## The Felixstowe Society Newsletter

**Issue Number 107**  
**Contents**  
**1 September 2014**

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Registered Charity No. 277442  
Founded 1978
The Felixstowe Society is established for the public benefit of people who either live or work in Felixstowe and Walton. Members are also very welcome from the Trimleys and the surrounding villages. The Society endeavours to:

- stimulate public interest in these areas,
- promote high standards of planning and architecture
- and secure the improvement, protection, development
- and preservation of the local environment.

**Chairman:** Roger Baker, 5 Princes Gardens, Felixstowe, IP11 7RH, 282526  
**Vice Chairman:** Philip Hadwen, 54 Fairfield Ave., Felixstowe, IP11 9JJ, 286008  
**Secretary:** Trish Hann, 49 Foxgrove Lane, Felixstowe, IP11 7JU, 271902  
**Treasurer:** Susanne Barsby, 1 Berners Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7LF, 276602

**Membership Subscriptions**

- Annual Membership - single £7  
- Joint Membership - two people at same address £10  
- Corporate Membership (for local organisations who wish to support The Society)  
  - Non-commercial £15  
  - Commercial £20  
- Young people under the age of 18 free

The subscription runs from the 1 January.

The **Membership Secretary** is Betty Woollan, The Pines, Manor Road, Trimley St Mary, Felixstowe, IP11 0TU.

Members are reminded that the Society’s booklets **The Cotman Walk** and **Walking around Felixstowe** are available from the Tourist Information Centre and Stillwater Books.

The next **Newsletter** will be distributed by the delivery team at the beginning of January.

**Editor:** Tony Hughes, 18 Brook Lane, Felixstowe, IP11 7EG, 276128.

**Contributions for the January Newsletter** must be with the Editor by 20 November preferably by Email (tony.lizalan@btinternet.com).
Notes from the Chairman

By the time you read this, The Society’s summer break will be coming to an end and the autumn’s programme of Speakers’ Evenings will be starting with a talk on the 23 September by Doreen Savage entitled “My Felixstowe”. I hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and are now ready to support our activities with renewed vigour!

In May, Keith and Elizabeth Horn organised our first two-day trip – it was to Chartwell and to Leeds Castle plus a brief visit to Rochester. Everything worked perfectly thanks to Keith’s and Elizabeth’s hard work and everyone enjoyed the visit. See later in this Newsletter for a detailed visit report. Given the success of this first longer trip, we are already planning something similar in 2015.

The next big event is the Heritage Weekend which runs from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September. Phil Hadwen is looking for Society members who would be willing to act as guides, stewards, and general helpers. If you would like to take part, contact Phil on 01394 286008.

A big disappointment has been the news that work on the Spa Gardens shows no sign of starting despite promises that it would begin this summer. We are therefore certain to have disruption during this summer season even if work were to start now but there seems to be a distinct possibility that the 2015 visitor season will also be affected.

SCDC’s website states the following:-

“The meetings with the prospective contractors were very positive with companies showing a genuine interest in completing the works. I am optimistic that we are now well on the way towards selecting and appointing a new contractor to complete the renovation work and get the gardens re-opened by the middle of next year.”

On the 28 April, The Society held a plaque unveiling event at the former Bartlet Convalescent Home on Bath Hill. This was to commemorate the centenary (to the very day) of the burning down by two suffragettes of the Bath Hotel which stood on the site. The event was covered by the BBC’s “Look East” local news.

Thanks to those of you who attended the AGM on the 20 May. Normally we present the Enhancement of the Environment Awards to the winners at the AGM but, as we announced at the meeting, we have decided to delay the presentations until the Speakers’ Evening on the 25 November when the architect of the Fludyer Arms Hotel development (which is one of the winners) will be speaking to us.

On the 18 July, Meg and I attended the Mayor’s reception at the Felixstowe Academy. It was an excellent event and allowed us to see the wonderful facilities that the new school provides – so different from what we had when we were in secondary school! Amongst other things, the Mayor introduced the new Town Clerk, Ash Tadjrishi, and expressed the hope that his appointment would end the period of uncertainty which has existed for some time.

Roger Baker
Speaker Meetings for 2014

All speaker meeting are held at the Salvation Army Church starting at 7.30pm.
Admission £1 members £2 visitors

Tuesday 23 September - My Felixstowe
Councillor and former Mayor of Felixstowe, Doreen Savage, speaks about her memories and hopes for our town

Tuesday 28 October - Behind "Spotlight on Felixstowe"
Peter Moss tells us about the production of this popular monthly magazine

Tuesday 25 November - The Fludyer Arms Hotel and Bethesda Baptist Church
The architects of both properties explain the development of the two sites

Tuesday 9 December - A Christmas Celebration
Members of The Felixstowe Society start the celebrations with a collection of readings and music

Speaker Meetings for 2015

Tuesday 27 January - Suffolk War Memorials
Bev Boyce, our Publicity Officer, talks about her fascinating work with these precious monuments

Tuesday 24 February - Suffolk Coastal Erosion
Graham Henderson, Chairman of SCAR (Suffolk Coast Against Retreat) tells us about the latest developments along the Suffolk coast particularly in our area

Tuesday 24 March - An Evening with Peter Phillips
Local thespian and author talks about his experiences of Felixstowe

Tuesday 19 May - AGM + Felixstowe at Risk
Our Vice-Chairman explains and illustrates, the many worrying developments that threaten the ambience of our beautiful town

Lifts for Members

It has been brought to our notice that several members are unable to attend our winter series of Speaker Evenings because of transport difficulties. Hopefully this can be remedied in the near future by having someone in The Society responsible for arranging lifts for these members.

Therefore if there is anyone who could undertake this task please approach our chairman, Roger Baker, or one of the committee members. Also if there are any members who would be prepared to help with the transport then please contact the number below.

Finally if you require a lift contact Phil Hadwen on 01394 286008 and he will try to arrange this.
Remember Heritage Weekend!
12, 13 and 14 September

This is the second time that we will be organising and sponsoring the Heritage Weekend and plans are almost in place for a bigger and better event than the previous occasion. We hope to have four private properties available for viewing, all with great architectural interest and there are several other properties new to our list. Some of the "old faithfuls" are again available, as not everyone visited them last time.

There are more walks and talks and once again we will have a Hub, St Mary’s Church Hall, Walton where there will be displays and refreshments.

New this year will be an unveiling of another Felixstowe Society Plaque, this time to Sammy Wall, a local personality and foremost local historian of his time.

Help is always needed and if you could spare a few hours to help in any way at all it would really be appreciated. Do please contact Phil Hadwen on 01394 286008 or phil.hadwen@tiscali.co.uk to offer your services.

The last time we were involved we were joint twenty-eighth with Durham, with about thirty events. This year we are starting on the Friday and have in the region of fifty things that can be experienced.

A detailed coloured booklet will be available from the last week of August with full details of all the events.

PLEASE SUPPORT US!

Wanted – Garage to Rent

The Felixstowe Society owns a ride-on mower and a trailer which are used to maintain Abbey Grove.

We are about to lose the garage where we normally keep this equipment and are looking for alternative storage.

Do you have a garage which you would be willing to rent or do you know of anyone who might have one which they could make available to us?

If you have any suggestions, please contact:-

Keith Horn on 01394 270845
Architectural Survey 2014

On page 22 of the May Newsletter the need for a Survey was made and how it should be done.

