



The Felixstowe Society Newsletter

Issue Number 109

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Founded 1978

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The Felixstowe Society

The Felixstowe Society is established for the public benefit of people who either 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: Trish Hann, 49 Foxgrove Lane, Felixstowe, IP11 7JU, 271902

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 and
Stillwater Books.

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

Editor: Bev Boyce, 40 Valley Walk, Felixstowe, IP11 7TP, 672184

**Contributions for the September Newsletter must be with the Editor by
17 July preferably by email: b.boyce141@btinternet.com**

Notes from the Chairman

Enclosed with this Newsletter are the papers for our AGM which will be held at the beginning of the Speaker Evening on the 19 May. We welcome questions either from the floor at the meeting or in writing if you cannot attend, but please note that all questions must be submitted at least 10 days in advance of the 19th so that The Committee has time to prepare a response. By the way, we take pride in the fact that we finish the AGM proceedings very quickly and get on with the talk as soon as possible !

We are very encouraged by the increase in membership last year:-

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2011 | 428 |
| 2012 | 497 |
| 2013 | 540 |
| 2014 | 620 |

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2015, please do so as soon as possible (by standing order is preferable). We welcome all new members and would be happy to hear their comments and suggestions about The Society's activities.

Tony Hughes has produced The Newsletter since 2001 but has decided to give up the job after this edition. Our thanks go to him for the splendid work he has done over these years and I am delighted that he has agreed to continue to act as an advisor to the new Editor, Bev Boyce, who is currently our Committee member responsible for Publicity & Website. As a result of Bev's change of responsibilities, we are now looking for someone to join The Committee to take on the job of Publicity. Please let me know if you – or someone you know - would be interested to learn more.

Our Planning Group, led by David Crawford, has been hard at work studying the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan and commenting on its proposals to the Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council; I know that several members have submitted their own comments direct to SCDC. At the time of writing, we understand that Felixstowe Town Council has raised serious objections to the housing developments proposed in the Plan.

As reported in the last Newsletter, we have formed an affiliation with the Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association (FBHCS) whose first report appears on later pages. They are extremely active on their members' behalf in holding SCDC and their contractors to account and in preserving the town's heritage.

Keith and Elizabeth Horn have been very busy organising trips and other events: on 6 March we visited the Palace of Westminster and had a guided tour (see the report). Such was the demand for places, we are organising a second trip in October for those members who were unable to take part in the first one. By the time you read this we will have held our Annual Dinner at the Brook Hotel – an evening which is always enjoyed by all those who attend.

The Committee has awarded Enhancement of the Environment Awards to the following:-

- Maritime House
- Numbers 103 and 105 Undercliff Road West

- The former Lloyds Bank building in Walton

The presentation of the certificates will be made at our Speaker Evening on the 20 October.

Photographs of the Environment Awards are on the next page.

Roger Baker

Change of Editor

This edition of The Felixstowe Society Newsletter will be the last to be edited by Tony Hughes; Tony has done a splendid job over the last fourteen years and all our feedback suggests that The Newsletter is highly valued by our members. He has written the following valedictory note to us all:-

I am now approaching my eightieth birthday and it has become increasingly obvious that I should pass the job of Editor over to younger hands.

Fortunately Bev Boyce has offered to take over the job. She will be responsible for the publication of The Newsletter from the September edition onwards. Therefore, from now on, if you wish to contact The Editor please email Bev at b.boyce141@btinternet.com.

Forgive the reminiscing, but my first job as Editor was the January 2001 Newsletter and since then 43 have passed through my hands. I got the job because nobody else wanted it and it was an emergency situation (as it always is) and I had a computer. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped in creating the many Newsletters over the years.

Of course, I will assist Bev in an advisory capacity as necessary.

Tony Hughes

Bev has a lot of exciting ideas, so we can look forward to seeing some interesting changes from September onwards but, don't worry, it will still have the same overall "look" which we're familiar with.

By the way, Bev's new rôle will mean that she will have to give up her current responsibilities for Publicity. If you – or anyone you know – would like to take on this job, let Bev know and she will explain exactly what's involved. (See page 11)

