



December 2008 / January 2009

Pigeon Post



Current and past editions at www.fulkingvillage.co.uk. No January 2009 edition
Submissions by 21st of month preceding publication to the Editor: Aidan Walker, aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk, 01273 857735

CHRISTMAS CHEER IN FULKING

AND A FEW MORE OTHER THINGS BESIDES, INCLUDING A GOOD DEAL OF ECO STUFF



Village Christmas Party, Friday 19 December, 6pm, Village Hall Bring a plate of savoury finger food and contribute a prize for the Raffle

Nick Bremer's evocative picture of a snowy Fulking (this scene last seen in April) conjures an idyllic rural existence, when snow fell when it was supposed to and the sun shone in summertime. Villagers are cordially invited to celebrate the present and remember the past with affection at the Annual Fulking Christmas Party. Please take your Raffle donation to whichever of these addresses is nearest you: Bob Rowland, Furzefield, Clappers Lane BN5 9NJ, 857271; Carolyn Loveless, Woodlands, The Street BN5 9LT, 857280; or Michael Trist, Perch, Edburton Road BN5 9LR, 857011. Thanks and see you there!

A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY?

Much of the content of this month's Pigeon Post is concerned with the environmental issues that are fast gaining priority in almost every area of national and international concern. Fulking Environmental Group will be calling a meeting for the village in January to discuss our local input and output; check fulkingvillage.co.uk or the noticeboard outside the Village Hall for details – there is no Pigeon Post in January. Meanwhile, Steve Shaw of Local Works exhorts us to exhort our local councillors to pass a motion to use the Sustainable Communities Act, by which we can 'drive the actions of government to (eg) protect Post Offices, increase bus services, restrict supermarkets, promote local renewable energy and much more.' We can't use it if the local council doesn't adopt it – so add your voice to the general clamour now. Check www.localworks.org for all the details. Addresses of councillors to write to for Fulking appear inside

Village Diary

Thursday 4 December, 7.30pm
CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE
St Andrew's Edburton. All welcome
Jen Green, 857552
Trish Robinson, 857255

Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm
CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE
as above

Sunday 14 December, 6pm
CAROL SERVICES
St Andrew's Edburton &
The Transfiguration,
Pyecombe

Friday 19 December, 6pm
VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY
Village Hall
Carolyn Loveless, 857280

Sunday 21 December, 6pm
CAROL SERVICE
Holy Trinity Poynings

Wednesday 24 December, 11.30pm
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
St Andrew's Edburton

Sunday 28 December
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT
Jenny, 857382

Thursday 8 January, 8pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Village Hall

Wednesday 14 January, 9.30am
WALKIE TALKIE
Start at Shepherd & Dog
Joanna Cairns, 857540

Wednesday 14 January, 7pm
SUSSEX FILM ARCHIVE SHOW
Village Hall
Tickets £5 in advance from
Bob Rowland, 857271

Sunday 25 January
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT
Jenny, 857382

That Sustainable Communities Act letter to your Councillors, plus their addresses and some information on Local Government Grants to assist energy saving moves from Celia Austin, the Sustainability Officer at Mid Sussex District Council. Your attention is also drawn to the insert in this month's PP from Action in Rural Sussex, asking your opinions on which local issues are important. Fill it in and return it to one of our three collection points

Here is a sample letter to be sent to your local and county councillors urging them to use the Sustainable Communities Act process. This is just a guide; your own words will be more effective. And why not get others to write too?

Dear Cllr [name],

Re: using the Sustainable Communities Act

As a local resident I am writing to you to ask you to table a motion resolving to use the new Sustainable Communities Act process by submitting proposals to government (via the Local Government Association) by 31st July 2009, as invited to by Hazel Blears on 14th October 2008.

The Act is great news for all of us locally. For the first time we have a law that gives

local government and local communities the power to drive central government actions and policy to help promote thriving, vibrant and sustainable communities.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[your name]

[your address]

COUNCILLORS' ADDRESSES

- Gina Field, Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1SS. enquiries@midsussex.gov.uk
- Peter Griffiths, West Sussex County Council, 3 Orchard Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1DD. peter.griffiths@westsussex.gov.uk

Please send copies of replies to Local Works Campaign Co-ordinator, Steve Shaw, at steve@localworks.org or Local Works, 6 Cynthia St London N1 9JF

The energy efficiency, heating and insulation grants available for householders are:

- Warm Front – A grant of up to £2,700 for heating and insulation measures. Over 60s not in receipt of benefits may be eligible for a £300 rebate. To apply call: 0800 316 2805 or apply online by visiting the Warm Front Website: <http://www.warmfront.co.uk/>. The council provides 'top ups' where costs exceed £2,700.
- The Low Carbon Buildings Programme has grants available to householders of up to £2500 depending on the technology you are planning to install. <http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/how/householders/>
- Utility Companies provide energy efficiency advice and free or discounted insulation depending on your

circumstances and how much loft insulation you already have. You do not have to use your own energy company. I would recommend the Home Energy Check for tailored advice:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/proxy/view/full/165/homeenergycheck>

Residents should be receiving one in the post at the end of November/early December.

