

# Pigeon Post

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES



## TWO-PARTY COALITION

It's the season of good will and good cheer, no one needs reminding. So let's all be clear that the Children's Party, scheduled for 17 December, is cancelled, and fold it quickly into the 'Full Village' version, on Friday 16 December, at 6.30pm in the Preston Nomads Clubhouse. Warm, safe and comfortable. Now there's something to celebrate! Carolyn Loveless (280) and Nick Hughes (868) have bravely taken on the job of organising, and ask for tombola prizes to be dropped off at Carolyn's (Woodlands, BN5 9LT), Arbor Vitae in The Street or Bob and Pam Rowland's, Furzefield, Clappers Lane, BN5 9NJ. Bring a plate of savoury finger food as usual. A special request has been made to Santa to pay a visit for the kids, so we can but hope. Games are also planned. Clean-up volunteers needed!

# Christmas on an African farm



At a time when getting and spending runs rampant – or next time you complain about the rain – it's worth remembering the Safari family in Kenya. I stayed with them on their subsistence farm recently.

The family have five acres, on which nine people subsist. They have maize, goats, chickens and one cow. That is, when it rains. Recently rain has become erratic – two years ago they lost most of their animals and their maize crop, and had to rely on emergency government rations. Last year the maize crop was poor, so they had to buy

maize seeds to plant this year. They have no running water or electricity. They badly need investment in a water tank and a pump to give them more water security for the dry times – but of course they don't have any money for such a big project – it would cost about £600. If any of you could help by giving a small amount they and I would be very grateful! These people have not created climate change – we, in the developed countries have – but there are millions of people all over Africa who are feeling the effects now. Please help. Chris Gildersleeve, 552.



## Need help switching to digital TV?

TV is switching to digital all over the UK. Our area, the South-East, starts on 8 February 2012. If you don't have digital TV by the time of switchover, you will lose your TV channels. This can seem a bit daunting but there is help available for anyone who is over 75 and/or is disabled.

The BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme offers practical

help to convert one TV set to digital, including installation of the easy-to-use equipment, a demonstration of how to use it and 12 months of aftercare service including a free helpline.

If you are eligible you will have been sent a Help Scheme letter and information pack through the post. Most eligible people will be asked to pay £40

towards the standard option whilst those who are eligible and on income related benefits will get it free. If you want the help, you need to apply by telephoning the Help Scheme or completing the form.

For more information, call 0800 40 85 900 or visit [www.helpscheme.co.uk](http://www.helpscheme.co.uk), also [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk)

## Village Diary

Thursday 8 December 7.30pm  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Village Hall  
Kate Watson  
[kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com)

Thursday 8 December 7.30pm  
SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Shepherd & Dog Pub  
Jenny Tooley, 382

Friday 9 December 7.30pm  
GAMES EVENING  
Village Hall then Pub  
All welcome  
Jen Green, 552

Saturday 10 December, 10am  
PUBLIC MEETING re VILLAGE HALL  
Village Hall  
Kate Watson  
[kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com)

Friday 16 December 6.30pm  
VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Preston Nomads Clubhouse  
Bring tasty nibbles!  
Carolyn, 280; Nick, 868

Saturday 17 December  
**KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY  
CANCELLED!!!**

Sunday 18 December 6pm  
CAROL CONCERT  
St Andrew's Church Edburton  
Alison Daly, 705

Wednesday 21 December, 5.30pm  
VILLAGE CAROL SINGING  
Starts 37 Clappers Lane

Thursday 22 December  
VILLAGE NIGHT XMAS SPECIAL  
Shepherd & Dog

Saturday 7, Sunday 8 January  
POYNINGS PANTO 2012!  
Holy Trinity Church, Poynings  
Timings opposite  
Cinderella, 456

Thursday 12 January 2012, 7.30pm  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Preston Nomads Clubhouse  
Kate Watson,  
[kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com)

Thursday 26 January, 7.30pm  
VILLAGE PLAN MEETING  
Preston Nomads Cricket Club  
Bob Rowland, 271



## Sky lantern lovely, or flying litter?



Many of us have released a Sky Lantern at a wedding, on Bonfire Night, Halloween, a birthday or on the anniversary of a dear friend's parting. When lit they can lift to over 1200ft and fly for up to 20 minutes. For the Chinese, they bring good luck, but here in the UK there are definite downsides. Once the fuel cell has expired they float back to earth, burnt out, leaving behind a

