

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



So – where are the daffs? March covers have daffodils, don't they? Nowhere to be seen, as this issue went to print. There are those among us who appreciate the fact that we had a real winter this year... but it palls. Magnolia buds by Paula Hazard, Mothers' Day (or Mothering Sunday) daisies garnered from somewhere webby

THE FULKING VILLAGE PLAN

Tony Brooks introduces the Parish Council's blueprint for the village to 2026

Fulking is a unique and lovely country village set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and now part of the South Downs National Park.

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) is urging all towns and villages to prepare a development plan for their own area, looking ahead up to 2026. If we do not present a plan then MSDC will prepare one for us based on what they think we require, and all future Parish Councils will be required to work towards it. The Parish Council therefore feels it is important that the village produces its own plan for the future, rather than have one imposed upon it.

Here are the Parish Council's first thoughts and comments for the Village Plan, to guide the future of the village. Your input is invited: please reply to [Paula Hazard](#) the Parish Clerk (957), or to one of the parish councillors, all of whose details can be found on www.fulkingvillage.co.uk.

1 Enhance the conservation area. This can be achieved by removing all telephone poles and putting the cables underground (see item 6). Perhaps in 2012 with the much stronger signal of digital TV, the aerials can be placed in lofts where practical.

2 Limit the enlargement of dwellings. Within the conservation area, enlargement

to properties is often carried out by developers who sell the property on in two to five years. With enlarged homes come increased family numbers, and more cars parked in The Street and Clappers Lane. If an extension is allowed within the Conservation Area then it should be to the rear of the property and should not alter its appearance from the road.

3 Embrace the new MSDC and National Park policy. No new housing development in the National Park, except in exceptional circumstances. Clappers Lane should be made a 'quiet lane' by WSCC as it is now within the National Park and will

be used by more walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

4 The Sewage Plant must be brought up to the latest EU standards. This would prevent all the lush weed growth which chokes up the stream, and also bring the discharged water quality up to the standard required to stop pollution of the River Adur and (to some small degree) the sea.

5 Village Car Park. We need a village car park for visitors to the village, customers of the pub and to give walkers access to the Downs. The car park must be a 'green' parking area suitably screened to blend with the area.

[...continued overleaf]

...Village Plan continued...

6 Telephone and broadband systems. More and more local people work at home, and indeed for any business to function efficiently, our telephone and broadband system must be greatly improved. We all know how slow the system is, even though it's supposed to operate at 8Mb. This improvement should be possible if the villages of Poynings, Fulking, and Pyecombe all group together and push for early installation of the new 100Mb fibre optic system for which the government has given permission and which is apparently to be installed all over England within two years.

7 Village/Church Hall. A new hall will soon be required as the present one (built 1902) is falling apart from woodworm and rot. Insulation against heat loss is non-existent. New government standards require disabled access and car parking, so perhaps a new village hall could be built in the village car park, to the current level of energy-efficient best practice, which includes for

example solar water heating.

8 Affordable housing. A very difficult subject. Young people who have lived in the village all their lives cannot afford to buy houses here, so they move away, leaving their parents, who often become unable to manage on their own. The parents in turn are then forced to move away to nearby towns.

9 The Chapel. When the old village hall is demolished, the Chapel, a feature of the village which is still in reasonable condition, should remain and there are several possibilities for its future if let out by the church. It could become a village tea room and small village shop; it could house a suitable small business such as a firm of accountants, computer sales and repairs, or a secretarial service; it could even be converted to living accommodation with an extension at the back. To demolish the two buildings and build a new cottage/ house would potentially spoil the rustic charm of the village.

10 Children's Play Area. This has

been a constant expense for all previous Parish Councils and is costing the PC a lot of extra money. One major expense is the repeated topping up of the bark in the enclosure around the climbing frame. This needs to be replaced by a modern permanent safety material that does not require any maintenance.

11 Allotments. This issue has arisen comparatively recently, perhaps as a result of the organic movement and of course the credit crunch. There are only a few people who think they want an allotment. The solution the PC suggests is that if anyone has more garden than they need, the PC would introduce them to a person wanting an allotment and let things take their course.