Roger Baker

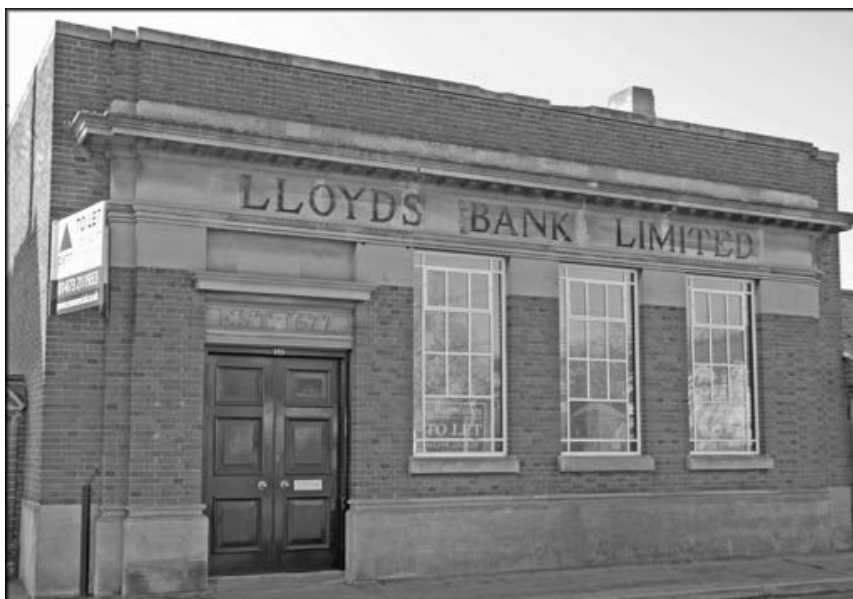


**103 and 105
Undercliff Road West**

Maritime House

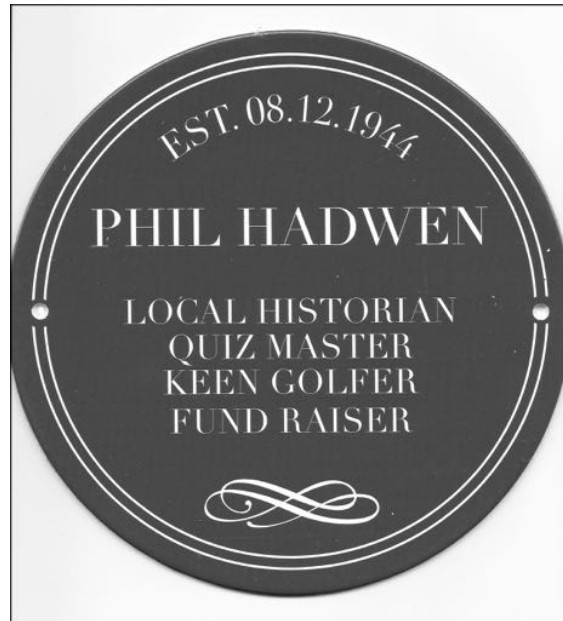


**Former Lloyds Bank
building**



Phil Hadwen's Plaque

Elizabeth Horn kindly organised this spoof "plaque" for our Vice Chairman's 70th birthday. It was delivered on behalf of the Committee by the Chairman on Phil's birthday, the 8 December.



Speaker Meetings for 2015

All speaker meetings are held in the Salvation Army Church starting at 7.30 pm
Admission £1 for members or £2 for visitors

Tuesday 19 May - AGM + The Home Front in Suffolk during WWI (with special reference to Felixstowe)

Respected Suffolk historian, Dr. Nick Sign gives us an insight into this interesting time.

Tuesday 22 September - The Life and Death of Edith Cavell

A local historian tells us about this famous character.

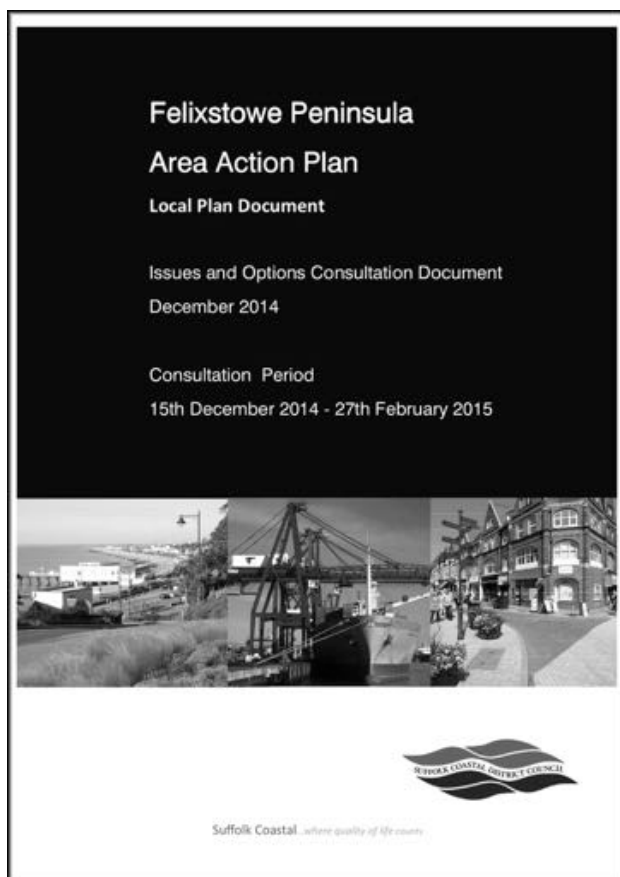
Tuesday 27 October - Bill Tancred

Memories of a Felixstowe childhood and his experiences of competing at the Olympics are sure to provide a really enlightening evening.

Tuesday 24 November - The Bartlet Conversion

Peter Blemmings from Gipping Homes illustrates this development from start to finish.

The Felixstowe Society's Response to the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan



The Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan was issued as a consultation document in December 2014 and it is seen as providing a framework within which the communities, businesses and economies of the area can grow and develop over the next ten to fifteen years.

The area covered by this plan covers Felixstowe, Bucklesham, Kirton and Falkenham, Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary.

Recently there was a public meeting held by the Felixstowe Town Council for interested parties to respond and our Society made the following comments for consideration when the final plan is submitted for approval:-

i) We welcome the response to allow the Port of Felixstowe to expand, but recognise that only about 30% of the work force comes from the Felixstowe area. Greater expansion does not necessarily mean more

jobs! (more mechanisation). Also the Port of Felixstowe should be playing a far greater role in the economic and social development of our town.

