

# The Felixstowe Society MAGAZINE



Issue No.135 May 2024



# 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.

## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

### Front Cover

Photograph courtesy of Alan Boyle  
*Everything Felixstowe and Beyond*

**Inside Front** Aims, Contents, Contacts and  
Speaker's Evenings for 2024

- 1 The Chairman's Notes
  - 2 Planning Applications
  - 8 Speaker's Evenings 2023-2024
  - 10 Felixstowe Coastwatch
  - 12 The Heritage Weekend 2024
  - 15 The Annual General Meeting and  
Nomination Form
  - 16 Nomination Form Reverse and  
Committee Members etc
  - 17 Chairman's Report for 2023-24
  - 18 Treasurer's Report for 2023-24 and  
Phil's Sunday Walks 2024
  - 19 The Annual Accounts 2023
  - 20 The 'Loopholes' at Harvest House
  - 21 Brackenbury Fort
  - 23 Felixstowe's Arctic Adventurer
  - 25 The Society's Social Evening and  
Reply Form
  - 26 The Felixstowe Society Around Town
  - 28 The Felixstowe Beach Hut and Chalet  
Association
  - 29 A Short History of the Baudsey and  
Felixstowe Lifeboat 1802-1852 Part Two
- Back Cover** Dates For Your Diary 2024  
and Stop Press.

The Editor would like to thank all those who have made this publication possible, including all contributors; Susanne Barsby, our proof reader and Tim Allen and his colleagues at the Tuddenham Press.

## THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY CONTACTS

Jan Garfield 01394 210887 *Chairman*  
Roy Gray 01394 285827 *Joint Vice Chairman*  
Keith Horn 01394 270845 *Joint Vice Chairman*  
Derek Bundock 07739 146964 *Secretary*  
Hilary Eaton 01394 286733 *Treasurer*  
Peter Constable 01394 212029 *Editor*

The Felixstowe Society Magazine is delivered by Roger Baker and his team of volunteers. Our thanks go to Roger for organising deliveries and, of course, to his team.

## SPEAKER'S EVENINGS 2024

Held in the Salvation Army Church Hall,  
Cobbold Road. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm.  
*Admission charges £2 for members.*  
*£3 for non-members.*

### MAY 28th

*The Annual General Meeting followed by  
Herrings by Derek Peters.*

**JUNE 25th Members only.** *North Felixstowe  
Neighbourhood Garden Project by James Goldberg.*

### SEPTEMBER 24th

*A talk by Lynn Mortimer  
Details to be advised.*

### OCTOBER 22nd

*The A-Z of Curious Suffolk: Strange stories of  
mysteries, crimes and eccentrics by Sarah Doig.*

### NOVEMBER 26th

*Sixty Years of Radio Caroline by Brian Nicholls.*

*Roy Gray*





## THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**G**OOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE,  
I do hope that this finds you all well.  
As I write this it has just started raining  
AAAgain!! So depressing! However, as I look out  
of the French windows, I can see daffodils,  
hyacinths, crocuses and little cyclamen so know  
that Spring is well on its way. Longer days and  
lighter evenings coming soon. Everybody who is  
going on the May holiday to the Basingstoke  
area, once again organised by Keith and  
Elizabeth Horn, will be getting more and more  
excited as the days brighten. Unfortunately, Jon  
and I will not be coming this year as *anno domini*  
has caught up with us at last. We feel really fed  
up about this but it can't be helped! We wish all  
a lovely time.

We have had four very interesting Speaker's  
Evenings since last I wrote which have been very  
well received but I was a bit disappointed that  
Barry Bloomfield didn't bring a Suffolk Punch  
foal in February! However, I believe that Keith is  
going to get together with him to arrange a visit  
to the Suffolk Punch Trust in Hollesley Bay in  
the Summer. Watch this space. I think you would  
agree that we have been very lucky to have had  
Roy Gray on the Committee for so long and, in  
latter years, in charge of arranging Speakers.  
However, he has decided to hang up his 'phone,  
shut down his email (so to speak) and to resign  
from May 2024. Roy, we can never thank you  
enough, we do understand, but we shall miss you  
so much. We have, though, been very fortunate  
and are almost sure that we have a replacement  
for him. By the time you read this we should  
have had it confirmed. Good news!

We shall also have had our Annual Dinner at  
the Golf Club which we hope will be as  
successful as it was last year. We are coming near  
to being sold out. Twelve seats left I believe.

Our Archive goes from strength to strength  
under the supervision of our Archivists, Bev  
Boyce and Jean Macpherson. We have now had  
to open a second room in the basement at  
Harvest House to hold the overspill of

donations. We owe a great deal of thanks to Guy  
Pearse who built and erected all the shelving  
units for this extra room. Rarely a week goes by  
than we are given something else, for which we  
are so grateful. It is a great pity that members of  
The Society in general cannot go down to see  
the exhibits due to the insurance regulations  
imposed on Harvest House. Still we do have the  
superb exhibitions put on by Bev. Here, once  
again, I must thank the Management  
Committee of Harvest House and Mick the  
caretaker for allowing us free use of the Dining  
Room for our Committee Meetings.

Most members know that we took on the  
responsibility for Gulpher Pond many years ago.  
Keith, Alan Muchal and Guy Pearse, now with  
John Smithson tidy up the Pond annually getting  
rid of excess reeds etc, but every so often, it  
needs dredging. This time has come around  
again and negotiations have been going on with  
the landowner farmer, John Adams. Hopefully it  
will happen either later this year or in 2025 all  
depending on what is happening with this North  
Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Scheme.

Heritage Weekend arrangements are  
progressing well and it promises to be bigger  
than ever. The dates are 6th, 7th and 8th  
September. We already have about a dozen  
places opening for the weekend including plans  
for a vintage bus transporting folk around the  
Town. We shall, however, need many more who  
are willing to volunteer as Stewards so would be  
grateful if you could contact either Keith or  
myself if you would like to help.

We hope that our insistence on speakers using  
microphones for Speaker's Evenings has helped  
those who haven't been able to follow talks.  
Please continue to let us know if you have any  
further problems.

Well, folks, I have gone on enough. I am going  
into hospital tomorrow for an operation on my  
wrist and it is getting a little tired with all the  
typing! Have a lovely Spring. Kindest regards.

*Jan Garfield, Chairman*



# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

COMMENTED ON BY THE SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2023 TO MARCH 2024

(including updates on Applications previously listed as 'Awaiting Decision')

**DC/22/1983**

**The Triangle, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe  
Placement of beach hut for use as tourist  
information centre**

The Felixstowe 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

**DC/22/2159/FUL**

**Great Eastern Square, Felixstowe  
Placement of beach hut on old station**

The Felixstowe 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 touchscreen information point would be a far better solution. This proposal is backward thinking.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/22/4418**

**Felixstowe Sea Front, Martello Park  
Relocation of beach huts**

The Felixstowe Society considers that the development would cause no harm to the setting or significance of the Conservation Area.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/20/1860**

**Howlett Way, Trimley St Martin  
Erection of 310 dwellings**

The Felixstowe Society objects to this application. The site is in the countryside and the Council has a 5 year supply of deliverable housing land development. The proposal would have a significant and detrimental impact on landscape character. The regimented design of the layout is not suited

to the rural location of the site. For the reasons set out above The Felixstowe Society strongly objects to the application.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/2089**

**Undercliff Road West  
Reinstatement of 14 beach huts**

The Felixstowe Society fully supports this proposal.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/2745/DEM**

**Landguard Lodge and Landguard Cottage,  
Manor Terrace, Felixstowe**

Prior notification of demolition

The Felixstowe Society strongly objects to this proposal. The two existing dwellings are identified as a Monument (FEX212) on the Suffolk Heritage Explorer website. The Felixstowe Society considers that these buildings are important as they contribute to the character and setting of the area.

The Felixstowe Society considers that the buildings should be the subject of a Building Preservation Notice (BPN). There are no public benefits arising from the demolition of the buildings which would justify the total loss of these heritage assets.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/3084**

**Stonestrow, 16 Thornley Road  
Extensions and alterations**

The Felixstowe Society objects to this application. The Society considers that the proposals are not in keeping with the character and appearance of other properties nearby. The proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/2962**

**193 Maidstone Road, Felixstowe  
Erection of dwelling**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this. It represents an efficient use of brownfield land.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision



**DC/23/2930**

**Construction of lorry park  
Land south of Felixstowe Road, Stratton Hall,  
Suffolk**

The Felixstowe Society strongly objects to this. The application site is in the countryside and is therefore contrary to a wide range of development plan policies including SCLP 10.5, SCLP 3.3 and SCLP 11.2. Whilst recognising that there is a need for a lorry park, since the closure of the Orwell Crossing, the Felixstowe Society considers that this is an inappropriate location for such a development due to the adverse impacts of the scheme on the character and appearance of the landscape, highway safety, rail safety and residential amenity. The proposed development would have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of the local landscape by introducing an urbanising form of development in an otherwise agricultural landscape. The development will be harmful to highway safety due to the potential conflict between HGVs and other road users. As the Levington junction of the A14 does not allow traffic to travel onto the A14 in an easterly direction, it is likely that HGV drivers would continue along the backroad through Trimley and into Felixstowe. The development may also cause issues with rail safety. The site is alongside the railway. Unless all lighting is shielded in accordance with railway authority guidance, there could be interference with drivers' views of the line ahead with moving beams of light across the track from turning vehicles. The scheme is also likely to have an adverse impact on the amenity of nearby dwellings as a result of increased noise and disturbance.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/3846**

**121 Ferry Lane, Felixstowe  
Proposed first floor rear extension to existing  
single storey.**

The Felixstowe Society objects to the application.

It is considered that the proposal results in an overdevelopment of the site. It is further considered that the development would be out of keeping with the local streetscene.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/3858**

**29 Buregate Road, Felixstowe  
Conversion of linked garage to a family annex  
with dormer window to create mezzanine  
storage level**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to the development provided that the accommodation is used for ancillary purposes and conditioned as such.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/3965**

**1 Grasmere Avenue, Felixstowe  
Side extension and alterations to garage**

The Felixstowe Society considers this to be a well-designed corner extension.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/3988**

**12 Stanley Road, Felixstowe  
External stainless steel flue**

The Felixstowe Society considers that the development would cause no harm to the significance of the Conservation Area.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4051**

**Rowan Lodge, 246 Ferry Road, Felixstowe  
Alterations, extensions and erection of new  
detached garage. Alterations to vehicular  
access. New front boundary wall.**

The Felixstowe Society is concerned that the proposals although very well designed, may result in some overlooking of the adjoining property to the south from the balcony.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4054**

**61A Cobbold Road, Felixstowe  
Conversion of redundant offices to  
residential (1 flat)**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/22/4494**

**The Felsto Arms, Sea Road  
Erection of open sided gazebos on existing  
hard standing, within the curtilage of the  
property, to provide sheltered seating area.  
A number of timber framed gazebo's have**



**been constructed, with Polycarbonate roofing.**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/2572**

**Sky Lounge, 55-57 Undercliff Road West  
Change of use from restaurant to sports bar  
and restaurant with amended hours**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Refused

**DC/23/3114**

**12 Holland Road, Felixstowe  
Rear extension and installation of air  
conditioning unit**

The Felixstowe Society objects to this proposal on the basis that it results in a loss of outdoor amenity space for the property.

