



The Felixstowe Society Newsletter

Issue Number 93

1 January 2010

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Registered Charity No. 277442

Founded 1978

Registered with the Civic Trust



The Felixstowe Society

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: Philip Johns, 1 High Row Field, Felixstowe, IP11 7AE, 672434

Vice Chairman: Philip Hadwen, 54 Fairfield Ave., Felixstowe, IP11 9JJ, 286008

Secretary: Trish Hann, 49 Foxgrove Lane, Felixstowe, IP11 7SU, 271902

Treasurer: Susanne Barsby, 1 Berners Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7LF

Membership Subscriptions

Annual Membership - single	£5
Joint Membership - two people at same address	£7
Life Membership - single	£50
Life Membership - two people at same address	£70
Corporate Membership (for local organisations who wish to support the Society)	
Non - commercial	£12
Commercial	£15
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 Magpie Book shop, the Tourist Information Office, and the Reunion Gallery.

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

Editor: Tony Hughes

Notes from the Chairman

Here we all are in 2010 (or 'twenty ten') as we can now say. The second decade of the twenty first century. Never mind, I don't feel that much older, or do I!

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities but were not quite as busy as ourselves, with two children, their respective spouses and three grandchildren all to stay (book your place in the bathroom please).

A warm welcome to all our new members: Beryl Turner, Elizabeth Cade, Hazel Dunbar, Jean Hughes, Sylvia Owen, Phyllis Masters, John & Pam Holden, Brian & Shirley Rayfield, Lindsay Towns & Mike Watkin, Ann & David Healey, Barbara Matthews, Matthew & Lynda Robertson, Michael & Janet Atkinson.

Sadly I have to report the deaths of Marjorie Ryba, Betty Knight, John Fish and Peter Gooding.

This last year the extension of the Conservation Area must note as the highlight for The Society.

We continue to represent our views to Suffolk Coastal District Council on future Housing Distribution and a copy of our latest reply sent in October to the Local Development Framework, Planning and Development Manager is shown on the next page. I am pleased to report that the substance of the letter has been mirrored by the Town Council's own recommendation which was submitted in November.

We have sent a similar reply to the East of England Regional Assembly consultation document, concerned with Housing and Economic Growth to 2031 which is again a totally unrealistic and unsustainable document. We continue to fight.

May I remind you of the date of our Quiz Night, Friday 29 January - full details are shown below. Also the date of our Annual Dinner, Monday 26 April – full details are on the enclosed application form. Last but not least, details of the Annual Award for the Enhancement of the Environment shown on page 11.

Philip Johns

Quiz Night

This year's Quiz Night will be held on Friday 29 January at St Felix Church Hall, Gainsborough Road. The starting time will be 7 pm for 7.30 pm, finishing around 10-15 pm. There will be teams of 6 to 8 people and a prize for the winning team. There will also be a raffle. Tickets will cost £7.50 which will include a fish and chip supper. There are alternatives of sausage and chips or vegeburger and chips. When you apply for tickets please let Phil Hadwen know which is your preference. **Please bring your own drinks and cutlery/condiments.**

Tickets are available from Phil Hadwen at 54 Fairfield Avenue, tel. 286008. Please make cheques payable to 'The Felixstowe Society' and the closing date for tickets is Monday 25 January.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 29 January.



The Felixstowe Society

Registered Charity No. 277442
Founded in 1978



1 High Row Field
Old Felixstowe
Suffolk
IP11 7AE

11 October 2009

Planning Policy and Development Manager
SCDC
Council Offices
Melton Hill
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 1AU

LDF Core Strategy: Proposed Changes To Housing Distribution

Dear Sir

The Society welcomes the proposed reduction of new dwellings in Felixstowe and Trimleys from 1600 to 1000. However, we still consider this number is too high for local needs and we are against Felixstowe being targetted for major growth. Such growth must be equitably distributed across the whole of Suffolk Coastal District (as allowed under 4.14 in the EERA East of England Plan >2031).

Before any new dwellings are approved, we require assurance on the following points:-

- Full infrastructure will be in place, including utilities, particularly water and sewage. (4.31 in East of England Plan 2031 and 4.61 in Haven Gateway sub-area profile)
- Brownfield sites always take priority over greenfield sites
- That the 5 year pause to review future housing needs remain in place

Felixstowe is on a peninsula linked by a single main road which is already considerably overloaded. The number of new vehicle movements arising from an additional 1000 dwellings will result in unacceptable gridlock. The fact that Felixstowe has a major port should not automatically mean that it is a Designated Growth Point. Storage and support industries to the Port would be better sited at central UK locations because of the improved distribution outlets and also to create new growth opportunities in more deprived areas.

Such decisions would alleviate water shortage, safeguard vital agricultural land and reduce the gridlock on the Felixstowe Peninsula. The projections for new jobs in the area are unrealistic. Consideration should be given to what the area can sustain.

All 450 members of this Society have been circulated with details of the LDF proposals and fully support our responses to date.

Yours faithfully

Philip Johns
Chairman

The Seafront Gardens – their history

The Seafront Gardens represent one of the most significant heritage assets within Felixstowe and there is a wealth of information concerning the acquisition and development of land from The Coast Development Co Ltd, Henry C Cobbold, Messrs Bugg, Captain Pretzman, Tollemache Breweries, Dr Elliston, Fisons Limited and the County of East Suffolk to form what is now known as the Town Hall, Cliff and Spa Gardens by the former Felixstowe and Walton Urban District Council.

On 4 August 1901, The Hon. Douglas Tollemache, presented a plan to the District Council, and detailed a scheme for the Council acquiring the Hamilton Cliffs and a portion of the beach in front, which had under the Local Act been called the enclosed beach. On 2 October 1901, the Council in Committee considered and approved the scheme, the resolution which they passed mentioned the combining of a piece of beach in with the South Cliffs, 'for the purpose of making Subscription Gardens' and subsequently the Council approved the scheme. On 6 November 1901, it was resolved by the Council to go to Parliament for a Bill for this purpose and others, including the making of a sea wall and promenade. The statutory notices were served relative to vesting a portion of the beach in the Council and authorising the Council to acquire by agreement the Hamilton Cliffs and to divert the steps. On the 13 December 1901, a special meeting of owners and ratepayers, unanimously approved the provisions of the Bill. A meeting of the Council was subsequently held and the draft Bill was gone through and sent to London. Proofs of the Bill were sent back and a copy supplied to each member of the Council so that there was plenty of notice that it was intended that this part of the beach should be acquired and enclosed by the Council, should they so desire.

Over the years landscape architects, Shultz and Burrows, were commissioned to design such gardens. However the designs of Mr Clegg, the Council's Surveyor were accepted – I am still trying to ascertain why those designs of Mr Shultz and Mr Burrows were not taken forward. If any one knows this please email me.

The Seafront Gardens were included on the Suffolk volume of the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest on 6 February 2003 at Grade II (site reference no. 2227).

The English Heritage entry explains the inclusion of the 'Cliff Gardens and Town Hall Gardens' because they are 'a fine example of their type, with a significant proportion of original planting retained and the path layout little altered. The Spa Pavilion garden section is also a good example of 1920s/30s design style which has survived well'. (Letter, 6 February 2003).

The Seafront Gardens in their entirety form part of the Felixstowe Conservation Area which was designated on 19 June 1975.

We held an Exhibition on the history of the Gardens on Saturday 14 November in the Town Hall and 138 people attended which was excellent given the bad weather. Several people brought items for us to scan and one gentleman has loaned us his collection of 17 years' worth of postcards on Felixstowe which was beyond our wildest dreams and much appreciated and will greatly help us increase our records.

The District Council is currently working through the procurement process for the appointment of a Lead Consultant and a consultant to prepare a conservation management plan and 10 year management and maintenance plan for the Gardens ending with a second round of the Heritage Lottery Fund application under the Parks for People Programme.

Another snippet of information which may be of interest, is that on 7 July 1897 the then Council was informed that the London Government Board desires to know whether Felixstowe should have a final 'e' or not. It was agreed that Felixstow would be Felixstowe.

