



# OFCA NEWS

April / May 2026

## Newsletter of the Old Felixstowe Community Association

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

*Registered Charity No. 1163286*

### Update from the Chair

I do hope this newsletter finds you well and now the days are getting longer we can look forward to Spring.

The kitchen is being refurbished as I type this newsletter and we are looking forward to the final results. Most groups have been able to continue to use the Centre but understandably a few have had to cancel their bookings. Thanks go to everyone for their understanding during this time, I am sure the results will be worth it. A small Committee has been responsible for the design so my thanks go to Jacky Fairweather, Liz Sampson and Angela Pratt.

The work to the roof on the Jane Bolton Lounge should commence in June, with part of it being funded by the money received via the Postcode Lottery.

The next Community Market is being held on Saturday 11th April from 10am until midday. We have a great team led by Elaine Wright and Lyn Osborne who organises the tables. It is becoming ever popular with the emphasis on community spirit which is evident by the lively chatter in the Jane Bolton Lounge. I must thank the ladies of Brackenbury WI who provide wonderful cakes, cheese straws (my favourite) and sausage rolls along with many cups of tea and coffee. The Mayor, Corrine Franklin, will be joining us at the Market to see our new kitchen and tour the Centre.

As many more houses are being built in Felixstowe lots of new people are moving into the area and may like to visit the Community Centre. If you would like to advertise your group/organisation in our newsletter and on our website please email a short description of the activity, time and cost and send it to [dave.songhurst@gmail.com](mailto:dave.songhurst@gmail.com)

*Celia Page*

## Seniors Table Tennis

Our oldest member Jim Bann celebrated his 90th birthday in February, he not only plays table tennis but also tennis at least three times a week at the Community Centre, he is an inspiration to all!!!

Table tennis has definitely gained in popularity and our club is full to capacity with a healthy waiting list too.



## Brackenbury WI

We celebrated our 57th birthday in March. Our speaker Jan Reeder explained and demonstrated the art of hats, we were able to determine our face shape and which hat would suit better.

Coming up we have the St Elizabeth Hospice in April. We also have an outing to the Food Museum in Stowmarket, following which we will have a 60's school dinner. Our walks are continuing along with our monthly coffee morning and lunches at various venues.

If you would like to meet and make new friends please do come along, we meet on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Margaret White Hall. A warm welcome is guaranteed.

*Liz Sampson*

### 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



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



**hope**  
trust  
helping older people

## Martello Ladies

In February John Whitehead entertained us with a talk about "The History of Hatting". Our members were invited to attend the meeting wearing a hat and this sparked much conversation and merriment. We learnt that Atherstone in North Warwickshire was once a major centre for the British hatting industry focusing on felted fur/wool hats and employing thousands. However their trade largely declined by the 1970s and the final factory was closed in 1999. Historically driven by felt and fur, modern hat making has transitioned to include various fabrics, straw and sustainable synthetics.



In March Amanda Richmond (formerly a P.E. teacher in Suffolk) told us her story, illustrated with great photos, of the preparation for and the 10 week expedition to conquer Everest in 2009. She was part of a 13 strong group but only four (including Amanda) reached the summit. It appeared to be an enormous task which included lots of preparation before she could even attempt the climb. It also included going up and down the mountain several times gradually going higher each time to get accustomed to the altitude and other conditions.

On April 2nd our meeting is entitled "Carving a name for himself". Why not join us? We are a friendly group who meet in the Centre at 7.30 and visitors are always welcome. We are not meeting at the Centre in May due to the local elections, however we will be going on our annual "Mystery Trip".

*Rosey Freeman*

## News from Dance Inspiration

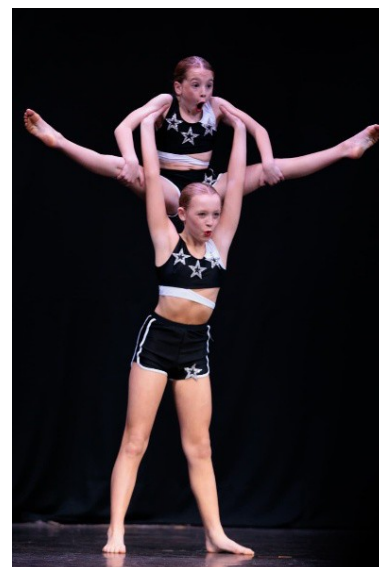
Shannon Spurdens' Dance Inspiration meet in the Community Centre on Mondays and Fridays, as well as the occasional Saturday. Weekend sessions are dedicated to rehearsals for dance competitions.

Dance competitions are a wonderful opportunity for the girls to showcase their talents alongside their peers and perform in front of a professional judge. The most recent competition took place in February, and they did absolutely brilliantly, returning home with more medals than we can count!

Among the overall awards achieved were:

- 🌟 Standout Personality Award
- 🏆 Highest Class A – Novice Solo
- 🏆 Highest Class B – Novice Solo
- 🏆 Highest Class C – Novice Solo
- 🏆 Highest Class F – Novice Solo
- 🏆 Highest Quartet

We are incredibly proud of all the dancers for their hard work, dedication, and fantastic achievements. Well done to everyone involved!



## Felixstowe Morning WI

We enjoyed a very interesting talk in February from Janet Dunn, a former teacher at Felixstowe College, tracing the influences and development of the English language. Many of us didn't realise how many of our common phrases and words have been imported from other languages. No wonder English is so hard to learn!

March saw us enjoying a good sing song courtesy of Stephen Amer from The Voice cLOUD, an organisation which works with lots of different communities to enhance health through singing. We had a thoroughly good morning rounded off by a cuppa and collecting the poppies we have been making to send to "Walking with Giants".

*Linda Page, committee member*

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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 June, please send any contributions to Dave Songhurst by May 23rd.