



OFCA NEWS

October / November 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 hope this newsletter finds you well and you enjoyed the amazing summer albeit rather too hot at times!

I would like to pay a special tribute to some very special volunteers in this edition of the newsletter. Margaret Lamacraft has been running a stall in aid of the Community Association for forty years, for example £400 was raised last year. Over the years Margaret has been joined by the late Anne Lee and in recent years Ann Truselle, their last Community Market was on Saturday 12th September. I would like to thank them both for all their hard work over the years. Margaret's ability to source items for the stall is legendary, at least she'll have room in her garage now!

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.

This will be my last "Update from the Chair" as I am standing down as Chair at the Annual General Meeting in October so I would like to thank my colleagues for all their support. I will still however be involved with the Association as I will carry on as joint Administrator and be a member of the Management Committee.

Celia Page

OFCA AGM

The 2026 AGM will be on Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. All are welcome but voting is restricted to residents of Old Felixstowe and Officers of the Association. We look forward to seeing you there! The Agenda is available on the OFCA website.

Felixstowe Morning WI

Felixstowe Morning WI returned from a welcome summer break to a fascinating talk from Mark, a volunteer fundraiser with Guide Dogs, about the history of Guide dogs, their training buddy and ambassador dogs. We were able to give him a generous donation. We met his ambassador dog, 3 year old Mickey, who enjoyed saying hello to all the ladies.



We will celebrate WI day on the 16th with an outing to see Calendar Girls at the Wolsey theatre. On 28th we have an open tea and cake afternoon for any local women to discover WI. All welcome... Call Linda on 07727 885568 for details.

Linda Page

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



Brackenbury WI

🎂 *Women's Institute - Inspiring Women* 🎂

The Women's Institute celebrated its 111th birthday on the 16th of September 2026. Brackenbury WI was formed in 1969 and we mark our birthday in March every year.

We acknowledge our Members' birthdays at our monthly meeting and send a card to wish them a wonderful time on their special day.

Who doesn't enjoy a slice of birthday cake with friends 🎂 .

Yvonne Barclay



Martello Ladies

In August we had a delicious fish and chip supper at the newly refurbished "Thyme and Tide" restaurant at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club. This beautiful restaurant has panoramic views of the river Deben.



In September Liz Turner gave us a very interesting talk about "Undies and Lingerie" from the Victorian era to the present day. She also brought with her a vast array of garments to show us including amusing Victorian combination garments. We learnt that Victorian ladies were laced up to have a waist no more than 22 inches!

We were shown examples of World War II mass-produced coupon rationed utility garments which were made to conserve scarce fabrics like wool and cotton. We also learnt about the history of the famous "Etam" store which was first opened in Berlin selling synthetic stockings and muslin underwear and opened stores in London in 1923. Unfortunately the UK shops were closed down in 2005 after the chain was bought and broken up.

Rosey Freeman



Felixstowe Garden Club

Our water butts have finally been replenished and the grass has patches of green once more!

Us gardeners are always looking forwards and our speaker on 13th October will be Talking all about Bulbs. Matthew Tanton Brown is a well known and very knowledgeable horticulturalist as well as being a very entertaining speaker. He will also be bringing some bulbs for sale! Free refreshments from 6.30 pm. Start time 7pm, £3 cash entry for visitors.

Tuesday 10th November meeting will be a floral demonstration for Christmas, come along to be inspired! Last year in the summer, Annette and Jan produced an amazing display which several lucky people took home as raffle prizes .Do come along! Happy Autumn planting to you all.

Caroll Wallace

Visit OFCA's website at <https://www.olfelixstoweca.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 December, please send any contributions to Dave Songhurst by November 23rd.