Caroline Driver

Secretary of Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens

Email: caroline.driver@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



Seafront Gardens circa 1927

Felixstowe Futures Team is Operational

The Felixstowe Futures team now has a permanent office established within Felixstowe Town Hall. This special project team has been established by Suffolk Coastal to help co-ordinate the regeneration of the Felixstowe and Trimleys peninsula and attract the necessary multi-million pound investments to take exciting proposals towards reality and breathe new life into the peninsular.

The creation of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Project Team follows the Felixstowe Sea Front and Town Centre Masterplan drawn up by David Lock Associates in DLA in October 2007 as the first element of a delivery strategy for the regeneration and enhancement of the Peninsula. The team is seeking to deliver social, physical and economic regeneration to ensure a prosperous future for not only visitors but residents alike.

The team works with a number of partnership organisations, including the Haven Gateway Partnership, Suffolk County Council, Felixstowe Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Port of Felixstowe, as well as local residents and interest groups on all proposals. To that end, we are keen to engage with organisations and listen to local views so as to ensure that the proposals taken forward result in real benefits.

Current initiatives being worked on include the Shared Space Scheme in Hamilton Road and Bent Hill. Works have already commenced and the Roundabout at the junction of Convalescent Hill and Undercliff Road West will be completed by the end of December after which works will start on Bent Hill. The Shared Space for Hamilton Road will be undertaken in three phases commencing in February 2010.

The renovation of the Seafront Gardens which has received Lottery Funding to prepare more detailed plans to develop proposals for a multi-million pound restoration project and the investigation into conversion of beach shelters into retail or food outlets. Other regeneration proposals include the development of a coastal path, the revitalization of 'The Triangle' and establishing a network of town maps.

The team also have an input into several other associated projects effecting the regeneration / development of Felixstowe including the Building Schools for the Future Programme and the proposed new single secondary school, development of sports and leisure facilities across the town, the final vision of the Local Development Framework for the area, the Central Felixstowe sea defence scheme and strategic flood planning and the South Seafront development.

For further information on Felixstowe Futures in general or for more information on any specific projects please contact either Joseph James, Programme Manager, on 01394 444577 or Liz Beighton, Principal Planner, on 01394 444576.

Liz Beighton
Principal Policy Planner
Felixstowe Futures Team
Suffolk Coastal District Council

Cottage Hospital Upkeep 1939

The Croydon Cottage Hospital was opened in 1910, the site and the cost of building being the gift of Charles Croydon. Previously money had been raised locally to build a hospital, but the amount raised was insufficient, and it was agreed that this money should be used to equip and furnish the Croydon hospital.

A year later the word Croydon in the title was dropped, owing to confusion with that place name.

The Cottage Hospital opened with capacity for ten in-patients, but over-subscribing for the 1914-1918 war memorial led to an increase of beds to twenty, and by 1929 there were twenty three.

Hospitals such as this were called voluntary hospitals, because they were financed entirely by voluntary subscriptions from the general public, and received no financial support from government or any other form of public money. Raising the money to pay all the expenses of running a hospital - wages, salaries, medicines, food, heating and lighting was a formidable task, and many were the ways of meeting the costs.

Although the costs of the site and building were covered by the generosity of Mr Croydon, continuing doubts were expressed whether Felixstowe and Walton had sufficient population to continue to raise the running costs of even a small hospital. Supporters of the project pointed out that Southwold had a small hospital, but had fewer residents than Felixstowe.

Seventy years on I recently had the opportunity of looking through some of the old financial records of the Cottage Hospital, now much extended, refurbished and modernised compared to the original structure, and renamed Felixstowe Community Hospital. The financial records are reasonably full for 1939, and unlike the present day, the patients were all from the Felixstowe area, and were cared for in the hospital by their own general practitioner doctors.

In Felixstowe in 1939 a sum of around £5,000 a year was needed for the upkeep of the hospital. £5,000 in 1939 is roughly equivalent in 2009 to £280,000.

I shall from now on put the approximate equivalent sums in 2009 in brackets, after the 1939 numbers.

A high proportion of the income, including in-patients fees from the better-off patients, came from the Felixstowe Cottage Hospital Contributory Scheme, whereby members of the public paid a small set sum to the hospital on a regular basis, usually weekly, by means of voluntary Collectors. This Scheme had begun in November 1922 and was "to provide free medical, surgical and x-ray treatment at the hospital for people of small incomes", for a contribution of "not less than one penny a week."

All treatment ordered by any member of the medical staff, who were all general practitioners working in the town, was to be supplied free to members of the Scheme and, until the age of 14, treatment was free to children. (14 was then the basic school leaving

age). But no person whose income from all sources exceeded £200 (the income of husband and wife to be added together) was eligible.

No records of the breakdown of the finances are available, so it is a moot point financially whether the gradually increasing number of beds was a good or a bad thing, although of course it was an advantage to patients. If the extra beds were filled by fee-paying patients then it was probably advantageous, but if filled with Contributory Scheme patients then the financial burden would be likely to increase.

Commendably rapidly, the Annual Tea and Social party of the Collectors for the Scheme was held as early as the 3rd January 1939 when the announcement was made that in 1938 the sum of £2,025 (£113,000), was raised by this means.

The hospital was run at the top level by a Board of Trustees, local dignitaries, part-time and unpaid, supported by the hospital Matron, who acted usually somewhat in the role of a general manager, as well as chief nurse. The President of the Trustees was Rear Admiral Sir H Robert Russell, KBE CB CMG, who lived permanently in the Felix Hotel.

In that capacity he had chaired the Hospital Ball committee in December, in preparation for the first fund-raising event of the new year. This Ball was held in the ballroom of the Felix Hotel, (now apartments 11 and 12, but the stained glass emblem windows are remaining), with the Leo Dance Orchestra providing the music. Dancing began at 9.00 pm and went on until 2.00 am, but to those that preferred a more sedentary evening, there was bridge. It was reported that 280 people attended, that the arrangements were complete in every detail, and that it was a brilliant success. The Ball raised over £75 (£4,200) for the hospital.

The Alexandra Rose Flag day was held in June, This was a street collection inaugurated by Queen Alexandra in London many years earlier, specifically to increase voluntary hospital funding. A total of £141 (£7,900) was collected, being a record for that day.

At that time the Felix Hotel owned all the twenty eight tennis courts in Bath Road, as well as all the croquet lawns. The manager of the hotel was P J Humphrey, who used to invite the Wimbledon winners of that year to stay free of charge at the Felix for a few days. They would agree to play exhibition matches in return. In August 1939, despite the imminence of the outbreak of war, some big names, Tilden, Budge, Vines and Stoefen, came to play in Felixstowe. These matches raised £30 (£1700) for the Cottage Hospital.

The Matron of the hospital had herself set up a special collection for coins to assist in paying off the building fund deficit, which had been incurred in the construction of an extension to the hospital. During the 1930's coins minted in Queen Victoria's reign were not uncommonly found in small change, and the Matron's idea was that such coins should be donated. By the end of September she was able to announce that the collection had already exceeded £100 (£5,500).

Not only were these larger sums of money raised, but there were numerous other ways in which smaller sums were donated. These included whist drives, a bowls cup, collections in churches (also the Hospital Sunday Fund) and collection tins in local public houses.

On at least one occasion the Ipswich professional football team came to Felixstowe for a hospital fixture, and used the facilities in the Felix hotel for the post game ablutions. It is not recorded however, which hospital received the profit on the takings.

Many other items, as well as money, were donated and delivered directly to the hospital. The local newspaper published a weekly list of names of donors and the item donated in each case. Most common gifts were small quantities of fruit, vegetables, biscuits and eggs, but such goods as silver paper, magazines, old linen, hot water bottle covers, bed socks and earphones were occasionally seen.

Later in the year, due to the outbreak of war in September, the first tranche of public money, a small amount but no doubt welcome, came to this voluntary hospital through the government Emergency Hospital Scheme. At least some of this money was to offset the costs of the blackout.

The last donations for 1939 came at the end of December, when the Christmas Carol Singers gave the proceeds from their door to door perambulations to the Cottage Hospital funds.

Leslie Ramsey



Award for the Enhancement of the Environment

The Executive Committee of The Felixstowe Society will be considering suggestions for this Award during March 2010. If members have any proposals will they please complete the form enclosed with this Newsletter.

