



# Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

Website: [www.felixstowehutschalets.co.uk](http://www.felixstowehutschalets.co.uk) E-mail: [felixstowehutschalets@gmail.com](mailto:felixstowehutschalets@gmail.com)

Correspondence Address: Fells Cottage, 72 Ferry Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9LU

Tel: 01394 274331 (Treasurer)

Chairman: Jo Woodward  
Vice Chairman: Roy Gray

Secretary: Julie Downton  
Treasurer: Trevor Mason

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## NEWSLETTER No. 13

September 2017

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### BEACH HUT REVIEW UPDATE

After a long and arduous 10 months, the matter of the SCDC review of beach huts has drawn to a close. In case you didn't already know, the outcome is –

The threat of a £7000 (+VAT) 'lease premium' has been ditched. The proposal of a 10% rise every year for eight years from April 2017 has been amended. The prospect of a new owner having to pay three times the annual licence fee for a new licence has been drastically cut. The ridiculous structure of having 14 different pricing bands has been removed.

From next year there will be just 2 different price bands – 'premier' if the hut is in a front row position, and 'standard' if it isn't. From April 2018 a 'premier' hut will cost £500 (inc. VAT) and a 'standard' hut will cost £400 (inc. VAT). This will increase by 10% in 2019 and again in 2020. There will still be an additional sum to pay if your hut is larger than the 'standard' size. A new owner will have to pay £600 for a licence but if it changes hands within a family it will cost £120, although the Council is saying they will look at each case on a discretionary basis. From 2021 a new combined Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Council (called East Suffolk District Council) will be in existence and they will deal with licence fees.

We were always going to have to pay more for our huts, but at least a compromise has been reached which is far less punishing to owners and gives SCDC an increase in revenue.

There is no doubt that this would not have been the outcome had members not put their weight behind the Committee's efforts by attending meetings, writing to Councillors, marching along the prom, replying to the dubious SCDC 'questionnaire' as well as our own survey and donating to the Fighting Fund so we could get legal representation. On that note we have to say a huge 'thank you' to Nick Billingham of Devonshires Solicitors, based in London and Colchester, who quickly got to grips with our situation, gave us some invaluable advice, sent some hard hitting letters to SCDC and prepared a draft letter for us to send when we were threatened with having our huts removed from the beach if we didn't sign the new licence. Although he works for a London company, Nick lives within the Suffolk Coastal district, so he has a great affinity with us.



## **NOW LET'S HAVE SOME REALLY GOOD NEWS**

**Grandma's Little House at Manor End, owned by one of our Committee members Joy Reeve, has been awarded the prestigious title of 'Beach Hut of the Year' in a national competition run by Towergate Insurance. As well as having a fabulously decorated hut, Joy and her good friend Karen have opened the hut three mornings a week in the winter as the 'Occasional Cafe' and provided tea, coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits to passers-by for a donation to their chosen charity, 'Cancer Research UK'. They have raised several thousands of pounds in the past few years.**

**After being nominated, Joy had to go to London to be interviewed by the judges, one of which was Phil Spencer of Channel 4's 'Location, Location, Location'. Phil visited Joy's hut to present her with a plaque and a cheque for £1000. In addition our Association received £500, and the Committee will be deciding how to best use the money. Phil also brought with him a fantastic cake made to look like Joy's hut and several bottles of champagne, which the watching crowd had little trouble in drinking! Anglia TV News was there as were local radio and newspaper reporters.**



**Congratulations, Joy, a well deserved award. She will welcome you to the hut any Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning throughout the coming winter. This year's chosen charity is the Alzheimer's Society.**



## QUIZ NIGHT

Our next Quiz Night will be on  
Monday 6th November 2017 at 7pm  
at the Trades and Labour Club in Walton

Roy Gray will be asking the questions and we will be  
holding a raffle to raise some money for charity.  
Donated prizes will be gratefully received.

Light refreshments will be provided FREE (drinks can be  
bought at the bar) and we welcome all members and family  
and friends who use your huts and chalets.

Please let the Treasurer, Trevor Mason, know if you are  
coming (either on your own or with a table – up to 6), by  
email or phone – contact details at the top of this newsletter

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## CHALET NEWS

While the subject of increasing beach hut costs dominated our  
summer, Committee member Roy, who represents chalet tenants, was  
busy dealing with Suffolk Coastal in respect of the electricity supply  
at the chalets. Suffolk Coastal suddenly decided that the supply wasn't  
safe and it was cut off at Cliff House. SCDC were going to put LED  
lighting in temporarily but, after representations were made by Roy  
and several of the tenants, it was decided to replace the wiring and  
not charge tenants for electricity this year and meters have been  
installed.