- ii) It is assumed that the integrity of Landguard Fort will be respected. (Paragraph 3.5 in the Plan)
- iii) We recognise the need for more new housing thereby expanding the town, but this must not be done without the corresponding infrastructure e.g. new roads, school places, shopping and transport facilities and adequate amenities-bearing in mind that we live in the driest area of the country with possible water shortages in the future. (4.22)
- iv) This plan should respect the historic footprint of all of the houses of architectural merit within the town, so the temptation to rebuild, or erect dwellings on the gardens of these properties should be carefully controlled to ensure the character and appearance of the relevant area is preserved. (4.2)
- v) We believe that the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre should be extended from the area of Hamilton Road between Orwell Road and Cobbold Road to the whole of Hamilton Road from Bent Hill to the Orwell Hotel roundabout. Also The Broadway shops and the area of Orwell Road from Hamilton Road to Ranelagh Road should also be included. (5.21)

- vi) The shopping areas in Manning Road, Beach Station Road, High Road East (Old Felixstowe), Cavendish Park, High Road West (from Garrison Lane to Chester Road), Wadgate Road, Undercliff Road (from The Ordnance roundabout along the seafront to the Pram Walk), Walton and The Ordnance area should also be protected as economic areas. (5.27)
- vii) The plan states "Felixstowe has a long and rich tourism history as a seaside resort which can be traced back to Edwardian times...." We believe that this paragraph should read "...Victorian and Edwardian times..." (5.32)
- viii) Tourism-related activities must be expanded and there must be far more co-operation between various organisations in the town and the Town Council (and any group or body acting on their behalf) to achieve this. Better advertising of events is essential. (5.33)
- ix) The significance of the New Gardens, adjacent to the seafront, should not be overlooked and every effort should be made to keep them in a condition which encourages visitors to explore our town. Arrangements for the up-keep and maintenance of the gardens must be retained for the duration of this plan. (5.35)
- x) We whole-heartedly agree in protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment and insist that the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are respected and totally protected.
- xi) The Victorian and Edwardian architecture must be safe-guarded and preserved and the ambiance of our charming seaside resort must not be endangered by careless over-building and over-development.
- xii) An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is essentially defined by its visual impact upon a person looking into the Area and its visual impact on the observer within the Area.
- xiii) When new development occurs adjacent to the boundary of an AONB or otherwise intrudes into the view of an observer within the AONB, then the development must incorporate measures to screen the development from the AONB.
- xiv) Such measures should make use of natural land forms and/or constructed raised berms as far as is reasonably practicable. Hedges and trees should be added to the screen if then necessary to complete the screening and/or to harmonise with the landscape.
- xv) Solid fencing is not an acceptable method for such AONB screening. (6.1)
- xvi) Certain green areas within the town need protection against housing or economic development:-

- 🍏 Town Ground
- 🍏 Coronation Sports Ground
- 🍏 Landguard Common
- 🍏 Harper`s Recreation Field
- 🍏 Walton Playing Field

- Langer Park
- Brackenbury Cliffs
- Allenby Park
- Cavendish Park Leisure Area. (7.5)

The Felixstowe Society believes that new conservation areas should be created at Felixstowe Ferry and in Walton, as well as extending the existing Conservation Area (designated in 1975) to include Priory Road, Maybush Lane, Golf Road and Cliff Road (from Golf Road to the Golf Club). We strongly recommend that these areas should be recognised in the Area Plan.

The Felixstowe Society, February 2015

It should be noted that the Society does not make any comment with regard to sites within the Plan's area designated, highlighted or suggested for new housing development. This is deliberate as we count as only one vote, objection or comment in spite of having nearly 700 members! Our policy has always been to recommend that individual members submit their own comments to Suffolk Coastal District Council because this carries as much weight as a letter from The Felixstowe Society. We are not happy with this, but it is not of our choosing!

It is likely that if we could represent all 700 of our members it would be such a powerful statement that SCDC might have difficulty in justifying some of their decisions, whereas if there are only fifty or so objections they can say that there is not enough public opinion about a planning application and can almost do as they wish!!!

Visits and Events for 2015

Please note that all visits and events are for **members only** and must be booked in advance using the separate form with booking fee. **Please provide a separate cheque for each visit or event** and please note the latest booking dates. Please also note that The Society's insurance covers members up to the age of 85. Please note that we cannot guarantee that a refund will be made in the event of you cancelling a booking. Each case will be considered on its merits. **Please note that members wishing to attend visits with a wheelchair or lightweight buggy will need to be accompanied by a fit adult to care for their needs at all times.** Please also note that if you are booking tickets for multiple visits at the same time it is only necessary to send one SAE. For any queries please contact Keith Horn on 01394 270845, or email kjandehorn@btinternet.com.

Midsummer Social Evening at The Hut on Saturday 13 June

We will be holding a Social evening at The Hut (the building on the promenade near to the Bath Tap) and hope that you will come along and meet other members, both new and old, and enjoy good food, wine and entertainment. This year we are delighted that Janet Dann has agreed to join us and share with us a selection of light hearted stories. The evening commences at 7.00pm and will cost £12.00 per person. As usual we imagine that this event will be extremely popular and early booking is recommended in view of the fact that numbers are limited. Food will be provided but please bring your own drinks. **(Use the separate green booking form)**

Day Visit to Norwich and Kirstead Hall on Thursday 25 June

We have arranged a morning visit to Norwich where we will have free time to explore this 'Fine City' by perhaps visiting The Forum, Cathedral, Castle or shopping before some lunch. We will leave Norwich immediately after lunch for a short ride to visit Kirstead Hall. This property is a Grade 1 Listed Elizabethan Manor House Circa 1570 of E shaped plan with stepped Flemish gable ends. The gardens are partly walled with an important Grade 2 octagonal dovecote in the grounds. We will have a guided tour of the ground floor of the house, dovecote and antique furniture restoration studio. Our guides will be the current owners Dermot and Judy Murphy. Freedom of the gardens and a visit to St Margaret's Church located near the house as an independent option is available. After your tour you will be able to enjoy a delicious cream tea.