This should be for developments **completed during 2009.**

To remind you, the aims of the scheme are as follows:

To stimulate local interest in the quality of development in the town.

To recognise developments which have made a positive and beneficial contribution to the town (particularly important).

To encourage such developments in the future.

Both landscaping and architectural schemes can be nominated. The list below suggests some questions which it might be helpful to ask when considering nominations for the Award:

Is the scheme in character with the surroundings? This may depend upon the area having a distinct identity. It need not necessarily be in character if it is to serve as a focal point or terminates an important view.

Is the scheme in scale? (Scale is not size. It is the relationship of one building to another. Contrast can be positive and interesting, or negative and detract from the area.)

For restoration: Is the scheme an improvement on the original building or setting, or is it a restoration of the original? Does it add or detract from the designers' intentions?

Is the scheme well detailed? Have sympathetic materials been used? Has colour been applied imaginatively? Have any aspects such as signs, down-pipes, paving, been considered only as an after-thought? Have too many, or too few, materials been used and are these pleasing to the eye in adding up to a unified whole?

Is the quality of workmanship and the standard of finish of good quality? If it is an older scheme, has it stood the test of time? Is maintenance suffering?

Does the scheme create an impact? Would it be good to have similar schemes elsewhere? Is it an example of good practice?

Not all these considerations will come into play in all circumstances, but the last two points will always be important.

The Felixstowe Quiz - answers on page 26

1. In which year were Felixstowe's disastrous floods?
2. St Andrew's Church was consecrated on 8 August 1930, 1931 or 1935?
3. Name the famous baker, confectioner and caterer which was sited opposite the Pier Pavilion (now the Leisure Centre)?
4. What was the house situated on the corner of High Road East and Priory Road, called The Priory, before it was a private dwelling?
5. Who founded Walton Priory?
6. Which day did/does Felixstowe have early closing for the shops?
7. Horn's/Horne's Farmhouse is now better known as.....?
8. Which public house, opposite The Feathers, closed in 1937?
9. Name the tower still standing on South Hill?
10. The Pig and Whistle used to be situated in Old Felixstowe on the corner of the High Road and Maybush Lane. To which establishment did the licence transfer when it closed?
11. Who was the local photographer that we have to thank for taking so many early pictures of Felixstowe?
12. What was the name given to the area of shops and houses at the sea end of Hamilton Road?
13. Who was the man largely responsible for the growth and development of modern Felixstowe?
14. The railway from Westerfield to Felixstowe Pier was opened on 1 May 1877, 1878 or 1887?
15. Which house on the sea front was built in 1877 and was lived in by Colonel Tomline, but it has been a hotel, a school and a billet for naval officers?
16. In 1908 the "Osborne" was broken up in Felixstowe Dock by the Ship Breaking Company Ltd. What sort of ship was she?
17. The Felix Hotel (now Harvest House) opened in 1903, 1904 or 1905?
18. In the 1960s, Felixstowe had two cinemas. What were their names ?
19. When did the Dutch attack Landguard Fort?
20. With which famous trophy is RAF Felixstowe associated?

National Award For Abbey Grove Volunteers

Bob Stoner, Abbey Grove Volunteer Warden, and the local volunteers that make up the Tuesday morning work parties recently received:

**The Woodland Trust 2009 National Overall Volunteer Group Winner Award
*'for their work in support of this Felixstowe woodland, now effectively managing the site on behalf of the Trust.'***

Eleven years ago The Felixstowe Society volunteers played a leading role in establishing Abbey Grove and planting the young saplings. The group now tries hard to balance the needs of the local community with the needs of the local wildlife. The group is creating wide grassy pathways edged by long grass loved by the butterflies, coppiced areas of Hazel to encourage bank voles, shrews and wood mice, dense hedging and bramble areas to give protected corridors for small mammals and birds to scurry through, stag beetle habitats, woodland glades and a meadow to encourage growth of wild flowers. The group have put up a number of bird boxes on the more mature trees and thanks to Felixstowe Society funds there is now a barn owl box awaiting its first resident.

Throughout the year the group carry out a number of surveys. Records are kept of the wild flowers, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians; all of which are increasing year on year. The group maintains wide open tracks and narrow wooded pathways. Abbey Grove is a beautiful place to visit and is open for everyone to enjoy. Different seasons bring different delights. Abbey Grove is next to the long established Grove Woodland and Eastward Ho car park. If you approach from the Town via Beatrice Avenue go straight over the Colneis Roundabout, down the small road opposite and the pedestrian entrance to Abbey Grove is on the left just past the pony fields. The car park is on the right hand side. Why not make it an aim to visit once each season and watch nature perform its wonders.

Judith Hedges



Volunteers hedge laying to create a dense, safe corridor for birds and small mammals and provide a good sturdy boundary to the site

Research Corner (8)

One of the joys of being a grandparent is that there are times when it is hoped that you can help your grandchild with their homework! Michael, my grandson, youngest member of the Felixstowe Society I believe, arrived at our door asking for help with his history. The suffragettes were the next topic and he was asked to find out some preliminary information. The internet is a godsend at times like this, so we logged-on and discovered masses of information! Surely one of the problems that our youngsters have today is just how to make sense of the reams of internet material now available on any given topic. Luckily I was able to inform him about the Bath Hotel fire. This was caused by the suffragettes and their claim that men would have no peace until women obtained the vote always amuses me!

So what do we really know about the fire itself and those involved? At best I have rather a superficial knowledge so I thought it would make a good topic for my article. Although there had been strong representation for women to have the vote during the second half of the nineteenth century the real impetus started in 1897 when Millicent Fawcett founded the National Union of Women`s Suffrage (suffrage meaning the right to vote). Fawcett and her followers believed in peaceful protest, but by 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst was frustrated by any real progress, so with her two daughters Christabel and Sylvia she formed the Women`s Social and Political Union (WSPU). In the beginning the two groups worked together, but by 1905 the media had lost interest in women`s rights so the WSPU decided to use different methods to achieve their objective. Acting with the slogan, "Deeds not Words", they started disrupting political meetings and from 1908 there were limited threats to public order. The idea was to get arrested, go on hunger strike and generally embarrass the Government. It was considered appropriate to break windows, chain themselves to railings in prominent places and physically attack politicians. Although these methods certainly achieved notoriety they were not successful. Consequently the campaign of intimidation was stepped up to include attacks on property of people opposed to female suffrage and this unbelievably even included churches! Westminster Abbey was one such target. Also we mustn`t forget Emily Davison, who died after stepping out in front of the King`s horse, Anmer at the Epsom Derby of 1913. It would be unrealistic to believe that Felixstowe didn`t have WSPU members in its midst. 1914 was to prove a very significant year in the history of the town and not because of the major world crisis on the horizon.

Evaline Hilda Burkitt and Florence Olivia Tunks arrived in Felixstowe in the early afternoon of Saturday 25th April 1914 after having set fire to Great Yarmouth Pier Pavilion on 17th April and possibly causing wheat stack fires on the land of local MP Mr EG Pretymann and also that of Mr S Dawson of Stratton Hall Farm. When they visited Felixstowe they wanted to have a bed and sitting room for a week so they had contacted Miss Daisy Meadows who lived at Mayflower Cottage in Cavendish Road.

The two ladies certainly had contacts in the town as a Miss Ethel Lowy ran the Felixstowe branch of the WSUP from her house Woodcroft in Bath Road. It is thought that their intended target was either the pier or the Spa Pavilion, but as there were rumours of possible militant suffragettes in the town both these sites had recently engaged night watchmen. What turned their attention to the Bath Hotel will probably never be known, but it was now owned by the Tollemache family, who incidentally also owned the Felix Hotel nearby, and maybe they were anti- suffragettes. Anyway this famous and popular hotel became their target.

Although the Bath Hotel was closed for the winter it was possible for town residents to use the hotel's club facilities. At 9 pm on the Monday evening the hotel was checked that the windows were closed, the lights out and then it was firmly locked. About half past four on the morning of Tuesday 28 April coastguard Woodward called the fire brigade about a large volume of smoke visible from an area beyond the east cliffs. He believed that a large building in the town was well ablaze. Very soon the whole fire brigade of sixteen men was on hand, but they could do little as the fire spread rapidly throughout the building and by 7 am the whole premise was ablaze from end to end and by 9 am the building was practically burnt out. Many local school children were either late for school that morning or failed to attend! Attached to nearby trees were labels stating 'There can be no peace until women get the vote', 'No vote means war!' and 'Votes for women mean peace'.

