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"Recently Felixstowe Chamber has undergone a renaissance and is moving forward with new vigour and determination to promote the town, its members and their various business interests. My goal is to build on these sturdy foundations and with the support of my fellow committee members, try and ensure that we engage in activities, events and projects that have a positive and beneficial affect for all concerned." Shaun Rudduck – New Chairman

New Chairman

Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce welcomes Shaun Rudduck who was nominated and elected as their new Chairman at the March 2006 Annual General Meeting. Shaun is 48 years old and has lived in Felixstowe most of his life. He is married to Maggie and has 2 children (Gareth 23 & Lucy 21) and, since leaving Deben High School has worked in the shipping industry throughout culminating with the formation of his own freight business in 2004.

Felixstowe is a special place for Shaun, with his deep rooted family connections with the town, which has seen considerable change over the years not least with the dramatic growth of the UK's largest port.



Felixstowe Chamber Executive Committee

Chairman Mr Shaun Rudduck 01394 276697	FOCS Container Services	Mr Stan Harris 01394 277092	<i>Ocean Amusements</i>
Vice Chairman Mr. Harvey Smith 01394 672023	<i>Porthole Photography</i>	Mr Barry Williment 01394 284680	<i>Family Amusements Ltd</i>
Hon Treasurer Mr John Brinkley 01394 283038	<i>Burlington Florist</i>	Mr Charles Manning 01394 282370	<i>Manning Amusements</i>
Secretary Louise Berrill 01394 279692	<i>Beatons Ltd</i>	Mr David Preston 01394 272331	<i>Solar Supermarket</i>
Trade Co-ordinator Hannah McCourt 07723 011984		Mrs Caron Symes 01394 278553	<i>Froffee Coffee</i>
		Mr Jado Kapitan 07775 546855	<i>Barclays Bank Plc</i>
		Mrs Stephanie Simmonds 01394 279823	<i>Magpie Books</i>

Quiz a great success

The last Chamber charity quiz which took place at The Fludyers Arms in March was over subscribed for the second time! A superb evening was enjoyed by all thanks to experienced quiz master Mr. David Spall of Denholm and The Fludyers staff for the excellent value meal. CH Freight took the first prize. £190.00 was raised which was given to the Lion's Christmas Lights fund.

Sub Committee reports in brief.....

Felixstowe Chamber attends and contributes to several sub-committees in the area in addition to undertaking their normal chamber duties:

Resort Regeneration

Discussion underway regarding the creation of a community town partnership is currently underway.

A community partnership is a vehicle for obtaining regional funding and has been very successful within other local towns such as Wickham Market. Projects such as refurbishment of public and community areas, community centres buildings, public gardens enhanced, etc. can be achieved.

The main function of a community partnership is TO RAISE FUNDS from the enormous and growing number of government revenue streams: and to distribute and oversee the expenditure of that money.

Sounds good? There are lots of benefits, as well as some pitfalls, but most of us feel this is the best route to get hard cash for projects in Felixstowe.

The Chamber is looking to be at the centre of discussions, and we will keep all members informed of any progress.

Suffolk Coastal Business Forum

Over 25 business people attended the first of what we hope will be many SCBF breakfast meetings. The setting at Snape Maltings Concert Hall can only be described as spectacular, breakfast was excellent and a good chance for businesses within Suffolk Coastal area to meet and to exchange views and information.

David Edwards, chair of SCBF introduced the event with an overview of the importance of the Forum within the Local strategic Partnership, and as a voice and point of contact for businesses within Suffolk Coastal.

John Gummer was recently appointed by David Cameron as Chair of The Conservative Parties - "Quality of life" group. A group concerned with the environment, arts, planning etc. (N.B. Felixstowe Chamber of Trade & Commerce is a non-political organisation). Mr. Gummer spoke primarily about the "huge" changes he is expecting to local Government, predicting that many services such as Police, Ambulance, District Councils will all be operated from much larger Regional Offices. Mr. Gummer's main problem with a system of regional authorities being that power should be devolved from the Government down to local areas as opposed to taking power from the bottom. The struggles of the Primary Care Trusts with the Government and the Regional Health Authorities being such a case. Mr. Gummer continued with a number of interesting points regarding local Council expenditure, planning, housing, national business development & energy conservation.

Of course with such a wide range of topics, the subsequent Q & A session, which finished at 9.30, could have lasted till lunch!

The SCBF will be arranging more functions. I certainly recommend trying to attend and will keep you informed of further events.

