

The Felixstowe Society NEWSLETTER



Issue No.131 January 2023

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY

**is established for the public benefit of people who live or work
in Felixstowe or 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 and Beyond

THE CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Chairman's Notes
 - 2 Speakers' Evenings 2023 and the late Tony Hughes
 - 3 Planning Applications
 - 5 Phil's Sunday Walks 2023
 - 6 The Felixstowe Society Archive
 - 7 Felixstowe Beach Hut and Chalet Association
 - 8 The Felixstowe Heritage 2022 Weekend
 - 10 The Churches' Role During Heritage 2022 Weekend
 - 12 My Heritage Weekend as a New Member and Volunteer
 - 14 Felixstowe In Print and On Screen
 - 15 Harvest House Re-visited
 - 17 In Search of a Bus
 - 20 Speaker's Corner - September - Windmills and A Welcome to All Readers
 - 21 The Bartlet Hospital
 - 25 Oh! To Be a Customs Officer
 - 27 Members' Holiday to Lincoln
 - 28 The Name's The Same - a Quiz
 - 29 The Annual Dinner 2023
 - 31 Subscription Renewal
 - 32 Gift Aid Declaration
- Inside Back Cover** Speaker's Corner - October - I Read It In The Local Paper
Back Cover Wanted Advertisement and Answers to The Name's The Same Quiz

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

HELLO EVERYBODY, I seem to have started the last three Newsletters with the same words. I am sitting by the French Windows (not open this time!) looking out at a cloudless sky with the warmth of the sun and a lovely breeze to help to dry my washing. Can't believe that we are nearly at the end of October. We have just returned from a holiday in the South Tirol again with brilliant blue skies and sunshine. The sort of weather that sets one up for the winter. Hope that you all have had a good summer.

Felixstowe Society-wise we have had an excellent summer of engagements starting with the Social Evening at Harvest House in July with the Harbour Lights as the entertainment. I couldn't attend as it was our youngest granddaughter's 9th birthday and we had to be at her family dinner. How could we refuse? However, I gather it was very successful. This was swiftly followed by another amazing Archive Exhibition in the Palm Court for which we have to thank our Joint Archivist, the wonderful Bev Boyce. The profits from both of these events were donated to the Chairman of the Harvest House Management Committee at the Speaker's Evening in September. We are so pleased that we have such a good relationship with Harvest House as they are so good to us. I would like to thank all the kind gardeners who responded to our appeal to donate a little spare time to helping out in the Harvest House gardens. I know that Richard is very grateful.

Our biggest event this Summer was Heritage Weekend which had taken a good deal of organisation but, very sadly, fell on the same weekend that our lovely Queen Elizabeth died. We made the difficult decision to go ahead as it wasn't an overt, in-your-face type of event but it was truncated somewhat as we couldn't use the Town Hall. Very fortunately our Website Master, Ian Clarke, had the email addresses of all 38 people who had booked for the tours so we

could let them all know. My thanks go to all who made the event such a success especially those volunteers who gave up their time on the days.

By the time that you receive this magazine, we will have had three Speakers' Evenings and all are planned for the first half of next year. We have to thank Roy Gray for these and also Haley Dossor for writing reports for the Newsletter. Unfortunately, both gentlemen are poorly at present, Roy with severe pinching of the sciatic nerve and Haley being in hospital with fractured ribs. I wish both of them a swift recovery.

This time of the year the outings etc., have finished until next year but the planning has already started. Indeed, Keith and Elizabeth have already organised the holiday to Lincoln for next May and people are booking in their thousands! No, not quite, but it is sure to be as popular as ever. He has also arranged for next year's Annual Dinner and we are moving from the Brook Hotel to the Golf Club. Sounds great. So thanks, Keith, for all that you both do.

I now have to announce a small rise in our subs at Speakers' Evenings. The Salvation Army has increased its costs from £40 per session to £25 per hour, an increase of £35. We have decided to cut the hours by 30mins. to 9.30 rather than 10.00pm and to increase the subs to £2 per member and £3 for visitors from January 2023. Hope that you all understand that we have to make Speakers' Evenings as near as possible pay for themselves. Speaker's fees are continually rising and a good speaker is now at least £100. We get between 60 and 80 people at a meeting so the increase will go a long way to closing the gap.

By the time you are reading this Christmas will be over and I hope that you all have a great time.

I wish you all a belated Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year. Kindest regards.

Jan Garfield, Chairman

SPEAKERS' EVENINGS 2023

The Speakers' Evenings are held in the Salvation Army Church Hall, Cobbold Road.

Doors open at 7pm and the Tuesday evenings start promptly at 7.30pm.

We encourage the wearing of masks.

Please note that admission charges are now £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

JANUARY 24th

The Royal Observer Corp by Catherine Buchanan

FEBRUARY 21st

Pole to Pole by Paul Whiting

MARCH 28th

My Life in Radio by Mark Murphy

APRIL 25th

The Sign of The Times by Satah Doig

MAY 23rd

Our Annual General Meeting followed by

Henry VIII's Wives by Julie Kilbey

SEPTEMBER 26th

To be advised

OCTOBER 24th

War Graves by Bev Boyce

NOVEMBER 21st

Thomas Cavendish, Navigator or Pirate? by Cathy Shelbourne

Organiser Roy Gray

I have to make the sad announcement that Tony Hughes died in November and The Society was represented by several members at his funeral.

Tony and Gillian retired to Felixstowe at the beginning of 1999. Gillian became Secretary of the Society and Tony, a keen photographer, compiled a photographic record of award winners of the Enhancement of the Environment Awards. We still have an album in the Archive.

In 2000 the Editor of the Newsletter, Peter Reynolds, died suddenly and Tony was able to transfer all of Peter's draft of the January 2001 edition onto his own computer to enable printing to be achieved. He then became Editor from the May 2001 edition until his retirement after the May 2015 issue. Gillian had retired as Secretary in 2009 and sadly died in 2011.

Editing 41 issues makes Tony the longest serving Editor of The Society's Newsletter.

Our sincere condolences go to his family with our grateful thanks for all he and his dear Gillian did for The Felixstowe Society.

Jan Garfield, Chairman

The Felixstowe Society Newsletters are delivered by Roger Baker and his team of volunteers.

Our thanks go to Roger for organising deliveries and, of course, to his team.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

COMMENTED ON BY THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY JULY TO NOVEMBER 2022 INCLUDING UPDATES ON APPLICATIONS PREVIOUSLY LISTED AS ‘AWAITING COUNCIL DECISION’

[Reference DC/22/0490](#)

[Address](#) Port Light, Ferry Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Retention of salon and toilet

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that this proposal is acceptable. The scale and visual impact of the building on the character of Felixstowe Ferry is insignificant in comparison to the adverse impact of the wholly incompatible dwellings recently approved by the LPA in the hamlet.

[ESC Decision](#) Withdrawn

[Reference DC/22/2489](#)

[Address](#) 1 College Green, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Works to Tree in Conservation Area

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal subject to approval by ESC arboricultural officer and provided the works are carried out by a suitable qualified tree surgeon.

[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference DC/22/2394](#)

[Address](#) Day Nursery, Convent of Jesus and Mary, 61-63 Orwell Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Works to Tree in Conservation Area

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal

[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference DC/22/1983](#)

[Address](#) The Triangle, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Placement of beach hut for use as Tourist Information Centre

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society objects to the proposal. The beach hut will appear out of context with the urban setting and will worsen the appearance of The Triangle. A preferable solution would be a digital information point in the form of a touch-screen display. This would also be more interesting to use for younger people and would be more sustainable than a hut full of leaflets which would inevitably end up as litter.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/2082](#)

[Address](#) Moonfleet, The Ferry, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Extensions, alterations and remodelling

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that the proposal will result in significant improvement to the property

[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference DC/22/2085](#)

[Address](#) 22-24 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Conversion of former offices to flats

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.

[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference DC/22/1996](#)

[Address](#) Kiosk Site, near Bent Hill

The Promenade, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Replacement Kiosk

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/2011](#)

[Address](#) 85 Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Single Storey extension

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal

[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference DC/22/1955](#)

[Address](#) 19 Margaret Street, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Erection of two-storey terrace house

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers the proposal to be good use of a brown-field site.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/1341](#)

[Address](#) 55-57 Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Change of use of restaurant to drinking establishment

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference](#) DC/22/2592
[Address](#) 175-177 Maidstone Road, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Joint application between 175 and 177 to erect an adjoined front porch
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.
[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference](#) DC/22/2963
[Address](#) Beach Village, Sea Road, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Non Illuminated Advertisement - Totem pole sign
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.
[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference](#) DC/22/3249/AME
[Address](#) The Lodge, South Hill, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Non Material Amendment of DC/21/0712/FUL
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.
[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference](#) DC/22/3022/FUL
[Proposal](#) To change windows and door to front of property to upvc styles like for like
[Address](#) 14 Red Hall Court, Felixstowe
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal. The replacement windows appear to be of high quality, structurally and architecturally.
[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference](#) DC/22/3266
[Address](#) Kiosk, Bottom of Bent Hill, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Variation of condition 3 of DC/22/1996
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the proposal.
[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference](#) DC/22/2159/FUL
[Address](#) Great Eastern Square, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Placement of beach hut on old station
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society strongly objects to the proposal. The proposed development would have a significant adverse impact on a designated heritage asset. The beach hut would appear out of context and out of keeping with the

station buildings. A modern digital touch-screen information point would be a far better solution.
This proposal is backward thinking.
[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference](#) DC/22/2898/TCA
[Address](#) 30 Berners Road, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Works to Eucalyptus tree
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objection to the proposal.
[ESC Decision](#) Approved

[Reference](#) DC/22/3013
[Address](#) 24 Brook Lane, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Extensions and alterations
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society objects to the application. The proposed development would appear bulky and would have an adverse impact on the appearance of the street-scene.
[ESC Decision](#) Permitted

