

The Felixstowe Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 129

May 2022



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
- 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	Joint Vice Chair	01394 285827
Keith Horn	Joint Vice Chair	01394 270845



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



Good Afternoon Everyone,

As I sit writing this, I am by the French windows with the sun pouring through, a brilliant blue sky, the daffodils dancing in the breeze and the polyanthus smiling at the sun. Spring is well and truly on the way and will be well established by the time that the Newsletter goes out.

Our Speaker Evenings are continuing as normal having restarted in January with Graham Page on Citizens Advice. February's evening was changed from the advertised Speaker, due to illness, and was substituted by a fascinating talk from Julie Kilbey on Sutton Hoo - with a difference. By the time you read this we will have had the March Speaker Evening. Our thanks go to Roy Gray who continues to organise our speakers at the Salvation Army Hall.

We continue to hold our Committee Meetings at Harvest House - a lovely venue and which we have free of charge, so our grateful thanks go, as usual, to the Directors.

We are restarting our events and Roy, ably supported by the Committee, organised an excellent quiz at the Trade and Labour Club which made a profit of £459.89. We had a full house and a lovely supper. The excellent raffle raised a goodly sum as well. Thanks to Katy who diligently made sure that all had tickets! We were lucky and each won a prize! Gill Hadwen did a brilliant job writing the quiz and was ably assisted by her lovely daughter who did the Maths.

I heard, back in January, that The Woodland Trust was offering 105 baby trees to the Town for planting, to make the Royal Canopy to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. We asked if we could have some, to plant one in the grounds of each school in Felixstowe and Harvest House, and it was decided to put a plaque alongside. These trees have now arrived and are residing in Keith Horn's care until the plaques are ready. The trees really are babies as they range from 60 – 100 centimetres! Hope they survive. If they don't, we will replace with a larger specimen.

Further news on Heritage Weekend. After my appeal at the February Speaker Evening, I am delighted to say that we had 20 volunteers sign up. So thank you so much to all these kind folk. Arrangements are going ahead apace for the Weekend which will take place on 10th - 11th September. The Churches will, hopefully, be open on the Saturday as it will be the Annual Cycle Ride around the local churches. The other venues, which are still in negotiation, will be open on the Sunday. Some of these will host bookable tours. We will be holding a Volunteers' Meeting closer to the date.

The Annual Dinner is still being held at the Brook Hotel on 11th April. This will be over by the time you read this but I am sure it will have gone well. Thanks go to Keith Horn who was the organiser for this and also for the holiday to Winchester in May, which is sold out. We are all really looking forward to this as it will be for the third time in the planning due to Covid.

Our Archive continues to grow under the care of Bev Boyce and we have now been approached to take some of the Archive from the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. Any member can visit the Archives, just approach Bev and ask.

Well folks, I have gone on long enough, so will end here. Have a good Spring and early Summer.
Jan Garfield
Chairman.

Speakers For 2022

The Speakers' Evenings are held in the Salvation Army Church Hall, Cobbold Road. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the evenings will start promptly at 7.30 p.m.

We would encourage masks to be worn at all times.

May 24th	A G M	Jean Macpherson	<i>1953 Floods</i>
Sept 27th		C. Hullcoop	<i>Windmills</i>
Oct 25th		Pip Wright	<i>'I read it in the local paper'</i>
Nov 22nd		Brian Ansell	<i>Architecture</i>

Organiser Roy Gray

HERITAGE 2022 – CAN YOU HELP YOUR COMMITTEE PLEASE?

Several members of The Felixstowe Society have very kindly offered to help as marshals at our Heritage Events, which are taking place in Felixstowe on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September 2022.

Are you able to spend 1 or 2 hours helping out too please? If so, just let me know and I will add your names to my list of volunteers.

Many thanks,

Keith Horn kjandehorn@btinternet.com or 01394 270845

The Newsletters are delivered by Roger Baker and his team of volunteers. Our thanks go to Roger for organising the deliveries and of course to the volunteers



Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

The hot topic within the Association is still the situation in which the owners of huts at the Spa Pavilion find themselves.

Even before planning applications for new sites went before the Planning Committee, East Suffolk Council served eviction notices on the owners of the 44 huts at the Spa. We considered this to be totally unacceptable and therefore engaged the services of the solicitor, who had represented us a few years ago, when we were in dispute with the council over a proposed hike in licence fees. Letters between the solicitor and the council were exchanged prior to the Planning Committee meeting which did not persuade the council to change direction.

At the planning meeting, approval was given to site 6 huts at Pier South and 18 at Clifflands, but the applications for 18 at Golf Road and 16 at Manor End were turned down. It has to be said that hut owners do not wish to move to any of these sites but, even if they did, insufficient permissions were granted to accommodate all the huts from the Spa. That would mean some owners losing their huts altogether, which would be an appalling outcome.

Beach huts in one form or another have been standing in the vicinity of the Spa Pavilion for well over 100 years and are part of the heritage of the town. How many photos of Felixstowe do you see that don't have beach huts on them? They are iconic.

There has been coverage of the plight of the hut owners in the local press, radio and TV and there will be more to come, I'm sure.

The refusal of East Suffolk Council to pause their action until such time as an amicable solution can be found, has now led to our solicitor notifying the council that we are going to seek a Judicial Review of their decision to evict hut owners from the site. We know that it is an expensive process, but owners are determined to fight for the right to keep their beach huts with every means at their disposal and are prepared to put their hands in their pockets to do so. The huts cannot be moved until the outcome of the Judicial Review is known.