*"Visit our website –
www.felixstowechamber.co.uk."*

Calendar of Chamber Events

3rd Networking Event
Elizabeth Orwell Hotel
23rd May 2006

4th Networking Event
Elizabeth Orwell Hotel
26th September 2006

Quiz Night - November - Date
to be confirmed



*Felixstowe Chamber supported
this advert which appeared in
the Easter Leisure Guide*

*Our objectives are to encourage
extra tourism and for local
people to visit Felixstowe
particularly, during the early part
of the season. Later this year,
we will look at ways to promote
different events, French Markets
and to extend the season in
Autumn.*

In memory of Juanita (past chairman) Bench Presentation at 'The Hut'

Harvey Smith, retiring chairman of The Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce, presented the new bench in memory of Juanita, a past Chairman of the Chamber, said he had not personally known her so he passed the presentation to Cyril Webb.

Councillor Cyril Webb, himself a past chairman of the Chamber, and the current Mayor of Felixstowe said that he had not only known Juanita as a Chamber colleague, but also as a personal friend, for many years. He was delighted to be there, and to welcome Juanita's sons, Carl and Paul and their families.

As a chairman of the Chamber, Juanita made sure things got done, as she also did as Lady Captain of the golf club, and at the newsagents business in town.

Richard Holland, chairman of FOPWA (Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association) accepted the bench on behalf of the Association. They had heard a couple of years ago that the Red Cross would be giving up the "The Hut" and had subsequently themselves been able to obtain a fifteen year lease for the premises from Suffolk Coastal District Council. Some repairs and decorations had already been completed, and they intended further enhancements in the future. Any funds received on their behalf would only be used for their own premises.

Besides "The Hut", the Association also run the drop - in centre in Orwell Road, Felixstowe, convenient for the town centre and shoppers, which is open to all over 60's.

Outstanding turnout for 2nd networking event

Our second networking event held at The Elizabeth Orwell Hotel was attended by over 60 members and non-members in February.

Blocks Solicitors in Felixstowe provided a factual talk on the principal, concept and reasons for legal contracts aimed at small businesses. The Citizens Advice Bureau provided the audience with information on the services available to businesses and provided an overview on employment law.

Thanks to the speakers and to Blocks for their sponsorship of the event.

For advice on either of the above issues contact:

Blocks Solicitors

Howard Wright
97 Hamilton Road
Felixstowe
01394 283241
hjw@blockslegal.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

Tony Horrocks
2-6 Orwell Road
Felixstowe
01394 275958



Presentation outside 'The Hut'

When you are next on the London Underground – keep an eye open for a poster advertising Felixstowe as tourist destination – also supported by Felixstowe Chamber



Thanks to the sponsors and speakers of 'Blocks Solicitors' for supporting our 2nd Networking Event

Introducing new Trade Co-ordinator

A warm welcome to Hannah McCourt – our newly appointed trade co-ordinator. She will be the first point of contact for our members and will be responsible for recruiting new members, assisting existing members, obtaining details for our website, generating monthly newsletters and assisting in organising events.

Hannah has been working with the chamber for a few months now & will shortly be married – we all wish Hannah and her husband all the best for their future together.

Visit of Normandy Market

Author: Harvey Smith, Porthole Photography

Suffolk Coastal District Council was recently approached by a travelling French Market regarding opening for a few days each year in the area.

After positive discussion at a recent Felixstowe Resort Regeneration meeting, an informal chat took place between Marjorie Vincent of "Marche de France", tourism at SCDC, Susan Robinson of Felixstowe Town Council and myself.

I have to say we were all impressed with the professionalism and range of product that was displayed by the market. However, the main stumbling block with hosting a visit by an occasional market has always been the potential negative effect on trade for the resident shops. Christmas markets have certainly had a positive effect on the towns of Bury St Edmunds and Woodbridge. Marche de France have visited a number of towns unsure as to the overall benefit of the market - and subsequently been invited to return!



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Yes, I am in favour of an occasional visit but we need your opinion too!

This is the basis of the market-

Market size

- Approximately 120m in length.
- 80% of stalls are food based:- Fresh bread baked on site, refrigerated cheese and meat stalls, cider, wine, jams and preserves, biscuits, olives etc.
- 20% crafts:- Lavender, bags, tablecloths, pot pourri, baskets.
- Plus information on the region of Normandy itself.

When and Where (Proposition only!)

July 14,15,16, 2006 Friday and Saturday in Hamilton Road, Sunday on sea front - Leisure centre car park, or Spa Pavilion, or vicinity of Manning's Amusements and

Nov 24,25,26 2006 (Christmas light switch on? Obviously with Lions approval) or December 8, 9, 10, 2006 in Hamilton Road.

Organisation

As the market has been established for over seven years they are aware of dealing with waste collection, emergency vehicle access, insurance, advertising and PR, banners etc, actually providing help with many of the above.

The market sells products that are not normally found in supermarkets & they are particularly from the Normandy area.

They have received positive PR from Okehampton, Huddersfield, Ashburton, Aberystwyth.

Perhaps the potential exists to combine with another market, our monthly farmers market, or a W.I market?

We hope to receive testimonials and photographs soon.