The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who has ideas they think should be included in this suggested plan, or indeed comments on items they do not agree with. Please reply to [Paula Hazard](#) the Parish Clerk (957), or to one of the Parish Councillors. Please have your say! You have one month!

Fulking Mid-Summer Weekend

...with some more notes from the latest Social Committee meeting

The village Mid-Summer Weekend will be celebrated in a marquee in the North Town Field over the weekend of 18 - 20 June. Already lined up are:

A Wine Call my Bluff evening on Friday June 18, limited to 96 people. Tables of eight. £10 a ticket or £75 for a table. [Bob Rowland](#) will be in the chair with [Toby Pierce](#) of Quaff Wine Merchants providing the eight wines – four red, four white. To reserve a ticket or a table please contact [Bob](#) on 271.

A Barn Dance on the evening of Saturday 19 June, adults £8 a ticket in advance and £10 on the night, children under 16 free, music provided by our old friends 'Moves Afoot' and a bar run by the Shepherd & Dog.

Food BBQ, bangers and burgers. Ticket sellers will be announced in next month's *Pigeon Post*. [Bob Rowland](#), 271.

[Sarah Mann](#), producer of Incisor Productions, is not planning to do an outdoor play this year because of the credit crunch, but she is offering to do a 'Music Hall Evening' – basically lots of cavorting 'Edwardian style' and singing old chestnuts with maximum audience involvement.

Whatever it is, we will have some form of theatrical entertainment on Sunday 20 June. Linda Comber is investigating other options – Wick Players, Henfield Players etc etc. [Alison Taylor](#), 705

Other Soc Comm business: [Bob](#) presented up-to-date

financial figures showing that the Committee holds approximately £4,450. Of this sum about £1780 is reserved or committed and about £2670 is therefore available.

Fulking Fair, Sunday 1st August 2pm. Agreed that this year all money raised at the Fair should be for the Social Committee Fund and the North Town Field play area.

North Town Field Playground. Pam reported that the grant application had been turned down but that a new application would be made. The meeting agreed that an immediate gift of £500 should be made by the Social Committee towards the eventual cost of equipment and re-surfacing. [Nick Hughes](#)

Village Diary

Thursday 11 March, 9.30am - 1pm
JEWELLERY OPEN MORNING
The Coach House, Woodmancote
Aine, 056

Friday 19 March, 7.30pm
VILLAGE SLIDE SHOW
Local history with Trevor Povey, including Sussex railway stories
Village Hall
Tony Brooks, 200

Wednesday 24 March, 7.30pm
VILLAGE SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Village Hall
Jenny, 382

Sunday 28 March, 8pm
QUIZ NIGHT
Shepherd & Dog
Jenny, 382

Thursday 8 April, 8pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Village Hall
Paula Hazard, 957

Sunday 11 April, 10.30am
VILLAGE CLEAN UP
Choose your team and meet at given place. See text item

Saturday 1 May, 12.30pm
CHANCTONBURY MORRIS MEN FROM 1954
Re-creating the great 'Tour'
Shepherd & Dog
Sean Goddard, 559107

Thursday 6 May, 8pm
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Village Hall
Paula Hazard, 957

Sat 22 & Sun 23 May, 10am-5pm
GOOD AS NEW SALE
Clothes and Accessories
St Andrew's Edburton
Sally, 534; Valerie, 706

Friday 18 June, 7pm
CALL MY BLUFF WINE QUIZ
North Town Field
Bob Rowland, 271

Saturday 19 June, 6.30pm
BARN DANCE
North Town Field
Bob Rowland, 271

Downland Church Services

Holy Trinity, Poynings; St Andrews, Edburton;
St John the Evangelist, Newtimber;
The Transfiguration, Pyecombe

Mothering Sunday 14 March – with posies for the children

10am Newtimber: 6pm Pyecombe.

Holy Week and Easter

28 March, Palm Sunday: 10am Holy Communion, Pyecombe.

Evening prayer at 6pm on Monday 29 (Edburton), Tuesday 30 (Newtimber), and Wednesday 31 (Pyecombe) will take the form of meditations on the Cross.