This is certainly not the last you will hear of the matter!

Trevor Mason

PLANNING APPLICATIONS WHICH THE SOCIETY PREVIOUSLY OBJECTED TO AND WHICH WERE LISTED IN THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER AS AWAITING DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISION

REF	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	SOCIETY COMMENTS	ESC DECISION
DC/21/2318	The White Horse, 33 Church Road	Demolition of the White Horse Public House (Use Sui Generis) and the erection of a convenience store (Use E) on the ground floor and four apartments (Use C3) on the first floor, and the erection of two bungalows (Use C3) with associated parking and landscaping.	The Felixstowe Society objects to the planning application in the strongest possible terms. (See ESC Website for full letter of objection)	Still Awaiting decision
DC/21/2444	Trim, Train And Volley Ball Area, Sea Road	Development of a 'beach village' area with 27 traditional wooden huts, accessible pods to hire and new public conveniences- plus movement of trim trail to new activity park area, comprising of three petanque rinks, table tennis tables and exercise space.	The Felixstowe Society considers that the proposal is an innovative scheme for two sites which are currently drab and uninteresting. However, the main concern is that there appears to be no clear explanation of the parking for residents and visitors. The Society considers that the scheme should not be approved until such time as a parking strategy has been devised and implemented.	Permitted
DC/21/4629	81 Ranelagh Road	Single storey rear and side extension	The Felixstowe Society considers that the proposal is overdevelopment which would impact on the neighbour. The overhanging guttering is not shown on the drawing. It would result in a narrow dark alleyway.	Permitted

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS WHICH THE SOCIETY OBJECTED TO DURING PERIOD
24 NOVEMBER 2021 TO 28 MARCH 2022**

DC/21/5463	8 College Green	New Garden Room	<p>The Society considers that the proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site and the form and scale of the building neither respects the setting of the conservation area nor the amenity of the neighbouring properties.</p> <p>The proposed building would cause ‘less than substantial harm’ to the significance of the conservation area and there would be no public benefits arising from the development that would outweigh the harm. Consequently, the proposal contravenes policy SCLP11.5 and para 202 of the NPPF. The impact arising from the building on the amenity and outlook of neighbouring properties would be contrary to policies SCLP11.1 and SCLP11.2.</p>	Permitted
DC/22/0554/FUL	114 Ranelagh Road	Erection of second storey on top of existing garage.	<p>The Felixstowe Society objects to the application. The proposed development would have an adverse impact on the amenity of the occupants of the adjacent property in Gainsborough Road. The proposed building would be overbearing and dominant. The proposal would have a harmful impact on the setting of the conservation area and the streetscene.</p>	Awaiting decision

NOTE: *The Society normally only comments on applications within the conservation area. During the period 24 Nov. 2021 to 28 March 2022 the Society submitted comments on a total of 17 applications.*

THE FUTURE OF HAMILTON ROAD IN BLACK AND ROSE

Perhaps 15 years ago or so, Felixstowe was described to me by a retail expert, as the best shopping centre for its size on the East Coast. This, of course, was in the heyday when Halfords, Marks & Spencer, Woolworths, Ipswich Co-op Department Store, a Crown Post Office and all the main banks, were in town.

Today, Felixstowe Society members will be aware of the national problem of the future of the country's 'High Streets', with the recent closures of BHS, Debenhams, Miss Selfridge, Wallis and so on. Here in Felixstowe, we have suffered the loss of Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Pondens, Nat West Bank, Marks & Spencer, New Look, Yours, HSBC bank and Dorothy Perkins/Burton.

Below, I set out in general terms, my thoughts on the 'pros and cons' of the future of Felixstowe town centre with a pessimistic black view and an optimistic rosy view.

The Black View

- Few shops appear to belong to individual owners and occupants but may be owned by private landlords, investment companies and even pension funds and so on. These owners are always looking to maximise their rental income which can make existing properties unsustainable for the occupants and deter new businesses setting up.
- Especially in the 1980s, the Government did little or nothing to discourage the building of superstores out of town to cater for an increasing number of car owners attracted by free parking and shopping convenience. Retail parks as at Martlesham have also appeared to offer a very wide range of goods.
- The obvious convenience of Internet shopping with home delivery has increased exceedingly fast-especially with the restraints on normal shopping caused by the pandemic.
- Empty shops give a poor impression to potential shoppers and so create a vicious circle.
- Niche market shops are often promoted as a partial solution but just how many coffee bars and cafés can Felixstowe sustain when there are already 20 or more in the Hamilton Road area.
- Rightly or wrongly, parking in the town centre is sometimes seen as expensive, so too many people prefer to drive to a retail park or an alternative superstore such as Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda or Waitrose.

