

The Felixstowe Society NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 124

September 2020



Registered Charity No. 277442

The Felixstowe Society is established for the public benefit of people who 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 courtesy of Alan Boyle -  Everything Felixstowe & Beyond

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THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY

CONTACTS

Jan Garfield - Chairman	01394 210887
Hilary Eaton - Treasurer	01394 286733
Roy Gray - Vice Chair	01394 285827
Keith Horn - Vice Chair	01394 270845

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We have recently heard that, very sadly, our Editor Honor has decided that she can not carry on doing the Newsletter. We are extremely sorry about this as she is a superb Editor and we do hope that she will recover as soon as possible. However, as we are now in need of a replacement for Honor, if you feel that you would like to get involved please contact myself, Keith or Roy. As you know there are 3 issues per year.

Jan Garfield.



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



Well, since our last Newsletter in January when we laid out our plans for 2020, we all know what has happened! An occurrence that none of us could have dreamt would overcome the country, in fact the whole world, in such a fashion. I don't think that there can be anybody still alive who can remember a global pandemic such as this. The nearest would have been the Spanish Flu of 1918/19. I do hope that you have all managed to stay well and have not suffered too much during the "lockdown". Let us hope that folk will be sensible as we are released in stages and not go completely mad as it appeared they did in Bournemouth at the end of June. By the time you read this we shall know whether we are defeating the virus or are "locked down" once again. We have suffered less in Felixstowe than in a lot of other places, but have still lost 17 people from the end of March until 3rd week in June.

Jon and I are both fine although in the over 70 category, but have been a little concerned about our eldest son who is an Intensive Care Consultant at Heath Road, but he has tested negative, thank goodness. No Covid patients in ICU at Heath Road at the time of writing this.

You will find more information about further matters in the rest of the Newsletter which is being compiled by Keith Horn, Roy Gray and Honor Dines' son Richard Loveridge. We are most grateful to Richard for agreeing to put this Newsletter together for us as Honor is not very well at the moment. We do send Honor our very best wishes for her recovery.

However, a bit of news that I want to share with you has been driven by the Covid 19 crisis. We felt that you have all paid your increased subscriptions for this year and have got nothing for your money apart from the January Newsletter and this September Newsletter, so we have decided not to charge members entrance fees at Speakers' Evenings until the AGM in May 2022. I am afraid visitors will still be charged.

The Newsletter is going out by post to all members who are not on email or who have not given us their email addresses. If the latter applies to you could you please rectify the matter for future use by informing our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Hilary Eaton on hilaryeaton53@icloud.com We are reverting to the postal system as we cannot ask our intrepid deliverers to pound the streets in the present climate.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I do hope that we shall be able to meet again face to face before too long but, in the meantime, stay safe and well.

Your Chairman,

Jan Garfield.

Please Note. Owing to the Covid 19 pandemic and other reasons, this shortened Newsletter has been issued and unfortunately a number of articles submitted have not been included. We will do everything possible to have the articles included in the January 2021 Newsletter.

SOCIETY NEWS

Unfortunately we have had to cancel all of the following events :-

- The Annual Dinner at The Brook Hotel
- Our Members Holiday in May to Winchester
- Beach Clean Events in June and September
- The Summer Social Evening at Harvest House in July
- The Felixstowe Society Archive Exhibition in August
- Heritage weekend in September
- Felixstowe Society Walks and Phil's Walks
- Another visit to Kings College in October

From the above you will see that your Committee has put in a great deal of work behind the scenes and I would like to thank them on your behalf.

Third Time Lucky

Regarding the Holiday to Winchester in May I cancelled this and rearranged it for October but have recently cancelled it again and have rearranged it once again for May 2021. The majority of the group going on the 2020 holiday have confirmed that they would still like to go and the places which became available I have filled up by those people who were on the waiting list.

The Felixstowe Society Quiz night Friday 21st February 2020 was extremely popular once again. Attended by over 100 people this event made a profit of £642.30. A big thank you to Roy for organising the evening, Gill Hadwen for acting as Quiz Master and our other helpers on the night.

Speakers For 2021

Hopefully this information will be included in the January 2021 Newsletter.

Beach Cleans

Unfortunately we have been unable to carry out Beach Clean Up since March and as there is less than 2 months to go until the Annual National Beach Clean running from 18th to 25th September, nationally the Marine Conservation Society is asking us to focus on small local beach cleans as family or small groups in line with government coronavirus guidelines.

May I suggest that members arrange for their own family or small groups to take place between 18th-25th September.

