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NEWSLETTER NO 6

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IT'S QUIZ NIGHT AGAIN PLUS SECURITY ADVICE FOR YOUR HUTS AND CHALETS

We are holding our next Quiz Night on **Monday 24**th **November** at the Trades and Labour Club in Walton. At **6.30pm** there will be a presentation by Phil Kemp, a Crime Reduction Officer with Suffolk Constabulary, who will give us some tips on keeping our huts and chalets secure. There will be a light buffet and the bar will be open (of course). That will be followed by a light hearted quiz with Roy Gray, our Vice Chairman, asking the questions. There will be **NO CHARGE** to enter the quiz or for the buffet, but we will hold a raffle to raise some funds for Felixstowe Coastwatch.

We look forward to seeing lots of our members there – and please bring your relatives and friends who also enjoy your hut. Teams of up to 6 – but we will make up teams if there are only one or two of you in your group.

Well done to all the 'hutters' who supported Di and Peter Chilver at Hut 787 at Brackenbury Cliffs by attending the MacMillan Coffee Morning at their hut. A great opportunity to meet fellow 'hutters' and raise money for a good cause at the same time.

A great total of £367 was raised.

The Tourist Information Centre

We now know that the TIC will be moving to the Library – a nonsensical move, driven by saving money! We have written to ask Suffolk Coastal to reconsider, but realistically we were wasting our time. Where do we see most tourists in Felixstowe? In the town or on the seafront? Answers on a postcard!

Three of our Committee members recently met with Suffolk Coastal District Councillors Ray Herring and TJ Haworth-Culf, plus two of their Council Officers. The following matters were discussed: -

Rents for 2015/16: We are told that the increase in rents next year will be no higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). (Fingers crossed they stick to it).

Manor End: The temporary toilets will be replaced with a permanent block in due course. It is going through the planning process at the moment. (We are trying to get the beach level raised so 'hutters' can get onto it without climbing gear!)

Spa Gardens: A local company will be continuing the work and there is a new Project Manager. (Suffolk Coastal are keeping very quiet, however, about what went wrong – and whose fault it was!)

Spa Pavilion: Suffolk Coastal are hopeful that it will reopen as a theatre in Spring 2015 (only time will tell!)

Preparation for the winter: Suffolk Coastal has set aside £2000 for any work that might need to be done in the winter tides. Let's hope it is not as bad as the tidal surge last winter.

New sites for more huts: Suffolk Coastal are investigating the possibility of allocating more sites for beach huts. (More revenue to help keep our rents down?)

Byelaws: We have pointed out (again) how confusing the signs about the byelaws are – they have very small writing, face the wrong way, are placed in the wrong places and people take absolutely no notice of them and they are never enforced!

State of the Promenade: We have taken photos of some of the worst places and passed them on in the hope that some repairs might be carried out.

After we sent out an e-mail to let members know that rats had been seen at Cliff House chalets and at Brackenbury Cliffs, we received the below poem from Stanley – our resident Manor End poet. Thanks, Stanley, for keeping us amused!

Poor little rats, what can I say,
Your rubbish is food, we clear it away.
But humans aren't kind, it's true you know
'Cause me and my friends just have to go.
If I were a cat, or even a dog,
I would be safe from you two legged lot.
But I'm like the badger, also the fox,
We all have four legs but no voice box.
So kill us you humans, that's all that you do
But if there's no rubbish about I would not be too.
I would be at home, nursing my young
So they'll clear your rubbish, when I have long gone.

A reminder, though, to make sure there is no unwanted food left behind when we go home.

More seriously, thanks to Jane Allitt at Suffolk Coastal for getting a pest control officer on the case immediately.

Summer has gone - we hope you enjoyed the September weather at your huts and chalets