The fact that the fire was started deliberately was easy to ascertain. One of the kitchen windows had been broken and whoever had done this had carefully laid some cotton wool on the broken edges of the glass so that they should not be hurt while opening the latch. About half past one on that Tuesday afternoon Superintendent Lingly and Inspector Newson visited Mayflower Cottage. They searched the room and possessions of Hilda Burkitt (alias Byron) and Olivia Tunks, who were then arrested and taken to Felixstowe police station. The two women attended a preliminary court hearing here on the following day and after being remanded in custody for eight days they were taken to Ipswich prison.

On 15 and 16 May 1914 they appeared at the magistrate's court at the Town Hall. They laughed, interrupted and shouted 'Votes for women!' throughout the hearing. After the evidence was submitted and the defendants not wishing to offer any evidence on their own behalf the chairman of the magistrates committed the two suffragettes to stand trial before the Assizes. Their trial at the Suffolk Assizes was held at the Shirehall, Bury St Edmunds less than two weeks after their appearance at Felixstowe Town Hall. On Friday 29th May after all the evidence had been presented and once again the defendants were unruly in court, the travelling judge the Hon. Sir Clement Meacher Bailhache Kt. asked the defendants if they had anything to say in their defence.

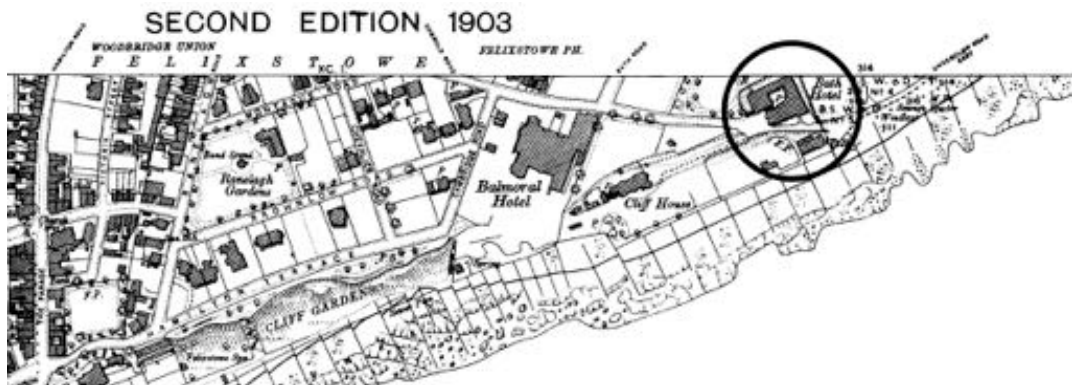
Both women upheld the rights of the suffragette movement, told the court that they had been force fed in prison and didn't believe in the justice of the court because it contained only men! Miss Burkitt and Miss Tunks were found guilty of arson and sentenced to two years and nine months imprisonment respectively to be served in Holloway, where they continued being force fed. War with Germany began very soon after their imprisonment and the Government was quick to seize the opportunity to release suffragette prisoners. On 6th February 1918 an Act of Parliament included some women in the registry of parliamentary voters. The case of the Bath Hotel fire proved to be one of the last important outrages of the militant suffragette campaign.

Phil Hadwen

Further information on this extremely interesting topic can be found in the excellent "Felixstowe's Last Bath Night" by Wayne Bennett and "Felixstowe Fire Brigade" by Dick Moffat and Graham Seward.

Destruction of the Bath Hotel by fire on Tuesday 28 April 1914

Where was the Bath Hotel?



Before the fire



The main entrance of the Bath Hotel about 1910. The Hotel's own carriage waits to transport guests to the local rail station

After the fire



The fire started by the suffragettes caused damage which was so extensive that the Hotel had to be demolished

Beachwatch 2009

At 8.30 am on Saturday 19th September 2009, 13 adults comprising members and other volunteers and 2 children assembled on the promenade to start what was to be The Felixstowe Society's 10th year of involvement with the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch 2009 Weekend. The MCS Beachwatch is the largest beach clean-up and survey undertaken within the UK and Europe. The annual event is run by the Marine Conservation Society and co-ordinated by Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty unit and is aimed at cleaning up the area of litter to preserve the stunning coastline.

Nationally Beachwatch attracts around 5,000 volunteers every year, who work across the two days picking up litter which has been dropped or washed up by the sea. Volunteers in Suffolk helped clean beaches all along the coast and estuaries including Aldeburgh, Southwold, Dunwich, Orfordness, Felixstowe and Trimley Marshes. All the litter collected gets recorded and analysed and the results are sent back to the MCS which uses it to understand marine pollution so it can help protect marine habits in the future.

With the sun shining brightly we worked our way from Seashell and Seagull Cottages to The Spa Pavilion and by 10.30 am we had collected 7 black bags of rubbish weighing 22.5 Kg. Our thanks go to Lynn Allen, the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Countryside Officer, for co-ordinating the event once again this year and also to Gillian Hughes and Susanne Barsby for providing refreshments at the finish and not forgetting the following people for their help with the cleanup work : Viv Kirk, Sara Kimber, Gillian Hughes, Susanne Barsby, Brian Rayfield, Mary Langley, Lucy Barnsley and her son Sidney, Mike and Jan Atkinson, Elizabeth Horn, Phil Hadwen and his grandson Michael and Alan Reeve.

Keith Horn



Snape Maltings and The Red House, Aldeburgh

Visit on Wednesday 22 July 2009

Whoever could have imagined that when Newson Garrett, father of Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, had his maltings at Snape built in 1854 just south of the river Alde near the lowest bridging point that, just over 100 years later, it would be slowly transformed into a world-renowned music venue, an idea conceived by Benjamin Britten. The Aldeburgh



Festival was started in 1948 by Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier and had outgrown all the usual venues, including The Jubilee Hall and Parish Church. In 1937, when Britten moved to the Old Mill, his study overlooked Snape Maltings and the surrounding marshlands so when it fell into a forlorn and abandoned state a dream was fulfilled. With a venue so close to home it would save him and Peter Pears a lot of travelling.

Upon our arrival at the Maltings we were greeted by Harry Young, the venue manager who took us on a very interesting tour. In the auditorium we sat in the wicker seats so designed as to add to the acoustic qualities of this unique opera hall which used the three storey height of the original building and with the raised ceiling level gives the increased volume required for natural amplification. It holds an audience of up to 840 and the stage up to 400 performers. The last box on the right was often used by the Queen Mother, the composer and Peter Pears and their guests. The lighting box was behind us. In the corridor were pictures of some of the former workers at the maltings in 1890, and Newson Garratt and his wife. Two years after the Queen and Prince Philip opened the opera hall and just after the first night of the 1969 Aldeburgh Festival on 7th June, fire destroyed the opera hall and a photo showed the burnt out shell and the remains of Britten's Steinway piano.

The hall was rebuilt with added improvements for the festival of 1970 and again opened by the Queen and Prince Philip. We then passed through the dressing rooms before emerging on to the stage where we were told how it could be adapted to suit each and every requirement and if necessary with a 12 degree tilt. In 1999 it was refurbished and the restaurant, bar and storage area were extended. The views on this bright sunny day from the Oyster Bar over the reed beds which provide cover for rarer breeds of wildlife, towards Iken Church and Aldeburgh in the distance, were breathtaking. This stunning and wonderful setting has inspired many an artist, musician, author or composer. We then set off for The Hoffman Studios, the latest addition opened last May, which are ideal rehearsal facilities for the National Youth Orchestra who were preparing for concerts in August. The tour over, we all went in search for lunch in one of the many and varied food outlets and a wander round the rather classy shopping facilities inspired by The Gooderham family who own this section comprising the House and Garden Store, craft, antique and collectors' centres, and coast and country clothing outlets. Then a sad farewell

to Snape Maltings where I could easily lose myself for the rest of the day and off to The Red House, Golf Lane, Aldeburgh - the last home of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears.