We will leave Garrison Lane Car Park at 8.30am and then pick up en route at Great Eastern Square, Walton Half Moon and Station Road Trimley before making our way directly to Norwich.

Our visit to Kirstead Hall will finish at about 5.00pm and we will then make our way back to Felixstowe.

The cost will be £29.00 per person and will include coach travel, entry into and a guided tour of Kirstead Hall, a cream tea and a tip for our driver. **(Use the separate green booking form)**

Second Visit to The Houses of Parliament

In view of its popularity we have decided to organise another visit to The Houses of Parliament in October 2015. We are unable to let you know the exact date as we cannot apply for tickets until the end of June. However once we have a date we will telephone all members who are on the current waiting list.

In the September Newsletter we will advertise the event and will ask everyone to complete an application form and return this together with payment and stamped addressed envelope.

Please note that those on the waiting list will have until 22 September to book their seats and after this date we will allocate the remaining seats to new applicants on a first come first served basis.

Beach Cleaning

The next clean up dates are Thursday June 18, Saturday September 19 and Thursday December 10. We meet at 9.30 in the shelter nearest to Seagull Cottage.

Lifts for Members

It has been brought to our notice that several members are unable to attend our winter series of Speaker Evenings because of transport difficulties. Hopefully this can be remedied in the near future by having someone in The Society who would be responsible for arranging lifts for these members.

Therefore if there is anyone who could undertake this task please approach our chairman, Roger Baker, or one of the committee members.

Also if there are any members who would be prepared to help with the transport then please contact the number below.

Finally if you require a lift contact Phil Hadwen on 01394 286008 and he will try to arrange this.

Wanted

The Felixstowe Society requires a **Publicity Officer** and a **Web Site Manager**. There must be several of our members who could help us with either of these two positions. If you are interested, or require more information, please contact our chairman Roger Baker on Felixstowe 282526.

REMEMBER YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

We have generously been offered the opportunity to write a regular article in The Felixstowe Society's Newsletter and will use it to update Society members on the activities of the Association whose members comprise about one-third of the owners of the 1000 huts and chalets. If any Society member with a beach hut or chalet hasn't yet joined the Association we will be pleased to welcome you as a member. It's only a fiver a year ! (see the link on The Society's website for details).

The rationale behind this new affiliation with The Felixstowe Society is that both organisations have the best interests of the town at heart and wish to see its heritage preserved – a heritage in which the beach huts and chalets play an important part. Several people are already members of both organisations and a number of our members participate in the beach cleans organised by The Society.

There is an agreement in place for FBHCA Committee members to meet regularly with Councillors and their officials and also with the managers of NORSE, the company which has the contract to carry out work for the Council in the resort.

Feel free to contact me on 01394 274331

Trevor Mason - Treasurer FBHCA

Felixstowe Walkers

Felixstowe Walkers is now an established part of The Felixstowe Society and we have continued to attract good numbers of people to fortnightly walks. New walkers are always welcome – we are a friendly group and the walks are not usually too strenuous. Walks are graded 1 – 4 and details of what the grading means are given in the new programme at the end of this article.

Our first walk of the new season was on 7 January, along the prom. We were lucky with the weather which was dry and crisp. Walkers noted with pleasure the progress being made at last with the sea front gardens.

There was a more demanding and varied walk on 20 January from Trimley St Martin. Over 30 walkers enjoyed the delightful countryside and views down to the river. Winter mud forced a detour at one point but we coped – a day for good quality footwear!

We went further afield for our next walk on 2 February to Rendlesham Forest where we followed the route formerly known as Daisy's Walk. Always a popular walk, we noted stunning fungi in bright reds and oranges among the newly felled trees.

Back nearer home on 13 February we enjoyed sunny weather for our walk from Brackenbury sports centre.

On 23 February we stayed close to home with a walk along cliff tops and the prom starting from St John's Church. The event also marked the start of Fairtrade Fortnight, launched by the Mayor of Felixstowe, Graham Newman. Afterwards we enjoyed Fairtrade refreshments – including homemade cakes.

Most walks start and end at a café or pub where walkers can relax and refresh themselves and maybe continue the conversations started on the walks. The walk on 11 March was no exception, starting and finishing at 'Simply Food' the M&S store at Martlesham Heath. The café there is very pleasant and there is good parking. Our walk was to Martlesham Church and back through woods and across fields – following a different route back. The church has a delightful setting with views across the Deben at the entrance to the churchyard. This time however there was an added bonus with a spectacular display of snowdrops and crocuses in full bloom.

We went back to Felixstowe's very own wood on 24 February with a walk taking in Abbey Grove (which Felixstowe Society members are active in maintaining), the Grove and the headland beyond with, again, beautiful views over the Deben.



The programme continued through April with walks at Newbourne Springs and Bucklesham.