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In May, members joined the Committee members to carry out a litter  
pick on the beach from the Pier towards Manor End. Several bags of  
rubbish were collected. The photo shows some of those involved.





## FELIXSTOWE CARNIVAL

At fairly short notice we decided to put a float into Felixstowe Carnival. The theme, very appropriately, was 'Seaside Traditions'. As ever, Barbara Grace had the imagination and enthusiasm to take the lead (ably assisted by her partner, Alan) and a float depicting a Punch and Judy show was created. We didn't win a prize – but it's the taking part that is important. We hope you agree that it was a pretty impressive effort.



## ARMED FORCES DAY

We joined in the Armed Forces Day celebrations in the town when several members opened up their huts to sell food and drinks to passers-by, and also found other ways of fund-raising by selling books, guessing the number of toy soldiers in a bottle and much more. Lots of people got into the spirit of the day by dressing up in camouflage clothing and also 1940's dress. An amazing £1028 was raised for Felixstowe Air Cadets. Well done to everybody who took part.





In May, nine hut owners at the Spa Pavilion site received a letter from SCDC 'out of the blue', telling them that they had to move their huts within little more than a week because the beach was eroding in front of the huts and SCDC couldn't guarantee that they wouldn't fall over the 'cliff face' that had appeared in front of them. In the letter the owners were not given any options as to how or where to move their huts (incredible but true!). Following representations made by the Association, with the support of members affected, SCDC agreed to find an alternative site. Initially this was to be a piece of grassland near the Leisure Centre, which was not satisfactory, but eventually it was agreed that huts could be moved to gaps in rows of huts between the Spa and the Pier, or elsewhere if preferred. SCDC also agreed to pay for the move, which was not offered in their letter. What will happen next is not known. We are told that SCDC will 'monitor' the state of the beach, but we must face the possibility that they may not go back to their original positions.



## CYCLING ON THE PROMENADE

It doesn't seem nearly a year since cycling was allowed on the promenade. The one year trial period is almost up, so if you have any comments to make, whether in support or otherwise, before the final decision is made, please send them to Helen Greengrass of Felixstowe Forward either by email [helen.greengrass@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:helen.greengrass@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or in writing to Helen at Felixstowe Town Hall.



We are pleased to welcome a new Committee member. After our plea at the AGM, Jane Warden, who has a beach hut at Brackenbury Cliffs, came forward. We're delighted to have you on board, Jane.

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### Please help us to help you

*Several of our members don't have email and we try our best to keep you informed, but from time to time we send out brief emails and it just isn't practical to post out snippets of information every time we send an email. If you now have email and haven't told us yet, or if you have a friend or relative who can receive emails for you, please send us the email address. Also – if anyone has changed their address, telephone number or email address, please let us know so we can keep our records up to date.*

Finally, a reminder of just some of the businesses that offer discounts to our members. Lots more can be found on our website.

#### **Beach Hut Maintenance and Repairs**

***Any Job DIY – Steve Lockwood***

Mobile: 07542 751976

Email: [anyjobdiy@smartabusinessbuilder.com](mailto:anyjobdiy@smartabusinessbuilder.com)

Website: [www.anyjobdiy.smarta.com](http://www.anyjobdiy.smarta.com)

***Mark Steward and Son***

Home: 01473 714533

Mobile: 07908 652481

Email: [m.steward@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.steward@ntlworld.com)

***John Durrell (Painter and Decorator)***

Home: 01473 423742

Email: - [sue.durrell@googlemail.com](mailto:sue.durrell@googlemail.com)

***D H Services***

Mobile: 07561 150608 (Dennis)

***Kevin Swarbrick***

Mobile: 07780 810948

***Hardman Oakley Fencing***

Mobiles: 07545 139253 (Mark) or 07804 895658 (Ryan)

Email: [parkley6@icloud.com](mailto:parkley6@icloud.com)

Website: [www.Hardmanoakley.co.uk](http://www.Hardmanoakley.co.uk)

#### **Beach Hut Insurance**

***Love Your Hut***

Tel: 0113 357 0204

Website: [www.Loveyourhut.com](http://www.Loveyourhut.com)

***Ryans Beach Hut Insurance***

Tel: 01473 343300

Website: [www.ryan-group.co.uk/beachhuts](http://www.ryan-group.co.uk/beachhuts)

***Towergate***

Tel: 0844 346 0570

Website: [www.towergateinsurance.co.uk/home-and-property/beach-hut-insurance](http://www.towergateinsurance.co.uk/home-and-property/beach-hut-insurance)

#### **Hardware / Tools etc.**

***Underwood Hardware, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe***

Tel: 01394 284685

Website: [www.underwoodhardware.co.uk](http://www.underwoodhardware.co.uk)

Purchase anything you need to maintain your hut or chalet. Discount on everything except Calor Gas.