



OFCA NEWS

August / September 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 trust this newsletter finds you well and I hope you are enjoying the summer.

I am happy to report that eventually the scaffolding has been removed from the Centre and the work to the roof has been completed. It did take longer than we expected and I apologise for any inconvenience caused throughout the works. I would like to say a big thank you to Paul Weavers and Ellie Clarke who oversaw the project and liaised with the roofing contractors.

The Summer Fair was held on Saturday 13th June and raised the magnificent sum of £2,002. The stalls are run by our affiliated organisations and all profits come to the Association so it is a really worthwhile fundraiser. This year a colouring competition was held and this generated a lot more interest and encouraged many more children to come along and enjoy the Fair. My thanks go to all the affiliated organisations who ran stalls, to Elaine Wright who masterminds the whole event, all the helpers on the day and to Gemma Gooch for her invaluable help with the colouring competition.

A few months ago, we appointed David Shipp as handyman and he has proved to be extremely helpful, always ready to check out any problems we may experience. David is now going to tend to the front garden at the Community Centre so we thank him for stepping into that role.

The Centre continues to be very busy and attracts new hirers both one offs and regular ones. This does put extra pressure on our committees so if you feel you would like to join the team, please contact me.

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

Celia Page

OFCA Summer Fair, June 13th

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Fair and all who attended. It was good to see so many of our Affiliated groups running their stalls. We had a great result and everyone seemed to be having a good time.

We had some amazing art work submitted by the local children with some worthy winners.



(Thanks to Gemma Gooch for photos)

Our OFCA monthly Markets have been going well and raised £4,591 over the past year. They are a great opportunity for people to meet up with friends and neighbours and also have a chat with the Parish Nurses who attend, willing to listen to any problems and concerns you may have and can signpost you for further help. Come and get your blood pressure checked or get information on conditions worrying you.

We are having a break for the summer but will be back in September on Saturday 12th. Hope to see you then.

Elaine Wright

OFCA AGM

Advance notice that the OFCA AGM this year will be on Thursday October 15th at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be available on the OFCA website nearer the date.

Felixstowe Area Social Club for the over 55s

(formerly known as the Old Felixstowe Community Centre Retirement Club)

We hold our meetings in the Community Centre every second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm, where you could be listening to an interesting talk or taking part in a quiz.

We have a Strawberry Tea in July and entertainment at Christmas which this year is the Bruvs. Recently we had talks from the Cinnamon Trust, Suffolk Energy, and a very entertaining one from Steph McIntyre regarding her time behind the mic on Radio Suffolk and now on Suffolk Sounds.

A few of our members ran a stall at the Summer Fair to raise funds for the Community Centre. We were very pleased that we managed the great sum of £100 whilst enjoying some of the cakes that could be bought from one of the other stalls, they were lovely.

On Tuesday the 14th July the club had a Quiz set by Elaine Jay, as usual very hard for some of us, but all good fun, with the winners each receiving a box of chocolates. After having our normal raffle we all sat and enjoyed our Strawberry Teas and had a good old natter.

At our next meeting in August, we are having a talk being given by Chris Parfitt who is very knowledgeable with regard to his subject and so tends to make them very interesting and enjoyable. We are all looking forward to it.

We are a friendly bunch and always looking for new members, tea, coffee and biscuits supplied.

OUR MEMBERSHIP OPENS ON THE 13TH OCTOBER 2026 WITH AGM AND A QUIZ

MEMBERSHIP £5.00 per annum, ENTRANCE £2.50. VISITORS £3.50

Margaret 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: 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



Felixstowe Garden Club

Firstly a big Thank You to the many customers who supported our plant stall at OFCA's Summer Fair.

Two weeks later our own Annual Flower and Produce Show took place, a few weeks earlier than usual; and how glad we are that it was ...we would probably have had to cancel the Show due to lack of flowers or produce due to zero rain since who knows when!

Our July Meeting saw a bumper audience enjoy a lively and engaging talk 'Bees Flowers and Honey' by Marian and Chris Stephens who are local beekeepers from Trimley. Their honey is delicious!

A week later a full coach took a wonderful trip to RHS Sandringham Flower Show. We were a day late in rubbing shoulders with Royalty but still had an amazing time!

If you are wondering how to revive your garden why not come along to our meeting on Tuesday 11th August to hear a talk by Gregory Veness entitled 'Successional Planting'.

Free refreshments from 6.30 pm. Start time is 7pm. £3 cash for visitors. You can be assured of a warm welcome. Our September meeting is on Tuesday 8th, Dr Andrew Babicz will be telling us about the Gardens of Inverewe & the Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh.

Caroll Wallace

Martello Ladies

In June we held a social evening of games and quizzes, a chance to exercise the brain cells a bit and also have some fun and socialise together. No prizes but with sweets for everyone at the end. Members also donated very generously to the Grand Draw at the OFCA Summer Fair which seemed popular with Martello's contribution being £310.

In July we were pleased to welcome once again Jane Hoggar to speak to us. This time she gave us a talk entitled "The Magic of the Musicals". She entertained us with fascinating backstage stories from the world of musical theatre and sang some of our favourite songs including "Maybe this time", "Sweet Charity", "Hey Big Spender" and "Shall we dance?" She was supported by her husband Steve who amusingly added some comedy to the routine.



In August back by popular demand we are holding a fish and chip evening and this time it is being held at the Sailing Club.

Our next meeting at the Community Centre on 3rd September is entitled "Undies". Amused? Why not come along? We meet at the Centre at 7.30. We are a friendly group and visitors are very welcome.

Rosey Freeman

Brackenbury WI

We enjoyed being a part of the successful OFCA Summer Fair, busy serving refreshments in the Lounge.

We're looking forward to our Summer Meeting next month, which will be an afternoon in the wonderful garden of one of our Members. We're busy planning food and drink, quizzes, a "bring & buy" table and music. We're hoping for a pleasant sunny day.

In September, Sonya Burrows is coming to talk about gardening in drought conditions. Following our summer of heatwaves, we will all be keen to hear tips and hints to help us.

Have a lovely summer.

Yvonne Barclay

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