, or instruct their representatives to do so: failure to answer will subject them to a charge of one shilling in each case.

I am, yours faithfully,  
**ARTHUR PEARCE**, Secretary.

Appendix A



Appendix B





**Appendix C**



**Appendix D**

**OCEAN TERRACE, BERNERS ROAD.**

- 2—Mr. and Mrs. C. Raison and family,  
Ipswich.  
3—Mr. and Mrs. Olway and family,  
London.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mather, Dunchurch,  
Rugby.  
6—Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Dereham.  
7—Mrs. Gardiner, London.  
8—Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Webbin and family,  
Clapton Common.  
9—Mrs. Holmwood, Penge.  
12—Messrs. and Miss Katcher, London.  
Mr. and Mrs. Roe and family, London.  
14—Mrs. Henniker Heaton's family, Roland  
Gardens, London.

**Appendix E**



**Appendix F**



## **Appendix G**

### **Alan Reeve**

#### **Abbeygrove Walk**

What a pleasant way for 16 of us to spend a warm sunny afternoon in May on one of our local historian Phil Hadwen's themed walks – this time Abbeygrove. This 10 acre site just north of Grove Road and between Cowpasture allotments and the much older Grove was a millennium project started in 1998, belongs to the Woodland Trust and is supported by the The Felixstowe Society. Bob Stoner the Volunteer Warden, ably assisted by Judith Hedges, told us the history and showed photos and newspaper cuttings of the site before work started, work in progress over the years and some of the work party in action up to the present day. Native trees including hawthorn provide food for the birds and habitats for other wildlife were just bursting into leaf. The 10 foot high cut and layered hedge along the eastern edge gives nesting birds protection in the dense regrowth and will also give the new surgery added privacy. Hazel trees are coppiced in rotation and bean poles and peasticks find homes on the allotments. Other sticks are woven into protective baskets around the tree stumps to prevent damage of the new shoots by deer, rabbits and other grazing animals. As we walked along one of the newly widened rides we could see neat piles of rotting wood designed as insect hotels which they share in the winter months with small hibernating mammals. Many questions were answered en route to an open area where we had good views of High House and Gulpher Road over the recently lowered hedge to allow barn owls easier access to their nesting box high on a telegraph pole. Other nest boxes are set deeper in the woodland. We then crossed the border into The Grove where the sun filtered through the trees on to large areas of bluebells and wild garlic. Judith and Bob have now revealed another of Felixstowe's little



secrets. Other themed walks include the Cotman, Tomline, Cobbold, Hamilton, Felixstowe Ferry and the Martello Trails.



The Abbeygrove work party meets every Tuesday from the start of October to the end of March from 10 am to 12 noon (including a coffee break at 11 am prompted by the chimes of St John's Church) and all types of woodland skills can be learnt - a good form of exercise in the fresh air with great company.

## **Felixstowe Ferry Walk**

On Sunday 16 June the Felixstowe Ferry walk made its debut. Graham Henderson, a resident for nearly 40 years, lead about 30 of us first to the boatyard with its unique fishermen's huts and told how it had changed over the years. We had good views of the river Deben, Kingsfleet the habitable houseboats and those beyond repair and the Millennium Green. The Ferry Boat Inn with the various roles it has played over the last 540 years then came into view as we walked along the river wall and mention was made of some of the well known families and characters past and present. Crossing the road we climbed up on to the sea wall from where we could see Bawdsey Manor and learned some of its history and the importance of the ferry linking the two over the years . Leaving the original Victoria Inn and Harbour Villas we turned inland by Martello Tower U to hear all about a wartime secret hidden in the undergrowth by the little St Nicholas Church. I was pleased to hear that a book on this hamlet should be available next year and no doubt this walk will be repeated. Finally our thanks went to Graham who no doubt would love to hear from anyone with their own memories of Felixstowe Ferry.

**Elizabeth Horn**

## Felixstowe Walkers

Felixstowe Walkers is a new group set up within The Felixstowe Society with the aim of providing regular walks of approximately an hour's duration, 2 to 3 miles in length. The group was launched in May by the Mayor of Felixstowe, Jan Garfield, with a walk from the Town Hall. The leaders are all experienced having been previously involved with health walks.

