



# OFCA NEWS

## August - September 2025

### **Newsletter of the Old Felixstowe Community Association**

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

*Registered Charity No. 1163286*

#### **Update from the Chair**

I hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful summer, albeit a bit too hot at times!

In the last newsletter I informed you that Gemma Gooch is taking over as Secretary to the Association and I would like to officially welcome Gemma to this role. Again, many thanks to Mary Whiteley for all her hard work and professionalism over the years.

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 13th September 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.

The next General Council meeting is on Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Jane Bolton Lounge and just a reminder that each affiliated organisation is expected to send a representative to the meeting. The General Council meetings are a chance to have your views heard and to make suggestions regarding the running of the Centre.

This year's Annual General meeting will be held on Thursday 16th October at 7.30pm in the Margaret White Hall. Please do join us and support the Association as we look back on another year and forward to the next. Light refreshments will be served in the Jane Bolton Lounge following the meeting.

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

Best wishes,  
*Celia Page*

#### **Community Markets**

OFCA's Community Markets have raised over £2,500 so far this year, thank you for your support. We will have a rest in August and be back September 13th. We have a great selection of stalls including art, crafts and jewellery along with our regular books and jigsaws. The Parish Nurses join us to advice on health problems and local councillor Steve Wiles usually visits and is happy to answer your questions.

*Elaine Wright*

## Renewal and Augmentation of the Halls - Spring/Summer 2025

As with all refurbishments, the improvements to the Centre have gone in fits and starts this year.

We have continued on the Jane Bolton Lounge, a 'refurbishment by committee', but due to illness and caring commitments it has been delayed. After some of the chairs were replaced, we have painted the dark wood (and there is still some touch up work to do), installed an electric shutter, and replaced the carpet. Hopefully the Lounge will be completed this year ...

Thank you to all the people who have donated and raised funds and attended our events - the maintenance and improvements at the Centre would not be possible without you.



Jane Bolton Lounge showing new carpet and white painted wood



New electric shutter to kitchen

### 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: 07896 267513



## HEEL THE SOLES

Theresa Walker  
DipCFHP, MPSPract



Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

Phone: 07534 329 448

Email: [heelthesoles@gmail.com](mailto:heelthesoles@gmail.com)

[www.heelthesoles.co.uk](http://www.heelthesoles.co.uk)



Established since 2017



## **Brackenbury WI**

We have had some interesting speakers - Mary Newton, a retired forensic scientist, spoke about three different cases that she had worked on, all very interesting.

At the OFCA Summer Fair we ran the refreshments in the kitchen with homemade cakes from our members.

A few of us are going to watch the Red Rose Chain production of Hamlet at Sutton Hoo - it's in a lovely setting, this runs for a month and is always entertaining.

Upcoming we have our annual garden party instead of our meeting at the Centre in August. The walks, lunches and coffee mornings are always popular and give everyone time to chat with other members of our WI.

Our next meeting at the Centre will be September 16th at 7.30.

*Liz Sampson*

## **Felixstowe Garden Club**

Felixstowe Garden Club members are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Sapphire Anniversary Annual Show on Saturday 9th August in the Community Centre. Free entry for all.

We will be selling plants from Katie's Garden nursery and delicious homemade refreshments. We are hoping the Felixstowe Mayor will open the Show at 11.30am.

The following Tuesday, 12th August, we continue our floral theme with a talk from Jo, who with Carla runs Benton End Flower Farm in Hadleigh. It should be a flower filled evening so do come along from 6.30pm for a free cuppa. Start time is 7pm, visitors very welcome, £5 cash at the door.

On Tuesday 9th September our meeting will not be at the Community Centre as members are visiting Katie's Garden nursery for a 'behind the scenes' tour.

Hopefully our gardens will have had some more rain by then!

## **Felixstowe Morning WI**

Felixstowe Morning WI continues to enjoy some excellent speakers alongside a lunch club, craft club and coffee morning every month. In June we welcomed Penny Simmonds, a reflexologist who outlined the history and practice of this treatment option, and cleverly demonstrated by showing us the various points on our hands.



July's meeting, the last before our summer break, was an interesting talk called "A touch of spice", an intriguing mix of family and social history. A small contingent had an outing in June to the Food Museum's school dinners exhibition.

We break for August, returning in September for a talk about fashion through the ages.

*Linda Page, committee member*

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

## Martello Ladies

In June we held a fun social evening of games and quizzes such as guess the number of sweets in the jar, match up the celebrities young and old, guess what is in the parcels, identify the country and pictures from odd angles and guess the riddles. Many members expressed what a good time they had.

In July Jane Hoggar came to speak to us once again. This time she gave us a talk entitled "La Belle Epoque" or "The Beautiful Era", a musical history of the "Folies Bergere" and "Moulin Rouge". We discovered the roles played by Edith Piaf, Mistinguett, Maurice Chevalier and Josephine Baker in a bygone era of tragedy, frivolity and romance in Paris. Jane also gave us beautiful renditions of songs such as "I dreamed a dream" from "Les Miserables" and "Non je ne regrette rien" made famous by Edith Piaf.

In July we also participated in the annual summer fair to raise funds for the Centre. Our stall was "The Grand Draw" and the theme for the fair was "Sporting Heros". There were prizes for the best dressed stall, best dressed adult and best dressed child. It was judged by Mark Murphy (the well known radio presenter) and we were lucky enough to win best dressed stall.



In August, back by popular demand, we are holding a fish and chip evening down the "Hut".

Our next meeting at the Centre on 4th September is entitled "The Stowaways". We meet at the Centre at 7.30. We are a friendly group and visitors are very welcome.

*Rosey Freeman*

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 October, please send any contributions to Dave Songhurst by September 23rd.