



Society goes from strength to strength

Membership is now heading toward the 250 including 30 Life members who remain loyal supporters' year after year. We always need new members so please encourage others to join if you can. Our strength lies in our membership. Many members want to participate in something whether it's the beach clean, gardens group or the Quiz night but others just want to give support through joining and that is vital to us.

Successes last year included the Summer Party, the Quiz night, the History Talk and Exhibition in October, the hanging baskets throughout the summer and the Felpham Village Christmas Tree. We are looking forward now to this summer with the Quiz Night in June, Village Fete in July and the Hanging Baskets going up in May for the whole of the summer. We will also have a new event 'Picnic in the Park' in September.

The Beach Clean and Gardens work parties have continued month in month out, come rain or shine, keeping our wonderful beach front and Old Rectory Gardens clean and tidy. Thank you to our teams and all the regular volunteers

A lot of work also takes place within the FVCS Working Groups. The History, Heritage and Archive Group meets every month and The Conservation & Development Group is looking at flint walls and monitoring progress with the developments at both Butlin's and Blake's Cottage.

On the financial side, we continue to have a better reserve and aim to give back to the community through various projects. Last year we repainted Felpham Bridge in Felpham Blue. If you have ideas for other projects please let us know. We are again grateful Felpham Parish and West Sussex County Councils for substantial grants towards new equipment.

Felpham Village Fete on Saturday 8th July



This will be the third year Felpham runs a summer event in Old Rectory Gardens. The Summer Party last July was again great success and this year stalls are being reintroduced and the event renamed the Summer Fete. Again there will be musical entertainment, a Tea Tent and the Pimm's and real ale tent. There will be children's games, a raffle and Tombola and over 50 local

businesses participating as sponsors, donating raffle prizes or running stalls. Come and join us. It's free and fun for all the family.

We still need more helpers on the day, there is room for more stalls and we need more cakes for the tea tent!

Monthly Beach Clean – come rain or shine

Our thanks go to the hardy volunteers who have braved all weathers to participate in the Monthly Beach Clean. Since January we've already collected 36 bags of rubbish and 4 of recycling! We've had



around 15 regular volunteers with over 30 on some occasions.

We meet every second Saturday of the month at 10.30am outside the sailing club. FVCS will issue you with bags and pickers but bring along your own gloves. Our

thanks also to The Lobster Pot Cafe in providing a welcome hot cup of tea or coffee for all volunteers after the work is done. We also have juice boxes for the little ones and there's often a treat or two to be had!

History Heritage and Archive Group

In October 2016, the History and Heritage archive group held 'The Felpham Living History Evening' at the Village Memorial Hall to create a past and present day archive of village life for future generations to enjoy.

The group focused first on the shops and businesses. A Felpham Silver Jubilee Programme for 1977 proved a very useful starting point with a map of all the shops and businesses from Snooks Corner to the Downview traffic lights and along Felpham Way.

Photographs were then taken of all the premises as they are today. These were enlarged and displayed on boards, in street order, around the hall together with any information and pictures relating to earlier or later changes for each. In this way, a timeline was created for the future. All traders in the village were also asked to respond with any information they might have on the history of their premises.



All the photographs, information and shared memories have now been uploaded to this Living History archive on our website. So, you can now click on any business, see what we have already gathered and add your own contribution by clicking the comment tab.

The History talk this October will be led by local historian Sylvia Endecott who will cover the history of Butlin's Bognor and Jane Barnes from the Bognor Museum. The Group has also now started looking into commemorating the end of the First World War in 2018 so, if you are interested come along and join in.)

Annual Quiz Night on Saturday 10th June

Back by popular demand. 7pm at the Village Hall. Quiz master Bob May. Special Felpham category. Look out for tickets on sale at the Village Post Office.

Hanging Baskets through the Village

The Society is again putting up the traditional hanging baskets through the Village this summer. We now have 52 baskets in pairs on 26 lampposts along Felpham Road from Downview to Snooks Corner.



For those horticulturists among us, the baskets will again hold a mix of surfinias and ivy geranium giving a mass of red, white and blue. This year we are including trailing silver green dichondra to add a touch of class They will go up on 7th June and there will be a village walk through on Saturday 10th June handing out flowers to mark the occasion. This

year the plants are being 'brought on' in our own greenhouse on St Michael's Allotments.

Watering and feeding will be done about three times a week throughout the season from June to October depending on weather conditions.

This year we are received a small grant from West Sussex County Council towards the greenhouse and a new watering bowser.

First World War commemorations

As part of our 2018 World War 1 Commemoration the Society will be putting up lamp post poppies area from the Flansham roundabout along the B2259 to the Butlin's roundabout, from there back through the village to the traffic lights at the Downview Road junction. There are 148 lamp-posts all of which will display pairs of 18 inch poppies.

We also have a list of the servicemen in the village whose names we will use to create a Great War Walk through Felpham visiting the homes of those who fell in the First World War. Within the next couple of months, the HHA group will be visiting the Records Office to research the individual servicemen listed on the Great War Walk.