Edward Benjamin Britten was born on St Cecilia's Day - patron saint of music - in 1913 in Lowestoft, son of a dentist and youngest of four children. Their mother, Edith, was a keen amateur singer active in local music groups and at seven he began piano lessons with Ethel Aistle a teacher at his pre-prep school and was soon able to accompany his mother's singing during musical evenings at home. At the age of eight he attended South Lodge Prep school where he also enjoyed most sports and by then his musical output was on the increase. By the age of nineteen he had 800 compositions under his belt. In the exhibition room we were given an introductory talk and watched a presentation of his earlier life. Peter Neville Luard Pears was born in Farnham Surrey on 22 June 1910, the youngest of seven children of Arthur and Jessie Pears, attending Lancing College and developing a love of cricket, literature, classics and music. He learned the bassoon which enabled him to play in the school orchestra. His parents spent most of their time in India and he apparently met his father for the first time when he was 13. In 1928 he went to Keble College, Oxford to read music and was awarded an operatic exhibition to the Royal College of Music in 1933. He joined the BBC Singers in 1934 and later toured the USA. Peter Burra, a childhood friend, was killed in an air crash at this time and he and another of Burra's friends were left to sort out his paper work. This friend was Benjamin Britten and the rest is history as they say. Soon Benjamin Britten was composing numbers for Peter Pears. As their work often lead them to many differing venues Pears spent a lot of time at Glyndebourne and abroad and Britten in Snape. They shared a flat in London before moving to the USA in April 1939. On their return the lure of Aldeburgh proved too great and within a few years they soon settled at Crag House, 4 Crabbe Street but the fame of Britten had spread and members of the public encroached upon their privacy so much that in 1957 a house-swap with Mary Potter, a friend and well-known artist, resulted in a house for her with panoramic sea views and much needed seclusion for Britten and Pears.

The Red House was built in the early 17th century as a farmhouse and many alterations have been made. The Library is housed in the old cowshed and the iron collars for the wooden pillars supporting the roof are still visible at floor level. It also covered the old swimming pool where Britten swam a number of times a day as his beloved North Sea was at some distance. The volunteer staff were very attentive and answered queries long before we thought of the questions. The tour of the house started via the north porch which was



added for the Royal visit prior to the opening of the new concert hall, now occupied by a parrot which appears to have succumbed to psittacosis and moth attack but had formerly lived in the kitchen as a red and grey version named Johnny who had learned to impersonate Britten's voice, Imogen Holst's distinctive laugh, Miss Hudson's call, wolf-

whistling and the speech of various guests including John Piper. This frequently caused confusion in the household as people didn't know if they were being called by person or parrot. The entrance hall followed and here we donned our protective footwear or removed the offending items so as not to cause too much wear and tear on the now fragile floor coverings. On the table were photocopies of signatures of a few of the many famous people who visited the house including those of the royal couple and Yehudi Menuhin. Amongst the many paintings on the walls was one by Edward Lear - Pines at Ravenna painted in 1867. In the porch corridor was a set of Crown Derby plates commemorating Britten's operas with a limited edition of 500 to celebrate his 60th birthday. Hanging from the stairs was a set of Iranian camel bells given to Britten and Pears by the pianist and accompanist Graham Johnson and favourite of Mstislav Rostropovich, a frequent visitor, who made a point of ringing them when passing. Turning to the left we entered the dining room with its William Morris wallpaper and a George Third table which remains almost in its original state. Under the table was an almost hidden floor-mounted bell near Britten's chair which he used to summon the dining room waiting staff, much to the amusement of his younger guests who thought he did it by magic.

Further along the corridor, over a very uneven floor and through a very low-framed doorway is the study facing east and overlooking the croquet lawn, and more memorabilia including a glass-fronted cupboard containing sports cups that Britten and Pears had won in their sporting days. In another cabinet was Britten's TV set but these days only the snow programme could be viewed - more paintings and photos. Britten used this room for composing until the noise of the USAF bombers, not renowned for high altitude flying, the runway at Bentwaters, being only a few miles away, caused Britten to invest in a retreat a few miles away at Horham. Ducking the doorframe again by some as we exited this room we went on to the L-shaped drawing room. I kept wondering to myself how would the '60 Minute Makeover' team deal with this mixture of style and mis-match of colours and fabrics. The walls here were covered with a cork coating and adorned with more paintings, one by Constable, drawings, embroidered pictures and a set of Dolmetsch recorders. How could that team remove all those treasures each having a very important role in the history of this musical duo. Sue, our very knowledgeable and exceedingly witty guide, then told us of the dogs, mostly dachshunds, who shared this paradise with their owners. Pears did once have a rescue dog in the shape of a terrier who howled continuously when he sang. Just around the corner into the south-facing aspect of this room overlooking a now beautifully recently restored garden, into which many years ago spilled the garden parties and no doubt accompanied with music, was the grand piano near the door to the small drinks' room. The main feature of this room now is a series of 'Beware of the dog' signs in a multitude of languages. These used to adorn the front gate. The Russian sign was painted by Rostropovich - how dare the '60 Minute Makeover' team remove these. The Nepalese sign presented a difficulty as they have no exact word for dog so it means dragon, lion or tiger. Retracing our steps through the drawing room, we spent a few moments in the original kitchen, which overlooked the courtyard, on our way up the back stairs normally used by the former staff. Here we saw Britten's bedroom where he spent a lot of time following unsuccessful open heart surgery in 1973 where he met Rita Thompson in the London Heart Hospital. She came to The Red House in 1974 to be his full-time nurse after his stroke and until his death in 1976. Britten's and Pears' staff were very loyal to them both and in return were rewarded, as was their devoted housekeeper, Miss Hudson, who worked for them in Crag House. Upon retirement she lived in a bungalow specially built for her in the grounds which she named Cosy Nook, clearly visible from this bedroom window. It is now a holiday let home. Across the landing of the main stairs was Pears' study displaying more significant personal items and some very unusual paintings. The tour was almost over other than to retrieve our foot wear, do a quick circuit

of the garden - the tennis court slightly on th' huh! - apparently designed that way so that no player had the disadvantage of serving directly into the sun, the productive vegetable patch, the orchard, the mulberry tree and finally the compost heap! A number of sculptures such as Ehrlich's Roebuck and Sirens by Geoffrey Clarke were near the Red Studio custom-built in the grounds and including large north-facing studio windows for Mary Potter when Crag House became too large for her.

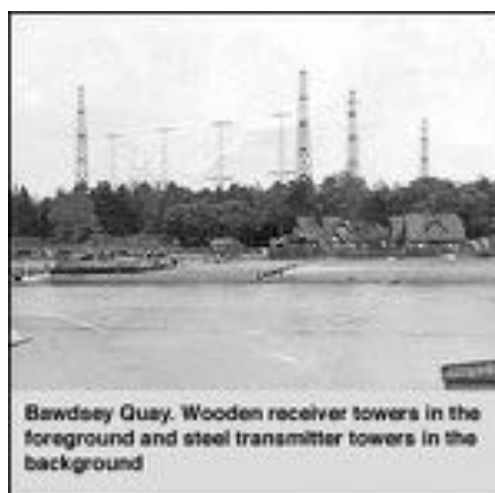
4.30pm had arrived and our ever faithful coach driver, Clive, was ready to take us home and as his timing is sheer perfection he had time to take the scenic route through Aldringham, Snape, Tunstall, Eyke and Woodbridge so that we could all enjoy the beautiful countryside to complete a day that made us appreciate what these two musicians had done to promote this wonderful art form through scholarships and trusts and help the talented and less privileged to achieve their ambitions. We were privileged to visit a house which had also been visited by people such as Imogen Holst - a lovely and inspirational energetic person, Basil Coleman, Stephen Bagnall, pianist Graham Johnson and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich to name but a few. Peter Pears stayed on at The Red House until his death in 1986.

Nick the Garden Manager and sometimes with his dog Stanley give excellent garden tours which can be booked on 01728 451 700.