A form was enclosed with the May Newsletter for completion and submission.

Because of the interest shown we have extended the deadline for entries until 1 November so that we can take in our Heritage Weekend. Remember every member of The Society has a vote, joint membership means two entries. If you have mislaid your form they will be available at our autumn speaker meetings or from Phil Hadwen, 54 Fairfield Road, Felixstowe to whom they should be returned. You can also send your choice by e-mail at phil.hadwen@tiscali.co.uk

Don’t forget to take part and help us to build up a record of the favourite properties in our town.

Extra Event - Orwell Memories

Tuesday 4 November at the Salvation Army Church at 7.30pm

The Felixstowe Society will be hosting this special event. Anyone who has any memories to share about their time at Felixstowe Secondary Modern School, Felixstowe Middle School or Orwell High School are invited to attend.

With the demise of the school building The Felixstowe Society has decided that a fitting end to the school’s life would be an evening of memories: nostalgia, laughter and possibly tears! Do please join us.

Awards for the Enhancement of the Environment

At the AGM held on the 20 May The Society made the following Awards :-

To Dick and Verena Daniels of 34 Gainsborough Road for the Innovative conversion of an old church and artists’ studio into a comfortable modern dwelling.

and

To the Fludyer Arms Hotel for the restoration of an historic building into a modern property with enhancing up to date features.

These Awards are illustrated on pages 7 and 8.

Both Awards will be presented at the Society’s meeting on 25 November.
The Felixstowe Society

Award for the Enhancement of the Environment

presented to

Dick and Verena Daniels of 34 Gainsborough Road.

for the

Innovative conversion of an old church and artists studio into a comfortable modern dwelling

Roger Baker

Chairman
The Felixstowe Society

Award for the Enhancement of the Environment

presented to
Fludyer Arms Hotel

for the
Sensitive restoration of an historic building into a modern property with enhancing up to date features

Roger Baker

Chairman
Donation by The Society

At the Speaker evening on 25 March, Chairman Roger Baker presented a cheque for £1339 to the Mayor, Jan Garfield.

Phil Hadwen, Vice –Chairman of The Society wrote a superb booklet for the Wings On Waves event which took place on 4 August, 2013. This event celebrated 100 years of Seaplanes in Felixstowe and the establishment of Felixstowe Air Station on 5 August 1913.

The souvenir booklet proved extremely popular and The Society was very proud to be able to present the cheque which the Mayor will add to her fund for local charities - Guide Dogs for the Blind and St Elizabeth Hospice.

Many thanks to Phil Hadwen for his hard work in producing such a comprehensive and informative booklet.

Bev Boyce

Our Local MP

On Friday 11 April, Thérèse Coffey gave an interesting insight to The Society into life as an MP which, she reminded us, does not stand for Magical Powers.

After giving a potted history of her background and admitting that, after four years here she is now ‘Suffolkated’, Thérèse reflected on what she thinks makes a good MP, namely tenacity, and that she has learnt which battles she can win. Helping constituents at her surgery is proving very rewarding and she has now moved her constituency office to Felixstowe as the town and the Trimleys comprise one fifth of her electorate. The size of the constituency was highlighted by Thérèse as being the equivalent length of the journey from London to Brighton.

Some of the issues which have arisen during
Thérèse’s first few years have included predictable ones such as the battle against the proposed A14 toll charges which, she believes, was won by a tenacious, polite and careful approach to the presentation of the issues. The involvement of the local Chamber of Commerce, coupled with a petition and the trump card of Thérèse’s question in the House, to the Prime Minister, won the day.

One of her casework issues has concerned people waiting hours for an ambulance in rural areas. Thérèse called for the Chief Executive of the James Paget Hospital to resign his post; a terrible week ensued for the MP who was criticised by a former local MP but the local press recognised that Thérèse was standing up for patients. The Chief Executive did resign and Thérèse’s proudest achievement to date was getting rid of the entire board of the Ambulance Trust. A new board now has a turnaround plan to improve rural response times. Other issues Thérèse mentioned were her efforts to give the County Council ‘a hard time’ with regard to low attainment rates in Suffolk schools, working with other Suffolk MPs to improve local rail services and supporting further investment in the Port of Felixstowe.

The life of an MP can involve some nifty footwork such as ensuring a seat for prayers in the Chamber of the House before the day’s business. Thérèse compared getting a seat to the way in which Germans use their beach towels to reserve the best beach loungers! It can also be a hard life, for example when an emergency debate in the house prevented Thérèse from attending the World Cup in South Africa. Her professional life also has its compensations such as when, as a member of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, she was present when Rupert Murdoch was ‘custard pied’!

It is certainly a busy life with time spent in the constituency on Fridays and weekends as well as time, during the rest of the week in the House, scrutinising legislation and taking part in debates. Thérèse will only have one week’s holiday this year in Scotland and part of that holiday will be spent campaigning for the ‘Better Together’ group in the referendum. Thérèse is surprised that so few Suffolk residents have visited Parliament so she would encourage Society members to visit - perhaps with Thérèse as the tour guide?

Bev Boyce

Felixstowe Walkers

As you will know by now ‘Felixstowe Walkers’ is the walking group of The Felixstowe Society. Walks are usually between two and three miles and tend to end at a pub or café so we can socialise after the walk.

We have enjoyed a varied programme of walks since the middle of May. On 14 May we visited Landguard Common for a circular walk that ended up at the Viewpoint Café. The weather was kind and the views across to Harwich were

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magnificent. On 29 May we did a walk around Old Felixstowe starting and ending at the Brackenbury Centre and going for refreshments after at ‘Tea and Antiques’ opposite. We all remarked that what we regarded as commonplace in our youth were now regarded as ‘collectables’.

On Tuesday 3 June, 36 of us went on an outing to Walberswick and Southwold. Many thanks to Keith Horn for arranging the transport and making sure everyone got on and off at the right time.

The weather forecast was not particularly good but it stayed fine for the walk from Walberswick to Southwold with only a short, but heavy, downpour just before the return journey to Felixstowe. The walk started at St Andrews Church, Walberswick – remodelled as a smaller church within the ruins of an older one. Along the way we passed the former station on the Halesworth to Southwold railway – now only marked by a bench and a plaque. The accompanying photo shows walkers on the track by the site. Crossing the river and cutting across the golf course brought us into Southwold by the water towers next to the green.

On Friday 13 June we did a walk in the countryside around Kirton with views across to the Deben Estuary, ending up at the White Horse – an old fashioned ‘local’ pub increasingly rare these days.

On 26 June another fine day, we did a circular walk from the United Reformed Church in Orwell Road, after only a short initial pause to collect those who had gone to Trinity Methodist Church instead. We walked down to the prom by the leisure centre, along to the Spa, then up the steps to the cliff top and returned to the church where we enjoyed Fairtrade refreshments – including homemade cakes.

The walks continued during July and August and the September to December programme follows. Do join us if you can. If you would like to receive a copy of our programme by email contact us at felixstowewalkers@hotmail.co.uk.

**Programme: September to December 2014**

**Wednesday 10 September**

**The Grove**

A walk through the only natural woodland on the peninsular, meeting at 10.30 in The Grove car park.

