



OFCA NEWS

December 2025 – January 2026

Newsletter of the Old Felixstowe Community Association

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

Registered Charity No. 1163286

Update from the Chair

The 52nd Annual General Meeting was held on 16th 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.

Carrying on with the volunteering theme, I would like to welcome David Shipp to the team. David is a semi-retired builder and will help with maintenance jobs around the Centre.

The Management Committee led by Ellie Clark has certainly had a busy year with the refurbishment of the Jane Bolton Lounge and the installation of a new boiler. The Committee are now looking at a makeover in the kitchen and essential work to the roof on the Jane Bolton Lounge.

The Christmas Community Market is being held on Saturday 13th December from 10am until midday. We are putting together a hamper as the main prize in the raffle and 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 13th December.

Celia Page

The Community Centre at the time of Remembrance, thanks go to Gina Cooper





Renewal and Augmentation of the Halls - Winter 2025

We have replaced our old boiler with a new condensing model, removed the old hot water tank and simplified our heating controls. The system is designed to allow hirers to adjust the temperature of each hall to suit their requirements - the thermostatic radiator valves detect the temperature in the room and will switch the radiator on/off accordingly. The system is most energy efficient if the radiators are set at 3 (20°C), but groups can use setting 2 (15°C) or 4(25°C).

It is taking time to educate Hirers not to switch the radiators full on (5) or full off (0) which they did with the old system.



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

www.heelthesoles.co.uk



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Martello Ladies

In October we held our AGM and our present committee members kindly agreed to stay on for another year. One of our committee members stepped down as Treasurer but fortunately one of our existing committee members agreed to take on this role. We then had a lovely cheese and wine buffet to finish off the evening.

In November Liz Turner gave us a talk entitled "Fashion on a Ration" and came equipped with a vast array of forties clothing and memorabilia. We were told that ration books and rationing were introduced during WW2 to ensure the fair distribution of food, clothing and other essentials. Fabric was in short supply, however women became very resourceful by mending and altering existing clothing and also using used parachutes to make wedding dresses. Liz brought along examples to show us and the wedding dresses were particularly beautiful.

Our next meeting at the Community Centre is on 4th December at 7.30. It is entitled "Christmas Cabaret" and promises to be a fun evening. Why not join us? We are a friendly group and visitors are always welcome.

Our annual dinner on January 8th was to be held at the Felixstowe Golf Club but due to unforeseen circumstances had to be cancelled. However the "Spa Theatre Restaurant" has kindly stepped in to host this for us.

Rosey Freeman

Felixstowe Morning WI

Felixstowe Morning WI continues to thrive with some new members joining us this autumn and a full committee being re-elected at our annual meeting in November. In October we welcomed Mary Newton, a forensic scientist of over 40 years experience, who talked about her exciting but grisly career. December will be our Christmas meal and singing by the Colneis Singers. We look forward to a varied programme starting in 2026 with a talk about avoiding scams.

Linda Page, committee member



Brackenbury WI

We recently travelled to the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich, to see their art exhibition. We also had a guided tour, he explained so much. Lunch there was excellent too, the Centre is one I would recommend going to.

Our speaker in October told us about the life of swifts and the huge distances they fly. The library has swift boxes on the side of their building.

November was our AGM and we have had a couple of changes in committee, we are still going from strength to strength. We have a full programme of speakers for 2026 and a few trips planned too.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the Margaret White hall, we don't sing or make jam but if you'd like to make new friends do come along.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Liz Sampson

Visit OFCA's website at <https://www.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.