Unfortunately the grants available are quite limited. It is expected that in the future there will be grants available for a wider range of measures. In the meantime, energy companies are sometimes interested in projects so if you have any ideas or opportunities do let me know and I will make enquiries.

Celia Austin, Sustainability Officer
01444 477370,
CeliaA@midsussex.gov.uk

Beachdown debate rumbles on at poorly attended Village EGM

At the Extraordinary General Meeting called by the Parish Council on 26 November to allow villagers to air their views on the forthcoming licensing application for Beachdown Festival 2009, it was felt that there were not enough villagers present (12 not including the councillors plus a couple of absentee emailers, about six per cent of the electors) to get a majority view on action by the PC. The PC will therefore not be writing on behalf of Fulking, but suggests that anyone who wishes to support or object should do so as individuals.

There are four categories under which expressions of support or

objection are classified:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of Public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm.

So you must make your points based on one or more of these categories.

Correspondence must be received by **11 December**.

Write to:

The Licensing Officer,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Oaklands,
Oaklands Road,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS:
Or email to: licensing@midsussex.gov.uk.

Some issues raised by several villagers were that the license be granted for one year only, parking should be better organised so as not to impinge on the South Downs Way, and all the regulations imposed by MSDC should be complied with.

Several people spoke in support of the Festival, and the overall opinion of villagers present was in favour of the Festival provided that:

1. The lapses that occurred in 2008 were corrected for 2009;
2. The event did not grow to numbers beyond 10-15,000;
3. At present the license is only granted for one more year.

Fulking Parish Council

Neighbourhood Watch

Please make your house look occupied if you're out for the evening. Report all non-urgent problems promptly on 0845 6070999. Log the incident reference number that the police give you. However, for a 'crime in progress', even if it seems minor, call 999 – the staff are trained to decide how urgently a response is required. If you are deaf, or speech impaired, you can now text 65999.

Fulking Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), also covering Poynings, Pyecombe, etc, is Sharon Botting, 0845 6070999 ext 26671. Please also report burglaries/damage to myself, Richard Corner, 857219, corners@talktalk.net.

Christmastime at the Downland Churches

Sunday 14 December 6pm St Andrew's Edburton: Carol Service

6pm The Transfiguration,
Pyecombe: Carol Service

Sunday 21 December 2.30pm St John the Evangelist, Newtimber: Carol Service

6pm Holy Trinity, Poynings:
Carol Service

24 December Christmas Eve 3.30pm Holy Trinity, Poynings: Christingle and Crib Service

11pm The Transfiguration,
Pyecombe: Midnight
Communion

11.30pm St Andrew's Edburton: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

9.30am St John the Evangelist,
Newtimber: Family Praise

Sunday 28 December

10am Holy Trinity, Poynings:
Service

Excellent response to fundraising for final phase of St Andrew's restoration

Encouraged by a substantial £20,000 grant from Viridor Credits (Landfill Tax Scheme) and a heartwarming response to our appeal letter from Edburton and Fulking residents, St Andrew's PCC has decided to proceed with the final phase of restoration work, to start on 19 January.

The £69,000 contract is expected to last for about 12 weeks. Details of venues and arrangements for Sunday Services whilst St Andrew's is closed will be published in the next issue of Pigeon Post.

Other news: Tony Brooks' book, *The Changing Times of Fulking and Edburton* in aid of the Restoration Campaign, is selling like hot cakes with only 50 copies left. If you want

one, order it now! Thanks to the Shepherd and Dog which raised £57 with the 'Guess the pumpkin's weight' competition, for which we are extremely grateful. Pop in soon and raise a glass to the landlords, Jeff and Jenny.

If you are still thinking about responding to the final Appeal letter, we hope you'll do so soon. As a last push to complete the fundraising, we are planning a Flower Festival in St Andrew's as well as a 'Good as New' sale. Congratulations to all concerned. It has taken seven years to raise the funds, but we are almost there!