[Reference](#) DC/22/3374/VOC
[Address](#) Land at Junction of Garrison Lane and High Road West, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Variation of Condition No. 2 of DC/21/2329/FUL - Erection of new veterinary surgery and 3 residential units in two phase - Minor changes to site layout and changes to fenestration during detailed design of the new vets.
[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference](#) DC/22/3372/FUL
[Address](#) Friarscroft, Marcus Road, Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Alterations and extensions - (re-submission of previous application DC/17/2617/FUL
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that the scheme is acceptable on balance.
[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference](#) DC/22/3522/FUL
[Address](#) 28 Roman Way Felixstowe
[Proposal](#) Single storey extension to front of bungalow, and replacement (steeper) roof over existing bungalow
[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that the scheme is a well-designed proposal which improves the aesthetic quality of the property.
[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/3520/TCA](#)

[Address](#) Drift Wood, Martello Lane, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) 1no. Acacia (T1 on plan) – Fell

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections provided that the tree is replaced with another specimen.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/3491/FUL](#)

[Address](#) The Priory, 2 Cliff Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Cart Lodge in the grounds. Replacement French Doors and Windows to Garden Room (garden room is 1950's extension)

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that the replacement doors are acceptable and that the cart lodge is very well designed.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/3646/TPO](#)

[Address](#) 71 Tower Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) 2no. Sweet chestnut (T1 and T2 on plan) - Reduce in height to half of existing height

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society has no objections to the trees being pollarded subject to the approval of the Council's Arboricultural Officer.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/4071/TCA](#)

[Address](#) Belgrove 3 Ranelagh Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) 1no. Silver birch (marked '1' on plan) - Fell

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society objects to the application. The tree is highly visible from Victoria Street. The loss of the tree would be regrettable. The tree does not appear to cause any major issues.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/3983/FUL](#)

[Address](#) 68 Links Avenue, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and first floor front extension.

New detached garage. New front and side boundary walls. Render to front elevation

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society objects to the application and considers that the proposal would harm the appearance of the area.

The proposed boundary wall would be out of keeping with the frontages of properties in Links Avenue which are predominantly beech hedges. Furthermore, the proposed extension would impact on the amenities of the occupants of No 70A.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/4101/ADN](#)

[Address](#) Cotman House, Garfield Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Non Illuminated Advertisement - New large advertising sign below existing clock feature

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that the proposal would cause no harm to the significance or setting of the conservation area.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

[Reference DC/22/4181/FUL](#)

[Address](#) Tehidy House, 65 Orwell Road, Felixstowe

[Proposal](#) Conversion of existing dwelling to five residential apartments, including external alterations and extension and formation of new access

[Felixstowe Society Comments](#) The Society considers that the proposal would cause no harm to the significance or setting of the conservation area.

[ESC Decision](#) Awaiting decision

PHIL'S SUNDAY WALKS 2023

THE POSITIVE response to the Cotman Walks during Heritage Weekend last year showed how much guided walks around the town have been missed. This year there will be some new walks and some old favourites. All walks start at 2.30pm and last approximately an hour.

March 19 Cotman 3 - This walk starts at the top of Bent Hill and finishes at The Triangle.

April 16 Cotman 4 – This walk starts outside Harvest House and finishes at Cobbold's Point.

May 14 The Hamilton Walk – This walk starts and finishes outside the Library.

The walks will restart in September - more details in the May newsletter.

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ARCHIVE

by Bev Boyce

FOLLOWING THE successful 2021 inauguration of the archive exhibition there were plenty of photos, documents and artefacts to display at last year's event on August 21, 2022.

The Mayor, Sharon Harkin, kindly opened the event and made reference in her speech to the importance of preserving the town's heritage, which is one of the main aims of The Society's archive. Over 80 members sampled a much larger and more varied

note how their roads had changed over a twenty year period. For the first time this year, members were able to visit the private gardens of Harvest House.



The Society was very fortunate in receiving more donations and we are very grateful to Liz Brooking, Sylvia Pearson and Freddy Reavie and Caroline Corker for their kind gifts to the archive.

A fire inspection of the basement of Harvest House,

number of displays than 2021 including 12 new photo albums and table displays of Harvest House artefacts and sporting memorabilia donated by Ernie Entwistle and Michael Thomas.

One of the documents which attracted much attention from members was the 'estate agent's book'. This book of maps from 1882–1908 detailed opportunities to buy the leasehold and freehold housing plots in central and west end districts of Felixstowe. Members were able to spot the land on which their house stands and

earlier this year, means that for health and safety reasons no visitors are allowed to visit the archive, but we operate a lending service, unless the item in question is too fragile to lend out, so if you are interested in borrowing items, contact me on 01394 672184 to find out if we have items in which you would be interested.

The archive catalogue is being updated and I hope to have a copy available at all Speaker Evenings this year.



Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

READERS MAY well recall that in the last Newsletter I reported that damage had been caused to many huts at Manor End following a very high tide.

It is almost beyond belief that East Suffolk Council has submitted a planning application to move 19 of these huts closer to the sea and place a further 14 huts behind them. This is in an attempt to find places for 14 of the huts which they intend to displace from the Spa Pavilion site. Unsurprisingly, many hut owners have submitted objections to the proposal. If it is allowed to go ahead, and there is another high tide such as we saw at the end of March, not only will the 19 huts in the front line be moved, but there is the real likelihood that they would be washed back into the second row causing even more carnage. We were pleased to see that Felixstowe Town Council has recommended that the application is refused.

That leads me onto the continuing saga of the huts at the Spa Pavilion site. Despite the owners being told that they would be removed from the promenade by the end of March 2022, they are still there. As I write, huts at other sites are now in their winter positions on the promenade, having been moved off the beach. East Suffolk Council still appears to be hell-bent on removing all 44 huts before our legal case has been heard in the High Court and our solicitor has written to the Council to suggest that, as the huts at the Spa are now in the position they have been in every winter since the 1940s, they should remain there until the legal case has concluded. The Council would find themselves in an embarrassing position if they moved the huts before the conclusion of the legal process.

Thirty places at other sites have been identified but hut owners are united in the belief that all 44 must be accommodated before any of them are removed.

A planning application by East Suffolk Council to place huts from the Spa Pavilion on spare land at Manor End was refused by the Planning Committee on ecological grounds, but we feel that a more thorough ecology report could identify ways to mitigate for any potential damage to flora, so we have commissioned a new report from a local, highly experienced, ecologist. Initial findings are that a rare plant called Stinking Goosefoot which was once growing at Manor End is no longer there. Not a pleasant plant, so thank goodness for that!

On a much happier note, one of our members, Di Chilver, holds a Macmillan Coffee Morning at her beach hut at Brackenbury Cliffs every year. This year she raised just over £800 for the charity.

Finally, our Committee member Joy Reeve and her friend Karen Kenny have raised £6,200 for Guide Dogs for the Blind at their 'Occasional Café' at their beach hut at Manor End throughout the winter months this year. They have been providing tea, coffee and homemade cakes, in exchange for a donation for seven years and have raised a total of £23,763 which has also benefited Cancer Research, Alzheimer's Research and Parkinson's Research. A brilliant effort. Sadly, they have decided to close the 'Occasional Café'. That has turned out to be a fortuitous decision as, very recently, Joy managed to break her leg!

Trevor Mason



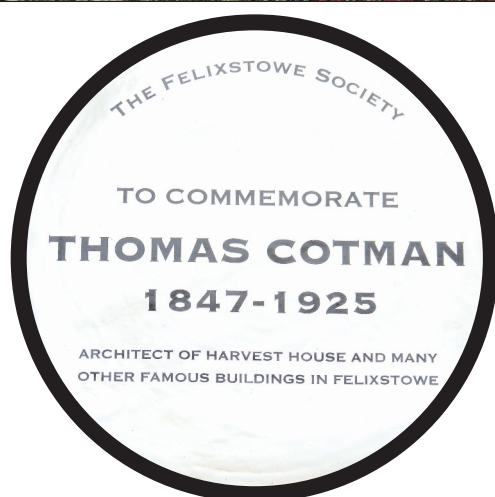
THE FELIXSTOWE HERITAGE 2022 WEEKEND



Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club: The Society was delighted that the Golf Club agreed to participate in this year's event particularly as it may be the last time that the current clubhouse would be in operation. Feedback from existing and new members showed a positive welcome for the exhibition which portrayed the history of the Golf Club. The Society would like to thank Donna and her team for all their hard work.

Beach Huts: Ruth Dugdall-Marshall and her team were very pleased with the reaction of visitors and locals to all the activities which took place on the prom despite the occasional downpours. There was a steady stream of visitors to the huts including a filming crew who were with Ruth and her team all day. Several talks were given including 'actors' pacing in character as the Empress of Germany and visitors to the newly opened 'Floral Hall'. Victorian and Edwardian costumes, loaned by Ipswich Museum, could be tried on and vintage games were available. The history of the beach huts was definitely the main interest during the day. By chance, Councillor Seamus Bennett heard one of the talks and was so impressed, he wrote to the Head of Council about it.

National Coastwatch Institution - Martello P: Nick Barrett-White and his staff felt that the whole weekend worked really well. His team delivered the heritage side including tours and talks on the Martello Tower but they also used the occasion to promote NCI and try to recruit new volunteers and fundraisers which was very successful.





