

## NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2015

### Support continues to grow

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

In particular we have set up three Working Groups to get to grips with the business of "conserving the historical, cultural and aesthetic significance of our built and natural environment". These are the History, Heritage and Archive Group, the Conservation and Development Group and the Friends of Old Rectory Gardens Group.

New members are still needed to strengthen the Society and to continue to build the Society's funds to a sustainable level. Membership not only enables the Society to get on with critical work for Felpham but also offers a range of activities during the year.

Two important things are taking place in Felpham this year. First will be the review of the Conservation Area being undertaken by Arun District Council. Second will be the very first Felpham Village Summer Fete in Old Rectory Gardens on July 11th. We hope this will become an annual event but help will be needed on the day so let us know if you are available.

Thank you for your support in 2014/15. We hope you will continue to support us in 2015/16

### 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.

### Getting on with job

The Society has set up the Conservation and Development Working Group to look at developments that might affect Felpham. A first action was to send a list of 'shabby areas' around the Parish to Arun District Council to investigate under Section 215 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and negotiate improvements with the relevant property owners.

In 2014 we responded to two traffic consultations. First, the CPZ, which we were against on the grounds of open access and urbanization and we are pleased this scheme was 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.

Second was the Felpham 20mph zone. We supported this as we are in favour of anything that could reduce speeds but were sceptical about a speed limit that the police have said they will not/cannot enforce. This is part of a several road mitigation measures resulting from the new Site 6 housing.

### New-Felpham Village Summer Fete!

The Society is perhaps best known for providing the Felpham Village Christmas Tree Celebrations. This year we will be organising the very first Felpham Village Summer Fete in Old Rectory Gardens on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July from 12 – 5pm. It will be a fun-packed traditional summer fete with all the old favourites - a coconut shy, tombola, tug-of-war



and lots of children's games. The Society will be hosting a tea tent and a BBQ together with the Snooks Corner Group.

As well as a variety of stalls from local retailers and organisations, there will be a full entertainment schedule including a brass band, local school choirs, dancers and a guitar and mandolin duo to get your feet tapping! A fun dog show is also planned. Entry to the fete will be free. If you would like to help on the day or have a stall yourself, please contact us.

### Conservation Area Review

The Felpham Village Conservation Area was first set up in 1985 after pressure from the Society that had been started in 1980. Arun District Council has started a process of reviewing all its conservation areas and as Felpham was one of the first to be established it is one of the first to be reviewed. Hopefully the consultation will be carried out later this year. Once it is underway, the Society will send out the details and hold its own member meeting to gather views and define responses. One particular issue is the inclusion of Church Field in the Area. The Society were one of several Felpham organisations pushing for this with a petition in 2013 which gathered over 1200 signatures.

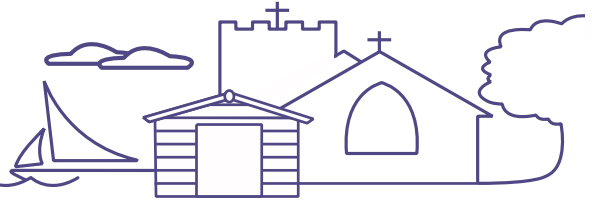


### New Look for the Society

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](http://www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk) or join us on Facebook at felphamvillageconservationsociety and Twitter at #felphamconservation

### Membership Renewal

The membership year runs April 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please support the Society for another year by renewing your membership. Subscriptions are as last year. £10 for Individual membership. £15 for Joint membership. Please complete the renewal form.



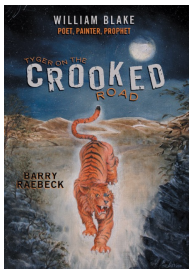
## Three social events for 2015

The Society holds social events during the year for our members to enjoy and to help in fundraising for future activities. New to the calendar is the American Line Dancing evening on 7<sup>th</sup> March with the Dixie Belles, and we will again be hosting the popular Quiz Night and Fish & Chip supper with quizmaster Bob May, on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Then in October look out for news of an informative and enjoyable History Talk evening about Felpham Village. Tickets for all events will be available from Felpham post office.

## Supporting Blake Cottage Purchase

The Big Blake Project together with the Greener Bognor Network organised the Blake Festival with art, poetry reading, drama and story telling last September in Old Rectory Gardens to coincide with the start of the fundraising campaign for the purchase of Blake's Cottage. FCVS supported the event with cream teas in the Gardens.



A substantial start has been made leaving about £350,000 to be raised through loans in the short-term. Get in touch with [thebigblakeproject.org.uk](http://thebigblakeproject.org.uk) to be more involved in the project or as an investor or potential Trustee of the cottage. Alternative ways to give include bidding for a personally inscribed copy of The Crooked Road by the America Author Barry Raebeck.

The Big Blake Project will be continuing the campaign with the Culture Corner at the Felpham Village Summer Fete.

## AGM set for April 27<sup>th</sup>

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

## Old Rectory Gardens Facelift

A lot has happened since the Society took over the Friends of Old Rectory Gardens role last year. Arun District Council have cleared the overgrown hedge on entry from the west and will also now clear some of the area to the south whilst retaining the wild element. They have also cleared a pathway through the impenetrable copse opposite The Fox so we can now get in with some work parties. As yet no 'wishing well'!



Arun has produced a management plan and we have been asked to help with the future vision and we have already started with a tree survey.

Regular gardening groups were started at 2pm on the fourth Friday of each month. These will be continuing again this year with the next session on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Bring your own gloves and tools.

## Felpham History – Past and Future!

Felpham, or Felcheham, has a long and fascinating heritage and history through the ages from medieval times through to the thriving village we know today, but how will future generations view our generation?



The History, Heritage and Archive Group has been formed with a dual task - to gather together as much as possible about the past, and to create today's history by producing archives for the future. We will use a mix of talks and displays, particularly using the Society website for archiving the many aspects of Felpham. Books, pamphlets, maps and postcards are all needed to add to the Society's collection on Felpham past. Audiotapes, photographs and written reflections are all planned for future generations.

Why not come and join the team setting out to coordinate and collate this material. Our next meeting will be informal to be held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining the group, or if you have any items of local historical interest, please contact Joyce (583603) for further details.

## Society Social Get-togethers

Get-togethers are a vital part of the Society's agenda so each year we organise Social Evenings at the Sailing Club in spring and autumn. We also put on Walks and Talks and encourage the Working Groups to meet regularly. Look out for the notices.

## Join a Work Party

The Felpham Village Conservation Society is again organising regular work parties during 2015 to help keep two of our Felpham gems clean and tidy and well kept. Members and non-members are welcome to come along and join in.

**Just turn up and weather permitting someone will be there to greet you and put you to work!**

**Beach Clean ups:** meet in front of the Sailing Club every second Saturday of the month at 10.30am. It only takes about an hour or so but even if you can only give a half hour it will be appreciated. You will be provided with bin bags and litter pickers and a free cup of coffee/tea.

**Friends of Old Rectory Gardens:** meet in Old Rectory Gardens every fourth Friday of the month at 2pm. Whilst Arun District Council maintains the Gardens, the Society augments their work with regular monthly work parties. Bring your gardening gloves and basic tools and you'll be put to work for an hour or so with proper direction and a friendly group.