

Society boosted with new member support

The Felpham Village Conservation Society has grown in numbers and influence since the new committee took over in April 2014. With over 100 members, the Society has regained financial stability, put on many different activities and responded to important community consultations.

Rachel Searle took on the role of Chairman for six months during the transition and Angela Barnes was elected by the committee in her place until the AGM scheduled for April 2015.

The Society also has a new look in a more modern design reflecting the many aspects of the parish and for use in a new digital age. Look out for our new look website on www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk

New members are still needed to strengthen the Society even further. The membership fee of £10 individual and £15 households will offer reduced entry to a range of activities during the year. Anyone joining after Christmas 2014 will get the whole of 2015 and up to March 2016.

The Society came about in 1980 and was instrumental in pushing for the Conservation Area when there was no Parish Council. A review of the Conservation Area is underway by Arun District Council. The parish Council now does these things for Felpham but we are still keen to be useful, to cooperate and to provide local opinion on these sort of important issues.

Our Mission Statement

The Felpham Village Conservation Society exists to conserve the historical, cultural and aesthetic significance of our built and natural environment. We are nonpolitical and inclusive, having an open membership to every householder living within the Parish and those from without who use and value our facilities and environment. We seek to protect what is good, to improve those things that fall short and to enhance our community wherever possible.

Supporting Blake Cottage Purchase

The Big Blake Society together with the Greener Bognor Network organised the Blake Festival on 20th September in Old Rectory Gardens to coincide with the fundraising campaign for the purchase of Blake's Cottage. The festival will include poetry reading, drama and story telling. FCVS supported the event with tea and coffee in the Gardens.



The fund raising to buy the cottage is well underway with around £100,000 donated to date.

History and Heritage Talk

The Society put on a truly lively and interesting talk on the history and heritage of Felpham village and the outlying communities. Jane Barnes from the Felpham and Middleton History Workshop and the Bognor Museum highlighted all the well-known buildings and characters and some not so well known ones.



Sylvia Endecott used old postcards to take us on a journey through Felpham past.

The evening was organised by the newly formed History Heritage and Archive Group who are busy forming a catalogue of books, postcards and photographs of Felpham. They are also recording tapes of local peoples recollections of Felpham and biographies of characters that lived here or are associated with Felpham. Members who are interested in helping with the Group should contact Leeza Aldis-Hobbs (07756329400) or Joyce Pritchard (583603)

Old Rectory Gardens Facelift

Much has happened since the Society took over the Friends of Old Rectory Gardens role. We have worked with Arun



District Council who have started clearing the overgrown hedge on entry from the west and will also now clear some of the area to the south. They have also cleared a pathway through the impenetrable woodland opposite The Fox so we can now get in with some work parties. Some structures have been uncovered but as yet no 'wishing well'!

Regular gardening groups have been started at 2pm on the last Friday of each month. Bring your own gloves and tools. For the longer term we have been asked to help with the strategic plan for the gardens and we have already started with a tree survey. Members who are interested in helping the 'Friends' Group should contact Gill Chapple (825350) or Maggie Lupton (849157).

Felpham Christmas Cheer

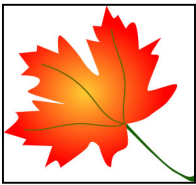
The Society is best known for providing the Felpham Village Christmas Tree and annual lights switch-on and outdoor Carols at Grasmere Parade. We again put on this wonderful display of cheer for the community on Friday 5th



December giving Felpham its very own start to Christmas celebrations. Around 400 people attended this year's event with free mulled wine and mince pies and lots of Santa cheer. The carols were beautifully sung by around 130 children from both Downview and Bishop Tufnell school choirs. The tree is thanks to a Felpham Parish Council grant and Parish Council Vice Chairman David Edwards came to switch on the lights. Father David from St Mary's Church blessed the tree. The event had been preceded on the previous Saturday by a children's (and mums and dads) Christmas workshop making laminated Christmas decorations all of which were used on the tree. New lights have been provided by the Society and the hanging of the lights were kindly donated by JAM Electrical from Bognor Regis.