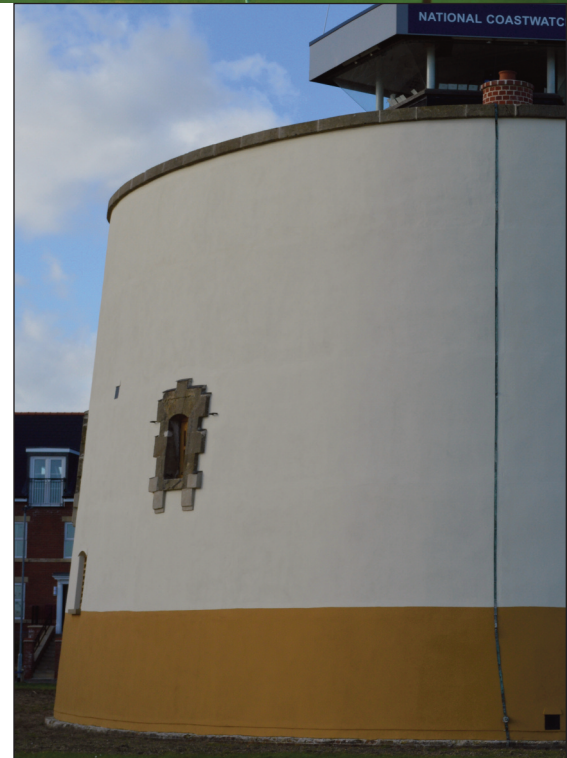
The Cotman Walks: All four walks, which took place on Friday and Saturday, were sold out and extra visitors were able to join as the rainy weather led to some 'no shows'. Altogether 66 locals and visitors were able to enjoy this Town Trail and 16 bought the Cotman book at the exhibition. The Society would like to thank Peter Mee, Kirsty Wright and Paul Sanderson who helped to steward these walks.

The Felixstowe Society Exhibition at the 'Hut on the Prom': This was a slimmed down version of the August exhibition at Harvest House. From 10-4pm a steady stream of visitors seemed to enjoy the photos, documents and artefacts on display. There were enjoyable conversations, with visitors, about childhood memories of Felixstowe and Walton.

Harvest House: This event was extremely successful. All tours were sold out before the weekend and they were fully manned with members taking on the role of stewarding the tours and manning the car park. Richard Goldsmith and John Grumbridge shared the guiding on all five tours. Each tour seemed to be buzzing with people who had always wanted to look inside Harvest House alongside those who reminisced about working in this iconic building. The Directors of Harvest House also opened the gardens and many of the visitors spent time walking round the grounds and meeting and talking with other visitors. A lovely atmosphere.

The Town Hall and the Sea Cadets Drill Hall: Due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, both of these locations were unable to open during the weekend.

Eventbrite: The ticketing for certain events during the weekend worked extremely well thanks to the hard work of Ian Clarke.



THE CHURCHES' ROLE DURING HERITAGE 2022 WEEKEND

HERITAGE WEEKEND enjoyed good participation by most churches in Felixstowe, even due to the sad circumstances of the Queen's death, many events went ahead with the exception of St Mary's, Walton. planned exhibition.

Father John at St Felix Catholic Church did two 20 minute talks which were well supported and repeated on Sunday. I attended the stained glass window one which was informative and well presented comparing the three sets of windows and the artists reflecting different attitudes to the use of Stained Glass. The intriguing fact of 'Spot the mouse' will remain with me for ever, (not a live one I hasten to add!)

The Salvation Army did a full-on exhibition and craft explaining their Heritage, which was stunning and comprehensive.

this was their first community event! It was a very colourful and hands-on exhibition.

The United Reformed Church under Anne's preparation had a super 'I Spy Trail' encouraging looking for the church features, also various artefacts were on display for the first time in years.

Information on various famous war heroes including General Tomline and those who contributed to the life of the church in various eras was also available. I am pleased to report I successfully found all the 'I Spy' objects on the sheet and was awarded a certificate. It certainly made you look closely for the items in front of your eyes which could easily have been overlooked.



Left: Father John informing about the stained glass windows in St Felix Church



The front colourful exhibition featuring the Salvation Army flags and drums



Salvation Army uniforms through the ages which were on display

I even met the new officers, Capt Lissette and Capt Paul, though they had no part in the set up, as thanks to Gemma and Jackie completing before their officers' official start in Felixstowe,

Maidstone Road Baptist Church welcomed visitors with a display on its history, a sheet giving information followed by access to various parts of the church. I particularly liked getting

the flavour from the sheet/exhibition and seeing it in situ. The decorative artwork around the gallery made by members highlighted the link between the community and church in its welcome and support.

Old Felixstowe Parish opened all three churches - St Peter and St Paul, sister church St Andrew's and the little chapel St Nicholas at the Ferry, with static exhibitions giving a brief history, with St Andrew's and St Peter and St Paul giving DIY notes on the Churchwardens top 8 or 10 'must see' choices. They proved popular considering how quickly the sheets disappeared. Jean, the Old Felixstowe Parish Archivist, gave a 45 minute talk about the history of Old Felixstowe's oldest building, St Peter and St Paul's church, through the different people involved, including Lady Login and the lesser known Hannah Versey. It was well attended with

Right: An informative display in the Maidstone Road Baptist Church



Stride' event took place simultaneously and helped with the manning of the churches by volunteers. It was appropriate that heritage was on display in nearly all Felixstowe's churches, even if they did not participate with anything for The Felixstowe Society's co-ordinated event.

We do have a wealth of heritage in our churches which clearly reflects not only in the history of the town, but also the links with the community. The important role that Christian groups play in the mental well-being of the community, supporting it in so many practical ways and linking with the official main town groups, like the Town Council and others, makes Felixstowe the outstanding town that it is.

'Discover what is on your doorstep' may be the Heritage Weekend's strap-line, but in Felixstowe, it is often the well sign-posted access to everything which is happening in the town, whether in faith or secular communities.

We are blessed to have such



Inside St Peter and St Paul Church - getting ready for the Guided Tour

just under 50, with many questions asked and grave locations solved, as well as an extra impromptu graveyard mini-tour.

The Suffolk Historic Churches 'Ride and



The interior of Maidstone Road Baptist Church

active churches supporting and linking with all the Felixstowe family.

Jean Macpherson

MY HERITAGE WEEKEND AS A VERY NEW MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER

I VOLUNTEERED to help at Felixstowe Heritage Weekend. After attending the briefing meeting at the wonderful Harvest House, I was ready to go.

How fortunate, my duties were full of variety. Saturday, I met Bev Boyce at Felixstowe Station to assist with Cotman Walk 1. This took us and our group around the 'top' end of town, part of the route taking in Gainsborough Road ending at Harvest House. Our group consisted of all ages including a neighbour of mine and some mums with very young future Society members in pushchairs. I learned a lot on the walk myself, including seeing The Mews, which I had never seen.

Heritage Weekend, Saturday morning

Seaside holiday for me including meeting Augusta Victoria, Empress of Germany. What an honour for a 'newbie' Felixstowe Society member!

Our Deputy Chairman, Keith, allocated me a stint helping out at the Beach Hut talks. Apart from the Empress, I made acquaintance with

colourful and happy holidaying Edwardians taking in the delights of our seafront and taking the Spa waters. What a jolly lot they were.

Oh, I met a charming 103 year young lady called Penelope, who feared that she and her friends would lose their home, she was, however, very upbeat about the situation. She was very proud that an expert from the V&A verified the authenticity of her coat. Of paint that is. So, who is Penelope?

Penelope is one of the oldest beach huts in the world. You must have walked past her, haven't you?

There, that was a lovely experience meeting the Empress and her friends.

Still on Heritage duty. Met our intrepid archivist Bev for Cotman Walk 2. Hamilton Gardens to Bent Hill.

Encouraging attendance including many from the morning walk. Bev told us very detailed stories and descriptions about most of the buildings. Why most?

Well, I live in the top flat overlooking the



The Empress of Germany



The friend of the Empress



South Beach Mansion - where's the sun?

gardens and sea in Wellington Court, and a near neighbour, Chris, she lives in Graham Court.

Still with me? Bev thought it would be a good idea that Chris and I described our buildings. That worked well .We both got a round of applause.

The end of our walk was my new friend, the Empress’s holiday home, South Beach Mansion. We learned about Mr Eley, (Gun cartridge magnate), previous owner firing ‘test’ cartridges from the balconies across the beach into the North Sea. Anti-social, in the mid 19th century, probably not, being as wealthy as Mr Eley.

My new friend the Empress perchance to dream.

Day 2 next....

Day 2 Sunday

Sunny day, Harvest House duties and more fun! Isn’t Harvest House magnificent in the September sunshine? (You know it is!).

Every one on Harvest House duties raring to go, duties assigned, we’re off. All happy with tasks. (Well done, Keith).

Me. First task. Tail end Charlie, tour of, what is there to dislike about this marvel?

The opulence, pop up orchestra stall,

magnificent gardens, probably the ‘poshest’ coalhole’ in the East of England.

Our visitors thoroughly enjoyed the descriptions and anecdotes by the directors of Harvest House, one of our many Felixstowe treasures.

Your newbie, was also given car park duties. Was nice in the lovely sunshine while conversing with the very enthusiastic tour guests. Good memory for me.

Last duties, mingling with Hut Visitors, looking at all the archive material on display. Seeing them leafing through the photo albums, looking at the various displays, was a joy to watch.

