



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2015

New Challenges for the Society

The Felpham Village Conservation Society is now well into its second year following its resurgence back in May 2014. This past year has been one of regaining our strength both in terms of membership and finances. At our AGM in April we were able to report that our membership is almost 150 and we have achieved reserves of over £2000. The task is now to create new activity and take up important issues for Felpham.

Our primary aim is to enhance and protect Felpham's built and natural environment. This is a tall order with so much new house building and planned economic regeneration throughout the wider area. Whilst we can't do it all we can look out for some key issues such as contributing to the Conservation Area Review, understanding road mitigation issues within Felpham, watching out for poor development proposals and keeping our beach and seafront clean and safe. More recently we have met with Butlin's regarding improving the boundary between Felpham and the holiday site.

Much has been happening this past year. The History and Heritage Group is gathering pace with a strong turnout at regular meetings. We had a sell out annual Quiz Night and a new Line Dance evening. There are now monthly beach clean parties and a start has been made on the woodland in Old Rectory Gardens. Then there is the first Felpham Village Fete on Saturday 11th July, which is already a sell out.

There are many new challenges for the Society this year and next but thanks to all your support we can now work from a position of strength.

First Felpham Summer Fete



"As the Brass Band plays and the coconuts fall from the shy, why not sit and enjoy a delicious cream tea"

With it's new team the Conservation Society decided to embark on organizing the first Felpham Village Summer Fete and what more natural home than Old Rectory Gardens our hidden gem in the heart of Felpham.

The Fete is already packed with stalls and tabletop displays from local clubs, organisations and businesses. Plants & Vegetables, Antiques and Shabby Chic, Photography, Flowers and Crafts, Cakes and Preserves, books and children's toys and much more are on sale.

Refreshments are provided by the FVCS Tea tent, with tea, soft drinks and cakes throughout the afternoon plus cream teas from 3pm. FVCS and the Snooks Corner Group are running the BBQ. Wine Tasting and traditional ice cream complete the offering. Games include Coconut Shy, Skittles, Apple bobbing, Splat the Rat, Medieval Fruit Machine and lots of smaller games and activities.

Bob May of May's The Village Agents is compering the afternoon so come and listen to the Brass Band, enjoy the Rock 'n Roll dancing or relax to the sounds of 'Jazz at the Village'.

And if you are a dog owner, come and enter your pet for the Felpham Scruffs Fun Dog Show. Registrations are only on the day from 12pm.

There are also lots of big prizes to be won. Local Businesses have been amazing and not only sponsored games but also donated over 40 raffle prizes ranging from dinner vouchers to an MOT and Wine and chocolates to hairdressing and massage. You can also win a 32 inch colour TV and a holiday at any Butlins of your choice donated by Butlins. The grand prize is a mini iPad thanks to Gilbert and Cleveland.

We hope you will come along and join in the fun and please do bring family and friends. All are welcome.

Protecting our Built and Natural Environment

The Society's Conservation and Development Group looks at all aspects of Felpham's built and natural environment. This includes structures and buildings, open spaces, highways, tree preservation orders and sea and flood defences. Whilst it is interested in all new developments and future plans, it is also concerned with Felpham's heritage assets.

English Heritage define a heritage asset as a **"building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest"**. Under national designation Felpham has one

Conservation Area, 21 Listed Buildings and five Local Green Spaces.



This area of the Society's work is one of the big challenges for the year. Coming up soon is the Felpham Conservation Area Review being conducted by Arun District Council. Once the public

consultation is announced the Society will hold a public meeting to allow members and residents generally to see the plans and have their say.

Another issue will be the conclusion of the Arun Local Plan and how it affects Felpham. Whilst most of our open spaces are protected as Local Green Spaces through our Neighbourhood Plan we still need to guard against further dense development either within Felpham or on our doorstep. We should remember that the Aldingbourne Rife exits in Felpham and carries much of the fluvial water from as far as Barnham and Eastergate, to the sea, right on our doorstep.

There is also future work to be done in collaboration with our History and Heritage Group to watch over our rich heritage assets and even identify new ones. And we must continue to value and promote our open spaces. One of the delights of Felpham is that we have always embrace change but we have also had some disasters along the way that we want to avoid in the future.

AGM held on April 27th

The Society has set out to be as open and transparent as possible and the AGM was an opportunity for members to inspect the accounts and elect new committee members. Around 50 members attended in the upper room at the George Inn. The Treasurer reported that the accounts now showed a healthy General Fund of £2370. The Membership Secretary reported that membership renewals were virtually 100% (only seven outstanding) and now stood at 142 individuals and 104 households.