Distance 2 ¾ miles Grade 3

**Tuesday 23 September**

**Martlesham Heath**
A walk through woodlands and heathland, meet at 10.30 in the M & S Simply Food car park.
Distance 3 miles Grade 2

Monday 6 October Trimley St Martin
A walk through fields towards the river Orwell, meet at 10.30 in the Trimley Social Club car park.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 3

Friday 17 October Rendlesham Forest
An Autumn walk through Rendlesham Forest following the UFO trail.
Meet at 11.00 at the first car park on the right after turning off the B1084 towards the visitor centre.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 3

Thursday 30 October Fairtrade Walk
Enjoy Old Felixstowe and then finish with a cup of Fairtrade Coffee in the Methodist Church.
Meet at 10.30 outside Trinity Methodist Church, Hamilton Road.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 2

Wednesday 12 November Landguard Peninsular
Take a walk around the nature reserve and finish at the new Viewpoint Café.
Meet at 10.30 at the car park outside the entrance to the fort.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 2

Tuesday 25 November Woodbridge
An Autumn walk along the River Deben. Meet at 10.30 in the car park adjacent to The Deben Pool.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 2

Friday 5 December Christmas Tree Festival
A walk around Felixstowe from the Salvation Army Citadel finishing with a visit to its Christmas Tree Festival.
Meet at 10.30 at the Salvation Army Citadel in Cobbold Road.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 1

Thursday 18 December Felixstowe Ferry
A Winter walk near the mouth of the River Deben followed by a Christmas Drink in The Ferry Boat Inn. Meet at 11.00 outside St Nicholas Church.
Distance 2 ½ miles Grade 2

Please note that the distances quoted are the maximum and we can accommodate shorter walks where required.

Grading system:
1) On easy flat good surfaces
2) Mostly on the level but can be muddy in places
3) Generally good surfaces but some moderate slopes and mud in wet weather
4) More challenging – may include steeper slopes, rough ground and mud in wet weather
The Felixstowe Walkers are part of The Felixstowe Society and regular walkers will be expected to become members of The Society. Annual membership is £7, or £10 for two adults at the same address. For further details of membership see the last two pages of this Newsletter. Copies of the above programme can be obtained from the library, Tourist Information Centre or e-mail felixstowewalkers@hotmail.co.uk.

Laurence Gilbert

St John the Baptist - Organ Rebuild

Members of The Felixstowe Society may be interested in a forthcoming event, organised by the Suffolk Organists’ Association (SOA) on 15 November, 2014 at St John’s Church in Felixstowe in connection with the major rebuild and enlargement of the fine 3-manual organ in the church – an important moment in the church’s history.

The planned programme for 15 November is:

2.00 pm - Illustrated talk on the organist’s concepts and the role in the planning of the rebuild by Jeremy Prentice (organist of St John the Baptist).
2.45 pm - Talk on the role of the organ builder by Simon Pulham of Bishop and Son of Ipswich, Organ Builders.
3.15 pm - Opportunity for SOA members to play the organ.
4.00 pm - Refreshments.
4.30 pm - Organ recital to put the ‘new’ instrument through its paces to be given by Peter Crompton (retired Director of Music at the Royal Hospital School and organist for the Remembrance Service at the Royal Albert Hall on the previous Saturday to this event).
5.30 pm - Further chance for SOA members to play the organ.

Felixstowe Society members who may be interested in hearing the talks and/or the recital will be welcome to attend; it has to be pointed out that the talks are aimed at organists and so may contain some technical terms, less familiar to non-organists! Peter Crompton’s recital will entertain a general rather than an organ buff’s audience – he suggested he might play an organ version of “Oh I do like to be Beside the Seaside” as being appropriate!

Donations will be welcome from audience members to help defray the costs.

Background (from St John’s web-site)

The organ in St John's church was built by the Norwich firm of Norman and Beard in 1895. It was subsequently rebuilt in 1929 by Spurden Rutt of Leytonstone, who provided a new stop key console (see photo left) behind the north choir stalls. Additions at this time included the fine Pedal Trombone stop.

By 1991 the pneumatic action had come to the end of its working life and a further rebuild was undertaken by Boggis of Diss, Norfolk. At this
time the action was electrified and a new drawstop console provided together with six new stops. As it stands today, the organ is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the area having 32 speaking stops and 17 couplers controlling approximately 1,700 pipes.

The instrument is now showing its age and design faults, with some essential repairs being impossible to carry out due to the awkward location of the console. The layout of the pipework in the organ chamber is also less than ideal, with the Choir Organ pipes being buried between the rear of the Swell Box and the Pedal Open Wood.

A scheme has therefore been drawn up for a complete overhaul of the organ and the work entrusted to Bishop and Son of Ipswich. The layout of pipework in the organ chamber will be altered to enable the Choir Organ to be heard more clearly in the chancel and a brand new oak drawstop console provided on a mobile platform at the east end of the nave.

A number of tonal improvements will be made, including a new 16ft reed on the Swell Organ, a Tuba and Nazard on the Choir Organ and the remodelling of the Great and Swell Mixtures.

The work has started, and when complete (probably around Easter 2014) the organ will have 40 speaking stops and approximately 1,900 pipes.

While the main organ is out of action, Bishop and Son have provided the church with a temporary three manual organ, which is currently located at the west end of the church – see photo above

Phil Speirs

New Felixstowe Society Plaque

On Monday 28 April 2014 at 10.30am over thirty people gathered to observe the unveiling of the latest Felixstowe Society Plaque. Exactly one hundred years to the day two suffragettes - Evaline Hilda Burkitt and Florence Olivia Tunks since conspired to burn down the Bath Hotel. Their fire caused major damage, and maximum publicity for their cause. Felixstowe made the national news because of this.

The two accomplices were soon arrested and after a brief trial at the Suffolk Assizes in Bury St Edmunds they were sentenced to prison terms of two years and nine months respectively. During this time they were force fed in Holloway prison. They were eventually released in August 1914, at the onset of the First World War.

Our plaque not only commemorates this event, it does not celebrate it, but pays respect to the building, built in 1839, which for many years was the premier hotel in the area.
Two local authors, Dick Moffat and Wayne Bridges, who have both written books on the subject, sponsored and unveiled the plaque, which is placed on the only part of the old hotel that is still standing.

Much credit must go to Peter Blemings of Gipping Homes and his company who helped make this event successful. The Felixstowe Society received considerable attention from the media for promoting this event.

Phil Hadwen

Present at the unveiling:
Phil Hadwen, Peter Blemings, Wayne Bennett, Dick Moffat, and Roger Baker
Visit to Chartwell & Leeds Castle, 17 to 18 May 2014

This was the first two-day visit arranged by The Society; 48 members took part.

We arrived at Chartwell late morning on the 17 May. Chartwell is the former home of Winston Churchill who lived there from 1922 until his death in 1965. It has its origins in the 14th century but was added to over the centuries and underwent considerable modification during Winston Churchill’s ownership, including the addition of a complete rear wing (see photo). It is set on a prominent position overlooking the rolling Kent countryside – a view which Winston Churchill said inspired him in his determination never to allow the Germans to invade Britain in the darkest days of the war.

As well as being a politician, Winston Churchill was a prolific author of books and newspaper articles throughout his life – he won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1953. Writing was not just a pastime: despite his noble birth, he was not a wealthy man and relied on his earnings from writing to survive.

Indeed, by the end of the war, he could barely afford to continue living in Chartwell so seventeen of his wealthy friends each contributed £5,000 to buy Chartwell from him; he was allowed to live there until his death when the property was taken over by The National Trust.