The Rosy View

- The current profusion of places to eat and to drink shows a wish to relax, chat and socialise by a significant number of people whose presence in the town centre is an opportunity to be developed.
- A safe and unthreatening environment with minimal through traffic is essential to achieve this.
- Similarly, a pleasantly built environment which is kept clean, has safe paving and plenty of seating, together with the absence of A-boards and 'flying banana' advertising banners on the pavement, will always attract users to its well displayed shopfronts.
- Internet shopping will never destroy 'comparative shopping' where the customers can actually see the goods and feel or hold them and even try them on.
- Ample and relatively cheap car parking is essential.
- There is perhaps an opportunity to create more town centre residences and potential shoppers by having more living accommodation over shops and the development of empty commercial premises.
- Improved accessibility of the town centre from the seafront would certainly motivate visitors unsure of how to achieve this.
- A small but thriving regular market on the Triangle could be an asset.
- Much hard work is already underway to improve the town's commercial centre through the newly formed Business Improvement District body.
- Felixstowe Forward worked hard to attract more shoppers and visitors to the town, but was closed down in December 2021.
- In time to come, the new North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood will provide several thousand more potential shoppers.
- Previous research by Visa has found that late-night shopping and family or community focused events would make the high street more appealing.

I will be pleased to receive your thoughtful views, on whether the future for Hamilton Road is black or rosy, through the Newsletter Editor.

Michael Sharman

WALTON IN THE 1950S – A PERSONAL MEMOIR by L McDonald

In the 1950s, Ataka Road had 12 houses on the East side and – eventually – 3 bungalows on the West side. The road was 'unadopted', which meant that potholes were a permanent feature, and puddles – some of them very large – a regular occurrence after rain. The top of the road led directly onto farmland and to 'The Drift', where I would take our grossly overweight spaniel, Jack, for his daily walk.

The three bungalows were built, over a period of a few years, by Harry Lyon, who moved into each of them in turn, selling his previous residence. His father – my friend Kevin's granddad – lived in a caravan next to the third of these houses.

Harry was also the regular full back for Walton United, who played their home games at Walton Recreation Ground until the facilities were no longer considered adequate by the league authorities. This eventually led to a merger of Felixstowe Town and Walton United (a move which Harry – who became Club President - strongly opposed).

Some of the houses on the East side were owned by Felixstowe Ladies' College, who made them available rent-free to employees in exchange for an appropriate reduction in their take-home pay. My grandfather, who was for many years Head Groundsman at the Ladies' College, and his family, lived at No. 9.

At the bottom of our long, narrow back garden was the yard used by Rogers the builders to store material. This was also one of only two places in Felixstowe where the rare Horned Poppy succeeded in establishing itself (the other being Landguard Common).

Once a fortnight, Harold Ray would brave the puddles and potholes of Ataka Road and pull up outside Number 9 so that my grandparents could pick from the wide choice of books offered by the Shire Library that seemed to fill every available space of the vehicle other than the driver's seat.



Phillip's Newsagent – from 'Walton, Views from the Past' (With thanks to Gill Hadwen)

At regular intervals the coalman would carry our delivery into the shed at the top of the garden which was also home to my grandmother's mangle. Our newspapers, the Daily Express and the News of The World, both of which cost 2½d, were delivered courtesy of Phillip's newsagents in the High Street, and our bill was religiously paid every week – getting into any kind of debt was inconceivable.

Conveniently located at the end of the road was a shop run by a family called Makinsons, which sold paintings and artists' materials and a range of other goods. It was there that, as part of my preparations for entry into the Grammar School, I bought my Oxford Geometry set for the princely sum of eight shillings and sixpence. Next door was a barber's shop, run

by Wilfred Stiff and his red-haired Irish wife, who would unquestioningly sell me packets of Churchman's Counter Shag and Rizla cigarette papers, which my grandfather used to roll his own cigarettes.

When shopping for my grandmother at one of the local groceries I had to remember not to buy strawberry jam in particular, as it was considered too expensive at 2 shillings a jar.

If I didn't feel up to walking to school or into the centre of town, I had a choice of Eastern Counties bus services – the 201, which ran between Ipswich and Felixstowe, and the 208 'local' service. I still recall my acute embarrassment on the day when, on proffering the customary penny to the conductor, I discovered that the fare had increased by 50%, to one-and-a-half pence. I'm pleased to say the conductor allowed me to remain on board.

The majority of schoolchildren received the whole of their education in Maidstone Road, progressing from Maidstone Road Infants' School to Causton Junior School and then the Secondary Modern School

In 1953 I attended a Coronation party for children from Church Lane, St. Mary's Crescent and Ataka Road. We were fed in the Ambulance Hall. I also nervously rode a horse (or was it a donkey?) down part of Church Lane, such rides forming part of the many events throughout Walton at the beginning of that first week in June.



Fancy Dress parade at a 1953 Coronation party, taken from the top of St Mary's Crescent. From 'Walton Views from the Past' (With thanks to Gill Hadwen)

In 1957 the 17th century Walton lock-up, which had previously been the Market Cross and located in Cage Lane, was restored following a campaign by the local vicar, The Reverend Ross Sage. It was returned for use as a bus shelter in the High Street, close to its original location, and it still comes in useful if it's raining while you're waiting for a bus.

A favourite walk was down Ferry Lane, past flower-filled hedges and green fields, to Walton Battery, known locally as the Dooley Fort, which has long been submerged in concrete with the development of the dock complex, and Fagbury Cliffs. The seashore was a grand place for collecting samphire, which was plentiful and tasted delicious when eaten with a pinch of salt, and picking winkles. These were boiled and then extracted from their shell with a pin!

Many of the shops and other premises in Walton High Street have disappeared, been altered to varying degrees, or changed hands in the intervening 70 years or so, and Walton no longer has a bank, but The Dooley and The Falcon, Bloomfields and Walton Pharmacy are among those still in business!