The meeting voted to introduce the new constitution that essentially tidied up some of the formal aspects of the Society. One discussion was around Life Members where it was decided that there was no obligation to give an annual donation but annual registration of interest to keep track of members was important.

The meeting also heard reports from each of the working Groups and questions were taken from the members.

Highlighting Shabby Areas

One of the immediate tasks tackled by the Society were the shabby areas dotted around the Parish. We started with a long list that was boiled down to a short list of main areas. These have been submitted to Arun District Council, which has power under Section 215 of the 1990 Planning Act to investigate these areas and raise them with the relevant property owners to agree improvement plans. Very little progress has been made due to the enormous task faced by ADC in preparing and submitting their Local Plan.

Two Great successes from the Events Team

The first FVCS Line Dancing evening held at the memorial Hall on March 7th was packed with dancing to the sounds of the Dixie Belles. Definitely one to be repeated.

Likewise the Annual Quiz Night on June 6th was a sell out with members and non-members attending. Quizmaster Bob May created a special Felpham round which tested everyone. Same again next year please Bob!

Discussions with Butlin's

As our biggest neighbour, the Society met with Jeremy Pardey, Butlin's Resort Director, in June. The result was a commitment to include the fence along Upper Bognor Road and through Longbrook Park Felpham in their new planned planting programme.

They also assured us they are working on the noise issue and anyone disturbed by noise at any time should call their main call centre number. This call is then transferred straight away to one of the duty managers on site who will then take action. They also offered to provide support for the Fete and have agreed to supply the Felpham Christmas Tree...together with snow and redcoats!

Supporting Blake's Cottage Appeal

The Society has supported the appeal to raise money for to buy Blake's Cottage and to ensure its preservation for future generations. We supported the Blake Festival in 2014 and this year we are supporting an evening of literary readings and discussion at St Mary's Church on Saturday 18th July from 4.30-6.30. Tickets are £8 from Felpham Post Office or Deligo or by contacting The Big Blake Society on [0777 589 3533](tel:07775893533), rachelmsearle@gmail.com

Conservation Area Review

The Society was instrumental in the designation of the Felpham Conservation Area in 1985. It continues to keep a watching brief. Now 30 years on Arun District Council is reviewing it and the public consultation is likely to be this September. When the time comes the Society will gather responses to the proposals and input into the consultation. To achieve this we will circulate the proposals to all members together with the key points. We will then hold a public meeting in the Village Hall with the likely date being Thursday 10th September. Based on our member responses we will then submit our comments to Arun.

We should recall that we were part of the petition in 2012 asking for Church Field to be included in the Conservation Area and we wait to see if this has been included in the new proposals.

Growing support for History, Heritage & Archive Group

The History, Heritage and Archive Group has been formed to encourage the sharing of memories and archiving of records; thus enabling future generations to understand and appreciate their rich local history. Some of the things we have discussed are to:

- *establish an Archive accessible to local people*
- *acknowledge people who've made our village what it is today*
- *use tithe maps to highlight village characteristics*
- *produce audio, photographs and written reflections*
- *collaborate with local organisations and schools*
- *create and lead heritage walks and talks*
- *display material and give talks to local groups*

At present we have a small, enthusiastic but growing group of members who have put together the display for the Summer Fete and will also soon start to upload archive items to our FVCS website and give local history links.

A highlight of the year will be our History Talk and Exhibition on October 17th in the Village Hall. Tickets will be available as usual from the Village Post Office.

Monthly Beach Clean and Gardens Group Tidy Up Felpham

The monthly Beach Clean is at 10.30 every second Saturday of the month gathering in front of the Sailing Club. We have regularly had 10-20 people and 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 their free coffee for every volunteer. Due to the Fete the next clean is on Saturday 18th July. Thereafter reverting to the

second Saturday of the month.

We also have the regular Old Rectory Gardens work party at 2pm on the fourth Friday of each month. Volunteers are looking for the 'Wishing Well' in the copse area and there was great excitement when a large slab was discovered but it proved not to be and we'll carry on looking on 24th July.

www.felphamvillageconservation.co.uk

To contact the Society please email mail@felphamvillageconservation.co.uk or drop a note into the Felpham Post Office or write to the Membership Secretary at 18 Summerhill Drive Felpham PO22 6AL