



February 2012

Pigeon Post

VILLAGE HALL APPEAL



It may not be the largest hall in the world, says **Jen Green** – and it may not be the smartest. But our little hall is our only public meeting space, and one of our very few amenities. It is a space to promote our community, meet and talk, run whatever groups we choose... perhaps it's not so fanciful to see it as the heart of our small community.

In December 2011, villagers learned from the Church PCC that the hall was under threat of immediate closure, following the departure of the Good Start School. The PCC announced that it would need £200 per month to cover running costs such as light and heating to keep the hall open in 2012. Otherwise it would be closed, and the land would likely be sold for development.

Fortunately at the packed meeting, people showed a real enthusiasm and determination to save the hall. In response, the PCC agreed not to sell immediately, but to allow villagers to have the hall for a year for the above-mentioned sum, to be reviewed after six months.

The hall was gifted to the village about 100 years ago to provide a public space. The Village Hall Action Group (VHAG) has been formed to try to prevent the closure and permanent loss of this historic amenity. The first meetings of the Action Group in January have been very well attended, showing a groundswell of support. Villagers have come up with many ideas for increasing usage of the hall. There are now regular meetings that are open to all – please watch **Pigeon Post** and www.fulking-village.co.uk.

SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL!!

From 1 February we need to raise £200 a month to cover running costs. Many of us believe it's not so much about maintaining bricks and mortar as retaining a communal space for villagers. There is no doubt that the hall will close without support.

That's why the Action Group is asking if you or your household would be willing to give a small sum to help keep the hall open.

Please give £3, £5, £10 or more if

possible on a monthly basis, or a cheque or cash. Standing orders would be appreciated so we have money coming in regularly. As well as running costs we would like to raise money for repairs and to buy new equipment so we can increase use of the hall.

There are just over 100 households in Fulking, so the maths is easy. If 20 households give £10 a month, or 40 households give £5, we can raise the money. Please return the standing order form to Nick Hughes or Jen Green – see details on the insert sheet. Alternatively you can give cash, a cheque or let us know if you intend setting up a standing order, but prefer not to do it using the form. Email **Jen Green** on jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk or **Nick Hughes** on nickhughes100@btinternet.com.

You may also receive a visit on behalf of this appeal; if you definitely don't want such a visit, please let us know by email – or pre-empt us by returning your standing order!

What will you get for your

money? Well, that's up to you – to get value for money, we hope you'll be using the hall regularly, for example as a youth club, toddler group, for exercise or get-togethers, for drama, films, talks, parties etc. Or for the group YOU want to see in the hall – please suggest it at a meeting or email your ideas to **Tricia Robinson** on tricia.robinson@sky.com. You can use the hall any time you want for the knock-down price of just £1 per person per session for villagers, and £10 per hour for non-Fulking / Edburton residents. To book contact **Carolyn Loveless**, preferably by email, on cj@rogerl53.plus.com or call 280.

USE IT OR LOSE IT!!

The hall has been very under-used except by the Good Start School. The departure of the school gives us a larger and less cluttered space to use how we want. We are also looking for outside groups, businesses etc to rent it on a part-time or one-off basis, for example for meetings. Any ideas to **Tricia Robinson**.

More ideas on the Hall

New ideas for using the hall and generating income:

- **A 'Family Coffee Morning'** where toddlers and mothers get together. First meeting arranged for Wednesday 22 February from 10-12. Any donations of equipment of toys would be welcome.
- **Zumba sessions** – the latest dance exercise craze for which the hall would be an ideal space.
- **Teashop and art** on weekend afternoons in summer, with village artists showing work. Another suggestion would be to find someone to run this as a business on a more regular basis.
- **Youth club** for 9-15s. **Nick Hughes, Nicole Walker** and **Tessa Prothero** are organising, probably twice monthly. Dates and times TBA. Equipment needed: half-size pool table.
- **Film shows:** **Simon Prince** and **Adrian Caroen** are organising. Equipment needed: projector, DVD player. We have been promised a screen.
- **The Drama Group** organised by

Myriam Brenner is to move to the hall for rehearsals soon.

- **Informal choir** – **Tricia Robinson** 255, **Alison Daly** 705.
- **Board games evenings** for adults – first one 16 March, 7.30. **Jen Green** 552.
- **Gardening produce meetings** held maybe twice yearly – spring seedling swap, summer produce swap, with tea, cakes etc.
- **Pre-Xmas art and craft show.**
- **Art classes** a possibility, equipment will be needed.
- **Fulking's Got Talent** – **Nicole Walker** and **Alison Taylor** are organising the event for 22 April.
- **Yoga** – **Tricia Robinson** has moved her yoga classes to the Village Hall again.
- **Talks and workshops:** **Jim Bambury** will do a bicycle workshop, and first-aid and one-off art workshops are a possibility.
- **Business / conference venue:** **Adrian Caroen** suggests that, with a bit of upgrading, businesses might use the hall for day meetings. We would need

a coffee machine, a screen for projecting presentations etc. The hall would need to be more welcoming with curtains and more comfortable furniture, small tables and better (quieter!) heating.

