

The Felixstowe Society

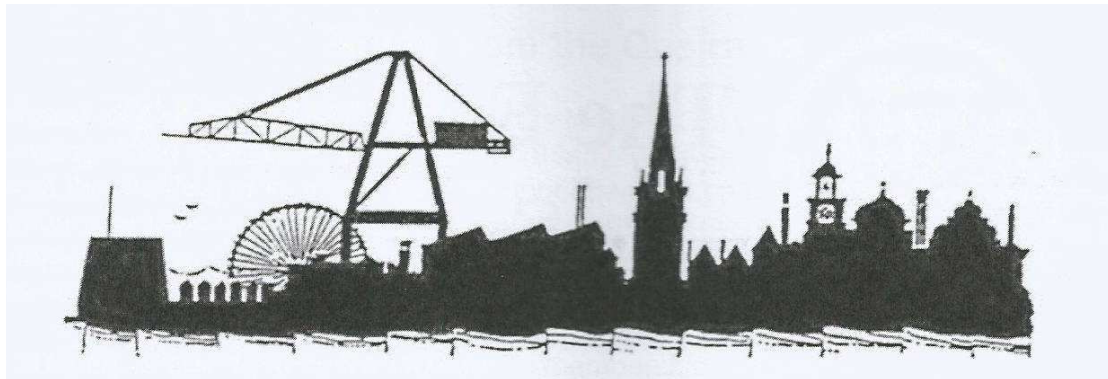
NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 118

May 2018



FORTY YEARS AND COUNTING . . .



Registered Charity No. 277442

The Felixstowe Society is established for the public benefit of people who either live or work in Felixstowe and Walton. Members are also welcome from The Trimleys and 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.

***Cover photograph taken by Sulsie Muchal
A sunny afternoon at Gulpher Pond in March***

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I really can't believe it. 18 March and snow again!! Lovely when you are viewing it from a cosy lounge but not so good if you have to go out!

The Society has had a busy time since the last Newsletter with some very interesting Speakers despite having to cancel Pip Wright due to the last spate of the white stuff. However, Roy tells me that he is rescheduled for later this year. On the subject of speakers, we decided to slip in another speaker in April. We are aware that there is a lot of concern in the town about the plans for a new Leisure Centre. We feel that it is part of our remit to try to inform so we have arranged for Tim Snook from SCDC to come and explain the concept. I do hope that some fears were allayed and clarity gained.

Bala Cottage. The planning application on the variation of conditions went to the SCDC Planning Committee and I attended with three other erudite gentlemen who all wanted to speak. When we arrived we were told that they had three minutes between them. They were all from different organisations but this made no difference as the three-minute rule is in the SCDC Constitution!! Despite impassioned pleas from two of our local District Councillors, we lost and the building remains, although with some attached conditions. Not the end, though. Watch this space!!

The plaque in memory of Percy Edwards has been replaced in the foyer of the Spa Pavilion Theatre. We are very grateful to Ray Anderson for agreeing to this and allowing us to take photographs of the plaque in position. We understand that the original plaque disappeared before the new owners took over, so we had a new one made.

We have decided to use the Red Telephone Box in Hamilton Gardens to display posters advertising local events. If anyone would like to take advantage of this, please apply to me as I hold the key.

Another piece of good news and a way to raise the profile of The Felixstowe Society in the community is the decision by your committee to purchase a memorial seat in remembrance of Barbara Reid who was Chair of The Society when it decided to support Abbey Grove and was very heavily involved in the project. It is also the 20th anniversary this year. In conjunction with the volunteers of Abbey Grove and any members of the community who would like to attend, we are intending to have a picnic (bring your own). This will take place on Sunday 15 July at 3 pm in Abbey Grove. The seat dedication will take place during the afternoon. I spent a lovely afternoon with the volunteers and I am pleased to be able to tell you that all volunteers are covered by the public liability of the Woodland Trust provided that they sign in on site. They meet at The Grove on a Tuesday morning and you just have to turn up. We are also very grateful to Keith Horn who has agreed to be the contact, with Alan Muchal, and volunteers for any work needed on Gulpher Pond.

Next major event: the wonderful holiday to Derbyshire followed by the AGM

No secretary yet, but I live in hope!!!

40th Anniversary this year. Any bright ideas to celebrate??

Enjoy the Spring.

Kindest regards

Jan Garfield

Calendar May - December 2018

All Speaker Evenings are at 7.30 pm at the Salvation Army Church, Cobbold Road

May

Thursday 3

Felixstowe Walkers - **Trimley St Martin** - A walk through the countryside. Park on the grass near the road at Goslings Farm Shop. Meet at 10.30 outside the Garden Café.

Distance 2½ miles. Grade 3

Wednesday 16

Felixstowe Walkers - **The Grove** - A walk through an area which is under threat of development. Meet at 10.30 in the Grove car park.

Distance 2½ miles Grade 3

Thursday 17 - Sunday 20

Three night stay in Derby and more

Tuesday 22

AGM and Speaker Evening -
40 Years and Counting . . . The Society's Contribution to the Heritage and Development of Felixstowe - **Bev Boyce**

Tuesday 29

Felixstowe Walkers - **Landguard Nature Reserve** - A walk across the nature reserve, meet at 11.00 at the car park opposite the Fort entrance.

Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 3

* * * * *

June

Monday 11

Felixstowe Walkers - **Waldringfield** - A walk along the river bank and surrounding area, meet at 11.00 in the Maybush Inn car park.

Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 3

Thursday 14

BEACH CLEAN

Tuesday 19 June

Day Visit to HMS Ganges, Shotley and Royal Hospital School, Holbrook

Friday 22

Felixstowe Walkers - **Suffolk Food Hall** - A walk through the countryside near the River Orwell. Meet at 10.30, Suffolk Food Hall (off Wherstead Road).
Distance 2 ½ miles **Grade 3**

Saturday 30 June

Mid Summer Social Evening at The Hut. See pink insert for details.

