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F-FAIR'S FAIR



The last issue of Pigeon Post before the Fair on 2 August, with exhortations for loins to be girded

Hardly surprising that this issue of PP takes (more or less) the form of a 'Special Fair Issue', although many readers may well have already concluded that they know everything there is to know about the Fair, thank you very much, and would the Pigeon please stop twittering and just let us get on with it.

Those 'many readers' may be among the valiant Folkingites who have given up their time and energy over the last few months in the planning, researching, gathering information, persuading and creating preliminary materials. But they may also be among the apparently quite large section of the community whose voices are not often, if ever, heard, and who although they

may enjoy the benefits that our beautiful village has to offer, see no need to get heavily involved in the social activities, because after all there is a hyper-active bunch of local busybodies who see to that sort of thing and what could we do anyway.

Well, you know the answer to that. One of the many delights that editing this stately organ has brought me over the last few months is the realization of just how many and varied skills and attributes are shared among our local citizens. I joke occasionally about the 'e-village' because almost everyone seems to communicate by email, but it goes much further than that. We have a quite extraordinary range of talent, experience and

creative abilities amongst us, from fine artists to high-powered lawyers to photographers to writers to linguists to doctors to designers to web developers to academics to schoolteachers to craftspeople. The village is already very lucky to have such a powerful collection of accomplishments, and it would be of great benefit, both to the individuals and to the community at large, for them to be exercised in making this an even better place to live than it already is. In other words, GET INVOLVED!

We include yet more detail overleaf about the Fair, without apology. One thing is certain – with all these clever people about, it damn well ought to be the best of the best. Aidan Walker

Village Diary

Saturday 18 July, 2pm
HENFIELD SUMMER FAYRE & SHOW
Henfield Common

Sunday 26 July
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT
Jenny, 857382

Sunday 2 August, 2pm
FULKING FAIR
Downside Meadow
Bob Rowland, 857271

Tuesday 4 August, 7pm
THE ODD (female) COUPLE
Play in North Town Field
Tickets: Alison, 857705

Thursday 6 August, 8pm
FULKING MUMS' NIGHT
Shepherd & Dog
Marie, 857668

Friday 14 August, 7.30pm
GAMES NIGHT
Village Hall then Shepherd & Dog
Jen Green, 857552

F.F.Fulking can't say F.F.Fairer...



By the time you read this you should also be seeing posters for the fair, daintily designed by **James Ellis-Brown** and delicately posted by **Nick Hughes**, around and about the place. A combined flyer / programme is also being produced which should be going out with the printed copies of **Pigeon Post**; stick it in your car window or on your gate, then bring it with you on the afternoon of 2 August so you can see what's going on (or so you can compare the printed version with what actually happens!).

You are also exhorted, of course, to tell as many of your friends and acquaintances as you can manage about the event, and make sure – by fair means or foul – that they come.

HELP! Equally as important, we are really going to need people to help with the stalls and tables on the day. This is why we are printing phone numbers so you can contact the person direct. The Gladiators inflatable duel game, for instance, will need at least one person to manage it.

Here are a few more notes about the stalls and the afternoon's programme. Remember these things can always change, so apologies if something listed doesn't happen, or something does that isn't mentioned here.

- **Alpacas**, just like the vintage fairs of old (above), are managed by **Lee Holden**, 857316.
- **Art**: **James Lightfoot**, 857090, is organising a stall to display fine art, some of which comes from his own studio.
- **Bat conservation**: **Jen Green**, 857552, is still working to make this one happen.

- **BBQ**: **Jill Malby**, 857454, is doing the honours with a team of helpers (you?) and **Tim Stace's** barbecueing equipment.

- **Books and DVDs**: **Sheena** and **Hollie Trist** are running this one, with some of the proceeds to go to North Town Field play equipment and some to the orphanage at Boma, about which **Chris Gilderseeve** has written in previous issues (*PP May*).

Make sure you bring as many of your unwanted books, CDs, DVDs and VHS cassettes as you can to make this a worthwhile browse, or please call **Sheena** or **Hollie** beforehand on 857011 for collection of items, or drop them off at The Perch, Edburton Road.

- **Cakes**: **Ros Foulds**, 857312, is running this stall but she isn't making them all! Get baking and hand the results over!

- **Car wash**: **Hollie Trist** needs suitably hard working individuals of a similar age to herself to make this happen – call her on 857011.