The extensive gardens contain a studio in which are exhibited many of Churchill’s paintings; there is also evidence of his passion for bricklaying, including a small...
cottage which he built for his daughter, Mary (see right above)

We spent the night in a hotel in Ashford and enjoyed a pleasant meal together:-

The following day, we visited Leeds Castle, near Maidstone. Its origins go back to Saxon times (“Leeds” means “slope” or “hillside”) but the current buildings date from after the Norman Conquest. It has been the private property of six of England’s medieval queens, a palace used by Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, a Jacobean country house, and a Georgian mansion. Major additions were made in the 19th century but the owners fell victim to the cost of maintaining the property and to death duties and so, in 1926, it was rescued from dereliction by a hugely wealthy American, Lady Bailie, who was heiress to the Standard Oil fortune of her father. Money really was no object and over the years until her death in 1974 she spent fabulous sums of money on the restoration of the Castle.

We were fortunate to have the services of a guide for a private tour of the castle before it opened to the public.

To complete the weekend, we stopped for a few hours on our return journey in Rochester; The town has a very impressive Norman castle and a cathedral (the second oldest in
England which was founded in 604, just seven years after St Augustine established Christianity in England at Canterbury).

Rochester was well known to Charles Dickens who moved from London to live in nearby Chatham when his father got a job in the naval dockyard. The High Street certainly has a very Dickensian look about it and many of the buildings feature in Dickens’ novels under different names.

Everyone agreed that the weekend was an unqualified success, thanks to the hard work and planning of Keith and Elizabeth Horn. We all hoped that more two-day trips would be arranged: we already have some suggestions for possible destinations in 2015 but if any members would like to make recommendations, just let Keith know (01394 270845 or kjandehorn@btinternet.com).

Roger Baker

The Story of a House

Once upon a time, there was a house called Grapevine Cottage. It stood in Ferry Road, Old Felixstowe, quite close to the Community Centre, opposite what is now 2 Ferry Road. It was demolished (not by me) about 1958 to enlarge the garden which became my property in 1966. Grapevine Cottage, sometimes called The Cottage, must have been a substantial building. The ground area was about the same as the total area of four nearby cottages.

It was sold by Ernest George Pretyman in 1899 to Hannah Louise Hall (spinster). She sold it in 1909 to Paul Higgs (shoemaker) who then sold it in 1926 to Harry Yorke (postman). On the death of Harry in 1940 his widow, Eleanor Mary Yorke, went to live in Australia with her son. The house stood empty for many years and fell into decay. When it was purchased in 1956 by Donald Farthing (then a builder) it was declared derelict and he obtained permission to demolish it.

Donald bought the adjacent plot of land from Charles and Alfred Adams and subsequently built the house which is now mine. He used an architect named David Bedford who came up with the open-plan Swedish style which was just becoming fashionable. The story goes that the same architect designed two more houses in this area, both in Trimley, before leaving Suffolk.

Incidentally, Donald did not remove from site all the rubble from Grapevine Cottage. My wife and I well remember taking away 180 barrow loads of bricks and other rubbish. We rescued and re-used several hundred rather attractive half-round bricks from the old well-head.

In an attempt to learn more about Grapevine Cottage I played around with Google, and eventually hit a winning streak. I found that George Carr, born in Nacton in 1863, married Eliza Branch of Grapevine Cottage, Old Felixstowe. I know they married on 31 December 1884 because a helpful Canadian newspaper published a notice of their Golden Wedding in 1934. The Branch family were market gardeners and I have found a notice that Charles Branch rented 5 acres from E.G. Pretyman, MP, in 1915. At some stage a commercial glasshouse was demolished on my land and some fool buried a lot of broken glass. When
we began to develop a vegetable garden, it was quite normal to find a bucket-load of broken glass for every hour spent digging.

George Carr was the son of George Carr (sometimes called the Engineer of Felixstowe) and his wife Harriett (nee Cullum). Becoming first a gamekeeper for Orwell Park Estate, he followed his father into the position of Estate Manager. George and his father are credited with doing much to develop the sea defences round Felixstowe; almost all of it belonged to Orwell Park in those days.

George was reportedly a keen sportsman, playing football and cricket, and winning trophies for running, jumping and cycling. He was also a devout Christian; he and his father and a group of good Christian men founded the Gospel Hall in Orwell Road.

There was one tragedy in their family. The first-born to George and Eliza, named Albert, was prone to sleepwalking, and one night in 1890 when he was two years old he rose from his bed and wandered out of the house (probably Priory Farm). His body was found the next day in a water-filled ditch.

In 1912 George, Eliza and their son John moved to Canada, where George found employment in Woodstock, Ontario. When the Great War began George and his son enlisted in the Canadian Army. George was already past 50 years of age but he falsified his date of birth to pretend he was 45. He wanted to serve overseas and the Canadian Army would not send anyone over 45 to the battlefields. This deception was discovered before he could be sent to France, so he served in Canada as a military policeman. George later worked for the Canadian War Veterans Office. After retirement he greatly enjoyed gardening, until he died in 1959 at the age of 96.

Peter Smith

Beach Clean, 18 June 2014

The Society cleans a designated stretch of Felixstowe beach four times a year and, on each occasion, we are fortunate to be joined by a healthy number of Society volunteers. We are also joined by volunteers from the Beach Hut and Chalet Owners.

On this occasion two staff and five students joined us from Felixstowe Academy and cleaned a stretch of beach from the Pier to the beach opposite the Alex. Three members of the Felixstowe Youth Society were very welcome and now that their exams have finished, they spent an enjoyable hour picking up litter! Altogether we had thirty people taking part including one lady who came along as a visitor and will hopefully become a member of The Felixstowe Society, together with her partner.

Five bags of rubbish were collected weighing 18kg including 4kg collected by the Academy students and staff. It was noticeable that there was much less rubbish on the beach than on previous occasions probably because of the recent high tides. Of the recorded 100 metres of beach near The Spa one bag containing 147 pieces was collected and this included 59 pieces of wood but only 4 pieces of plastic. One unusual item found was a door key on a ring and this was taken to Felixstowe Police Station by one of our members after the cleanup. Other items picked up were glass, batteries, bottle tops, fishing wire, tea bags, a pair of socks and a coat hanger.

As always these events are superbly organised by Keith and Elizabeth Horn.
We will be taking part in the Marine Conservation Society’s National Beach Watch weekend event when beaches all around the country are cleaned by volunteers. In 2013 MSC reported that more litter than ever was found on British beaches - 2,309 items of litter were found on every kilometre cleaned. The strangest finds around the British coastline last year were half a TV, a French bullet-proof vest, a pack of bacon, some plastic bird feet, half a canoe and a set of dentures.

If you would like to join us on 20 September at 10am on the prom opposite Seagull Cottage, please contact Keith Horn on 01394 270845.

A Tour of Lavenham and Constable Country with Claire Partner, GuideEast

On 26 June 2014 our Guided tour took us to Lavenham, Monks Eleigh and Flatford. A trip into Silly Suffolk perhaps? Although Silly comes from the Saxon word “Selig” which translates as Blessed. Blessed with sunshine and Churches! And indeed on our tour day we were blessed with sunshine, as we explored aspects of our fascinating county. Our tour encompassed architecture, culture, a film set and a landscape that has been the inspiration for one of our Country’s great artists.