1 April, Maundy Thursday:	7.30pm Holy Communion	Poynings
2 April, Good Friday:	12-1pm Reflection	Pyecombe
	12-1pm Reflection	Edburton
4 April, Easter Sunday:	10am Holy Communion	Poynings
	11am Holy Communion	Edburton
	11.30am Easter Egg Hunt	Pyecombe
	12 noon Children's service	Pyecombe

More details on Church noticeboards. Rev **Caroline Currer**, 456

GOOD AS NEW

CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES SALE



DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our last sale in 2005 was so successful that we have decided to have another - we hope you feel it is a good time to clear out your cupboards to help in raising funds for St. Andrew's Church. Sale date to be confirmed in March Pigeon Post.



We need quality items,
to include Ladies Clothes, Accessories (Bags, Hats Scarves), Shoes, Children's Clothes, Jewellery, Unwanted Gifts, Good Quality Toys, DVDs, Raffle Prizes...

We especially need volunteer cake makers and helpers on the day

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Sally Gort Barton 01273 857534 - Valerie Baillet 01273 857706
OR DELIVER YOUR ITEMS DIRECT TO:
Joyce Harris, Poythorne Farmhouse,
Edburton Road, Fulking, 01273 857381
In aid of St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund





For 'Seymourpowell's', read 'Fulking's', at least in the case of Ade Caroen, recently arrived in the village and a very, very brave man. Their website www.facing150.com has details of the punishing race and how to donate.

Fulking Village March Miscellany and Important Stuff

Local history talk 19 March

Well-known Sussex and local historian **Trevor Povey** is giving one of his fascinating illustrated talks on Friday 19 March at 7pm in the village hall. Tickets are only £2 each. Trevor came here two years ago and gave a terrific talk on the Old Dyke Railway and the area of Trleigh Hill and Poynings. There are only 40 seats and some did not get a seat last time. To book ring **Tony Brooks**, 200.

Village Clear-up, Sunday 11 April 10.30am

First group starts at the corner of Clappers/Holmbush lane and moves south. Second group starts at the corner of The Street/Clappers Lane and moves north. Third group meets at the Ram House by the Shepherd and Dog and moves up the Street via North Town Field. Bring suitable gloves and bin liners. If this time is not convenient, choose your own and do your bit.

Play equipment appeal

You may be aware (if you read **Pigeon Post**, for instance) that **Hollie Trist** has been raising funds to purchase new play equipment for the village playground. Hollie's activities (she has so far raised £350) and her hard work brought the subject to the attention of the PC. We conducted a head count of children under the age of 15 in the village and were astounded to find that there are about 60 children between the north end of Clappers Lane down to, and including, Edburton. Quite obviously the playground is totally inadequate and something needs to be done about it.

We settled on an 'Activity Adventure Trail', probably incorporating a Balance Beam, Crossed Rope Walk, Walk & Stretch Posts, Log Traverse and Balance Weaver. We chose this type of equipment mainly because several children can play on it at one time, it suits a

range of ages and can be set in grass, so no expensive bark pit is needed. The cost, depending on our final choice, will be between £3,000 and £4,000 to supply and fit. Quotes are also needed for breaking up the old bases of two items that were removed and making good with topsoil and turf, a cost of somewhere around £300 - £500.

Our application for a grant from West Sussex County Council wasn't successful as the panellists did not feel we had made enough effort to raise funds within the village, from local businesses and via other possible routes. They did, however, assure us that they would be happy to consider a future application. We will apply again in April. We have already written to local businesses and the brewers Hall & Woodhouse, and have applied for a grant from West Sussex Community Chest.

The Parish Council is

appealing to all of you for help and hope you feel able to make a donation towards this village project. Please contact **Pam Rowland** on 271.

Micklepage Farmhouse and Barn Open Day, 24 April, 12.30 – 3.30 pm

This quiet space is maintained and managed by a Christian Charitable Trust. The buildings are available for retreats, meetings, community and family groups of up to 26 people on a self-catering basis. To find out more please do drop by on 24 April, look around the buildings and grounds, have a cup of tea, and meet the Trustees and Council Members. Micklepage is on the Nuthurst Road that runs from A272 at one end to Monks Gate at the other. It is well signposted at its entrance. Post code is RH13 6RG. We look forward to meeting you.

www.micklepage.org.uk

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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