Elizabeth Horn

Bawdsey Radar and Sutton Hoo Visit on Wednesday 19 August 2009

Following the talk Mary Wain - chair of Bawdsey Radar - gave us in October last year on the Transmitter Block at Bawdsey - we paid a visit to see this unusual site and experienced the conditions and atmosphere of 70 years' ago in World War 2. The day started well when Clive, our trusty coach driver, arrived with a luxurious 42 seater with plenty of legroom and plush elevated well-sprung seats with good visibility ideal for the journey we had ahead. We left Felixstowe behind us and soon enjoyed views from the other side of the Deben. Because of the larger size coach we disembarked in the allocated car park and had a pleasant 300 yard stroll under the shade of the trees to be greeted by Mary just outside the Transmitter Block where she



Bawdsey Quay. Wooden receiver towers in the foreground and steel transmitter towers in the background

gave us a brief description of the surroundings. To the northeast the Receiver Block could be seen - not really accessible to the general public but built in a similar manner to the one we were visiting and measuring 60 feet by 29 feet. Hidden under ground surprisingly were the buried reserves should air attack disable the visible ones. These apparently measured 46 feet by 23 feet 9 inches. Although there was no access to them, photographs taken in 2003 by Nick Catford of Subterranea Britannica can be seen on their website at www.subbrit.org.uk - a very interesting exercise. The Transmitter Block built in 1939 is a listed building category Grade 2* and is single storey 77.5 feet by 27 feet with a flat reinforced concrete roof. Blast reduction was achieved by constructing the roof in layers

with a 5 inch reinforced concrete slab on which rests a 2 foot layer of shingle above which is another 2.5 foot of shingle and sand and 1 foot of more reinforced concrete covered with asphalt waterproofing - some protection. Before we felt the affects of too much sun beating down from a cloudless blue sky Mary explained that none of the transmitter or receiver towers remained, the only evidence being some of the foundations. The solitary tower which replaced tower number 2 demolished in 2000 was replaced by

the current tower used for communications equipment operated by the Marine Agency.



We entered this quite ugly building via the original emergency exit in the hidden and well protected north wall into the main transmitter room where there is a wonderful display telling the history of RADAR, to way back in the 19th century, its development, the main characters involved including Sir Robert Alexander Watson Watt, a descendant of James Watt the inventor of the steam engine, and Arnold Wilkins. We passed through what was the ventilation plant room and private branch exchange and adjacent latrines (exact replicas of those I remember at RAF Martlesham Heath in the late 40's and early 50's in my childhood but minus the scratchy Government Issue toilet paper) to the sub-station room where most of the original equipment had been removed except for the transmitter switch gear. Mary was ably assisted by two volunteers who

answered our many questions and kept us supplied with refreshments. Dee told us that her husband had made the display cabinets where the cathode ray tubes were displayed and he had also set up the mock radar screens complete with female mannequins acting as radar operators - Watson Watt chose women because of their alertness, keenness of perception, delicacy of touch and immeasurably above all else conscientiousness to a degree unattainable in men who were likely to be available for RDF operator duties. Another quality he recognised was the ability of women to maintain secrecy. He described RDF as 'The secret that was kept by a thousand women, kept not merely from probable foes but from friends, families and I have no doubt, from fiancés.' Originally three shorthand-typist secretaries were trained as operators and he recorded that after a week all three were excellent. As a result authority was given to undertake a special selection of WAAF's for training. Those who were selected performed with such distinction that many were then chosen for advanced training to become supervisors. As a result of this experiment it was WAAF personnel who chiefly operated the radar systems throughout the war and became known as Special Duties Clerks. By 1943 they numbered 7,395. Our visit now over we strolled back to the waiting coach thinking what an inhospitable place this would have been in the depth of winter with minimal heating, rationing and very little hope for the future.

We set off for Sutton Hoo noting how much busier this country road had become and with less than two miles to go we had a very close encounter with a rather large lorry - both vehicles had edged as far up the embankments as possible but obviously not quite far enough when the lorry slowly edged passed us we lost two rather large windows towards

the rear of the coach. Our onboard retired insurance broker leapt into action and took the necessary details from the lorry driver, checked for any injuries in our party may have suffered, backed up by our onboard medical consultant, on her day off. We certainly went prepared. Luckily other than slight shock or excitement at this totally unplanned twist to the day we were helped by the arrival of a farm worker from a nearby field who with his handy broom knocked the rest of the shattered glass from the window frames and swept the road. Soon the huge build-up of traffic in both directions could continue their journeys along with us just 12 minutes late for our arrival at Sutton Hoo, where we were greeted by Lynette who explained the plan for the next 4 hours. We went our separate ways for lunch, either our own pre-packed or tempted by the selection on offer in the restaurant.

We met our excellent guide, Alan Coghlan, at 2 pm and started the tour outside the squash court where he briefed us on the buildings. It is now used as a lecture room workshop area for projects and if necessary can be returned to its original use as a squash court.



Included within this range of buildings was the original saddlery, now a book sale room, and adjacent to this the original garage and probably the first ever carport of its kind with the chauffeur's accommodation next door. It now houses the Sutton Hoo warden. As we moved towards Tranmer House, Alan explained that Sutton Hoo got its name from south of Rendlesham from where the Anglo Saxons ruled Hoo - a promontory overlooking a river - the river Deben - meaning deep one, ideal for a royal burial ground. In the distance we could see a number of mounds. The largest grave was 625 feet long and contained the largest ship burial weighing in at 11 tons, 13 tons with contents. The trees in this area were planted in 1909/10 and because of the very acidic soil grow very slowly, ideal conditions for the preservation of artifacts. Tranmer House was built for John Lomax, who dealt in quality timber, as a shooting lodge and workshop. He was a talented artist and lived at Hungarian Hall in Ufford. His wife so loved this place she moved here in 1912 until her death in 1916 when the building was let until 1925. As we walked round the outside of Tranmer House Alan pointed out Edith's bedroom with a balcony overlooking the site to

the burial mounds. As the National Trust has converted the upper floors into 3 holiday lets we only had access to the ground floor. When we were all sitting comfortably Alan began to enlarge on the earlier life of the main character of this tour. In the teak-lined 'dining room' we could see evidence of occupation of the Land Army during the war - a little graffiti and a large number of woodworm type holes near where the dartboard hung.

Edith May Dempster was born on 1st April 1883, the second daughter of a very rich industrialist who had a large estate in the Manchester area. Her mother died when she was 9 and she went to Roedean school where she excelled at most subjects. Her very good friend was a certain Miss Pretty who had a brother Frank born in 1879 and whose grandfather was a William Pretty of Ipswich. Frank served in the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment and reached the rank of Colonel. He hunted with the Suffolk Hunt. Edith in the meanwhile was presented at court, owned and drove a car, was a magistrate in Manchester and looked after and escorted her father on their world trips which included Egypt. Her father was an amateur archaeologist and was present when Howard Carter discovered the Tomb of Tutankhamun in the 1920s. When Edith was introduced to Frank, and fell in love, he proposed to her on an annual basis. It is rumoured that her father did not want her to marry a man who dabbled in ladies' underwear - the corsetry business being another branch of the Pretty family's empire, but the year after her father died she accepted and was duly married in 1926. In the sitting room there is a good selection of photographs recording this happy occasion along with many others of various events in their lifetimes. On the walls hang a few family portraits including one of Edith and also of their only son Robert Dempster Pretty age 8 when painted by Cor Visser. He was born when Edith had reached the age of 47 in 1930. Sadly Frank only lived another 4 years before he died of stomach cancer and it is said that Edith, being a keen spiritualist, contacted him on many occasions. She apparently saw ghostly figures and a man on a white horse on the burial mounds and by summer 1938 had employed Basil Brown, a local amateur archaeologist, but very keen and methodical, to excavate some of the mounds. He made some interesting finds in the summer of 1939 when he unearthed the remains of a 7th century Saxon ship and probably the last resting-place of King Raedwald of East Anglia. On 14th August 1939 at a Treasure Trove inquest Edith was judged to be the legal owner of this incredible find excavated on her land and within days she made the greatest donation to the nation in a donor's lifetime by giving it to the British Museum. She was offered the OBE but declined this honour and sadly died in 1942. We were shown a few more of the downstairs rooms where many more possessions of this fascinating lady and her family were on display. On our return to the dining room cream teas adorned the tables and drinks were on offer. Alan visited each table in turn to answer individual queries and recap on facts which we hadn't fully understood. Having consumed our cream tea quota and more, our slightly heavier bodies (and brains with their newly acquired information) sauntered back to the bus park. As you may have guessed Clive had not been idle - he had taken the damaged coach to base and returned with the rattley boneshaker uncomfortable 33 seater to which we are more accustomed. Well at least we know our place - can't be trusted with anything more upmarket. Fortunately the windows were replaced within 2 days.