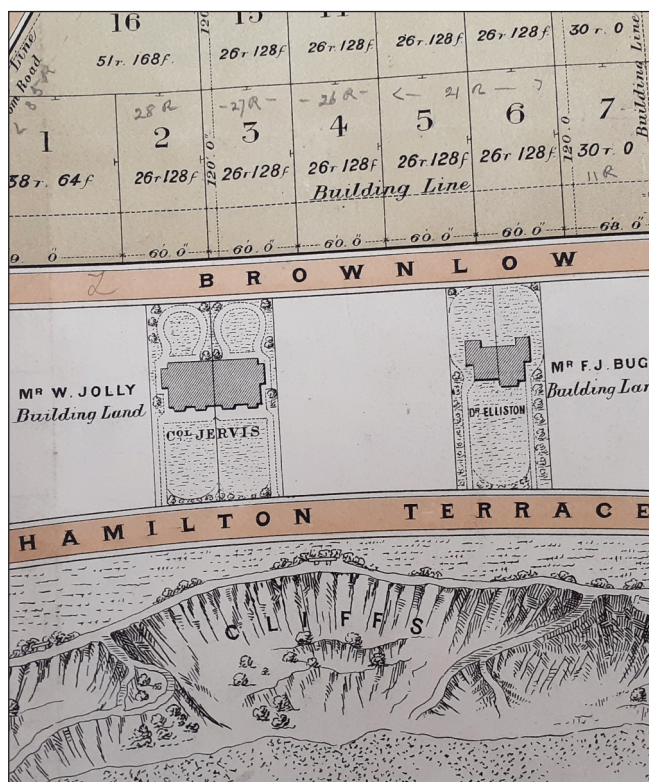
All the, “I remember that”, or “Oh, I never knew that”. Did I hear comments like “My mum worked there”?

Facial expressions and chuckles were a joy to see and hear too. Just went to show how much our town, Felixstowe, yes, is mine too. After only two years as a resident, is loved.

I would like to volunteer again.

Thanks Felixstowe Society!

Paul Sanderson



Original sales plan for Hamilton Gardens



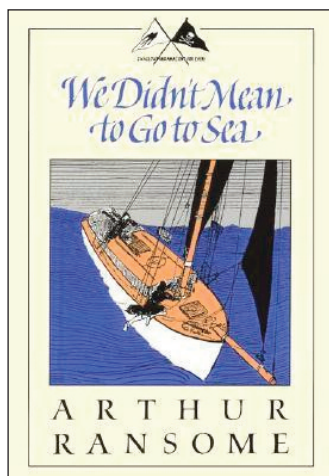
Cotman Walk 2, Wellington Court, Hamilton Gardens

FELIXSTOWE IN PRINT AND ON SCREEN

by Laurence McDonald

THEY WATCHED the houses of
Felixstowe growing clearer, the long pier,
Landguard Point running out into the sea.

In Arthur Ransome's
'*We Didn't Mean To Go
To Sea*', Jim Brading is
knocked over while
walking from
Felixstowe Dock to the
nearest petrol station.
He wakes up in
Felixstowe Hospital,
and quickly escapes in
order to rejoin his
crew on the '*Goblin*'.



Luckily, he had a penny in his pocket and so was
able to catch a bus heading to the dock that
happened to come along.

John Betjeman, who lodged briefly in
Felixstowe, wrote his poem '*The Last Of Her
Order*' after hearing about a nun who, as the title
suggests, lived alone, possibly in lodgings and
possibly in Felixstowe. The poem mentions
Orwell Road, St John's Church ('the only Suffolk
church enshrined in verse by John Betjeman')
and the Spa Pavilion Gardens. The opening
verse will certainly paint a picture familiar to
anybody who knows the town, especially if
they've walked along the beach!

*With one consuming roar along the shingle
The long wave claws and rakes the pebbles down
To where its backwash and the next wave mingle,
A mounting arch of water weedy-brown
Against the tide the off-shore breezes blow
Oh wind and water, this is Felixstowe.*

During the early phases of the Laureate
Fields housing development, these lines were to
be seen writ (very) large on a hoarding alongside
Ferry Road.

In an article published in the *New York Times* in
1985, Hammond Innes – who lived in Kersey –
wrote:

Where else would my favourite pub be but within

*sight of the sea? And what better name for it than
Ferryboat Inn?*

Little has changed there over the years:
a scattering of houses, the golf course, a
Martello tower.

The actress Jane Lapotaire lived in Levington
Road, Ipswich, and recalls the excitement of
journeys from Derby Road Station for a day out
in Felixstowe.

In Julia Jones's '*The Salt-Stained Book*',
published in 2011, Donny Walker's Great Aunt
Ellen returns to the UK from China via
Felixstowe.

'*NOT Forgotten Lives: Felixstowe 2017*' celebrates
the lives of older people living in residential
accommodation in our town.



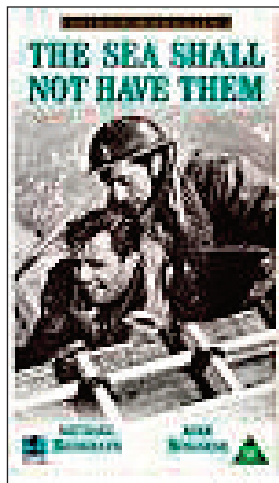
In '*Myth and Mischief
in Allenby Park*', published
in 2020, five authors
fictionalize the
mysteries of this small
recreational space near
the town centre. The
cover painting is by
local artist Charles
Nightingale.

Alan Peck's '*The Watchers*', published in 2020,
deals with events that unfold as differences
appear in witnesses' recollections of the sinking
of a yacht. It has been described as 'a story of
intrigue, blackmail and death set in the UK's
largest container port'. A sequel, '*The Watcher's
Vengeance*' followed a year later.

Also published in 2020, Liz Trenow's novel
'*Under A Wartime Sky*' features Kathleen Mott, a
local girl who grew up seeing Bawdsey Manor
from across the river in Felixstowe. She gets a
job in the kitchens at the Manor, and a love
story unfolds against a background of the true
story of the development of radar.

There was much excitement at the
Central Junior (now Fairfield) School when we
learned that, just a few yards away, a scene was

to be shot at the railway station for the 1954 film *'The Sea Shall Not Have Them'*, based on the 1953 novel of the same name by John Harris. A few weeks later, the manager of the Ritz Cinema, (now The Palace), subsequently made a rare appearance on stage before the screening of the night's main feature to proudly inform us that 'our local film' was among those being considered for the Royal Film Performance (it wasn't chosen). Six weeks were spent filming in Felixstowe, and the last scene in the film was shot at RAF Felixstowe.

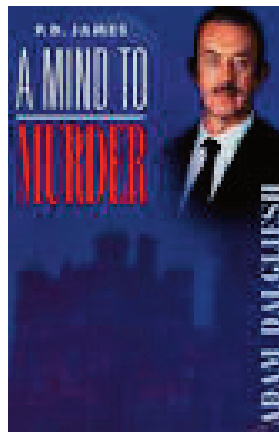


Felixstowe railway station also featured in the last episode of Michael Palin's *'Around The World in 80 Days'* when he makes his way from the dock to catch the 1.10p.m. train to Ipswich as he heads for the London club where he began his epic journey.

'Triangle' was a BBC TV soap opera broadcast in the early 1980s. It was set aboard a North Sea ferry that sailed between Felixstowe, Gothenburg and Amsterdam, although the leg between Amsterdam and Felixstowe was imaginary and not operated by the Ferry Company. It is still generally remembered as "some of the most mockable British television ever produced".



In *'A Mind To Murder'*, broadcast on Anglia



TV in 1995, Chief Inspector Adam Dalgliesh (played by Roy Marsden) boards the ferry across to Bawdsey, but when he alights from the boat he's still on the Felixstowe side of the river, in front of Harbour Villas!

Felixstowe Ferry also makes a brief appearance in the recent Netflix film *'The Dig'*.

There's a scene in Benjamin Britten's opera *'Albert Herring'* in which Albert's mother comes across a photograph of him that was taken on Felixstowe Pier. It was very probably music of a different kind that featured at the *'Gigs in Felixstowe'* attended by Lovejoy's assistant Eric Catchpole.

Robert Lloyd Parry's 2017 short film *'Wits In Felixstowe'* looks at the genesis, influences and setting of M R James's supernatural masterpiece *'Oh Whistle And I'll Come To You, My Lad'*. The Fludyers Hotel and John Cobbold's splendid former residence, Felixstowe Lodge, feature prominently. This is one of two stories set in the fictional town of Burstow, which James admitted was based on Felixstowe.

Felixstowe was among the locations that featured in the 2011 TV series *'Injustice'*, which starred James Purefoy, and in the 1999 film *'The Lost Son'*, starring Daniel Auteuil and Nastassja Kinski, which was set mainly in London, a key location was an isolated cottage on Landguard Peninsula.

HARVEST HOUSE REVISITED

DURING MY 30 year career with Fisons, I worked at locations in Ipswich, Felixstowe, Bristol and Bramford. Without doubt, my two spells at Harvest House were the most enjoyable and quite unique. Just walking past the building during the year evokes many happy memories, so the chance to go on a

guided tour during the Felixstowe Heritage event was too good to miss.

While gathered together waiting for the start of our tour, I found myself talking to some ladies who had worked as post girls in the building. I well remember that these girls were the important life blood of the building.

Collecting and delivering correspondence, post, photocopying, telexes (remember them?) to the 200+ offices scattered throughout the building. After gaining knowledge of the workings of the various departments, many would progress on to become the future Administrators, Secretaries and Personal Assistants.

We started the tour on the front Forecourt looking at the building structure. Our guide explained how the external structure was very high maintenance. He likened it to a 'Forth Bridge' situation, needing constant rolling repairs and maintenance. I remember this from my time as Services Manager. I recall the problems with the crumbling brickwork and decaying masonry, not to mention the challenges of adapting a dated electrical and plumbing system to the evolving new technology and health and safety era. When Fisons purchased the building and grounds in 1952, they had the foresight to retain some of the Hotel Staff (Porters, Carpenters, Electricians, Gardeners and Chauffeurs) and I found their skills and knowledge invaluable.

Next on the tour was the Entrance Lobby. I recall this was always a very busy area. A Porter (retained from the old Hotel) would meet and greet visitors. A Reception Desk would deal with the many salesmen and other visitors. The massive wooden Staircase leading up to the other floors would not have looked out of place in Downton Abbey.