We started our day in the Medieval Town of Lavenham. One of the finest preserved Medieval Towns in the country with a wealth of timber framed properties. Lavenham prospered as a wool weaving area and with its affluence came an abundance of these fine timber framed dwellings. In the early 16th Century Lavenham was the 14th wealthiest town in the country and certainly the “millionaires’ row” of its day. The richest commoner outside of London resided here – Thomas Spring III. He had an annual income of £3200 and he was so rich that Henry VIII taxed him twice and he never complained. Of course... he was probably a very clever man (as well as a rich one) for not complaining to Henry VIII!!

Lavenham contains over 300 listed buildings, which is a vast number for a relatively
small area. However, these dwellings are a reminder of the money made during its heyday as a wool weaving centre, but which in modern times have been the backdrop of blockbuster films including Harry Potter.

Our tour took us through the streets of Lavenham and up the hill to the Market Place. It was in the 13th Century that Lavenham began to assume its present shape – as the market was placed on the top of the hill and houses built by the sides of the tracks leading down from it. In the Market Place is the Guildhall of Corpus Christi, operated today by The National Trust but the architecture of the building with its timbers so close together and fine carvings - illustrates the affluence of Lavenham during its wool weaving heyday.

A few metres away is Little Hall – the oldest domestic medieval Hall house open to the public today. Indeed, nearby are many other fine timber framed and listed buildings. We walked passed where Jane and Anne Taylor lived, who wrote poems for infant minds including one called The Star, which we now sing to music as “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” - did they write the words in Lavenham? We also saw the Old Grammar School where John Constable once boarded and it was a timely reminder of the subject of the afternoon of our tour.

After the lunch break at CornCraft at Monks Eleigh we continued our journey through Hadleigh and on to Flatford.

We were venturing into “Constable Country”. When we say the words “Constable Country” people know exactly which area of the country we are talking about. Indeed, how many other artists can say they have an area of the country named after them than… Constable Country?

John Constable was born in 1776 in East Bergholt, Suffolk. He was the fourth of six children to Golding and Ann Constable. His father was a miller and the family money meant that he could paint free from financial worries. He was happiest painting the locations that he knew well particularly from his native Suffolk. Indeed, Constable loved the Stour Valley landscape. He said “I should paint my own places best. I associate my careless boyhood to all that lies on the banks of the Stour. They made me a painter, and I am grateful, that is, I had often thought of pictures of them before I had ever touched a pencil.” (John Constable in his letter to John Fisher 23 October 1821).

John Constable’s father owned Flatford Mill and so the working scenes around Flatford and the River Stour would have been a familiar sight to our artist.

Our trip to Flatford took us to see the locations of four of his paintings. We started with Flatford Mill: Scene on a Navigable River before venturing to see the dry dock to take in the view that appears in Boat Building near Flatford Mill. We walked to the water’s edge to look at View on the Stour, before walking along to Flatford Mill and the site of the famous “Haywain” painting.

We finished our afternoon at the place where it all started…. East Bergholt, which is the birthplace of John Constable, as well as being the heart of the 12 square miles that form Constable Country.

Our destination at East Bergholt was the Church of St Mary where we were due for refreshments. However, we still had more to see, and so before settling down with our cups of tea we walked around the Churchyard to the famous Bell Cage – housing the Church’s five bells which are still rung by hand. Being a Churchyard we saw the graves
of Constable’s parents as well as the final resting place of William Lott. Willie Lott appears to have been a quiet unassuming man during his lifetime as he only left the area for 4 days during the course of his long life. Fame has been thrust upon him, though, as “Willie Lott’s House” appears in the painting “The Haywain”.

Inside the Church we enjoyed tea and coffee and home made cake before travelling back to Felixstowe.

I had certainly enjoyed another day with The Felixstowe Society! We may not have travelled many miles on this particular excursion but this simply highlights how fortunate we are to have a varied and very interesting landscape on our doorstep. I thank you for joining me again and I do hope that I will be able to share my love of this fascinating region with you on a future tour and excursion.

Thank you, Claire Partner, GuideEast

I work with my colleague, and fellow Blue Badge Guide, Ian Baalham, as GuideEast. We devise tours and guide for many groups in the East of England, City of London, Windsor and Eton. info@guideeast.co.uk 01206 364542 or 07989 740343. www.guideeast.co.uk

The Plight of the Plaques by Phil Hadwen

The Felixstowe Society has now erected thirteen plaques to commemorate notable people and events connected to our town. Another one will hopefully be unveiled during the Heritage Weekend. Since August 2010, when George Buckland encouraged the Port of Felixstowe to mount two on the wall of Cerdic House in honour of "Lawrence of Arabia" and Sir Frank Whittle many more have been unveiled from John Mills, the famous actor, in Gainsborough Road to our most recent one, in April this year, remembering the damage caused by the two suffragettes to the Bath Hotel. Others are to Thomas Cavendish in Trimley, the author Henry Williamson (of "Tarka the Otter" fame) at Felixstowe Museum, Capt. Nathaniel Darell, defender of Landguard Fort at the Fort itself, the Empress of Germany and her children, with two plaques on South Beach Mansion and South Cottage respectively, and Wallis Simpson, later Duchess of Windsor at Beach Place.

The plan was to provide interested parties with a small leaflet which explained a little about each personality and a guide as to where to find the plaques. This idea is still a possibility, but The Society has encountered a considerable problem, namely that several of the plaques can no longer be seen!

A variety of mishaps and circumstances has led to our plaques being damaged, removed and stored until a later time when they can be re-mounted. I regularly visit the site of those still in situ just to check that all is well.

The Port of Felixstowe had to remove its two plaques because it became necessary to re-site them and I have been promised that this will happen in the near future! South Cottage is being repainted, but I am sure that George Buckland has kept that one safe.
The plaque to Percy Edwards, the entertainer, was in the Spa Pavilion and while it was being removed for storage until a suitable new site could be found it broke in half. Either some restoration work is needed or a new plaque will have to be commissioned. Most of us must know of the arson attack on the Memorial Hall, Trimley causing considerable damage, fortunately the plaque here was saved and when the hall is rebuilt we can re-site Thomas Cavendish’s plaque.

We did not envisage these problems when we first encouraged George Buckland to start placing the plaques, but what is a little adversity to a fantastic scheme that highlights the famous personalities connected with our town.

Underground Nuclear Observation Post
Wireless Green, Felixstowe

An early photo of the Martello Tower near Manor Terrace. The area in front of the Tower is known as Wireless Green and is the site of the old underground Felixstowe Nuclear Observation Post. It no longer exists.

In 1925 a civilian volunteer service named The Observer Corps was founded so that early warning was provided for home defence forces. The Corps came into its own during the Second World War when it gave invaluable service as part of the air raid warning process and was rewarded with the new title of the Royal Observer Corps as a result. In the later stages of that war, the Corps helped to track the paths of the German V2 rockets programmed to fall with their one ton explosive war head on Southern England.

After the Second World War, the Corps continued but with a new role which was to help the Royal Air Force with the detection and monitoring of a possible threat to British air space by Soviet Union aircraft. Eventually, in 1957, the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring organisation was formed with members of the Royal Observer Corps acting as monitors of the efforts of a Soviet Union nuclear attack which was seriously believed to be a possibility in view of Cold War relationships.