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ARCHIVE

After last year's successful inauguration of the archive exhibition, the Directors of Harvest House have kindly agreed to allow use of the elegant Palm Court for this year's displays.



A new series of displays is being planned. The photo albums were very popular last year so a new set of albums will be on display to showcase some of the thousands of photos donated to the archive over the last few years. Visitors to last year's exhibition donated a range of photos to add to our collection such as the photo, at left, of St Mary's Babies' Home donated by Sue Hazelwood. I believe that this location is now Cardinals Court; a much more utilitarian style of architecture.

Do members know that, in the early 60s, there were plans to develop the site of Brackenbury Fort on Cliff Road? We are grateful to David Wood who is lending us rare photos of the Fort to accompany some donated designs for a café and other amenities on the old Brackenbury Fort site- would these designs receive planning permission today? Members can judge for themselves when they see the display.

There will be plenty of quirky and interesting documents and objects to view as well as a range of historical maps which trace the development of Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys.

As a tribute to Phil Hadwen, the exhibition will feature items, donated by Phil's family, related to World War One and Felixstowe Ladies' College. There will be some evocative photos of the College in its heyday. Michael Thomas has kindly donated some fascinating artefacts and documents regarding the Eastward Ho! Golf Club; this display will also include some black and white photos of sporting teams in Felixstowe.

There will be a few surprise items so I hope members will join us in the Palm Court for a relaxing trip 'down memory lane'. If attics are being sorted, don't forget the archive. We will be happy to receive your donations.

Bev Boyce

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY

NOMINATION FORM 2022

I wish to nominate the following person(s) for Office in The Felixstowe Society:

Name(s) and Office(s):

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-----/-----

Nominated by: -----

Seconded by: -----

I wish to nominate the following person(s) to serve on the Executive Committee of The Felixstowe Society:

Name(s) and Office(s):

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-----/-----

Nominated by: -----

Seconded by: -----

Please return to Jan Garfield, 27 Rogers Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9DG or email to jongarf@ntlworld.com

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THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY



The 2022 Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm in the Salvation Army Church, Felixstowe.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM. No report due to Covid
3. Discussion and acceptance of Annual Accounts 2021
4. Election of Officers, Executive Committee and Independent Examiner
5. Any Other Business

The names of the present Committee members are shown below. Nominations are invited for Office Bearers and Committee members. Please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it as soon as possible, if you are interested in joining the committee.

The Felixstowe Society

The Felixstowe Society is established for the benefit of Felixstowe and Walton to:

- Stimulate public interest in these areas
- Promote high standards of planning and architecture
- Secure the improvement, protection, development and
- Preservation of the local environment

Committee Members (Trustees)

Chairman	Jan Garfield
Vice Chairmen	Roy Gray and Keith Horn
Secretary	Derek Bundock
Treasurer & Membership Sec.	Hilary Eaton
Members	Phil Cobbold, Elizabeth Horn, Laurence Gilbert, Michael Sharman and Katy Topping
Plans Committee Convenors:	Phil Cobbold, Peter Bridge, Eric Searle and Monica Smith

Responsibilities:

Archivists	Beverley Boyce, Jean Macpherson
Beachwatch	Keith Horn
Committee Minutes	Derek Bundock
Gulpher Duck Pond	Keith Horn
Independent Examiner (Auditor)	Alan Middleton
Insurance Matters	Keith Horn
Membership Secretary	Hilary Eaton
Newsletter Editor	Gill Manning
Newsletter Distribution Coordinator	Roger Baker
Proof Reader	Susanne Barsby
Programme Organiser-Speaker meetings	Roy Gray
Programme Organisers-visits	Keith and Elizabeth Horn
Poster Publicity/Tickets	Gill Manning
Press Publicity & Photographer	Keith Horn & Gill Manning
Salvation Army Church Door Stewards	Elizabeth Horn & Hilary Eaton
Telephone Box	Elizabeth & Keith Horn
Liaison with Suffolk Preservation Society	Vacant
Liaison with Civic Voice	Keith Horn

Newsletter Distribution Team – Organiser Roger Baker

Mr & Mrs D Abbott/Simpson, Mr & Mrs R Baker, Mr & Mrs P Blemings, Ms B Boyce, Ms S Cameron, Mr & Mrs R Chapman, Mr H Dangerfield, Mr & Mrs M Elmes, Mr & Mrs B Entwistle, Mrs G Hadwen, Mr & Ms J Harrington/Bell, Mr D Hart, Ms S Hazelwood, Mr & Mrs R Holland, Mr & Mrs A Lamberton, Mr & Mrs P Ling, Mr & Mrs R Love, Mr & Mrs T Mason, Dr & Mrs C Millar, Mr & Mrs A Rutterford, Mrs A Sutton, Mr & Mrs M Thomas, Mr & Mrs G Topping, Mr & Mrs J Woollan, Mr & Mrs R Wright.

Chairman's Report for 2022

The year from May 2021 started very much as the previous year. With very little at all! We had taken the decision to postpone the holiday to Winchester, yet again, to 2022. We met with the new Majors at the Salvation Army and they agreed to let us carry on using the Meeting Hall for our meetings. We restarted our Speaker Evenings in September and have been delighted in the attendance. We agreed to have the first ones behind masks for everyone's safety.

We have held several Committee Meetings at our new venue of Harvest House for which we thank the Directors. We also put a plaque to Thomas Cotman on the outside of Harvest House in the presence of the Mayor.