* * * * *

July

Thursday 5

Felixstowe Walkers - **The Promenade** - Enjoy a Summer walk along the promenade and through the seafront gardens. Meet at 10.30 on the prom opposite the Fludyers Public House.
Distance 2 ½ miles **Grade 1**

Sunday 15 July

Picnic at Abbey Grove Meadow to celebrate 20 years since The Grove was planted. A memorial seat to Barbara Reid will be unveiled at this event. Meet at 3pm. Please bring your own picnic.

Wednesday 18

Felixstowe Walkers - **Stutton Church** - A walk along the River Stour. Car parking outside Stutton Church, off the B1080, Holbrook Road. Meet at 11.00
Distance 2 ¾ miles **Grade 3**

Tuesday 31

Felixstowe Walkers - **Old Felixstowe**
A walk along Old Felixstowe cliffs and promenade. Meet at 10.30 at Brackenbury Sports Centre.
Distance 2 ½ miles **Grade 2**

* * * * *

August

Monday 13

Felixstowe Walkers - **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**

Friday 24

Felixstowe Walkers - **Daisy's Walk** - A walk through Rendlesham Forest.
Meet at 11.00 at Butley Corner Car Park (Off the B1084 Orford Road)
Distance 2 ½ miles **Grade 3**

* * * * *

September

Monday 3

Felixstowe Walkers - **Trimley St Mary** - A walk towards the marshes.
Meet at 11.00 outside The Three Mariners Public House
Distance 2 ½ miles **Grade 3**

Tuesday 11 September **Visit 1 to the Suffolk Police Museum.** See yellow insert for details.

Saturday 15

BEACH CLEAN

Thursday 20 September **Visit 2 to the Suffolk Police Museum.** See yellow insert for details.

Tuesday 25

Speaker Evening - Angel Roofs in East Anglia - Michael Rimmer

* * * * *

October

Tuesday 23

Speaker Evening - At the Overseer's Door - Ray Whitehand

(Unfortunately the original speaker booked for October, Ruth Dugdale, is now not available. Ray was going to speak to us last year but was indisposed.)

* * * * *

November

Monday 12

The Felixstowe Society WW1 Commemorative Talks 2014-2018.
The final talk in this series will take place at 7pm at St Andrew's Church.

Tuesday 27

Speaker Evening - Oceangoing Yachting - Bridget Keevil

* * * * *

December

Wednesday 12

BEACH CLEAN

BEACH CLEAN

Meet at the shelter on the promenade near to The Bartlet. 9.30 am start.

* * * * *

FELIXSTOWE WALKERS - please note that the distances quoted are the maximum and we can accommodate shorter walks where required.

Walking Grading System :

Grade 1 - easy flat good surfaces

Grade 2 - mostly on the level but can be muddy in places

Grade 3 - generally good surfaces but some moderate slopes and mud in wet weather

Grade 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 Hilary Eaton, Treasurer, 102C Queens Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7PG.

Copies of the programme can be obtained from the library or email felixstowewalkers@hotmail.co.uk.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY QUIZ

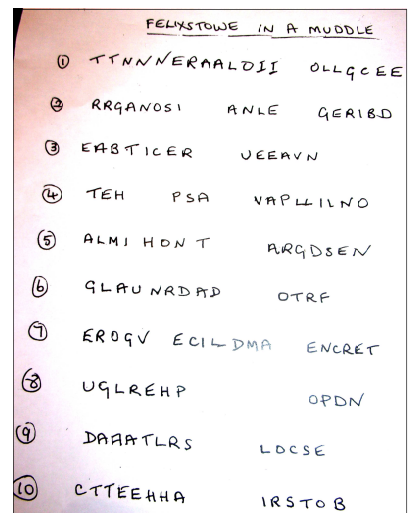
Over 90 people thoroughly enjoyed the Quiz Evening held on Friday 23 February at the Trades and Labour Club in Walton. This was organised by Roy Gray, who made an excellent Quiz Master, and the questions were set by Gill Hadwen (a sample of which is shown below). The evening made a profit of over £500 for The Society.

The ticket included a fish and chip (or sausage and chip) supper supplied by Bounty Fish Shop which were very welcome at half time. There was also an excellent raffle.



Altogether a very pleasant evening enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you to everyone who came and who contributed. Looking forward to next year!



Phil's Sunday Walks

Sunday 20 May

The Cobbold Walk.
Meet at 2.30 pm outside
Brackenbury Leisure Centre.
The walk finishes at the same
place.



Sunday 24 June

The Walton Walk Part II.
Meet outside the Half Moon Pub.
The walk finishes outside 90
Grange Road.



Sunday 22 July

The Tomline Walk.
Meet at 2.30 pm by Martello P in
Martello Park.
The walk finishes at the corner of
Sea Road and Cavendish Road.



Sunday 26 August

The Seafront Gardens Perimeter
Walk.
Meet at 2.30 pm outside the
Town Hall.
The walk finishes at the Town
Hall Gardens Shelter.
A gradual incline and steps are
part of this walk.



Sunday 23 September

Victorian and Edwardian
Felixstowe Part II
Meet at 2.30 pm outside Cliff
House in Hamilton Gardens.
The walk finishes in Ranelagh
Car Park.



Sunday 18 November

Felixstowe WW1.
Meet at 2.30 pm at the Garrison
Lane car park.
The walk finishes at the Seafront
War Memorial.



Our beautiful Spa Gardens
Photo contributed by Glynne Blackall



Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

At the time of writing this article, several beach hut owners are facing uncertainty as to where their huts will be sited this year – and in future years.

