



# Felixstowe Beach Hut & Chalet Association

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## NEWSLETTER No. 21

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# YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS



## YOU

Since the Association was formed in 2013, the Committee has comprised virtually all the same members. There comes a time when new blood is needed, and that time is **now!** Both Jo (our Chair) and Roy (our Vice-Chair) have indicated their intention to stand down at the AGM next year. We have persuaded them to stay before, but this time they feel the time is right to give way. This gives you plenty of time to consider whether you would be prepared to offer yourself for election to the Committee, preferably to take on one of those posts. Roy has represented the chalet tenants and another chalet tenant would be very welcome. Those of you who may be interested are welcome to have a chat with a Committee member to find out more.

The last thing we want is for the Association to fold because of a lack of members willing to form the Committee.

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There are more than 900 beach huts and 60 chalets in Felixstowe and this year our membership number has risen to 606. That is a very good proportion of the total number of huts and chalets. We have welcomed 36 new members so far this year but have also lost several, either because they have sold their hut or given up their chalet tenancy – or perhaps they just forgot to renew their membership, despite several reminders.

## SPA PAVILION SITE

The situation for owners of huts at the Spa Pavilion site rumbles on. For three summers now their huts have been standing sideways on the promenade, unable to return to the beach in the summer. The ideal solution would be for the beach to be replenished with sand and shingle, but we are told this is cost prohibitive and that replenishing is not due until 2027/28. Some owners have already moved to other sites but, understandably, the majority of owners value their position and wish to remain in that vicinity.

Two possible options have been explored by the Council. The first proposal was to build wooden platforms on the beach similar to, although not exactly the same as, the structures near The Fludyers Hotel. Most owners were prepared to shoulder the cost of these platforms, which could be as much as £10,000, but the proposal has been dropped and we are by no means sure why. Secondly, as we reported in the last newsletter, was an idea to build shingle platforms held in place by temporary concrete blocks which would be removed in the winter. It was intended to build one of these platforms as a trial before placing any huts on it, but it has never materialised. Detailed architect's plans were drawn up for both options but neither has ever come to fruition.

There is now a plan in place to move the huts to various other sites along the seafront. A planning application has been submitted for 16 huts to move to Manor End and the other places suggested are to add 6 more huts to Pier South and 20 on the beach at Clifflands. The possibility of putting some huts amongst trees at Brackenbury Fort has not been well received!

Some of the hut owners have formed their own support group, which is being supported by the Committee. They have met with Councillors and have also held a meeting to let their fellow owners know what actions they have been taking on their behalf. They have put some reasonable suggestions forward as ways their huts could remain in the vicinity of the Spa Pavilion, but at present these are falling on stony ground. The effort that Ruth, Will, Susan and Mario have put in on behalf of their fellow owners is commendable.

There is still a long way to go before this matter is resolved. Whether or not it is in the favour of hut owners remains to be seen.

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## THE OCCASSIONAL CAFÉ RETURNS

**Joy and Karen are pleased to let you know that the 'Occasional Café' will be returning to Manor End this winter. The café will be open at Hut 9 (the award winning 'Grandma's Little House') from 15<sup>th</sup> November until Easter every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 9am until 1pm. This year all the profits will be donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thousands of pounds have been raised for charities over the years and your visit and contributions will be welcomed. Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will be on sale.**

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE STEPS AT MANOR END?

You will undoubtedly remember the photo of the wooden steps at Manor End sailing off into the distance which was in our last newsletter. In case you've forgotten, and for the benefit of new members, here it is: -



We wondered at the time where they might finish up. We can't answer that but can confirm that one of our members saw them in the sea off Margate when he was sailing his boat there a few days after they disappeared from Manor End.

The more pressing point, though, is where is their replacement? A new set of wooden steps was promised but has never materialised. A pertinent question would be, why not replace them with permanent concrete steps such as are in the two adjacent bays? There is no answer forthcoming to either question despite many requests.

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### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Congratulations to Di and Peter Chilvers who held their annual MacMillan Coffee Morning at their hut at Brackenbury Cliffs. They were well supported by our members and many other people resulting in a magnificent sum of **£973** being raised for the charity. Well done to everybody involved.

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### THE ASSOCIATION REACHES CORNWALL!!

We were surprised a few weeks ago to receive a request from BBC Radio Cornwall to contribute to their debate on the removal of beach huts from the sands in Hayle, Cornwall. It transpires that a landowner is wanting huts removed from his land and, understandably, the hut owners are not too chuffed about it. A quick search of the internet showed that the huts at Hayle are referred to as chalets and they are somewhat larger than the ones at Felixstowe and have verandas on the front. One of our Committee members volunteered to make a guest appearance on their Breakfast Programme to discuss the heritage of beach huts and their value to the attraction of a seaside resort. We wish the Hayle owners' success in keeping their chalets – a situation that is similar to our huts at the Spa Pavilion. Why they decided to ask us to contribute when there are huts all around the country remains a mystery, but we were happy to help.

## THE SUFFOLK MAGAZINE

Those who read the Suffolk Magazine will have seen in the October edition a very interesting article about the history and pleasure of owning beach huts in Felixstowe entitled 'The Joy of Beach Huts' written by one of our members, Ruth Dugdall. The article contained very interesting interviews with some of our members and some lovely photos. It was reproduced in the East Anglian Daily Times too. Well worth a read.

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## WATER STANDPIPES ARE BEING TURNED OFF

As usual the taps on the seafront will be turned off for the winter. We are told that they will be turned off in the first week in December this year.

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## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

All being well, we hope to be able to hold our **Annual General Meeting** in person next year. The Trades and Labour Club at Walton is booked for **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.**

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If you have changed any of your contact details (email, phone numbers, address) please let us know to enable us to maintain accurate records. If we don't currently have an email address for you and you have access to one, please let us know so we can keep you up to date speedily.

Also, if your hut has been moved from the Spa Pavilion site to another location, please let us know as we occasionally send out an email just to members on a specific site if the information is relevant only to that site. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out.



**It might be a bit early, but we wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a healthy, Covid-free, New Year**