We have made 3 donations during the year, to Coastwatch, Harvest House and the Men's Shed. We also donated to our usual tub of flowers for 'Felixstowe in Flower'.

We restarted the hard copy of the Newsletter in January, which replaced the online version which served us so well during lockdown.

We managed to hold 3 events during the year, the Social Supper Event at Harvest House, a large Archive event in the Palm Court and a smaller such event in the Hut. A fabulous surprise at the Hut was the donation of the original Architects Plans for Old Felixstowe in excellent condition. Keith Horn deputised for me at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial where he laid a wreath.

Our archive was moved during the year to a lighter, better room in the basement of Harvest House. We have purchased more shelving and it really looks very good. Our grateful thanks go to our Archivist, Bev Boyce, for all she does with the archive. The Telephone Box in Hamilton Gardens has been refurbished thanks to Peter Blemmings, who only charged us for the paint.

We managed to fight the demolition of the White Horse together with the local community and seem to have won at the moment.

Lastly, I would like to thank all my Committee members who have seen us through the worst of this plague. We, sadly, lost our Magazine Editor Honor Dines, and Keith, Elizabeth, Jon and I represented The Society at her funeral. She has been ably replaced by Gill Manning. I should also like to thank you all for supporting The Society and attending the talks and events.

Jan Garfield
Chairman

Conservation Matters

We have maintained Gulpher Pond for many years and would welcome offers of help from our members to join work parties, as and when required. Any who are interested in helping with this work, please contact Keith Horn on 01394 270845 or email Keith at kjandehorn@btinternet.com

Your Views Please

We are always interested to hear from our members, so do let us know if you have any comments to make about the way The Society is run, or, if you have any suggestions for speakers, events or new activities.

Questions for the AGM

If you wish to raise any questions at the AGM on 24th May, please note that they must be submitted in writing at least 10 days beforehand, i.e., by 14th May to Jan Garfield, 27 Rogers Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9DG

Treasurer's Report for 2021

It has obviously been a difficult couple of years since our last AGM. We seem to have managed well in this time. Membership is down slightly from approximately 600 to 500 members this year.

The social evening was held in September 2021 along with the Archive Exhibition, these two events were well attended and a profit of £1,075.00 was made. This was donated to Harvest House, receiving £750.00 as a thank you for allowing us to use their facilities for events, committee meetings and housing of our archives. The further £325.00 was donated to Coast Watch.

In the last two years our main expenses have been the refurbishment of the telephone box in Hamilton Gardens which we use to advertise and display the society newsletter and upcoming speaker evenings. Also new shelving, electrical points and other ad hoc items for the archiving storage room.

Hilary Eaton
Treasurer

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS 2021

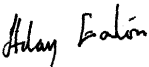
FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT- Year Ending 31st December 2021							
2020	INCOME		2021	2020	EXPENDITURE		2021
£			£	£			£
4289.00	Subscriptions	Individual	3036.00	-1081.00	Newsletters		-764.00
20.00		Corporate	20.00	-120.00	Activities	Hire Hall	-120.00
15.00		Donations	6.00	-110.00		Speaker	-115.00
131.00	Activities	Meetings	8.00	0.00		Outings	0.00
0.00		Outings	0.00	-546.20		Quiz	0.00
1268.50		Quiz	0.00	0.00		Dinner	-300.00
100.00		Dinner	0.00	0.00		Social evening	-726.61
0.00		Raffle	239.50	-100.00		Minibreak	0.00
0.00		Social Evening	2069.00	-90.11		Expenses	-135.16
500.00		Heritage W/E	0.00	0.00		Heritage weekend	0.00
600.00		Minibreak	100.00	0.00		Beach Clean	-19.00
		Cotman Walk book	10.00	-32.11	Administration	Stationery	-126.56
				-200.41		Postage	-53.56
				0.00		Retirement gifts	0.00
				-32.48		Website	-28.83
				-402.95		Insurance	-402.95
				-8.80	Expenses	Hospitality	-40.00
				-410.00		Repairs (Archives)	-500.00
				0.00		Archives	-1143.20
				0.00		Plaques	-90.00
				-36.00	Subscriptions	Protect Rural England	-36.00
				-65.00		Victorian Society	-65.00
				-500.00		Civic Voice	-402.95
				-1000.00	Refunds	Outings/mini break	-325.00
				0.00	Donations	Poppy Wreath	-25.00
				0.00		Coast watch	-325.00
				0.00		Harvest House	-750.00
				0.00		Mens Shed	-100.00
				-65.00		Felixstowe in Flower	0.00
				-4800.06	Sub Total		-6593.81
				-2123.44	Difference		1106.31
6,923.50	TOTAL		5488.50	- 6,923.50	TOTAL		-5488.50
						Closing balance TSB bank	6912.97
						Closing balance Virgin	12,235.05
				20,463.33	TOTAL		19148.02

Certified as correct according to documentation provided.

Independent Examiner:


Alan Middleton

date 1/3/22

Treasurer: 
Hilary Eaton

date 1/3/22

SPEAKER'S CORNER-JANUARY

' Citizens Advice'

A Talk given by
Graham Page



Graham Page is the Manager of Citizens Advice in Felixstowe (previously known as 'The Citizens Advice Bureau'). He gave an interesting talk and began by summarising the purpose of the organisation as "providing the advice people need for the problems they face. Improving the policies and practices that affect people's lives."