Do join us if you can for the next programme which is set out below. Of particular note is the trip to Campsea Ashe and Wickham Market on 2 June. There is no organised coach trip this year but instead we have a train trip starting from Felixstowe. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day. The plan is to catch the 10.28 from Felixstowe, arriving at Campsea Ashe at 11.43. We will then walk to Wickham Market for lunch (about 2 ¼ miles) returning to Campsea Ashe to catch the 15.07 train to Ipswich, arriving back in Felixstowe at 16.24. The walk is delightful – through woods and water meadows - and Wickham Market is a pleasant place for a break with a number of cafes and takeaways, shops and an interesting church. You are also welcome to come by car – there is limited parking at the station at Campsea Ashe (confusingly signed ‘Wickham Market Station’).

Programme - May to August 2015

Thursday 7 May

Trimley St Martin

A walk through the countryside, park on the grass near the road at Goslings Farm Shop and meet at 10.30 outside the Garden Café.

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 3

Wednesday 20 May

Landguard Point

Visit the extremity of the peninsula and the nature reserve, meet at 10.30 at the viewpoint car park.

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 3

Tuesday 2 June

Campsea Ash

Take the 10.28 train from Felixstowe to Campsea Ash, walk to Wickham Market for lunch and return to Campsea Ash for the 15.07 train back to Felixstowe (ETA 16.24). Note we change trains at Ipswich and there are 2 stiles on the walk. Distance 2 1/4 miles there and 1 ¾ miles back. (see above)

Grade 3

Monday 15 June**Fairtrade from Walton**

A walk from Walton(St Mary's) Church and returning for a Fairtrade cup of coffee. Meet at 10.30 at St Mary's.

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 2

Friday 26 June**Pin Mill**

A walk through woodland and along the Orwell River, meet at 11.00 at Pin Mill car park

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 3

Thursday 9 July**The Promenade**

A Summer walk along the promenade, meet at 10.30 on the promenade opposite The Fludyer Arms Hotel.

Distance 3 miles

Grade 1

Wednesday 22 July**Alton Water**

A walk near the large reservoir, meet at 11.00 at the Regatta Café and park (free) in the sailing club car park.

Distance 2 ¾ miles

Grade 3

Tuesday 4 August**Suffolk Food Hall**

A walk through the countryside near the River Orwell

Meet at 10.30 at Suffolk Food Hall (off Wherstead Road)

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 3

Monday 17 August**Langer Park**

A Summer walk through Langer Park returning via the promenade, meet at 10.30 on the promenade opposite Beach Station Road.

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 1

Friday 28 August**Kirton**

A walk through fields near Kirton, meet at 11.00 outside the White Horse Public House

Distance 2 ½ miles

Grade 3

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.

The Felixstowe Walkers are part of The Felixstowe Society and regular walkers will be expected to become members of The Society. Annual membership is £7, or £10 for two adults at the same address. For further details of membership send a SAE to Betty Woollan, Membership Secretary, The Pines, Manor Road, Trimley St Mary, IP11 0TU or see the back of this Newsletter. Copies of the programme can be obtained from the library, or e-mail felixstowewalkers@hotmail.co.uk. Or see page 26.

Laurence Gilbert

Felixstowe Society Walks

All walks are guided, free and start at 3pm lasting about 90 minutes

Sunday 19 April - Cotman Walk. Meet at Great Eastern Square

Sunday 10 May - Walton Walk. Meet outside Bounty Fish Shop

Sunday 14 June - Cobbold Walk. Meet Brackenbury Sports Centre

Tuesday 14 July - Hamilton Walk. Meet outside Library at **7pm**

Sunday 19 July - Orwell Walk. Meet Half Moon, Walton

Sunday 16 August - Tomline Walk. Meet at Leisure Centre

Sunday 6 September - Ferry Walk. Meet outside Ferry Boat Inn

Felixstowe Society

World War 1 Commemorative Talk

The Sinking of the Lusitania

Exactly one hundred years ago to-day one of the greatest tragedies of WW1 took place just off the Irish coast. This talk by Phil Hadwen will attempt to explain the causes and impact of this disaster.

Free admission

Thursday, 7 May at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, St Andrew's Road



Bethesda Church

Stephen Claydon, the architect of the extension to the Bethesda Church, spoke to The Society on 25 November about the thinking behind the project.



Half of his architectural practice work involves church buildings so Stephen's appointment as the project's architect enabled the church's authorities to draw on his experience. The major problem, noted by Stephen, was that the previous exterior was rather 'forbidding' and that people walked by without noticing the church. His brief was to develop an extension, in keeping with the existing building materials and for the new build to say to people- 'we are here'!

It was evident that the salt air had eroded some of the stonework. Some original stone work was salvaged and re-used to keep the patterned banding of parts of the stonework. Oak was used for the window bars and glass doors were placed in the entrance to create a less forbidding exterior.

The Society's Enhancement of the Environment Award was given to Bethesda Church in 2013 for a sympathetic expansion of the church fusing the older structure with the new'. It is certainly a striking addition to the architecture of the west end of town.

May Flower

Suffolk War Memorials



In our first Speaker Evening of 2015, Bev Boyce gave an overview of her work as a Regional Volunteer for the War Memorials Trust (WMT) and showed images of a variety of war memorials in our county.

The WMT, a charity based in London, aims to conserve and protect all war memorials within the UK. Bev related details of a recent job she was asked to complete and showed pictures of the war memorial which required restoration of the soldiers' names which had become virtually illegible over time.