ESC DECISION: Refused

**DC/23/3477**

**Land in front of Ferry Boat Inn, Felixstowe  
Resurfacing and extension of existing car  
park**

The Felixstowe Society considers that on balance, this proposal is acceptable. Whilst the urbanisation of

Felixstowe Ferry is resisted, in this case, the hard surfacing of the carpark area would improve facilities to visitors in the area.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/3618**

**28A Bath Road, Felixstowe  
Garden room**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/3737**

**7 High Beach, Felixstowe  
Installation of 6no replacement windows  
to first floor flat**

The Felixstowe Society objects to this application on the basis of the use of inappropriate materials.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4002/LBC**

**8 Harvest House, Cobbold Road, Felixstowe  
Installation of insulation to external walls**

The Felixstowe Society considers there is insufficient

detail to be able to consider the potential impact of the development on historic mouldings, cornices and skirting boards.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4336/FUL**

**Ferry Boat Inn, The Ferry, Felixstowe  
Change of extraction unit**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/4430/FUL**

**38 Lynwood Avenue, Felixstowe  
Single-storey rear extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

It would appear to be Permitted Development.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4433/FUL**

**Gulpher Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe  
Erection of new agricultural dairy cattle  
building**

The Felixstowe Society considers on balance that this proposal is acceptable in this location.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/4478/FUL**

**44 Garrison Lane, Felixstowe  
Proposed single and two-storey extensions**

The Felixstowe Society is concerned that the development will have an adverse impact on the amenity of the occupants of the neighbouring property to the north. The concern is that the structure will be overbearing and result in overshadowing.

Withdrawn

**DC/23/4514/TCA**

**33A and 35A Quilter Road, Felixstowe  
Fell four lime trees**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to the application subject to replacement trees of more appropriate species being planted.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4525/TPO**

**Saville Court, Victoria Road, Felixstowe  
Tree works to Holm Oak**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved



**DC/23/4427/FUL**

**Flat 1, South Beach Mansion, Bent Hill**

**Change wooden windows to UPVC**

Firstly the description refers to windows being replaced whilst the application includes reference to a replacement door. The Felixstowe Society fully endorses the objection from Mr Iain Cochran. There is insufficient justification to replace the windows and doors. The Felixstowe Society considers that the replacement doors are not appropriate for such a prominent building in the Conservation Area. In particular, the flag hinges and trickle vents proposed would be wholly inappropriate.

Withdrawn

**DC/23/4912/FUL**

**1a Bent Hill, Felixstowe**

**Alterations to roof and recladding**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/4839/FUL**

**53 Westmorland Road, Felixstowe**

**Erection of porch and rear extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4844**

**3 St Mary's Crescent, Felixstowe**

**Proposed single storey rear extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

The development would appear to be

Permitted Development.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4806**

**Howard House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe**

**Installation of canopy over main door**

The Felixstowe Society has no objection to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4805/FUF**

**The Promenade, Sea Road, Felixstowe**

**Proposed ongoing seasonal erection of observation wheel**

The Felixstowe Society fully supports this proposal.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/4785**

**The Port of Felixstowe, Dock Road**

**Harbour revision order**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this provided that the rights of the foot ferry are maintained.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4754**

**13 and 15 Montague Road, Felixstowe**

**Garages**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4722/FUL**

**Umlanga Place, 224 Ferry Road, Felixstowe**

**Alterations and extensions including new dormer windows**

The Felixstowe Society objects to this proposal. There are concerns that the design and form of the large dormer windows are out of proportion with the existing building.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4707/TCA**

**3 Hamilton Gardens, Felixstowe**

**Pollarding Holm Oak**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4536**

**Kiosks 4 and 5, Forum Centre, Sea Road**

**Retention of sheds**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4505/LBC**

**The Old Vicarage, 90 Grange Road**

**Replacement windows and doors**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this as long as the new windows and doors match the style form and materials of the existing ones.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0233/VOC**

**Stowe House (former), Cliff Road, Felixstowe**

The Felixstowe Society is unable to comment on this proposal as the plans on the Council's website do not reflect the description of development.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0201/VOC**

**Marsh End, 283 Ferry Road, Felixstowe**

**Revised roof design**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0197/P14J**

**Morrisons Supermarket, Grange Farm**

**Avenue, Felixstowe**

**Installation of solar panels**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Prior approval not required

**DC/24/0175/P3MA**

**284 High Street, Walton**

**Conversion of rear office to residential**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0159/VOC**

**Haven Health Surgery, Grange Farm Avenue,**

**Alterations to surgery**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0106/CLP**

**73 Western Avenue, Felixstowe**

**Alterations to boundary**

The Felixstowe Society considers that this would result in an unfortunate loss of openness which was part of the design concept for the estate.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0111/TCA**

**The Old Rectory, 52 Princes Road, Felixstowe**

**Works to protected trees**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0080/CLP**

**7 Rosemary Avenue, Felixstowe**

**Single storey side extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0058/TPO**

**Maynell House Residential Home,**

**High Road East, Felixstowe**

**Works to protected trees**

The Felixstowe Society supports this proposal subject to approval of the Councils Arboricultural Officer.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/4826/FUL**

**Chesterley House, Golf Road, Felixstowe.**

**Outdoor swimming pool**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/23/3508/FUL**

**5 Priory Road, Felixstowe**

**Alterations and extensions**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0509/FUL**

**4 Links Avenue, Felixstowe**

**Single storey rear extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0508**

**69 Cliff Road, Felixstowe**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0527/VOC**

**32 Roman Way, Felixstowe**

The Felixstowe Society objects to this proposal.

The description of the development is also considered to be misleading as it makes no reference to the new basement proposed by this scheme which was not part of the original approval. As now proposed, the development represents gross overdevelopment of the site.

There is also concern with the methodology of the disposal of the excavated mater.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0499**

**44 Garrison Lane, Felixstowe**

**Single storey extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0435/TCA**

**52 Quilter Road, Felixstowe**

**Removal of silver birch**



The Felixstowe Society considers that the felling of the silver birch would not adversely impact on the Conservation Area.

ESC DECISION: Approved

**DC/24/0408**

**7 Foxgrove Gardens, Felixstowe  
Rear extensions and revised porch**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0400/VOC**

**The Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, Ferry Road**

The Felixstowe Society considers that the current proposal will have no greater impact than the previously approved scheme.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0386**

**7 Rosebery Road, Felixstowe  
Single storey extension, outbuilding to rear,  
raise garden level**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0215/FUL**

**The Norfolk Guest House, 1-3 Holland Road  
Change of use from hotel to HMO**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0847/TCA**

**Felixstowe Community Hospital, Constable  
Road, Felixstowe**

**Works to tree in Conservation Area**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0744**

**10 St Georges Road, Felixstowe  
Garage extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0697/FUL**

**10 Red Hall Court, Felixstowe  
Demolition of conservatory and erection  
of orangery**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0698**

**3 Looe Road, Felixstowe  
Single storey side and rear extension**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0606/FUL**

**4 College Green, Felixstowe  
Installation and enlargement of opening  
on rear elevation**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0690/FUL**

**29 Lynwood Avenue, Felixstowe  
Single storey rear and side extension**  
The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.  
ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0557**

**Maytree House, 60 Maybush Lane, Felixstowe  
Alterations to garage roof**

The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0506/OUT**

**Waterhead House, Peewitt Hill, Felixstowe  
Erection of dwelling**

The Felixstowe Society considers that this is an inappropriate and isolated location. It also considers that the access arrangements are inadequate.

ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/24/0439/FUL**

**30 Kendall Green, Felixstowe  
Extension to kitchen for dining room**  
The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.  
ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

**DC/23/ /FUL**

**Land at Platters Road, Felixstowe  
Change of use from car wash to car sales**  
The Felixstowe Society has no objections to this.  
ESC DECISION: Awaiting decision

## SPEAKER'S EVENINGS 2023-2024

### 28th November 2023 THOMAS CAVENDISH NAVIGATOR OR PIRATE? by Cathy Shelbourne

CATHY SHELBOURNE is a very experienced lecturer, speaking to local groups and passengers on cruise ships, so her talk on Sir Thomas Cavendish was spellbinding.

She told us that he was born in Trimley St Martin, near Felixstowe, which has today a rather fine village signpost illustrating his achievements, and a pub named *The Mariners*. He lived at Grimston Hall, and lived from 1560-1592. He was related to the Cavendish family of Chatsworth, and by marriage to many Suffolk families such as the Seckfords and the Tollemaches.

He went to Ipswich School, but his father died young, so Thomas was left a vast fortune, much of which he spent wildly at Cambridge, where he studied at Corpus Christi, but left without a degree.

His sister was a Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I.

He wanted to make his own fortune, and was a friend of Sir Richard Grenville, who took him on a voyage to America, also with Sir Francis Drake, and John Hawkins, the other famous navigators.. At that time, there was no

formalised Navy, so captains had their own ships, and filled the Queen's coffers (and their own) with the spoils of piracy - he was a true privateer and adventurer.

He deliberately tried to emulate Sir Francis Drake, and decided to circumnavigate the globe in his vessel the *Desire* along with two other ships, totalling 123 people.

He captured and sank many ships on his voyage, becoming very rich in the process from

captured Spanish gold, and treasure, including very valuable spices including nutmeg from the Philippines. His main capture was the *Santa Anna*, a Spanish galleon, which, amongst other valuable cargo, contained 122,000 pesos of gold coin, which added greatly to Queen Elizabeth's coffers on his return.

He arrived back in Plymouth just after the Armada had been routed, and was the first

Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. He subsequently sailed up the Thames, with sails made from captured damask, and was knighted by the Queen.

He later attempted to repeat his circumnavigation, but died of unknown causes off Ascension Island at the age of 31.

There are various items, including a splendid mantelpiece relating to Thomas Cavendish, in the Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich.

*Haley Dossor*



*Cathy Shelbourne*

### 23rd January 2024 ANTARCTICA by Chris Parfitt

THIS WAS a very engaging and fluent talk by Chris Parfitt on a voyage he took on *Explorer 2* (previously the *Minerva*) covering 3,500 miles, from Ushuaia at the tip of South America, via the Falkland

Islands, South Georgia, the Antarctic peninsula, and back.

He had carefully chosen a small ship for this voyage, as she only took 180 passengers, and so they were able to enter smaller places which the larger ships could not access. They were also very fortunate in their weather, as they were able to land on 16 occasions, and so fulfil their plans with clear skies on many days.



Chris is an excellent photographer and so his photos of places, birds, and particularly penguins, were fantastic.

On board were a very experienced Italian captain, who was very familiar with Antarctic waters, and 12 experts who were able to lead the onshore expeditions and give informed talks when at sea.

Their first stop was the Falkland Islands (population 4,000, with half in Port Stanley) where they saw 9 types of penguin, albatross and other birds too.

On the main island they were welcomed by farmers and saw them at work with their sheep and cattle. As there is no wood on the islands all construction is of stone or corrugated iron.

Heating is mainly with peat which the American visitors found most strange.

There is primary and secondary schooling for the children but tertiary education is in the UK. Some students return home afterwards.

The ship then travelled to St Georgia which has no resident population, but plenty of penguins to see on their landing places which were well organised by the experts!

Elephant Island was the next port of call, and Chris told us about the explorers who had come to the Antarctic - Shackleton, Amundsen and Scott were the most famous.

On their visit to the Antarctic peninsular they saw Chinstrap and Gentu penguins, and the ship sailed through a narrow passage into a volcanic crater which was still bubbling with hot water - the passengers were able to disembark and have a swim!

One unpleasant feature of the trip was the amount of guano on all the beaches. Boots had to be scrubbed hard to remove it before boarding, or cabins and the ship would reek of the unpleasant odour.

*Haley Dossor*

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## **27th February** **THE SUFFOLK PUNCH TRUST** **by Barry Bloomfield**

**B**ARRY BLOOMFIELD, who is a passionate lover and supporter of Suffolk Punches and the Suffolk Punch Trust, spoke of the hard work done at Hollesley to preserve and promote the breed.