Please let me know how you get on and provide me with the approximate amount of litter collected and perhaps a photograph, and send to kjandehorn@btinternet.com

Keith Horn

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Please let us have your contributions for the January Newsletter by **Friday 20th November**, in Microsoft Word format if possible to : fxsocnewsletter@gmail.com

Thank you.

Grateful thanks to all our contributors and once again to Susanne Barsby for proofreading and special thanks to Richard Loveridge for all of his input – without Richard's contribution there would have been no issue this time.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN TO RENEW?

We notice that several of our members have failed to pay their Annual Subscription.

If you have forgotten please don't worry.

Please forward your payment to our Treasurer:-

Hilary Eaton, 102C Queens Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7PG

Single Membership £10.00 Joint Membership £15.00.

Please make your cheque payable to 'The Felixstowe Society'.

Many thanks.



*Felixstowe Beach Hut
& Chalet Association*

Coronavirus has affected beach hut owners and chalet tenants as, in the early days, we were not allowed to use our havens by the sea, made all the more frustrating by the excellent spring weather. Once the situation eased we were allowed back, with the proviso that we maintained social distancing, of course. In due course we will be asking East Suffolk Council to consider reflecting the fact that we were not able to use our huts and chalets by way of financial compensation.

We had to cancel our Annual General Meeting, but all the Committee members offered to continue in post for another year, which received the approval of our members who responded by email. As a gesture to reflect the current difficult situation, the Committee decided that members would not be required to pay a subscription to renew their membership for the 2020/21 season, although new members will be asked to pay. The annual subscription has remained at £5 ever since the formation of the Association in 2013.

There is some good news too. Our Committee member, Joy Reeve, has been given a Mayor's award. Joy and her friend, Karen Kenny (who lives in Ipswich so does not qualify for the award) have raised thousands of pounds in the last few years by running their 'Occasional Café' three mornings a week through the winter from their beach hut at Manor End where they provide hot drinks, cakes and biscuits in return for a charitable donation. The award is well deserved and follows on from the hut being recognised as the national 'Beach Hut of the Year' in 2017.

Trevor Mason

PLANNING COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

During 2019 David Crawford retired after over two decades as Convenor of the Plans Committee. His personal time and contribution towards The Society's objectives has been considerable and we wish him and his wife many happy years at their new home.

Phil Cobbold volunteered to take on the role of Convenor. The Committee has warmly welcomed and thanks Phil for stepping in and sharing his own topical experience and affable nature.

The Plans Committee works as a panel of local residents with diverse backgrounds and experience but all committed to the objectives of The Society in planning and architectural matters. Any member of The Society is welcome to join the panel if its objectives are of interest to them.

The Convenor initially identifies those Planning Applications submitted to East Suffolk Council by residents and businesses in the Felixstowe, Walton and Trimley areas, which either lie within a Conservation Area, or are of large scale, or appear to contain features of exceptional merit or of significant detriment to their locality. In addition, Council Officers or Society members will occasionally request The Society's opinion on a specific issue. More generally, the Committee will discuss those Applications already identified by the Convenor and decide whether and what formal comment should be forwarded by The Felixstowe Society to the Planning Officers; within the rules for public consultation. Rules which include an increasingly tight response time period of three weeks set down by Westminster government. The Committee must be prepared to convene every three weeks to meet that schedule.

The Committee's comments, as with all other public comments, are filed in full on the East Suffolk Council's Public Access website. Comment is thus always available to the Felixstowe Town Council who will on occasion have exchanged opinions in preliminary discussions.

The Society and its Plans Committee have for decades appreciated the kindness of the Town Council and Town Clerk in not only making available copies of all Application plans but also making space available in the Town Hall for the Committee to convene to study them. During the past year East Suffolk Council has both stored and distributed all Application documents in digitized format, leaving the Town with no paper plans to show the Committee (or the public.); unless paper copies were printed out locally at considerable expense. Trying to scrutinize and discuss substantial plans on personal small screen digital devices is laborious and time consuming at best, as well as likely to lose the overall impact of the planned works on their locality. After some trials and discussion, the Town Council has offered the Committee continued space to convene and The Society has purchased a modern high definition projector which can be fed from the Convenor's modern laptop computer (or equivalent), in turn connected to the Town Hall WiFi. So moving the Committee into the 21st Century, as The Society Chairman has put it.

The "Planning Applications" report, which can be found in each Society Newsletter, has been re-formatted to give the reader a clearer picture coupling Application comments submitted by The Society, decisions pending, and Council decisions. This will hopefully dispel the myth that The Society does nothing but "object", and show the frequency of concurrence between Society and Council assessments.