Highlighting Shabby Areas

One of the immediate tasks tackled by the Society were the shabby areas dotted around the Parish. We started with a long list that was boiled down to a short list of main areas. These have been submitted to Arun District Council, which has 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.



Worms Wood Walk

Parish Tree Warden, Rohan Amik, led a guided walk on a beautiful sunny day to admire the autumn colours and hear how Worms wood was created and taken on by the Woodland Trust.

Road Infrastructure Consultations



We have responded to two critical consultations. First was the one on the introduction of a CPZ or parking zone. Our comment was generally against on the grounds of open access and urbanization and we are pleased this scheme as now

been rejected. We have been welcoming and open to visitors and want to stay that way. However we did recognize that some specific areas especially around Sea Road are overwhelmed with cars during the summer and need a solution and we are also pleased that these areas will be looked at separately.

The other consultation was on the introduction of a 20mph zone throughout Felpham with the exception of the A2259 through road. We supported anything that could reduce speeds within Felpham but were skeptical that this general speed limit would achieve this without any enforcement. There was general support for the limit and we now wait to see what will occur.

These measures are part of ongoing discussion about road mitigation within Felpham as a result of the new housing development at Site 6. At the time of writing some of these measures are under threat due to disagreement at Council level as to how to pay for them. We'll keep a watching brief.

Felpham Summer Fair Old Rectory Gardens on July 11th

The big project of the year will be the Felpham Summer Fair to be held in Old Rectory Gardens on Saturday July 11th 2-6pm. There will be a whole mix of stalls, music, entertainment activities plus food and drink. Local organisations and businesses are being invited to participate. Come and join us on the day. It's free to all with fun for all the family

Three active Groups for members to get involved with

- Friends of Old Rectory Gardens
- Heritage History and Archive Group
- Conservation and Development Group

Each Group has its own way of working and its own supporters. They meet regularly and work with other Felpham organisations where possible. Contact the Group leader if you'd like more information.

Social and Community activities

Get together are a vital part of the Society's agenda so we organise a couple of Social Evenings at the Sailing Club each year, a Beach Clean Up in the Spring and Autumn and Walk and Talks around Felpham. Look out for the notices on dates and times and come and join in.

Conservation Area Review

The Conservation Area was first set up in 1985 after pressure from the Society that had been started in 1980. Now 30 years on it is being reviewed by Arun District Council. The Society needs to gather responses to the proposals and input into the consultation.

New Look for the Society

You will see the new design for the Society but also make a point of looking out for our new look and easier to use website. www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk or join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/felphamvillageconservationsociety and Twitter at #felphamconservation

Thanks to three truly Felpham institutions that have all helped the Society get back on its feet during 2014 and are on-going in their support.

Felpham in Focus allows us to give news of the Society as a monthly editorial. We can tell the whole of Felpham what we've been up to and what's up and coming.

The Felpham Village Post Office is our drop off and collect point in the heart of the Village. It takes membership applications for us, sells tickets to our events and generally promotes us to Felpham residents and visitors

Felpham Sailing Club have allowed us to use their wonderful beach front premises for meetings, events and socials and have also supported our regular beach clean ups

Look out for tickets to two events at the Village Hall

- Barn Dance on March 7th
- Quiz Night on June 6th

See the full Calendar of Events

AGM set for April 27th

The Society is setting out to be as open and transparent as possible and the AGM will be an opportunity for members to vote on many of the new aspects introduced by the Society and new plans. It will be the moment to elect the new committee and to inspect the accounts. We will try and make it as informative as possible. Please come along and support the meeting.

**Annual membership runs April to April. Individual
£10 Family or couples £15**

To become a member look on the website or email
mail@felphamconservationsociety.co.uk

Or drop a note into the Felpham Post Office or to the
Membership Secretary 18 Summerhill Drive, Felpham,
PO22 6A