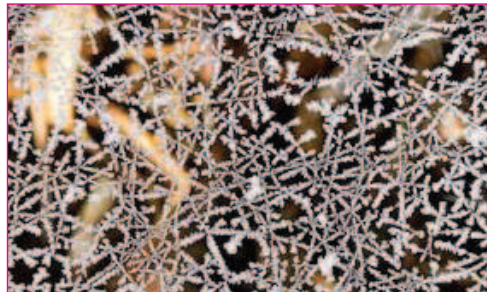


Pigeon Post

Current and past editions at www.fulkingvillage.co.uk. Advertising enquiries and editorial submissions by 21st of month preceding publication to the Editor: Aidan Walker, aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk, 01273 857735

NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS



John Hazard's frosty filigree surrounded by pictures from Richard Corner, Bob Rowland and others of more dubious talent! Thanks also to Andrew Iversen

From little larvae, great oaks die



Nasty-looking creature, to be abhorred. The larvae are worse and do the real damage

Our hearty oaks are looking very sorry for themselves. The overhanging branches down Clapper's Lane, for instance, could fall and cause injury or damage – so drive, walk or ride with caution.

Climate change is partly the cause of our British oaks' rapid decline, says local tree warden **Barry Leppard**: out of all British trees the oak is most affected. Crown dieback, canker rot and / or copious bleeding on the stem, which can cause them to die within four or five years, are all

enemies. Canker rot is caused by a fungus (*Phellinus Punctatus*), which is partly aided by drought.

But the other clear and present danger to the oak is the Processionary Moth caterpillar (*Thaumetopoea ProceSSIONea*), a major defoliator of oak in Europe and a risk to human health. The larvae are covered with barbed and toxic hairs, with which contact or inhalation can cause irritation to the skin, eyes, bronchial attacks and allergic reactions.

The caterpillars feed in

groups and congregate in communal nests made of white webbing spun under a branch or on the trunk of the tree. They hatch – and the adult moths fly – in August and September.

If you come across a nest DO NOT deal with it yourself. Please notify Barry on 857881.

You can find more information on the web at: <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6URJCF> and at <http://www.fulkingvillage.co.uk/environment.htm>. See also <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/>

Village Diary

Saturday 14 February, 10am
NORTH TOWN FIELD CLEAR UP
All welcome – nay required!
John Hazard, 857957

Tuesday 17 February, 7.30pm
SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Village Hall Chapel
Bob Rowland, 857271

Sunday 22 February
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT
Jenny, 857382

Wednesday 11 March, 9.30am
WALKIE TALKIE
Meet at the stream by pub
Joanna Cairns, 857540

Friday 13 March, 7.30pm
GAMES EVENING
Village Hall, then Shep & Dog
Jen Green, 857552

Thursday 9 April, 8pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Village Hall
Parish Clerk, 857957

Thursday 7 May, 8pm
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Parish Clerk, 857957

Paul Harris for BBC.co.uk

More Downland Villagers' Motley Miscellanies



Fayre's fair, or can we revive the hot, heady days of summer?

"Do you remember the Fulking Fayres? We held three in the North Town Field in the 90s and they all hold such happy memories. Everyone got involved – first of all by donating a flag for the bunting cut from their favourite shirt, sofa cover or curtain! Then the expertise in welly wanging, coconut throwing or barbecuing took over. Soon

we had stalls and volunteers to person them. The sun shone each time and the whole village got involved – it got better and better – pony rides, quad bikes, Punch and Judy, a biplane flypast, haircutting, bouncy castle, live jazz, real beer – even the beagles came one year! Such fun – we have the photos to prove it."

Jill Bremer

Indeed we did have a lot of fun, coerced by Jill, whose infectious enthusiasm motivated everyone. We repeated the Fayre in 2000 but the weather was not on our side – even so it was worthwhile. If you think we could repeat it or have another idea that brings the village together give me a ring on 857271 and we can arrange a meeting of the Social Committee

to discuss it. Quite a lot of work requires to be done at the North Town Field and money raised to finance it; the Fayres were good fund raisers. **Bob Rowland**

Above, left to right: The redoubtable Bremers, still influencing Fulking from afar; alpacas in a spin; Gladiators in mortal combat rule OK

Social gatherings #1: The Fulking Christmas Party

We came, we gathered, we drank, we ate, we had a joke or two and went home much more the merrier. Judging by the conversational volume levels and the flushed but happy faces, this year's (last year's) do was a great success. Many thanks to the usual hard working villagers who arranged, helped, served, collected, donated.

