

# Issue Number 12

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

I was told long ago never to start with an apology but in truth I'm behind with the Newsletter so here goes. Spring sees a rush of activity across the allotment sites, with people and their tiny plants appearing from all quarters. Growing beds hastily sorted, raised or otherwise and with a Bank Holiday or two we see members working hard to get the seeds and plants in the ground.

But, what a challenge we have had rain, rain and cold chilly days and nights, resulting in a carpet of green weeds trying to gobble up



every thing we have planted, that's if it is growing. I have had to re-sow my parsnips; Mystic, the French bean has not appeared and the early grown runner beans have just stopped growing, with sad yellow leaves. We all need a bit of heat that's for sure.

We continue to hold events at the Plot 39 with more planned for this year. Read on for that article. We also enclose the first submission to the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood project team. It's the view of the Committee and I would urge you to read it and add your views and comments directly to the project team using the link

DOWN TO EARTH

'<https://northfelixstowe.co.uk>'

The roadways at Cowpasture in particular continue to give concern. We have full sites and many drive at speed across these rough tracks. If you can help fill the holes, pencil in an hour on the morning of Saturday 20th July. There's a cake and coffee on offer to those who help. PLEASE let Claire our Membership Secretary know to help with the catering.

We joined Felixstowe Town Council for the launch of *Felixstowe in Flower*, a table on the Triangle on 1st June.



We also contributed to the OFCA money raising event and took nearly £200 for their funds the following Saturday. I'm grateful to those who helped with the arrangements and to those who supplied an array of plants and produce to sell or display.

To close, a personal thanks for the kind words and best wishes to my wife Gill and myself, following her very unexpected heart attack in April whilst visiting family in Nottingham. She is progressing nicely with her new stent.

You never know what's around the corner!

Neville

  
**Felixstowe**  
**ALLOTMENT**  
**ASSOCIATION**

## FUTURE EVENTS

**The Coffee and Cake** Saturday mornings at Plot 39 have been well received and we are very grateful to those who contribute and attend.

The final one will be held on **Saturday 20th July**. Linked with this will be a Working Party to patch up the pot holes. If you can help, please tell Claire, our Membership Secretary.

The Association has decided not to hold a 'cake' Saturday in August but offer a FREE barbecue on **Sunday 1st September** at 12.00. We supply the first burger or sausage in a bun. For those who wish

for seconds please bring £2 per person. You supply the salad to accompany your meat, plus your own liquid refreshment. Once again nearer the time tell Claire you are coming so we can purchase the right amount of meat. If you have alternative dietary needs tell us and we will provide the alternatives.

To help run these events we are to purchase a generator to power the small kitchen in the Hut.

The OFCA Winter Evening Meetings re-start on **Thursday 24th October** and then four weeks later on **28th November**. If you have a speaker in mind or a topic that may be of interest please tell us. Getting a guest speaker is never easy.



## NEW MEMBERS

### **Cowpasture**

Scott Robinson  
Nicola Bright  
Alyson Limpkin-Challis  
John Smithson  
Laura Knights  
Paul Emin-Wright  
Kristina Komickaja &  
Jamie Woodgate  
Lucinda Cooper  
Ruth & Andy Macfarlane  
Catherine Hutton

### **Ferry Road**

Barbara & Aston Mellor

### **Railway Hill**

Clive Thomas &  
Jane Sharman



## 8th JUNE 2024

**Preliminary submission** from Felixstowe Allotment Association (FAA) concerning the proposed North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Development, submitted by Neville Farthing, Chair of the Association.

Felixstowe Town Council (FTC) own five allotment sites with a total of 492 plots. The largest being the Cowpasture complex at Candlet Road which has 308 individual plots all rented by local residents.

Furthermore, there is and has been a waiting list for allotments to my own knowledge for the last 12 years at least.

The Allotment Association has 320 members, the vast majority being at Cowpasture. With an additional 2,000 homes arriving the developers should consider national guidelines as regard increasing plot numbers.

At the request of East Suffolk Council [ESC], the Allotment Association attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Stakeholders Group held at the Felixstowe Town Hall on 11th January and hosted by the consultants LDA, commissioned by ESC for this project.

We have attended subsequent meetings of this Group and also the first public meeting held at the Orwell Hotel on 3rd February. We have also seen the minutes from the Citizens' Panel which has met on four occasions to

date.

The views below are based upon the meetings and conversations the Association has had with ESC personnel and the consultants LDA, plus sight of other documents offered for our view.

It is our firm belief that the Cowpasture allotment site in Candlet Road should not be developed in any way. It sits alongside both Phase One and Two of the Persimmon Development (Trelawny Place), plus it shares a boundary with Abbey Wood and The Grove, both areas to be retained for public use and very likely to be extended as part of this project.

It is our request that a full secure boundary fence be placed around the entire Cowpasture site, with improved security at the Vehicle and Pedestrian Gates. This position has been made known by the Association at every Stakeholder meeting to date. There should be no public access to this allotment site.

Since January a large number of maps have been produced by LDA. A more recent one included two areas earmarked for allotments. The exact details are not clear, one on the east side and one on the west, the actual space allocated is specified but a first view suggests that they are small in size, perhaps no bigger than 30 plots each. These new

sites should be set up and hard landscaping completed well ahead of hand over to new tenants.