Maintenance

Jim Sapsted and **Lee Holden** plus others have offered to help with minor repairs. Plans are afoot to clean and varnish the wooden floor. **Chris Gildersleeve** and **Carolyn Sapsted** are going to clean up the kitchen. Any offers of help welcome!

So, lots of ideas – now we need to organise them! So even if you were not able to come to the meetings but could help with any of the above activities, or know where to acquire equipment, please let us know! You can contact **Trish** on 255, **Nick Hughes** on 868, **Jen Green** and **Chris Gildersleeve** on 552, or the people named as organising events. **Chris Gildersleeve**

FILL IN THE ACCOMPANYING STANDING ORDER FORM TO CONTRIBUTE TO RENT FOR THE HALL, OR SET UP YOUR OWN DIRECTLY TO YOUR BANK. PAYABLE TO FULKING SOCIAL FUND, A/C 20174017, SORT CODE 20-98-74, BARCLAYS BANK HENFIELD. ALL WE NEED IS 40 FAMILIES PAYING £5 A MONTH

Want better broadband speed? Yes, you do

It's easy, will take five minutes of your time and it will be five minutes well spent. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) has been allocated funding for increasing broadband speeds across the county including rural areas such as ours. This could mean an increase up to 24Mb – on average we currently have around 2Mb. In the past, lack of interest from the local community has meant that we have come across as too small a village or just not bothered and therefore been ignored by BT. All you have to do is log into www.westsussex.gov.uk and on the home page, click on the link 'Improve broadband in West Sussex'. Alternatively, search 'improve broadband'.

Here's a direct link for those of you receiving electronic PP. http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/CustomerInsight/Broadband%20registration%202011/broadband_registration_online.htm

Please note if you have previously registered, you will need to re-submit your interest, as this is a new survey.

When registering, it's best to put your speed as 2MB and, where possible, claim business use. The more people who register, the more chance we have of being heard. You will not have to change your service provider or email address, so please register as soon as possible before we lose out again. **Tony Brooks** (200) is co-ordinating this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Village Diary

Too many dates for the normal style this month

Friday 10 February, 7.45pm

Games evening. Village Hall

Sunday 12 February, 9am

Running Club. Village Hall start. Ade Caroen,

Tuesday 14 February

Valentines Menu at Shep & Dog

Tuesday 21 February, 8pm

Village Hall Finance Group meet. Village Hall

Wednesday 22 February, 10am

Family Coffee Morning. Village Hall

Saturday 25 February, 10.15am

North Town Field Clear-up

Wednesday 29 February, 7.30pm

Social Committee Meeting. Village Hall

Wednesday 29 February, 12pm – 8pm

E.On Windfarm Exhibition. Steyning Centre, Combe Court, Steyning

Saturday 3 March, 10am

Village Hall Group meeting. Village Hall

Week beginning 5 March

Shep & Dog homemade pie week

Saturday 10 March evening

Shep & Dog Charity Race Night

Friday 16 March, 7.30pm

Board games evening. Village Hall

Saturday 17 March, 10am – 6pm

E.On windfarm exhibition. Albourne Village Hall

Tuesday 27 March, 11am – 6.30pm

E.On windfarm exhibition. Henfield Village Hall

Thursday 12 April, 8pm

Fulking Parish Council meeting. Village Hall

Sunday 15 April, 2 – 5pm

Seedling Sunday. Village Hall

Sunday 22 April, 5.30pm

Fulking's Got Talent! Village Hall

Saturday 23 June, 7.30pm

Fulking Village Party!!!

North Town Field

Music by The Hungry Men, aka The Fulking Flyers
Bob Rowland 271, Nick Hughes 868

The usual Village Misc, never to be misced

Fulking Still Needs a New Parish Clerk!

Due to 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. Closing date for applications is 2 March 2012. Application packs from Surrey & Sussex Associations of Local Councils, Sussex House, Lewes, BN7 2NH, 01273 407333, Isabelle.Swan@ruralsussex.org.uk.

More detail on the Hall initiatives

Family coffee morning every Wednesday from 10-12 at the Village Hall. Start date is Wednesday 22 February, the first week after half term. All welcome – Mums, Dads, Grannies, Granddads, carers and children. Adult drinks will be provided but please bring drinks for the little ones. £2 per child per week. Anyone wanting to donate any toys please bring them along to the coffee morning.