Huts between the Spa Pavilion and the Pier sit on the promenade during the winter and are returned to the beach for the summer. However, 'Storm Emma', which hit the coast with strong easterly winds a few weeks ago, caused serious erosion to the beach along this part of the sea front. Hut owners at the Spa site have been told that their huts will not go back on the beach this year and it is intended that an alternative site will be found for them. The owners of huts north of the Pier have been told that their huts may also not go back on the beach, depending on high tides expected before Easter. They are waiting to see what happens. There is hope that the beach will be replenished naturally by the sea in due course, but we are not holding our breath. Also, if the huts south of the Pier are to return to the beach, remedial work needs to be undertaken on the platform they sit on during the summer which was also damaged by the storm.

This has come at a time when Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) is looking to have even more huts in the town. That is something that the Association will support – provided that they are sited in appropriate places. A planning application to use a concrete area at 'The Dip' has been withdrawn for the time being due to a

conflict with windsurfers and an application to site six more huts south of the Pier has been deferred following an objection from the Town Council as the application is against SCDC's own policies.

We consider that it is a priority for SCDC to accommodate existing huts that will be displaced from the positions they have occupied for many years and are an integral part of the attraction of Felixstowe as a resort, rather than look to put new huts on the sea front.

The desire for SCDC to increase their revenue by having more beach huts is understood, but we are at a loss to know why they are not considering introducing beach huts at Aldeburgh, which is the only town along the Suffolk coastline that does not have any beach huts at all.

We are told that refurbishment of the toilet blocks at 'The Dip' is due to be carried out soon which is essential to ensure that hut owners, residents and visitors have decent facilities to use. The toilets at Golf Road car park were damaged by fire a few months ago and have recently been reopened.

After a very demanding year in 2017 when we were occupied with the controversy over the pricing of hut ownership which has been resolved, we are hoping for a much quieter 2018!

Trevor Mason

A CELEBRATION!

Abbey Grove is 20 years old in December 2018

Abbey Grove is Felixstowe's very own woodland. It was planted by the community, it is maintained by the community and enjoyed by the community. It is a Woodland Trust site created as part of its 'Millennium Woods on your Doorstep' scheme. Barbara Reid, the chair of Felixstowe Society from 1990-2004, working with The Woodland Trust, played a key role in the early stages of developing the woodland. There were a number of 'planting days' where the community, including many Felixstowe Society members, came along with their spades to help with the planting. Thousands of saplings were planted and each sapling was protected from the local rabbit and Muntjac population by a tree guard.

Bob Stoner took on the role as the Woodland Trust Volunteer Warden and soon started running Tuesday work parties following The Woodland Trust's work plan.

In the early days the main task was clearing brambles from the new saplings and keeping the tree protectors free of ants' nests. As the saplings matured they needed less and less individual TLC and eventually all the tree guards could be removed; an exciting stage. Tasks moved onto keeping the pathways clear, planting up and managing the hedgerows, creating various habitats to encourage different wildlife and creating a wildflower meadow. I still remember the absolute delight in spotting the first acorn on one of our Oak saplings, magical. As the Tuesday work parties grew in strength and the trees matured further, more jobs could be undertaken. One area of Abbey Grove had been planted up with hazel and divided into areas for each area to be coppiced on a 7-year rotation basis. Each

year we now look forward to the coppicing. We generate bean poles and pea sticks for the allotment holders and wildflowers on the woodland floor are encouraged by opening up an area of woodland. Coppicing is how our ancient woodlands were managed for hundreds of years and it is a great feeling to be involved in these traditional methods.

Abbey Grove is recognised by The Woodland Trust as an absolute gem and in 2009 Bob and all the volunteers were given the 'Best in the Eastern Region' award.

Do make sure you visit the woodland. It is freely open every day of the year. You can park in the main Grove/Eastward Ho car park, return on foot to the Grove Medical Centre roadway, turn right, walk past the medical centre car park on your left and then turn left along the track to a gated entrance. The SCDC mature Grove woodland is also definitely worth a visit and is accessed directly from the main Eastward Ho/Grove car park or from a boardwalk on the northern boundary of Abbey Grove near the wildflower meadow.

If you think you may be interested in helping out at a working party we would love to see you; many Felixstowe Society members come along but everyone is very welcome so do ask your friends. The Woodland Trust provides the funding for tools and gloves, training courses and provides the insurance cover so just turn up!! We meet on Tuesday mornings from



09.30 till midday from the beginning of October through to the end of March. At 11.00 we stop for the all important coffee and banter session. There is no commitment to come every week or stay for the whole morning. There is a mixture of jobs available from lightweight tasks to heavy tasks, something for everyone. A good way to get fit, meet like-minded people, help the wildlife and nurture a woodland for future generations. We leave the woodland to the wildlife for the summer months with just occasional work parties to keep the pathways clear of bramble and pick up any litter.

Some facts....Abbey Grove is 10 acres. 5000 native saplings were planted including oak, ash, sweet chestnut, field maple and wild cherry. 600 hedgerow shrubs were planted including blackthorn, hawthorn, guelder rose, wayfarer and spindle. We have a barn owl box at present inhabited by a stock dove. Each year we carry out surveys for birds, reptiles, small mammals, butterflies and fungi.

As part of our 20 year celebrations we are planning on holding a picnic at 3pm on Sunday 15 July on the Abbey Grove meadow to celebrate 20 years since it was planted. At this event we will be unveiling a seat in honour of Barbara Reid who sadly passed away on 19 September 2016.

Barbara worked with untiring enthusiasm for our town of Felixstowe and it is a better place for her efforts. She was always keen on taking action rather than just moaning. With this thought and Barbara in mind please look out for the next round of consultations on the plans for Felixstowe. These include a major investment in our leisure facilities as well as more housing to the north of Felixstowe. Improved leisure facilities will be great but we must make sure we do not lose our countryside in the excitement of what is on offer. Read the consultations and respond individually. Ask your local councillor for an update to make sure you do not miss out on the chance to have your say.