A variety of images and stories of war memorials around the county included the tragic story of three brothers commemorated on St Andrew's Melton memorial and the more unusual memorial, an oak lectern, dedicated to the 36 boys from Felixstowe High School who lost their lives in World War Two.

Anna Nimity

Suffolk Coastal Erosion

Talk by Graham Henderson Chairman of SCAR (Suffolk Coast Against Retreat) on Tuesday 24 February. We were treated to a very informative and interesting talk from Graham Henderson, a very well-known Felixstowe Ferry character, who has been fighting the coastal erosion problem along the Suffolk coast for over ten years.

His presentation was divided into three parts. He initially provided us with a little historical background highlighting Dunwich, Aldeburgh and the area around Felixstowe Ferry at the mouth of the River Deben.

He then moved on and gave examples, many of them illustrated, of recent coastal erosion along the whole Suffolk coast and included aspects that are currently important and are actively being addressed. Mr Henderson told us about the reason for setting up SCAR, and how instead of trying to encourage the Environment Agency to support their aims, it worked very closely with it to retain and maintain coastal and river defences.

The final part of the evening was spent dealing with the problems and possible solutions on the River Deben and part of the Deben Estuary Plan. It is encouraging to see that the Deben Estuary Partnership, the Environment Agency, Suffolk Coasts and Heaths and other interested and involved groups are trying to find viable answers to this area, taking into consideration projected climate change problems, which include storm surges and sea level rises. Many local projects have been beneficial and we can only hope that the area will continue to be closely monitored and people who are totally committed, like Graham Henderson, continue to do what is right for the Suffolk coastline and the River Deben.

Neil Downe



**Golf Course
Rock Revetment**

Visit to the Houses of Parliament

On a sunny, crisp morning on 6 March, 48 Society members set off from Felixstowe to visit the 'Mother of all Parliaments'. Prior to our guided tour, we were very fortunate to have a few hours free to explore the area around Westminster. Some enterprising members even found time to visit the Cabinet War Rooms.

Once we entered the security procedure, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that one of the security personnel hailed from Felixstowe, having attended Langer Primary and Deben High School.

We separated into two groups to make the tour more manageable. It was a busy Friday afternoon for many tour groups assembling in the magnificent Westminster Hall, one of the original structures in the Palace of Westminster. MPs and Lords had already scarpred to spend the weekend campaigning or enjoying the fine weather.

We were shown a variety of areas such as the Queen's Robing Room, one of the voting lobbies, St Stephen's Hall, the Commons and the Lords, in both of which we were most definitely not allowed to sit on the hallowed benches.

The entire place is so full of history from its Anglo- Saxon origins to the destruction of most of the medieval palace in 1834 and the re-building which has resulted in striking architecture but crumbling infrastructure according to the recent BBC2 series 'Inside the Commons'.

Grateful thanks are due to Keith and Elizabeth Horn for their first class organisation of a superb trip.

Bev Boyce



Beach Clean on 20 March

15 members of The Society, some of whom are also members of the Beach Hut and Chalet Owners Association, braved a rather chilly and overcast morning to clean the stretch of beach from Cobbold Point to The Spa.

11 bags of rubbish were collected weighing 50.5kgs. One of the bags, weighing 4.5kgs, was collected and recorded from 100 metres near The Spa.

Of over 200 pieces collected, over 50% were plastic items. One large piece of metal was found and this weighed approximately 5kgs.

It was extremely disappointing to note that 7 lots of dog faeces were also recorded.

The managers at the Cliff Top Café 'Chilli and Chives' very kindly provided free coffee for all those of us who took part in the March Beach Clean in appreciation of our work.

The Cliff Top Café, part of Cliff House which was once closely associated with the Cobbold family, also had links with the Felix Hotel. In the peak season, the hotel used the upper storeys of the building as living accommodation for the staff.

The Society is very grateful to the management and staff of 'Chilli and Chives' for their support of the Beach Clean.

Grateful thanks are also due to Keith and Elizabeth Horn for their superb organisation of the Beach Clean.

Bev Boyce



Research Corner 23 - Plaques and Commemorative Stones (1)

I am busily engaged with Brian Nichols, who did so much to publicise Radio Caroline during last year's Heritage Weekend, in trying to place a plaque above the Town Hall gardens to commemorate Radio Caroline. The Felixstowe Society has already erected thirteen plaques to the famous people of our town and we still have a number more to come! but these have already been mentioned in our Society's newsletter. I thought it might be interesting to try and find out if there are other plaques and commemorative stones around our town that need investigating.

The most obvious answer is to start at our Town Hall, the local seat of government, because anyone of note must surely be mentioned here. On the right hand side of the steps leading into the Town Hall we find a reminder of the close links that existed between RAF Felixstowe and the local townspeople between 1913-1962, but rightly the most prominent plaque on the Town Hall can be found proudly displayed on the brickwork between the front windows.

This stone monument is a memorial plaque to the valour and bravery of the crew of a Lancaster bomber (LM258). On Friday 25th August 1944 at quarter past nine in the evening a badly damaged Lancaster bomber returning from operations to RAF Feltwell in Norfolk crashed into the sea not far away from Felixstowe Pier. Only one of the crew of seven survived, but he died shortly afterwards. One of the crew, Flying Officer Glyn Davies Mathias, the Flight Engineer, is interred in Felixstowe Cemetery. The other members of the crew were:- Flight Sergeant Earnest George Murray (Wireless Operator), Sgt Angus Craig and Sgt George Covill (both Air Gunners), Flying Officer Charles Bryce Oxenham (Air Bomber), Flight Lieutenant Douglas Charles Haggis (Pilot) and Sgt William Augustus Dyer (Navigator).