Board games evening – bring board games, a bottle if you want and join us in the village hall on Friday 16 March at 7.30. The hall will be warm!

Fulking's Got Talent, our very own junior talent show (and what talent!) will be held at 5.30pm on Sunday 22 April. Run-through details to be announced. If you want to take part, or think your little darling is the Next Big Thing, phone **Nicole Walker** on 735 or **Alison Taylor** on 705.

Village Running Club: First trot out will be on Sunday 12 February. Meet at 9.30am at the village hall. A 40 minute wobble then a coffee. Very easy walk / run. All welcome. **Ade Caroen**, adrian.caroen@seymourpowell.com

Seedling Sunday will be on Sunday 15 April from 2-5 pm in the Village Hall. It's the first of several fair days related to the seasons that we hope to hold this year. Bring seedlings to swap or come along to buy. Tea and cakes, and maybe country crafts / garden supplies. 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. Grow a surprise extra if you can, and bring it along! Chris will be going for flowers with cosmos, nasturtiums, snapdragons and sunflowers.

Dates for your diary at the Shepherd & Dog

- Tuesday 14 February: Valentines Day. A very special three – course menu.
- Week beginning Monday 5 March: Homemade Pie Week. A selection of homemade pies available all week.
- Saturday 10 March: Charity Race Night. Will you be a jockey, owner or simply back a horse? Who will take home all the prizes?

Speeding in the Village, especially Clappers Lane

Tim Boxhall from WSCC Highways Dept. visited Clappers Lane to initially review the inadequate speed limit signage I had reported. It now appears that the 20 mph signs may have been put up in error! Tim (who seems very helpful and sympathetic to our cause, but nevertheless

works for WSCC) said that an application to reduce the speed limit had been submitted back in 2006 but rejected. This means that potentially the 20mph limit is not enforceable and the original speed limit is still legally in force. I am not sure whether the whole village is in doubt or just Clappers Lane but I am assuming it is the whole village. Tim is looking into it with his Transport Dept. and getting back to me.

This would tie in with the fact that apparently the 20mph signs just appeared one day and in the wrong places. I was also told that if the village were a legitimate 20mph zone there should be more than signs to back up the restrictions, maybe markings on the road or similar.

My main concern now is that if the Council realises it has put the signs up in error, they will remove them and reinstate the original speed limit! What I was going to propose in the meantime is that we need to take photographic evidence of these signs (maybe with a national paper in the picture to confirm the date) before they remove them.

If the Council is responsible for incorrectly placing these signs, they will also then be responsible in making our problems worse by reinstating the correct limits after so long. My intention was to get the Council to make the situation better and make our village a safer place not to make it worse! **Jason Holman**.

Editor's note: Jason has compiled a petition to take to WSCC asking them for action to reduce speeding, and planned to take it door to door in the village. Have you seen and signed it? Email him at jayandlouis@gmail.com

Summer Party

Always nice to think of lazy, hazy days while snow lies on the ground. **Nick Hughes** and **Bob Rowland** have booked a big marquee for the North Town Field on Saturday 23 June (which almost certainly includes 22 and 24 as well) and 100 chairs and 15 tables for the summer party. Further details will follow as we proceed. PLEASE put this date in your diaries now; it will be a great evening for villagers. Music is promised from our very own band, normally known as **The Hungry Men**, but which becomes **The Fulking Flyers** for special occasions.

Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Consultation



Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm, Solway Firth. For illustrative purposes only

E.ON is developing a proposal for an offshore wind farm on a site 13-23km off the Sussex coast, capable of generating electricity for around 450,000 homes each year. Twelve exhibitions will be held in coastal towns and rural areas near the proposed cable route as part of a formal consultation from February to April 2012. Visit E.ON's public exhibitions at The Steyning Centre (Coombe Court, Steyning) from 12pm-8pm on Wednesday 29 February; Albourne Village Hall (The Street, Albourne) from 10am-6pm on Saturday 17 March; or Henfield Village Hall (Off High Street, Henfield) from 11am-6.30pm on Tuesday 27 March. See www.eon-uk.com/rampion for more information.

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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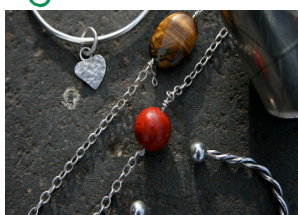


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THE SHEPHERD & DOG

Tuesday 14 February: Valentine's Day Special 3-course menu.

Week beginning Monday 5 March: Homemade Pie Week.

A selection of homemade pies available all week.

Saturday 10 March: Charity Race Night.

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