- **Cream Teas**: **Myriam Brenner** and **Janet**. Help! 857115

- **Dog Show**: The excellent **Charmayne Diamond**, who with her husband **Harry** is giving us the field for the afternoon, is running this popular event. The classes or categories are:

- Best retrieve
- Best child handler
- Most handsome dog
- Prettiest bitch
- Dog most like its owner
- Best Veteran (10 years and over)
- Best Puppy (up to 6 months)
- Waggiest tail
- Greediest dog, as judged by the 'Timed Bonio Guzzle'
- The dog the judges would most like to take home. Queries?

Contact **Charmayne** on 857197.

- **Drinks**: Many thanks to **Jenny** at the Shepherd and Dog who is taking care of all thirst quenching matters.

- **Duck Bobbing** is as yet unconfirmed, but if anyone can help, call **Jennifer Parmar**, 857626.

- **Face Painting**: **Sarah Rushton**, 857393, is looking after this ever-popular kids' activity with **Kate Moore**.

- **Fairies**: Real ones? Dolls, models or toys? Make a wish? **Myriam Brenner** knows all about it, but who knows if she's telling?

- **Gladiators**: Yes, we took the plunge. You stand on a sort of mushroom in the middle of a sea of inflated polyethylene and try to knock your opponent off his / her perch (above). This is an expensive one so keep it busy!

- **Handmade aprons**: **Tracy Whittle**, 857489.

- **Handmade cards**: **Tara**, 857064.

- **Jewellery**: **Aine Henson**, 857036.

- **Kids' Fancy Dress Competition**: **Carolyn Loveless** 857280. Here is what she says: 'Calling all children to join the Fair in a Fancy Dress of their choice – fictional, famous, fairies, film favourites... anything goes, so don't be shy!!'

Prizes will be awarded for the following categories:

- Up to aged 7
- Over aged 7
- The most imaginative fancy dress overall.'

- **North Town Field Appeal**: **Hollie Trist** is handling this, 857011.

- **Plant stall**: **Tony** and **Doris Brooks**, who have forgotten more about plants than you will ever know, are taking this one on: contributions required. 857200.

- **Pony rides**: **Nick Hughes**, 857868. If pony not available, Nick will supply extremely high-handed horse, or carry children on his own back (this last not confirmed).

- **Produce**: **Phil** and **Henri** from Sunflower Vegetables. Are you on their home delivery service yet? Check their ad on the back page.

- **Puppets**: The redoubtable **Sheila Marshall** makes the trip from Poynings, 857482.

- **Raffle**: **Bob Rowland**, 857271, with **Anthony Kenney**.

- **Toy stall**: **Rachel Wheeler** and **Julie Healy**, 857090. Here

is another one that depends entirely on your contributions: 'I'm doing the toy stall at the fair with Julie,' says Rachel, 'and we'd love toys (otherwise it's going to be a pretty empty stall!) - I'm happy to take delivery of large or small boxes at Knole House.'

- **Tug o' War**: TBC – it seems to be up to **Mark Lee**, 857239 and **Charmayne Diamond** 857197, but no further information had come to light as the Pigeon went to press – apart from the fact that it's a grudge match between Fulking and Poynings. Get pulling, Fulking!

- **Welly Throwing**: **Flynne Rushton**, 857393.

CALL TO ACTION: Help where you can. Contribute to the books and DVDs and the toy stall: and – **NOT BUNTED YOUR BUNTING YET? DELIVER IT TO SARAH AT FOUR ACRES BY SATURDAY 25 JULY!** If you're a bit foxed by the measurements as previously printed, no matter; just do a triangle about as long and wide as this (single) page – with your name on – and that will fix it.



A happy '30s visitor to Fulking

Rob Cox, a writer and chronicler who lives in Kent, is transcribing the diaries of Elizabeth Campbell, an Australian church musician who came to England – which she loved – to study at the age of 40 in 1927. Rob came across Elizabeth's account of her caravanning holiday in this area in August 1933. So he got in touch with us. The village shop – the shot above is taken from Tony Brooks' book 'The Changing Times of Fulking and Edburton 1900 - 2007' must have looked exactly like this when she sat in the garden having tea. But her meeting with the vicar of St Andrew's is even more poignant and may remind some of us of a certain person...

