



October 2012

www.fulking.net

# Pigeon Post

**Phew!!**



## VILLAGE HALL SAFE...

**... at least for now. Jen Green reports on the latest PCC meeting, which outlined the hall's much brighter future**

Thanks to your support, the future of the village hall is looking brighter than it has for years. In December 2011 the PCC (Parochial Church Council) declared its intention to close the hall which was little used and in poor repair, unless there was local enthusiasm to save it.

Villagers rallied round and an action group was formed. The Church agreed to keep the hall open for a trial year from February 2012, with a six-month review. The community gave generously to meet the £200-a-month running costs.

New, regular groups such as a toddler group, youth club and yoga started, and events such as Fulking's Got Talent and Seedling Sunday proved a great success. The hall was repaired, redecorated and made welcoming.

At the recent six-month review meeting on 2 October the mood was optimistic. The PCC acknowledged that community support has indeed been found to pay running costs, keep the hall in good repair and use it much more fully.

From February 2013 the PCC

will ask for a small donation of £30 per month on top of running costs. This is much less than a 'rent' that had previously been discussed, and running costs are also likely to be lower than expected. The PCC agreed to keep the hall open for another year and hopefully into the future. Details of our agreement have still to be fine tuned, but the future of Fulking's only communal space is looking much more secure.

None of this would have happened without community support. The hall committee

would like to thank ALL who have given money / set up standing orders, donated equipment, helped with maintenance, and contributed ideas and enthusiasm.

With your support we will continue to meet costs and set up a small contingency fund for essential repairs which we cannot do ourselves. We welcome suggestions for new groups and events for 2013 and beyond! Note that the hall is also available for private events.

**And a special Fulking thanks to Jen, Nick and Tricia for all their hard work at VHAG!**

*Burgess Financial Services sponsors the printing of Pigeon Post*



## Your village needs you!

Fulking Parish Council has a vacancy for a Councillor. The Council consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and three other Councillors making five in total. It currently only has four members, which is proving difficult to operate. Duties include attending four Parish Council meetings per year, plus one Annual Parish Meeting, generally on Thursday evenings, as well as the odd planning meeting, generally on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact either Pam Rowland on 271 or Kate Watson at [kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com)

## The Shepherd & his faithful Dog have been busy...



Left, Mr 'Green Hops' Lee Holden takes delivery of his ale box from head brewer Widdi, who seems a little reluctant to let go... Above, the S&D's self-brewed range, redolent with local references

Having watched Oz Clarke and James May back in 2008 on TV touring the country looking at small micro-breweries, says landlady **Jenny Tooley**, we thought about brewing our own ales – and to add a unique touch, we would use the spring water from the stream in the pub garden. The outcome was 'Ruskins Ram' best bitter. At this time brewing was taking place in Kent using another brewer's site, but so much interest was shown in the 'Ruskins Ram' and **Widdi** our head brewer had so many ideas for new ales, we realised we'd need our own equipment and site.

We opened our new brewery in Small Dole on 29 September and Widdi had an excellent range of ales brewed for visitors to sample including the latest addition, 'Three Rings'. All the ales are named after local connections; Ruskins Ram, Devils

Dyke, Truleigh Gold and our yet-to-be-named Christmas Ale. The designs for the pump badges, again keeping it with a local feel of a signpost and background of the South Downs, are by Fulkingite **Adrian Caroen**.

There was also a rather special treat waiting for another one of our locals, **Lee Holden** – a box of ale made using hops he'd picked from his garden and given to Widdi to make a brew. Named 'Green Hops', it's currently on sale in the pub if you'd like to try it.

As well as the ales, a new batch of cider will be on its way soon, hopefully not as strong as last year's! A date for our charity cider night has yet to be set but will be advertised on our website [www.shepherdanddogpub.co.uk](http://www.shepherdanddogpub.co.uk) in due course.

We are becoming a musical pub! Yes, several nights leading up to Christmas are 'music

nights', kicking off on Friday 19 October with local rhythm'n'blues outfit **Smoke Stack**, and on Friday 16 November our very own '3 Hungry Men', the 'lite' version of **The Hungry Men**, aka (at Fair time) **The Fulking Flyers**. Sweet blues'n'soul with a jazzy tinge, it says here. More live music in December on party nights: Saturday 8, Friday 14 and Thursday 20. Don't miss!