[Richard Rawlings 857776](#)

[NB Children are invited to bring some of their presents to Church at Newtimber on Christmas Day.](#)

Get-well wishes to St Andrew's treasurer, and the search for a new one

Bryan Cooper, our PCC treasurer and organist at St. Andrew's, is unwell and in hospital and we should like to take this opportunity through Pigeon Post to send our very best wishes to him for his recovery.

As our treasurer is unable to carry out the duties of PCC treasurer for the foreseeable future, we are looking for a volunteer to take on this task. Records are up to date and in perfect order and every possible assistance will be given. Please contact either [Richard Rawlings](#), 857776 or either of the churchwardens: [Sandra](#), 01903 813186 or [Elizabeth](#), 01903 816196.

Chris' Nature Watch



Wood Mice, very cute – and good for eating, if you're an owl

You may have seen these delightful little mice on your bird tables – we have them in Stammers Hill. They are brown with white bellies, big ears and large protruding eyes. They are generally nocturnal, feeding on nuts and seeds, but we have seen them feeding during the day. They are our most common rodent, very cute – and an important part of the owls' diet!

[Chris Gildersleeve 857382](#),
[gilder6646@aol.co.uk](#)

CHRISTMAS TRIMMINGS UPSIDE DOWN TART Fi Shafer presents a reasonable, seasonable way of making those Xmas leftovers toothsome all over again – no, really

A great leftover dish for Boxing Day when everything always seems to taste better! Serves 6.

Ingredients

75g (3oz) cranberries
1 x 375g pack puff pastry
6 chipolatas (chop each one in 3)
6 slices of bacon
50g (2oz) stuffing rolled into balls
1 tbsp olive oil
25g (1oz) butter
1 level tbsp caster sugar
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 large egg yolk, beaten with 1
tbsp of cold water
Salt and Pepper

To make

1. Heat the oil and butter in a frying pan.
2. Add in the sugar and onions and brown them all over.
3. After 3 minutes, add the bacon and chipolatas to brown.
4. Add the stuffing balls and

cranberries and season.

5. This should take no more than 10 minutes. When all are browned, take off the heat and leave to cool in the pan.
6. Unwrap the pastry and cut off a piece to cover the pan.
7. Place the pastry over the cooled trimmings and cut off the corners with kitchen scissors to make a well-fitting disc.
8. You can (if you want) leave the whole pan, complete with pastry lid, in the fridge for up to 12 hours. If your pan does not have a heatproof handle, transfer the mixture to a non-stick tart pan.
9. Heat the oven to 200 deg C, 400 deg F, Gas Mark 6.
10. Remove the pan from the fridge and brush the top with egg and water wash.
11. Put the pan in oven – make sure it has a heatproof handle!



Yummy – for one day only. What to do with it all on Boxing Day... and the day after that... and the day after that?

12. Cook for 20-25 minutes until the pastry is well browned and the ingredients are sizzling.
13. Remove from the oven – take care, use an oven glove!
14. Put a flat serving dish over the pastry top and carefully turn it upside down to reveal a dish of delicious Christmas goodies!

Advertise in Pigeon Post for £30 per year for 12 issues or £5 per issue. Contact Aidan Walker, 01273 857735 or aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk



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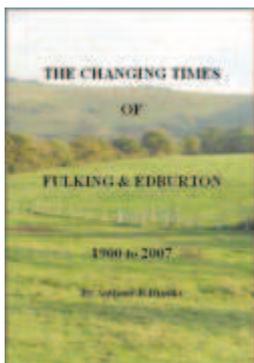
DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING BADMINTON?

The Henfield Badminton Club is looking for new members to play on Monday evenings from 7.30 – 10.30pm at Henfield Village Hall. Club standard players (that just means if you can play a game!) are invited to come along and enjoy a complimentary evening. See if this is the club for you! We play in the Mid-Sussex league (no pressure – only those who want to) and we organise many social events during the year. We are a friendly club and look forward to hearing from you.

For further info ring Sally, 01273 494231

Christmas Presents – Stuck for an idea?

Have you enjoyed reading 'The Changing Times' of our two villages? This unique book is limited to only 500 copies, with just 60 remaining, and at only £12.50 is the perfect gift. Its 489 pages contain over 300 pictures tells how life in Fulking and Edburton has changed over the last century. Available from Stokes, High Street, Henfield, Springs Smoked Salmon, Edburton, and the Shepherd & Dog, Fulking. For postal delivery call 01273 857 200. All proceeds (after printing costs) will go to St Andrew's Church, Edburton.



Bed and Breakfast in Fulking



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see www.fouracres.org.uk or
phone Sarah for details on 857393