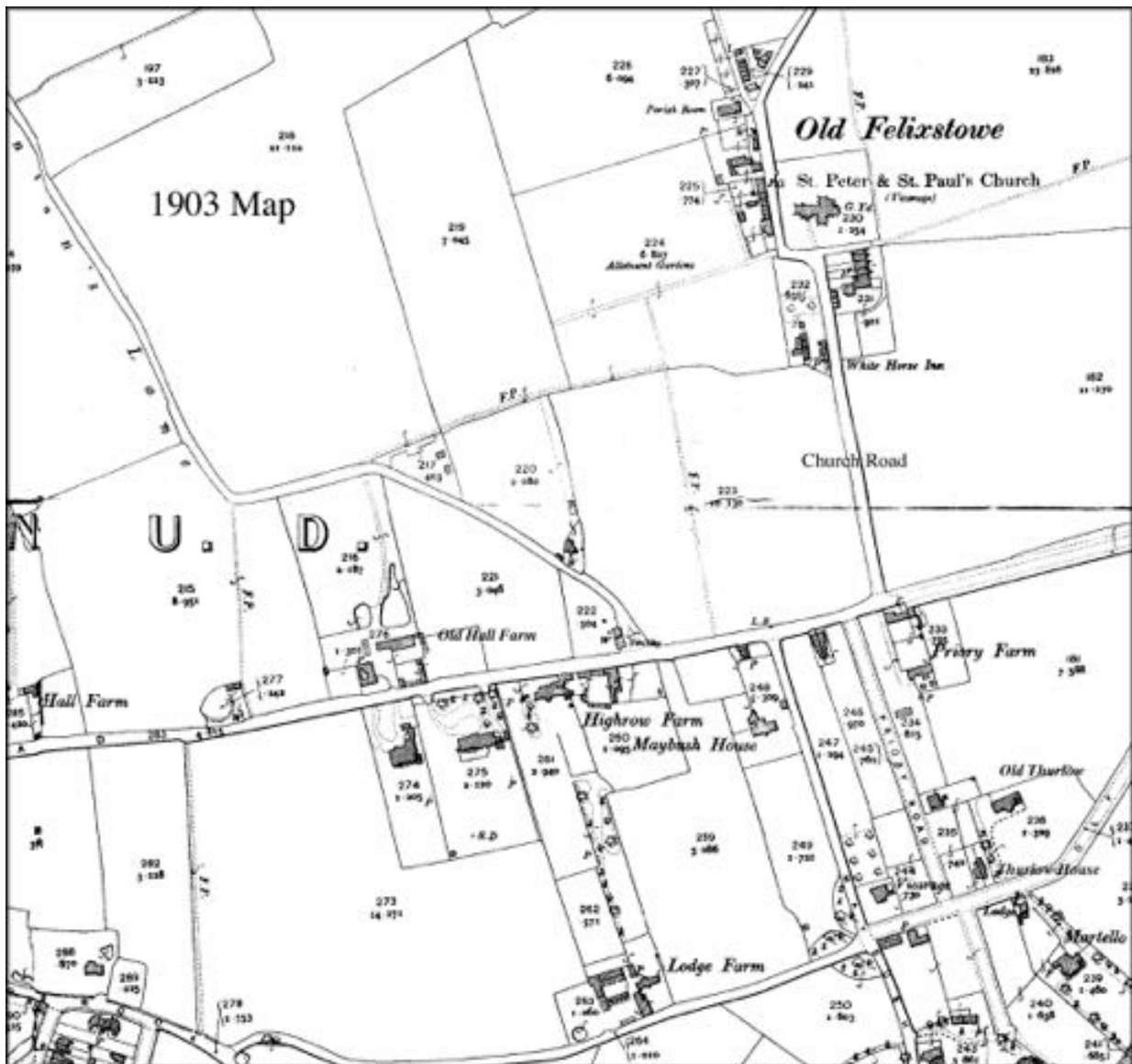
For those who wish to study other aspects of Sutton Hoo or who rely on public transport, it is possible to get to Sutton Hoo from Ipswich on the open top bus when it does its twice weekly trip round Woodbridge including a stop at Sutton Hoo and returns each hour until its last run when it returns to Ipswich at the end of the afternoon - quite a merry jaunt.

Elizabeth Horn

Old Felixstowe

Talk by Phil Hadwen on Tuesday 22 September 2009

St Andrew's Church Hall was packed for this presentation by Phil Hadwen. Phil started the evening by telling us of Felixstowe's best known photographer Charles J Emeny, who was born in 1849. He was keenly interested in science and scientific gadgets and one of his great passions was photography. He opened a shop in High Street, Walton. Every event that happened was captured by his camera. His youngest son, Will, entered the business and followed his father's example as chronicler of Felixstowe's history until his retirement in 1950. The business was bought by Mr B Mason who ran it until it closed in 1967.



The collection of negatives became the property of Charles W Corker, a local resident and business man. He had been horrified to learn that the building which held the collection was going to be bulldozed and because of his quick action the collection was saved – around 20,000 negatives. Charles Corker used a number of the negatives to produce his book “In and Around Victorian Felixstowe” which was published in 1972 but sadly he died just before it went on sale. The Emeny collection was purchased by John Keeple, an

Ipswich business man, who looked after the plates until he sold them to Neil Wylie and John Smith in 1990. Many of the photos were used to illustrate Phil's talk.

Old Felixstowe started from around the old parish church of St Peter and St Paul. There had been a Benedictine Priory in the area, founded by Roger Bigod in 1105 and dedicated to St Felix. The Priory was moved to Walton at the end of the 12 century. The church dates from the 14 century. Much was altered and restored in 1871-72. Herringbone brick work was reused from Martello Towers with stone dressings. Much of the original building was made of septaria, the local building material. This does not weather well, hence the many alterations to the original buildings. The well known local architect, Thomas Cotman, is buried in the churchyard.

The White Horse public house in Church Road was connected to the church and the publican would not allow any swearing or bad language. The pub was demolished and rebuilt in 1905.

There were 27 farms in the area of Old Felixstowe which is hard to imagine when you look at the residential area it is today. It was farmland from Constable Road down to the Ferry. The Priory on the corner of High Road East and Priory Road had never been a Priory but was the Priory Farm. Phil mentioned a number of farms in this area and the map above gives a good indication of where some of them were.

Thurlow House in Golf Road was originally two cottages built for staff at the 'big house' known as Old Thurlow, also in Golf Road, to distinguish between the two.

Many of the old buildings that we know today have reference to historical figures, eg Cranmer House, Tyndale House (now Maynell House) and Ridley House.

Phil showed many delightful photographs of life in the Victorian era, giving the audience a chance to compare then with now.

A fascinating illustrated talk much appreciated by the audience.

Gillian Hughes

The Felixstowe Quiz – Answers	
1	1953
2	1931
3	Millar's
4	A farm house
5	Bishop of Rochester
6	Wednesday
7	Constable Cottage
8	The Angel
9	Q Tower
10	The Grand
11	Charles Emeny
12	Victoria Parade
13	Colonel Tomline
14	1877
15	The Manor
16	A Royal Yacht
17	1903
18	The Ritz and The Playhouse
19	2 July 1667
20	The Schneider Trophy

Greenprint Forum Composting at Foxhall

On 11 August 2009 a small group from the membership of the Greenprint Forum met at Foxhall household waste recycling centre to visit the composting area of this site. We had in fact met at about the same time the previous year, but not long into the visit the heavens opened and a rather drenched group had to abandon their visit. This time we were more fortunate and were able to complete our visit with no unexpected weather changes.

The site at Foxhall is one of 18 sites in Suffolk that take household garden waste, including grass cuttings, tree and bush cuttings, weeds and plants. The garden waste which householders put into the green containers are checked by staff for any obvious contaminants that can be removed before the waste is compacted to increase the bulk collected in each load. The waste is then taken to a composting area, processed and turned into soil improver for agricultural use or compost for gardens. It was this process that we had come to see.