All are welcome to the picnic. Bring a contribution of picnic food/drink and your friends and family. There will be the opportunity to have a guided walk through the woods and take part in a nature treasure hunt. Abbey Grove entrance is at the end of the path behind the Grove Medical Centre near The Grove Woods. Park in The Grove/ Eastward Ho car park.

The first photo below shows how the site looked on the first day of planting. Marian Pettit the Mayor of Felixstowe can be seen with Tony Cox. The second photo shows how the woodland looks today.

Judith Hedges



Felixstowe Society
SPEAKER'S CORNER

Revd Richard Moore
Suffolk Sandlings

28th November 2017



Richard started by setting us a riddle:
'Turkeys, heresies, hops and beer all came to Suffolk in what year, and where is this riddle displayed in Felixstowe?'

By showing us his paintings, Richard was able to expand on many points of interest along the Suffolk coast - the area east of the A12 known as the Sandlings.

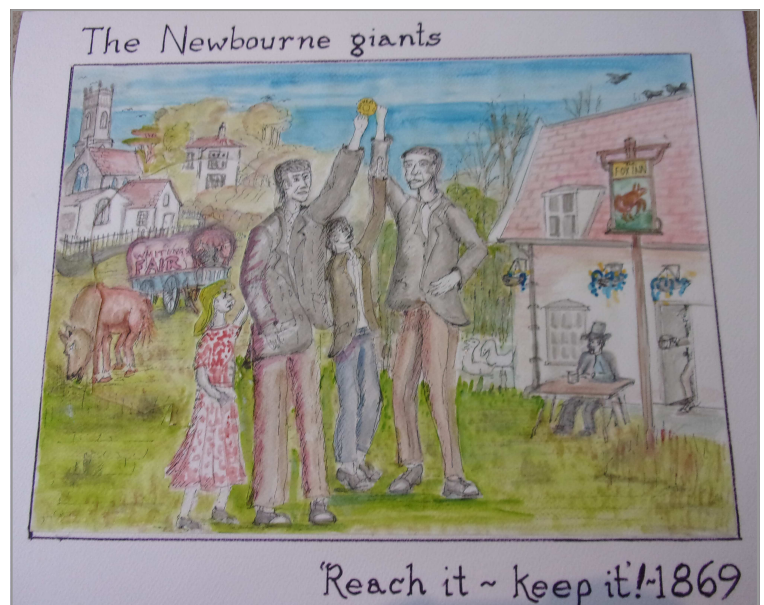


He told us first about the storms at Dunwich in 1347, which destroyed England's second largest town after London, and with it Edwards III's harbour for his Navy, most of the town and many churches, of which the remains of only one exist today.

He went on to describe the curious scratch marks on the door at Blythburgh church, which were allegedly incised there by Shuck the monster dog when the vicar hurriedly closed the door to prevent it attacking the villagers.

His next painting showed the two Newbourne giants of 1869, simple village labourers who were over 7' tall and employed by a nearby circus, and who were eventually buried in the village churchyard.

Richard then moved south to Bucklesham and the Shannon Inn there. He described how Admiral Broke fought in the American War of Independence aboard the very successful HMS Shannon, where he had devised an improvement to the levelling of the guns, which was most effective, though England still lost the war!



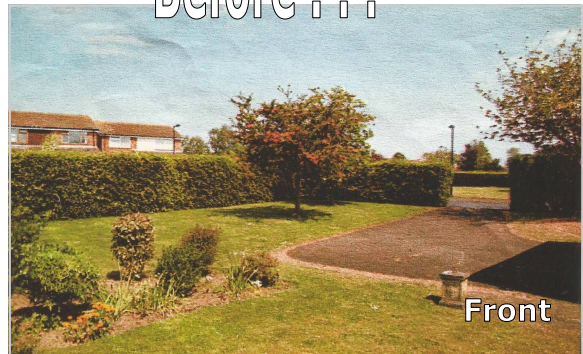


The next painting was of Bawdsey Manor, where Mr Watson-Watt, a descendant of James Watt the steam engineer, was crucial to the development of radar during the War.

We then saw his illustration of a 1917 Zeppelin, which had been blown off course, dropped two bombs on Falkenham of all places, and was then shot down by a Sopwith Pup fighter armed with the latest tracer bullets over Theberton, watched with awe by Richard's mother.

After quite a few more interesting snippets, Richard then gave us the answer to his riddle : they all came to Suffolk in about 1537 and can be seen on a beam in the ceiling of the Ferry Boat Inn, Felixstowe Ferry.





A REVIEW OF DIANE AND MICK'S GARDEN

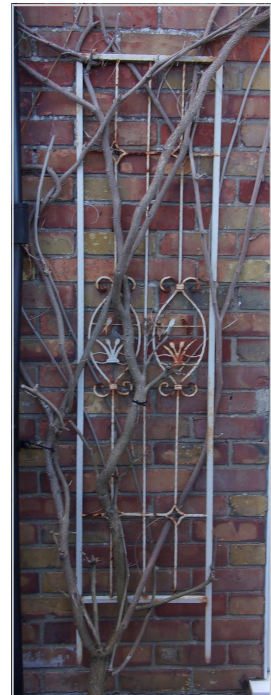
When we moved into our house in 2009, we did not realise what we were taking on with regards to the garden! It took two years to get it half decent – taking down 21 Leylandii trees, 60 feet of 8 foot high beech hedge and de-weeding and tidying lots of other trees, hedges and shrubs. All very labour intensive.

Having done this, our friend Sue Hazelwood said we should open the garden with 12 others for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We had a lot of good feedback from the opening, so I phoned the National Garden Scheme organiser for Suffolk to ask if we could be considered for the famous Yellow Book.



Unbeknown to us, she had visited our garden on the opening and was only too pleased to have it on board.