Altogether over 1500 underground posts were built with almost everyone of the same design. Entrance to the post was by a hatch with an iron ladder down a vertical concrete shaft which gave access to a small room with a chemical toilet in an alcove, and one larger operations room which contained bunks, tables, cooking facilities and the equipment linked to sensors above ground for measuring the impact of a nuclear explosion.
The posts were manned by three, or sometimes four, observers who were expected to live underground for up to two weeks and to carry out three main jobs. Firstly, in the event of an nuclear detonation, they had to ascertain and log its altitude, size and compass bearing. This would be achieved with the aid of Ground Zone Indicator which was rather like a pinhole camera mounted at the top of the access shaft and whose photographic paper would be turned by any nuclear flash according to its direction and elevation. Secondly the peak blast pressure from any explosions had to be recorded and identified by means of a Bomb Power Indicator pipe consisting of baffles connected to a pressure meter in the operations room and which would show explosive power according to the shock wave force, Finally, radiation fallout levels had to be recorded with a probe operated from within the post. This Fixed Survey Meter was also used to measure the peak rate of radioactivity as well as how quickly the level fell.

All this information would be passed by telephone to a Regional Control Centre to enable it to assess the scale and impact of the nuclear attack. Action would then need to be taken to inform the public and this would vary from firing maroon rockets into the air, sounding an air raid siren and broadcasting special radio and television messages so that people could find suitable shelter to avoid the danger of radioactive fallout. People would then need to be advised when it was safe to come out again based upon monitoring work undertaken by Nuclear Observation Posts.

The Royal Observer Corps had its posts roughly halved to some 700 in 1968 after a defence review and was later stood down completely in 1991 as by then the threat of nuclear war had disappeared. Nowadays, several hundred Nuclear Observation Posts are still to be found and many are almost as they were on the day they closed complete with bunks, mattresses, chairs and much more

Michael Sharman

Extra Event - Orwell Memories
Tuesday 4 November at the Salvation Army Church at 7.30pm

The Felixstowe Society will be hosting this special event. Anyone who has any memories to share about their time at Felixstowe Secondary Modern School, School Felixstowe Middle School or Orwell High School are invited to attend.

With the demise of the school building The Felixstowe Society has decided that a fitting end to the school’s life would be an evening of memories: nostalgia, laughter and possibly tears! Do please join us.
Book Reviews

There are two very different books about Felixstowe that have been published recently and both are worthy additions to the list of local books already published about our town. They are certainly of interest to anyone wishing to know more about the history of our town.

“A View of Felixstowe from the Bath” by Dick Moffat is a fantastic volume dealing with the history of the Bath Hotel, mainly from its Visitors’ Book, between 1877 and 1906. Examples of written entries and delightful illustrations really make this book a fascinating read and the detailed research helps to fill in much of the history of Felixstowe at that time. There is much to learn and it is a book that can be constantly referred to; also good to see a hard-covered book with a proper paper book-jacket. A real must for your library.

“Are There Any Holidaymakers in Tonight?” by Peter Phillips relates the beginning of the end of the seaside summer show. Like the previous book there has been a considerable amount of research and this is presented in a very personal way. Peter Phillip’s reminiscences are presented with feeling and his nostalgic memories about his love of the seaside summer shows clearly filters through his fine research.

This book deals with summer shows all around our coast from Cromer to Eastbourne and Brighton to Skegness, but quite a large part of the book is concerned with the summer shows at Felixstowe. The memories most of us have for this time are beautifully brought back through the author’s personal reminiscences. Another good read and a trip down memory lane for those who have known Felixstowe since about 1955.

Phil Hadwen
I was strolling along the Promenade recently thoroughly enjoying the lovely Felixstowe seaside when I noticed the For Sale sign over the Tourist Information Centre. Greatly upset by the possible loss of both this building and the wonderful information service offered by the staff I decided to try and find out more about what was happening. Yes the TIC is moving, but the staff either didn’t know or were not prepared to tell me where. On closer examination, talking to a Suffolk Coastal councillor, not I may add one from Felixstowe, I was told that Suffolk Coastal saw no reason to have a tourist information centre on our seafront because it was just not needed. I was reliably informed that Woodbridge had enough tourists so they didn’t need to advertise for any more and that Aldeburgh felt the same. Also there was no point in spending money on this type of facility because everyone now obtained their information from web-sites, so as long as these were up-to-date everything would be fine.

I know the problems that our Society is having trying to communicate with members who do not use computers or have e-mail addresses, so there must be thousands of potential visitors for our town who do not go on line! Does Felixstowe need more visitors? A silly question and equally stupid is removing our tourist centre from such an ideal spot. If the argument is to site it in the library then this is a long way from the seaside facilities the majority of visitors want to use and there is also the problem of parking before visiting the library. For a visitor this is not ideal, especially if they are then going onto the beach! Maybe this is an attempt to get a visitor to pay two parking fees! Let’s not make it easy for our visitors.

So who has made this decision? Surely not our local councillors, because they always put Felixstowe first, whatever Suffolk Council may say, because it is the people of Felixstowe who are their constituents and they are accountable to them. Therefore it is a Suffolk Coastal decision and somehow our council has been unable to oppose it. Which begs the
question of who runs Felixstowe and just how much say on Felixstowe matters does Suffolk Coastal have?

One small comfort is that the Felixstowe District Council has submitted an intention to buy notice on that lovely building next door to the Town Hall, maybe it can be adapted as a venue site, we certainly need others in our town.

When I stated earlier that I was worried about the actual Art Deco building itself, it was because this part of Felixstowe has done well to escape the wrecker’s ball, but with building disappearing around the area I have little faith that some excuse would be found to build afresh on this site.

Further along from the Town Hall the delightful row of Victorian seaside properties is having a make-over by tenants with a real feel for our heritage and when they are completed, I’m sure at no little cost, we can be rightly proud of these properties, which will continue to display their fine architectural merit for many years to come.

So should we encourage, plead or badger our Council to make sure that nothing adverse happens to our tourist information building? Realistically it is the right place to house an information office for tourists!

Phil Hadwen

Research Corner 21 - 1964

I was recently asked to write about the 1964 carnival and other events that happened within Felixstowe in that year for this year’s excellent carnival programme. I hope you bought a copy!

Anyway how to condense a whole year in just a few pages proved quite difficult and consequently I had to pick and choose items that I though interesting. However with over fifty full A4 sides of notes about 1964 there is still much to relate that is both fascinating and interesting, so for my Research Corner this time I thought I would continue to enlighten you about that year.

January
*Technical Sergeant Tony Kerestic from Haven Close and who was at USAF Bentwaters, was praised for his illuminated garden over the Christmas period. The views of those who saw it said that it was a great credit to its owner- "A delightful display; virtually a miniature Blackpool".

*On Saturday 25 Felixstowe’s Third Open Four-Dance Competition took place at the Pier Pavilion with contestants having to dance the waltz, tango, quickstep and foxtrot.

*Felixstowe Urban District Council (FUDC) decided to go-ahead with plans to build a small estate for elderly people on the allotments near Exeter Road. Allotment holders were given twelve months notice.

*On 15 after a two-hour meeting the Town Planning Committee of FUDC agreed in principle to the establishment of the world’s second largest refrigerator tank at Felixstowe Dock, providing it obtained Home Office approval. The tank was to be 172 feet in diameter and 108 feet high. It was to be part of a massive Eastern Gas Board’s plan scheduled for 1965 to import liquid propane.

