



OFCA NEWS

December 2024 - January 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 51st Annual General Meeting was held on 17th October and was well attended. The main theme of the meeting was the need to recruit more volunteers to our ever-popular Community Centre. With success brings more demands and as the Association is run by volunteers we are always looking for more people to join us, if you want more information please contact me at celiapage@hotmail.co.uk or ring me on 07572119834 and we can have a chat – we are a very friendly bunch!

Carrying on with the volunteering theme I would like to thank Rob Jackson who checks the Centre weekly and reports any faults and fixes them if he is able to do so. We recently had a problem with the door to the Margaret White Hall, and Kev Davies of MD Construction (whose daughter attends the dance class at the Centre) stepped in and mended the door free of charge, what community spirit, thank you Kev!

The Management Committee led by Ellie Clark is always looking at ways of improving the Community Centre and in the new year work will begin on refurbishing and decorating the Jane Bolton Lounge. The work will take place in stages, but I am sure you will be pleased with the end results.

The Christmas Community Market is being held on 14th December and we are putting together a hamper as the main prize in the raffle. Donations for the hamper would be most welcome.

Finally, I would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I hope to see you at the Christmas Community Market on 14th December.

Best wishes,
Celia Page

Free Film Afternoons in the Community Centre

We had a lovely afternoon in the Community Centre in November watching 'Mamma Mia' which we put on in conjunction with Old Felixstowe Parish Church.

We had a great band of volunteers keeping everyone supplied with hot drinks and biscuits and the film was great fun and had everyone buzzing when it finished.

Our next film in conjunction with the Church will be 'Nativity' starring, among many others, Martin Freeman, Jason Watkins, Pam Ferris and Ashley Jensen. The main stars however, are the children who were mainly youngsters with no previous acting experience and who showed amazing talents throughout (my favourite was little Bob!)

We have booked in for Sunday 8th December starting at 2.30pm. As always we will provide hot drinks and something to eat.

The story tells of a modest Catholic primary school who find themselves competing against the local affluent private school to produce the best Nativity play. Hilarious auditions, unplanned trips to Hollywood and a finale in the ruins of Coventry cathedral are part and parcel of this lovely family treat.

Seating in the Hall is limited, so please call or text me on 07803 748219 if you would like us to book a seat for you. You can also email to info@ginacooper.co.uk. The film lasts just over 1½ hours so we will have a short interval halfway through for a comfort break.

We look forward to seeing you

Gina Cooper

North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Plan

The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan 2020 identified an area of land to the north of Felixstowe for housing development, including some new leisure and community facilities. The planning process is now being managed by East Suffolk Council with a view to submitting an outline planning application in Spring 2025. The Council has a website at <https://northfelixstowe.co.uk> giving a lot of information about the proposals and the recent public consultation.

The area covered by the Plan extends from Swallow Close in the east to the Dock spur roundabout in the west, and includes:

- fields between Links Avenue and Gulpher Road
- Eastward Ho and The Grove, and fields to Gulpher Road (The Grove and Abbey Grove woodlands are in the area but will not be built on)
- the Trelawny Place development
- fields north of Candlet Road

The Plan is for 1440 new dwellings, in addition to the 560 already included in Trelawny Place, to be delivered over a 10 to 15 year period. Illustrations supporting the Plan include a new leisure centre, new primary school facilities, a local community hub, new sports pitches on part of the existing Eastward Ho, and open green space between The Grove and Gulpher Road. The Council website includes many draft maps for public comment covering aspects such as travel and connectivity, environmental issues, and community facilities. A good summary of this information is on the Information Boards which you can find by going to the News tab on the northfelixstowe.co.uk website, scroll down to the 'August Public Drop in Session' box, and click on Information Boards.

Two illustrative aerial views are reproduced here (next page), one showing the area around The Grove and the other showing the area next to Candlet Road.

The Felixstowe Society (<https://www.felixstowesociety.org>) reproduces the Council's press release of 7th November and provides the Society's response, emphasising the need to protect public open space and playing field facilities.

The Felixstowe Country Park Group is also responding to the Council plans, urging the need for an expansive 40 hectares of protected green space to allow wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy, a Country Park extending northward to Gulpher Road (the existing Grove and Abbey Grove cover 8 hectares). You can contact the Country Park Group at contact@felixstowecountrypark.co.uk (Judith Hedges).

