



NEWSLETTER - Summer 2017

Focus on Felpham

The Society has been hard at work throughout the summer months. The Village Fete in Old Rectory Gardens in July was once again a great success with a mix of live music, wonderful food, fun games and of course renowned Felpham sunshine. The Fete raises a substantial sum each year that enables us to do projects for Felpham. The hanging baskets are giving the whole village a real lift throughout the summer with a blaze of red, white and blue. The new greenhouse, bowser and the plot at St Michael's Allotments have been keeping the team busy and brought us a new role in helping these allotments work better generally. The Beach Cleans have carried on come rain or shine on every second Saturday of the month and the Friends of Old Rectory Gardens have been busy keeping the Gardens tidy and weed free.

The social events during the spring/summer started with our very well attended Members Social Evening at The Fox Inn in March and then the Quiz Night in June, again a sell out with Quiz Master Bob May.

A lot of work is taking place within the FVCS Working Groups. The Conservation & Development Group is looking at flint walls and monitoring progress with the developments at both Butlin's and Blake's Cottage. Butlin's have started their swimming pool complex and the Society are in touch with them and their constructors Kier to monitor disruption and try to ensure the Felpham perimeter is left looking the best it can. We are in touch with the owners, the Blake Cottage Trust who are providing plenty of information on their plans with a well-attended and positive public meeting in June. Our interest is seeing this historical grade two listed building properly protected and restored and to ensure that any development on the site is sympathetic to the property and its position in our conservation area.



The History and Heritage Group has been busy with regular monthly meetings throughout the summer and has created a 'Living History' online archive on the Society's website to enable people to record their memories of Felpham businesses past and present. Their next project is Commemorating the end of the First World War in November 2018 with lamppost poppies throughout the parish and they are also researching a Great War Walk remembering the fallen of Felpham.

A big thank you must go to 'Felpham in Focus' for supporting the Summer Fete and for also giving us a regular editorial page which we use to bring the whole parish our news and issues.

There is more to look forward to this year. The History and Heritage Group is staging its annual History talk on Saturday 14th October and the Christmas Tree Lights switch on is at 3.30pm on Friday 1st December at Grassmere Parade. The monthly beach clean and Old Rectory Gardens work parties will also continue throughout the winter.

On the membership front we are delighted to report that this has now risen to well over 200 and our reserves remain strong. We had a great turnout to the end of March Social Evening at The Fox Inn.

We continue to seek out worthy projects for the good of the community, within our remit 'to preserve and enhance the built and natural environment'. Please let us have your ideas to mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk

We also need new committee members and anyone interested should email the Society on mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk

History Talk –Butlin's and Farming Saturday October 14th in Felpham Village Memorial Hall

Not together of course, but this year we have two separate speakers.



Butlin's in the 1960's?

Sylvia Endacott who arrived in our town by working for Butlin's as a Personnel Manager will look at the history of the Company in the town since 1932, yes 1932. Sylvia will show it's use and development to the present day. Jane Barnes from the Felpham & Middletown Local History Workshop and the Bognor Regis History Society will talk about Farming in Felpham - Is there anything left of Felpham's Agriculture?

Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start, Tickets £3 members £5 non-members from the Village Post Office or at the door. Refreshments will be available.

Picnic in the Park Saturday 2nd September in Old Rectory Gardens

A Summer Concert supported by Jazz at the Village



Come along and enjoy an End of Summer Concert in our lovely Old Rectory Gardens and relax to the music of the Raul D'Oliveira Band. 4pm till 7pm. Free admission.

Bring your own picnic, drinks, chairs, rugs...and friends and enjoy those foot-tapping rhythms from Brazil,

Cuba and more. And don't forget to get your Picnic in the Park raffle ticket. Five great prizes to be won including a Luxury Hamper from Keir Construction, Luxury Spa voucher from Bailiffscourt Hotel, Penthouse B&B Stay from Beachcroft Hotel, Trial Gliding Lesson from Bognor Regis Gliding Club, Bottle of Champagne from Wiley.