*At a council meeting concerns were raised about visitors using their own deck chairs. Not only were they providing their own transport, they also arrived with their own food and
drink, also with deck chairs and wind breaks. As one councillor put it, "they have the pleasure of what our town has to offer, but contribute nothing!" Felixstowe FUDC decided to take no immediate action.

*It was announced that the cost of the new library for Felixstowe would be £34,700

**February**

*Concern as plans were released to build two power stations on the Orwell and Stour estuaries. Landguard peninsular had been ear-marked for this. (If this plan had come to fruition then one wonders about the future of the fort, which at that time was empty and in need of much work, and also the wild-life area)*

*On Saturday 8 there was the first ever Dinner/Dance for employees of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company at the Cavendish Hotel. It was a huge success and there were many requests to make this an annual event.*

*The restaurant at Fine Fare (now Iceland) situated upstairs was closed as the space was needed for storage.*

*Plans were discussed by Felixstowe Town Planning Committee to turn the disused oyster beds at Fagbury into a yachting centre. An application for planning permission was sought by Trinity College, Cambridge.*

**March**

*Felixstowe Fire Service most efficient in the area.*

*The future of the Felixstowe-Ipswich branch railway line was still "under consideration".*

*John Williamson of Langer Road was one of the few people in this country to successfully grow miniature Chinese oranges.*

*Ian Trelawny, manager of Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co. revealed that in 1963 33,500 tons of goods from the dock were handled by rail at Felixstowe. Because of higher freight charges by British Railways one importer who annually shipped eight thousand tons had already ceased using the dock.*

*The Vincent Report published in March 1964 proposed a new town seven miles long and one mile wide on the banks of the Orwell between Ipswich and Felixstowe. Ipswich would become a riverside city of 240,000 people. The report wanted to pull down the centre of Ipswich and build afresh.*

This idea was not new. Percy Charles Plant, a well-known Felixstowe builder, had similar ideas. Mrs A C Phillips (local stationers and newsagents business) said that her father had planned something similar some years ago. The original plan was for a "satellite town" between Ipswich and Felixstowe, a small yachting centre at Levington, a hotel at Nacton and factories near the oyster beds at Fagbury Cliffs. Another scheme that had been proposed by Mr Plant was a new road linking Felixstowe with Waldringfield and Woodbridge. The road would run from near the Spa Pavilion to the ferry and then up-river. Several local businessmen had bought some of Tomline’s land for this scheme. After a detailed survey the proposal was dropped through lack of money.

*On 16 a caravan home of an RAF member at Felixstowe Ferry was gutted by fire.*

"Coal-fired power station at Landguard Point was being considered with East Suffolk County Council trying to acquire land from the War Department.*

*Felixstowe’s £7,000 Youth Club, the first of its kind in the county, was officially opened on Monday 16 March by the Countess of Albemarle. The club had opened in November 1963 and it proved so successful that the membership had to be limited by numbers and an age limit.*

*Felixstowe Town reached the final of the Suffolk Senior Cup by defeating Brantham Athletic 2-0. This was the first time this had been achieved in the club’s history.*
*Council approved sea defence plans, costing £210,000, to protect the fishing hamlet of Felixstowe Ferry and the nearby golf course.

April
* The Station Hotel in Beach Station Road changed its name to the Dolphin Hotel.
* Felixstowe Blue Cross provided with a new ambulance paid for by local supporters.
* Tourists flock to see Radio Caroline. On Sunday 5 April 500 cars an hour were entering Felixstowe.
* Councillor David Houseley organises a petition for a Dock relief road.
* Fred Schwer becomes Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club’s new professional.
* Two Weston Geophysical Company oil survey boats the "Wayne Walker" and the "Cedar Creek" return to Felixstowe for their summer survey in the North Sea. The vessels used Felixstowe Dock to fit-out before leaving.
* Observation Tower erected on top of the new Sangamo Weston factory.
* Rogers Brothers, at their Walton headquarters, were building a £3,000 dodgem track for one of Billy Butlin’s holiday camps. A second one had already been ordered.
* Suffolk Senior Cup Final- Felixstowe Town 1 Grundisburgh 1(after extra time). Reply at Grundisburgh’s ground and they won the replay 3-1, once again after extra time.
* The "stylish"(my word!) block of three flats and twenty one maisonettes take shape above the old Suffolk Convalescent Home site.

May
* After local elections the new composition of the Council was:- 5 Conservative, 4 Labour, 3 Liberal, 3 Ratepayers’ Association and 1 Independent.
* On Friday 15 May there was a Band Cavalcade at the Pier Pavilion. Twelve bands played in the five-hour programme, including "Cavalcade 20" Orchestra, the largest ever presented in the area.
* British Rail announced that the Beach Station would close on 20th September 1964. Only passenger traffic would be affected.
* Sunday 24 May The 11th Annual Felixstowe Driving Tests. This rally, organised by Eastern Counties Motor Club, was considered to be one of the major events in the national rallying calendar. Seventy drivers took part and there were twelve tests at the Pier Pavilion, Cavendish Hotel, Convalescent Hill and the Spa Gardens.
* Thousands of Whitsun holiday makers poured into Felixstowe. Many ventured into the sea to find that it was comfortably warm. The only trouble that all these people had was where to find sufficient space to set up a deck chair and lay out the picnic.
* 30 May-Felixstowe College Horse Show and Gymkhana on Walton Recreation Ground
* Members of the Eastern Counties Otter Hounds went hunting in Felixstowe during the last weekend in May.

The above gives just a flavour of what was happening in our town in 1964, hopefully the editor will let me continue next time!

Phil Hadwen
Planning Applications
10 March to 25 July 2014

SCDC has granted Permission for the following:

Previous Applications

9 Cliff Road: One dwelling to the east and one dwelling to the west of the house.

Land adjacent to 44 Berners Road: Erect a dwelling with parking and amenity space. This is an over development of the site and will have detrimental effect on the street scene and the Conservation Area. The Society objects to this proposal.

17 to 19 Montague Road: Convert former care home back to original two dwellings. This proposal will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

19 Penfold Road: Erect 2 storey side extension.

Recent Applications

The Ordnance Hotel, 1 Undercliff Rd West: A 3 storey hotel with car park, alterations to access, demolition of existing hotel. The Society regrets the loss of this Victorian building but understand from the building review that it has no viable future. We note that this is a standard Premier Inn construction that needs added architectural details to relieve the monolithic appearance of this large building on a prominent site within the Conservation Area. We note Para 7.13 of The Planning Statement and consider that the design does not meet these criteria. The Society does not object to this proposal but requests that consideration is given to ameliorate the impact of this large building on this corner.

Seagull Cottage: Two storey side and rear extension with single storey kitchen extension. The Society thanks you for the opportunity to look at these plans. This is a promising modern development that will enhance the Conservation Area

Ridley House, Maybush Lane: Single storey extension and Alterations. The Society thanks you for the opportunity to look at these plans. We do not object to these proposals but find the proposed ornate entrance portico difficult to assess. Ridley House is a somewhat quirky building and we suggest the comments of Mr Scrimgeour the Senior Design and Conservation Officer, would be useful to assess the impact. However there is little adverse impact on the Conservation Area.

White Gables, 16 Stanley Rd: Erection of side porch. Thank you for the invitation to comment on the above proposal.