He told us how Punches were first recorded in the 18th C and probably existed before then.

The breed is well known for its easy going temperament, being easy to feed and maintain, is very strong, pulls huge loads provided the weight is matched to the animal. It is still widely used, specially in logging in preference to tractors.

Many businesses which used Suffolk punches for distribution now use motor transport, but

history relates that a Suffolk punch could be maintained for £10 less per year than other heavy horses, a great deal of money in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The family who owned the Hollesley estate bred Suffolk punches which was continued later at the college set up on site to train men for work in the Colonies. This continued when Hollesley became a prison for young offenders many of whom who had been trained to care for horses, were reluctant to leave when the time came! When the prison was sold off, Philip Ryder Davies, a heavy horse vet, set up the Suffolk Punch Trust and bought the necessary land.

Since then the work has expanded due to the employment of Tracey Pettit an expert in horse breeding. The Trust is now able to use Artificial Insemination with the appropriate equipment to



*Barry Bloomfield*

control the quality of semen and organise AI on and off site.

Andrew Fane OBE was appointed Chair of the Trustees in September 2018 and with Barry and a small group of friends, has been very busy raising funds for the Trust.

The Funds are mainly invested in AI equipment aimed at preserving the Suffolk

Punch bloodline and an extensive green energy project to enable the Trust to make significant savings on energy costs. However, the Trust has a long way to go to achieve 'Net Zero' status and the Green Punch Fund Raising Group, headed by Barry, are determined to save the Suffolk Punch breed for future generations.

*Haley Dossor*

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## FELIXSTOWE COASTWATCH

**L**ATITUDE 51 degrees 57 minutes North, Longitude 001 degrees 20 minutes East won't mean much to most readers, but for HM Coastguard it is the location of its eyes and ears in Felixstowe. This is the position of the Felixstowe Coastwatch lookout, part of the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI). A charity, NCI was formed in 1994 when two fishermen lost their lives off the Cornish coast near a recently closed Coastguard lookout.

Local people decided to reopen the lookout and restore the visual watch on a volunteer basis.

Today the Felixstowe lookout is one of 58 NCI stations around the coastline of England and Wales performing the same function and having over 2,700 volunteer watchkeepers in total. The stations all have Declared Facility Status which means they are fully recognised by HM Coastguard in search and rescue operations.

For the East Anglian coast, the nearest HM Coastguard rescue control centres are Humber to the north and Dover to the south. Between the two are several hundred miles of coastline and this is where the NCI steps in. The Felixstowe NCI station keeps watch from Felixstowe Ferry to Landguard Point and reports

any concerns to HM Coastguard, which then coordinates any tasking of search and rescue assets such as Felixstowe Coastguard Rescue Team, the RNLI and Felixstowe Coast Patrol and Rescue.

The Coastwatch lookout sits on the top of Martello Tower P on Wireless Green, off Langer Road. The tower was built between 1810-12 and is a listed building owned by East Suffolk Council. About 750,000 bricks were used in its

construction, which cost about £2k at the time.

Besides its original role as a military defence in the Napoleonic era, the tower was used as a naval wireless station in WW1 and armed with a machine gun in WW2. A Coastguard lookout cabin was built on the top of the Martello Tower in 1979. This was taken over by NCI

in 1996, two years after HM Coastguard closed the station, a result of changing priorities and efficiency drives in the 1990s when numerous coastal lookouts were closed down.

The Felixstowe lookout is equipped with binoculars, marine VHF radios, CCTV, navigational charts and radar scanners. It is open during daylight hours 365 days a year and manned by uniformed local volunteer





watchkeepers from all walks of life.

There are around 70 people on the roster, with everyone undergoing a comprehensive training schedule over a period of at least six months, during which they will have done 24 watches, completed 12 written papers, passed a VHF radio course and had a final qualifying assessment with the Station Manager.

The type of incidents that occur within the Felixstowe remit are wide and varied and watchkeepers are constantly alert for any Mayday calls that may be heard. They also respond to calls from both HM Coastguard and members of the public. Yachts and other vessels run aground at the hazardous entrance to the River Deben on a fairly regular basis, while swimmers, kitesurfers,



windsurfers and paddleboarders get into difficulty on occasion.

Inflatables are always a concern.

Large floating objects such as tree trunks may be spotted in the water which are a danger to navigation, and oil slicks and pollution must be watched for, along with

any hazardous items such as flares or unidentified items.

The lookout is also required to keep HM Coastguard informed about any concerns for certain marine creatures such as whales, dolphins and porpoises .

The station welcomes new recruits and visits to the lookout can be easily arranged to see first-hand what being a watchkeeper entails.

*Neil Davidson*





*Bev Boyce reports*



## heritage open days

**HERITAGE WEEKEND 2024**  
Friday 6th-Sunday 8th September

**S**INCE 1998 villages, towns and cities around the United Kingdom have showcased their wonderful heritage as part of Heritage Weekend.

The Felixstowe Society has organised this event every other year since 2012 during a September weekend and, in keeping with the national principles, locations are not normally open to the public and all events are free.

In recent years Eventbrite ticketing has been utilised to ensure that demand for entry to various locations can be managed. Old favourites such as **Harvest House** tend to be sold out some weeks before the opening date. The tour guides are so knowledgeable and the Grade II listed original features are worth admiring in all their glory. The added bonus is that the Directors of Harvest House allow all Heritage visitors to stroll around the lovely gardens - weather permitting this year!

The Society is keen to include events in **The Trimleys and Walton** as

there is much heritage to admire in both areas. We are grateful to Suzanne Hawkes who will be devising activities at the **Two Sisters Arts Centre** in Trimley St Mary - remember that entry is free!

The Grade II listed **Smock Mill**, just off Walton High Street, makes a welcome return to our programme. The



*The Two Sisters Arts Centre*



*The Old Lloyds Bank Building*



*Harvest House*

rare type of mill in East Anglia was rescued by the Bloomfield family and they will be welcoming visitors to view the sympathetic restorations.

We always try to include new locations in our programmes and this year is no exception thanks to some very kind people. For those members who are familiar with



*The Ladies' Chapel*

the history of **Felixstowe Ladies' College**, some of the buildings remain and we are very fortunate in being able to offer a tour of the **Chapel** built in 1965 to replace the 1934 original building. Steve Lamb, General Manager of Maritime Cargo Processing, has kindly agreed to lead tours of this building which contains



original features alongside an impressive refurbishment.

Felixstowe's 'Central Conservation Area' contains such a wealth of architectural heritage particularly in roads such as **Hamilton Gardens**. The owners of one of those houses have very kindly allowed visitors into their garden to learn more about



*Hamilton Gardens*

their mid-nineteenth century house which is being extensively refurbished. The history of the house makes connections with some very notable families in Felixstowe.

In 2014 we were fortunate to secure the services of **'Ermintrude'**!

'She' was a 1929 petrol Dennis E Type 29 seater



*Martello U*



*The Smock Mill*



*Landguard Fort*



*Fairfield School*



*Martello P*

vintage bus and, for that Heritage Weekend, she was extremely popular. This year, we are very fortunate in being loaned an antique bus to ferry visitors around the Trimleys, Walton and Felixstowe for free on both Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th. but it will not be 'Ermintrude'!

At **Felixstowe Ferry** plans are progressing to provide a walk, a talk and possibly opening up a property. As usual there will be a walk on Friday and we are working on a possible tour of **Felixstowe Town Cemetery** during the weekend. There are also opportunities to explore other favourite locations such as **Landguard Fort** and **Martello P**.

For the first time this year we are delighted that **Fairfield School** has offered tours of its delightful building originally opened in the 1890s.

The Heritage Weekend Committee will continue to provide a full programme of events right up until the database goes nationwide at the beginning of June.

We had an excellent response in 2022, to Keith Horn's request for volunteers to help steward all the events. It is an interesting opportunity to represent The Society and interact with visitors from all over the country.

If you are interested, please contact Keith on 01394 270845. Thank you!





## NORTH FELIXSTOWE NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN

**T**HE PARKS, GARDENS and public open spaces in any town are a very precious asset to the community that uses them. In Felixstowe we are blessed with scenery and spaces of the highest quality that contribute much to the wellbeing of the town's citizens. Those who have lived in the town all their lives have seen many changes and this year sees the start of a public consultation on a large housing development on the northern outskirts of Felixstowe. Ambitious in its scope, the proposal is to add up to 1,500 more homes to the area adjacent to the new Trelawney Place development. It will include a new Leisure Centre, two primary schools, some small business units, a community hub and green spaces with recreational facilities. This is approximately 143 hectares of land that has been identified by East Suffolk District Council as the new 'Neighbourhood Garden'.

The community has been given the opportunity by the council to be consulted on the project and The Felixstowe Society representative has been attending meetings and joined a citizens' panel as part of the consultation process.

Members will be aware of the long-standing relationship The Society has with this area as it contains Abbey Grove and Gulpher Pond, two projects The Society has supported for many years.

The key concerns for many will be that these natural features are protected

for future generations. Every opportunity should be taken to enhance and extend the woodlands and natural landscape particularly in and around the Eastward Ho Playing Fields.

For me, as a retired Parks and Open Spaces Manager, I very much hope we can keep some of the iconic views towards the Deben Valley and ensure that natural habitats are connected using wildlife corridors to increase the biodiversity of the area.

We expect there to be discussions on how the hydrology of the area can be utilised in a sustainable way. Those who walk the area regularly will know there are a number of natural springs and waterways that are particularly valuable for a host of different species. Climate change will also need to be considered with trees and woodland playing their part in reducing temperatures locally.

There is growing support for a Country Park to be established as part of the overall development and a newly formed community group is busy promoting the idea in consultation with the Council. The network of public rights of way in North Felixstowe is well established and the new park could act as a gateway to the wider countryside.

As the Summer progresses we will find out the details of the different elements within the project and hopefully the community will be able to positively influence the final outcomes.

*John Smithson*



# THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2024 Annual General Meeting  
will take place on  
Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm  
in the Salvation Army Church,  
Felixstowe.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM  
held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023  
and Matters Arising.
3. Discussion and Acceptance of  
Annual Accounts 2023.
4. Election of Officers, Executive  
Committee and Independent Examine.
5. Any Other Business.

The names of the present Committee  
members are shown overleaf.  
Nominations are invited for Office Bearers  
and Committee Members.  
Please complete the attached  
Nomination Form and return it as soon  
as possible, if you are interested in  
joining the Committee.

- THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY  
is established for the benefit of residents  
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

*Continued overleaf in column 2, page 16*

# THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY NOMINATION FORM 2024

I wish to nominate the following  
person/s for Office  
in The Felixstowe Society

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Nominated by

.....

Seconded by

.....

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

.....  
.....  
.....

Nominated by

.....

Seconded by

.....

