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Welcome to new members

The Felixstowe Chamber continues to recruit new members and offers a warm welcome this month to the following new members:

- Natwest Bank
- Zygo
- Suffolk Tiles Ltd
- Alford (Bros) Ltd
- Paul Ruffles Consultancy Services
- Unicorn Designs
- Norwich & Peterborough Insurance Brokers

Chamber membership now exceeds 120 and increasing all the time.



Felixstowe Chamber Executive Committee

Chairman

Mr Shaun Rudduck
01394 276697

FOCS Container Services Mr Stan Harris
01394 277092

Ocean Amusements

Vice Chairman

Mr. Harvey Smith
01394 672023

Porthole Photography Mr Barry Williment
01394 284680

Family Amusements Ltd

Hon Treasurer

Mr John Brinkley
01394 283038

Burlington Florist Mr Charles Manning
01394 282370

Manning Amusements

Secretary

Louise Berrill
01394 279692

Beatons Ltd Mr David Preston
01394 272331

Solar Supermarket

Trade Co-ordinator

Hannah McCourt
07723 011984

Mr Stephen Flynn
01394 274701

Froffee Coffee

Flynnstar Bicycles

New business in the town

Felixstowe welcomes the new shops & businesses which have recently opened in the town centre:

- ◆ Glyph
- ◆ A & S Recruitment
- ◆ Tchibo
- ◆ Carphone Warehouse
- ◆ Subway



"Visit our website"

www.felixstowechamber.co.uk

Dates for your diary:

27th November 2006

Quiz Night
'The Sands Bar, Sea Road'

12th December 2006

Christmas Trip to Otley Hall

21st February 2006

Networking Evening
Elizabeth Orwell Hotel



The Chamber has once again provided summer entertainment for shoppers in Felixstowe. The Ipswich Over 50's brass band played every Friday afternoon throughout July and were enjoyed by many.

The Chamber would like to increase the amount of entertainment in the town and seafront – does anyone have any ideas?

Sub Committee reports in brief.....

Town Centre Management Group

Committee members John Brinkley and Harvey Smith represented the Chamber at the annual forum for this group. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss future plans and ideas for the town centre with local councillors and other interested parties. It is hoped that this group (together with similar sub-committees) will be able to provide new ideas and plans for consideration by the newly formed "Felixstowe Future Steering Group".

Felixstowe & The Trimley's Future Steering Group

The remit of this newly formed group is to plan a vision and strategy for the future of both areas, to secure funding and complete identified projects. Although in its early stages it is hoped that the group, which is made up of the local councils, Felixstowe Chamber, Haven Gateway Partnership, Harwich Haven Authority, EEDA, Parish Councils and many more organisations will be able to resurrect several worthwhile projects for the area which previously lacked funding. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Business Improvement District (B.I.D.)

Would you pay more on your business rates if YOU controlled how the additional money was spent? If the answer is yes then the Felixstowe Chamber could set up a 'B.I.D.' zone. Suffolk Coastal District Council would be responsible (usually for a fee) for organising a ballot, and, if the majority vote is in favour of the increase then the council would also manage the collection of the monies. The additional funds generated by the increase could be spent on improvements and developments for Felixstowe – a committee of businesses would decide which YOU could be part of.

A B.I.D scheme has recently been set up in Ipswich, and it is our understanding that there are over 30 other towns in UK who have embraced the scheme. A recent press release from Ipswich Borough Council:

"Ipswich has got the go ahead to become a Business Improvement District (BID), opening the door to millions of pounds of extra investment. Businesses voted overwhelmingly to approve the five-year BID scheme, which starts next April and will see street rangers, free car parking and park & ride once a month, four major marketing campaigns a year, extra safety and cleaning measures. Nearly 50% of eligible businesses voted, with 228 in favour, a 66% majority. The levy, businesses will pay will be collected by the Council, whose election staff took charge of the count. Councillor Richard Atkins, the Borough's Planning & Economic Development portfolio-holder, said: "This is fantastic news which will enable Ipswich to develop further and to compete more effectively with other regional centres. It was encouraging to see a turn-out of 49% and such a big majority of those in favour."

The Felixstowe Chamber wants to know your thoughts on this scheme. Perhaps you might like to be involved in the committee? Please call 01394 279692.

Author: Harvey Smith

PR & Advertising

Felixstowe Chamber is always looking for ways to promote the town, increase trade and assist businesses. We have contributed towards the following campaigns:

- ♦ London Underground Tube Advertisement
- ♦ A4 full page in British Resorts and Destinations Guide
- ♦ Suffolk Business Magazine also featured the Felixstowe Chamber in their September edition – a massive Four-Page spread (copy enclosed).

Meet the Councillors networking event

Felixstowe held its fourth networking event during late September. This time, local businesses were invited to question a panel of local councillors:

Suffolk County Council: John Goodwin & Eddie Alcock

Felixstowe Town Council: Mike Goodman & Chris Slemmings

Suffolk Coastal District Council: Ray Herring & Andy Smith

Questions ranged from the upgrading of the Promenade, local events, council tax and future funding. The event did open up lines of communication and we hope to host something similar later in the future.

Hamilton Road Paving works



The new paving work is progressing well and should be finished up to the Post Office by the end of November. Suffolk County Council provided quotes for all shop owners to refurbish the pavements directly outside their shops in the same style. Unfortunately for many owners the cost was far too high. The Chamber has written to the council expressing its concerns with regard to this matter.

The Prom and Sea Defences

Executive committee members Caron Symes and Stan Harris recently attended the first meeting of Felixstowe Sea Defences Steering Group. The meeting was arranged by Felixstowe Town Council with a view to receiving ideas and to communicate the progress to its members. Unfortunately there is NO good news to report. It appears that there will be no central government funding to protect our beach, prom or houses! The local council have put in place some short term remedial measures which have kept the prom open this summer – but might not be sufficient for next year. This is a vitally important issue – one which we hope will receive urgent funding soon



Tube Advert



British Resorts Guide Advert



'Meet the Councillors' Question Time



Temporary Sea Defences & beach access

Chamber Christmas Cards



Judging of the Christmas card Designs – Froffee Coffee



Roger Hewitt – Past Chairman



Otley Hall at Christmas



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The Chamber Christmas Cards are now in production and should be in the local shops and Tourist Information Centre from early November. The designs were selected from those submitted by local children from Felixstowe schools:

Causton Junior School
Colneis Junior School
Fairfield Infant School
Grange Primary School
Maidstone Infant School
Trimley St. Martin Primary School
Trimley St. Mary Primary School

Judging took place during September over cups of coffee in Froffee Coffee. The pupils responsible for the chosen designs will be presented with prizes soon.

'Thank-you' Roger (past chairman)

The executive committee took the opportunity to honor a long standing member and past chairman of the chamber at the recent Meet the Councillors event.

Roger Hewitt, owner of Underwoods Hardware & DIY situated in Hamilton Road completed over 12 years on the executive committee, 5 of which he was the chairman. This is a tremendous commitment and Roger was presented with an engraved plaque as thanks from the Chamber of Trade.

Chamber Christmas Trip

How about a nice bit of culture in the frantic lead up until Christmas?

The Chamber is organising an evening visit to Otley Hall, the magnificent Grade 1 listed building, near Woodbridge. The event is open to members of the Felixstowe Chamber initially due to the limited spaces available.

The coach leaves at 7pm from the Solar car park on Tuesday 12th December.

There will be a tour of the hall followed by Christmas nibbles and mulled wine with the coach returning back to Felixstowe for 9.30 – 10pm. Tickets are £15.00 inclusive of refreshments, tour and return coach journey. Tickets are strictly limited to 50 and are selling fast....contact Louise (Secretary) on 01394 279692 for a booking form.

Quiz Night 27th November 2006

Back due to popular demand!

The next quiz night is being held at The Sands Bar and Grill – a larger venue than before to cope with the extra demand.

Start time: 7.15pm, Quiz Master : the superb 'David Spall'
Cost is £5.00 per person includes Sausage, Mash & Gravy

Raffle prizes are gratefully received!
Contact Louise for further information.