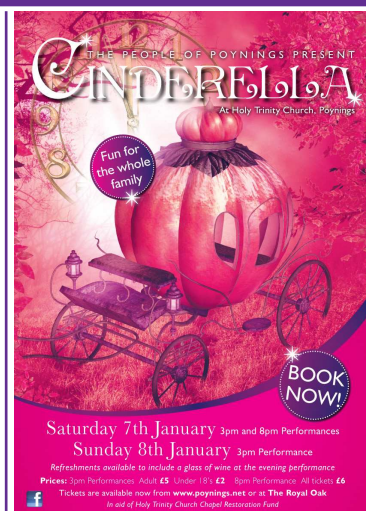
circular piece of wire about 15in across with two cross members. Perhaps we should all think before we buy sky lanterns. They may look beautiful in the night sky, but is it worth the risk to our environment and wildlife?

You have no control over the direction, height, distance or where the lantern will land – do you know who is going to pick up your litter? Birds, farm animals

and wildlife can accidentally eat the wire frames or become injured when they get entangled in the wire or bamboo-frames – only last month a farmer discovered a dead barn owl trapped in a lantern.

Airports have asked for a ban and both helicopter pilots and coastguards are reporting that they are hazardous and are being mistaken for rescue

flares. There is no guarantee that the fuel source will be fully extinguished and cool when the lantern eventually descends, and that presents a real fire hazard for crop fields, barns, thatched houses etc.. Please think carefully about whether to buy or not. Chinese lanterns only give short-lived pleasure but their long-term damage can be both fatal and costly! (Article supplied)



## Village Misc. Not to be Misced.

### A word on the Hall

Don't miss the Public Meeting with the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council, Sat 10 December, 10am. It's important to share ideas and make your voices heard. This is a village amenity, after all!

### Fulking Needs New Parish Clerk

Following the recent resignation of **Jenny Hartley**, Fulking Parish Council is looking for a Clerk and responsible financial officer. The salary is from £8.24 per hour (negotiable), six hours per week. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wishes to become involved with the life of Fulking. In addition to managing the day-to-day work of the Parish Council, the post holder will work closely with Councillors to plan and implement the aims and objectives of the Council. The closing date for applications is

9 December 2011, but there may well be an extension. Application packs from Surrey & Sussex Associations of Local Councils, Sussex House, Lewes, BN7 2NH, 01273 407333, [Isabelle.Swan@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:Isabelle.Swan@ruralsussex.org.uk).

### Warm thanks to a sterling Parish Council

Villagers should be aware of the difficulties that the Parish Councillors have faced since the new Parish Council was formed last May. During my eight years on the Parish Council I do not recall having the problems with which they have had to contend; the resignation of the Parish Clerk, the Village Hall and three complicated and time-consuming, still unresolved, planning issues. They have applied themselves on our behalf in a diligent and selfless manner and deserve all the support that we can give them. Thanks **Dave**,

Kate, Linda, Michael and Pam.  
**Bob Rowland**

### Christmas Church Schedule

Want to know when and where the Christmas services are? Go to [www.downlandchurches.co.uk/News-Special-Events.html](http://www.downlandchurches.co.uk/News-Special-Events.html)

### Carol Concert & Rehearsals

The Christmas Carol Concert at St Andrew's church Edburton is at 6pm on Sunday 18 December. Last rehearsal will be held at the church itself at 6pm, Thursday 15 December.

Also don't forget **VILLAGE CAROL SINGING**, 21 December, starting at 37 Clapper's Lane at 5.30pm.

### S&D Village Night

**Jenny** at the Shepherd & Dog has introduced a regular 'village' evening on Thursdays. The food on the 'village' menu is a real bargain and gastronomically very

good as well. There are generally some villagers in there who you will know or, if you don't, the atmosphere is friendly enough for you to get to know them! We have been several times recently and I think she deserves support for the effort she has made to attract the villagers. Hope to see you there! **Bob Rowland**

### Snow mobiles #2

If we get snow and ice, **David Ellin**, who manages the local farm for the Harrises, asks residents to take particular care to park as close to the kerb/side in The Street and at the south end of Clappers Lane as possible, so he can get the tractor and plough through to clear the snow.

### Mr Speaker

I have a pair of Wharfedale 10in heavy-duty loudspeakers to get rid of. Free to anyone who collects. **Tony Brooks**, 200.

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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