*Return details overleaf*





Please return to

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

*Vice Chairmen* Roy Gray and Keith Horn

*Secretary* Derek Bundock

*Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

Hilary Eaton

*Members* Phil Cobbold, Elizabeth Horn,

Michael Sharman, Peter Constable,

and Katy Topping

*Co-opted members*

John Smithson, David Gledhill,

and Darren Aitchison

*Plans Committee Convenors*

Phil Cobbold, Peter Bridge, Eric Searle

and Monica Smith

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

*Archivists* Bev Boyce and Jean Macpherson

*Committee Minutes* Derek Bundock

*Gulpher Duck Pond* Keith Horn

*Independent Examiner (Auditor)* Alan Middleton

*Insurance Matters* Keith Horn

*Membership Secretary* Hilary Eaton

*Magazine Editor* Peter Constable

*Distribution Coordinator* Roger Baker

*Proof Reader* Susanne Barsby

*Programme Organiser - Speaker Evenings* Roy Gray

*Programme Organisers - visits*

Keith and Elizabeth Horn

*Poster Publicity/Tickets* Peter Constable

*Press Publicity and Photographer* Keith Horn

*Salvation Army Church Door Stewards*

Elizabeth Horn and Hilary Eaton

*Telephone Box* Elizabeth and Keith Horn

*Liaison with Civic Voice* Keith Horn

#### MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION TEAM

*Coordinator* 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

Mrs H Eaton/Halliday

Mr & Mrs M Elmes

Mr & Mrs B Entwistle

Mrs G Hadwen



Mr & Mrs J Harrington  
Ms S Hazelwood  
Mr & Mrs R Holland  
Mr & Mrs A Lamberton  
Mr & Mrs P Ling  
Mr R Love  
Mr & Mrs T Mason  
Mr & Mrs P Milburn Mr P White  
Dr & Mrs C Millar  
Mr & Mrs A Rutterford  
Mrs A Sutton  
Mr & Mrs M Thomas  
Mr & Mrs G Topping  
Mr & Mrs K Twinn  
Mrs S Watts  
Mr & Mrs R Wright

#### THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2023

The Society has, once again, had a successful year. Our membership stands around 450 and the subs. are coming in for 2024/2025. We are gradually recovering from the Covid years. The increase of door fees has enabled us to almost break even on most Speaker Evenings which have been excellent as usual thanks to Roy Gray. Unfortunately, Roy has decided to stand down from the Committee after many years and, thus, we shall be looking for someone to take over the job of providing Speakers. We shall desperately miss Roy and wish him and Pam all the best in the future. If anyone is interested in performing this very important job, please let us know. I am sure that you will enjoy it and that Roy will give you help.

The Magazine has gone from strength to strength since the name was changed in January 2023, thanks to our editor, Peter Constable, and his editorial team.

Once again, we had another lovely holiday in May 2023, this time in Lincoln, organised once more by Keith and Elizabeth Horn. Superb, as usual, enhanced by our driver. A very small lady with a very large coach and a larger personality. I shall never forget her driving down a lane which was getting narrower and narrower with

grass growing down the middle and then getting to a T junction at the end onto another lane. None of us thought that she would be able to turn this huge coach left - but she did! Keith also organised our Annual Dinner this time at the Golf Club in April 2023 and a Social Evening at Harvest House in July. He also arranged an Archive Exhibition in conjunction with our Joint Archivist, Bev Boyce in the Palm Court at Harvest House. We are now busy planning for Heritage Weekend this September which we expect to be better than ever

We have taken on another room in the basement of Harvest House to hold our evergrowing Archive. The shelving was very kindly installed by Guy Pearse who is such a great friend to The Society, so thank you once again, Guy.

We are in negotiation with the landowner, to dredge Gulpher Pond in 2024 or 2025. Keith and his merry band, including Guy Pearse again, clear the Pond regularly but it does silt up so needs dredging every so often.

Finally, I want to give my personal thanks to all the Committee without whom The Society couldn't carry on. A propos this, we shall be losing our Secretary in September so we shall be needing a replacement for Derek, another one who will be greatly missed. My thanks also go to Roger Baker and his intrepid band of Magazine Deliverers and also the Management Committee of Harvest House and Mick, their lovely caretaker, who allow us to use the building for our Committee Meetings and for the Archive.

Now, I will make no apologies for ending as I did last year, by appealing for folk to volunteer to join the Committee to take on the Speaker Officer position and as Secretary/Minute Secretary in September. Without volunteers, The Society will no longer exist. After my appeal last year, we gained three new Committee members. Can we do it again.? At risk of being accused of plagiarism, as was on the posters in the First World War "YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU".

*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.

If you are interested in helping with this work, please contact Keith Horn on 01394 270845 or email [kjandehorn@btinternet.com](mailto: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 on the 28th May, please note that they must be submitted in writing at least 10 days beforehand, i.e. by 18th May to Jan Garfield, 27 Rogers Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9DG.

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023

The Society remains profitable with a closing membership for 2023 of 441.

I would like to remind members to renew their memberships in January of each year as this is the beginning of our financial year. Card payments can be made at Speaker Evenings.

During 2023 we had several successful events. The Dinner held at the Golf Club made a profit of £150.00 on the raffle and this amount was donated to the Mayor's Charities. The Social Evening at Harvest House, whose profits were shared between Harvest House and Black and White Productions. Then the Archive Exhibition also held at Harvest House for which we donate proceeds to Harvest House as a thank you for use of their facilities throughout the year.

A second Archive room has now been loaned to us by Harvest House and work has been forging ahead for use of storing the many wonderful artefacts donated to The Society. We will be paying £525 per year for rent.

*Hilary Eaton, Treasurer*

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## PHIL'S SUNDAY WALKS 2024

### ALL WALKS START AT 2.30pm.

They last approximately 1-1½ hours.

### MAY 12th

#### The Seafront Gardens Perimeter Walk

This is NOT a garden walk.

It starts and finishes at The Town Hall.

### SEPTEMBER

Please see the Heritage Weekend brochure.

### OCTOBER 13th

**Walton 1** This walk starts and finishes outside St Mary's Church, Walton High Street

### NOVEMBER 17th

**Walton 2** This walk starts outside the Half Moon Pub, Walton High Street, and finishes at Walton Hall near Felixstowe School. This walk will only last approximately an hour.

*Bev Boyce*

## YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

### It Certainly Does!

Not only to join the Committee as mentioned on page 17, but to assist Keith Horn and his band of happy helpers at this year's **Heritage Weekend on Fri 6th-Sun 8th September.**

Last year we had 30 volunteers, this year with twice the number of venues, we could do with about 60.

There is no requirement for your services all day (except if you would like), two hours per day for 1, 2, or 3 days would be much appreciated!

**Please contact Keith on 01394 270845 at 75 Ferry Road, Felixstowe IP11 9LU. email: [kjandehorn@btinternet.com](mailto:kjandehorn@btinternet.com)**



# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

The Felixstowe Society Financial Statement Year Ending 31st December 2023

2022	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2023</b>	2022	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2023</b>
£		£	£		£
3,364.00	<i>Subscriptions</i> Individual	<b>3,184.00</b>	-1,971.94	Newsletters	<b>-1,587.00</b>
20.00	Corporate	<b>20.00</b>	-240.00	<i>Activities</i> Hire of Hall	<b>-455.00</b>
270.20	Donations	<b>40.00</b>	-360.00	Speakers	<b>-431.00</b>
1,102.96	Gift Aid	<b>513.28</b>	-850.00	Outings	<b>0.00</b>
28.00	<i>Activities</i> Meetings	<b>794.90</b>	-431.11	Quiz	<b>0.00</b>
1,237.50	Outings	<b>0.00</b>	-821.00	Dinner	<b>-1,481.00</b>
201.00	Quiz	<b>0.00</b>	-589.30	Social Evening	<b>-722.44</b>
1,135.00	Dinner	<b>1,481.00</b>	-1,7142.48	Minibreak	<b>-17,733.30</b>
260.00	Raffle	<b>220.20</b>	-1,467.00	Heritage Weekend	<b>0.00</b>
1,854.50	Social Evening/Archive Event				
		<b>1,476.00</b>	-14.00		
1,000.00	Heritage Weekend	<b>0.00</b>	-341.78	<i>Administration</i> Stationery	<b>-557.96</b>
14,032.00	Minibreak	<b>19,655.00</b>	-186.33	Postage	<b>-223.81</b>
32.00	<i>Sales</i> Cotman Walk Book	<b>6.00</b>	-53.50	Retirement Gifts	<b>0.00</b>
			-74.38	Website	<b>-74.38</b>
			-313.13	Insurance	<b>-220.48</b>
			-327.75	<i>Expenses</i> Hospitality	<b>-151.00</b>
			-1,030.34	Expenses	<b>-266.61</b>
			0.00	Archives	<b>-1,504.55</b>
			0.00	Sum up card payments	<b>-2.62</b>
			-76.80	Plaques	<b>0.00</b>
			-36.00	<i>Subscriptions</i> Protect Rural England	<b>-60.00</b>
			-65.00	Victorian Society	<b>-65.00</b>
			-1,000.00	Civic Voice	<b>0.00</b>
			-746.50	<i>Refunds</i> Outings/minibreak	<b>-581.00</b>
			-25.00	<i>Donation</i> Poppy Wreath	<b>-25.00</b>
			-600.00	<i>Donation</i> Harvest House	<b>-500.00</b>
			-65.00	<i>Donation</i> Felixstowe in Flower	<b>-65.00</b>
			-200.00	<i>Donation</i> Lions Club	<b>-200.00</b>
			0.00	<i>Donation</i> Black & White Productions	<b>-130.00</b>
			-1,000.00	<i>Savings</i> Virgin A/c Deposit	
			-30,028.34	Sub Total	<b>-27,037.15</b>
			5,491.18	Difference	<b>-375.23</b>
<b>24,537.16</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,412.38</b>	<b>24,537.16</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-27,412.38</b>
			<b>1,411.79</b>	Closing Balance at TSB Bank	<b>2,145.91</b>
			<b>13,393.72</b>	Closing Balance at Virgin	<b>13,469.20</b>
			<b>14,805.51</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,615.11</b>

Certified as correct according to documentation provided.

Independent Examiner

Alan Middleton

Date 5-3-2024

*alymiddleton*

Treasurer

*Hilary Eaton*

Hilary Eaton

Date 5/3/24

## THE 'LOOPHOLES' AT HARVEST HOUSE

REGARDING Jim Stafford's article in the September issue No.133 of this Magazine and his time at Harvest House, it mentioned the sections cut out of the brickwork and suggested these were 'loopholes' to repel invaders. I agree with his suggestion that this defies logic and I believe these were for a different purpose, originating back to the time of the Felix Hotel.



*The view up Bath Road from one of the 'loopholes' in the wall of Harvest House.*

Bearing in mind the hotel was built in 1903, when horse drawn carriages were being used as taxis, which would have been 'parked' along Bath Road, (where cobbles can still be seen in the road opposite the Felix Hotel), awaiting guests requiring a carriage.

I believe there was a lodge behind the wall for an attendant/porter, who in the evening when a guest required a carriage, would shine a lantern across the road from one of the two 'loopholes' to summon a carriage. This was also the time of badly lit roads so the need for a light from across the road could have been very convenient.

*Rod Lugg*

WITHIN A FEW DAYS of Issue No. 133 being published, Michael Thomas emailed me the photograph above which I would have used with Jim Stafford's article, had it been available at that time. However, I then received a letter

from Rod Lugg, which I have modified (left). I thought at the time that would conclude the matter, but I have since received the following items from both Colin Millar and Michael Thomas, along with additional photographs.

*The Editor*



THE WALL around Harvest House dates from the turn of the 20thC, but the slots in question were inserted later than 1932 (EPWO392277/9, National Photographic Archive). In *A Grand Edwardian Hotel*, Ramsey tells us (the Hold ref 942.63 FEL) that at the start of World War Two, the Army requisitioned the Hotel, and closed the grand pedestrian entrance, replacing it with a new controlled pedestrian side-entrance. This reflects the importance of the role of the Felix, which was the HQ of the 79th and 131st Field Artillery, RA, commanding the range and direction of the heavy artillery battery at Kirton. It also had an artillery piece on the front lawns of the gardens, an observation post on the roof and AA guns in the tennis courts (Pillbox Studygroup Website Under 'F'). If 'the command and control function' of the Felix Hotel had been compromised then the heavy artillery defending the beachhead off Felixstowe would have failed, opening up the opportunity for invasion of the peninsula.