All our summer walks end near a pub or café where walkers can get together and have some refreshment and a chat with other walkers. Our walks are ideal for people who are new to the area and want to discover more about Felixstowe and its environs and perhaps make new friends.

Anyone is invited to attend, but regular walkers are expected to join The Felixstowe Society. We always welcome new leaders and anyone wishing to become involved should speak to one of the leaders at a walk. The programme for September and October is as follows.

### **Monday 2 September**

### **Bus to the Dip**

Take the service bus to the Dip and walk back to Great Eastern Square via some of the neighbouring countryside.

Meet at 10.50 am outside Great Eastern Square

Distance 2 ½ miles. Grade 2

### **Tuesday 17 September**

### **Landguard**

Take a walk around the nature reserve and finish at the new viewpoint café.

Meet at 10.30 am at the car park outside the entrance to the Fort

Distance 2 ½ miles. Grade 2

### **Wednesday 2 October**

### **Pin Mill**

A walk from the historic riverside village near the River Orwell.

Meet at 11.00 am at the Pin Mill car park

Distance 2 ½ miles. Grade 3

### **Monday 28 October**

### **Fair Trade walk**

Meet at 10.30 am at St Edmund's Church Hall, Langer Road, for a walk followed by fair trade refreshments in the Church Hall.

Distance 2 ½ miles. Grade 1

**Please note that the distances quoted are the maximum and we can accommodate shorter walks where required.**

### **Grading system:**

- 1) On easy flat good surfaces
- 2) Mostly on the level but can be muddy in places
- 3) Generally good surfaces but some moderate slopes and mud in wet weather
- 4) More challenging - may include steeper slopes, rough ground and mud in wet weather

Copies of the programme can be obtained from the Library, Tourist Information Centre or email to [felixstowewalkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:felixstowewalkers@hotmail.co.uk)

**Laurence Gilbert**

## **Bethesda Baptist Church, Felixstowe**

Bethesda Baptist Church started 102 years ago in 1910 when a room to seat 30 people was hired in a house in Langer Road. Numbers increased and about two years later the Iron Chapel, seating 120, was erected in Beach Road West. Later that building had to be enlarged to seat 200. By 1914, the outbreak of war, the Iron Chapel was too small to accommodate the numbers crowding into the meetings so plans were made for a permanent brick building. The current site on the corner of Langer Road and Cavendish Road was purchased, but because of the war, building work was limited and so a building with an entrance on Langer Road was constructed, leaving the rest of the site to be developed later. The opening service was on Easter Monday 1916. This building is still part of Bethesda Church today. In 1923 the building was extended at right angles to the existing building with a new main entrance on Cavendish Road. The lecture hall was also built at this time. In 1980 better cloakroom facilities and alterations to the kitchen were made in the area behind the lecture hall and the open space between the lecture hall and the church was covered over.

Not surprisingly after nearly 90 years of constant use the building was beginning to look rather tired and worn and proving to be quite unsuitable for a growing progressive church in the 21st century. So in the time that The Rev. Peter Croft was pastor discussions began to consider how to not only extend, to provide much needed additional space, but also to make the church more welcoming. Following the initial discussions Stephen Claydon, Architect and David Warren, Quantity Surveyor were engaged for the project. In 2008 after many years of discussion plans to extend and modernise the existing building were drafted. These were finalised in mid-2009 and planning permission was granted in October 2009. Tender documents were then produced and sent out to three contractors with Elliston Steady & Hawes being awarded the contract. Work started on site in June 2011.

The scope of work involved changes to the main hall, providing more store room space, adding an office, a crèche and a new entrance lobby.

The changes to the main hall included adding a balcony, which is fronted by an oak and glass screen to form a foyer under the Cavendish Road end. The slope of the floor has been increased to eliminate the need for a step at the foyer and provide a better sightline for those sitting at the back. The floor is finished with new oak parquet flooring. The platform has been made to look more contemporary.

Space for the additional store rooms has been provided by rebuilding the whole length of the Langer Road wall up to the boundary. Also built up to the boundary of both Langer Road and Cavendish Road is the new two storey wing that houses the crèche with a store room above which has access from the new balcony.

The new entrance lobby in Cavendish Road opens onto a small courtyard protected by railings and gates. The entrance lobby provides access to the lecture hall, the kitchen and cloakrooms, stairs to the balcony and to the main church hall via the new foyer.