Next stop was the Palm Court (Hotel Winter Garden). For me this was to be the high spot of

the tour. I started my career with Fisons in Ipswich. When it was decided to relocate my department to Felixstowe, I really did not know what to expect. Moving from a modern office in Princes Street to an open plan office in the Palm Court was quite a shock to the system. The Palm Court location came complete with Marble Floor, Wicker Chairs and a Palm Tree in the corner, an incredibly high domed ceiling supported by columns. Probably totally impractical by today's standards, but it was a truly unique experience working in there.

We moved along to the opulent Restaurant Room. This was the Staff Dining Area. (Senior Managers and Directors had a separate Dining Room!) This was also the location of the Staff Christmas Dinner, when the choice and display of food would not look out of place on a modern Cruise Ship.

We moved outside to view the back of the building facing the Sea. I pointed up to my old office on the second floor and asked our guide what the current market price of that 'apartment' would be. He said about £300,000, so I slipped my cheque book into my pocket!

I noticed that a small part of the original putting green had been retained. I recall many a lunch time being extended in pursuit of that elusive hole in one.

And so the end of a thoroughly enjoyable tour that rekindled many happy memories of my time spent in a truly unique and lovely old building.

Jim Stafford.



IN SEARCH OF A BUS

by Michael Thomas

WE CAME to live in Felixstowe in 1961 and rented a flat in Bath Road (now No.45). We had an Austin A30 and like most BMC cars of this era, it would have rusted away before our eyes if left out in the rain. So we sought a garage and happened upon a slot in a double garage in the Rosery in Cambridge Road. Mr and Mrs Mayes charges 10/- per week! Going to and fro, I noticed that their garden shed was obviously the remains of some kind of bus or people wagon. (See colour photograph below).



Cynthia Park, the energetic lady who had founded The Felixstowe Society in 1978, took an interest and got in touch with a Tim Richards of Gawsorth Hall in Macclesfield who had a hobby cum business restoring old horse buses. Tim was interested and in early 1980 he arrived to collect the 'garden shed'. A good turnout of Society members helped with the removal.



*Do you recognise anyone in these photographs?
We would love to hear from you if you do and whether
you could help us with other pictures
we have in the archive covering this event*

Unfortunately, over the years contact with Tim Richards and the project was lost and it was only earlier this year that Bev Boyce, our archivist, came across the collection of photographs and asked me if I knew what had happened to the bus. I volunteered to try and find out and started by making some calls to carriage hire companies in Cheshire. I managed to track down Tim Richards' sons, Rupert and John, only to learn that their father had died some ten years ago and they had no recollection of the project.

However, further calls to various organisations and the Carriage Foundation bore fruit. The very enthusiastic secretary Amy Brace, put me in touch with an authority on horse buses, Christopher Drewitt. He said our photographs taken in 1980 were 'gold dust' in that they showed a bus which still retained some important identifying features. He then went on to detail the known history of 'our bus'.

The bus was built in 1882 by the London Road and Car Co. in Grays Inn Road for the Kensington - Kennington route. It was sold to the London and Suburban Omnibus Co. in 1887 where it served on the Hyde Park and



Camberwell route until 1910.

By the early 1900s motorised buses were taking over and what had now become the London Central Omnibus Co., in 1911 auctioned off or scrapped all its horse buses. It is possible 'our bus' was among these, but how it finished up in a garden in Felixstowe is a mystery.

Above: The photograph taken in 1886 in Cedars Yard, West Kensington

Following the trip to Gawsorth Hall the bus was sold on, still as a derelict wreck, to a Simon Bloomfield when it was restored over a ten year period by the Longfield Carriage Company.

The bus was acquired by Tich Croft where it then worked at the Chalfont St. Giles Heavy Horse Centre 1994 – 1998.

Above right opposite: The photograph of the 1996 New Year parade in Regent Street, London

It made many public appearances during this time, including a service between Baker Street and London Zoo and giving pre-Christmas rides in Kew Gardens. It also took part in the 1996 London New Year parade.

Lower right opposite: The bus emerged in 1994 fully restored and in authentic livery

In 1998 the bus was sold once more, but we do not know to whom. The latest information we have is that it was auctioned by Thimbleby and Shorland of Reading in 2000. We have one or two leads which might allow us to bring the story up-to-date and find out where 'our bus' is today, but until then, the search goes on.



SPEAKER'S CORNER - SEPTEMBER

'WINDMILLS' A Talk given by Chris Hullcoop

THE WINTER season of talks began with Chris Hullcoop talking about, and showing us excellent photos of the Windmills of East Anglia.

A long-time member of the Suffolk Mills group of the Society of Ancient Buildings, he and several others spend a huge amount of their spare time repairing the many mills still remaining in Suffolk. Only a very few have been restored to full working order, and most of the work involved is repairing the brickwork and, most importantly, the roofing of derelict mills.

Chris explained that there are three types of windmill: a post mill, where the structure of the mill is fixed to a post, which turns into the wind to drive the sails. The second type is a tower mill, where the structure is entirely of brick, with just the top part turning with the wind, and finally a smock mill, built to the same design as a tower mill, but the upper structure made entirely of wood.

He told us of the history of several mills, including Drinkstone Mill, built in 1580, owned and operated



Chris Hullcoop

alongside. Chris also mentioned Framsdon Post Mill, now very well restored; Friston Post Mill, on which he is now working; and the many pump mills on Breydon Water and Halvergate marshes, now not working but with the structures still in place.

For a time Norfolk County Council paid for roofing to be done, but no longer does so. This is similar to Herringfleet Mill where Lord Somerleyton used to pay for its upkeep but can no longer do so.

Chris concluded with photos of Paul's Mill in Ipswich and Marriage's in Felixstowe, where the buildings have either been re-purposed or demolished.

Haley Dossor



Bloomfield's Mill, Walton, circa 1890

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL READERS!

I would like to thank those who have helped me to date, including The Tuddenham Press, Keith Horn, Gill Manning, Bev Boyce, Susanne Barsby, Mike Nimney and all the contributors for their co-operation.

I hope readers will assist me by sending via email their opinions of this new format etc.

Your comments will help influence future decisions as I hope to form an Editorial Board. Thank you!

Peter Constable Email: design.constables@btinternet.com

THE BARTLET HOSPITAL

WHEN DR John Henry Bartlet worked as an Honorary Surgeon at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Anglesea Road, Ipswich, there were very few Convalescent Homes in the country or Homes of Recovery as they had been known.

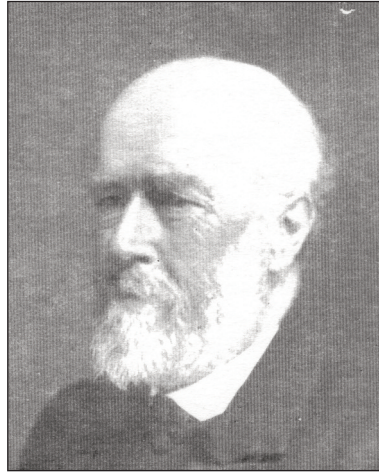
Dr Bartlet sympathised with his patients who had to return to their homes and face the toil and troubles of home and family when not fully recovered from serious illness or major surgery. When he died on 27 May 1917, after a few bequests, he left the residue of his estate to the Board of Management of the Hospital to purchase land and build a Convalescent Home for the patients of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

The Bartlet Trust was set up almost immediately but the estate was complex and took time to realise all the various bonds, shares and investments. Even then purchasing the land and buying the building materials were considerably hampered by the Great War.

A temporary convalescent home was set up in a leased boarding house in Felixstowe in 1919 while the search for the right plot took place. The decision to use the site of the foundations of 'R' Martello Tower was a wise choice. It made sure that it would serve East Suffolk long after its parent hospital in Ipswich shut its doors.

The site chosen fitted all the desires of Dr Bartlet. It had to be of maximum benefit to the patients. With uninterrupted sea views, fresh air and sunshine, who could doubt the boost this would give to the recovery of those sent to convalesce in Felixstowe.

The first step was to purchase the Bath Hotel which adjoined the land chosen by the Trust for the home. This was the Nursing and Domestic quarters. The Hotel was in poor repair having been burnt down by the suffragettes in April 1914. When this building was completed and in use, work on the main building

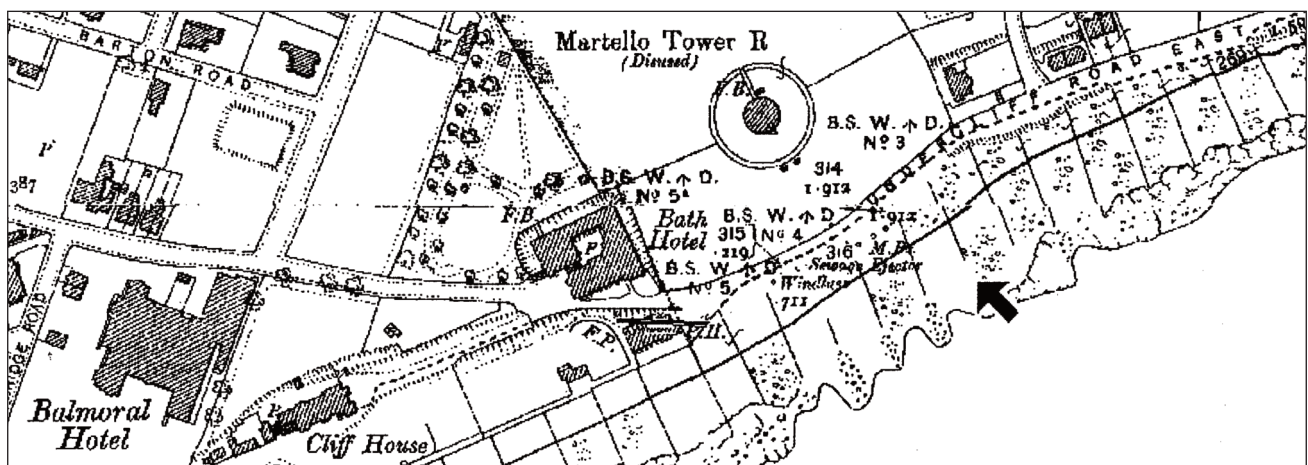


Dr John Henry Bartlet

began.