Control of access to this crucial infrastructure was most likely via a guardhouse, probably a temporary structure attached to the wall where the enfilades (gun slits) are to be seen today.

Evidence of whitewashed brickwork can be seen on the inner surface of the wall, suggesting an abutting structure. Set in soft brickwork, the enfilades were probably more for the suggestion of strict access control than for serious defensive purposes. Additional outside lighting at this time would not have been encouraged.

*Colin Millar*



THE BUILDING(S) behind the wall were two squash courts, on which I have played in the past. They were added after the main building with an entrance from the first floor.

The booklet *Edwardian Grand Hotel* does not give a precise date, but states the courts were complete and in use in 1935.

*Michael Thomas*

THE COBBLED strip in Bath Road was no doubt used for Felix Hotel carriages, but it was built for the Bath Hotel. Jim Stafford mentions Bath Road Garages being 'Felix Hotel Stable Block'. Again, like the cobbles, this was originally built for The Bath Hotel - see text and photographs in Dick Moffat's excellent book *A View of Felixstowe From the Bath*.

The Bath Hotel was, of course, burnt down by suffragettes in 1914.

*Michael Thomas*

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## BRACKENBURY FORT

ALTHOUGH KNOWN LOCALLY as Brackenbury Fort, this fortification on Brackenbury Cliffs in Cliff Road was, in fact, no more than a gun battery named after General Sir Henry Brackenbury, a former Director of Army Intelligence, and strongly built in April 1915 to house two 9.2 inch guns with the intention to cover an area of the North Sea, which Landguard Fort was unable to adequately police, should a German cruiser or other large enemy ship, take up station there to bombard Harwich Harbour at long range. Indeed, at the time, these were the most powerful pair of guns on the whole East Coast and were capable of firing a 380-pound armour piercing shell up to almost ten miles. However, it appears that the guns were never fired in anger.

The First World War battery itself consisted of gun emplacements with guns and their

carriages placed in concrete pits with magazines to store the heavy shells and rooms for their gun crews. Earth mounds were constructed behind to provide some protection with barracks for the garrison to the rear. This whole area was surrounded by a ditch and fence.

During the inter-war years, Brackenbury Battery was earmarked as somewhere for the Territorial Army to practise with heavy guns - much to the annoyance of people living in the neighbourhood who suffered the inconvenience from the noise and vibration when firing took place. Indeed, by 1930 the guns were so worn out that they had to be replaced.

The refitted battery was then placed on a care and maintenance basis with the guns incapable of being fired until 1938 when the threat of a possible war with Nazi Germany meant that gun practise began again. So it was that by the start



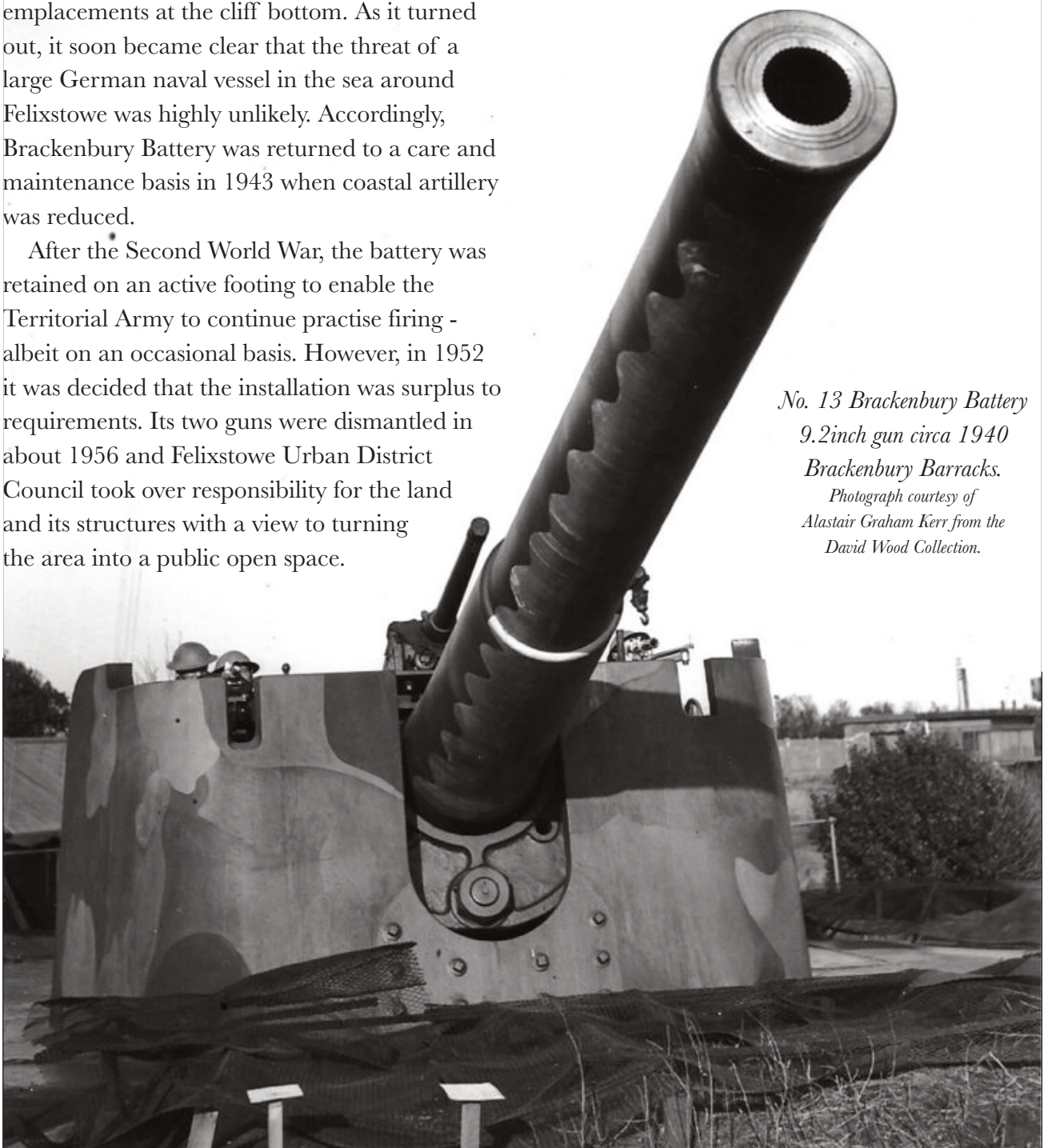
of the Second World War in September 1939, the battery was immediately available to make a contribution, if need be. Trenches were dug and other steps taken to enhance the battery's defensive strength.

However, the addition of blast walls around the gun emplacements had the detrimental effect of reducing their arc of fire. A further difficulty was that the two guns were unable to operate during darkness as they had no rear searchlights to assist them. It was not until 1941 that these were added within concrete emplacements at the cliff bottom. As it turned out, it soon became clear that the threat of a large German naval vessel in the sea around Felixstowe was highly unlikely. Accordingly, Brackenbury Battery was returned to a care and maintenance basis in 1943 when coastal artillery was reduced.

After the Second World War, the battery was retained on an active footing to enable the Territorial Army to continue practise firing - albeit on an occasional basis. However, in 1952 it was decided that the installation was surplus to requirements. Its two guns were dismantled in about 1956 and Felixstowe Urban District Council took over responsibility for the land and its structures with a view to turning the area into a public open space.

In 1969 Brackenbury Battery was finally demolished, although the task did not prove at all easy with the demolition team wanting to break up the fort's concrete but finding it a huge challenge. Initially the team noisily undertook drilling and dropping a steel ball from height but these methods were ineffective. A proposal to detonate the fort was dismissed by the District Council as far too noisy for local residents. Eventually, a compressor drill was suspended from a bulldozer to gradually achieve the task.

*Michael Sharman*



*No. 13 Brackenbury Battery  
9.2inch gun circa 1940  
Brackenbury Barracks.*

*Photograph courtesy of  
Alastair Graham Kerr from the  
David Wood Collection.*

## FELIXSTOWE'S ARCTIC ADVENTURER

**T**HIS STORY has been told before, but a reprise is worthy of a man who can rightly attract the epithet 'great'. John Hudspith Turner (1905-1947) was a famous son of Felixstowe who, along with his brother Arthur, is remembered on wall plaques in St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Old Felixstowe. They were both C of E Missionaries to the Inuit people of Baffin Island. They translated *The Bible* and *The Book of Common Prayer* into the indigenous Eskimo language. They ministered to the largely amoral (their description) and sparse population on a huge landmass of rock and ice bigger than the size of England and France put together, labouring in a wilderness some 1,700 miles away from the nearest significant settlement. What made this man, Canon John H Turner, the special person that he was?

He was brought up in his parental home in Felixstowe, but he seems to have been obsessed with an outward-bound lifestyle. As a young lad, he preferred sleeping outdoors overnight down by the banks of the River Deben. He was boisterous, healthy and adventure-seeking, and although brought up in a Christian household, right up to his late teens showed little interest in the Church of England. He was an accomplished cyclist, swimmer and sailor, and one suspects perhaps a 'spirited' youth. Then came a conversion of Damascene proportions.

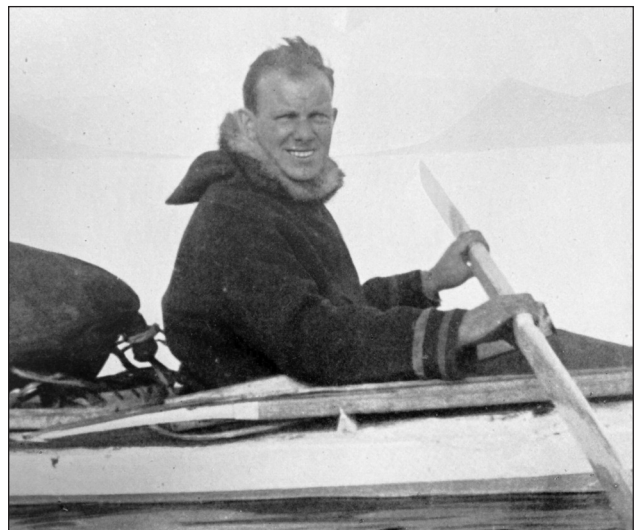
During Advent in 1925, he attended a lecture meeting presented by Mr Reginald T Naish in St Andrews Parish Hall in Felixstowe, entitled *Prophecy*.

The Rev. R H Haste wrote of John's experience; "We were present when the Holy Spirit fired a salvo and hit them all amidships. Instead of sinking, they ventured at midnight to Mr Smith's house – *White Lodge*, where Mr Naish was staying – and all these found the Lord."

Turner was immediately and wholeheartedly converted, and he would remain a zealous and committed Christian forevermore. But how was he to translate this newfound commitment to

immediate action? The Church of England was not known for missionary work, but coincidentally a new organisation called *The Bible Churchman's Missionary Society* had been formed in 1922. The Bishop of Keewatin pleaded to it to help keep open the remote Arctic Missions, a call that Arthur and John Turner answered. Before setting out, John needed to attend a preparatory convention in Keswick, but had no money to pay for public transport.

His solution? In typical fashion, he made a tent using waxed bedsheets, loaded up some food and clothes and then cycled 300 miles from Suffolk, taking three days to get there! Before returning, he climbed Skiddaw to watch the sunrise. Clearly, John Turner was a natural and energetic adventurer in the making.