We first went to see the windrows which are formed from green waste shredded to a suitable size to aid the composting process and to make sure that biodegradation is achieved. The whole process takes about 12 weeks. To begin with, temperature readings are taken daily and then three times a week to ensure the windrows are the right temperature to kill weed seeds and harmful bacteria – between 60–80 degrees Celsius in the centre of the windrows. The material is turned about every 2 weeks to increase oxygen, to aid bacteria and adjust temperatures. If the conditions become too dry, pumped groundwater is added using an agricultural spray.

The finished material is screened through a 10 mm sieve for compost and a 25 mm sieve for soil improvement.

Foxhall produces about 5 – 6,000 tons of soil improver per year from the 15,000 tons of green waste received on the site.

Compared with my very small recycling effort of home composting, this was a most impressive major green waste recycling centre.

Gillian Hughes

Planning Applications

22 July to 19 November 2009

SCDC has GRANTED permission for the following:

Previous Applications

These applications will have little effect on the Conservation Area:-

22A & 22B Felix Rd: Continued use of buildings as artist studio with ancillary storage and domestic storage.

Community Hospital, Constable Rd: Erect timber storage hut.

59A Tomline Rd: Erect shed at rear.

Villa Bonita: Erect one and a half storey rear extension.

1 Kiligarth Court: Resubmission of proposal to enclose existing porch.

Recent Applications

51 Hamilton Road (Peacocks). Signage: These new signs will have little effect on the Conservation Area. The design of the projecting sign should, ideally, be used on all commercial premises in Hamilton Road.

120 Felnor Way: Change of use to one bedroom flat. This change will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

Bethesda Baptist Church, Cavendish Road: Extensions and rebuilding including demolition of south store (Resubmission).

The Society supports the objective of increasing the amenities and services for the congregation and the local community. The South Extension rebuild and 'yard infill' appears to follow the precept of earlier modifications in matching the existing building. However, the West Extension that fronts Langer Road and Cavendish Road does not, in our view, enhance this prominent building in the new Felixstowe Conservation Area.

The proposed, somewhat harsh, West Extension is unsympathetic to the existing building and will destroy the unity of the façade and the building's appearance. We suggest that the south corner of the site, above the rear alleyway, seems to offer opportunity for development and in this location 2 or even 3 storeys would not impair the visual impact of this prominent building from adjacent roads. For the above reasons The Society objects to the proposals for the West Extension.

Flat 5 Wellington Court, Hamilton Gardens: Replacement windows to the front and rear of the second floor. We believe that this application will have little effect on the Conservation Area provided the new windows match the rest of the building as stated in the application.

47-51 Hamilton Road (Peacocks): Erection of semi-enclosed roof level air conditioning condensers. This air conditioning will have little effect on the Conservation Area – provided adequate noise screening is in place.

119 Cliff Rd: Alterations and Extensions. The Society has no objections to this proposal. The design complements the street scene. However, we suggest that the sloping roof to the tank room could, perhaps, be used for solar heating

Applications awaiting a Decision

Stowe House, 105 Cliff Road: Erect 12 apartments & 2 single storey units, including underground car parking etc. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this revised application. The Society continues to consider this reversion to the original proposals to be an over development of this prestigious cliff top site. The road frontage is too monolithic compared with other cliff top dwellings. A further drawback to this proposal is that it fills the site to the borders with the adjacent buildings.

Despite the improved design of the frontage and the introduction of underground parking, this is still an over development of the site and the height of the proposed building will dominate the street scene. The Society, therefore, objects to this proposal and requests that the original concept of 10 apartments is adhered to.

North Sea Hotel, Sea Road: Demolish. The Society has no objection to the demolition of this building. However, we request that any previous proposals for this site be declared void or at least re-circulated and re-assessed as to whether they are consistent with the new Conservation Area. Any new proposals will also need to meet this new criteria.

32 Ranelagh Rd: Insertion of replacement windows. The Society regrets that the opportunity has not been taken to renew the windows using wooden frames that exactly replace the originals in this imposing Victorian/Edwardian building in the Conservation Area. Therefore, The Society objects to the use of UPVC on this building.

30 Orwell Road: Conversion of part of the first floor to a self contained flat. These changes will have little effect on the Conservation Area.

29A Albert Walk: Replacement of bay window to first floor. The drawing submitted with this application is inadequate to assess the impact of this replacement on the Hamilton Road side of the property. We note the reference to the adjacent window but an onsite visit shows that most of the windows for this block have been poorly altered in the past and that the adjacent window may be the worst of the bunch! The Society recommends that further deterioration in the visual impact of these buildings be resisted and that this and future applications are encouraged to revive the original style of wooden window sympathetic to these frontages.

The Society notes that there is no specification for the leaded lights or for the curved cill. We recommend that the replacement bay window be of treated wood construction and an identical design to the original.

The use of UPVC for this replacement will continue the previous adverse effects on the Conservation Area and we therefore object to this aspect of the proposal.

Other Applications

51 Orwell Rd: Erection of a detached one and a half-storey building. We believe that this application will have little effect on the Conservation Area provided the design is as stated. REFUSED by SCDG.

David Crawford

Programme for 2010

- Tuesday 26 January **Felixstowe Radio.** Trevor Lockwood and his team provide an insight into local radio.
- Friday 29 January **Quiz Night.** See details in this Newsletter on page 3.
- Tuesday 23 February **Edwardian Felixstowe.** Martin Sutor tells us about the times and architecture of this period.
- Tuesday 23 March **Felixstowe Museum.** Hear about the many super exhibits and displays at Felixstowe's best kept secret!
- Monday 26 April **Annual dinner** to be held at The Brook Hotel. Details given on leaflet enclosed with this Newsletter.
- Tuesday 18 May **AGM and Felixstowe during World War 1.** Star historian David Tolliday highlights this fascinating time.
- Wednesday 23 June *** Day visit to **Audley End House, Service Wing and Gardens.** A conducted tour of the house will be included.
- Wednesday 21 July *** A morning visit to **Sudbury** for short river trip by electric boat. Afternoon visit to **Cotton Mechanical Musical Museum.**
- Sunday 8 August **Garden Party** at 33 Ferry Road, Felixstowe by kind permission of Peter and Monica Smith. Details will be given in the May Newsletter.
- Wednesday 18 August *** Day visit to **Kentwell Hall and Gardens.**
- Sat/Sun 18/19 September **Beachwatch Weekend.** Further details will be given in the May and September Newsletters.
- Tuesday 28 September **'The Suffolk Gipsy'.** Pip Wright informs us of the amazing story of Rev John Steggall.
- Tuesday 26 October **Felixstowe's New Conservation Area.** Robert Scrimgeour explains his latest conservation scheme.
- Tuesday 23 November **The Sutton Hoo Burial.** Mark Mitchel's fascinating account of this major discovery.

All speaker meetings are held in St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30 pm
Members £1, Visitors £2

*** The Booking Forms for these Visits will be in the May Newsletter

If you wish to join The Society, remove this page from the Newsletter, complete both columns and send it to Betty Woollan at the address given on the back page with a cheque payable to *The Felixstowe Society* for the correct subscription, and **enclose a stamped addressed envelope.**

Full names

.....

Address

.....

Post Code

Telephone

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

Artwork

Archives/Exhibitions

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?

.....

.....

For office use only (please tick and date)

Receipt issued

On Newsletter delivery list

Gift Aid Declaration (for individuals).

Please ensure that the name on the cheque for the membership subscription (donation) in the same as the donor.

Donor details

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

.....

Post Code

I would like The Felixstowe Society to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as gift aid donations.

Donor to sign and date here

sign

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 Society's 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.

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; arranges outings to places of interest in East Anglia; 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 '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, and send it with your membership subscription plus a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the receipt to;

Betty Woollan
Membership Secretary
The Pines
Manor Road
Trimley St. Mary
IP11 0TU

Membership Subscriptions

Annual Membership - single	£5
Joint Membership - two people at same address	£7
Life Membership - single	£50
Life Membership - two people at same address	£70
Corporate Membership (for local organisations who wish to support the Society)	
Non - commercial	£12
Commercial	£15
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.