



Tel: 01394 274331 (Treasurer)



FUNDRAISING BY OUR MEMBERS

Quite a lot of fundraising has been undertaken by our members in recent months. Our Committee member, Barbara Grace, opened her hut on New Year's Day and on Easter Monday to provide food and drinks to people who dropped in or were passing by. Di Chilver helped out by making delicious cakes. There were also lots of books on sale and a competition for the best Easter bonnet. As a result, Barbara raised a fantastic £400 which has been equally divided between Felixstowe Coastwatch and Felixstowe Volunteer Coastal Patrol and Rescue Service. We are very pleased, on your behalf, to be able to support local charities who exist to help keep people safe as they use the beach and facilities. (A couple of photos are on the back page)

Again this year our Committee member, Joy Reeve, and her good friend Karen Kenny, opened the Charity Café at their hut (the award winning 'Grandma's Little House' at Manor End) on three mornings a week throughout the winter, raising funds for Alzheimer's Research. They actually had a month off – and if you read on you will find out why! They provided drinks and home-made cakes in exchange for donations and on the final day, Easter Saturday, bacon rolls were added to the menu. This year they raised an astonishing £3501.

Our entry in the Felixstowe Christmas Tree Festival at the Salvation Army Citadel received donations of £39 which we donated to Joy and Karen to swell their funds.

At our Quiz Night in November, in response to a suggestion from members, we asked for a £1 donation from those attending and, added to the proceeds of a raffle, we raised £150 which was donated to Felixstowe Coastwatch.

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A DEFIBRILLATOR AT 'THE DIP'

There is a considerable drive to have defibrillators available in as many places as possible around Felixstowe so the Committee decided that we had sufficient funds to purchase one for 'The Dip' area close to where the majority of beach huts are located. You will now see it on the wall on the seaward side of the toilet block at 'The Dip'. We have a plaque above it to let people know that it was provided by our members. Let's hope it is never needed.



For several weeks only the cabinet was in place until a member of the public let us know that it was empty! The defibrillator was sitting in its box at the Town Hall as the installer had forgotten to fit it. We were not amused!

JOY AND KAREN GO TO OZ!

You will, no doubt, have remembered from our last newsletter that we entertained Rick and Anne Galliene from Melbourne, Australia at 'Grandma's Little House' in the summer with a fish and chips lunch. Rick is Vice-President of the Mornington Peninsula Beach Box Association and was visiting Beach Hut Associations in the UK as part of their holiday. Joy and Karen had been planning a trip to Australia and decided to visit Rick and Anne, so they contacted them once they had returned home. Not only were they pleased to invite Joy and Karen to visit them but they insisted that they stay with them for several days. What a wonderful gesture. The ladies spent the month of March on their antipodean travels and, while visiting Rick and Anne, were given a tour of 'beach boxes' in Melbourne. There are photos in this news letter of Rick and Anne's beach box – more like a boat house and considerably larger than allowed on the seafront at Felixstowe! – a row of huts at Brighton Beach and the ladies enjoying the sunshine in Melbourne at a somewhat smaller hut owned by friends of Rick and Anne. They tell us they had a wonderful holiday and were royally entertained by their hosts. It is great to have such a good relationship with our friends 'Down Under'.

(Photos on the back page)

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A FEW MORE SNIPPETS

- Good News! The weatherboards on the chalets at Bath Tap are due to be painted this year.
- We are waiting to learn when there will be a review of the chalets, which the Council intend to do sometime soon. We'll keep you posted.
- Our website is in the process of being updated. All the same information, but in a much more up-to-date format.
- We have decided not to enter a float in the Carnival this year.



Rick and Anne's hut at Mornington Peninsula



Huts at Brighton Beach, Melbourne



Karen and Joy at a hut on Brighton Beach, Melbourne



A fine display of Easter bonnets



Enjoying the sunshine on Easter Monday