

REPORT TO FELPHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY HISTORY, HERITAGE & ARCHIVE GROUP

The 2023 History, Heritage & Archive Group has met monthly since its inception in March. Attendance varies from 10 to 13 members and meetings are held in The Fox, the venue having been suggested by one of the Group.

Members were invited to briefly explain their interest in Felpham, how long they had lived in the village and asked what their particular interests were e.g. smuggling, WW2 damage to St. Mary's church, grave-markers in St. Mary's, coastguards, etc.

After some discussion it was agreed that there is a need for the Group to carry out research on a single theme. It was decided that the village public houses would offer an interesting research starter for the group.

In line with the earlier decision to research the public houses in the village one member is researching "The Fox" and another has completed the "Hero of the Nile"

Six of the 18 WW1 casualties researched for the 2018 Commemoration have been uploaded to the Society's website. There are issues, e.g. adding extra information to some already existing information about any one particular individual have not yet been resolved

In July ten members of the Group visited West Sussex Record Office at Chichester. After a backroom tour an exhibition had been prepared for us in the Search Room where one item was an article regarding a "New Window for Felpham Church". According to a parish magazine the original had been damaged by bomb blast during the Second World War. This event had been discussed previously by the Group and thought not to have happened, because of the apparent lack of evidence.

Other items on show included a parish register dated 1557; school log-books, manor court maps, a Bognor air raid wardens map of 1940. The general public has access, by use of an Archives Card, to the search room where all documents are catalogued, and have free use of Ancestry, website data, tithe & other maps.

An article about the Post Office has appeared in Felpham in Focus. Interested members of the Group have met as a sub-group, the plan being how to develop a timeline for the history of the P.O. using some of the information found during the 2016 businesses review.

The Group is very aware that the 2016 Businesses, part of the Living History of the village, is out of date and needs to be reviewed.

R H Brooks

2023 History Heritage & Archive Group

October 2023