On 20th September 1944 the Clerk to Felixstowe Town Council, R W Harvey, wrote to the families on behalf of the town. The letter clearly illustrates what actually happened.

"Dear.....,

The Council and inhabitants of Felixstowe are very distressed indeed at the unfortunate occurrence here on Friday 25th August, when the Lancaster bomber, of which your son..... was a member of the crew, crashed into the sea off Felixstowe with the loss of all hands.

By a Special Resolution of the Council at a recent meeting I have been directed to convey to you our sincere sympathies in the tremendous loss you have sustained in circumstances so tragic.

It is evident that the pilot, realising that he had to make a forced landing, decided to spare the town and its inhabitants and to risk his own life and the lives of his comrades by coming down in the sea. For that noble action we shall ever be indebted, but at the same time we deeply regret that it meant such a great sacrifice to those brave young men and all those so dear to them.

If there are other members in your family I shall be grateful if you will kindly pass this message of condolence on to them.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,"

On Saturday 25 August 2001 a memorial plaque to these brave young men was unveiled at a ceremony outside Felixstowe Town Hall and on the memorial stone we not only find



the names of these young men, but the moving commendation, "For that noble action we shall ever be indebted". The Felixstowe Volunteer Coastal Patrol Rescue Service carried a wreath to the site of the crash where it was cast onto the sea. There is a painting by John Constable Reeve of this Lancaster bomber, but at this present time I am not sure where it is.

Two stones can also be found on the front of the Town Hall and both are quite significant. To the right of the front doorway steps is the foundation(?) stone laid by Felix T Cobbold, Esq. Chairman of the Board 13th January 1892. Also listed are those members of the board governing and directing Felixstowe:- Bloomfield J I, Creasey C A, Jackson G H, Carr C, Downing S, Jolly W, Cordy J B, Hobbs J, Lord Rev. I, Quilter H G,, Ward T. Also mentioned are:- F R Jennings-clerk, Geo. S Horton-surveyor and H Runnacles-builder. We are told that this site was presented by Captain E G Pretyman.

On the other side of the steps is a stone noting that Felixstowe Town Hall was restored and refurbished by Felixstowe Town Council in 2008 with a list of the council members and the mayor Mike Deacon. Susan Robinson was the Town Clerk, Rosemary Jones the surveyor, Peter Jaggard-Rees Pryer the architects, Drake and Plant the builders, with Barry Earthy the foreman. Maybe another article can highlight the treasures inside the Town Hall.

There is of course the stone laid by The Felixstowe Society to the memory of the six people who died in the European Gateway disaster situated on the cliff top above the Town Hall gardens, but nearby is St John`s Church, which produces a couple of real surprises!

On the Princes Road outer-wall we find a very interesting stone with wording as follows:-

A M D C
THIS STONE WAS LAID BY
THE REV. G J MARTYN P G G
DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRANDMASTER
of the FREEMASONS of SUFFOLK
JANUARY 26 1899

On reading the excellent church guide book, very ably put together by Roy Tricker and David Dyer, we find that this is the Foundation Stone of the new chancel, south chapel, organ chamber and vestry, and that the Felix Lodge of Freemasons were to give the east

window. How fitting then that when the old parish hall was sold it was bought by the Felixstowe Lodges of Freemasons.

If you then follow the path to the right of this stone you will find a hidden plaque on one of the brick gate posts. This gate was in memory of Francis George and Annie Louise Sternberg and erected by their daughter. Continue to walk around the rear of the church and you will find a real hidden gem. On the outer wall of the church is a wooden cross in a glass case and this is in memory of Captain William Henry Middleton Kersey of the 166th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. He died on 17th October 1917 at Ypres aged 24. He was educated at Wellington College, Berkshire and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he is commemorated on Rolls of Honour at both places. He is buried at The Huts Cemetery, Belgium. William was the only son of William Edward and Ada Laura Kersey of Felixstowe and Ipswich. (William`s father was a solicitor, who became a very wealthy man being worth over £100,000 when he died, and owned a large house in Ipswich and another one in Felixstowe-Seagull House [?] Both parents are buried at Waldringfield). Returning to the front of the church you can find a very proud and prominent war memorial and walking around the side of the church, beyond the front entrance, there is a stone on the vestry, now converted to the church hall. We read that this addition to the church was built to the glory of God and in affectionate memory of Bessie Edith Cross who entered into rest on 7th January 1926. This vestry was erected by her husband Walter F Cross JP in 1929. It was designed by Mr H F Walker.

Mr Cross was a very prominent member of the communities of Walton and Felixstowe and not only did he have erected the vestry at St John`s he also had built, at his own cost, a church for the worshippers of what we now know as Seaton Road Methodists. The original United Free Church in Back Lane (now Seaton Road, Walton) had been built about 1862 by the firm of David Thurman. Mr Cross, an old scholar of this church`s Sunday School, offered to build a new school hall on land adjacent to the church which had been purchased for £150 in October 1925. At a meeting to discuss this matter he offered instead to build a new church at his own expense and on 20th March 1937 the foundation stone was laid by Mr Walter Cross JPCC.



The new church was officially opened in September 1937 and the original church was then converted to a hall to be used by the Sunday School and this was opened a year later by Miss Kate Thurman, the daughter of the founder of the school. On the side wall of this building we find two stones. The first was laid on 26th January 1888 by the Reverend I Lord of

Wadgate Farm (he was also on the Town Hall foundation stone) to celebrate the Sunday School which was established in 1855.

