



April 2013

www.fulking.net

Pigeon Post



Spring time and wind time



The recent work carried out at the Ladybrook Spring, just west of the main stream at the Shepherd and Dog, was a complete surprise to the Parish Council. The PC has recently been in discussions with WSCC Highways about a very different proposal, possibly involving flint work and sympathetic planting along with measures to ensure that safety is improved to reduce the risk of drowning by children and animals. The very stark (some may say hideous) structure that has been built addresses neither safety nor aesthetics – indeed, the new railings, being very open, have vastly increased the risks, as well as being totally out of keeping with the surroundings. The PC has contacted the Highways Department with an urgent request to rectify the situation. We will publish any information on this as soon as we can. If anybody has any suggestions about how we could make this a special feature of our village, please contact [Andrea Dickson](mailto:Andreadicksonfpc@gmail.com), Clerk to Fulking Parish Council, on andreadicksonfpc@gmail.com

I write to express dismay at the concrete post and rail

construction that has been recently erected over Ladybrook Spring by West Sussex County Council. Fulking is known for its beautiful springs and water features. If the spring by the Shepherd and Dog and Ruskin's pump on the main street had been treated the same way over a century ago, Fulking would have been deprived of its most beautiful features. Ladybrook Spring offered an opportunity to complement and enhance these features – an opportunity which has been entirely wasted. As the PC points out, the new structure could also be dangerous, although this could be rectified by attaching stock fence to the height of the first railing, and not, please! by placing a grille over the clear water of the spring.

What should we do about it as a village? Two possible ways forward present themselves. One would be to raise funds to replace the present structure with an attractive feature such as a low flint or stone wall, with sympathetic planting. Another would be to reduce the ugliness of the present structure through tasteful planting with ferns, native plants, perhaps a rockery feature, or even flower baskets over the rails. I'm sure others have more ideas.

I suggest a public meeting would be useful to find out who is actually interested in moving this forward. We need to know who is interested, and make space for a consensus to develop. Of course the PC needs to be involved, and any proposal would need their full backing. I would be happy to coordinate interested parties and arrange a meeting. [Jen Green](mailto:jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk) jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk 857552

Above left, the offending article. And Lord knows it is offensive. Not for a responsible organ of news and comment such as this to speculate, but this effort looks like something the Highways Department had on its Monday morning list and moved fast to get it out of the way. Not joined up, not clever

Back yards, an area of outstanding natural beauty, wind farms, and a b+++y great trench

Of course I know everybody thinks that their back yard is the best back yard, but I think they are wrong. Our back yard is definitely the best. And call me a NIMBY if you like, but I don't want a giant trench dug across it! You didn't know that a trench was planned? Read on...

Energy company E.On has permission to build a wind farm in the sea eight miles off Brighton. More than one hundred turbines, some of them 550 feet high! That's a lot of turbines and a lot of power!

The power has to get to the big substation on Wineham Lane. I bet you're thinking that it will

go through the power cables that were pushed over the Downs and through Fulking in 1974.

Oh, no!

The new E.On cables are to be buried in a big trench that will carve across the Downs, the newly created, 'protected' National Park, and this trench will come down the escarpment by Tottington Manor and go north through Truleigh Farm. It will take six months to dig this length of trench down this hillside and back fill it. And that hillside will never be the same again! Chalk, once broken up, does not ever settle naturally again. The old woodland won't

be re-established in our lifetime. And I could go on, but you get the picture.

We have pylons carrying cables across the Downs already. Why not use those? Or if a trench must be dug, why across a National Park? And if it must be a trench, and if it must be dug across across a National Park, why not take down those old pylons and put that power through the trench?

This is deemed a 'nationally significant infrastructure project' by the government's Infrastructure Planning Commission. The South Downs National Park did put in a well

argued response to the original application, which was withdrawn then revived. Amongst the many points the SDNP made in opposition to the application were:

'Inadequate study of whether existing power routes could be shared', and 'An assessment of the true impact (of the trench) is not currently possible... particularly with regard to Tottington Mount.' But the SDNP does not have the funds or the manpower to argue for long against E.On! If you want to see the 'Consultation' document, or a detailed map, give me a call.