The plans for the Home were smaller and less pretentious than first planned due to the increase in building costs and a fall in the value of available investments. Low maintenance cost was the Architect's main aim, hence the polished hard wood used in the joinery and the steel chains for the window sashes. The Italian tiles, used on the wards to a height of 5 feet 6 inches, saved on redecoration and were easy to keep clean.

The fine detail paid to the building overflowed into the grounds. Paths were laid round the gardens for patients with a little mobility or wheelchairs. A broad staircase was



The site prior to building, with Martello Tower 'R', Bath and Balmoral Hotels (Harvest House) clearly shown

built, for those able to walk, leading from the centre of the balconies to shelters in the cliff side. The shelters protected the patients from the wind without losing any of the beauty of the view over the Bay of Felixstowe.

The original 60 beds were administered by a Board of Management. The funding came from contributions, donations and money remaining from Dr Bartlet's estate.

A private wing was added in 1930 at a cost of £3,000, providing five beds. A charge of three guineas a week was made for the use of one of these rooms. The block was also used as a sick bay for nursing and medical staff.

The Convalescent Home was provided with an ambulance to transport patients from Ipswich to Felixstowe. A patient discharged from The Bartlet, was assumed to be fit enough to make his or her own way home. This must have been quite a journey for most of them as very few people had cars. The open balconies were often used for TB patients. Even in the snow, their beds would be wheeled outside from first thing in the morning until supper time.

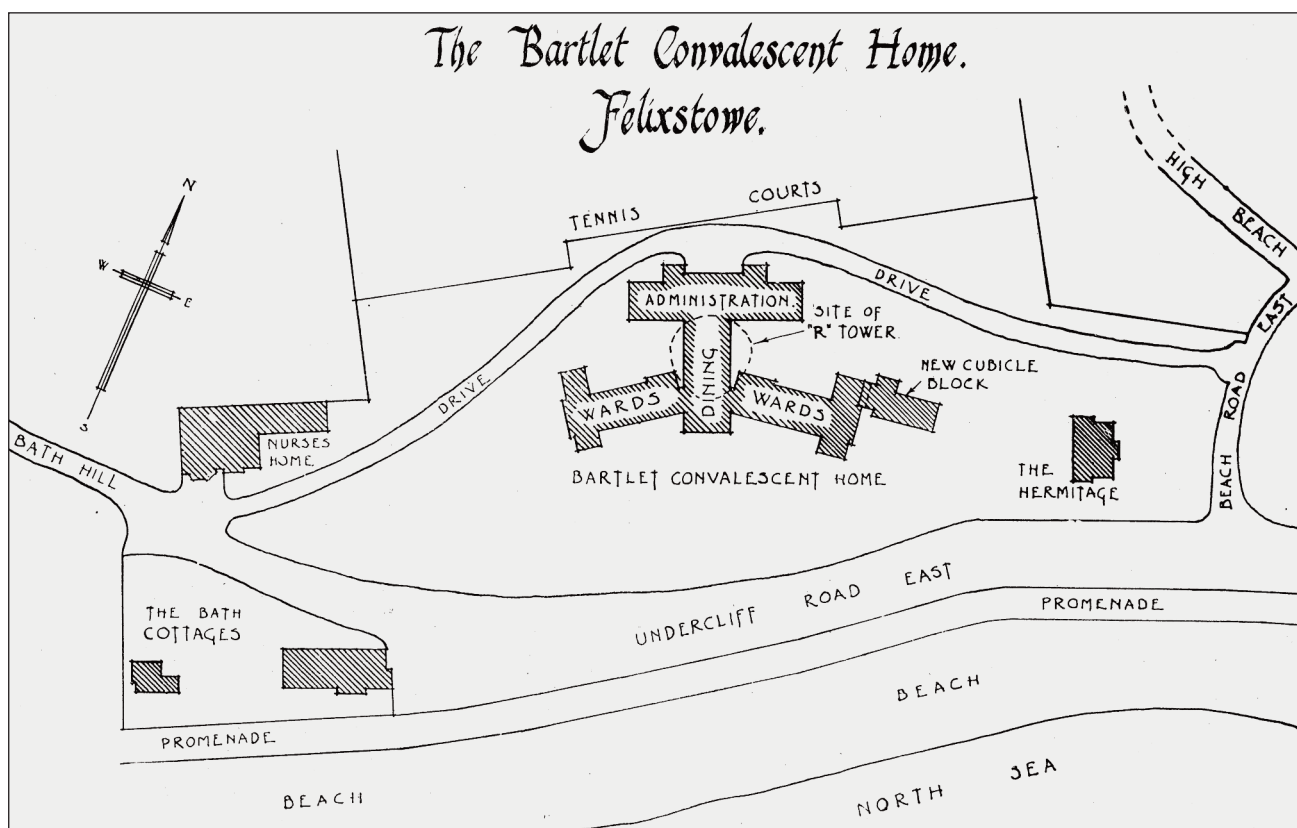
From 1930 until the late 60's beds were

seldom empty. With the closing of the Suffolk Convalescent Home at Convalescent Hill and then the Herman De Stern in Sea Road in the early 70's other Hospitals in Suffolk made use of the beds available. Heath Road Hospital in Ipswich used more beds as the years progressed.

Little changed in the structure of the building over the years. Apart from the private wing in 1930, the only other addition was a small building to house the incinerator in 1985.

Internally, the balcony areas were glazed in 1993 enabling the patients to have their meals on the ward. Prior to this, one main dining room was used and the acoustics were very poor and the older patients often had difficulty with their hearing. This small change was a great improvement for the patients' amenities, apart from the enhanced view at meal times, the smaller areas were less institutionalised.

In the mid 70's, the private wing had been taken over for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. Two individual rooms were built on each floor, cutting the number of beds from 60 to 58, for patients that required total rest or privacy.



Original site plan prepared by architects Cautley and Barefoot of Ipswich for the LNER

The large ward areas were divided into small compartments in 1993, without the loss of beds. Again a great advantage to the patients. Additional toilets nearer to the day room were installed at the same time and open wash areas divided to give the patients privacy while using the wash hand basins.

At the turn of the 21st century, the day rooms and corridors were redecorated in a style quite new to the NHS. Fresh wallpaper and floral friezes decorated the walls and matching carpet laid on the floor. Furniture was upgraded to blend in with the colour scheme and the curtains made by a local firm in a quality to match the building.



The Bartlet from the air Courtesy by Archant

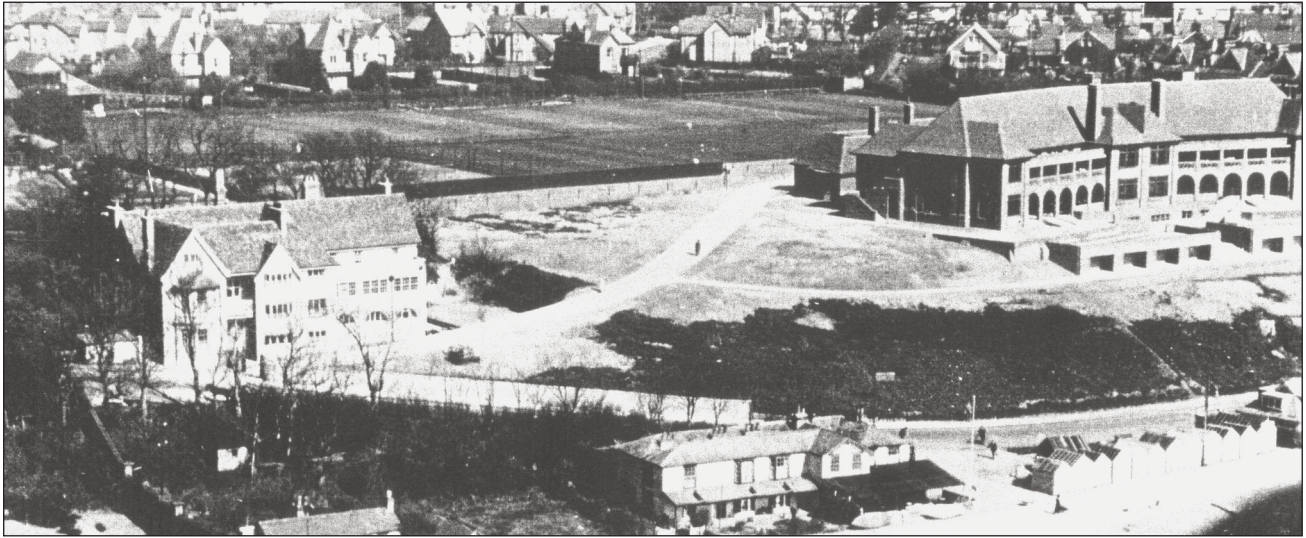
Over the years the type of patients admitted to The Bartlet changed. In the early days, most were younger. During the Second World War, soldiers were nursed back to health. In the late 60's and early 70's, the beds were used more frequently for patients in need of long term care or social stays while waiting changes to their existing homes to enable them to return to the community. Some remained as long as two years.

On 1 April 2002, The Bartlet became the responsibility of the Suffolk Coastal Primary Care NHS Trust. The Trust covered 114 G.P. practices, three hospitals, (one in Aldeburgh and two in Felixstowe) and all the Community staff. Patients were referred by Consultants in Ipswich and mainly came from Ipswich, with some from Felixstowe and Woodbridge. The primary aim was rehabilitation - often following Orthopaedic Surgery. The average stay was two to three weeks and the occupancy rate was very high at

97%. Occupational therapy and Physiotherapy were available daily.

