

THE FELPHAM HISTORY GROUP [FHG]

Meeting held on Sunday 27th October 2024 at 11.00am
at 1 Grassmere Parade

AGENDA/MINUTES

Apologies from Lorraine Stevens & Geoffrey Walker, who were unable to attend. New attendee Andrew Hanson welcomed. Has lived in the village since 1958.

Attended by RB, MB, EL, AN, PG, EL, JB, SH, MH, VB, JT, RT, AH (13)

Location was ideal; plenty of space, tea & coffee facilities etc.

VB took flowers round to Lorraine, which she gave on behalf of the group to Mark. Huge thanks to Val for that.

Chaired by EL, the meeting had the most number of attendees we've seen for quite a while. Thanks to Eileen for guiding us through a busy schedule so steadily and delicately...

1) SH – update on Post Office; Open Day

A substantial number attended the Open Day on 21st October and we received many stimulating comments and ideas, as well as donations. Snooks Corner Community Group donated a share of the winding up process after they decided to reform the group into a social. Anne Netley suggested a flyer posted far and wide to list everything needed and the importance of continued donations – a really good idea taken up enthusiastically by SH, EL & MH.

2) JB – update on Blakes Cottage.

Lizzie received a query from Blake's Cottage Trust to FHG by Andy Bliss, who asked if we had any info on the history of the cottage. RB had researched Frank Jonathan Howell, who was unfortunately killed by an aircraft in Odiham in 1948. He had been a fighter pilot in WWII but captured and imprisoned in the far east. He is buried in St. Mary's churchyard and his address was given as Blake's Cottage. But there was no further info about the cottage itself, when it was built etc.

3) WW11 History Group project

ALL – Ideas for May 2025.

Confirm 10th May event date? Put the word out for memorabilia (MH had done this in *Felpham in Focus*, Oct '24). Approach organisations for collaboration – MH & RB > RAFA | VB > Universities of Sussex & Brighton (film archive) | JB – Bognor Museum | SH – Veterans Associations | EL – Felpham Community College. Kevin Watson role?

MB presented documents, magazines, books from the period, all readily available, to show how much material it was easy to access, to encourage others to investigate what life was like on the home front during and after WWII. This stimulated individual memories of rationing etc. from certain members and JT recalled playing amidst bomb sites, awful food and polluted soil where it was impossible to grow anything. JT and he offered to help MB in exploring this aspect of life; diet, rationing, recipes etc. How did families cope at that time? Thanks to MB for her initiative, which showed how much fun can be had from relatively straightforward research, and really helped coalesce thoughts about how to proceed.

4) How do we plan to cover the cost of future projects?

MH – should we introduce a subscription charge or seek funding from FVCS on a case-by-case basis? Should we continue as we are (rotating chair is one idea) or establish officers of the group? MH asked to request from FVCS what our group budget is. Could we even ring fence our subscriptions to be used specifically for the FNG?

5) AOB;

Roger – Various items (see above re Frank Howell). He had communicated with RAFA (David Hewings). Also, West Sussex Archives Society at their AGM are hosting Prof. Alexandra Harris to talk about her recent publication “The Rising Downs” in Barnham Community Hall on Saturday 22nd March 2025 at 12 noon... all are welcome.

Mike – Marion, Mike + to present items on 8th January '25 to Felpham Fillies. (Confirm date). Any fees would go towards the booking costs for May '25 event.

6) Next meeting 5PM 27th November at 1 Grassmere Parade. Chair: Jane Barnes.