Last year we received our certificate for opening the garden for the NGS for five years. During that time we have also opened for various charities and clubs, eg St Elizabeth Hospice, Age UK, Eve Appeal, Felixstowe and District Horticultural Society and the Kirton and Falkenham Gardeners' Club.

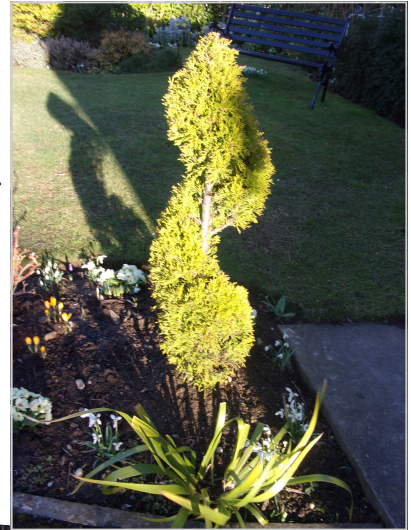


With a great deal of help from good friends, we serve lovely cakes, savouries, tea, etc, all home made! 100% of our takings go to the charities.



It is a perennial, all year round garden with over 400 different plants, shrubs and trees, together with many eclectic, quirky features. We try to add to these each year to encourage people to return.

Our dates for opening this year are **Sunday 13 May** for the NGS, **Sunday 10 June** for the St. Elizabeth Hospice with five other gardens, **Sunday 8 July** for Age UK and a Coffee Morning on **Friday 27 July** for the Blossoms Appeal who are raising money for a new breast cancer unit at Ipswich Hospital (10.30 am - 12.30 pm). All other days, are 11am to 5pm. If anybody would like a private viewing, they would be very welcome for a contribution to any one of our charities.



The National Garden Scheme supports The Queen's Nursing Institute, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Carers' Trust, Hospice UK, Perennial, Parkinsons UK and others.

Mary Berry is chairman of NGS.

Diane Elmes



VICTORIAN STINK OR STENCH PIPES

A particular type of street furniture to be seen in the older parts of Walton and Felixstowe is the Victorian or Edwardian stink or stench pipe which will more or less mark the position of a nineteenth or early twentieth century sewer to carry away discharge from nearby buildings.

Such sewers contained an unpleasant gas which was mainly hydrogen sulphide and gave off a rotten egg smell. This gas could build up when sewage was being pumped long distances and was unable to travel from A to B quickly enough. The gas could also occur in flat areas where the speed of flow was slower. It was even possible for the gas to eat concrete if not dealt with properly.

As a consequence, sewers were vented. The hollow ventilation pipe had to be tall enough to enable the noxious and even potentially lethal gas fumes to escape into the atmosphere at above nose level. Moreover, as sewer gases can be heavier than air, it was essential that the wind disperse them before they could settle at ground level.

A number of manufacturers were able to build and to supply the ventilation pipes which, unlike those in Felixstowe, often had ornate designs. The very fact that the pipes were massively over-engineered means that they survive until today.

Those pipes, sited in such places as Walton High Street and Mill Lane Felixstowe are decorated in Felixstowe Blue paint and maintained by Anglian Water as owner.

Michael Sharman



Two stench pipes in close proximity in Cage Lane

IN MEMORY OF PERCY EDWARDS

Birdman Percy Edwards was known worldwide as the voice of some of Hollywood's most famous animals and aliens. While his fame spread across the globe, he remained firmly rooted in the Suffolk he loved, and now a lost memorial to honour his life has been replaced and returned to where it belongs.

The memorial plaque marking his life had hung on the wall of the lounge bar of Felixstowe's Spa Pavilion, where he was a regular performer, but was missing, presumed lost, when the theatre was taken over by new private owners.

Thanks to The Felixstowe Society, the Spa Pavilion now has a new plaque once again, taking pride of place in the theatre foyer in fond memory of the Bird Whistler.



Chairman Jan Garfileld, together with vice chairmen Roy Gray and Keith Horn, Membership Secretary Hilary Eaton and Ray Anderson, director of the Spa Pavilion, attended the unveiling. Ray Anderson said, "We would like to extend our grateful thanks to Felixstowe Society members for kindly

arranging this. The fact that this hugely popular and talented man also came from the county is something we would like to remember and celebrate for many years to come.



The popular animal impersonator and entertainer was born in Ipswich and lived in

Trimley St Martin and Hintlesham. Before he was famous he worked at Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies in Ipswich. He died in 1996.



CONTRIBUTIONS
for the September 2018 Newsletter
should reach the Editor by Saturday 21 July latest.
email to : fxsocnewsletter@gmail.com
Or telephone 07916 236 209

FELIXSTOWE AND WALTON UNITED FC 'SEASIDERS'

The 'Seasiders' were formed in 2000 when two clubs merged, 'Felixstowe' and 'Walton', although they had merged briefly just prior to the Second World War under the name of Felixstowe United. This ended in 1952.

Felixstowe FC had been founded in 1890 and was a founder member of the Ipswich and District League in 1896. It then left and rejoined the league under its new name, Felixstowe Town. Walton United had been founded 5 years later. It played all its games until 2000 at Recreation Lane, Walton, winning the Suffolk Senior Cup 1998/1999.

Felixstowe Town joined Essex and Suffolk Border League in 1996. They won the Suffolk Senior Cup 1966/67 and again 1974/75. The club joined Eastern Counties League in 1976. In 1996 they were renamed Felixstowe Port and Town.

In 2000 when the two clubs merged, they took the name Felixstowe and Walton United F.C. playing at the Town Ground, Dellwood Avenue with the ground renamed the Goldstar Ground. The club colours are red and white. The first team are in the Premier Division of the Thurlow Nunn (Eastern Counties) League where they were runners up last season.