With all the advances in medicine and operating techniques, a full recovery still needed more time than a District General Hospital could afford to give. A special type of care was required to understand that each patient had a different speed of recovery, required different levels of help and time to regain the confidence that could be lost after major surgery or traumatic illness. This could only be found in a team which was correctly trained and motivated.

Over the front door was a Memorial to Dr Bartlet, carved into a wooden beam and supported by pillars of Roman tiles. Inside, a welcoming warmth could be felt to help patients complete their recovery. Once on their ward, they became part of the family whose aim was to get the patient home in style that suited the individual and with encouragement to make it



*Top Left: The Dining Room. Top Right: The Nurses Home, part of the old Bath Hotel.
Above: A view of The Bartlet of the late 1920's/early 1930's.*

as soon as possible.

The Suffolk Primary Care Trust closed the doors of The Bartlet in 2007 and the following year sold it to a private developer who later converted it into luxury apartments. The closure and sale was greatly opposed to no avail by The Bartlet Bequest Action Group which campaigned for The Bartlet to be re-opened for rehabilitation or convalescence care for the East Suffolk community.

*Compiled by Barbara Reid, former Chair of
The Felixstowe Society, Mrs Anne Clarke,
former Clinical Service Manager of The Bartlet Hospital
and Michael Sharman*

THE BARTLET HOSPITAL

The Bartlet Hospital is one of the few Historic England Grade 2 star listed buildings in Felixstowe and is recognised for its exceptional historic and architectural interest.

The Hospital was built between 1923 and 1926 on top of the remains of Martello Tower R which was a small coastal artillery fort itself, built between 1810 and 1812 to defend against a possible Napoleonic invasion. The Tower was originally within a cliff-top military reservation of about seven acres, with later The Bartlet situated in the southern half and the grounds of Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club set in the northern half.

Historic England describes The Bartlet as “Built in red brick with exposed walls largely in Flemish bond. The roof is hipped and tiled with over-sailing eaves. A half-butterfly plan was adopted for the south range where the wards were housed facing the sea in two porticos angled southwards”.

Michael Sharman

OH! TO BE A CUSTOMS OFFICER

Part One by John Woollan

WHEN MY Army service finished at age 45, I was unemployed, so I visited the Job Centre to sign on and saw an advert for the Civil Service. I was told that I had to sit an exam and that it would be held soon in Ipswich. In due course I received a date, time and place. I passed and was appointed as a clerical officer at H.M. Customs at Felixstowe Docks at the Ferry station. At that time, there was a 24-hour ferry service between Felixstowe and the Hook of Holland for passengers and freight. Living close to the Docks, it was an easy cycle ride. I was employed on clearing paper work for the importation of goods.

After nearly a year, I learnt that interviews were to be held in London shortly for the grade of Executive Officer (EO). I attended and was appointed to Ipswich. It was there that I learnt that I was too old to become an established officer but would be appointed as a Collection Officer, which meant that, although my base would be Ipswich. I could be sent anywhere in the UK. Ipswich Docks was a freight terminal so its main purpose was the clearance of goods arriving from abroad. An EO's job was to select and examine items to ensure that they were as described and also that the correct amount of duty was applied. In good old Civil Service fashion, each action taken was documented in case of disputes!

It was not long before I was kitted out in Customs uniform and sent to Edinburgh on summer relief of a 3-month tour of duty. I had to drive my own car to take all my gear and I can tell you now that it is a 401 mile journey. I was paid a sum per mile to cover the cost of fuel and wear and tear and supplied with 'digs'. I was based at Leith docks and once again found



myself clearing entries for goods from abroad. However, this was shift work for the job encompassed boarding the vessels, inspecting the paperwork and putting all un-customed goods under Customs seal.

It was during a night shift that I answered an early morning telephone call from the Dock office to say that a vessel from abroad had anchored in then vicinity of the Forth Bridge,

awaiting a pilot and Customs clearance so that it could start 'discharge' upon arrival at the quay. The pilot launch would take us to the ship. I woke my colleague with the news. We boarded the launch and set off. The nearer we got to the vessel the more alarmed I became. It was the height of several double-deck buses! How on earth were we going to board that? The answer was a net over the side of the ship for us to climb up! I watched the pilot judge the top of the swell to grab the net and start climbing. With my customs case slung over my back I followed suit and I was never more thankful for a member of the crew grabbing me and pulling me on deck. We reported to the captain, did the paper work and I was shown where I needed to apply seals. With our work completed we were taken to the galley where a hearty breakfast was served as the ship made its way into port. Was I relieved when I found that we could disembark straight onto the Quay!

I managed to get home every third weekend by the London coach leaving at midnight which stopped at Cambridge city centre. The coach had two drivers. The return fare was £30. A fairly brisk walk from there to the station connected with the Ipswich train which just missed the Felixstowe train! However, the refreshment room was open to pass an hour's wait for the next one.

Having to do night shifts allowed me to explore Edinburgh by day. It is a marvellous city with numerous shops along the entire length of Princes Street.

I've always been interested in buses, their operator and routes. Soon after my arrival in Edinburgh I bought a season ticket and rode many of the routes that went along Princes Street.

Bordering the street is Princes Gardens which is a favourite place to sit and read where tame squirrels run amongst visitors' feet seeking out dropped food.

From there one can look directly at the castle. Of course, being ex-military I explored the castle itself numerous times and visited the many regimental museums in its grounds.

At 1 o'clock, the minute gun is fired from there. It was this sound that alerted a little Skye Terrier dog named Bobby, who guarded his master's grave for 14 years in the late 1800s, to go into the city for food provided for him by a number of shopkeepers. He is buried in Greyfriar's Kirkyard and is commemorated with this statue.

It is a fairly stiff climb from Princes Gardens to Arthur's Seat, an extinct volcano, for a good view of the city.

The River Leith runs from within the city all the way to Leith and is a pleasant stroll along the bank path.

Upon my return from secondment I was sent to the Entry Processing Unit (EPU) at Felixstowe to examine Import entries submitted by Agents for Clearance – work that was familiar to me. Tankers full of wine were a regular import and we made occasional dips to test the wine for stated strength. The shed staff would lift me up on a fork lift to take a sample and witness me pour it into a bottle for testing. Only then would they let me down to do the test in their hut and leave the residue for them to dispose of!

However, being a Collection Officer, it was not long before I was sent to RAF Bentwaters (20 miles away) where two Customs Officers



were permanently based to cover both RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge (some 5 miles from each other). This posting was replacement for leaves of absence. Bentwaters, together with RAF Woodbridge, were American Air Force bases home to mainly F.111 fighter aircraft but also C.130 troop/freight planes. Customs Officers here also undertook the role of Immigration Officers to monitor the movement of personnel as well as the illegal importation of prohibited items. Being a family station, many civilians such as servicemen's wives and families, passed through and all passports had to be checked and stamped. The Customs presence was from 6am to 10pm, the latter shift was then on-call at home. In addition, officers covered a huge coastal area visiting Harbour Masters from Orford to Bawdsey where yachts tied up after sea voyages and the crews used self-Declaration forms. Medium-sized vessels used the river from Orford (Slaughden Quay) to unload cargo at Snape Maltings where occasional boarding checks were made. On the base was a huge BX store for family shopping and this required occasional visits to ensure that only entitled persons used it. These duties were new to me and I spent a week shadowing the officer I was relieving. One unexpected task was to execute an Admiralty warrant seizing a vessel for an unpaid fine. This required a visit to a Woodbridge boatyard. The warrant was to be 'nailed to the mast', but that proved impossible so it was left with the boatyard management! I enjoyed these secondments which were a welcome change from routine.

Although based at Ipswich, I often found myself working at Felixstowe where I lived. When required for day duty at Ipswich, I cycled the 12 miles to Haven House or the Docks if the weather permitted just to keep fit and lose a few pounds in weight. In inclement weather I would travel with my bike on the train and cycle home if rain had stopped. This added a couple of hours to my day but saved a few pounds of cash in my pocket!

To be continued in Issue No. 132

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY
Members' Holiday to Lincoln
26th - 29th May 2023

We are pleased to inform you that arrangements have been made for our Mini Break to Lincoln. We will be staying at Double Tree by Hilton, Lincoln, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln, LN1 1YN.

The approximate cost of the holiday will be £460.00 per person as ticket prices may rise slightly between now and next May.

The cost includes the following: -

* Coach Travel by Klarners Coaches Ltd and a tip for our driver. * Portage on arrival and a welcome tea/coffee on arrival.* Half board basis with dining in a separate room with tables of 2, 4 and 6. * Fully cooked Breakfast with choice of hot and cold food. * Three course Dinner with three choices plus Tea/Coffee after dinner.

* Free time in Ely on the way to Lincoln

* Entry to Lincoln Cathedral plus a Guided Tour. Transport to and from Cathedral included * Entry to Lincoln Castle plus a Guided Tour. Transport to and from the Castle included.* Entry to the International Bomber Command Centre with a Guided Tour and included Lunch.* A river cruise on The Brayford Belle seeing the sights of Lincoln from a different perspective.

* A mystery Visit to a place of interest including Tea/Coffee and Cake !!

As in previous years we need a minimum of 40 people and if you would like to come on the holiday would you please complete the Application Form and return it to me together with your payment of the deposit of £100 per person. Please make your cheque payable to The Felixstowe Society.

Please note that you will have to make your own insurance arrangements. Looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Best wishes, Keith Horn.

PS If you have any concerns, please telephone me on 01394 270845 or email me at kjandehorn@btinternet.com

APPLICATION FORM
Members' Holiday to Lincoln
26th -29th May 2023

I/We would like to go on this holiday and enclose my/our deposit of £100 per person.

Please make your cheque payable to
The Felixstowe Society and return to
Keith Horn
75 Ferry Road, Felixstowe IP11 9LU.

Name(s).....

Address.....

Telephone No.....

Email.....

