

SAVE FELPHAM VILLAGE POST OFFICE CAMPAIGN

BY LIZZIE MICKERY

We have raised over £50,000 and climbing!!! Thank you, Felpham, you're the best. If anything shows how important our Village Post Office is in the life of the village, your generosity does.

As we've said before, we're not expecting to raise the full amount. We're in the process of applying for external funding and this milestone really helps funders appreciate the commitment of our community to saving the Felpham Village Post Office.

Without a huge lottery win, our target seems daunting. But success will come in stages and we're doing remarkably well. We should be hugely proud of our achievements and thank you all for every single donation. We can do this. And, if for any reason we fail to acquire the Post Office, your money is guaranteed if you donate through gofundme, the link is on the website – friendsoffelpham.org. Or by cheque, made payable to Friends of Felpham CIC, that can be left at the Post Office or at Rolly's accountants, 75 Felpham Rd. Please include your name and address.

And let's not forget the team in the Post Office, who greet us with a cheery smile and occasional joke – you know who you are!! Thank you for all you do.

Lorraine Stevens of the Felpham History Group, part of the Felpham Village Conservation Society, found a fascinating list of jobs that once existed in the Post Office work force. Here are a few wonderful job titles:

Batteryman – (Telegraphs) Manual worker in the engineering grades of the Telegraph service. **Carman** – Driver of a horse-drawn van. **Commander of Telegraphs** – (Telegraphs) A senior officer on board a PO cable-laying ship (Cable Ship/Telegraph Ship) held the rank of 'Navigating Commander'. **Fourth secretary** – Top-level post created in 1875 as a final promotion for Frederic Hill, Assistant Secretary (and brother of Sir Rowland Hill). Sir Rowland was Felpham resident, Judy Armson's, great, great, great Uncle. See the last issue of Felpham in Focus. **Indian Mail Officer** – Clerk from the PO Secretary's Office in London who accompanied dispatches of mail to India as far as the Mediterranean. **Mail Guard** – Protected the mail on horse-drawn mail coaches in the late 18th century. The role transferred to on board mail trains and at stations when the railways took over the carriage of mail in the 1830s-1850s.

You can find the full list here www.postalmuseum.org/collections/the-archive/family-history/roles

As the Save the Post Office Campaign applies for grants and funding from big business, we're looking for people experienced in law, grant applications and fundraising. If you would like to volunteer or find out more, please contact us on 0734087321.

After our wonderful Magic Show, thank you to the Felpham Community College Talent Show for contributing their proceeds to our campaign. So exciting to glimpse the stars of the future. Keep the evening of 11 June free. Exciting details to follow!!

And for all our Felpham dog lovers, check out our dogs on Instagram [@saveourpostoffice.felpham](https://www.instagram.com/saveourpostoffice.felpham)



'FETCH THIS, FETCH THAT' (Charles Barstow), 1st 1st, Greetings Stamps, Cartoons, 1998