To complete the inside refurbishment there is new lighting, heating, sound and visual systems. Apart from the main church hall the other new floors are carpeted in bright colours.

The outside of the building has been designed to complement the existing structure. The new large oak framed windows are in the style of the existing stone windows. The roofs over the entrance lobby and the crèche wing are curved to blend in with the existing



curved features. On the new Langer Road wall both the 1915 foundation stone and the stones with BETHESDA inscription have been retained.

Finally the work was finished and our acknowledgement to God for his goodness in providing a striking revitalised building for us was expressed in a Thanksgiving Service conducted by Rev Peter Croft and Richard Underwood on Saturday 14 July 2012.

## **David Forshaw**

### **Megs Jenkins (1917 to 1998) - Actress and Felixstowe Resident**

If you were to ask Felixstowe's townsfolk to name a famous member of the acting profession who at one time resided in the town, the vast majority would cite Sir John Mills. However, the town was also the home to another notable star of stage, film and screen. Megs Jenkins came to live in Felixstowe in 1972 and stayed until her death on 5 October 1998.

A few summers ago I was attending a general auction in Essex when my attention was drawn to a lot described as "box of memorabilia relating to Megs Jenkins (actress)". Examining the contents of the box was both fascinating and somewhat sad; the collection consisted of what was clearly Megs' own personal possessions and memories, with the box containing film stills, photographs, newspaper cuttings, programmes, etc all relating to a lifetime in acting. Fearful of the lot being split up and leaving Felixstowe I tendered a winning bid.

What follows is a brief biography of Megs' life, career and time in our town. Megs Jenkins, real name Muguette Mary Jenkins, was born in Birkenhead, on the Wirral on 21st April 1917. As an only child her theatrical leanings came from her mother, who was

part of a one-time vaudeville double act. In her early teens, Megs enrolled as a full-time student at the Liverpool School of Dancing and Dramatic Art. With training in ballet her early ambitions were for a career in dancing, but by the age of nineteen her preference had changed towards trying to make her name in the acting profession. After being talent-spotted in a Liverpool Repertory Theatre production, and greatly encouraged by her mother, she moved her base to London where she joined the celebrated Players Theatre. From that moment on she never looked back, frequently appearing on stage, film, television and on radio. Even the war years, when she held a job at the Admiralty, failed to interrupt her career to any great degree, and indeed she was to perform regularly up until 1990.

The highlight of her stage career was in 1956 when she played Beatrice in Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge" at London's Comedy Theatre. During opening night rehearsals, watched from the stalls by his then wife Marilyn Monroe, the playwright was so impressed by her portrayal he wrote a new act to enable her to have a better part. This role was to win her that year's Clarence Derwent Award for Best Supporting Performance. Although she was an accomplished world-travelled stage actress, her favoured medium of work was reserved for the camera. Her first film part was in the 1939 film "The Silent Battle". Countless screen appearances were to follow only ending in 1975, when until 1990 she concentrated on television roles. Her big screen highlights included performances in such classic films as "Green for Danger", "The History of Mr Polly", "The Cruel Sea", "The Innocents" and "Oliver". Among the famous names she acted alongside included Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, Ralph Richardson, John Gielgud, Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr and Ingrid Bergman. **ILLUSTRATION 1**

Megs many television credits included long-running appearances in series such as "Worzel Gummidge", the mother in "Oh No It's Selwyn Froggitt" and the wife of lifelong friend and fellow Felixstowe resident Sir John Mills in the comedy hit "Young at Heart". **ILLUSTRATION 2**

So how did Megs come to set down her roots in Felixstowe? Well it happened quite by chance. She was seeing someone off at the port back in the days of dock passenger travel and she thought to herself that here was a town in which she wouldn't mind living. Swapping the rat-race of London for a more sedate existence, Megs took the tenancy of a dwelling in Tomline Road. She embraced all Felixstowe had to offer and was forever championing its people and its virtues, enjoying nothing more than walking her two Yorkshire terriers on the beach most mornings. **ILLUSTRATION 3**

Although married back in the war years she had divorced her husband, movie executive George Routledge, in the mid fifties. To her great regret she never had any children. Megs Jenkins died on 5 October 1998. In a Felixstowe Times interview back in 1982 she prophetically declared that she probably had no relatives still living. This would certainly account for why I came upon her treasured memories in a nondescript, run-of-the-mill auction held at a soulless local sale house.