[Nick Hughes](tel:01273857868) 01273 857868

Hall News and Events

BT Donates £1000 to Hall!

Fulking Village hall has been awarded £1000 by the BT Awards scheme, thanks to **Ceri Thayer**, a member of the Village Hall Action Group. BT People Awards reward local community groups, charities and organisations where BT people volunteer their time. Our Village Hall is one of hundreds of groups who applied for an award during this round of the scheme and impressed judges with how we would use our grant to make a difference to our group and benefit the local community. The BT People Awards provide a great opportunity for community groups like ours to get some additional help that can make a huge difference. It's very positive that BT recognises the voluntary work of its people in this way. The Village Hall is going from strength to strength with community events and the VHAG is very grateful for this donation.

Ceri, who works for BT, adds: 'Yes, I needed to do the whole thing myself, it is solely a scheme for BT employees to gain money for their chosen groups and you can only apply if you volunteer your own time for the group. The process was the usual never ending forms and giving reasons why your group should receive the money and I talked about the Village hall being open to all with all members of our village both young and old and with varying tastes and hobbies etc benefiting. I talked about the Toddler Group, Youth Club, Yoga, Seedling Sunday, Card making, Xmas Bazaar etc etc that we have organised and how it brings the community together. We were lucky enough to win in our category of community cohesion. **Trish Robinson** and **Nick Hughes** had to be contacted to check I really did volunteer!'

Fulking has very much still Got Talent...

...and it's maturing. This year's FGT was a quieter affair, but there's no doubt about our prodigies...



Village Diary

Every Wednesday, 10 – 12

Family coffee mornings

Village Hall

Friday 12 April 7.45pm

Games Evening

Village Hall

Jen Green 552

Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm

Fulking Social Committee

Village Hall

Bob Rowland, 271

Friday 19 April, 7pm

Village Hall Action Committee

Village Hall

Jen Green 552

Sunday 12 May, 11am – 2pm

SEEDLING SUNDAY!

Village Hall

Chris Gildersleeve, 552

Saturday 8 June, 7pm

TO BE CONFIRMED

POTLUCK PARTY

Village Hall. Bring your own

dish and booze. Check and co-ordinate with **Paula Hazard, 957**.

Aforesaid FGT prodigies, reading left to right and top to bottom: **Ethan Walker, Lara Harris, Katie Prothero, Emma Prothero, Alice Daly, Molly Baines, Lara Harris, Milly Smith and Saoirse Henson, Ethan Walker and Ffion Henson, Grannies Lara Harris and Alice Daly, Rebecca Loveless and Joss Harris**. Apologies to those who performed but whose pix didn't come out. Many huge thanks to **Tessa Schaeffer, Nicole Walker, Joss Harris, Ciaran Walker and Robert Loveless**

Covers covered

Thank you to all those who sent pix for the PP cover. Most of them were of snow – spectacular and beautiful, but as April wears on we need to start fooling ourselves it's springtime, right? We will endeavour to use them as the year unfolds. And keep sending. We have some fantastically talented photographers amongst us!

An All-Round Village Miscellaneosity

Seedling Sunday 12 May!!

After our successful day last year we are holding another day in the Village Hall (11am – 2pm) during which you can buy or swap plants and enjoy a sociable tea or coffee and cake with other villagers. Hopefully the weather will warm up so our seedlings will grow faster! There is still time to grow some seedlings too! We will also be grateful for offers of cakes.

Please get your seeds in now that spring (!) is here! Please let me know what you are growing. If you don't want to grow from scratch it is good to buy those little plant plugs and bring them on – you can recoup outgoings on the day. Offers of plants and/or cakes to me, please, on 552.

Chris Gildersleeve.

