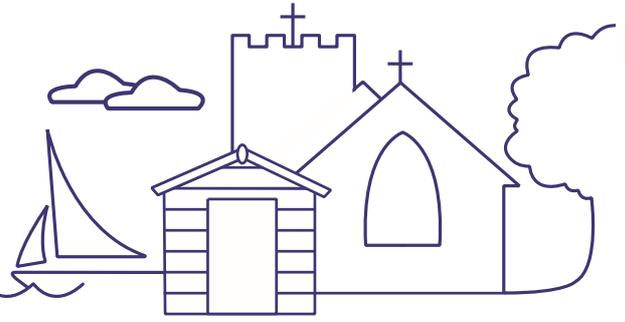


Felpham Village Conservation Society



NEWSLETTER - Spring 2019

The Society has been hard at work throughout the autumn and winter months:

- The social events started with our very well attended Members Social Evening at The Fox Inn in October
- The History Talk also in October was packed for a fascinating talk on Lowther's Lambs, the Sussex regiments for the First World War
- Poppies marking the end of The Great War were put up throughout Felpham in November when the hanging baskets came down
- The History Group's Great War commemorative events were well supported with a sell out Lyons Tea room in the Village Hall, a fascinating exhibition of Felpham servicemen who went to war and a poignant walk of Felpham Fallen
- The Beach Cleans have carried on come rain or shine on every second Saturday of the month
- The 'Friends of Old Rectory Gardens' teams have been busy keeping the Gardens tidy and weed free at their work sessions on the fourth Friday of the month.
- We have paid for one of two new wheelchair friendly picnic tables installed by Arun District Council in the Gardens
- Our Conservation & Development Group has reconvened with new people supporting
- Our St Michael's Allotments team have worked hard all winter tending the FVCS plot, putting up sheds and organizing workgroups



Christmas tree light Switch-on was on Friday 7th December

Once again, we had choirs from Felpham Community College and Bishops Tufnell plus St Mary's Church with free mulled wine and mince pies provided by the Society. Father John, Rector of St Mary's Church blessed the tree and encouraged us into the Christmas spirit with his own style of humour! The road by Grassmere Parade was closed providing a safe environment for all. Butlins again provided the tree. The tree lights were a bit temperamental this year so we will be replacing them all for next year.

The Events and Activities for this year are:

Spring Social on Wednesday 27th March

We will again hold our Spring social evening at The Fox Inn from 6.30-8pm. Members and their guests are welcomed with a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles. It is a chance to meet the committee and other members, to ask questions and make suggestions. We encourage members to bring along a guest or guests who might think about joining!

AGM on Monday 29th April at 7pm

The AGM will be on Monday 29th April at the Felpham Village Hall in Vicarage Lane and we hope as many members as possible will attend this important meeting to review the accounts, hear about what has been achieved in the past membership year and to look forward to the next year. It's your opportunity to ask questions and contribute to plans. We are also looking for new committee members so if you would like to be more involved please put your name forward.

Annual Quiz Night on Saturday 8th June

The Felpham Annual Quiz night will be back by popular demand. 6.30pm at the Memorial Village Hall, Vicarage Lane, with Quiz Master Bob May and his special Felpham category. It's always a sell out so get in early. We will alert members to get their tickets from the Village Post Office from mid-May.

Felpham Village Fete on Saturday 13th July

This will be the fifth year Felpham holds the summer fete in Old Rectory Gardens. There will again be musical entertainment, a Tea Tent, the BBQ and the Pimm's and real ale tent run by The Fox Inn. We are revamping the children's games area with new



games and activities. We will still have the traditional raffle and Tombola and will be asking local businesses to participate as sponsors, donating raffle prizes or running stalls. We will again need helpers on the day and cakes for the tea tent!

Hanging Baskets up by end May

Thanks to the proceeds from the Fete, we can again put up the hanging baskets throughout the village in time for the second May bank holiday. The Sea Road area has been funded by the Snooks Corner Group bringing our total lampposts to 34 with 68 baskets. Watering will again be done during the evening to avoid the traffic.