The organisation began life in September 1939 to organise evacuations, relief housing etc, and after only a few weeks there were more than 200 branches. Each branch remains a separate charity, with its own trustees and fundraising, though there is a central office which helps coordinate the branches. The core funding is provided by local authorities, separate Trust funds and grants.

The advice which is given, is free to allcomers and clients may choose any convenient branch for a consultation, which is confidential. A central computer system exists to provide information, where needed, to any branch.

Almost all of the counsellors are volunteers and they receive six months training before starting work. In total, CA has 2700 people working for it, of which 75% are volunteers. At the moment the cost of the volunteers in Felixstowe would be £250,000 if they were employed.

Graham went on to describe the huge range of enquiries which are covered. These include housing, money and debt, energy bills, relationships, scams and abuse. The areas of Covid advice, pensions and the witness service in Courts have now been added to the list of tasks.

Recently, Citizens Advice has organised the provision of 'Social Prescribers' who are allocated to GP surgeries, to help give advice to patients who might not have a medical condition, but may be depressed or worried.

Graham concluded by stating that the CA branches in Felixstowe, Leiston and Lowestoft were having to merge, due to financial pressure from the new East Suffolk District Council, which would mean that two managers would lose their jobs.

Those present were amazed at the breadth of advice given, and many questions were asked, and answered.

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, advice has been provided by phone, but it is hoped that face-to-face meetings can resume soon.

Report by Haley Dossier

Part 1;

Recent lockdowns have encouraged many Felixstowe folks to take up walking around the district, leading many to discover interesting historical features of past life on our peninsula.

One such ‘find’ was an overgrown World War 2 pillbox being cleared by the developers of Laureate Fields just off Ferry Road. What was striking about this (now completely-legally demolished) concrete defensive structure was not only its dominant position but also that its gun-slits (enfilades) faced north, north-east and north-west, whereas the town lies essentially to the south. Therefore, this gun emplacement was not to defend against a German invasion from the sea, but to defend against an attack from the Felixstowe marshes to the north. This piqued my interest in the thought processes of the defenders of Felixstowe in 1939/1940 when such defences were hastily built.

When General Ironside demanded that the Eastern Counties improve their defensive capabilities, it was recognised that the stretch of shore from Landguard Common to Felixstowe Ferry was particularly vulnerable to seaborne attack, because an invasion could take place at any cycle of the tides. Frantic construction activity led to a town bristling with capable defences. Felixstowe became a fortress-town mainly occupied by the military and, as such, is well-recorded (ref 1). What is less well-known is the fear that gripped the military planners of a landing by Axis paratroopers on the flat reclaimed lands of the River Deben to the north of the town. The Ferry Road pillbox was just one of a ring of defensive structures that sat on the escarpment overlooking the levels. Some have been demolished, but some remain.

The most easterly emplacement was sited just below the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Clubhouse. West of Ferry Road (the next in the chain), there is one just off Hyems Lane, then further west there is a pillbox on the remains of the old Eastward Ho! Golf Club opposite the Grove Medical Centre. Nearer to the allotments at the western side of the Grove woodlands there is a bricked-up ‘gun-tower’ which overlooked the Gulpher dip.

That chain of defensive structures makes for interesting points on a lovely walk around the outskirts of the town. What they have in common are rear entrances that all point roughly south – that is, they were defending against invaders emerging from the levels, not the sea or, at the worst case, from the town, a

scenario in which these defences would have been useless and the town would have been captured. Their main armament was the Bren machine-gun which had an effective range of about 500 metres. The pillboxes are separated by about 1km on average, so the chain of structures would not provide any gaps in the fire. The chain probably continued through Walton. Reports record that there were pillboxes at the end of Garrison Lane and near Walton Hall (by the new Felixstowe Academy), leading to the impressive structure just off Howlett Way in the Trimleys, which was a combined pillbox and Anti-Aircraft (AA) gun-housing (see Figure1).



Figure 1; Aerial view of combined Anti-Aircraft gun site and pillbox south of Howlett Way, Trimley, part of the 1940 defences against invasion by airborne landings on the Deben levels. The landowner (Trimley Estates) reports that they will preserve the pillbox when the area is developed for housing.

Major road-building and housing developments have probably obliterated evidence of defensive structures around the Trimleys near Falkener's Way, even though there are likely to have been some to defend the important radar station and grass airfield at Trimley Heath. RAF Trimley Heath has a record worthy of a separate story, being one of the first 'Type 7' radar stations (ref 2), comprising a rotating antenna (allegedly initially powered by a team of WAAFs on bicycles!), to detect enemy aircraft flying under the high-level radar systems at Bawdsey Manor.

The ring of defences against paratrooper landings is picked-up again around Kirton, where there were at least two further AA sites and heavy gun-batteries, and to the north-east reportedly two further pill-boxes. There was a further emplacement just south of Kirton Creek. Any paratrooper landing would have approached from the north-east over the River Deben, which is perhaps the reason for the location of at least three gun-towers to the north of Bawdsey.

A "ring of steel" was therefore built around the possible airborne landing zone (see Figure 2).



Figure 2; Location of structures for the defence of landings on the Trimley, Felixstowe and Falkenham marshes in 1940.