We accept the devil is in the detail and we very much look forward to having more plots available for the residents of the Town. Being brand new, it goes without saying that we would wish to see secure boundaries, some car parking, water, electric etc and we would be more than happy to assist further at the design stage.

Would these two new allotment sites be 'given over' to FTC to administer as per the current situation?

We also read about a Community Farm, and in principle, welcome its arrival in Felixstowe, albeit the actual running and stewardship of it would need to be better understood in due course.

The Association appreciates the consultation stage is to continue into the Summer and changes are possible, but we hope the above addresses our main concerns based on information to date.

It is also our intention to canvas our members in greater detail to elicit their views as regard the development impacting current allotments. It is an opportunity for new allotment sites and opportunities to grow more vegetables and fruit etc in the Town.

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**The photograph on the preceding page, was taken when the shop at Cowpasture was closed, but it is now open every Saturday morning from 9.30am to 12.00 noon when you can purchase any of the following gardening items at bargain prices which are subject to fluctuation**

**Compost**  
60 litres **£6.50**

**Chicken Pellets**  
4kg **£4.00**

**Bonemeal**  
3kg **£3.50**

**Fish/Blood/Bone**  
3kg **£3.00**

**Growmore**  
3kg **£5.00**

**Potato Enricher**  
3kg **£5.50**

**Fine Mesh**  
**£1.50** per metre

**Large Mesh**  
**£2.00** per metre

**8ft Bamboo Canes**  
**£10.00** for twelve

**Fleece**  
**£1.00** per metre

**Garden Lime**  
3kg **£2.00** or **£10.00**  
per bag

**Paper Potato Bags**  
**£1.50** for two

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

**Well, has Spring finally arrived?** I held my breath, crossed my fingers and didn't dare to blink at the start of the week, at least half a day of sunshine and the pulses were pulsing and the trembles trembling in the hope that January (sorry, April), was banished by this glorious sun of May. (Yes, Shakespeare really did pinch that line from me!).

The plot has gone from WWI trench-deep mud to Sahara desert in just these past seven days. I was even watering yesterday, lettuces and strawberries already showing signs of stress. Oh, the unbounded joy of lugging watering cans from a site tap that seems, with a full load, further away than Dundee (other strange, remote places are, of course, available). It's weird, and not in a Ha-Ha sense, that other allotmenters on Cowpasture are saying that they're finding that an inch or so down the soil is still nicely moist – mine already seems so dry that digging down to find it would quite likely expose me to the risk of popping up somewhere in Australia, (there, another strange, remote place!).

Monty has been in experimental White Coated Boffin mode of late. It's a long, rambling story but bear with me. One of the crops I always grow is baby sweetcorn – the type that comes in those irritatingly wasteful plastic trays in Tesco with enough air miles to earn a fortnight's break, fully paid, in a holiday resort not crammed full of Sizewell C workers. Mrs Monty doesn't like 'normal' sized sweetcorn, she says she much prefers the small ones.

Baby sweetcorn such as Mini Pop (£1.10 for 50 seeds from Kings, using the incredible FAA Members' 50% discount) yield prolific crops and are a million times less fussy than their larger cousins, no need to plant in square formations and water every other second of the day. They're set out in rows 6 inches apart, with just 12 inches between the rows, so need very little space on the plot. In terms of crop per square foot, they must surely rank in the Top Ten for allotment efficiency. They are greedy feeders though, so the soil they leave behind does need some restorative TLC (for which,

read on!). Anyhow, in every previous year after the harvest I've dutifully cut the hardened stems into two inch pieces and filled a couple of 330 litre compost bins with them, waiting for nine months before hearing the patter of tiny feet as the rats decide that they can't be bothered to wait any longer for the Kevlar-coated stems to start to rot.

Well, last Autumn I tried something Completely Different. Inspired by a horticultural scientist from Birmingham

University whom I saw interviewed on BBC's Beechgrove Garden (way way better

than that other BBC gardening

programme in which a chappie in a soiled smock and crumpled straw hat rambles around pretending to be me). I simply laid the uncut stems, minus the rootball, in rows on the ground, along the line where they had been growing. I then covered them with a very liberal layer of very fresh horse manure, watered very well and then finally put a sheet of weed membrane fabric (a mere £1 per metre from your FAA Shop) and left untouched over the Winter.

Last month, readying to plant spuds, I removed the fabric to find that the sweetcorn stalks had rotted away completely, leaving a superbly enriched, crumbly soil in their place, replacing the goodness that the corn had ripped out the previous Summer. Almost zero effort for a fantastic return! If anyone else has the same problem of what to do with hard-to-compost material, I heartily recommend this one!!

I'm wondering whether this might be a better, easier way of replenishing areas of the plot more generally, using other green waste directly rather than providing the Rodents of Cowpasture with three course meals over the colder months.

Whatever the weather, however numerous the slugs and aphids, regardless of how few parsnip seeds germinate ... enjoy your gardening.

That's always THE MOST important thing about having an allotment!

*Monty*

**MONTY SAYS**  
**Warmer weather would help!**