The Society has several working Groups each with its own team reporting back to the committee:

Beach Clean Group The regular Felpham Beach Clean is at 10.30 every second Saturday of the month starting in front of the Sailing Club. We regularly have 10-20 people who collect four or five large sacks of rubbish and recycling so it's a job well done as well as being good fun. Our continued thanks to the Lobster Pot who offer all volunteers a free take away coffee...particularly welcome in the winter months.



Friends of Old Rectory Gardens Group The Society acts as 'Friends of Old Rectory Gardens' and liaises with Arun District Council over the maintenance and management of the park. The Friends also hold an Old Rectory Gardens work party at 2pm on the fourth Friday of each month. We clean up the flowerbeds and liaise with Arun DC. More volunteers are always needed for this so please do try and come along. All you need are your own gloves and hand tools.



This year we have been given some exciting news that Arun are putting the Gardens forward for a Green Flag Award®. The scheme "recognises and rewards well managed

parcs and green spaces across the United Kingdom, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces".

Work has already started on the landscaping and associated work needed to enhance the Gardens and The Friends Group is liaising with Arun on all they are doing. For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular litter and dog fouling. Grounds, equipment and other features must be well maintained. Hooray, after four years of asking the garden's lights will finally be fixed and maintained. The wild habitat woodland area will be left wild and better managed. We might now be able to find the wishing well and look again at raising the broken-down flint walls and even discover their history.

More needs to be done for families and the elderly so the Society is paying for one of the two extra picnic benches, both specifically designed for wheelchair users. We are also looking at creating a trail of woodland animals and tables that might even be used by local playgroups for Forest School activities.

Judging for the awards is likely to be in June and The Society, Friends Group and Arun are all putting in every effort to ensure Old Rectory Gardens gets its deserved Green Flag Award by the time of the Fete in July.

You may have seen the wonderful display of crocuses planted last year in conjunction with Bognor Rotary.



St Michael's Allotments and Hanging Baskets Group The Society took on a plot on the St Michael's Allotments to locate our greenhouse for the hanging baskets. Our presence on the site led us to try and help the Parish Council as managers, to reinvigorate the site. The Society has organised work parties, salvaged one of the wooden beach huts and

improved security.

The Hanging baskets plants are grown on site ready for putting up in May. We get all the necessary permissions and repair lamppost brackets if needed. The growing is done by the allotments team and then we have a group of volunteers who put up the baskets in May and take them down again in October. We have a contract with a local man for watering and feeding during the summer as it is too difficult to rely on volunteers for this task.

We have our own water bowser and this year bought a trailer for transporting the baskets rather than relying on borrowed ones. The trailer and bowser are kept on St Michael's and are available to other local groups and tree wardens.

History, Heritage and Archive Group The Society's History Group had a busy year organizing activities to commemorate the end of the First World War in November 2018.

The first event in October was a talk by Alan Readman on The Royal Sussex Regiments – "A History of Lowther's Lambs"

Then in October when the Hanging Baskets came down 200 poppies were put up on all the lampposts throughout the parish.



In November, a Lyons Tea House style Tea was held in the Felpham Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th

November starting at 2pm. The Tea was a sell-out with tea, sandwiches and cakes all with 'Nippy' waitress service and china cups and plates. Music of the era was playing and the whole ambience resonant of the era. A donation was made to the new Felpham branch of the British Legion.



At the same time a free exhibition about the fallen from Felpham was open from 2pm Saturday 10th November until Sunday afternoon. This was the result of a huge amount of work researching into eighteen of the young men from Felpham who fell in the 1st World War.

The Great War Walk of the Felpham Fallen on Sunday 11th November was also very poignant. Starting at St Mary's Church immediately after the Memorial service and ending at the Felpham Village Hall with coffee and another chance to look at the exhibition. It is intended that the walk be repeated around end of April/beginning of May.

The Exhibition boards were also displayed at local Schools and are all now being 'digitalised' to provide an on-line archive for future generations.

Your Society needs you!

Our funds are much healthier, and our activities grow year by year, but we need to attract new committee members to share the load and also to bring in fresh energy and new ideas. We also have a great pool of volunteers who turn out for specific projects and help is always needed on these. If you think you could be a committee member or a volunteer please contact the Secretary at 15 Culver Road Felpham PO22 or email mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk