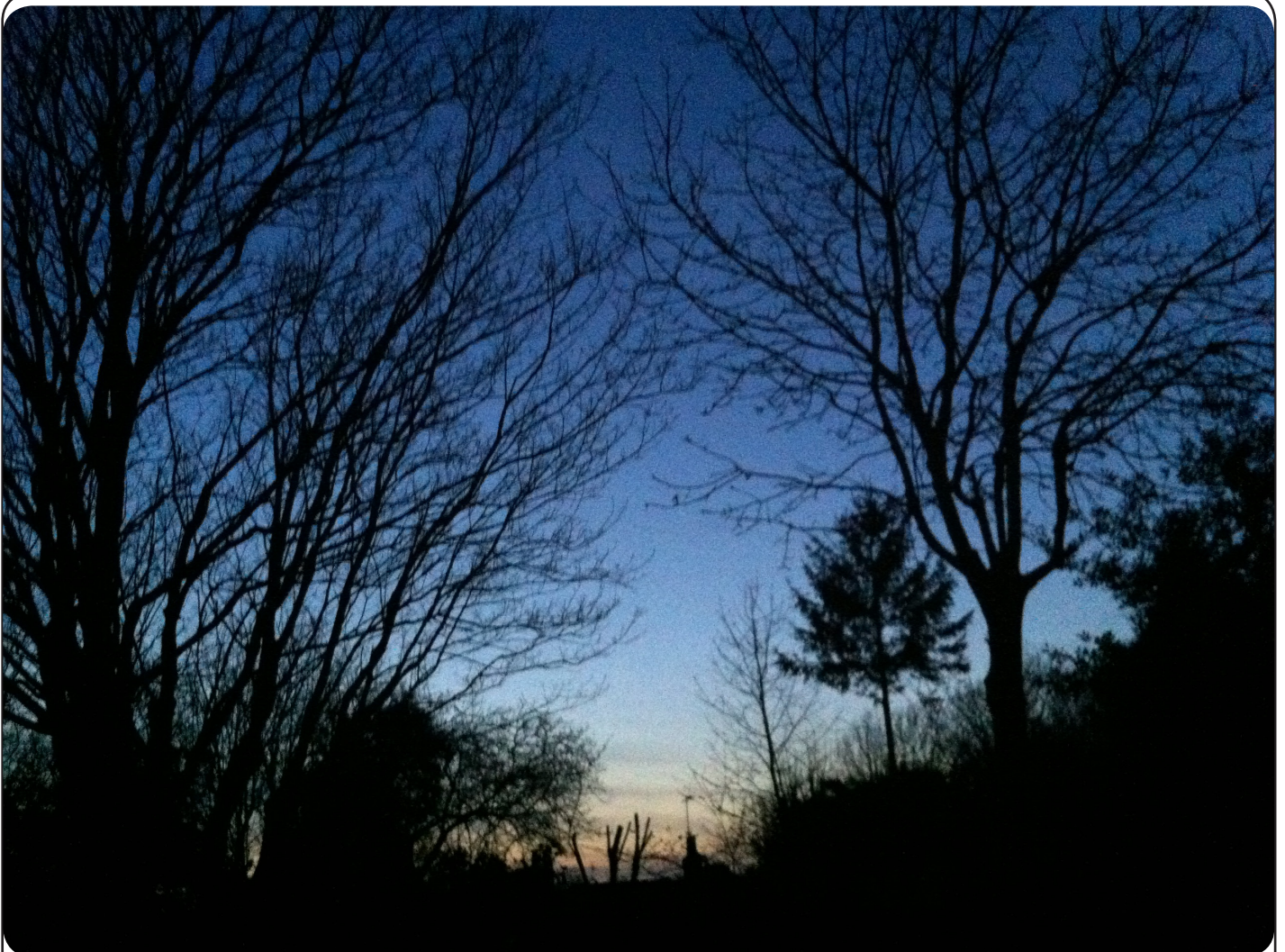




April 2012

Pigeon Post



NIGHT LIFE

Another Short Note on the Village Hall

I am writing this in response to the editor's 'ominous note' comment in the March issue of [Pigeon Post](#). There is a need to forestall a 'them and us' situation arising, because at the end of the day we all want the same conclusion; a viable village hall.

The villagers involved in the Village Hall Action Committee are doing a great job, particularly as it

is bringing people together, which was always the prime objective of the Social Committee. However, it is a short term solution and I await the surveyor's report on the building with interest.

I'm sure all villagers would agree that the ideal solution to the problem would be a new village hall, owned by the village and in the present location; I understand

there are grants or loans available to achieve this as a viable project, assisted by village fund raising.

Before starting out on this exercise it is essential that one person steps forward to mastermind the project (a 'champion'). They would have to have enthusiasm for the job in hand. Twenty, or even 10 years ago I would have offered to

do this but it needs a younger person. When this happens it could well be that some of the Social Committee funds could be of initial help in getting the project off the ground. Until then I suggest that expenditure be kept to a working minimum and any repairs to the present building be judged on the contents of the surveyor's report. [Bob Rowland](#)

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATES

From the Village Hall Action Committee Meeting, 31 March: We now have £100 per month in standing orders, and took £100 a month in booking fees in February / March. We also have £785 in donations, so finance is looking reasonably healthy. More standing orders and cheques are welcome, though!