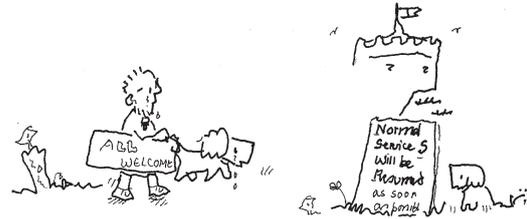
'Sunday 13 August Went with the girls to a delightful old picturesque church. I think it's the very oldest I've seen. It dates back to 1180 & was built on an old Saxon site. The whole church & grounds just look as if they came straight out of the Bible – so does the vicar. He looks like Aaron. He is very, very old & frail but his voice & preaching were absolutely beautiful, much better than the preaching I heard at the Temple. This vicar preached to 22 people. The vicar at the Temple preached to 500 people. It must be very disheartening to preach to such a few people & there must be so little money in such a small district. (As a rule I don't like old men. Old ladies as a rule are the dearest things imaginable. They are so much more interesting & have usually kept a much merrier outlook on life than old men. Probably it is because all through modern life women have had so much more to put up with.) This dear old man must have been bordering on 80 & was gentle & scholarly...'

And here she is sampling the delights of the local landscape:

'Tuesday 15 August In the afternoon we walked over the Downs to Fulking. This church St. Andrews Edburton (Edburton consists of two farms & a few cottages) is the church for both villages. We had afternoon tea at a duck of tiny cottage (1643) at the end of the row of tiny places in Fulking. We had it in a tiny garden at the side of the cottage which was full of sweet peas & antirrhinums & other bright coloured flowers.

Wednesday 16 August It rained awfully during the night. We woke up to a glorious morning of sunshine, the country looking more beautiful than ever. I walked alone to the little village of Fulking about ¾ mile away. I had always wanted to wander amongst these quaint villages of England. The glorious colouring of the Downs & the cultivated fields & the sky & the mown hay was, if anything, more beautiful than anything I have yet seen in England.'

St. Andrew's News



We are currently re-laying the vestry floor under the tower, which unfortunately collapsed during the building works a few weeks ago, as well as repairing and cleaning the stained glass windows.

The licensing of our new priest in charge of the Downland Parishes, Reverend Dr. Caroline Curren, was / will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 July at Poynings Church. All welcome.

Thanksgiving Services to celebrate the restoration of St. Andrew's will be held at 11am on Sunday 6 September and 7pm on Friday 11 September.

The Henfield Flower Club will be staging a Flower Festival on the theme of Countryways from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September. The restored Church will be an inspirational setting for this special event. We are seeking sponsors to make donations in memory of loved ones, to fund the cost of the flowers. Please will those who are willing to contribute contact Patrick Field on 01403 711 897 or patrick@2cornerhouse.fsnet.co.uk. Full arrangements for the Thanksgiving Services and the Flower Festival will be in August Pigeon Post. Richard Rawlings

Village Miscellaneous Matters

Cream Teas at Fouracres!

On the weekends of Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July, and Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August, from 11 to 4.30, Flynne and Sarah will be offering cream teas in the garden at Fouracres. This is to raise money for Flynne's gap year project – she will be working in a hostel in Bangalore, India, which looks after girls who have been sold by their families into domestic slavery. We hope to see you then. Sarah, 857393

Summer Holiday Days Out

If you are interested in coming to a few outings with the kids during the summer holidays, e-mail me and I will add you to my family mail list. There will be trips to the beach, walks, picnics etc and it would be nice to go as a Fulking/Edburton gang. E-mails will be sent 1-3 days before the trip. Myriam Brenner, myriam.brenner@gmail.com

Nature Notes – Paper Wasps

Those large whitish round nests in the eaves of houses or in trees are made by paper wasps who use chewed wood and plant stems to make these beautiful constructions. Although wasps have a bad reputation they are actually beneficial to gardeners as they control pests such as beetle larvae, flies and caterpillars. Providing the nests are high up or in trees they pose no threat. Chris Gildersleeve

Neighbourhood WATCH OUT

Please can anyone who saw a white Astra van at 10.55 in The Street on Wed 24 June phone Sussex Police on 0870 60 70 999, quoting incident ref 582 of 24 June. If you are able to describe the occupants, or have a correct version of the van's numberplate, that would help. Thanks! Richard Corner, 857219, corners@talktalk.net

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



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