Then we have our **Toad in the Hole** Competition Night on 25 November. We'll need four teams of four people for this traditional Sussex game. There will be two toad tables playing knock-out rounds, and the winning team receives a hamper of goodies. If you'd like to be part of a team or have a team that would like to enter please call **Jenny** or **Claire** at the pub, 382.

Finally, the Shepherd & Dog has been included in Camra's Good Beer Guide 2013!

## Village Diary

**Every Wednesday, 10 - 12**

Family coffee mornings

Village Hall

**Alternate Fridays (12 Oct, 26**

**Oct) 7.30pm: Games Evenings.**

Table tennis, pool, darts. Pub

afterwards. **Jen Green**, 552

**Alternate Fridays 6.30 -**

**8.30pm: Youth Club.** For ages

10 - 15. Village Hall. Call **Nick**

**Hughes** 868 for next meeting

**Thursday 11 October, 7.30pm**

Parish Council Meeting.

Village Hall

**Saturday 13 October, 10.30am**

North Town Field Clear-up.

**John Hazard**, 957

**Saturday 13 October, 11am-3pm**

Card Making Day.

Village Hall. **Chris Gildersleeve**, 552

**Saturday 13 October, 7.30pm**

'From Rutter to Richard Rogers'.

The Hemmingford Ladies' Choir

in aid of Pyecombe Church Fund.

Poynings Church. £5 minimum

donation. **Jean Wilkins** 842028

**Friday 19 October, 8.30pm**

Music @ The Shepherd & Dog:

'Smoke Stack' – Rhythm & Blues

**Friday 16 November, 8.30pm**

Music @ The Shepherd & Dog:

'3 Hungry Men' (aka **Fulking**

**Flyers**) – Sweet blues'n'soul with

a jazzy tinge

**Friday 16 November, 7.30pm**

Quiz Night in aid of St Catherine's

Hospice.

Queens Hall, Cuckfield RH17 5EL.

£10 inc supper. 01444 455420

**Saturday 24 November,**

**11am - 4pm**

Christmas Bazaar.

More stallholders welcome.

Village Hall. **Jen Green**, 552

**Sunday 25 November, 8.30pm**

Toad in the Hole Competition.

Shepherd and Dog.

**Friday 30 November, 7 for 7.30pm**

St Andrew's Day Quiz.

Preston Nomads Clubhouse

**Jane Warne** 07812 465559

**Sat 8 Dec, Fri 14 Dec, Thur 20 Dec**

Music @ The Shepherd & Dog

**Thursday 10 January 2013, 7.30pm.**

Parish Council Meeting.

Village Hall



Come to a fun card making day! Children welcome! Free entry (donations welcome). Tea, coffee and refreshments. Bring lunch if you want.

Please bring scissors, a ruler, pictures, glitter, pressed leaves etc. We will provide blank cards, glue and useful accessories.

Please email Chris at [chris@fulking.net](mailto:chris@fulking.net) or phone her on 857552 if you are coming

## Card making day

13th October  
11 to 3pm  
Village Hall



## FULKING XMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 24  
11 am - 4 pm  
Fulking Village Hall

SEASONAL FARE  
CRAFTS AND GIFTS  
Including: JEWELLERY, POTTERY, GLASSWARE, MIRRORS, WOODCRAFTS, WOOL AND FABRIC GIFTS

TEA/COFFEE AND CAKES  
More stall holders welcome. Just £5 a table, contact Jen Green [jengreenski@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jengreenski@yahoo.co.uk)

Fundraising for the  
**Pyecombe Church Building Fund**  
Extending our Church, Enhancing our Welcome

Pyecombe Church Building Fund presents  
**'From Rutter to Richard Rogers' with the Hemingford Ladies Choir**

Saturday 13th October 2012  
Concert starts at 7.30pm - refreshments from 7pm  
Poynings Church, The Street, Poynings, BN45 7AQ

Ticket Price: £5 (min. donation)

In order to enhance the Church's welcome and bring it into the 21st Century, the Church Council plans to build an extension to the side of the Church building to provide necessary modern amenities - a kitchen, storage and a toilet fully accessible to people with disabilities.

So how can you help?

You can help us by supporting this and the other events organised to help raise the money needed to enable the Church vision to become a reality. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information or to book tickets please contact Jean Wilkins on 01273 943028 / [jeanwilkins@papeamworld.com](mailto:jeanwilkins@papeamworld.com)

Charity Reg number: 243134



Our Police contact, Anika Clough, recently gave a generous donation from Community Police funds to the village hall and toddler group. Andy, the school liaison officer, is seen here constructing the new Toy HQ with enthusiastic help from 20-month old Wilson. Thanks, good Police!

