OFCA NEWS

June - July 2025

Newsletter of the Old Felixstowe Community Association

The Community Centre, Ferry Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9NB
Registered Charity No. 1163286

Update from the Chair

The sun has certainly been shining since the last newsletter, so I hope you have all been enjoying the glorious weather.

In the last newsletter I informed you that our current Secretary, Mary Whiteley, is having to step down due to personal reasons. I was hoping that a volunteer would come forward to take over this role but unfortunately this has not happened. Therefore, it was agreed at a recent General Council meeting to pay Gemma Gooch to take on this role. Gemma runs her own administrative business and is very respected in this field. Gemma is also a Governor at a local primary school so is very community-minded and I am sure she will be a great asset to the Association. I would like to express once again my thanks to Mary who has been an amazing Secretary, we will miss her very much.

The Centre continues to be extremely busy, so much so that it is difficult to find booking slots for some potential hirers. Success however brings more demands so if you feel you could volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are specifically looking for a publicity officer who can write articles for the magazines that are circulated within Felixstowe.

On Saturday 5th April a Dot and DoDah event was held at the Centre, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gina Cooper who was the mastermind behind this event. Gina gathered a large band of volunteers together and a total of £1,700 was raised for the Association, an amazing total! For those not familiar with Dot and DoDah, it is a sale of preloved clothes, many of them designer labels so the event certainly attracted a large crowd. It was great to see so many new faces at the Community Centre, we also provided refreshments and a raffle.

The Community Markets continue to thrive and with the Parish Nurses and Councillor Steve Wiles in attendance, it really does add to the community spirit. The next Market is to be held on Saturday 14th June, from 10am – midday so come along, purchase some raffle tickets, grab some bargains and enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake in the Lounge.

If you would like to make a booking for a private function, please contact the Administrator on 07494 599265 or email ofcabookings@gmail.com. The bookings calendar can be viewed via our website at www.oldfelixstoweca.org.uk.

Best wishes,

Celia Page

Community Markets and Summer Fair

Our next Community Market will be on Saturday June 14th, 10am to 12 noon in the Community Centre.

On July 12th it will be our annual Summer Fair, on the theme of Sporting Heroes. Many groups who are active at the Centre will be running stalls, and the Tennis group will be offering taster sessions on the tennis courts. Please come along to support the Community Centre and have a great morning.

OFCA
SUMMER FAIR

Old Felixstowe Community Centre, Ferry Road IP11 9NB

Saturday 12th July 2025 10-12 noon

Judging of Stalls by Mark Murphy and Lesley Dolphin, from Suffolk Sounds Radio, at approx. 10.15

On the theme of Sporting Heroes

Prizes include
Best Dressed Stall
Best Adult Costume
Best Child's Costume

Games, Raffle, Produce, Books
Crafts, Refreshments
FREE ENTRY

In Aid of Old Felixstowe Community Association
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 116326

ALL GARDENING – ALL SORTED

Grass cutting, shrubs, hedges & bushes pruned

General garden maintenance – lawns scarified

Drought-damaged lawns re-seeded

Garden sheds and summer houses re-roofed (wood & roofing felt) and repaired

Small landscape projects – log roll edging installed – lawn & path edging replaced

Weed control material with shingle / slate covering

Kevin & Patsy Abbott

Tel: 01394 279391

Mob: 07914 457526

HEEL THE SOLES

Theresa Walker
DipCFHP, MPSPract

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Email: heelthesoles@gmail.com
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Mayor’s Award for Celia Page

We are delighted to report that OFCA Chair Celia Page was presented with a Mayor's Award at Felixstowe Town Council's Annual Town Meeting on May 14th.

Award presentation to Celia Page by Felixstowe Mayor David Rowe

Celia was nominated to receive the Mayor’s Award for her contribution to the Community in Old Felixstowe with the Old Felixstowe Community Association. She has served on the committee of the Association (OFCA) for nearly 40 years, and 8 years ago took over the responsibilities of Administrator for the Centre.

In 2020, following her excellent management of the Community Centre during and after the Covid Pandemic, she was nominated to take the reins as Chairman of the Association when the previous incumbent retired, a post which she happily took on whilst still holding the position of Administrator.

Since that time, she has followed the excellent example set by her late father who was a founder member of OFCA, and held the positions of Chairman, Treasurer and Trustee in his time.

Under Celia’s leadership, the Centre is now home to 40 groups meeting regularly at our Centre and in themselves offering a great service to our Community and maintaining OFCA as a social hub in the area.

Award nomination by Gina Cooper

Brackenbury WI

We are continuing with great speakers having heard from the Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Horse Riding and their work. In May Helen Hood, Parish Nurse, spoke about the help and services they can provide, and coming up we have Mary Newton on forensic science, which will be a return visit.

We have had two outings recently: retail therapy at Stanway followed by lunch at the Chinese Banquet restaurant, and we also went by minibus to Tiptree and Perrywood Garden Centre for the day with lunch. We may have a theme with our trips - good company, retail therapy and lunch - what more do you need?

We have now restarted our walking group, the lunch and coffee mornings are both very popular.

May was our Group meeting, four WI's join together for an evening. Nacton WI hosted this year, our speaker was a larger than life Good King Hal, a Henry VIII impersonator, he was every bit the part.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the Margaret White Hall at 7.30pm.

Liz Sampson

Martello Ladies

In April Rachel Sloane who many of you may remember as a radio presenter on Radio Orwell and then Radio Suffolk gave us a very entertaining talk on how a nursery nurse ended up as a radio presenter. We also heard some amusing anecdotes of her time doing outside broadcasts, in the radio car and taking part in radio phone-ins. She retired as a radio presenter in 2008 and went on to develop her own company.

In May we went on our annual "Mystery Trip". This time it was to "Carters" at Stonham Barns Park. They have produced handmade British ceramics since 1978 and are renowned for their novel teapot designs. Our visit started with refreshments then a tour round the workshop to see the process of pottery making. We were then invited to select an item of pottery to paint. This was followed by a lovely buffet lunch. We had a good time and even managed to fit in some shopping at the Stonham Barns Village before heading home.

Our meeting in June is a social evening and promises to be a fun evening. In July our meeting is entitled "La Belle Epoque". Interested? Then why not join us. We are a friendly group who meet at the centre on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30 and visitors are always welcome.

Rosey Freeman

Felixstowe Morning WI

Felixstowe Morning WI continues to thrive with new members joining us every few months. In March we had a very engaging talk from Barbara McElroy about the history of our famous "castle on the hill". Barbara spoke fluently for an hour without notes and we were all suprised at how quickly the time went.

April found us celebrating our 37th birthday with local yoga teacher Karen Clarke, who introduced us to the concept of laughter yoga, invented only in 1995, to improve patients' health and well-being, as laughter releases the feel-good chemical dopamine.

Many of us were sceptical, but the room was soon filled with giggles and belly laughs. We finished the morning with an excellent birthday cake and our usual cuppa.

Linda Page

Visit OFCA's website at https://oldfelixstoweca.org.uk/ for information on Community Centre room hire, activities available at the Centre, and Community Association contact details.

We welcome contributions to the Newsletter from community groups who use the Centre, and news and events items relevant to Old Felixstowe. The next Newsletter will be sent out on 1st August, please send any contributions to Dave Songhurst by July 23rd.