## **Wayne Bennett**



**1. Megs Jenkins publicity photograph for "The Cruel Sea" - 1953**



**2. "The Felixstowe Connection". Megs with lifelong friend Sir John Mills during the filming of the television comedy series "Young at Heart", about 1980**



**3. Megs at her Felixstowe home with one of her cherished Yorkshire terriers, about 1977**

## Commenting on Planning Applications

The Society thought it might be useful to provide a short guide on how to comment on planning applications. This may only be of value under the current planning regulations set-up, but who knows whether the individual or local organisations will be able to make much comment under the proposed new regime?? HOWEVER, the more comments there are, particularly if there is objection to a planning proposal, the better. Although The Society represents over 500 people we are basically one voice.

### **A couple of points to bear in mind:**

All comments on planning applications are in the 'Public Domain' and will be seen by others including the applicant and agent.

### **The following are NOT planning issues:**

Loss of view or views  
Financial impact on surrounding properties  
Personal circumstances (unless the planning arguments are finely balanced)  
You are a long standing resident  
Safety of construction (however, we have found it is sometimes worth mentioning local ground conditions which may not be known at the local council level)

### **The following ARE planning issues:**

Past history including appeal decisions  
National and Local Regional Planning Policies  
Loss of light  
Highway and traffic implications  
Light and noise pollution  
Local amenities  
Impact on flora and fauna (endangered species)  
Visual Impact on built or country environment (including impact on near properties or the street scene)

## **Submitting Comments**

Submit your comments in time. There is a date given on the application, usually 21 working days to meet a statutory requirement.

If you are objecting be aware that your comments will mean the application will have to be decided by committee.

If your comments are going to arrive after the Case Officer has prepared his report consider sending them to all members of the appropriate committee with a suitable covering letter.

It is also a good idea to send your comments to your local town councillor so they are aware that the planning application may have some effects that are not necessarily obvious to the Town or Suffolk Coastal District Councils.

## Your Comments

Quote the application number and address to the Head of Division.

Have you examined the site?

List any factual errors.

Quote any relevant policies (if known) and any relevant history.

Clearly identify your planning concerns.

Clearly identify any concerns on design, materials and specify any changes you would like to see. (Remember to keep your comments or objections factual and not emotional).

Not all your comments should be negative. If you like only some parts of the proposal it is acceptable to only object to those parts you find unacceptable. It is always useful if you can suggest alternatives to either the whole application or the part to which you have objected.

The Plans Committee of The Felixstowe Society follows the above criteria on the Society's behalf and usually our comments to the Councils are accepted as useful. Contrary to a wide spread belief, The Society does not object to every planning application!

## David Crawford

### Planning Applications

**11 March to 13 July 2013**

*SCDC has granted Permission for the following:*

#### *Previous Applications*

**18 High Beach:** Extensions and alterations to form a chalet-bungalow.

**The Gate House, Maybush Lane:** Erect side and rear extensions.

**Part Land adjacent to 99 Colneis Rd:** Change of use of open space between the house and the road to private domestic curtilage.

**45 Hamilton Rd (New Look):** One internally illuminated and one internally illuminated projecting sign.

**Felixstowe Conservative Club, 28 High Road West:** Install 33 replacement windows and 3 doors.

**2 Whitehouse Cottages, Gulpher Rd:** Extensions and renovation.

**Amusement Area, Sea Front Promenade, Opposite the Marlborough Hotel, Sea Rd:** Site a Refreshment Kiosk.

#### *Recent Applications*



**19 Hamilton Road:** Change of use from A1 (Shops) to A2 (Financial and Professional Services). The Felixstowe Society believes that this proposal will have little effect on the adjacent Conservation Area.

**Fludyer Arms, Undercliff Rd East:** A Post Sign on raised terrace at front of property. The Felixstowe Society believes that this proposal will have little effect on the Conservation Area. However, a more pictorial sign would be more in keeping with the ambience of Felixstowe and the Inn.

**Martello Place, Golf Road:** Removal of existing metal balconies and installation of new stainless steel and glass balustrade system balconies. Thank you for your invitation to advise you through our observations and representations concerning the above Proposal.

The Felixstowe Society object to the above Proposal because we consider that it is both proper and very necessary to preserve the architectural integrity of this important Conservation Area building.