# A Longer Village Miscellaneosity

## Police Matters

Please report all non-urgent NeighbourHood Watch problems promptly to Sussex Police on 101 (15p per call). If you don't report problems, the Police can't tackle them! For 'Crime in Progress' call 999. Contact our PCSO Anika Clough on 101, ext 22316, on 07884 202596, or on [anika.clough@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anika.clough@sussex.pnn.police.uk).

The officer details in Last month's Pigeon Post are incorrect. The Hurstpierpoint Officer is Danny Macleod (07881 635505), based at Burgess Hill with myself. James Josling is based at Horsham and covers Edburton and the other villages bordering Mid Sussex Policing boundaries.

Anika Clough, Police Community Support Officer

## Calling all web-minded Fulkingites!

Do you have a local interest or expertise? Alpaca husbandry? Farming? Gardening? Hang gliding? Mountain biking? Parish Council matters? Riding? St. Andrews? The Social Committee? The Village Action Plan? Walking? Wild plants? If so, then you could write a column for [fulking.net](http://fulking.net). Contact John Hazard ([webmaster@fulking.net](mailto:webmaster@fulking.net) or 957) by 1 November if you think there is even a slight possibility that you are up for this. Don't be put off by

the technicalities of preparing material for publication on the site; it isn't difficult and a tutorial event will be organized for all those who respond. Bonus: you get to learn a new skill! John Hazard, webmaster extraordinaire

## Calling all music loving Fulkingites!

Did you know that we have a really decent piano in the village hall? Iron frame, overstrung, 107 years old, the top has been a bit abused by time and careless coffee cups but the carved patterning on the faceboard is immaculate, as are the keys. And it's freshly tuned. Anybody got any musical ideas? How about a sing song? Gill Milner

## Bus stop?

Do people want the community bus service? Is it an important enough facility to maintain even if only the occasional person uses it? Should the Parish Council contribute to the running costs? Find out more at the Parish Council meeting. [www.hurstandhassocksbus.org](http://www.hurstandhassocksbus.org)



## Charity & Hall win-win

Buying Christmas presents online? Or just taking out a

new car insurance? A reminder about the charity website that enables online retailers to make donations to the Village Hall fund. There is now a link on the home page of [fulking.net](http://fulking.net) using the icon above that will take you directly to right page on the charity website. So if you are buying anything online, no need to dig out old copies of Pigeon Post to get the charity web address, all you have to remember is the village website - [fulking.net](http://fulking.net). There is a wide range of retailers that are involved in the project, from John Lewis and Boden to Comet and Petplan. Full details about the scheme (which were previously published in PP) are also on [fulking.net](http://fulking.net).

## And... The Fat Lady Sang!

About a hundred congregation and friends of St Andrews' gathered in Joyce Harris's lovely barn at Paythorne on 8 September for our Theatre Supper. The barn had been transformed during the day by the Edburton Church Mice, a gang of willing helpers who get together every now and then to organise events and raise money for the church, and it looked every bit worthy of five stars.

After supper and wine the barn became a theatre, and the 'Rather Awful Theatre Company', RatCo, from Burgess Hill, entertained us with a hilarious

one act play *The Fat Lady Sings*. The atmosphere in the barn throughout the evening was amazing and following coffee and mints our guests eventually left having had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Thank you from us all at St Andrew's for supporting our supper. Our annual quiz is on 30 November (see Diary). All PPs are always welcome at our events, and also at our services which take place every first and third Sunday. Jane Warne

## Lantern Litter

Please think carefully about whether to buy Chinese lanterns this winter. They give short-lived pleasure but long-term they can be both fatal and costly!

## Online Council Tax bills save time and money

Residents can now view their council tax bills online by signing up to a new electronic billing service from Mid Sussex District Council. It's completely free and means that instead of receiving a traditional paper bill, you get it emailed as a PDF (like PP). Use the online system, save paper and protect the environment. There is never any issue with bills delayed in the post, and you can still download and print bills yourself if you need to. To register, email [ebilling@centralsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ebilling@centralsussex.gov.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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**Thursdays:** 'Friends & Village Evening', meet friends for an inexpensive night out. Main meals from £6.95, local ale from £2.80.  
**Fridays:** We're supporting a local independent fisherman, using his catch of the day to bring you the freshest fish to enjoy.

01273 857382

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