



OFCA NEWS

February - March 2025

Newsletter of the Old Felixstowe Community Association

The Community Centre, Ferry Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9NB

Registered Charity No. 1163286

Update from the Chair

A belated Happy New Year and I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas.

Sadly, Anne Lee passed away on 15th January. Anne had for many years produced the invoices for the Association for which we are most grateful. Anne carried out this role in a quiet conscientious manner and was a great asset to the Association. Anne also helped to run a stall at the Community Market along with Margaret Lamacraft and Ann Trusselle, raising valuable funds for OFCA. We will miss Anne dearly and our thoughts are with her family at this time.

We were extremely fortunate to receive two donations before Christmas with Maritime Cargo Processing donating £250 and Jean Brackley £100. Our grateful thanks go to you both and the money will be used to maintain the Community Centre and make improvements.

Our Treasurer Vickie White was recently contacted by the People's Postcode Lottery and informed that OFCA will receive a grant of £15,000 as part of the Millionaire Street Grant Fund. This is amazing news and once the funds are received the Management Committee will decide how this grant is to be spent.

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. Although January was an extremely chilly day we were delighted to see so many people join us and stay for a welcome cuppa and a slice of cake. Our continued thanks go to Angela and her team from the Brackenbury WI who provide the refreshments.

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

Do come and join us at the regular monthly Markets held at the Community Centre. We have a great variety of stalls selling Cakes, Crafts, Cards, Art, Books, Jigsaws, Soaps, Jewellery and lots of vintage preloved household items. We serve cakes and refreshments and are usually joined by the Parish Nurses, who will advise and signpost you with any medical problems, and Councillor Steve Wiles happy to answer your Felixstowe Coastal questions.

Our next market is Saturday 8th February from 10am, then March 8th, April 12th and May 10th, hope to see you there.

Elaine Wright

Free film afternoons

Our free film afternoons in conjunction with St Peter and St Paul Church continue towards the end of each month, usually the third or fourth Sunday. We have a marvellous group of volunteers supplying our audience with hot complimentary drinks and refreshments and we thank them.

The first film for 2025 will be 'A Secret Water: A Year in the Life of the Walton Backwaters' on the 26th January and we are planning more monthly films with a local interest until the summer.

If you would like to be included in our advance mailing list, please send me your email address to ginacooper@msn.com.

Gina Cooper

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



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DipCFHP, MPSPract



Mobile Foot Health Practitioner
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Renewal and Augmentation of the Halls - Winter 2024/5

OFCA Management Committee has had a programme for the last two years to improve the Community Centre for the enjoyment of its users. Most of the work is in response to comments at the General Council or made to our Administrators. We will provide a regular column in the newsletter to keep you up-to-date - in case you rarely come to the Centre.

This winter we have started on the Jane Bolton lounge, a 'refurbishment by committee'. This has benefits (no one person can be blamed for decorative taste) and downsides (no one has the same taste ...).

- An extra set of double doors has been installed to improve the sound barrier between the lounge and the Margaret White hall. This will also provide a cupboard for large fold-up tables and an improved space for hirers of the hall.



- In the Jane Bolton Lounge we have replaced the old 1970s lounging chairs. These were low, uncomfortable and impossible to get out of. Nine new chairs with arms and the first step in renovating the soft furnishings.



Thank you to those who have donated and raised funds - this would not be possible without you.

Watch out for further reports of improvements in future Newsletters.

Ellie Clark
Chair of OFCA Management Committee

Old Felixstowe Garden of Remembrance Re-dedication Service

The Garden Of Remembrance at St Peter and St Paul's church in Old Felixstowe will soon be open again following a much needed renovation which has made it easier to maintain, and ensure it continues to meet the future needs of the Parish.

Everyone is invited on Sunday March 2nd at 2pm for a brief service of re-dedication followed by refreshments in The Link.

“We asked the professionals at Caring For God's Acre to help us make a plan to manage the churchyard“ said Rev Chris Hood, Vicar at the church. “Now this phase is completed we hope people will want to come and see how we are keeping the garden and churchyard at the very heart of our community.“

As well as the Garden Of Remembrance, other work has been completed in the wider churchyard to ensure it remains a welcoming and environmentally friendly space. This includes installing innovative 'dead hedges' to support and attract wildlife, planting hundreds of bulbs to help butterflies and bees, and a water source.

"Churchyards are true havens for wildlife, containing species which were once much more common" said Harriet Carty, Director of God's Acre, a charity specialising in working with churchyards.

"We would love people to get involved as we move on to the next phase of our plan, there are some wonderful gardeners in Old Felixstowe, and we would welcome anyone who would like to join in the work in the churchyard – you don't need green fingers, just willing hands" added Rev Chris.

For more information simply email the church office at office@oldfelixstoweparish.org.uk

Spencer Smith

Felixstowe Family History Society

FFHS was formed in 1986 with the aims of:

- Helping researchers to increase their knowledge of genealogy and assist them in researching their own family history.
- Assisting in the preservation of local history and genealogy records.
- Enabling us all, by sharing knowledge, to further our awareness of what information is available and how to access it.

We publish our own quarterly magazine, Roots and Branches, offer an ongoing programme and events of interest to all, and arrange for speakers and visits to places of genealogical interest.

We hold our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm, at Broadway House in Orwell Road. We also offer a free monthly Friday drop in session at Broadway House, 10.15 to 12 noon, for support with your genealogy research and any 'brick walls' you may have encountered in your family tree.

Future meetings include:

12 February 2025 - The River Gipping Trust - Gerry Crease

28 February 2025 - Friday Drop in session - Nick Smith

12 March 2025 - You'll make a lovely sergeant - The WW1 Experience of Flora Sandes - Janette Robinson

28 March 2025 - Friday Drop in session - Nick Smith

More dates and information available from our website at <https://felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net/>

Jayne Steele

Martello Ladies

In December David Howlett entertained us with sound and film clips from the past and songs and film of early Eurovision songs. They included artists such as Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson, Alma Cogan, Dusty Springfield, Adam Faith, Tommy Steele, Val Doonican, Frank Ifield, Helen Shapiro and Lonnie Donegan. This was followed by seasonal refreshments of mince pies and mulled wine.

After all the Christmas and New Year celebrations were over it was nice to have our annual meal at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club to look forward to. It was held on January 9th and was well attended by our members many of who were lucky enough to win one of the vast array of raffle prizes.

On 6th February our meeting is entitled "Felixstowe Females" and on 6th March "Catching Criminals". Intrigued, why not join us? We meet at the centre at 7.30 and visitors are always welcome.

Rosey Freeman


Brackenbury WI

We have started 2025 with Laughter Yoga with Karen, a fun evening, laughing followed by relaxation, we all joined in. Our speaker for February will be SERV Bloodrunners, an essential service. March is our birthday meeting, we have Sean Hedges-Quinn, a Suffolk sculptor, he was due to come last year but had to cancel so we are really looking forward to hearing and seeing his work.

We have plans for a trip to Stanway shops and garden centre followed by lunch in the Chinese restaurant there. We have our coffee and lunches for the year planned. Our walking group will restart in April with hopefully warmer weather.

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

Liz Sampson

<p>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.</p> <p>The Hope Trust Charity number 1159866 Tel: 01394 272592</p>	 
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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 April, please send any contributions to Dave Songhurst by March 23rd.