For Couples:

Bedroom with Twin or Double Bed
Twin or Double

Single Room please

Special requirements in your room
Yes No

If yes, please state requirements

Any dietary Requirements?
If so, please advise.

Have you had your Covid Vaccinations
and boosters ?
Yes No

Please advise us your next of Kin in emergency

Name.....

Address.....

PTO



Please make your cheque payable to
The Felixstowe Society and return it
with this form and
a stamped addressed envelope to
Keith Horn
75 Ferry Road, Felixstowe IP11 9LU.

Many thanks.

THE NAME'S THE SAME

by Laurence McDonald

Can you identify the following roads,
courts, drives and avenues in Felixstowe
with the help of these clues?

1. A palace in north London
2. A racecourse in Berkshire
3. The RSPB logo
4. The Mayor of Greater Manchester
5. A London railway terminus
6. The painter of the Blue Boy
7. A coarse, ribbed cloth
8. A king of the Belgians
9. The county town of Kent
10. Their hits included
'Smoke Gets In Your Eyes'
11. Where The Simpsons live
12. The man who found Livingstone
13. A flying boat
14. The scene of an Agatha Christie murder
15. A Vale in Oxfordshire

The answers to this quiz can be found
on the back cover.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE?

We welcome new contributors.

If so, could we please
have your contribution
by **2nd February 2023**,
in Microsoft Word format if possible.

The email address is
design.constables@btinternet.com

Or, if sending by post the address is
Peter Constable, 45 Tower Road,
Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7PR.

Thank you.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2023

WE ARE PLEASED to inform you that The Felixstowe Society Annual Dinner 2023 will be held at the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club on Monday 24th April at 6.30pm for 7pm.

The cost will be £21.00 for a 2 course meal or £25.00 for a 3 course meal, both to include tea or coffee. If you require a two course meal you will have the choice of either a Starter and Main Course or a Main Course and a Sweet Course.

We hope that you will be able to join us and would ask that you complete the double-sided Booking Form (right), and forward this to me at the address shown. **Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope** to enable me to return your ticket(s).

As in previous years we will be holding a raffle and I would welcome donations of prizes. Please note that any profit made on the night will be given to a local charity.

Many thanks.

Keith Horn



MENU

STARTERS **A.** Farmhouse Paté, red onion chutney and toast **B.** Prawn Cocktail with granary bread **C.** Brie Wedges with dipping redcurrant sauce

MAINS **D.** Plated Three Meat Roast - Beef, Pork, Turkey **E.** Baked Salmon with watercress sauce **F.** Butternut Squash, lentil and almond wellington

All Mains are served with vegetables and roast potatoes

SWEETS **G.** Warm Chocolate Brownie with ice cream **H.** Cheese and biscuits
I. Fruit Crumble with custard

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2023 Booking Form

I would like places for this event.

Forename

Surname

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

In order to inform the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club of diners' requirements, please enter the names and their choices from the menu, featured in the left hand column. Please provide the information below and also on the retained portion on the next page, for your own records. Your party can be up to 8 people.

The forename and surname of each of my guests are below, with their choice of menu

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

A 2 course meal cost £21 each and a 3 course meal cost £25 each, including tea or coffee.

Please insert letters (A-I) from the Menu left beside the names for each person attending and duplicate it overleaf for your own records.

I enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to **The Felixstowe Society**.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2023

Booking Form

When you have completed both sides of this
Booking Form, please cut as indicated
and post it to

Keith Horn
75 Ferry Road
Felixstowe
IP11 9LU.

Please include your cheque for payment,
made out to **The Felixstowe Society**
with a **stamped, addressed envelope**
for the return of your tickets.

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER 2023

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29
AT THE



MENU

STARTERS **A.** Farmhouse Paté, red onion
chutney and toast **B.** Prawn Cocktail with
granary bread **C.** Brie Wedges with dipping
redcurrant sauce

MAINS **D.** Plated Three Meat Roast -
Beef, Pork, Turkey **E.** Baked Salmon with
watercress sauce **F.** Butternut Squash, lentil
and almond wellington

All Mains are served with vegetables and roast potatoes

SWEETS **G.** Warm Chocolate Brownie with
ice cream **H.** Cheese and biscuits
I. Fruit Crumble with custard

The forename and surname of each of my
guests are below, with their choice of menu

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

A 2 course meal cost £21 each and a 3 course
meal cost £25 each, including tea or coffee.

I inserted letters (**A-I**) from the Menu above
beside the names for each person attending and
is duplicated here overleaf for my records.

I enclosed a cheque for £..... made
payable to **The Felixstowe Society**.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY APPLICATION/RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please complete this Application Form and send to
Hilary Eaton, 102C Queens Road , Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7PG

Annual Membership: Single person - £10.00
Two persons living at the same address - £15.00
Under 18 years - Free Corporate Members - £30.00
Annual Subscriptions run from 1st January to 31st December

Payment by bank transfer, cheque or cash accepted.
Bank Account - Felixstowe Society (T.S.B.Bank).
Sort Code: 77-66-25 Account Number: 25273660

Full Name/s

Address

Post Code..... Telephone Number.....

Email

I/We enclose £.....being subscription for 1 or 2 persons

Signed

DATA PROTECTION PERMISSION

As an organisation which holds members' details we are obliged to obtain your written permission (GDPR) to retain the personal information provided on this form.

These are stored on a password protected computer and as paper records. The information is shared only with those within the Committee and helpers who need access for the express running of The Society and will not be shared with other organisations.

By providing us with your details and signing this form, you accept that this information is stored for these purposes.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY

OPTIONAL GIFT AID
DECLARATION

Donor details:

Title Full Name

Address Post Code

I would like The Felixstowe Society to treat all donations I make from the date of this Declaration, until I notify otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signed Date

If you would like to help with any of the following please indicate below:

Archiving/Exhibitions	Gulpher Pond/Abbey Grove Group
Newsletter Deliveries	Committee Membership
Ad Hoc Activities	



SPEAKER'S CORNER - OCTOBER

'I READ IT IN THE LOCAL PAPER' A Talk given by Pip Wright

PIP WRIGHT, a former teacher and Stowmarket resident, has written many books about local history etc. He gave a very interesting and amusing insight into the history of local papers within the three counties, together with visual aids and examples.

The first Suffolk papers arrived some 300 years ago and would have been read by a very limited number of people rather than the populace at large, due to literacy levels accessibility and affordability.

The news as such would be orally transmitted to the wider family by the local dignitary, household head, the local publican etc. The news would not have been local events, but news extracted from typical London papers and composed locally one week later. The local editors would have been keen to make the stories entertaining, whether true or not.

Pip provided a number of examples of them including a man on a bicycle with eels wrapped in a handkerchief on the handle bars. His tyre had a puncture, so he stripped this from the wheel and wrapped an eel around it and continued his journey. So pleased was he that he exclaimed that this might last to the end of the season!

Pip advised that a wealth of newspapers are kept on microfiche at Norwich and Colchester libraries. Adverts started to appear. A famous example in the 1800's was The Lion. A real lion owned by George Wormwell who was the Barnum and Bailey of his era. He used stories about his lion as a promotional tool and these were included in papers around the county. He was famous for curing the sick lions that had been gifted to Queen Victoria, and cured them by changing their drinking habits to pure water.

People were interested in crime and punishment and fascinated by the Highway men



of the day, people like Dick Turpin and his contemporary Daniel Molton. Smuggling held a particular interest.

Characters like Richard Chaplin from Essex. A professed 'Publica', he was said to be earning £17,000 a year in 1779 from smuggling. This was typically tea and coffee for the masses rather

than liquor. He was arrested and tried in Westminster Hall. He was represented by Garrold Law, (the inspiration for the TV series *Rumpole of the Bailey*) and was acquitted. In 1785 he decided to retire and sold his pub, moving to Butley near Shingle Street, (a famous smuggling haunt), he took an advert in the local paper thanking his 'Customers' and encouraged them to take up smuggling.

Newspapers were expensive in the 1700s, the cost of 17 pence, was half of a farm labourer's wages. For example, *The Suffolk Chronicle* had very large broadsheets on good paper with only four pages. Until 1855 half of the cost was taken by Exchequer in tax, with the advent of type setting the cost came down and the number of pages increased to 14.

Lots of local papers started to be produced for example *The Stowmarket Mercury* had 15 pages. Papers were split along political lines, Wigs (Liberals) and Tories like *The Ipswich Journal*.

Felixstowe came to prominence with the advent of the railways, local papers reported on increasing visitors to the town by train, for example 1,000 trippers arriving from Bedford, 1,600 from Walthamstow of whom 700 took afternoon tea!

Papers covered the social issues of the day, temperance, good weather, furry animal stories and death were always popular. Headlines were often dramatic but inconsequential, for example,

continued on the Back Cover

Speaker's Corner - October

continued from the Inside Back Cover

the 1936 Stowmarket paper 'Traffic Jam in Stowmarket. 12 cars in one direction, 11 in the other'!

After this very good talk, members of the audience were able to see many of Pip's articles and newspapers. *Derek Bundock*

The answers to 'The Name's The Same' quiz

on page 28 are as follows -

1. Alexandra Road.
2. Ascot Drive.
3. Avocet Court.
4. Burnham Close.
5. Euston Court.
6. Gainsborough Road.
7. Kersey Road.
8. Leopold Road.
9. Maidstone Road.
10. Platters Road.
11. Springfield Avenue.
12. Stanley Road.
13. Sunderland Road.
14. Vicarage Road.
15. White Horse Close.

WANTED!

TO PLAY VITAL, ACTIVE ROLES IN THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY.

Volunteers are required to join the Committee in 2023, due to concerns for The Society's future.

Please respond by calling either

JAN GARFIELD or **ROY GRAY** or **KEITH HORN**

**01394
210887**

**01394
285827**

**01394
270845**