Particular mention goes to all the cooks, to **Jill Malby** for the scrumptious mulled wine and to **Carolyn Loveless** for the efficient organisation, carried off with aplomb and great good humour. What a generous lot of raffle prizes – including **James Lightfoot's** abstract painting.

There was a yellow dinner plate left behind – someone want to reclaim it? Carolyn, 857280

The financial result was as follows: Raffle tickets sold: £259. Less wine & soft drinks £159, and childrens' prizes £23: a healthy surplus of £77. Well done all!

Social gatherings #2: Sussex Archive Film Night

A sell-out, despite the chill in the Hall. Who knew that Sussex was so crucial to early British cinema? Thanks to **Dr Frank Gray** of Screen Archive South East, and to **Tony Brooks, Nick Hughes, James Ellis-Brown** and **Bob** and **Pam Rowland** for selfless services rendered. The money: Ticket Sales £210 (42 people); surplus £85. Well done again!

Small battery recycling

Recycle your small domestic batteries by putting them in the mailbox on my gate at Four Acres. **Sarah**, Four Acres, Poyning Road, Fulking BN5 9NB

Shepherd & Dog meal deals

We now do takeaway Fish & Chips Mondays-Fridays. We also have a very good promotion until the end of March; 10 per cent off your total bill – drinks and meals. Customers can accumulate £££ monthly and redeemable vouchers will be posted to them. **Jenny**, 857382

Beachdown Festival Application Responses

Future Festivals submitted their Beachdown 2009 application on 20 January. Representations for or against are due by Wednesday 18 February. Write to: The Licensing Officer, Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1SS, email: licensing@midSussex.gov.uk.

Lost & Found

Found in Clappers Lane, 22 Jan about 3.30pm, a few items of costume jewellery. Owner or anyone who can help with restoring them to same: call **Linda Harris**, 857486

Chanctonbury Chorus

This excellent Steyning choir is looking for new members. They usually do two concerts a year – mostly sacred choral works. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7.45 in Steyning. Jen Green and I can give lifts. Sight reading required! The conductor Siobhan Denning is excellent and

has won awards in the past. **Chris Gildersleeve**, 857552

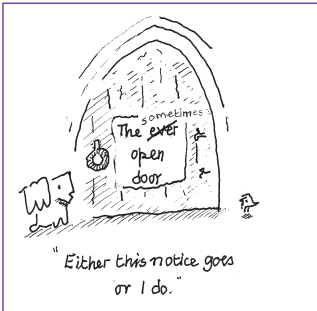
Bus action?

Are there enough locals to demand that the no.17 two-hourly Horsham to Brighton bus diverts via Small Dole, Edburton, Fulking and Poyning? Contact **Chris Gildersleeve** if you would use such a service regularly: 857552, gilder6646@aol.co.uk.

Neighbourhood Watch

Make your house look occupied if you're out for the evening. Report all non-urgent problems on 0845 6070999, but for a 'crime in progress', even if it seems minor, call 999 – the staff can decide how urgently a response is required. If you are deaf, or speech impaired, you can now text 65999. The Fulking Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), also covering Poyning, Pyecombe, etc, is **Sharon Botting**, 0845 6070999 ext 26671. Also report burglaries/damage to **Richard Corner**, 857219, corners@talktalk.net.

St Andrew's will open for Easter!



Graham Jeffrey's sweet little cartoon expresses a certain frustration, but work is now under way with replastering and the new stone flooring scheduled for completion by 10 April, when we are planning the usual Easter Services. The plasterwork will then need six to eight weeks to dry, following which two or three weeks are allowed for complete repainting, and finally the installation of new glass doors to the exterior of the porch.

