

Felpham Village Conservation Society

"Preserve, Protect, Promote"

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2014

New Start for the Society

The Felpham Village Conservation Society took on a new life in May this year with an influx of new Committee Members determined to restore the Society to its former strength and influence in the Parish. The task is now to take the Society into a new era, rebuilding its membership, restoring its finances, creating new activity and taking up important issues for Felpham.

New Chairman Rachel Searle said, "The enthusiasm at the first meeting made it clear that there is a desire to see the Society brought back to its rightful place at the centre of Felpham life. We have a great new team with a real passion for Felpham and exciting new ideas."

Apart from its primary aim to enhance and protect our built and natural environment, the new Society also intends to put on events and talks where local residents can learn about Felpham, participate in local activities and become part of their community. It also wants to engage with and support other local groups, cooperate with Local Government and enable residents to be fully informed and represented on local issues.

New members are needed to strengthen the Society. The membership fee of £10 individual and £15 households will offer reduced entry to a range of activities during the year.

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.

Quiz Night Sell Out

The year got off to a lively start with the Annual Society Quiz Night in June at the Felpham Village Memorial Hall. Quiz Master Bob May set the pace and competition and rivalry was fierce. The event was a sell out at £8 a head (£10 for non members) with over 80 people sitting down to 'the best fish and chip supper ever'. The Royal in Bognor delivered all 80 suppers hot and on time. Quite a feat! Most important was the



enthusiasm at the first of the new Society events. A great boost and with many new faces.

Big Beach Cleanup

The Conservation Society always used to organise Beach Clean Ups and so the new society decided to bring it back. Felpham Seafront and Beach is a wonderful asset for the whole Parish to enjoy.

Arun's foreshore team does a good job keeping it clean and the shingle is a necessary sea defence. Nevertheless we feel the community should do its bit to keep the front safe and litter free.



Around 20 volunteers came

down on a windy but dry Saturday morning and we collected four bins of general rubbish and 2 for recycling. Coffee tea and shelter thanks to Felpham Sailing Club.

Friends of Rectory Gardens

Old Rectory Gardens is a 'Hidden Gem' right in the heart of the Village. It lies within the Conservation Area and next to Blake's Cottage. The conversation started with the suggestion that an old 'Wishing Well' might exist in the undergrowth of the copse opposite The Fox. Maybe it does...Maybe it doesn't? We will find out when we can get into that area.



To cut a long story short this led to a meeting with Arun who own the Gardens including the copse and ended up with the Society taking on the role of the Friends group for the Gardens. Led by Gill Chapple and Maggie Lupton the group will liaise with Arun on what needs doing as well as organising work groups. We've already agreed to maintain the rose bushes once the formal hedgerow at the entrance is restored. Volunteers wanted....but of course be ready to make a wish!

Life Members

Over the years the Society has offered Life Membership at various different rates. The Society has decided to honour these but to ask Life Members to make a donation equivalent to the new membership fee. If you haven't already done so please let us know if you are a life member.

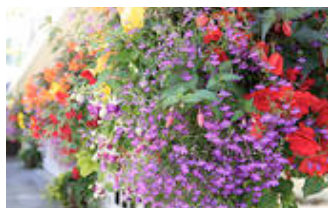
Annual membership runs April to April. Individual £10 Family or couples £15

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

www.felphamconservationsociety.co.uk

Felpham in Bloom

One of the biggest outlays over the past two years has been the 'Hanging Baskets. Although we made the investment, the Society underestimated the cost of hanging and maintaining the baskets. So this year with funds virtually exhausted we decided to put the baskets on hold.



However we are busy investigating putting them to good use again next year by entering Felpham for Britain in Bloom. We can get support from Arun DC and really try to put on a winning show. We could also enter Old Rectory Gardens into "It's Your Neighbourhood" competition.

Responding to Consultations

We have responded to two critical consultations in the past couple of months. 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. 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.

The other consultation was on the introduction of a 20mph zone throughout Felpham with the exception of the A259 through road. We passionately believe that the safety of pedestrians/cyclists is a priority and that everything should be done to reduce speeds in Felpham.



However, whilst we agree with trying to lower speeds we are not convinced a 20mph limit will be sufficient in itself as there is no expectation of police enforcement beyond routine activity. We would have liked more reassurance on this particularly at speed 'hot spots'. The full responses can be found on the website.

Community membership of TCV

We are now members of TCV - Conservation Volunteers help hundreds of thousands of people each year to enhance local green places through environmental projects and a network of 2,000 community groups taking responsibility for their own local environments. We get our insurance cover through them for workgroups, activities and events. www.tcv.org.uk

Supporting the Blake Festival

The Big Blake Society together with the Greener Bognor Network is organising the Blake Festival during 18th – 20th September in The Village Hall and 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 will support the event with tea and coffee in the Gardens on Saturday 20th.



What we do

- Provide knowledge on conservation and heritage
- Protect the Conservation Area and listed buildings
- Guard against poor development within and adjoining the Parish
- Respond to consultations that might affect the community
- Work constructively with the Parish, District and County Councils
- Work with other local groups working for the good of the Parish
- Run events such as social evenings and specialist talks

Christmas is only round the Corner

The Society is best known for providing the Felpham Village Christmas Tree and Carols. We will again be putting on this wonderful display of cheer and giving Felpham it's very own celebration. Our MP Nick Gibb has once again agreed to inaugurate the tree and lead the singing on Friday 5th December at 4pm at Grasmere Parade. Choir, mulled wine and better than ever decorations are all part of the delight.



Your Village Needs You!

We are slowly but surely becoming organised into specific groups to allow people to contribute to the activity of their choice. Currently we have:

- Friends of Rectory Gardens,
- History, heritage and Archive,
- Conservation and Listed Buildings

We also recognise that some people aren't so active or just value what we do, so we are also happy just to know we have your support as a member.

Fun on the Prom

The Society had a tent at the ever-popular Felpham Fun on the Prom at the beginning of August. Fun cut out photo booth and kiddie's sweets made it a fun day for us. We intend to try and support Felpham events whenever we can

Upcoming events

September 11th Social Evening

Come and enjoy a free glass of wine or beer or soft drink plus nibbles at an informal social reception at the Felpham Sailing Club at 6.30pm. A chance to meet other members, discuss what has been done so far and to see what the Society plans for the future. Guests welcome

November 8th History Talk

Come and listen to a history talk on "Felpham Through the Ages" at the Felpham Village Memorial Hall at 7pm. Details of speakers to be confirmed.

March 7th 2015 Barn Dance

Get on those dancing shoes and come and see the Memorial Hall transformed for a traditional Barn Dance. Details to be announced nearer the time.

June 6th 2015 Quiz Night

Back by popular demand our annual Fish and Chip supper. Bring your own wine and a competitive spirit. Can the reigning champions triumph again? Put the date in your diary.

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

www.felphamconservationsociety.co.uk