The Felixstowe Society objects to this Proposal for the reasons given below:

While we recognise the need for an enlarged entrance porch, the proposed design does not compliment the architecture of this Conservation Area building and destroys a notable entrance doorway.
38 to 40 Victoria St: Use of site for site and buildings for B1 Business use. The Felixstowe Society objects to this Proposal for the reasons given below:

While recognising that this site is closely surrounded by dwellings we do not object to its use for low noise commercial purposes. However, we are not satisfied that inevitable noise from wood-working machinery nor the movement of large modern vehicles in and out of the site have been adequately specified in this Proposal.

42 Springfield Avenue: Single storey extension to rear of property for parent’s self-contained annex. The Felixstowe Society does not object to the proposed style of building but wishes to record regret at the continuing loss of residence gardens in Felixstowe.

33 Albert Walk: Conversion of two maisonettes to 4 self-contained flats. The Felixstowe Society believes that this Proposal will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

Suffolk Private Retirement Home, 9 Sea Road: Change of use to form a single dwelling. This change will have little effect on the Conservation Area, provided that the external appearance is maintained

Applications awaiting a decision

Land fronting Hamilton Gardens: Relocation of Decommissioned Telephone Kiosk from Bent Hill. The Society thanks you for the opportunity to look at these plans. This is a well placed resiting of this historic feature that will enhance the Conservation Area.

201 Hamilton Rd: Demolition of existing Doctors’ Surgery (Class D1) and erect public house (Class A4). New 2 storey public house for JD Wetherspoon. The Society finds it difficult to fully assess the impact of this larger building on the street scene. A computer generated view would be very useful and we request that one be provided. We object to this proposal in that the design is over elaborate.

The Society suggests a more relaxed detailing to harmonise with the Orwell Hotel and the station façade. We do not object in principle to the proposed development of this site.

Ex Bridge Works, Bridge Rd: Change of use from B1 to B8 (Self Storage with containers), a 2 storey modular container Office building and security fencing. The Society objects to the Office Modules which are detrimental to the street scene. However, we do not object to the proposed use of this industrial site.

Part side garden, ‘Brandeston’, Golf Road: The Society objects to this proposal. It is an overdevelopment of the site and the proposed cladding is completely alien to the location. This is an open area adjacent to the Conservation Area and this overdevelopment would do nothing to maintain the street scene or the general aspect of Golf Road.

Other Applications

50 Victoria Street: Change of use from workshop and showroom to D2 (Dance School – non-residential). This proposal will have little effect on the Conservation Area. REFUSED by SCDC.
Behind 9 to 15 York Road: New single storey dwelling. REFUSED by SCDC.

Cliff House, Chevalier Road: Convert 7 storey office building to residential. REFUSED by SCDC.

David Crawford

Local History Talks (Felixstowe) 2014

St Andrew’s Church Hall, St Andrew’s Road, Felixstowe at 7-30pm

(All talks by Phil Hadwen unless otherwise stated)

Tuesday 9 September - Seaside Felixstowe (1)

Tuesday 14 October - Business Felixstowe (1)

Tuesday 11 November - TBA

Tuesday 9th December - A Christmas Celebration (a joint meeting with The Felixstowe Society at the Salvation Army Church, Cobbold Road, Felixstowe)

*There will be no meeting in January 2015

Felixstowe Society 2014 Guided Walks - Sundays at 3pm

Sunday 12 October - Brackenbury Walk (NEW) Meet on the corner of Golf Road and Cliff Road
If you wish to join The Society, cut these two pages from the Newsletter. Complete both columns on this page and send to Betty Woollan at the address given on the next page with a cheque payable to The Felixstowe Society for the correct subscription, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you require a receipt.

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I/We could give occasional help with -- please tick

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Archives/Exhibitions
Leading walks
Litter clearance
Monitoring planning applications
Newsletter delivery
Organising activities
Survey work
Secretarial work
Maintenance work at Abbey Grove and Gulpher Pond

Have you any relevant technical/professional expertise or special interests, for example, computer skills?
........................................................................

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date .............................................

Notes

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Treasurer.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount The Society reclaims on your donation in the tax year.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax The Society reclaims, you should cancel your declaration. See note 1.
4. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask The Society, or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR65.
5. Please notify The Society if you change your name or address.

For office use only (please tick and date)

Receipt issued .................

On Newsletter delivery list ...............
If you wish to join The Society please read on

The Society has many different activities and almost everyone can give something to, and get something from, The Society.

Meetings
The Society holds meetings which usually include a talk on some matter of interest; arranging outings to places of interest in East Anglia and beyond; holds exchange visits with other societies.

Projects
The Society organises exhibitions; carries out surveys; works closely with schools on various projects; monitors planning applications; tackles specific issues as they arise; gives Awards for the Enhancement of the Environment; is actively involved with Abbey Grove and Gulpher Duck Pond.

Publications
The Society issues a regular Newsletter and has published ‘The Cotman Walk’ and ‘Walking around Felixstowe’ which are available from the places listed on page 2.

Joining
To join The Society please complete the Form and the Gift Aid Declaration on the previous page, cut these last two pages from the Newsletter and send with your membership subscription plus a stamped addressed envelope if you wish for a receipt to:
Betty Woollan
Membership Secretary
The Pines
Manor Road
Trimley St. Mary
IP11 0TU
(No receipt will be sent unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed)

Membership Subscriptions
Annual Membership - single £7
Joint Membership - two people at same address £10
Corporate Membership (for local organisations who wish to support the Society)
  Non - commercial £15
  Commercial £20
Young people under the age of 18 Free

The annual subscription runs from the 1 January.

Gift Aid is tax relief on money donated to UK charities. HM Revenue & Customs treats donations as if the donor had already deducted basic rate tax from them. The charity can then reclaim this tax to increase the value of a donation. The Society is a charity and the membership subscription is a donation. If you wish to pay by Standing Order please use:

Bank Account Name: Felixstowe Society
Sort Code: 20-98-07
Account Number: 40380539
Readers may be interested in these photos of old Felixstowe

45 Thurlow House, August 1908, now called Old Thurlow. Built in 1899, this magnificent house once had large gardens, which ran down to the sea. Although Golf Road stopped at the gates of this property, there was a right of way along the line of this road. After the Second World War, Brandenton was built and then the local council developed Golf Road fully, so much of the grounds were lost. It always had lovely green lawns and it is thought that these could have been the site of the carp ponds of the old Priory. Previous owners include the Barkworths and Sir George and Lady Collins. He was a silversmith in the city, nearly became Lord Mayor of London, but the war intervened, and his signature is on the abdication document. The present owner is Dr. Burnham-Slipper.

Priory Farm, High Road East, in April 1906. The land beyond the tree and before the next house became the entrance of Priory Road about 1908. In the rear, to the right, is the old Pig and Whistle public house.
55 The entrance to the Suffolk Show, held at Old Felixstowe, in June 1908. A finger signpost, pointing to the Parish Church, can be seen on the left of the carriage driver. We think this is the junction of a lane that ran to the church from what is now Cliff Road. It was situated opposite Priory Farm between what are now Church and St George’s Roads.

57 A lovely early photograph of the White Horse Inn, 33 Church Road, in 1885. Benjamin Everson or Everston was the landlord between 1712 and 1714 and George Hall, a shoemaker, was in charge in 1855 and still there in 1879.

Photos from “Village Life In Felixstowe’ by Smith, Wylie, White & Hadwen