We append below more detailed comments and observations in explanation of our Objection.

We request that Admin Staff please ensure that this letter is presented in its entirety at any formal discussion of Planning Applications C/13/0775 and 0776.

The east elevation of Martello Place is probably the finest architectural façade of any post-Edwardian building in this area and the entire building is constructed to very high standards. It rightly deserves its place in the Conservation Area. For these reasons some of our members were puzzled as to why replacement of the balcony railings should be proposed. (Please note that the Proposal relates to the railings which front six balconies; not entire “balconies”.) Members have made some private enquiries and findings that you may wish to follow-up yourself.

The existing railings are of simple wrought iron (technically rolled steel) construction using framing bars of generous cross-section and competent welding. It is possible that the Architect considered leaving the railings unpainted so as to acquire a rich iron patina in the sea air but in fact the railings are painted in black enamel. The railings have been shoddily painted or probably re-painted so that a few scattered rust-scale patches are re-appearing. It appears unlikely that spot application of zinc-rich primer, or equal, was applied before over painting.

Two concerns have been noted from residents. One, that the appearance of rust patches on the ironwork heralds imminent collapse. And secondly, that the appearance of rust patches is anathema to residents in this building who have beautifully furnished apartments immaculately maintained.

The first concern above is clearly untrue. And the appearance of rust patches cannot be justification for removal of ironwork from Conservation Area buildings. The southern part of Felixstowe’s Conservation Area was recognised and established through the good offices of Mr Scrimgeour and strongly supported and promoted by The Felixstowe Society. One of its most distinctive and charming features is the general architectural use of cast-iron and wrought-iron balcony railings. Thus to adopt the use of glass balustrade systems anytime rust is seen by an owner would effectively eliminate the south Conservation Area and make a mockery of the work put in by Council Officers, The Felixstowe Society and, not least, the residents, towards its establishment and ongoing maintenance.

To conclude these observations, we believe that any difficulties or anxieties arising from rust on railings, whether in Felixstowe south Conservation Area or at Martello Place at the north end of the Conservation Area may be easily remedied by a competent painter using traditional materials correctly applied in the traditional manner.

**Orchard Bungalow, Park Avenue:** Proposed new single storey dwelling on land adjacent to Orchard Bungalow. Thank you for your invitation to comment on the above proposal.

The Felixstowe Society objects to the above proposal because we consider that it is an over-development of the available site.

We append below more detailed comments and observations in explanation of our objections.

We are aware of a series of new or revised proposals relating to the lands adjacent to Orchard Bungalow. It is our understanding that the Application Drawing No. 7727-PA/12/08 rev B represents the current overall proposals for the site. We note that drawings of the site within the current Design and Access statement at pages 2 and 4 are incorrect, For the purpose of comment we note that the adjusted site boundaries make the site approximately square and for discussion we view it cross-halved into four quarter squares. In the SE square is existing Orchard Bungalow with some garden surround. The NE square is the site of an Approved bungalow with some garden surround. The NW square is the site of a second Approved bungalow with some garden surround. In the SW square it is now proposed to build two bungalows. This we consider to be over-development of the site.

The Felixstowe Society believes the following proposals will have little effect on the Conservation Area:-

**12 Montague Road:** Removal or variation of Condition 7 of Permission C95/0524 to allow garage to study conversion.

**11 Felix Road:** Rear conservatory extension.

**37 to 39 Hamilton Rd:** Change of use from A1 shop to A3.

**173 Hamilton Road:** Enlargement of windows on St Andrews Road frontage

**The Millars, 69-71 Undercliff Road West:** Installation of new ducting system and new advertisements. The Felixstowe Society objects to this Application because of inadequate information included with it. The proposal appears to include a projecting sign but appears not to explain where the sign is to be positioned on the façade of this very distinctive Conservation Area building.

**30 Beach Road West:** Proposed conservatory to front elevation. These alterations will have little effect on the Conservation Area provided the conservatory is constructed in white uPVC in accordance with the proposal.

*Applications awaiting a decision*

**White Lodge, Marcus Road:** First floor extension to rear of property. The Society is not objecting to this application as such but notes that the first floor windows will be overlooking the adjacent property. The conditions of SPG 16, Section 5 may apply in this case.