Dave Songhurst, Newsletter Editor

Retained Grove Woodland that has been extended to the north

New sports pitches in place of existing Eastward Ho pitches. We are considering a cricket square, a Short Track running facility, and new running loop

Northern Edge

Farmshop and changing facilities

Equipped Play Area

Main street, incorporating tree planting, cycle paths, footpaths and swales

Primary school

Community Farm

Drainage features that provide a strong ecological buffer to the woodland

Key footpaths through and along edge of woodland

Orchard community hall

Woodland visitor centre / cafe

Medical centre



Local centre to potentially include: retail, pub, work hub, nursery, residential and mobility hub

Community orchard, bee keeping and outdoor nature classroom

The woodland near the development creates an attractive backdrop

Plaza across main entrance boulevard linking Leisure Centre, convenience store and Gulpher Park

Cafe, swimming pool and gym overlooking the main entrance boulevard

Cafe at northern end of Leisure Centre spilling out onto entrance plaza

Main street, incorporating tree planting, cycle paths, footpaths and swales

Gulpher Park, incorporating equipped play area located at northern end of entrance boulevard on site of bronze age barrow

Footpath & cycle path following Public Right of Way alignment

Convenience store / retail with apartments above

Tree lined boulevard entrance

Apartment buildings help to screen neighbourhood from traffic noise on Candlet Road



Drop-off area and potential mobility hub location

Tennis courts / netball court and 3G artificial pitches aligned to maximise sunlight

Landscaped Leisure Centre car park

Tree planting along the grass verge to make the Leisure Centre and Candlet Road a green and leafy place

Planted bank to west of new junction

Pedestrian / cycle crossing over Candlet Road at junction with Walton North

Segregated footpath and cycle path running along entire length of main street

New shared footpath / cycle path along northern edge of Candlet Road

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Theresa Walker
DipCFHP, MPSPract



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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




Martello Ladies

In October we held our AGM. All our present committee members kindly agreed to stay on for another year and afterwards another member volunteered to go on the committee. We are hoping for more members to put their names forward during the year to learn how things are done with a view to taking over next year. I'm sure they will find it a very enjoyable experience. We then had a lovely cheese and wine buffet to finish off the evening.

In November David Pryor gave us a very interesting talk on reconstructing the Sutton Hoo ship. The imprint of a spectacular 88ft long rowing ship was found by chance at Sutton Hoo in East Suffolk in 1939. A range of weapons, regalia, textiles and personal effects of gold, silver and bronze were also found. Many of these are now viewable in the British Museum. The project actively celebrates Anglo Saxon craftsmanship.

Our next meeting at the Centre is on 5th December at 7.30. It is entitled "Swinging Nostalgia" and promises to be a fun evening. Why not join us? Visitors are always welcome.

On 9th January we have our annual dinner at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club.

Rosey Freeman

Come and meet us in the Jane Bolton Lounge for tea, coffee and good company.
Thursday mornings
10am – 12 noon.
We'd love to welcome you.



The Hope Trust
Charity number 1159866
Tel: 01394 272592



Brackenburg WI

We have had another successful year with new members joining and making the most of what WI has to offer. We were entertained by 'What no cake' Ukulele band which resulted in a singalong. In October one of our members researched and spoke about 'First and last ladies of Suffolk', it was a very interesting talk.

Our lunch club opted for an early dinner at the Anatolia in Felixstowe, it was a great success and they looked after us so well. I apologise to anyone who thought they'd go for a quiet meal that evening!!

As the year draws to a close we are having our Christmas meal at the Golf Club, and our lunch club will continue in the new year as will our coffee mornings. The walking group will restart in the Spring as the weather warms up again.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Margaret White room, come along and meet and make new friends.

Liz Sampson

Felixstowe & Villages Carers Group – Having a lovely time together

We are a group of family carers who are looking after a relative or friend. We meet once a month for a break from caring and have some wonderful events.

Because we are all carers we understand the stresses and the isolation that caring brings . This is a very friendly and welcoming group with a good sense of humour. We are looking for new members at the moment so if you are interested in meeting new people and having a relaxing time please just come along and see if our group suits you.

Recently, working with the Artlink charity ,we all produced a small piece of pottery. The next month we glazed (painted) it, with some wonderful results. In December we will have a Christmas Buffet.

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 1pm until 3pm at the Community Centre, subs £3. Why not come and join us?

For further information contact Dennis Weston at dennisweston.49@btinternet.com or phone 07712672289 or 01473 832591.

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 February, please send any contributions to Dave Songhurst by January 23rd.