



Felixstowe ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Welcome to 2025 and yes today it's raining, elsewhere the country is covered in snow, not sure what I prefer.

I have, however, managed to gently turn over my entire plot before Christmas unlike last year when I failed. I always try hard to dig the plot before the end of the year as I've said before.

Yet again, the October tenancy changes has seen new faces across the allotment sites and some association members hanging up their fork and spade.

We have witnessed more changes this year than we have seen for some time. Additionally as the desire to grow your own increases the 20 rod plots previously rented are being reduced by Felixstowe Town council to 5 rod thus allowing more Felixstowe residents to cultivate.

This increase in numbers is welcome but a down side is more wear and tear on the sites, roadways and parking areas in

was well attended as the photographs show. I'm very grateful to those who helped along the way to make it work.

The AGM is fast approaching, this newsletter contains the financial workings of the Association for your perusal and acceptance in March. That evening concludes with a cheese and wine supper and a table quiz if you wish to join in the fun.

The winter meetings will continue each month until March. Easter weekend in April will hold the first off the coffee and cake mornings with the shop being fully stocked to help you plan for the coming growing season. The sale of compost is now back in the shop since Goslings has closed and we have found a supplier who will continue to provide Clover leaf compost (exactly as before) and we will try to keep it priced as keenly as we can.

As in previous years and for new members, might I also remind you of the

DOWN
TO
EARTH



particular. We therefore took the opportunity to negotiate the spare road planings from the contractors setting up the new roundabout in Candlet Road. You can see by the photograph just how many tons we now have stored ready for use ON THE ROADWAYS on our main site plus Ferry Road. Your help in distributing these planings will be required as Spring arrives, keep an eye for the email and posters. One hour with a wheelbarrow spreads the load and is all we ask.

The Christmas coffee and mince pie morning yet again

NEV'S NEWS



Issue No.14

The Newsletter of the Felixstowe Allotment Association
www.felixstoweallotments.co.uk Edited and designed by Peter Constable

Kings seed offer, 50% discount when you use their web site via the following link

<https://www.kingsseeds.com/secure/register?ur=KA1183>.

If you get stuck using the website tell us and we can help or place the seed order for you. If you need a copy of their wonderful seed catalogue just ask. We have plenty in the shop.

The seed potatoes have again arrived after placing a joint order with Capel Allotment Association. The onion sets were sourced separately and both will be available for

members to collect in late January/February. The shop will have a few types left over from the main order and can be bought on a first come first served basis, including in smaller quantities as some find the 2.5kg bags too big.

I must congratulate our

members who picked up an award via the Felixstowe in Flower competition. The prizes were presented this year at the Golf club and I was happy to be part of that event. You know who you are.

To close, I wish to record my thanks to the committee

who's help and support in all we do is invaluable. We may see some changes at the AGM in March but with about 300+ members, any help along the way is very welcome in the many tasks and events that we undertake.

Neville



A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE NEXT WORKING PARTY!

We hope you are well and that you are enjoying the benefits of our wonderful allotment community.

We invite you to join us for our next Working Party at Cowpasture, scheduled for 9:00 am on Saturday 26th April. This coincides with our regular tea and coffee morning, and all volunteers will be treated to free refreshments as a token of our appreciation for their hard work and support.

Our focus for this session will be addressing the potholes in the allotment roads by moving and spreading road planings. This is vital work ensures the site remains accessible and safe for everyone.

Unfortunately, many of our long-standing volunteers, who have contributed so much over the years, are finding it harder to manage the heavier tasks due to the physical demands. We deeply value their dedication and effort, but now it's time for others to step forward and help lighten their load.

If you are able to lend a hand—even for a short while—it would make a huge difference and will be greatly appreciated.

Please bring suitable clothing, gloves and any tools (e.g. shovels or wheelbarrows) you think might be useful. Let's work together to keep our allotment thriving and enjoyable for all!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 26th.

Thank you.