The board games evening went well with nine people. The next one is scheduled for Saturday 12 May at 7.30.

The toddler's group is flourishing;

The youth club is going well with 16 attending last time;

Yoga is going well too with new recruits;

Zumba has been poorly attended;

Running club – not that well attended but still going on!

Events coming up:

Seedling Sunday 15 April 2-5pm. We need as many people as possible to bring plants or buy

plants. We also want to serve tea and cakes, so any offers of cakes or biscuits will be really welcome. We will not charge for these but ask for a donation for the hall! Please let us know if you can bring plants or cakes – **Chris** on 857552 or gilder6646@aol.com. **Lee Holden** is keen to launch a biggest pumpkin competition on this day!

Next meeting: Saturday 19 May, 10am.
Jen Green

How to get M&S – and Vodafone, John Lewis, Ticketmaster, Eurotunnel, Apple and 100s of other businesses – to donate to our Village Hall

If you are planning to buy something online, then you might be able to get the business you're buying from to donate money to our Village Hall fund. A scheme has been set up which enables retailers to donate to a fundraising project of the buyer's choice. It's very easy to use. You need to register as a supporter of the Fulking Village Hall project at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fulkingvillagehall> which just involves giving your name and email address. Then each time you shop online, rather than going directly to the retailer's website, you go via the fundraising website. For example, if you wanted to buy something

on Amazon, you would log-on to the fundraising website first and then select Amazon from there which would take you directly to the Amazon site. Amazon would then know which project you were raising funds for and issue a donation via the fundraising website.

There's a huge range of companies that participate in the scheme. Everything from large companies like Virgin Atlantic, Sky, Wickes, Aviva to more specialised companies like Boden, The White Company, Kuoni and Cotswold. The size of donations varies but sometimes companies offer special deals so that, for example, **Which**

Magazine will currently donate £5 if you take out a £3 three-month trial. The large insurance and the telecoms companies tend to give the biggest donations. So next time you're taking out a home, car, travel, health or pet insurance or setting up a broadband or new mobile phone contract, it's worth checking out the fundraising website. Most companies limit the number of donations per person but hopefully if we can get as many people as possible using the website it will still provide another source of vital funding and will be much appreciated. There will be a link to it on the village website. **Paula Hazard**

Village Diary

Every Wednesday, 10 - 12

Family coffee mornings. Village Hall

Alternate Fridays 6.30 -

8.30pm: Youth Club. For ages 10 - 15. Village Hall. Call **Nick Hughes** 868, or **Nicole Walker** 735 for next meeting

Thursday 12 April, 8pm

Fulking Parish Council meeting. Village Hall

Friday 13 April, 7.45pm

Games evening. Village Hall

Saturday 14 April, 10am

Fulking's Got Talent Rehearsal. Village Hall. **Nicole Walker** 735, **Alison Taylor** 705.

Sunday 15 April, 2 - 5pm

Seedling Sunday. Village Hall. **Chris Gildersleeve**, 552

Wednesday 18 April, 7.30pm

Social Committee meeting. Village Hall. **Jenny Tooley**, 382

Sunday 22 April, 5.30pm

Fulking's Got Talent! Village Hall. **Nicole Walker** 735 or **Alison Taylor** 705.

Friday 27 April, 7.45pm

Games evening. Village Hall

Saturday 12 May, 7.30pm

Board games evening. Village Hall

Saturday 19 May, 10am

Village Hall Action Group. **Jen Green** 552, **Tricia Robinson** 255

On the cover:

Fulking at night during the limpid March which very much went out like a lion. See opposite on light pollution...

F...F...F...Fulking's got even more 2012 talent...



It's FGT time again, can you believe. A year or more has passed since the prodigies of Fulking and its environs wowed the assembled company of Aged P's and doting Grand P's with their numerous and variegated performing skills. No, but seriously, it is quite astonishing how many creative and genuinely talented young people there are in and around the village, and not just musically either. We are expecting new blood, monologues, gymnastics, dance

and much more besides.

As you see from the diary column above, the rehearsal and runthrough is in the Village Hall this Saturday 14 April, from 10am to midday. The genuine article – Fulking's Got Talent itself – in full showbiz regalia, is on Sunday 22 April from 5.30pm. Come early!

All performers please email nicole@blueincevents.co.uk with the name of their piece by 14 April so **Nicole** and **Alison** can organise the play list. Thanks be to the talented Mums!



Enlightenment and de-light in the country: from the Village Action Plan Group

Fulking is a very special place to live, we all know this or we wouldn't be here. But it seems some of us don't appreciate all the area has to offer. Many of us have lived in the country all our lives, some of us were born in the village, but all 'country people' love what the country has to offer – wildlife, birdlife, insect life and of course the beautiful scenery. However, things are changing in our village, notably in the form of lights. Garden lighting seems to be the latest craze with lights on into the early hours, if not all night – but for whose enjoyment?