The Fulking Website fulking.net

I hope you all realize just how excellent the Fulking website is. John Hazard is a webmaster of diligence and craftsmanship. (Or perhaps a master craftsman of webmanship.) I know that not every Folkingite is web savvy, but if you have internet access and might (for some inexplicable reason) occasionally feel a lack of hard village info – look at the website. The Pidge, as we all know, flies according to his own idiosyncratic schedule, but www.fulking.net is always there, news is always immediate, it has room for stuff the Pidge doesn't have, there is far more space for the interesting stuff, and the interesting stuff accumulates anyway – eg the 'local history' section now has no fewer than 19 stories! The site has all the good things that a good local website should have, and I can't recommend it too highly. Great work Mr H, and Fulking Folks – use it more and more. You know it makes sense.

New arrival and most recent gem: <http://fulking.net/the-view-from-pippins-spring-2013/>

Defibrillator update

About 56 people have been trained here now. Dave Fletcher and the HART team have kept the CPR and defib training clear and simple, and everyone has said they now feel more confident. A big thank you to HART for giving us the defibs, maintaining them, and training so many of us. The defibs are so simple to use they tell you what to do step by step. So anyone can use them, trained or not. Remember, if someone collapses unconscious: dial 999 and follow the instructions. Get a friend or neighbour to fetch a defib from either the Shepherd & Dog or the porch of the chapel.

Thanks everyone for your help and support! Tricia Robinson

Fair Planning: Social Committee

Don't miss the Fulking Social Committee meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm. Do come along if you would like to help with the Village Fair on Sunday July 28 or other events. Planning is getting under way! Bob Rowland 271

Bluebell Call



Bob and Pam welcome any villagers who would like to wander around Furze field in Clappers Lane at bluebell time (generally the last week in April or first week in May. Last year was poor due to lack of rain!). Please phone first (271). Regret no dogs, and children under strict control!

New PCSO

Our new Police Community Support Officer is PCSO Jade Harrison, 07789 374213.

Bus Passes

The administration of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in West Sussex changed on 1 April. If you already have an older or disabled persons' concessionary bus pass you do not need to take any action. Your current bus pass will continue to be valid and will be renewed automatically. From now, if you are applying for a new bus pass, or if have any queries about your current pass, use any of the following contact details:

- Bus Pass Information Line (local rate) 0845 075 1018.
- West Sussex Bus Pass, PO Box 212, Waterlooville PO7 6ZN.
- E-mail: buspass@westsussex.gov.uk
- www.westsussex.gov.uk/buses

Make a run for Mid Sussex

The Sussex Living Marathon Weekend 2013 is taking place over three days during the May Bank Holiday and runners can register now.

Beginning with a 10-mile race in East Grinstead on Saturday 4 May from East Grinstead Sports Club, the weekend-long event then moves to Haywards Heath for a 10-mile race on Sunday 5 May. The final section is a 10-kilometre (6.2 miles) race in Burgess Hill on Sunday 6 May, starting in Church Walk. Together, the three races cover a total of 26.2 miles – the classic marathon distance.

Each race can be entered individually so people can set a challenge that suits them. Those who are feeling confident can choose to tackle all three races in three days; others may wish to focus on the shorter Burgess Hill event. No matter what the

goal, everybody can sign up at www.midsussexmarathon.co.uk. Runners wanting to run for a local charity are welcome and there are also team races for local clubs and businesses looking to do something different.



Spot the trout competition...

'Walking in the stream up towards Ladybrook spring, Rebecca came across two trout spawning by her feet – incredibly well camouflaged against the stones despite being about 12in long and in very shallow water! They remained motionless for a good few minutes then, having apparently done what they had set out to do, swam off downstream and disappeared. So look out for troutlets in due course.' Carolyn Loveless. (If anyone can see them in this pic, tell Carolyn on 280!)

Potluck party!!!!!!!

The idea of a village supper has changed into a more informal POTLUCK PARTY. Everyone to bring a dish and booze. Paula Hazard will be ably assisted by Tricia Robinson, Jen Green and Kate Slavin. Paula agreed to co-ordinate dishes so we get a good variety. The date and time have been changed to Saturday, 8 June at 7 pm, but before you start peeling potatoes, check with Paula – or watch this space.

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