Since the Covid-19 lockdowns, all round table meetings have ceased. East Suffolk Council have continued to process Planning Applications and it has remained possible to examine these on the Council website and respond where it is considered necessary. Unconventional or historically contentious proposals have been brought to the attention of Committee members and/or Society Officers to form The Society's view. We hope the opportunity for our Committee to lay out or project plans for lively discussion will return soon.

Phil Cobbold - Plans Convenor

APPLICATIONS LISTED IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER AS AWAITING DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISION

REF	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	SOCIETY COMMENTS	ESC DECISION
DC/19/2948	55-57 Hamilton Road	Reduce retail floorspace and change to 16 flats	Little effect on conservation area and welcomes diversification of premises	Refused
DC/19/3158	Harvest House	Host Wedding ceremonies	Little effect on the conservation area	Withdrawn
DC/19/3342	6-10 Manning Road	Erect 7 Flats	Objects. Insufficient information	Approved
DC/19/4070	119 Cliff Road	Extensions and balcony	Building doesn't lend itself to small pane fenestration	Approved
DC/19/4120	325 High Street, Walton	Render rear of property	Little effect on the listed building	Approved
DC/19/4272	5 Beach Court	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4273	99 Ranelagh Road	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4287	60 Brook Lane	UPVC conservatory	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4291	223 Grange Road	New windows and alterations	Little effect on the listed building	Approved
DC/19/4337	The Pier	Illuminated signage	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved

CONTINUES. . .

APPLICATIONS COMMENTED ON BY THE SOCIETY - 14 NOVEMBER 2019 TO 14 JULY 2020*

REF	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	SOCIETY COMMENTS	ESC DECISION
DC/19/4529	Colbourn Court	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4610	84 Ranelagh Road	Single storey extension	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4414	28 Berners Road	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4375	Cliff House, Chevalier Road	Amendments to previously approved scheme	Little effect on the conservation area but questions the practicality of internal parking layout.	Approved
DC/19/4442	1 College Green	Extensions and new wall	Objects. Scale and form of development detrimental to appearance of the streetscene.	Approved
DC/19/5049	Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club	Erection of clubhouse and erection of 5 dwellings	Objects. Whilst the proposed clubhouse is of a very high standard of architecture, the erection of 5 dwellings is contrary to planning policy and would have an unacceptable urbanising effect on the character, setting and appearance of the AONB	Approved
DC/20/0257	32 Victoria Street	Insertion of dormer window	Objects. The proposal is out of scale with the dwelling and would be harmful to the appearance of the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0232	Harvest House	Host wedding ceremonies	No objections but expresses concern of possible parking congestion	Approved
DC/20/0186	48 Tower Road	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0160	201 Hamilton Road	Erection of public house	The Society welcomes the proposal and hopes for a speedy implementation	Refused
DC/20/0680	24 Brook Lane	Extension and alterations	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0552	Flat 2, 21 Victoria Road	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved

CONTINUES. . .

REF	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	SOCIETY COMMENTS	ESC DECISION
DC/20/0558	60 Hamilton Road	Replacement of illuminated signage	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0478	38-40 Victoria Street	Amendment to approved scheme	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0436	79 Hamilton Road	Change of use from shop to restaurant	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/19/4548	Zeewag, Martello Lane	Extensions to front and rear of property	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0815	Land south of Felixstowe Road, Stratton Hall	Construction of lorry park	The Felixstowe Society objects to the above application on the basis of the harm which would be caused to the rural character and appearance of the landscape	Withdrawn
DC/20/1087	Martello Place, Golf Road	Works to trees	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/1078	3 Hamilton Gardens	Works to trees	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/1040	18 Berners Road	Single storey extension	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0798	Felixstowe Community Hospital	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/0777	The Gatehouse, Maybush Lane	Works to tree	Little effect on the conservation area	Approved
DC/20/1867	55 Hamilton Road	Part conversion of existing retail premises to provide a refurbished retail unit at ground floor and 14 new flats.	Little impact on the Conservation Area and welcomes the diversification and reuse of a vacant building	Awaiting Decision

CONTINUES . . .

REF	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	SOCIETY COMMENTS	ESC DECISION
DC/20/1794	1 College Green	Single Storey Extensions with New Wall & Replacement Cladding	The scale and form of the proposal are inappropriate in this open Conservation Area setting and would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the streetscene. The removal of the half-timbered cladding and replacing it with boarding would be inconsistent with the harmonised architecture of the College Green development.	Awaiting Decision
DC/20/2448	201 Hamilton Road	Erection of public house	The Society welcomes the proposal and considers that it is the best scheme submitted on the site to date. The Society hopes for a speedy implementation to regenerate this important site.	Awaiting Decision

*The Plans Committee has not met since the Covid lockdown. Since then comments have only been submitted on a few applications discussed via email.