EXHIBITIONS

Earlier this year, some Society members gave generously of their time to supervise the exhibition commemorating the 65th anniversary of the 1953 floods disaster in Felixstowe. Held in St John's Church, this display of photos and documents provided by Felixstowe Museum, The Felixstowe Society, Felixstowe Library and Society members Andrew Halliday and Jean Macpherson was much appreciated by both flood survivors and local residents. Grateful thanks to Meg Baker, Hilary Eaton, Andrew Halliday, Mick and Diane Elmes, Doug Hart, Kirsty and Robert Wright, Jean Macpherson, Haley Dossor and Bev Boyce.

During Heritage Weekend, September 8 and 9, an exhibition to celebrate The Society's 40th birthday will be held in The Hut on the prom.

If any members have photos of Felixstowe between the years 1978 -2018 which they would be willing to lend to the exhibition, please contact Bev Boyce on 01394 672184.



Newsletter distribution team

Organiser Roger Baker

Messrs Abbott/Simpson,
Mrs Barnard,
Mr & Mrs Bays-Henderson,
Mr & Mrs Bennett,
Mr & Mrs Blemings,
Miss Boyce,
Ms Cameron,
Mr Dangerfield,
Mr & Mrs Elmes,
Mr & Mrs Entwistle,
Mrs Eyre,
Mrs Hadwen,
Mr & Mrs Holland,
Mr & Mrs Love,
Mr & Mrs Mason,
Rev & Dr Moore,
Mr & Mrs Rutterford,
Mr & Mrs Seeley,
Mrs Sutton,
Mr & Mrs Thomas,
Mr & Mrs Woollan,
Mr & Mrs Wright

**The
Felixstowe
Society
would like to
thank those
people listed
here for their
sterling work
delivering
the
Newsletters
three times a
year
throughout
Felixstowe
and Walton**

Tuesday 22 May
7.30pm
Salvation Army Church
Cobbold Road

AGM and SPEAKER EVENING

'40 Years and Counting . . .

**The Society's
Contribution to the
Heritage and
Development of
Felixstowe'**

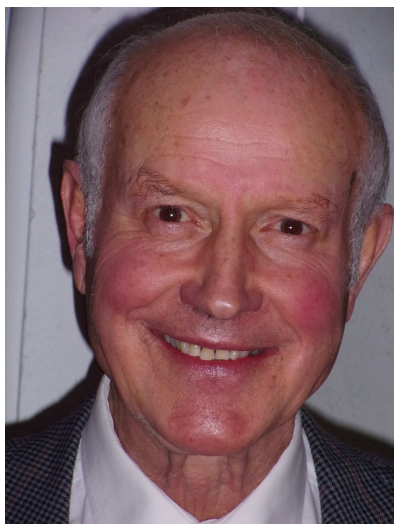
Bev Boyce

All Welcome

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Bill Tancred MBE Double Olympian

Tuesday 23 January 2018



'International sport and the personalities I met'

Bill Tancred, the double Olympian discus thrower and international athletics coach gave us a fascinating glimpse into his life in high level sport.

Born in Quetta, India, he moved with his parents to Felixstowe just after partition. Having had a good sporting start, his father Adrian was very disappointed with the crude facilities for sports training in Felixstowe (where he was told to 'keep off the grass' in the park).

They moved to Ipswich where his throwing ability was encouraged. He had started as a javelin thrower, but due to an injury, took up the discus instead. His great sporting heroes were Bob Matthias who won an Olympic decathlon medal at the age of 17 and Karoly Takacs who was a champion pistol shooter when he was wounded in his shoulder and had thereafter to compete left handed, and became equally successful.

Pushed very hard by his father, who had great ideas for improving fitness at a time when facilities were very limited, Bill was not discouraged when his father

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY PHONE BOX

Many of the Society members may not be aware we have our own Telephone Box (not connected!!) .

When the Spa gardens were being revamped, and in particular the Pram walk, it was decided to get rid of the telephone box that stood at the top .

The Felixstowe Society, through Michael Sharman and the late Phil Hadwen, managed to get BT to let us have the box for £1! The box was then moved and is now installed on Hamilton Terrace, on the footpath above Spa Pavilion.

Recently, as you can see from photograph of our chairperson Jan Garfield with Alan Muchal of Fairtrade, it was used by Fairtrade to advertise the 'Fairtrade Fortnight'.

It is envisaged that details of The Society's programme of events, including how to join, will be advertised in the box.

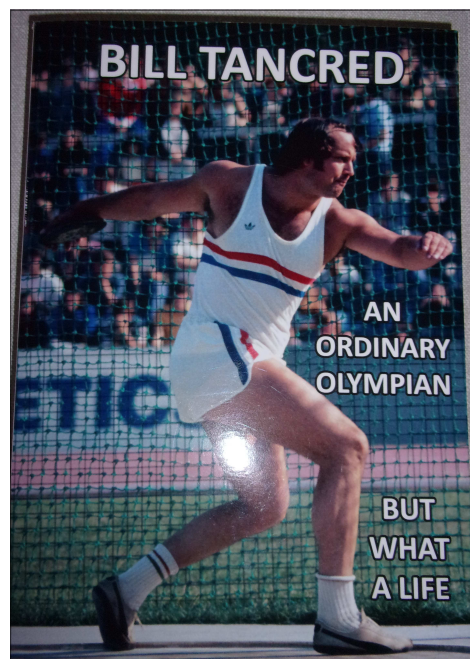
Roy Gray

never congratulated him on his successes, always saying he could do better. He joined the Army and became a first class instructor at the Army Physical Training Corps at Sandhurst. He remembers trying to get the Sultan of Brunei to pass his PT exam, who tried to bribe him by buying the training team ice creams! He also remembered training Joe Bugner who turned professional at 17.

Bill was honoured to be invited to the 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games. Having no time to wash his hands after a competition, he met the Queen, who shook hands and asked him what it was he had on his hands. He explained that it was a resin used in the sport. He jokingly remarked that Her Majesty always wore white gloves after that encounter!

He became British AAA discus champion through the 70's but remained an amateur throughout. However, he did remember wearing Adidas shoes when he broke the UK Discus record in 1972, and was given a £20 note stuffed into his trouser pocket by the delighted manufacturer's rep.!

He remembered meeting Brian Clough at a training session in Nottingham, and was grateful to receive a Winston Churchill scholarship to study sports science in Australia and the USA. Others he met included Sir Patrick Moore and Sir Francis Chichester, both by chance whilst travelling by train when he was Professor of Sport at Sheffield University.



CARPET BOWLS IN FELIXSTOWE

There is discussion as to where carpet bowls first originated, but one of the first pieces of documented evidence in the UK was The Birkenhead Carpet Bowls Association, formed in 1896 by a group of drapers (originally from Dumfries) and played in a hotel or public house in Market Street. It is a popular pastime which can be played by people of all ages and abilities and was initially encouraged by churches "to prevent young people from partaking in alcohol and mischief".



The game takes place on a mat approximately 30 feet in length; 6 feet wide with an 18-inch block in the middle, using bowls 4 inches in diameter. The mat can be rolled up for storage purposes. All players use the same bowls provided by the club, so it is a relatively inexpensive pastime.

Initially it was played in church halls and schoolrooms but has now flourished, particularly in the North East and Eastern England, becoming an important part of the community activities, where it is played in village halls and other community centres.

There are more than 1,000 registered clubs in the UK (controlled by English Carpet Bowls Association) which compete in Winter and Summer Leagues and play in Inter County games - with many more who play on a friendly/social basis only, for example in Suffolk there are 100+ registered clubs (2000+ members) that play socially and in leagues all year round. Social and/or competitive bowls can be played at Potters Leisure Centre, who also host the annual National Championship. In Felixstowe there are four clubs (with around 120 total members). One club plays competitively as well as socially, whilst the others are for social purposes only.

The following articles provide some background to these clubs in Felixstowe.

OFCA CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Old Felixstowe Community Association (OFCA), situated in The Community Centre, Ferry Road, was formed on 31 July 1973. Building work commenced in April 1976 and it opened to the public in January 1977.

One of the four carpet bowls clubs in Felixstowe, the Old Felixstowe Community Association Carpet Bowls Club (affiliated to OFCA) was formed in 1989/1990 by 44 founder members who paid £1 each and green fees of 30p were paid each time one played. However, these fees were immediately raised to £5 and 50p respectively. Money was also received from Community Council for Suffolk (£50); a £100 loan from OFCA and Felixstowe Sports Council (£50), (of which the club is a long-standing member and has been the beneficiary of several awards over the years.) This enabled two sets of

equipment i.e. carpets, carpet bags, rollers, bowls and measures to be purchased.

Members played for two-hour sessions on Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon and evening. The Club entered the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Winter League where matches took place on Wednesday evening. When the team played away matches a minibus was used as transport which was paid for from funds and match fees of £1.50 per member.

In those early days both league matches and roll ups took place in the Margaret White Hall, which although cramped, benefited from having a level concrete floor, unlike the Main Hall, which had the original wooden floorboards and was used by the Guides who were long standing hirers. It was not until 1992/93 that the Main Hall had a new floor and became available to the Bowls Club thus providing much more space.

In 1992 the membership fee was reduced to £2 and green fee to 30p per member and it was agreed to participate in the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Summer League. The Club Secretary reported, *"they were a force to be reckoned with in the Winter League and would be a household name in Felixstowe before long"*.

In 1994 a new set of bowls and carpet (£600) were purchased (aided by an Auction Sale which raised £500) and the old carpet and one set of bowls were sold to Bucklesham.

In 1998 play on alternate Monday afternoons commenced – there was also a match between afternoon and evening members followed by a buffet. Between 1998-2007 a member, John Varden, organised The Felixstowe Classic Carpet Bowls Tournament at Orwell High School and Brackenbury Centre which raised some £9,700 for various charities within the town. Sponsors over the years were Fred Olson, Wainwrights Estate Agents and Kirton Windows.

Since joining the League in 1992 the club has enjoyed notable successes – winning the Nayland Fours and Heritage League several times; winning the Inter Town Cup

several times. A former club member was Suffolk County Singles Champion in 2009/2011 and has played for Suffolk since 2008. The club has gradually been promoted from Division 4 and now plays in Division 1 of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Winter League as well as in the Summer League.

Several club members take part in the Annual Suffolk Carpet Bowls competitions such as Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours with varying success and this year three members reached the Semi Final of the Triples.

Some members also participate in the carpet bowls events held several times a year at Potters Leisure Resort near Great Yarmouth

In 2015 the Club invested in two new carpets and a portable carpet winder. Currently there are 45 members and playing sessions are held on Tuesday Evening 19.30 – 21.00; Wednesday afternoon 13.30 – 16.00 and Wednesday Evening 19.30 – 21.30. During each session there is a break for tea, biscuits and a chat.

Carpet bowls is a great activity which combines excellent healthy, social and competitive opportunities.

Tony Horrocks

**Anyone interested in joining should contact the Secretary.
Tel : 01394 277606**



To be continued

GULPHER POND

Gulpher Road is in the news again with the draft proposals for housing and leisure facilities in the area. A key feature of the area is Gulpher Pond, which has been associated with The Felixstowe Society for thirty years.

Our involvement started with a Civic Trust Competition. Associated societies in Eastern England were invited to submit conservation projects for possible funding. At the time Gulpher Pond was an eyesore. It had got silted up and people were dumping rubbish in it – so renovating it was an obvious candidate.

We did not win the competition but Cynthia Park, our founder and first chairman, suggested we go it alone.

We approached the landowners, Adam's Farms, who were happy to co-operate. We hired a pump, drained the pond, organised some work parties and started to dig (by hand). We soon realised that this was a futile pursuit. The pond had not been dredged since before the War and the volume of silt was just too much to handle by hand. We realised that to do the job properly we needed a digger and somewhere to dispose of the spoil.

Barbara Reid had by then joined The Society as secretary and set about fund raising with a vengeance. So many people had happy memories of feeding the ducks at Gulpher Pond that fund raising was relatively easy. We also got professional advice and a grant from the County Council.

Work started in June 1988 and it took two days of continuous work with a heavy digger to remove all the silt. Adam's Farms provided transport for removing and disposing of the spoil – a vital ingredient of the exercise. When we reached the clay bottom we stopped and the Fire Brigade refilled the pond from the local stream as part of a training exercise.

Some ducks were bred with the involvement of Kingsfleet School and there was a grand opening by the Mayor of Felixstowe.



During the Dredging in 2006
Front : Ann Rodwell (Mayor)
Back : (L-R) Judith Hedges, Gordon Rodwell, Alan Muchal,
Bob Stoner, Philip Johns (Chairman Felixstowe Society)



Although I was responsible for the project in the early days, management of Gulpher Pond for most of its post restoration life has been undertaken by Bob Stoner - currently the Voluntary Warden for the Woodland Trust at Abbey Grove. Bob arranged work parties who kept

the site tidy and planted trees and shrubs, with the help of a small band of volunteers – mostly Felixstowe Society members.

By 2005 the pond was getting silted up again and in danger of drying out in the summer. Bob put a proposal to the Committee who agreed to further financing for silt removal.

In the event this did not prove to be necessary. A press release about the pond caught the eye of Chris Hockley of TLS Felixstowe and he agreed to dredge the pond, using his firm's heavy equipment for free. This he duly did and we again enjoyed the support of Adam's Farms and the Fire Brigade.

Keith Horn has now taken overall responsibility for The Felixstowe Society involvement in the pond and he has the support of a number of others he can call on. The pond is currently in need of a bit of TLC so keep an eye on the Newsletter for dates if you feel able to help. If you would like to register an interest you can contact Keith on kjandehorn@btinternet.com or on 01394 270845.

Our thanks once again to the land owner, Adam's Farms who continue to allow access to this important and well-loved facility and to all who have helped restore and maintain it over the years.

Alan Muchal



Photograph taken on a sunny afternoon in March by Sulsie Muchal

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Trees are essential to the townscape of Felixstowe. Indeed, it is very difficult to visualise the town without any. As part of the green environment, along with shrubs and hedges, trees can provide shelter, shade, homes for wildlife, decoration, pollution control and beauty. Trees can also have importance for their amenity, landscape, landmark and even their heritage value.

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is an order made by Suffolk Coastal District Council as local planning authority which makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree without the Council's permission.

The purpose of the TPO is to protect a tree that has a significant impact on its local surroundings. All tree types can be covered and may involve a single tree, hedgerow trees or even a woodland.

Any trees in a Conservation Area that are not already protected by a TPO can be protected by the provisions of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, Section 211. This requires people to notify Suffolk Coastal District Planning Department using a 'Section 211 Notice' six weeks before carrying out certain work on trees unless an exemption applies. If there are no objections, this work may go ahead before the end of the six week period which is there to allow the Council to consider whether a TPO should be made.

In certain circumstances, written Council permission may not be necessary before undertaking work. These include making a tree safe if people or property are at risk and to remove dead wood from a dead tree. Even so, five days' notice still has to be given to the Council, together with photographic evidence to support the view that the intended work is indeed exempt and this has to be submitted by e-mail or written note rather than by the standard Section 211 form. A replacement will often be required by the Council.

The Felixstowe Society is keen to ensure that any trees or groups of trees that meet the criteria for a TPO but which do not as yet have one be considered for an Order by Suffolk District Council.

Please let me have written notice at 130 Chelsworth Road, Felixstowe, IP11 2UK of the type and exact location of any tree or group which is important to the townscape and could benefit from a TPO if one does not already exist.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has a leaflet, 'Protected Trees : a Guide to Tree Preservation Procedures', which contains answers to some common questions.



Photograph taken by Sulsie Muchal

Michael Sharman



My grateful thanks to Susanne Barsby for proof-reading this issue.

What has The Felixstowe Society ever done for us?

CAMPAIGNING

Active Executive Committee

GULPHER POND

Regular Speakers Evenings

Blue Plaques

Good links and Co-operation with our sister organisations

Keeping a Weather Eye on our Town

OCCASIONAL MODEST FUNDING OF PROJECTS

HERITAGE WEEKEND

Extensive Archive

TEAMWORK

Abbey Grove

Annual Dinner

Beach Clean

AGM with Good Speaker

Input on Design and Conservation

Join the Felixstowe Society

- It costs only £7 for one individual
- OR
- A bargain £10 for two people at the same address
- Corporate £20
- Non Profit groups £7
- Young people under 18 **FREE**

To join, see the website www.Felixstowesociety.org.uk or contact 01394 213071

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COMMENTING ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Enthusiastic Volunteers

Programme of Local Walks

Members' Outings Programme

INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTERS

www.Felixstowesociety.org.uk

The Felixstowe Society

HERITAGE WEEKEND

8 / 9 September 2018

Plans are well in hand for the celebration of Heritage Weekend, at the same time celebrating The Society's 40th birthday.

Full details will be available nearer the date with leaflets and posters.

Events already planned are tours of The Bartlet development and Harvest House.

The HUT on the promenade will be open on both days with displays of Felixstowe's Heritage from the Society's archives.

The Town Hall will also be open.

There will be various planned and guided walks around the Town.

Other events are in the planning stage. Please make sure you keep these dates in your diaries and support them by visiting them.

If you are available to assist on these days please contact one of the Committee.

Roy Gray