*Canon J H Turner at Pond Inlet*

And so it turned out to be. Between 1930 and 1947 in administering to his far-flung congregation he made sledge journeys out from his base station at Pond Inlet totalling over 24,300 miles. These were tortuous and dangerous journeys using dog-teams that required feeding with seal-meat, and sleeping in igloos or tents in the vast cold wastes of the Arctic. Rifles were carried to protect against the attentions of polar bears.

It was a very hard life preaching to a sparse population, few of whom wished to change from

their traditional ways. He had many near scrapes on these adventures, always putting his survival down to his faith in his Lord's Mercy (which was a rather tenuous expectation in such an unforgiving environment).

He returned home for furlough in November 1939 and met Joan Miriam Hobart. They married at Pond Inlet in September 1944 and had three children, June, Grace and Faith. Joan proved a wonderful companion to her husband, entering fully into his life and work ministering to the Eskimo people, being the northernmost Parish of the British Empire.

Unfortunately, Turner's unshakeable belief in Providence came to an end due to a freak accident during a seal-hunt. He was helping an Eskimo girl struggling with a bucket of ice to melt into drinking water while carrying his 0.22 rifle over his shoulder. It is thought that the trigger caught on a button on his jacket and the rifle discharged, sending a bullet into his brain. Mercifully, he survived for several weeks although in such a primitive and isolated location the prognosis for his survival was not great. They were 1,700 miles from modern medical assistance. It was good fortune that Joan had trained as a nurse, and she did her best to keep him alive.

Their radio calls for help were eventually picked up by the authorities, sparking a desperate attempt at a rescue. This was called *Operation Canon* (1). A Canadian Army/Air Force Team were dispatched by RCAF Dakota to parachute to the Mission at Moffat Inlet, and then land when a suitable ice runway was found. This turned out to be very difficult because the area was fogbound and the navigational instruments did not work because they were very close to the magnetic north pole. These very brave military men managed to make contact to deliver some form of rudimentary medical care to Turner, but it was clear that his best chance was to be flown to Winnipeg Hospital for treatment. Throughout this evacuation, John did his utmost to help everybody, translating for the rescuers and holding church services from his

sick-bed. On the last Sunday, he even tried to play the concertina with one hand, but could not. It is the measure of the man that despite being mortally wounded he carried on with his devoted service to his people. It was recorded that; *Pewatok drove his beloved companion on that last sledge journey to the waiting plane. The group of natives watched as with a roar in the dark night the giant aircraft gathered speed along the flare path and climbed into the sky.* Their supporting father-figure of 17 years had gone.

Between the 22nd November and 4th December 1947 the staff at the Canadian hospital fought – as reported in the newspapers - *The Battle for Canon Turner's Life*, but he succumbed to his injuries. His body was laid to rest in St John's Cathedral Cemetery in Winnipeg.

Many people were deeply moved by the life and times of John Hudspith Turner, that much-loved son of Felixstowe (2).

One clergyman from Ontario wrote; *We are deeply grieved by the death of Canon Turner. All Canada followed the radio reports of the heroism surrounding the attempted rescue, yet I knew that it was no more heroic than his own twenty years of devoted service to His Saviour in the Arctic. No longer do the cruel biting winds tear into his flesh, or the cold drifting snows blind his vision. No longer can fatigue destroy his vitality, or cruel sinful men belittle his beauty. He rests from his labours. His work he did well.*

Whether or not supporters of such a driven Christian missionary, we might nonetheless be proud of such an energetic and daring adventurer hailing from our community (3).

*Colin Millar*

### **Further Reading**

1. *Operation Canon; Turner of the Arctic* by Maurice Flint, pub. by the Bible Churchman's Missionary Soc, London, 1949.
2. (Old\_Felixstowe\_Parish\_history-\_12pt\_version\_final.pdf) in <https://www.oldfelixstowe-parish.org.uk/who-we-are/history>
3. *Felixstowe to Pangnirtung* by C Charles and C Trott, Felixstowe, 2010.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY  
Social Evening  
Friday 14th June 2024  
at Harvest House

We are pleased to inform you that we are holding another Social Event 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.

Please advise any dietary requirements. Why not invite your friends to this event? They will be most welcome and who knows they might like to become members of The Felixstowe Society.

We welcome back Suzanne Hawkes and friends from Black and White Productions of The Two Sisters Arts Centre, Trimley St Mary. Suzanne will be joined by Stephanie and Bill Stoddart and Paul Stone.

As usual we will be holding a raffle and donations of prizes will be greatly accepted.

Your prizes can be delivered to me at 75 Ferry Road or I will gladly collect if you contact me on 07989 314706 or email me at [kjandehorn@btinternet.com](mailto:kjandehorn@btinternet.com)

Please note that the evening will commence at 6.00pm sharp and the cost will be £24.00 per person. Also note No Parking is allowed in the grounds of Harvest House.

On street parking only please.  
Dress code for this event is smart casual please.

Looking forward to seeing you.  
Keith Horn.

THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY  
Social Evening  
Friday 14th June 2024  
at Harvest House

I/we would like .....Tickets  
at a cost of £24.00 per person.

Any Dietary Requirements?  
Please advise.

.....  
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I enclose £.....  
(Cheques payable to The Felixstowe Societ

Member(s) Name(s)

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.....

Telephone No

.....

Email address

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.....

PLEASE RETURN THIS PART  
OF THE FORM AND YOUR CHEQUE  
TO:-  
KEITH HORN, 75 FERRY ROAD,  
FELIXSTOWE IP11 9LU

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ENCLOSE  
A STAMPED ENVELOPE TO RECEIVE  
YOUR TICKETS.



THE FELIXSTOWE SOCIETY  
Social Evening  
Friday 14th June 2024

When you have completed the form overleaf,  
please return it with your payment  
cut as indicated  
and post it to

**Keith Horn**  
**75 Ferry Road**  
**Felixstowe**  
**IP11 9LU.**

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

Many thanks.

THE FELIXSTOWE  
SOCIETY  
AROUND THE TOWN

**H**AVE YOU NOTICED how many  
plaques, information boards and  
commemorative features have been  
placed around Felixstowe, Walton and The  
Trimleys by The Society? Currently there are  
31, the most recent being the plaque to Thomas  
Cotman at Harvest House in 2021.

The January 2011 Newsletter, as it was then  
called, reported that ‘with the support of The  
Felixstowe Society, one of our members, George  
Buckland, has embarked on a campaign to place  
commemorative plaques on local buildings  
associated with people of note.’

The photo below shows George with the then  
CEO of the Port, David Gledhill, now a Society  
committee member and our chairman Jan, after  
the installation of plaques to commemorate T E  
Lawrence and Frank Whittle in August 2010.



Sadly George Buckland is no longer with us  
but the work was carried on by Phil Hadwen  
and now by Roy Gray and the archivist, Bev.  
Our plaques are a ‘very classy’ cream colour  
and locations stretch from the Port to Felixstowe  
Ferry. Walton has a plaque to the esteemed  
historian Sammy Wall and Trimley St Martin  
Memorial Hall’s plaque celebrates the  
achievements of Thomas Cavendish.

Information Boards are located in Abbey  
Grove, near Gulpher Pond, the Town Station,



the Lookout at Wolsey Gardens, the Victorian Shelter near the Spa, Harvest House and on the wall of the Ladies' College in Maybush Lane.

Commemorative features are probably the least well known but I hope this article will address that issue. For some of our older members, they will remember Ted Cross, a Vice Chairman of The Society, a man described as eternally youthful and full of energy, who worked so hard on a variety of projects, including conservation, which explains why he is commemorated with a lovely oak tree planted at the entrance to Grove car park in 2003.

Other commemorative features are benches which have been placed by The Society to commemorate notable members such as Phil Hadwen, Barbara Reid, Tom Felgate and Aubrey Lewis whose bench was vandalised in Abbey Grove. Fortunately, in the archive we still have the nameplate rescued from the bench.

Members may know that The Society is affiliated to *Civic Voice* and at a recent conference the issue of plaques was a feature of their discussions. A poll conducted by Historic England indicates that 84% of people in England think 'it is essential for individuals to pass on stories of local history. Place-marking initiatives such as a 'blue plaque scheme' can increase levels of civic pride and positive connections to a place, encouraging a sense of belonging'.

The London blue plaques are probably most familiar. The scheme started in 1866 and is

regarded as the oldest scheme in the world. There are 1,003 blue plaques in the boroughs of London and the City of London so we have some way to catch up!

I do not know the scientific basis for this poll

and I wonder how many people in our area know about the plaques, boards and objects. The criteria used by George Buckland to select those 'people of note' is not known but it appears that some have contributed to issues in the town such as preserving the heritage of the town, conservation and developing various projects for The Society.

However, we are fortunate that a number of individuals have either lived or worked in the town and made their national and international impact.

Frank Whittle's contribution to the development of the jet engine is special as is Harry Fensom's skills in

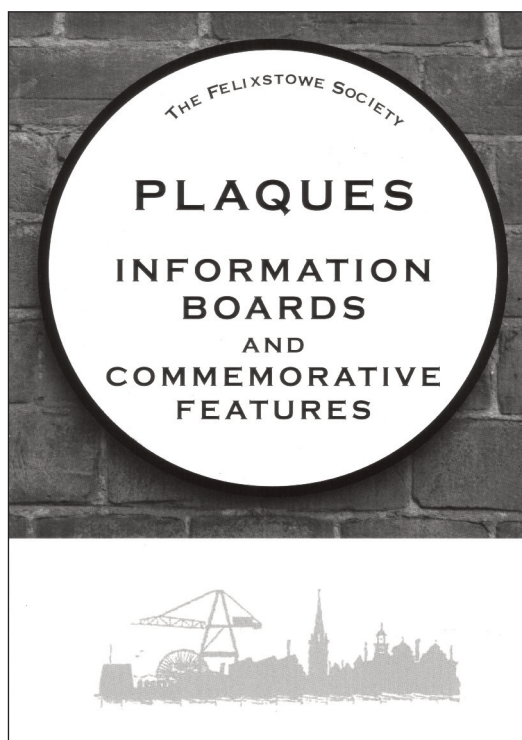
constructing and maintaining Colossus which aided the decoding of the German Lorenz cipher during World War Two.

I know there are a number of people who have contributed to the heritage of this town who should have been considered for commemoration, so if any members are keen to meet with me to put forward

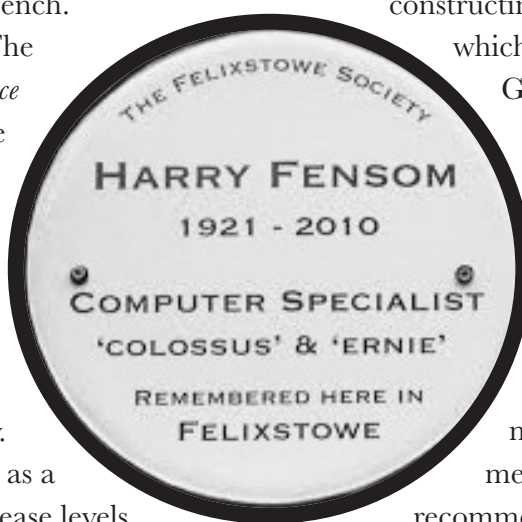
recommendations to The Society, please contact me on 01394 672184.