FELIXSTOWE WALKERS

Unfortunately, we had to curtail the Spring programme due to the Corona Virus pandemic and at the present time do not know when we can restart the walks. Most of our walkers and walk leaders are of a vulnerable age so I doubt whether we shall be able to commence until the New Year.

Even before the COVID 19 outbreak, we were having discussions about the future of the walking group as numbers had fallen off significantly. We have all aged considerably since the group first started as the health walking group in 2003. I have been organising the programme since then and I think it is time for a change so I shall no longer be doing this. I shall continue to support the walks both as an attendee and as a leader. Alan Muchal will prepare the programme but on a much reduced frequency once the COVID 19 outbreak is past.

I have been walking regularly around Felixstowe and also using my bicycle to do my exercise as permitted under the COVID regulations, I hope many of you have been able to do the same. We are very fortunate to have both the seafront as well as the Landguard nature reserve and surrounding countryside. My favourite cycle ride is along the Deben river bank to Falkenham, returning via Kirton and the Trimleys. It is outstanding not only for the beautiful countryside but also for the animals, birdlife and plants that can be seen. Let's hope that through The Felixstowe Society and other organisations the environment of our town and area can be preserved.

Laurence Gilbert

MEMBERS' CARS

1927 AUSTIN 7 CONVERTIBLE ("CHUMMY")



I enjoy tinkering with cars and motorbikes so when retirement was on the horizon several years ago, I decided to buy a classic Austin 7 which I had always thought was a very pretty little car and which would fit easily into my garage. By a stroke of luck, I had no sooner started my search when I saw an advertisement for exactly the car I was looking for which was conveniently nearby in Colchester and had been beautifully restored (see the photos).

The Austin 7 was introduced in 1923 and was the personal brainchild of Herbert Austin himself; he had been making various larger vehicles since 1895 but none were very successful and by the early 1920s his company was in difficulties, so much depended on the success of this risky venture into small cars. The Austin 7 Chummy convertible was launched in 1923 at a price of £165, to be followed by the saloon version at £150 in 1926. The car proved to be a great success and by the time production ceased in 1939 290,000 had been produced.

It is a remarkably sturdy car, despite its small size. For example, a Chummy drove 7,500 miles from Beijing to Paris via the Gobi desert in 2007

(see <http://pekingparis.blogspot.com/>). The bodywork of the Chummy (but not the saloon) is made of aluminium which means that they are light and less prone to rusting away.

The only problem I have had over the years was very bad fuel starvation which I finally tracked down to the fact that modern petrol gives off far more vapour and it was this vapour that restricted the flow of petrol when the engine was hot – a small by-pass tube and some heat shielding solved the problem



I am often asked about the availability of spare parts to which the answer is that they are plentiful – there are many small companies which manufacture new parts including tyres which are made with the original tread pattern from the 1920s. There are also suppliers of original parts taken from scrapped vehicles. My next project is to solve the problem of night driving by converting the lights to LED bulbs which use far less current and therefore put less strain on the dynamo.

Whenever I park the car it invariably attracts a crowd of admirers and I can almost guarantee that at least one person will say that they passed their driving test in an Austin 7 or that it was their first car, which is not surprising as when I was a student in the 1960s they could be bought for a student-friendly price of £15!

If any of you are thinking of investing in a classic car in which to enjoy a taste of a time when motoring was simpler and a lot more fun, I thoroughly recommend an Austin 7 (no tax or MOT required for cars more than 40 years old)

Roger Baker

Let the Editor know if you own - or have owned - an interesting classic vehicle which you would be willing to write about in the Newsletter

REFLECTIONS ON VE DAY

WITH THE MENACE OF COVID-19 AROUND US



Some residents of Ferry Road came together on VE Day to observe two minutes of silence. Councillor Steve Gallant called time with an old school bell. After the two minutes of silence people started talking about their memories and comparisons with the coronavirus. It was suggested that people should write down their reflections. Here are four pieces.

Jane and I retired to Felixstowe three years ago with Morgan our dog. In early February Jane had a bunion operation and was laid up so I was doing all the walking of Morgan, twice a day in Old Felixstowe.

Once lockdown happened, there was a strange and fearful atmosphere. It seemed the only people out walking were dog walkers. I chatted to many strangers and each time it made me feel better and as if I was part of a strong community. Older people said how similar to the war time it was : a sense of waiting and bereavement that normal life had gone.