Conservation & Development Group

The C&D Group was active in the review of the Conservation Area and It has also taken an interest in the new Butlin's swimming pool and the Chichester University developments; both outside Felpham but on our boundary. A new project will be the looking at Felpham's flint walls. Some are in the Conservation area. Some are not but listed. Some are privately own some are council owned. We will start with an audit and are looking for our own advisor to help us provide advice on how to proceed with repairs and enhancement.



One of the initial tasks tackled by the Society back in 2014 was to identify shabby areas dotted around the Parish and submit these to Arun District Council. They have the power under Section 215 of the 1990 Planning Act to investigate these areas and raise them with the relevant

property owners to agree improvement plans. Arun have been completely absorbed in bigger Local Plan issues and encouraged us to highlight one area to concentrate on. We have identified the corner of Admiralty Road and Felpham Road where the grounds of the historic Admiralty House are a disgrace.

The Group was also responsible for the repainting of the Felpham bridge in vibrant Felpham blue. Permissions had to be obtained from West Sussex highways and the Environment Agency.

Blake's Cottage update

For some time, there seemed to be a hiatus with nothing happening except a lot of controversy and negative reports in the press and on social media. The Conservation Society decided to remain neutral in these disagreements. However, the cottage is a listed building in the heart of our village with an important heritage, so we have therefore now created a working group to liaise with the owners, The Blake Cottage Trust. The group will monitor the restoration, offer positive support but be prepared to criticise when called for. It will NOT get involved in the 'politics' that seem to surround the project

In broad terms, the Trust's intention is to remove the later extensions to the Cottage and restore the cottage to a state that William and Catherine Blake would have recognised. In the space created, the Trust then wants a new building for meetings and workshops.



In 2015, The Trust commissioned structural surveys and were allowed by Arun to put in temporary supports to secure the floors and roof. The Conservation Society has seen the surveys and been in and seen the supports. The thatch, whilst unsightly, is

deep and remains adequate protection against weather. The garden is being maintained by a local gardener and the Felpham tree warden has assessed the trees and declared them sound.

More recent news is that the Trust has now appointed architects without whom nothing can move forward. We are advised that there will be a 'Meet the Architect' session at 11am at the Memorial Hall on Saturday June 3rd to show the plans and invite comment. Open to all.

We should remember that the cottage was there long before Blake and has been standing ever since, and was a single family's home since 1928. It is a grade 2 listed building in the Felpham the Conservation Area and we would like to see it properly restored.

Protecting Felpham's trees

At the end of March, residents of Blakes Road woke to the sound of chainsaws felling the wonderful 60-year-old year old Whitebeam trees. There had been no warning and no information about why and



how many trees were due for the chop.

The Conservation Society mounted a rear-guard action to save those remaining. In the end WSCC were able to demonstrate that the trees were diseased but the main point was the lack of any information or consultation.

What also emerged from the fracas was that WSCC Highways are exempt from rules and do not need permission to fell trees. They do not need to consult and can ignore any

protections. Draconian powers indeed! The incident led us to try to understand the normal rules.

There are clear rules about trees in the Conservation Area and those which have TPOs (Tree preservation orders) on them. See our website

Other than these there are no formal rules but trees are a vital part of the general character of Felpham and we rely on the goodwill of householders. Common-sense must prevail!

Friends of Old Rectory Gardens

The Society, through its 'Friends of Old Rectory Gardens' Group, keeps an eye on the gardens and maintains the border near the Rectory Road entrance.

We have also done a lot of clearing the Woodland. This needs a mix of light and heavy work. Initially, the 'Friends' can clear more ground area to allow new growth and to be able to plant wild flowers. Alongside this, Arun should be doing some heavier tree work to create more light, allow existing trees to 'breathe' and make safe the large fallen tree in the centre of the woods. The Friends are also planning to install "Bat Boxes" and the tree work will allow direct flight routes for them.

To enable public accessibility, a wildlife trail is planned to meander through the woods. The pathways will be lined with larger logs and chipped for safety.

During the course of last year the natural 'dead hedge' has been completed and there are now plans to extend this further This will surround the woods and give it definition and protection.



Volunteers are needed to join our regular monthly work party at 2pm on the fourth Friday of the month.

Membership The membership year runs from April 1st and members got their renewal notices in March. Thank you to the vast majority who have renewed. If you have not yet got around to it we very much hope you will renew for 2017/18. Your support is not only important financially but also to give us a body of people to give weight to the Society. We are again keeping the membership fees at £10 for individuals and £15 for couples. We will also continue to honor Life Members some of whom have been with the Society since its formation in 1980. We just ask that they confirm their membership annually so we know they are still in the village. If Life members want to make a donation it would be most welcome.

Committee Each year the Society needs one or two new committee members. We run with 15 members to share the tasks. New blood is good for us and helps the Society remain sustainable into the future. You can choose the task you enjoy. So, if you have a little time and want to give something to the community please let us know

To contact the Society please email

mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk or drop a note into the Felpham Post Office or write to the Membership Secretary at 3 Blakes Road Felpham PO22 7EB

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