



Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the Society's Annual Report for year ending 31st March 2024. We've had a very busy year with the highlight being the **Coronation Summer Fete**. The heavens opened and at one point we thought we wouldn't be able to continue. Happily, we people of Felpham are tough and don't like to give in; the show went on with the sound of The Abba Tribute band, as our headline group, getting everyone to their feet in Old Rectory Gardens. The stallholders were amazing and persisted through the rain and showers. Our tea tent sold out of cakes and the BBQ its burgers. Children enjoyed the games – all in all it was a very successful event under unusual circumstances; our accounts reflect this. To you all who contributed in many different ways both behind and in front of the scenes - *Thank you so much indeed – without your help this would not have been possible.*

2023-2024 Events

- May 2023 saw 'The BIG Felpham Litter Pick'. This event was organised in partnership with St Mary's Church and with permission from Arun DC; this being part of King Charles's wish for community volunteering on the Bank Holiday Monday of his coronation weekend.
- June 2023 - Our Allotment's Team had a successful Plant sale – all grown with the help of this group's members.
- June 2023 – Quiz Night with Fish & Chips Supper. A great success and sold out.
- July 2023 – Coronation Fete as seen above.
- August 2023 – we joined with Felpham Parish Council and had a pitch on their site for Fun on the Prom.
- October 2023 - A History Talk - 'Graylingwell War Hospital 1914-1919'; Katherine Slay from West Sussex Record Office provided a huge insight into the life at Graylingwell during the First World War which was well attended and the History Group showed a small exhibition of Felpham Fallen during that period.
- November - Our Autumn Social Evening at The Fox was well attended and enjoyable.
- December – We held a magical Christmas Tree Lighting, with thanks to Butlins for the donation of a Christmas Tree; blessed by Father John Challis. The bells rang out and we had some amazing choirs singing carols. Thanks to St Mary's Church Choir, Felpham Community College, Downview School, Edward Bryant School, Bishop Tufnell School. All warmed with mince pies and mulled wine.

- March 2024 – Our Spring Social Evening in the newly refurbished area of The Fox Inn. This was very well attended on an exceptionally wet evening. Thanks to all who came along; and to Charlie and The Fox Team for being so amenable and welcoming.
- Easter Egg Hunt for the 2nd year was a great success and we hope to continue with this event.

Our Regular Activities

- Monthly Beach Cleans where there was always litter (large and small) to pick up.
- Weekly Gardening in the Old Rectory Gardens where the volunteers worked under the Green Flag, awarded again this year for a third time.
- Our Plots at St Michael's Allotments where we held a plant sale and had weekly work parties to help maintain the site. Importantly, we also planted and grew on the hanging baskets for the village last summer.
- Thanks to our Heavy Gang ... they were able to put up the hanging baskets in early summer; took them down in the autumn; put up the poppies for Remembrance Sunday; took them down again soon after.
- The History Group re-established itself after the Covid period and have welcomed new members, each working on various areas of historical Felpham. They have developed a separate website now linked to FVCS website at www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk
This Group visited The West Sussex Record Office and gleaned how to access information. Feedback: 'very worthwhile and interesting'.
- The Conservation and Development Group (with a sub group of 'Freshen up Felpham') has been working through the last year to tidy up various areas. Slowly, slowly we will get there.

Communicating with you

Our emails and newsletters update you with all we are doing. Our Felpham Village Facebook Public page shows the historical interest there is in our lovely village. Please continue sending in photographs and memories. So important for posterity.

The Committee and Finances

The Committee met 8 times throughout the last year to plan ahead and monitor our finances.

The professional Bookkeepers we employed this last couple of years, did a good job as an intermediary resource for us. Going forward for the 24/25 financial year, we will be using the Zero Accounts system ourselves to record and monitor our finances and have a volunteer, Peter Charon, to look after this side of things. However, we would like a professional to volunteer to help with our next end of year financial report and Accounts! Can someone help us please?

Our Accounts for this year, will be reported separately and placed on the website, with a link sent to members prior to the AGM. Peter Charon will not be able to attend this year's AGM although the Acting Chair will do her best to answer any questions. The bank balance at the end of year was £10,000.30 with just over £5,000.00 (net of costs) from the fete. We have plans for this surplus including Freshening Up Felpham and planters around Felpham, pending West Sussex County Council's agreement. We met with the Highways Officer to discuss positioning. We're thinking ahead and also about climate change.

I was not officially appointed as Chair but someone had to stand to keep our Society alive. I've done my best to keep this Society together this last year and hope you will give me encouragement and support in the next year.

Thank you all who have come forward to volunteer at various events.... There are a number of volunteers who have given us so much and I would like to thank Mike Pavard, Glenn Powell and all their team for heavy gang work; Murdo Mackenzie Morrison, our sound man, who we will miss as he has stood down after many years of volunteering his expertise but has said he will advise others when necessary; Bob May for his brilliant MC work; we would also like to thank Ron Hand who has helped look after our allotments for many years and is there every day when he can be: he's certainly got green fingers. I should also like to thank Val Morris who has led our monthly Beach Clean for several years, organized our participation in the Great British Beach Clean and the BIG Felpham Litter Pick, has been part of the Allotments Group and has made welcome contributions to the Committee and Society in general.

Finally, thank you to all our members for your support, participation in our events and activities, and love of Felpham.

Regards

Pamela Cosgrove

Acting FVCS Chair & Membership Secretary

April 2024

Forward thinking:

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

22/4/24	FVCS AGM	St Mary's Centre	6.30pm-7.15pm
21/5/24	Fraud Awareness talk	St Mary's Centre	6pm-8pm
15/6/24	Quiz & Fish and Chips	St Mary's Centre	7pm-10pm
13/7/24	Felpham Summer Fete	The Old Rectory Gardens	12pm-5pm
31/8/24	FPC Summer on the Prom	Felpham prom	12pm-4 pm
26/10/24	History talk	St Mary's Centre	7pm-9pm
05/11/24	Social Evening	The Fox Inn	6pm-8pm
13/12/24	Christmas Tree Lighting	Grassmere Parade	3.30pm - 5pm