Many thanks

*Bev Boyce*



*The brochure published by The Society in 2022 featuring all the Plaques, Information Boards and Commemorative Features in the town at that time. Copies are available at £5 each.*







# Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

**W**E WERE VERY PLEASED that the East Suffolk Council Planning Committee gave permission for the 14 'homeless' displaced huts, currently in a compound in the car park at Golf Road, to return to the Spa Pavilion site, this time on wooden platforms instead of sitting on the beach. Some of our members put a lot of work into preparing the application and the Association funded the necessary supporting documentation and Council fees from donations made by members, as well as from our own funds. However, this is just the first step to returning them to their previous home as there will now be discussions with the Council to iron out any issues that arise as the platforms are to be placed on the Council owned beach, similar to those near the Fludyers Hotel. There will be no cost to the Council as hut owners will pay for the platforms and their construction and they will also be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the platforms. We would like to think that the platforms will be in place this year but cannot be certain.

Our Committee has formed a good relationship with the new East Suffolk Councillors and our Chairman and Secretary have had a meeting with the new Leader and Chief Executive. They have agreed to meet with our Committee members on a regular basis.

It has been agreed that there will be a 5% rise in our licence fee for each of the next three years, so members will know how much they will have to pay the Council until April 2027.

The new Seashore Village has been completed and the Council invited our

Committee members to a guided tour of the huts and 'pods'. We are by no means convinced that they will be able to sell all the huts - particularly those at the back of the site. The 'pods' which will be hired out look very good and are well equipped for days by the sea. Sadly, the new toilets were damaged within a week of being opened. Senseless vandalism. We are pleased to welcome two of the new hut owners as members of the Association.

Now for some bad news. A very high tide in November caused a lot of movement of huts, and damage. Particularly affected were the huts at West End, Pier South and those on the beach at Clifflands, near the Golf Club. The Clifflands huts were some of those displaced from the Spa Pavilion and we had asked the previous Council administration to place a hut on the beach there for 12 months before repositioning the displaced huts there to see how tides would affect them, but they declined to do so. Huts will be returned to their correct positions in April, so we hope for no more destructive tides before then.



We are holding our annual Quiz Night in April followed by our AGM in June. Our membership remains at about 600 and if



anyone reading this article owns a beach hut or rents a chalet, I encourage them to join us. It only costs £5 a year!

*Trevor Mason*

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BAUDSEY AND FELIXSTOWE LIFEBOATS 1802-1852

Part Two *continued from Issue 134 January 2024*

THE LIFEBOAT'S MOVE across the river to the small fishing hamlet of Baudsey (Felixstowe) Ferry may also have come about owing to the ready crews being very close at hand, these coming from the coastguard and the experienced beachmen with their work boats nearby. These seafaring families earned a meagre existence from the sea with their smacks and yawls, and were already well versed in both salvage, and indeed rescue. The Woodbridge poet and writer Edward Fitzgerald described Baudsey Ferry in the early 1800's as there 'being only a Mortella tower, a ferry house, a dozen humble cottages and a few sheds, where our river runs into the sea over a foaming bar. The few people inhabiting these houses are very poor, mostly having no shoes and subsisting mainly on cod or lobster fishing, gathering sea-coal and coprolite dredging along with being licensed river pilots. In winter their humble abodes are frequently disturbed by the summons of ships in distress to which they quickly attend'. These families had a tendency to keep themselves to themselves and their affairs private, working, living and marrying within their own isolated communities and often gaining a reputation as being strange and a law unto themselves. The main two families who seem to have dominated affairs at the ferry for some two centuries were the Newsons, and Passifuls, more so the Newsons. There was Henry Newson, father in law of James Passiful, George Newson, and Tom 'Bassy' Newson, father in law of Edward Passiful. Although some other names were the Watts family from Harwich who were barge and smack owners, also involved in salvage and rescue. John Watts from the Ferry owned the 26 ton smack the *Volunteer* described as having the appearance more like a yacht, and being the fastest thing on salt water. Then there were the Fletchers, a Lowestoft fishing family

who had their sailing lugger *Providence* stolen and which was later found abandoned off Felixstowe. Joseph Delly Fletcher known as 'Posh' came down to retrieve the lugger and decided to stay at the Ferry, eventually marrying in to the Newson family. 'Posh' was described as being six feet tall, blue eyed, bearded with a pleasant face, a good seaman and a man to face in a storm but with a weakness for the strong drink. There was a story that one night in a local ale house an argument broke out between 'Bassy' Newson and 'Posh' regarding the worth of both the Lowestoft and the Ferry men. 'Bassy' declaring that men from the Ferry went out to aid vessels in distress, when most thought it imposible to launch through the surf. 'Posh' replying that Lowestoft men neither hesitated nor worried about surf when they were summoned to a distress. The argument ensued with 'Posh' thumping the bar and saying that he would not have Lowestoft men put down, especially in front of any strange Harwich'es. One wonders if 'Bassy' had quoted from the earlier lifeboat subscribers letter in *The Ipswich Journal*.

Between the families they owned five or more salvage smacks and yawls, and had formed what was described as a well organised 'Ferry Beach Company'. As poor as they may have been, we



*'Posh' Fletcher, a good man in a storm, but with a weakness for strong drink.*



know that this Beach Company often received sizable salvage awards from the Admiralty Courts. Such as, that in 1860 when the smacks *Volunteer* and *Wonder* went to the assistance of

the hanoverian brig *Commandeur* aground on the Cork Sand, the smacks being awarded \$360 between them. We know that the Beach Companies worked with the lifeboats,

their smacks often taking them in tow to the vessel in distress, we also know that the ferry men crewed the Baudsey Lifeboat.

Meanwhile down at Landguard Fort, another experimental type of lifeboat had been established due to the increase in vessels endeavouring to enter Harwich Harbour, but unfortunately coming to grief on the Cork Sand, the Ridge, Platters, or Andrew Shoals. By way of a subscription raised in Ipswich by Admiral Piper R.N., Captain Richard Gower late of the East India Co, and now residing in Ipswich, had designed a unique type of new lifeboat, described 'as of lightweight construction for the ease of



*The first sitting seafarer is thought to be Joseph Delly 'Posh' Fletcher, and beside him is Tom 'Bassy' Newson, holding an 1854 pattern cork lifejacket. Both coxn of the Baudsey Lifeboat. Circa 1865.*



*The 'Ferry Beach Company' men and family. Tom Newson third on the left. Far right is Joseph Fletcher. Note the two beachmen in Tarpaulin trousers and coats. One with no shoes which was usual for the times.*



transporting over beaches'. She was double prowd with a shallow sheer, 30ft overall and of a narrow beam, pulled by six oarsmen with a coxn having a sweep oar for steering. Her buoyancy being provided by cork filled side casings and air tanks, and for sailing she had spritsails on two stub masts. Having been built at Jabez Bailey's, St Peter's Shipyard, Ipswich, her trials took place in front of a large crowd of townfolk. To demonstrate both her strength and stability, she was launched off the wharf for a 'considerable descent' into the river with a crew of seven on board. Then put through her paces under local seafarer of some experience, Captain Benjamin Hamblin with a total of thirty-two souls on board. She

was named the *Orwell Lifeboat* and first launched on service at Landguard on 24th February 1824 to the laden collier brig *Malvina* aground on the *Platters*. The lifeboat was launched from the beach in total darkness, her crew being coastguards under her coxn Lt Harvey. The brig had lost her rudder and her mate had been lost overboard, she later refloated on the flood tide and was assisted into the harbour, the lifeboat being damaged when her gunwhale was stove-in. The lifeboat was returned to Jabez Bailey for repairs and to have her narrow beam increased by 2 ft 6 inches at a cost of £35.

The *Orwell Lifeboat* was eventually returned to Landguard Fort, but had little success, this I fear probably being due to her crews mainly being non-seafarers from the Landguard Garrison at this time made up of invalided soldiers, army pensioners and militia volunteers. The *Orwell Lifeboat* was

*Landguard Fort, the Garrison comprised of invalided soldiers, army pensioners and volunteers.*



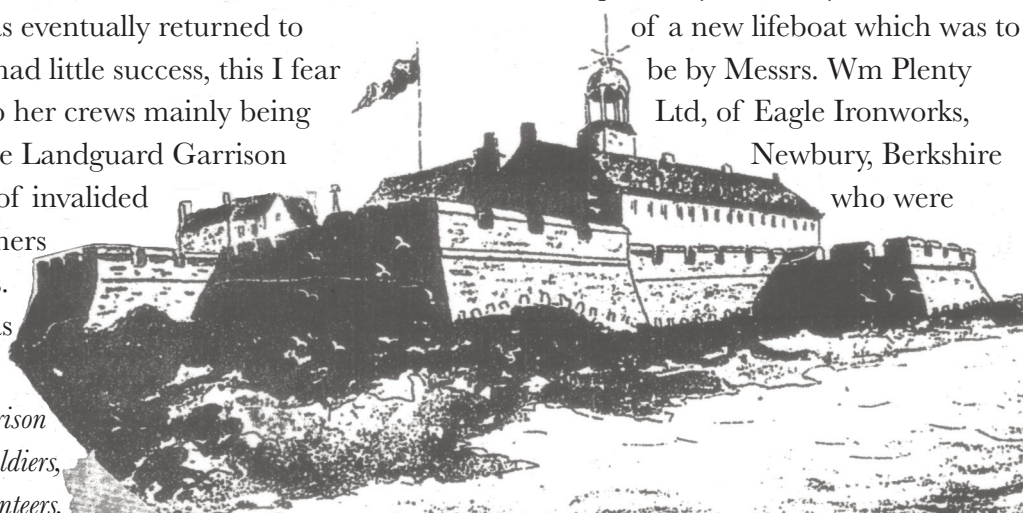
*Captain Richard Gower, a very inventive man, having already designed a vessel for the Admiralty. He also spent his time caring for 'pressed men's welfare.'*

withdrawn in October 1825, the Ipswich Lifeboat Association reported 'the *Orwell Lifeboat* was of no use whatsoever and totally inefficient'. In 1827 we hear that she was advertised at Ipswich, for sale suitable for conversion into a yacht.

In contrast to the Lowestoft 'Greathead' lifeboat being sold by its subscribers virtually unused by its crews in 1807, the *Baudsey Lifeboat* had by 1826 given twenty-five years of good service and proved its worth. However by now she was deemed as worn out, but knowing of her worth, the Suffolk Association for Saving Lives of Shipwrecked Seamen had pledged a donation of a maximum of £200 to have her replaced.