Claire

NEW MEMBERS

COWPASTURE

Stephen and Joanne Aguilar-Millan
Rebecca and Mathew Bird
Jennifer Shaw

FERRY ROAD

John Simmonds
Mick Thomas

Financial Statement - Year Ended 31st December 2024

Opening Balances - 1st January 2024

Deposit Account	credit £15,576.88	
Current Account	credit £457.09	
Petty Cash	credit £100.39	
TOTAL	<u>£16,134.36</u>	£16,134.36

Cheques not presented

INCOME:

Membership Fees for 2024	£300.50	
Membership Fees for 2025	£93.00	
Hut 39 Shop Sales	£4,001.24	
Fundraising Raffles	£409.00	
Grants	£0.00	
Interest on Deposit Account	£217.43	
Donations	£66.50	
Sundry Income	£381.60	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£5,469.27</u>	£5,469.27
		<u>£21,603.63</u>

HUT 39 SHOP

Sales	£4,001.24
Opening Stock	£970.28
Purchases	£2,923.23
Less: Closing Stock	£1,132.50
Cost of Sales	£2,761.01
Contribution to Member Funds	£1,240.23

EXPENDITURE:

Meeting Expenses	£742.57	
Hut 39 Shop Stock	£2,923.23	
Toilet Expenses	£540.00	
Site Improvements	£2,585.26	
Committee Exp's/Misc	£3.00	
SumUp Fees	£30.59	
Insurance	£605.23	
Sundry Expenses	£294.37	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£7,724.25</u>	£7,724.25
		<u>£13,879.38</u>

Confirmed Deposit Account Balance 31st December 2024	£13,644.31	
Confirmed Current Account Balance 31st December 2024	£211.92	
Cash in hand at 31st December 2024	£23.15	
TOTAL	<u>£13,879.38</u>	
Add cheques not paid in	£0.00	
Add cash not paid in	£0.00	
TOTAL	<u>£13,879.38</u>	
Less BACS/cheques not presented	£0.00	
	<u>£13,879.38</u>	Diff
		£0.00

I have prepared these accounts for the Felixstowe Allotment Association in accordance with the funds as I have received and recorded them.

Paul Weavers -
Hon Treasurer

P.S. Weavers
14/1/25.

I have examined the above financial statement showing Income and Expenditure and Funds held and confirm that it accounts with the books, statements and receipts made available to me.

Checked by Hugh May
Auditor

Hugh May
08/01/25

You know it's cold when the Brass Monkeys are knocking at the kitchen door every half hour asking for thermal Long Johns and a hot water bottle. Well, Cold it most certainly is at the moment. But Cold is exactly what we season-hardened allotmenters need right now.

We've had far too many namby-pamby Winters of late when the temperature has struggled to fall below thirty degrees, meaning the whitefly, blackfly, greenfly and every-other-coloured-fly has been able to add to their numbers throughout the year without being troubled by the odd spot of Arctic conditions. And the soft fruit needs to be chilled this time of year, too, to poke their fruiting tips into some sort of action ahead of the coming Summer.

I have a confession to make. I've barely been up to the plot since the end of November. In my defence, M'Lud, I plead mitigating circumstances that I'd pretty much put everything to bed by the end of November. Raspberries (Summer fruiting) are tied in closer and more neatly than a haberdasher's window display and raspberries (Winter fruiting) are all tucked up within a couple of inches of the mulch around them.

I've left the asparagus this far, in the past two years I've cut the year's top growth off in September but this time I've decided to follow Home Farm Nacton's lead and leave the chopping and chipping until they get round to it in the fields around Bucklesham and Newbourne, on the basis that they know far more about timings than I do. I've taken the Lazy Route and put my customary weed control fabric down across much of the plot. Yes, I know that takes away all the fun of Autumn digging and Spring weeding, but I'm at that stage in life that appreciates things like the TV remote and an automatic gearbox on the car. I look at it this way... there's things I need to keep my energy for and things I don't.

I'm told by my Ears and Eyes on the Ground that my new strawberry bed is flourishing. I'd planted two new beds last Spring with Cambridge Favourite and Elsanta, however by the Autumn every single one of the forty-odd plants had decided to shuffle off their mortal coil, to join the Great Compost Bin In The Sky.

No, I have absolutely no idea why, however the Cambridge Favourite's foliage was absolutely shredded of anything vaguely green and by October resembled one of those copper filigree "works of art" that gift shops ask you to pay £99 for, when they have been piece-worked by a two-and-a-half year old at nursery school.

In October I planted up another bed, with Allegro and Marshmello purchased from our good friends at Kings. Both varieties are reported as having first-class resilience (never a bad quality on the wind-ravaged slopes of Cowpasture) and a proven willingness to throw off the odd 40 ft container-full of fruit per square foot in a half-decent Summer. We'll see how they go, but initial signs are positive.

I've been uncharacteristically gung-ho with the new plants this time, in that I've set them straight out onto the plot, rather than molly-coddling them over Winter in the greenhouse. Tough Love maybe, but they don't call me Monty the Merciless for nothing!!

I'm waiting at the moment for delivery of my seed potatoes. This year I'm only growing Jazzy and Orla. Both hold RHS Award of Garden Merit status and both have performed exceptionally well for me in previous years. For the first time, I'm not planning to produce enough spuds to keep Mrs Monty and I in the carbohydrates to which we've become accustomed next Winter – like a fair few allotmenters, I've found that my plot is way bigger than my belly (although this point is currently subject to fact-checking by Mrs Monty!).

No, I'll grow sufficient for us to enjoy the incomparable taste of newly-dug potatoes from late Spring to late Summer, and then pop into Phoenix Fruiterers and see John and Jo for our spuds beyond this.

Very best wishes to all allotmenters for 2025... may our plots forever be a sanctuary from the utter, unbounded madness of the world around us.

MONTY SAYS
It's a bit 'brass monkeys'!

PLEASE NOTE

The seed potatoes have all been sold, but onion sets are still available from the Shop at Plot 39 on a first come - first served basis.

PROPOSED VISIT TO THE SUFFOLK PUNCH HORSES TRUST

Following a recent winter evening talk by Barry Bloomfield concerning the Suffolk Punch Horses Trust, we now have an invitation to visit the farm at Hollesley.

Keith Horn has kindly agreed to put the trip together IF there is sufficient interest. The offer is a Saturday, in early summer, tea/coffee upon arrival (using your own or shared

transport), a guided tour by tractor/trailer with a sandwich lunch provided, plus access to the entire site. Cost about £15. A bargain.

If you wish to be considered please email Keith at kjandehorn@btinternet.com

Once we have a better idea of the numbers we can agree an exact date. The numbers may be limited so don't delay.

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR!

As we begin the new year, we want to take a moment to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our coffee and cake mornings.

These gatherings have become a real highlight of our community, and they wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our members.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated their time, delicious homemade cakes,

and savory treats, as well as those who helped set up, serve, and tidy up afterwards. Your generosity and hard work have made these events a success.

We're excited to announce that our coffee and cake mornings will return in April. Until then, enjoy the winter months, and we look forward to catching up with you all over a cuppa and a slice of cake in the spring!

Claire FAA Membership Secretary

THE COFFEE AND CAKE MORNINGS 2025

These will take place on the following dates:

26th April
17th May
21st June
19th July

Additionally, we will have a BBQ at the end of summer, although the exact date is yet to be confirmed.

A Christmas coffee gathering will also take place

in December, with the date still to be decided.

Both dates will be announced in future issues of this newsletter.

Best wishes *Claire*

ADDITIONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Do not forget the following
Thursday 27th February
7.30pm at OFCA
Speaker to be confirmed.

Thursday 27th March
7.30pm at OFCA
The Annual General Meeting including a quiz and cheese and wine.

Winter Meetings will start again on
Thursday 23rd October and
Thursday 27th November.
7.30pm at OFCA.

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE FROM THE SHOP AT PLOT 39

Compost
60 litres £6.50

Chicken Pellets
4kg £4

Bonemeal
3kg £3.50

Fish/Blood/Bone
3kg £3

Growmore
3kg £5.00

Potato Enricher
3kg £5.50

Fine or Large Mesh
£1.50 or £2 per metre

8ft Bamboo Canes
£10 for 12

Fleece
35g £1 per metre

Garden Lime
3kg £2 or £10 per bag

Paper Potato Bags
£1.50 for 2

Weed Suppressant
4m wide £2.00 per metre
2m wide £1.00 per metre

All prices are subject to fluctuation