**1 Wolsey Gardens:** Installation of new Bank of Ireland ATM . The Society has no objection to the ATM as such but objects to the surround which is garish and out of place for the Conservation Area, We note that there is no facility for the disposal of the many bank slips produced by these machines and we recommend that a waste bin be provided as part of the fitting.

The Felixstowe Society believes the following Proposals will have little effect on the Conservation Area:-

**Land North of 19 Victoria Street, Albert Walk:** Construction of two semi-detached dwellings.

**3 Northcliffe Court:** Front extension and alterations to Garage.

**37 Langer Road:** Removal of single storey side part of the building and replace with a larger single storey side extension.

### *Other Applications*

**Part side garden UYO, Martello Lane:** Proposed new dwelling requiring Conservation Area consent for the demolition of a double garage and garden room. The Society has no objection to the garden development but considers the proposed house is an undistinguished design that adds nothing to the street scene, We also note in the plan that there is a mature tree scheduled for removal but there is no mention of this in the application or any mention of the species of tree. We consider that this point should be discussed in the application with some input from the Tree Officer.

We therefore object to this proposal until this point is clarified. REFUSED by SCDC.

## **David Crawford**

### **Research Corner 18 - The Grace Spitfire**

As I write this in late July the finishing touches are being put to the flying display which will be part of the Centenary celebrations "Wings on Waves". One hundred years ago Seaplane-Felixstowe came into being and the town can be justly proud of the greatest seaplane station in the world! Hopefully the weather was kind and the display lived up to its promise. One of the planes on display on 4 August was The Grace Spitfire, no stranger to the people of Felixstowe who regularly see it flying overhead.

Spitfire ML 407 was built at Castle Bromwich in early 1944 as a single seat fighter. It served during the last twelve months of WW II flying 176 operational combat sorties - 319 combat hours! Flying Officer Jonnie Houlton DFC is credited with shooting down the first enemy aircraft over the Normandy beaches on D-Day flying this aeroplane.

After being transferred to a number of different squadrons towards the end of the war it



finally went into a Maintenance Unit at the end of hostilities. It remained here until 1950 when Vickers-Armstrong at Eastleigh, Southampton selected it to be converted to a two-seater aircraft, an advanced trainer, for the Irish Air Corps. This Spitfire, along with a number of others, was involved in the filming of "The Battle of Britain", but sadly it did not appear in the film. It was sold, in 1968, to Sir William Roberts, who

wanted it for his well-known aviation museum in Strathallan, Scotland. Sometime later it was put into storage in a disassembled state.

On 9 August 1979 Design Engineer Nick Grace, having always wanted to fly a Spitfire, acquired ML 407. He had discovered it in seventeen tea chests and he spent the next five years meticulously restoring it to flying conditions. On 1st February 1980 it was registered as G-LFIX and finally on 16 April 1985 the Grace Spitfire flew again, with Nick at the controls and Carolyn, his wife, in the rear cockpit. Nick then flew the aeroplane at many air-shows in this country and in Europe.

Nick was tragically killed in a car crash in 1988, but Carolyn learned to fly the Spitfire and went solo in 1990. ML 407 became the Grace Spitfire in tribute to, and in memory of, Nick Grace. Carolyn has her display authorisation and also aerobatic and formation qualifications and has flown this magnificent aircraft for 23 years, ably supported by the Grace Supporters Group, JLT Insurance Brokers and her two children Richard and Olivia.

The Grace Spitfire is based at Bentwaters, Suffolk, but during the summer can be found at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. This magnificent aircraft is maintained by its own team of engineers, including Richard Grace, who also follows in his father's footsteps and flies it. There is no way that this Spitfire could continue to fly without the tremendous support of JLT Insurance Brokers, and the Grace Spitfire Supporters Group, who would welcome more support so that G-LFIX continues to be a delight, not just to air-show crowds, but to the people of Felixstowe, who must now recognise the distinctive noise of the famous Merlin engine. There is a book detailing the full history of this great plane, "2nd TAF Spitfire" by Hugh Smallwood as well as three fascinating DVD's, all obtainable from the Grace Spitfire web-site [www.ml407.co.uk](http://www.ml407.co.uk)

Yes, if you haven't already guessed, I am now a member of the Grace Spitfire Supporters Group!