Joanna Lumley says that 'a smile is like a bunch of flowers'. I remembered that as I walked each day smiling cheerfully at neighbours and strangers. I am also part Irish and one Irish saying is 'there's no such thing as strangers, only friends you haven't made yet'. Once lockdown was eased, I wanted to thank all those who had stopped and chatted so I put a thank you message on the Felixstowe Residents Association website in late June to say that I hoped we would not lose the sense of friendship and community as restrictions were lifted.

When the clapping to say 'thank you to NHS and key workers' began on Thursday evenings, Jane and I remembered we had a large school bell and rang it and clapped in our front garden from 8 o'clock. Then to encourage others we walked up and down our part of Ferry Road, ringing the bell, greeting our neighbours and anyone else, while maintaining social distance of course.

When it was Captain Tom's 100th birthday, we wrote to all our neighbours and suggested that we 'gathered' a bit closer to sing to him after the clapping. Many people came, bringing anything that made a noise and this created much goodwill and a great community spirit in the road. It was an opportunity to



greet each other and check we were all OK. We miss those evenings now.

To prepare to mark VE Day, Jane wrote a letter to our neighbours inviting them to mark its 70th Anniversary with the 2 minute silence. Although we were still maintaining a 2 metre social distance, we invited people to gather near the house of our neighbour, Steve Gallant, who is leader of the council. He agreed to lead the 2 minute silence. Almost all our neighbours came, especially the older ones.

We put up bunting in our garden and so did many others in the road. On 8 May, some neighbours brought a poppy wreath and Steve Gallant began and ended the silence. It was a reverential time.

Catherine Bond

Parallels have been drawn between the unprecedented times we currently face during the Covid 19 pandemic and the challenges faced by those living in the times of WW2. Both events effect everyone's usual or normal life to a greater or lesser extent. The daily television events from Downing Street and the exceptional address from HM Queen Elizabeth in the early part of the Covid lockdown, brought to mind the famous speeches and radio announcements from WW2. The grit and determination shown by Her Majesty in particular, inspired me to be positive and to do the best I could whatever may be in store for us.

Very simply the initial request was to stay at home and only leave in certain restricted circumstances. We are living in our own homes, sleeping in our own beds with most of our usual comforts and necessities. We can communicate with others in an instant and daily if we choose. Our lives if lived by the guidelines could be regarded as safe.

Compare that with those living in the UK through WW2; men going off to fight, children evacuated, limited ability to communicate with friends and loved ones. The fear of air raids, towns and cities bombed. Having to work exceptionally hard to keep food production, factories, utilities and vital services functioning but still finding vital items in short supply.

It is time to pause and remember the many who sacrificed so much that we have freedom to live in peace, harmony and safety.

Sally Gallant

As a 9-year-old in 1944 I witnessed the build-up to D-Day in Portsmouth. Living 200 yards from the beach, I walked the 2 miles to school each day, seeing more and more ships anchoring in the Solent. Then when it looked as though I could walk from one deck to another to reach the Isle of Wight, they had all disappeared one morning. The next day I heard on the radio that D-Day was happening.

When VE Day was announced there were no street parties in our area as there were so few people about. We were the only resident household in our street, Burbidge Grove. But it did mean no more residents being killed or injured and no more 'Doodlebugs' because the V2s could destroy a whole street.

Comparable to the Covid-19 bulletins was the front page of the newspapers which listed by name fatalities, injured and missing. Why are we not given the names of those who have succumbed to this disease, they are people with relatives and friends who are grieving for each individual loss.

Thank you to all those who have supported Pam and me in our SPLENDID isolation during 2020. You know who you are and you are legion, some of you we know not your names.

Alan Cooper



I lived in London during WW2 and was evacuated for just one year. My mother apparently missed me and so collected me from Newcastle in December 1940, returning to London for the Blitz. Well done Mum! My father was in the army in North Africa and my Aunty's husband was a Japanese prisoner-of-war, so she lived with us for companionship. VE Day meant little to our household as both men were still abroad thus I cannot remember attending street parties. VJ Day was really celebrated : Dad was home and poor uncle Charlie was home but in the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London. Poor man, he was in and out of that hospital over a 13 year period finally succumbing to malaria and heart failure in 1959.

The comparison between Covid-19 and disease in WW2 is the insidious TB epidemic that reared its head in the London Underground shelters, community shelters and in the overcrowded housing. It is estimated that 60,000 died from TB between 1939 and 1945, and 100,000 fought the disease in the 1950s. My German pen-pal, Heidi died from TB in 1954.

Today technology has proved its worth in keeping us informed as to what is happening outside our four walls. It has also kept us in contact with one another which has been such a boost for those completely on their own. We must continue that contact and seek to engage with those of different views, cultures, religions. Be there for the young, the elderly and those inbetween.

Pam Cooper