This humane association was formed by the High Sheriff of Suffolk and other noblemen at Bury St Edmunds on 16th October 1824. Its Chairman being the High Sheriff, His Grace George Henry FitzRoy, the 4th Duke of Grafton, Euston Hall. The Duke had earlier served as Colonel of the Suffolk Militia, and also as an influential M.P. where he was a staunch supporter of the 'Abolition of the slave trade' in 1806. He was described as having worldly experience and sound judgement. Therefore, he probably had a say in the choice

of a new lifeboat which was to be by Messrs. Wm Plenty Ltd, of Eagle Ironworks, Newbury, Berkshire who were



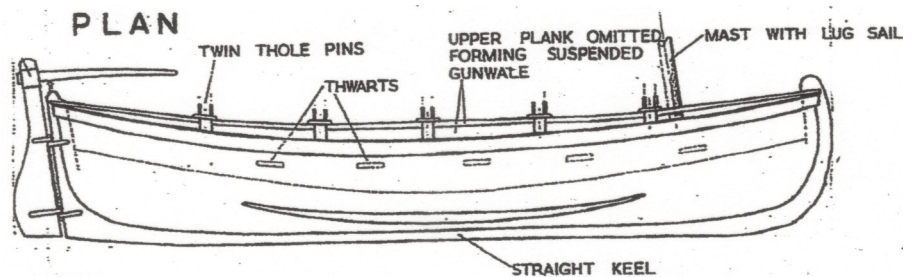
designers and manufacturers of agricultural equipment, patenting a plough in 1815. Another Victorian inventive man, Wm Plenty went on to design and build a lifeboat which he named *Experiment*. He took a heavy beach boat and simply added buoyancy by using cork and empty wooden casks. By 1824 eleven out of fourteen lifeboats established around Britain's coasts were of his design. They were best described as resembling a 'wherry', (not to be confused with a Norfolk wherry,) being extremely broad in the beam with a considerable fullness at the bow and stern, and sheer amidships with a straight stem and stern. She was clench built of oak and arboreal (a fast growing, light weight timber as common as sugar beet) and copper fastened. Her overall length was 24 ft with a beam of 8 ft and she was pulled by eight oars, or sailed with a coxn on a sweep oar. A main point was that a layer of cork covered the outer hull below the turn of the bilge to give protection when beaching. Additional buoyancy was provided by internal cork and air cases, with any water shipped in heavy weather being drained away through six 2 inch diameter scuppers. The new Wm Pellew lifeboat arrived at Orford and into the hands of 'the Suffolk Association for Saving the Lives of Shipwrecked Seamen' in 1826 at a cost of £168 including spare oars. She was soon launched off Orford beach on sea trials which we can assume were successful, as only a month later, the Association ordered a second 'Plenty' lifeboat for Sizewell Gap, this lifeboat being recorded as being crewed by Aldeburgh men, until this station closed in 1851. When the first new lifeboat was moved down from Orford for service at Baudsey Ferry, she

was named after one of her main instigators and sponsors. She was the *Grafton*, a name that would be retained until 1852. Unfortunately no records of her service are known, other than a brief newspaper mention in 1838, when the "*Grafton* lifeboat went to the assistance of the sloop *Friendship* of Hull in distress off Baudsey, her crew of four being safely landed ashore". The *Friendship* was later advertised as 'lying at Harwich for sale with all gear'.

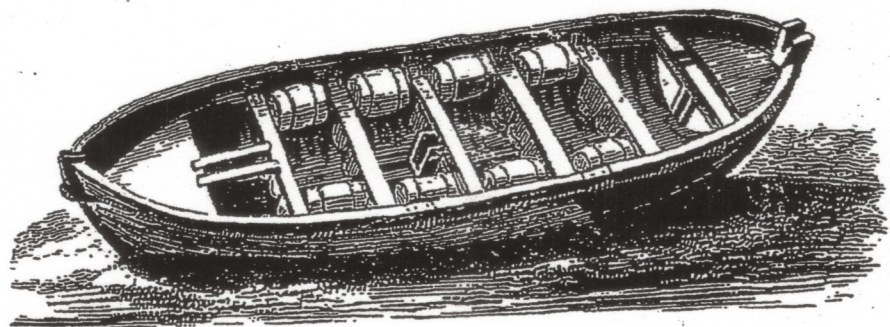
From 1846 to 1852, an average of some 3,100 vessels per year in the coastal trade required some type of assistance from the country's numerous Beach Companies. We know that this most certainly included the busy Ferry Beach Company and inevitably the *Grafton*. By 1850 there were sixty-one lifeboats established around the British Isles, twelve of which were provided by the 'National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck', a further thirty-nine were provided by the local 'Preservation Societies'. By the time that the Baudsey Ferry Lifeboat Station was closed in 1852, the *Grafton*

*The Wm Plenty Ltd 'Grafton Lifeboat 1824.*

*The beach boat with added wooden casks and cork for buoyancy, by 1824 11 out of the 14 lifeboats stationed around Britain's coasts were of his design.*



*In 1851 William's sons James and Edward Pellew had improved their father's design for the Duke of Northumberland's competition for an 'improved new unimmervible lifeboat'. It came 3rd and is shown above.*





had given twenty-seven years of service. Between them, the two locally funded lifeboats had given fifty-two years of service and doubtless saved many lives.

Ironically this same year, Trinity House had issued a Notice to Mariners advising that two sea-marks had been laid at the entrance to Woodbridge Haven for the benefit of the *Baudsey Lifeboat*.

By the end of the year the *Grafton* was reported as 'quite out of service and totally unserviceable'. However this was not to be the end of her as the 'Suffolk Association for Saving the Lives of Shipwrecked Seamen' had become aware that a lifeboat was required in North Devon. The *Grafton* was then offered to the 'Bideford Lifeboat Committee' for service at Braunton Sands. We cannot be certain that this offer reached fruition, as neither the present

Braunton District Museum, nor the North Devon Estates have any records regarding any transaction. But there is evidence that the old Braunton lifeboat was replaced by another in 1852, having the same dimensions and features similar to that of the *Grafton*. The replacement lifeboat probably the *Grafton* was named *Petrel* and manned by crews from Appledore.

The idea of a private locally funded patrol lifeboat was rekindled by two Felixstowe ex coastguard boat crew in 2005, with the formation of the Volunteer Coast Patrol Service.

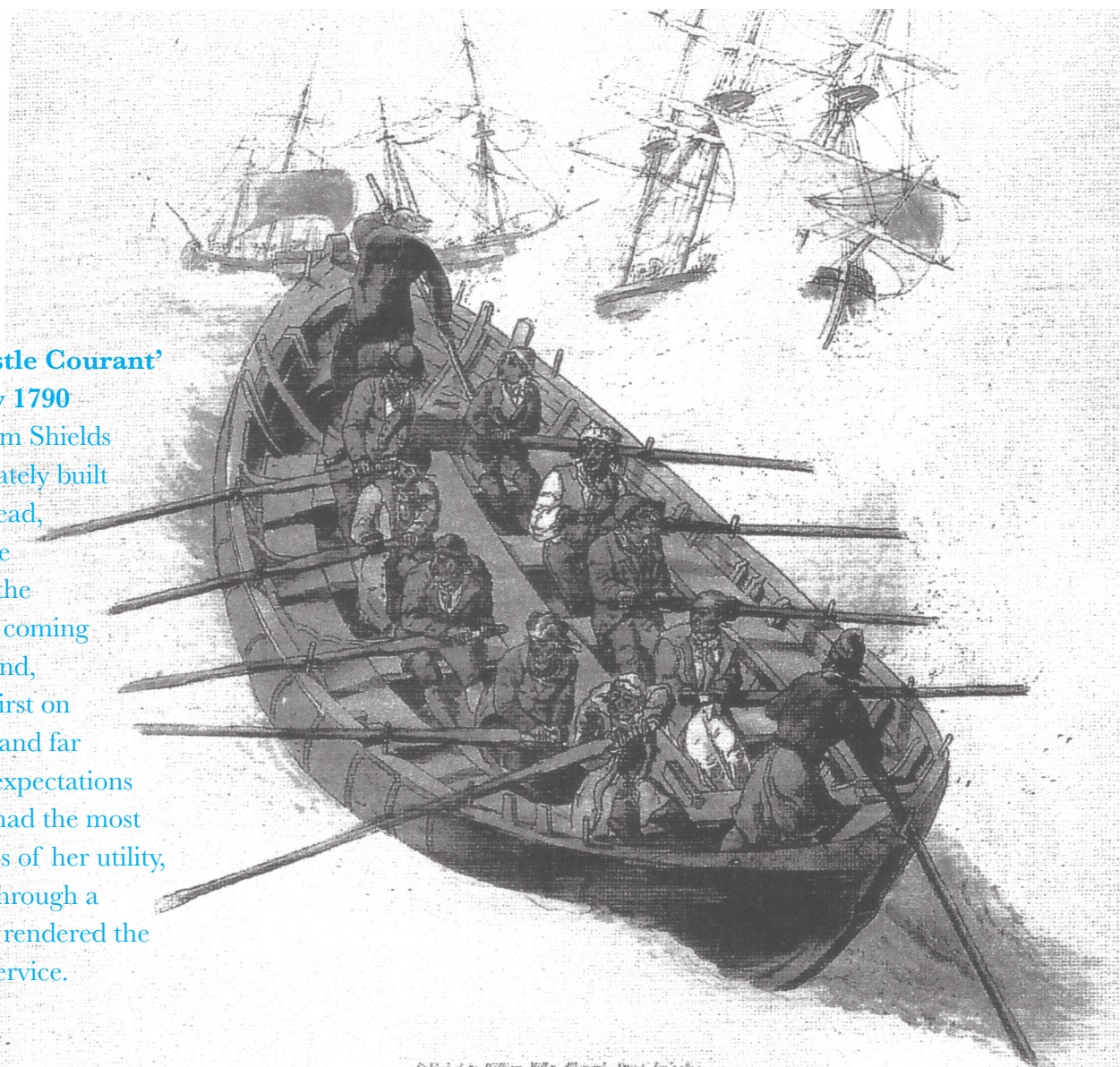
*John P Cresswell,  
Master Mariner Felixstowe 2023*

Acknowledgements:

*Ernest Read Cooper; Robert Simper; Bob Malster;  
Felix and Fred Newson; and Author's own research.*

### **The 'Newcastle Courant'** **6th February 1790**

We hear from Shields that the boat lately built by Mr Greathead, for the purpose of preserving the crews of ships coming on the Herdsand, was tried out first on Saturday last, and far exceeded the expectations of those who had the most sanguine hopes of her utility, for going off through a heavy sea, she rendered the crew infinite service.





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

## MAY

- 5th** **52nd Ipswich to Felixstowe Historic Vehicle Run** arriving approx 12noon at the Promenade.
- 12th** **Phil's Sunday Walk** The Seafront Gardens Perimeter Walk. Starts at the Town Hall 2.30pm.
- 17th-20th** **Members' Holiday to Hampshire**
- 28th** **The Annual General Meeting** 7.30pm followed by  
**Speaker's Evening** Herrings by *Derek Peters*.

## JUNE

- 14th** **The Society's Social Evening** at Harvest House.
- 25th** **North Felixstowe Neighbourhood Garden Project.** By James Goldberg. Members only. At the Salvation Army Church 7.30pm.
- 26th-30th** **Felixstowe Book Festival**

## JULY

- 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th** **The Ipswich Over 50s Brass Band** at The Triangle, Felixstowe at 3.00pm.
- 26th-28th** **Felixstowe Carnival Weekend**

## AUGUST

- 31st-2nd Sept** **Love Felixstowe**

## SEPTEMBER

- 6th-8th** **Heritage Weekend** See details of Venues etc on page 12.  
**Heritage Walk** See Heritage Weekend brochure.
- 14th** **Art on the Promenade**
- 21st-22nd** **Felixstowe/Wesel Association** 50th celebrations taking place in Wesel.
- 24th** **Speaker's Evening** Subject to be confirmed. By *Lynn Mortimer*.
- 27th** **Visit to The Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley**

## OCTOBER

- 13th** **Phil's Sunday Walk** Walton 1. Starts at St Mary's Church 2.30pm.
- 22nd** **Speaker's Evening** The A-Z of Curious Suffolk: Strange stories of mysteries, crimes and eccentrics. By *Sarah Doig*

## NOVEMBER

- 11th?** **The Service of Remembrance** at The War Memorial 11am.
- 17th** **Phil's Sunday Walk** Walton 2. Starts at Half Moon Pub 2.30pm.
- 26th** **Speaker's Evening** Sixty Years of Radio Caroline .  
By *Brian Nicholls*.

## DECEMBER

### **STOP PRESS - Special events to support!**

- Fri 14th June** Our Social Evening at Harvest House.
- Tues 25th June** Members only. The North Felixstowe Neighbourhood Garden Project by James Goldberg.
- Fri 6th-Sun 8th Sept** Heritage Weekend, see p.12.
- Fri 27th Sept** Members only visit to The Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley.