



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER
November 2022

Dear Member

The long, hot summer is behind us, the leaves (and rain!) are falling, and we are turning our thoughts to Christmas and plans for 2023.

But first, what a summer it was! Not only the very sunny days but also our activities! If you came to the Jubilee Summer Fete on 9th July, you will know what I mean. A lovely day in so many ways: weather; setting; stalls; entertainment; games; and, of course, all our visitors and wonderful volunteers! After a slight breather, we will be planning for next year's Village Fete.... In the meantime, I thought you might be interested in hearing some other news from this year and plans for things to come.

We raised £4,986 net of costs at the **Jubilee Summer Fete** which will provide the funds for us to carry out other activities during the year whilst retaining a small surplus. The Society's main costs are the provision of hanging baskets in the village between May and October each year. Not only do we buy hundreds of plug plants, soil, and feed, but grow on and nurture the plants for several months before planting up the baskets which are normally then watered twice a week. It's quite an operation. Once the baskets come down, we put up the Remembrance poppies at the end of October (they're up now) for about two weeks. These are bought from the Royal British Legion. Our funds also support activities such as our **Social Evenings** for members and the mulled wine for our **Christmas Tree Light-up**. We do not buy the Christmas tree itself as that is kindly donated each year by Butlins for the village. There are also licences to buy (e.g. for using a microphone in a public place) as well as insurance which of course we have to have in place for all of our activities.

After the Fete this year, we had a first in that we showed two films for our **History Evening** in October. The event started with Kevin Watson in conversation on Felpham's blue plaques, in particular the one commemorating the life of Antarctic explorer, Ernest Joyce. What an unsung hero he was. This was followed by two silent films of Felpham Village in the early 1950s. Hearing members of the audience recognising houses, places and some people made the event very worthwhile. Felpham has always been a lovely place in which to live.

Tonight, as you know, we will be at the Fox Inn for our **Autumn Social Evening** between 6.00 and 8.00 pm. This will be followed on Friday 2nd December by the **Christmas Tree Light-up** in Grassmere Parade. More on this anon.

We want to introduce some new activities for early 2023 which we hope will be of interest to you and to your friends and families. Here's a taster of these:

Firstly, a **Village Spring Clean**, thought up by our Beach Clean lead. Essentially, we will pick a day in the Spring – most likely a Saturday – and invite you to litter pick from where you live through to a central place in the village where we will serve tea, coffee, and cake at the end! We will provide more details in the new year. Secondly, an **Easter Egg Hunt**, thought up by our Gardening Group lead. This is self-explanatory, I am sure, but the where, when and any other details will be provided next year. (We have also thought about a Dawn Chorus BYO Picnic – but this is in the early stage of development!)

Of course, whilst we like to introduce new activities for our members, our regular activities form the backbone of what we do throughout the year: the monthly **Beach Clean**; monthly gardening in the **Old Rectory Gardens**; and year-round gardening at the **St Michael's Allotments**. We continue to pick up litter on the beach and promenade from the end of Summerley to Longbrook. In the Old Rectory Gardens, the hard work of this group, in conjunction with Arun DC, has been rewarded by the renewal of the Green Flag Award. Well done! We also tend plots, grow vegetables, clear brambles, cut hedges, shore up the levee and more, at the allotments, selling plants to our members and the general public at least once a year. A huge thank you to all our volunteers and leads who make these activities possible, come rain or shine.



Lastly, a big thank you to members of the Committee, also volunteers, without whom we would not function. If you would like to join the Committee, please email me at mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk

To see more photos of our activities, please visit: www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk/photo-galleries

Yours

Jane Summerville
Chair

Preserve | Protect | Promote

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