**Phil Hadwen**

## Advance Notice - The Felixstowe Society Annual Quiz

Date: Friday 31st January 2014  
Venue: Felixstowe Trades & Labour Club  
High Road West, Felixstowe  
Time: 7.30 pm  
Cost: £7-50 (including supper)  
Bar facilities at the club  
Teams should be of 4 to 8 people  
Ring Felixstowe 286008 to book your table

### The Changing Face of ..... Felixstowe Ferry



**The very early days**



**The new Winkles Café**

## **2013 Programme**

**Saturday 21 September - Beachwatch Big Weekend**

**Tuesday 24 September - Felixstowe Carnivals**

Phil Hadwen illustrates the history of our Carnival, helped by some surprise guests!

**Tuesday 22 October - Felixstowe in the Middle Ages by David Tolliday**

Felixstowe`s foremost historian enlightens us once again!

**Tuesday 26 November - Felixstowe`s Twin Towns**

Two former mayors, Richard Holland and Mike Deacon, speak about Wesel and Salzwedel.

**Wednesday 4 December - Beach Clean-up**

## **2014 Programme**

**Tuesday 28 January - New Design in the Historic Environment**

An interesting talk by Robert Scrimgeour Senior Preservation and Conservation Officer of Suffolk Coastal District Council and a friend of our Society.

**Tuesday 25 February - Spa Gardens` Project**

Corrine Cappell, Project Manager, explains everything you may want to know about the exciting re-vamp of our beautiful and historic Spa Gardens.

**Tuesday 25 March - Codes, Ciphers and Enigma**

An enthralling talk by Joyce Kimber about codes, secret writing and the Enigma machine.

**Tuesday 20 May - AGM + Felixstowe in the Early 30s**

Our Vice-Chairman, Phil Hadwen, tells us about life in Felixstowe during the thirties.

All speaker meetings are held in the Salvation Army Church at 7.30 pm  
Members £1, Visitors £2

**If you wish to join The Society, cut these last two pages from the Newsletter.** Complete both columns on this page and send to Betty Woollan at the address given on the back page with a cheque payable to *The Felixstowe Society* for the correct subscription, and **enclose a stamped addressed envelope** if you require a receipt

Full names .....

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I/We could give occasional help with -- please tick

Artwork

Archives/Exhibitions

Litter clearance

Monitoring planning applications

Newsletter delivery

Organising activities

Survey work

Secretarial work

Maintenance work at Abbey Grove and Gulpher Pond

Have you any relevant technical/professional expertise or special interests, for example, computer skills?

.....

.....

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**Gift Aid Declaration** (for individuals).

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1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Treasurer.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount The Society reclaims on your donation in the tax year.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax The Society reclaims, you should cancel your declaration. See note 1.
4. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask The Society, or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR65.
5. Please notify The Society if you change your name or address.

## If you wish to join The Society please read on

The Society has many different activities and almost everyone can give something to, and get something from, The Society.

### Meetings

The Society holds meetings which usually include a talk on some matter of interest; arranges outings to places of interest in East Anglia and beyond; holds exchange visits with other societies.

### Projects

The Society organises exhibitions; carries out surveys; works closely with schools on various projects; monitors planning applications; tackles specific issues as they arise; gives Awards for the Enhancement of the Environment; is actively involved with Abbey Grove and Gulpher Duck Pond.

### Publications

The Society issues a regular Newsletter and has published 'The Cotman Walk' and 'Walking around Felixstowe' which are available from the places listed on page 2.

### Joining

To join The Society please complete the Form and the Gift Aid Declaration on the previous page, **cut these last two pages from the Newsletter** and send with your membership subscription **plus a stamped addressed envelope** if you wish for a receipt to:

Betty Woollan  
Membership Secretary  
The Pines  
Manor Road  
Trimley St. Mary  
IP11 0TU

(No receipt will be sent unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed)

### Membership Subscriptions

Annual Membership - single	£7
Joint Membership - two people at same address	£10
Corporate Membership (for local organisations who wish to support the Society)	
Non - commercial	£15
Commercial	£20
Young people under the age of 18	Free

The annual subscription runs from the 1 January.

**Gift Aid** is tax relief on money donated to UK charities. HM Revenue & Customs treats donations as if the donor had already deducted basic rate tax from them. The charity can then reclaim this tax to increase the value of a donation. The Society is a charity and the membership subscription is a donation