Our Priest-in-Charge, **Peter Morgan** retires at the end of February. Peter has been an invigorating and good-humoured influence for us, and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts. He will take his last Holy Communion at Poynings on 15 February at 10am. Everybody is welcome. **Richard Rawlings**, 857776

Holy Communion in the Downland Churches during St Andrew's closure:

1st Sunday of the month

10am Poynings

2nd Sunday

10am Newtimber

6pm Pyecombe

3rd Sunday

10am Poynings

4th Sunday

10am Pyecombe

5th Sunday

10am Newtimber

Help in Africa



As some of you may remember I went to Tanzania last winter to do some voluntary teaching. I'm going again in a month's time and want to do some more for the local orphanage (above) which is very under-resourced. I am trying to raise money for toys and sports equipment, as they have nothing at all at present. I would be grateful for any small amounts of money, or small, light plastic toys, which I could take with me. Footballs are always popular too! (uninflated!) Thanks very much. **Chris Gilderleeve** 857552

AiRS results

Thanks to those who responded to the survey in last PP. The three most popular themes for the Community Planning network to focus on were Allotments, Community/Public Transport and a Community Shop. The PC thought of an idea to address the allotment issue; finding one plot for this would now be unlikely because former allotments are now farmland, so up came the idea of a 'Garden Share' (see article below, exactly what we mean). There are probably some villagers with gardens too big for them, or they don't have the time/inclination to tend. There are others who want to grow vegetables but their gardens are too small. Why not get them together? Phone **Pam Rowland** on 857271 to take it forward. Got great ideas for the other two themes? Email paula@hazzy.net

Chris' Nature Watch



Crab apple trees

During the recent cold snap the blackbirds finished off all the crab apples on our little tree (not the one in the picture, which is from California!). Crab apple trees are very good value – they have lovely blossom in spring and those pretty miniature red apples in the autumn. You can either feed the birds or make them into crab apple jelly, which is a wonderful clear red colour.

Chris Gilderleeve 857552, gilder6646@aol.co.uk

The world wide web, the world wide crisis of the environment, and what either has to do with us

As this ed gets his feet under the Pigeon's bird-table, another power-crazed media maniac sits gleefully chuckling half way down Clapper's Lane, crafting and re-crafting Fulking's website in the footsteps of the pioneering and gratefully acknowledged Mr **Richard Linford**, esteemed webmaster and thespian of this parish. I speak of course, with personal affection and professional respect, of none other than Mr **James Lightfoot**, who has taken it upon himself to do with Fulking's website what all websites need – constant update, refreshment and renewal.

James is investing his money in new software and his time in making www.fulkingvillage.co.uk sit up and sing – and all power to him for that. It also makes total sense that the paper (or pdf) Pigeon and its cyber-home should work closely together, for on the www, as we all know,

space is unlimited. So a great many things you get a taste of in PP can be further chewed upon, and even digested, at the web address aforementioned. Check it out without delay.

Having worked for New Scientist in his youth, still an avid reader thereof and with additional wide research under his belt, James is more than usually well informed on environmental matters. And it can't have escaped any Folkingite not recently returned from the planet Vulcan that the Pigeon is pretty keen on that sort of thing too. I have an eloquent and persuasive article from James on this very subject that I vowed to publish, but sadly space does not allow me to give more than that taste of which I speak. A number of other villagers are also putting time and effort into promoting the cause of sensible environmentally-aware living.

Recent issues of PP have carried items on Fulking Environmental Group, but it was decided that to give it a name and have a certain number of members inherently suggested exclusivity. Which is entirely against the spirit of the idea. We're all in it together, right? So, read James' full text at www.fulkingvillage.co.uk, get involved and add your voice, energy and commitment.

A quick whet for your appetite: 'None of us are experts, but together we have shared concerns, views and good intentions, all of which we aim to use to develop a strategy to make Fulking a more sustainable community. We want to find ways to best invest in renewable power and water recycling, grow more of our own food and generally help each other out. We lack infrastructure, but we do have great green opportunities.' **Aidan Walker** 857735

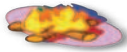
Advertise in Pigeon Post for £40 per year (11 issues) or £5 per issue. Contact Aidan Walker, 01273 857735 or aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk



Burgess Financial Services prints Pigeon Post, generously paid for by Bob Rowland

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Going away?

Need someone to look after your pets?



My name is Ruby Cooper and I am a responsible, reliable teenager (15 years) looking to earn some extra money locally.

I have experience with cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, fish, hamsters, mice (and even snails) and I am a fast learner.

If I can help you please contact me at 857593. Thank you!



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phone Sarah for details on 857393