Key;

Yellow dots, antitank guns

Red dots, pillboxes, existing

Green dots, pillboxes, destroyed

Black dots, RAF Trimley Heath, grass airfield and experimental radars

Orange dots, Anti Aircraft gun sites

Pink dots, Heavy Gun Batteries

Checked lines – anti glider ditches ; solid black line – Trimley's anti-tank ditch

(Note – excludes sites used for defending against seaborne assault, of which there were many in and around the town)

Reconnaissance photographs (ref 3) show that the Felixstowe Marshes had extensive anti-aircraft trenches dug between the drainage ditches, and most interestingly an anti-tank ditch some 2km long stretching across the narrowest part of the peninsula between (roughly) Searson's Farm and Capel Hall Farm.

References

1. Phil Hadwen, John Smith, Peter White, Neil Wylie, "Felixstowe at War; a Military History", Pub. Neil Wylie, Printed by The Lavenham Press, 2001, ISBN 0 95364613.
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AMES_Type_7
3. <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/map>. Details in the National Archive, Swindon.

To be continued

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN FELIXSTOWE



SEPTEMBER 9-11 2022

It's that time again! Since 2012, thanks to Phil Hadwen, The Society has organised a variety of events to showcase the wonderful history and heritage of Felixstowe. We are carrying on Phil's work by presenting a number of events over three days this year. Access to all events will be free and some events will require tickets available on The Society's website.

It is 22 years since our first chairperson, Cynthia Park, devised a Town Trail, now known as The Cotman Walk. As lockdown prevented the guided Sunday Walks from taking place, it is a joy to be able to offer two different Cotman walks on the Friday and Saturday. With so much new housing being built around the town, it is a relief to stroll through one of the town's conservation areas to appreciate Victorian and Edwardian gems which have not been torn down.

Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club has agreed to host an exhibition of wonderful items from their archive. With new developments at the club gathering pace, it may be one of the last chances to visit the clubhouse before it is demolished.



The Society is grateful to the Directors of Harvest House for agreeing to open this Cotman gem to the public on the Sunday. As in previous years, this location has proved so popular and this year visitors, on their guided tour, will be able to admire the refurbishment of the Palm Court and the Dining Room.

At the Hut on the prom, The Society will be providing an archive exhibition which was well attended last year. The programme for the weekend is still being devised and we hope there will be some new locations for visitors to enjoy. The full programme will be published in the September Newsletter.

Bev Boyce

QUIZ NIGHT

Another successful quiz night was held in February at the Trades & Labour Club. A healthy profit was made and the quizzers had an enjoyable evening with supper included.



Question Time



Roy Keeps an Eye on the Proceedings



Would you like to write an article for the next Newsletter?
We welcome new contributors. If so, could we please have your contribution by **22nd July**, in Microsoft Word format if possible. The email address is: felixsocnewsletter@outlook.com or, if sending by post the address is: 6 Harvest House, Cobbold Road, IP11 7SP. Thank you.

Grateful thanks to all our contributors, to Susanne Barsby for proofreading and to Keith Horn for his help.

**Do any of our members know if any of their family were members of the Royal Observer Corp based in Felixstowe in WW2. There is a local lady interested in obtaining any information you may have.
If you can help, please contact either Roy Gray or Society Secretary Derek Bundock**

SPEAKER'S CORNER-FEBRUARY

'The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial'

A talk by
Julie Kilbey
MA



Julie Kilbey started off by describing the Saxon period (410AD to 1066AD) in British history which came after the Romans left these islands. During Roman times some of the British were Christianised, but the subsequent German, Danish and other invaders were not Christian, hence many words in the language have pagan links (eg: Thursday = Thor, the God of War).

Ship burials happened in Scandinavia around this time.

Julie then went on to describe the life of Edith Pretty, who lived at Sutton Hoo. She was well educated at Roedean, and married Col. Pretty after a long courtship in which he proposed marriage on her birthday for 17 years! She was a spiritualist and held seances in her house. It was said that one of those attending saw ghostly figures over the grave mounds on one occasion.

In 1937 she approached the Ipswich Museum for help to examine the mounds on her estate, and Basil

Brown, who was educated at Bucklesham School, but who was self taught in languages and archaeology, surveyed the site.

Many of the mounds had previously been robbed, with little remaining in them, but Mound No 1 had been missed because an ancient path misled the robbers.

Excavation then began, but had to be halted due to the outbreak of War.

When excavation was resumed, the acidic sand had retained the imprint of the ship in minute detail, but no wood remained.

It is thought that the burial was of King Raedwald, the leader of the area, and probably a lapsed Christian. 260 items were found, including the famous helmet, spears, shoulder clasps and a moulded sword.

Similar helmets were found near Stockholm, and 3 other Viking ship burials have been found, with only one other in Britain, being at Snape.



Many questions about this fascinating event in history were asked, and we were very fortunate to benefit from Julie's work for her PhD on Sutton Hoo.

Report by Haley Dossor

The Cavendish Hotel Felixstowe

Arguably the best example of an Art Deco building in Felixstowe, the former Cavendish Hotel in Sea Road, was built on a 1.44 acre site. It was opened in 1937 by the Cobbold Brewery in Ipswich to replace a predecessor of the same name.

Located on the seafront, with an excellent reputation and highly rated dance floor, the landmark building was an extremely popular venue for visitors and local residents alike, attracted by its advertisement in the Fifties of "excellent cuisine, produce from own farm, ample garage accommodation, central heating and hot and cold water in all bedrooms".