Adjacent to this is a stone, well worn by the weather, laid on 7 December 1910, in memory of the late(David?) Thurman.....(founder/builder) of this church. I am sure there are members of this church`s congregation who can help us fill in the missing names. Also surrounding this stone are a number of named and initialled bricks, but there is no explanation as to their purpose!

I have only just scratched the surface of what to me is an important part of our town`s history and I will return to this subject in the future.

Phil Hadwen

Planning Applications

21 November 2014 to 21 March 2015

SCDC has granted Permission for the following:

Previous Applications

Old Hall Farm House: General alterations.

15 & 17 Holbrook Crescent: Erect a detached bungalow.

Wellington Court, 3-5 Hamilton Gardens: Replacement windows to rear of flat. The Society believes that the proposed alterations will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

Recent Applications

48 Westmorland Rd: Proposed first floor extension and a single storey rear extension. We regret we could not comment earlier on this proposal as it appears not to have been published in the weekly lists. However, The Society does object to this application.

The extensions do not comply with the guidance of SPG 16, (5.15) in relation to the adverse impact on light to the adjacent property. The alterations also intrude into and badly detract from the street scene in this road of houses on well spaced sites.

Land Rear of 66 Hamilton Rd, Felnor Way: Alteration to storage units including remodelling. First floor extension to create two self-contained flats. The Society considers that these alterations will have little effect on, and possibly be an enhancement of, the Conservation Area.

The Alex Restaurant, Sea Rd: Minor alterations to front elevation. We support this improvement which will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

Cliff House, Chevalier Rd: Car Parking. These changes will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

Applications awaiting a decision

Land to rear of 25 Undercliff Rd West: Erect single dwelling with access off Lincoln Terrace: The Society has to object to this application. There is insufficient detail as to the stability of the cliff, which could well be affected by springs. We also consider that the houses below will be at risk. The plan does not show details of the third floor mentioned in the design and access report.

17 Cliff Road: Erect a 2 metre high boundary fence to front of site and alterations to buildings. The Society has no comments on the alterations. However, we do object to the high fence proposed to the front of the site. In our view it is obstructive and detrimental to the street scene. We also note the lack of visibility for vehicles exiting the site onto the pavement and consequent risk to pedestrians.

19 Cliff Rd: Development to form two dwellings. This is a great improvement on previous applications for this site and we have no objections to this new proposal.

38-40 Victoria St: Conversion of redundant buildings to new dwellings, etc. This site needs redeveloping and these proposals for residential housing will enhance the Conservation Area.

Wolsey Gardens – Erect a shelter: This development can only enhance the gardens and the Conservation Area. We appreciate the reference to the gardens of long ago.

Cotman Hall, Undercliff Road East: Change of use from tea rooms to function room etc, plus a first floor extension. These proposals can only benefit the Conservation Area and improve the street scene. We endorse the use of traditional bricks for repair work to this Cotman Building.

35 Ranelagh Road: Convert dwelling to 2 flats. These proposals make little alteration to the façade and therefore will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

Other Applications

19 Cliff Rd: Erect two dwellings – existing garage and car port to be removed. Revised scheme to outline planning approval DC/14/0060/OUT. This is another review of the original plan and The Society objects to the proposals for these two sites for the reasons stated below.

The larger dimensions of the houses will overcrowd the site. This is a road of substantial houses with open aspects and to squash two large dwellings on these sites will also adversely affect the street scene.

It is likely that there will be overlooking of adjacent properties. The large garages situated to the front of the properties will also affect the clear aspect of the street and could well obstruct the sight lines for traffic exiting St George's Road and Western Avenue. SPG 16 Para 4.8 (f) advice - 'Garages should not obscure or dominate the houses'. Ideally free standing garages should be situated behind the main building.

David Crawford

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, or pay by SO - see p.26

Full names

.....

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

- Artwork
- Archives/Exhibitions
- Leading walks
- Litter clearance
- Monitoring planning applications
- Newsletter delivery
- Organising activities
- Survey work
- Secretarial work
- Maintenance work at Abbey Grove and Gulpher Pond

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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:

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The Pines
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Membership Subscriptions (The annual subscription runs from the 1 January)

| | |
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Sort Code: 20 - 98 - 07
Account Number: 40380539

These photographs are not part of the Newsletter but are added to create two more pages to generate 28 pages. The number of pages must be a multiple of four.

Four photographs of the Bath hotel and its environs are of interest.



12 The Bath Hotel in 1870. One of Felixstowe's premier hotels, burnt down by suffragettes in 1914, part remains incorporated into the Bartlet Hospital Nurses' Centre (see No. 139). This hotel was built in 1879 by John Cobbold. It was originally known as the Hamilton Hotel.



13 A fancy bazaar and private baths with hot and cold spa water among the attractions in 1884. The Bath Hotel is in the background and the Bath Tap is on the right.



14 The "R" Martello Tower on the right of the Bath Hotel is still visible today as part of the ground floor of the Bartlet Hospital. This view was taken in August 1886 from the rocks and shows an extended hotel. The fancy bazaar has gone but the wooden building remains.



15 Photographed in 1905 these horses and traps wait at the Bath Hotel for fares.

Photographs taken from 'Felixstowe from old photographs' by Phil hadwen et al.