



## NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2016

### Working for the Community

The Society has been hard at work with community projects throughout the summer months. The Summer Party in Old Rectory Gardens on July 11<sup>th</sup> was a rip roaring success with great music, wonderful food, fun games and of course splendid Felpham sunshine. The hanging baskets have given the whole village a real lift throughout the summer with a blaze of red, white and blue bringing us all a smile. The Felpham Bridge has been painted a new bright Felpham Blue as part of the deal for Butlins to paint their own wall tidying up Upper Bognor Road. The Beach Cleans have carried on come rain or shine on every second Saturday of the month and the Gardens Group have been busy keeping Old Rectory Gardens tidy and weed free.



The Conservation Area review was conducted by Arun District Council earlier in the year and the Society organized a village meeting attended by over 100 people. The meeting gave the opportunity for residents of Manor Close to organize their opposition to the inclusion of their street into the Area.

The History and Heritage Group has been busy with regular monthly meetings throughout the summer and is currently looking at Felpham shops and businesses since 1936. Their next project is Felpham and the World Wars and they are always looking for new ideas.

The Conservation and Development Group are reviewing issues such as the road mitigation through Felpham, postponed last year; Butlin's plans to create a swimming pool complex on the Felpham boundary and the effect on Felpham of the Chichester University development and is also keeping a watching brief on Blake's Cottage. Our interest is seeing the cottage 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 social events during the summer included the Quiz Night, again a sell out with Quiz Master Bob May and the popular Line Dance Evening. Both were open to members and non-members.

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



There is also a lot more to look forward to this year. The History and Heritage Group is staging its annual History talk on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas Tree Lights switch on is at 3.30pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 over 200. Our reserves remain strong and 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'. Our strength truly does lie with our membership so we really need as much support as possible. If you have friends or neighbours who might join, please encourage them to join us.

**We need two new committee members and anyone interested should email the Society on [mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk](mailto:mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk)**

### History Talk –Your Living History

**Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> Village Memorial Hall**

**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.**

The group this year has been looking at shop premises in Felpham since 1936 and tracking how they have changed. The businesses have changed, the people have changed and the shop fronts have changed... Come along and see the group's progress. There are tabletop displays, talks and discussions. You can also contribute with your own knowledge and anecdote about Felpham past and present.



### Christmas tree light Switch-on

**3.30pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Grassmere Parade**

Last year the Christmas Tree Light Switch-on was an overwhelming success with over 400 people turning up on a cold but bright winters day. We will have choirs from Downview and Bishops Tufnell schools. The road will again be closed providing a safe environment for all. Butlins are again providing the tree and there will be free mulled wine and mince pies. Gather at 3.30 for carols and mince pies for the switch on at 4pm



**Christmas Tree Decoration Workshop Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10am-1pm Felpham Sailing Club.** Bring your young ones along to make paper snowflakes and colour in baubles. Then see their creation on the Felpham Christmas tree at the lights switch-on.

# Felpham Summer Party



Following the success of the Village Fete in 2015, the Society decided on a new Summer Party format for 2016. It seems that Felpham residents really value a summer get together as the Party was once again a rip roaring success.

With over 1000 visitors on a beautiful sunny day in Old Rectory Gardens, the Summer Party was packed with entertainment, games, food and drink and lots and lots of fun for the whole family.

Refreshments were provided by the FVCS Tea tent, with tea and cakes throughout the afternoon. Thank you to Felpham WI for helping run this. Bognor Rotary volunteers ran the BBQ flat out all afternoon! The Fox Inn put on the Pimm's Tent. Games included Coconut Shy, Skittles, Apple bobbing, Splat the Rat, Medieval Fruit Machine, soccer target practice and lots of smaller games and activities all sponsored by local businesses.

Bob May of May's The Village Agents again compered the afternoon. Abacas sponsored the fantastic music provided by Mike Hatchard (jazz pianist), Rock 'n' Roll dancers, The Silhouettes, The Renegade Dogs and Taller Than Jane.

Local Businesses again donated raffle prizes. You could also win a 32-inch colour TV and a holiday at any Butlins of your choice donated by Butlins. Bay Tree Estates sponsored the Teddy Bear's Parade. The grand prize was a mini iPad thanks to Gilbert and Cleveland.



Whilst it was a great success and produced another significant contribution to funds, it was very hard work for just a few people so we will be asking for volunteers to help the next time round.

## Hanging Baskets brighten up the village

Following the success of the 2015 Fete, your committee voted to reintroduce the hanging baskets through the village for the summer of 2016. The baskets were planted and 'brought on' by a local man during the springtime and were ready to be put up in time for the May

bank holiday. We were able to furnish 26 lampposts with 52 baskets and they have been watered and fed regularly throughout the summer. You may have seen the 'bowser' on its rounds either early in the morning or during the evening to avoid the traffic.

The displays of red white and blue suffrutas (petunias) and hanging geraniums are not only hardy in our sea air but will also provide stunning (and patriotic!) displays.

We've had lots of nice comments saying how much people have enjoyed the displays and at the time of this newsletter they are still up well into October.

We hope to make this an annual project and are already planning the baskets for 2017!

## Beach Clean and Rectory Gardens Groups

A reminder that 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. Thanks to The Lobster Pot for free coffee for every volunteer.

We also have the regular Old Rectory Gardens work party at 2pm on the fourth Friday of each month. They are currently trying to clean up the flowerbeds and circular planting areas ready for winter. More

volunteers are always needed for this so please do try and come along. All you need are your own gloves and hand tools. The Group not only gets its hands dirty in the flowerbeds but also liaises with Arun District Council about its management plan for the Gardens.

The Gardens Group has also planted privet hedging in the rather shabby area outside Oldcorns at the end of Admiralty Road. The ownership of this area is unclear so the Society decided to spruce it up a bit. We also hope to renovate the bench.

## Developments that affect Felpham

A number of consultations are in progress on developments that could affect Felpham.



### The Road Mitigation projects

planned as a result of the new Blake's Mead housing development and relief road were postponed last year as a result of inadequate consultation. This time Felpham residents are being properly consulted at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/felpham](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/felpham)

**Butlins** is proposing to build a brand new swimming pool complex and car parking on an area adjacent to their boundary with Felpham, particularly along Sea Road. The Society objects to the proposed development on the grounds that it will have an impact on an old part of Felpham beyond anything that has existed previously. We suggest that members attend the presentation at Butlins on Thursday 20th October between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm to view the plans. Objections must be with Arun District Council by October 27th.

**Chichester University** has started building its new STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) building at Butlins roundabout and double the number of students to 2500 - most of whom will live off site. Whilst the plans for the university and Bognor as a whole are exciting there may be an effect on Felpham with student parking in our free car parks and extra traffic at the roundabout.

## Listed Buildings, Local Green Spaces and Buildings of Special Character



Thanks to local photographer Bill Brookes the Society now has a complete photographic record of every listed building in Felpham. These can be seen on the Society website. We will now be photographing all the 'Local Green Spaces' that are protected by the Felpham

Neighbourhood Plan. The Society has also been asked by Felpham Parish Council to review the 'Buildings and Structures of Special Character'. Any suggestions for new listings would be welcome.

## Members Winter Social evening

We will be holding our annual social evening in February from 6-8pm at the Sailing Club in Blake's Road. All members are welcome for a free glass of wine and nibble. This is a chance to meet your committee and other members and to ask questions and make suggestions about projects and causes. It's also a chance to bring along a friend or neighbour and introduce them to the Society. Look out for the notice once dates have been confirmed

## To contact the Society please email

[mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk](mailto: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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