Cavendish Hotel 1949

Its position on higher ground on the seafront made it the perfect location for a reception centre during the tragic Felixstowe flood disaster 31st January to 1st February 1953 with some 445 families processed there. Refreshments were provided for two weeks for rescue workers and salvage parties.

Gradually the hotel fell into disrepair and in 1988 the intention to develop the site was uncovered. A local campaign was immediately begun to have the supreme Art Deco premises listed for its architectural merit. However, within days of the start of the fight, bulldozers moved in to demolish the property.

Subsequently, the site became the home of the Felixstowe Sunday market until it's removal to Manning's amusements, then was used by the Lions Club of Felixstowe to raise funds through its car boot sales on Saturday mornings.

In July 2018 redevelopment plans for a 6 storey building with 48 apartments together with street level space for shops and restaurant were introduced but never followed through. However, the possibility of development of some kind or other has not gone away.

Michael Sharman

**Social Event – Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club from 2.30pm
Wednesday 6th July 2022**

We are pleased to tell you that we have arranged an Afternoon Tea consisting of finger sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones with clotted cream and jam and a selection of small cakes, with either tea or coffee. Jugs of water will also be provided. In addition, the Bar will be open if other drinks are required, at your expense. Food will be served at about 3 o'clock.

As you know the Golf Club House is sited in a wonderful position overlooking the Felixstowe Golf Course, Felixstowe Ferry, Bawdsey and not forgetting the mouth of the Deben. This will be a golden opportunity for our members to enjoy time in this iconic building before it is demolished.

We hope that the foregoing will have whetted your appetite and that you will join us from 2.30pm until 5pm. As you will probably know there is ample free car parking. Please note that this event is open to Non Members – a good opportunity to invite a friend or friends to join you !!

The cost will be £12.50 per person, and we look forward to receiving your completed Application Form and Cheque. Early booking is recommended.

Keith Horn

BOOKING FORM FOR SOCIAL EVENT AT FELIXSTOWE FERRY GOLF CLUB

Wednesday 6th July 2022 from 2.30pm to 5.00pm

I would like..... Tickets for this event at £12.50 per ticket.

Please provide names of all persons attending.

I enclose £.....Cheque payable to The Felixstowe Society

Names of Members and Friends

.....

.....

Member's Telephone No.....Email.....

Address.....

***PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND PAYMENT WITH A STAMPED
ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR TICKETS TO:***

Mrs Susanne Barsby, 1 Berners Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7LF

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**Felixstowe Society Social Evening at Harvest House
FRIDAY 22nd JULY 2022**

Following the popularity of previous events at Harvest House we will be holding another Social Evening at Harvest House and hope that you will be able to join us. We are extremely grateful to the Directors of Harvest House Ltd for allowing us to use their facilities once again.

A buffet supper will be provided but please bring your own drink and glasses.

We welcome back Harbour Lights to entertain us during the evening.

A raffle will be held and we would appreciate raffle prizes if possible, please. Prizes can be delivered to me at 75 Ferry Road, Felixstowe or alternatively I will be pleased to collect by contacting me on 01394 270845 or email me at kjandehorn@btinternet.com

The evening will commence at 6pm sharp and the cost will be £18.00 per person. As in previous years we expect this event to be popular so early booking is recommended.

Please note that this event will be for Felixstowe Society members only.

Dress code for this event is smart casual please.

Looking forward to seeing you.

KEITH HORN

**Felixstowe Society Social Evening at Harvest House
FRIDAY 22nd JULY 2022**

I/we would like..... Tickets at a cost of £18.00 per person

I enclose £ (Cheques payable to The Felixstowe Society)

Member(s) Name(s)

Telephone No.....Email Address

***PLEASE RETURN THIS PART OF THE FORM AND PAYMENT, WITH A
STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR TICKETS, TO:***

Mrs Susanne Barsby, 1 Berners Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7LF

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THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ARCHIVE EXHIBITION AT HARVEST HOUSE, SUNDAY 21st AUGUST 2022

Following our successful Archive Exhibition last year, we are pleased to inform you that the Directors of Harvest House have very kindly given us permission to hold another Archive Exhibition once again this year. Our archivist Bev Boyce assisted by Jean Macpherson will be putting on the Exhibition chosen from our ever-increasing archive collection and it will take place on Sunday 21st August 2022 between 2.00pm and 4.30pm. As last year, the Exhibition will be held in the wonderful Palm Court and refreshments will be served in the Dining Room.

Please note that this event will be for Felixstowe Society members only and numbers will have to be limited. We must also respect the fact that Harvest House is a privately occupied property.

If you would like to attend, please complete the application below. Tickets will be issued and will have to be produced on arrival at Harvest House. Please remember that you will NOT be able to park at Harvest House. There is ample street parking or at Ranelagh Road Car Park.

The cost for this event will be £7.00 per person and will include refreshments.

Keith Horn

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ARCHIVE EXHIBITION AT HARVEST HOUSE 21st AUGUST 2022

I/we would liketickets for this event at £7.00 per person Total £.....

Name(s).....

Address.....

Names of all persons attending who must be members of the Felixstowe Society

.....
.....

Telephone No..... Email Address

PLEASE RETURN THIS PART OF THE FORM AND PAYMENT, WITH A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR TICKETS, TO:

Mrs Susanne Barsby, 1 Berners Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7LF

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