Ponder the following: When artificial light is allowed to illuminate or intrude upon areas not intended to be lit it can:

- Disturb neighbours;
- Spoil neighbours' enjoyment of night wildlife;
- Disrupt the view of the stars;
- Impact on the behaviour of mammals, birds, insects and even the fish in your pond!

Lights left on all night are a waste of energy, a serious resource problem these days. So ask yourself:

- Is this light really necessary, or is it just a waste of energy and money? Then remove all unnecessary lights.
- Does this light need to be on after we are all home and have gone to bed? If the answer is yes consider making it a more user-friendly light.

For security, a 9w lamp is more than adequate for a porch light.

Use low energy bulbs, not excessively bright lights.

Make sure any lights are correctly adjusted to only illuminate your area and not that of your neighbour.

If you have lights that illuminate the sky then fit shields, check that lights are angled downwards and only illuminate the intended area.

Do not leave lights on when they are not needed.

Fit timers, but remember to change them when clocks change and as the lighter/darker evenings change.

Fit a security light that only comes on when a person approaches but be sure it is adjusted so that animals don't activate it.

There is no evidence that lights deter criminals. Main insurers do not offer reductions in premiums for exterior lights; you could be lighting their way! Burglar alarms are a far better deterrent.

There is evidence that artificial lighting is having an impact on the life cycle of nocturnal insects; moths and glow worms are just two that spring to mind. Before human lighting the life cycle of nocturnal creatures was constantly controlled by the movement of the sun and moon, now we are changing things. Moths are attracted to our lights and many species are dying out because

they busy their night away buzzing round our lights, getting burnt, exhausted or eaten by predators who take advantage of this feast. Glow worms are a sad case; the female of the species emits a light after dark to attract her mate, she cannot fly so he has to fly to her but we are confusing things with our big bright lights, affecting mating success and they are dying out fast. Woodlice, snails, beetles, badgers, foxes, owls, nightingales and many more all depend on darkness to carry on their normal life cycles.

So think of the environment, your neighbours, the wildlife in your area and change your ideas on lighting your garden. The long summer evenings on the way are perfect to sort it out.

Church bells, cockerels and mud (!) are all part of the countryside; lights are not. So let's get together on this one. **LAST ONE HOME TURN OUT THE LIGHTS... PLEASE!**

The usual Village Misc, never to be misced

Soc Comm 18 April

The next meeting of the Social Committee is on Wednesday 18 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please make every effort to come along. All are welcome! This is a busy time of year with planning for the Village Fair. Any help you can give will be much appreciated.

Get those seeds in!

The seedling swap/tea and cake session is this Sunday 15 April at 2pm. Bring seedlings to swap or come along to buy. Tea and cakes, and maybe country crafts / garden supplies. If you don't have seedlings to swap you will be able to buy some at a very reasonable price, but we do need people to grow some plants. Suggestions: annuals like sweet peas, marigolds, sunflowers,

nasturtiums, snap dragons, poppies, morning glory, petunias etc; or perennials such as mallow, honesty, oriental poppy, foxglove, agapanthus, achillea. Or vegetables – courgettes, marrows, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, squash. I've got a £10 plastic greenhouse for seedlings bought at Wilkinsons – ideal if you don't have room in your conservatory or windowsills. I'm sure most of you are expert gardeners but one tip for beginners – you must be ruthless about thinning out baby plants although it feels like murder! If you intend growing seedlings please contact [Chris](#) or [Jen](#) by emailing gilder6646@aol.com or phone 552 to let us know what you intend growing so we don't end up with too much of one thing. [Chris Gildersleeve](#)

That Dog-sized Cat Again

I too can confirm I have now seen this dog-sized cat. We saw the black cat, at 7.30am on Good Friday in our garden at Four Acres. It was about three times the size of a normal cat, jet black with a long tail dragging on the floor. It seemed to be stalking the magpies nesting in the garden. Roberto got within a few metres of it before it ran away to the north up onto the Downs. A family of sceptics now converted! [Ceri Thayer](#)

Bluebells at Furzefield...

Will probably be at their best around 20 April until early May. All villagers and well behaved children welcome, please phone 271 before coming. Regret no dogs (or alpacas). [Bob & Pam Rowland](#)

Meditation, Relaxation and Gentle Body Movement

After a successful first few monthly classes, this is just to remind you all of the the next opportunity to join, meditate and relax, with some physical movement as well, on Wednesday 25 April at 8pm at Poynings Village Hall (Goodstart nursery school). The class will continue to learn basic meditation techniques, gentle body movements and experience deep relaxation. All levels are welcome, it costs £5. Please bring a warm blanket, cushion and wear loose clothing. We're working towards opening the class in Fulking as well. Feel free to contact me if you have any enquiries – check out the website for more details. www.anna-marieogilvy.co.uk

Amazing deal! Advertise in Pigeon Post for just £7 per issue or £60 for 11 issues. Contact Aidan Walker, details above

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