Felpham Summer Fete



Busiest Felpham Summer Fete to date. Once again, we were blessed with sunny skies ensuring Felpham lived up to its reputation as the sunniest spot in England! Throughout the afternoon, we think around 1500 people attended. Young and old. Families of all ages. Locals and visitors. Estimates from the various activities:

450 BBQs run by Bognor Rotary, 520 Teas, 220 Pimms (inc real ales) run by The Fox Inn, 225 ice creams by Pinks, 1000 goes on the games



Dancing in the aisles and Discovering the History Group



Felpham X factor finalists and Tea in the afternoon

On top of this we had contributions from around 50 local businesses whether as raffle prizes, leaflet ads, sponsorships or helpers. Particular thanks to Master of Ceremonies Bob May of May's the Village Agents. Some highlights were Bay Tree Estates sponsoring the Mini iPad competition. Tesco's giving us all the rolls and a raffle prize and sent 6 helpers. Butlin's donating a 32" TV plus an annual family pass and a weekend in ANY Butlin's. Abacus sponsored the Entertainments, Milestones the Tea Tent and King and Chasmore put up the boards around the village and ran the Apple Bobbing! Our local MP Nick Gibb even lent us all the white chairs and tables that made a big difference. Game of the day was definitely the Medieval Fruit Machine!

Thanks to The Fox Inn for organising the Felpham X Factor with the finals at the Fete. The winner was Jessie Page-Smith Aged 17 from Felpham.

Local bands Taller than Jane and The Debonaires and DJ Slim Jim got people up and dancing in the Gardens. Stalls were bright, colourful and all did good business. We were grateful for support from the Felpham Art Group and the Bognor Regis Photography Club. All the surplus from the Fete goes back into Felpham projects such as the Hanging Baskets. We always look out for new projects for the good of the community.

Hanging Baskets brighten up the village



Thanks to the success of the Fete, for the second year we have been able to put up the hanging baskets throughout the village. The baskets were planted and 'brought on' by a local man during the springtime and were up in time for the May bank holiday. This year we have used our own greenhouse located on the St Michael's Allotments. 26 lampposts with 52 baskets are being watered and fed regularly throughout the summer. You may see our new 225 litre 'bowser' on its rounds either early in the morning or during the evening to avoid the traffic. Bowser and greenhouse are thanks to a grant from WSCC.

Beach Clean and Rectory Gardens Groups

The Beach Clean is at 10.30 every second Saturday of the month. Start 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. Total sacks since January now stands at 51 rubbish and 7 recycle. Thanks to The Lobster Pot for free coffee for every volunteer.

The Old Rectory Gardens work party is 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.

St Michael's Allotments – Growing things in more ways than one

The Society have taken a plot on the St Michael's Allotments to locate our greenhouse for the hanging baskets. As a result, we also have a working area with fruit trees and bushes and room for other produce. Any member wanting to participate in the work would be welcome to come and share in the produce.

Poppies and Felpham Fallen

This History Group is already planning to commemorate the end of the First World War in November 2018 with a show of lamppost poppies throughout the parish. They are also researching a Great War Walk of the Felpham Fallen. Information on individual fallen soldiers would be welcome.

Living History Archive – Sharing memories of past businesses

The FVCS History and Heritage Group has been busy creating an online Living History Archive of all the business premises in Felpham Village. Have a look if you have memories you can enter these directly into the archive on the Society website.

Members Spring Social evening

We held our annual social evening at the end of March at The Fox Inn. Members and their guests were welcomed for a free glass of wine and nibbles. It was a chance to meet the committee and other members, to ask questions and make suggestions. We had strong member support and several new Felpham people turned up to make the evening the busiest Social to date. Date for the next one to be announced soon.

A strong turnout for the AGM

Thank you to all those members who packed the small Hall in St Mary's Centre at the end April. It's never easy getting people out to attend these things but we were heartened by the number of people who came out and asked questions and hopefully got answers. It's important that the committee can report progress and get support in making decisions about the coming year. The minutes of the meeting are on the FVCS website if you would like the detail.

Your Society needs you!

Our funds are much healthier and our activities grow year by year but the most important thing is for us to attract new committee members to share the load and also to bring in fresh energy and new ideas. We have 15 committee places in all so that the activities are shared and it's not onerous for any one individual. We all support each other and also have a great pool of volunteers who turn out for specific projects. If you think you could be a committee member please get in touch.

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

www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk