



March 2012

Pigeon Post



SPRING LOADED

Almost bashful, the daffs that have modestly appeared in these last few strangely, and some may say ominously, balmy days. Perfect for a March issue, almost as if they had decided to oblige the Pigeon by sticking their sweet heads above the climatic parapet. Be gentle, March

A Short Note on the Village Hall

Pigeon lovers: I make a point of not using my position as editor of the Village journal to put forward a personal point of view. But this time I was sorely tempted. There is more about the Hall in this issue, for which I don't apologise, and which am keeping to a minimum. But this extract from the recent Social Committee minutes carries an ominous note:

'Our bank balance was a healthy £6,136... in addition the Village Hall fund had £472 after paying the February charge for the Hall.

'LH & NH ([Lee Holden](#) and [Nick Hughes](#)) asked that the committee consider using some of its funds to help the Village Hall Action Group.... The meeting agreed to help on an ad hoc basis, starting with funds

for the recently acquired pool table, football table and darts board. Other expenditure to be considered at future meetings. NH/LH asked that the VHAG be welcomed as a part of the Social Committee and every effort be made to stop a "them and us" attitude developing.'

[Nick Hughes](#) adds this totally sensible and completely positive

call to action: 'So let's all rally round. The Village needs the Hall, the Hall needs the Social Committee. It's about mutual support, and all very much to the good of the village. Let's all do what we can and contribute our efforts to the Hall, and to the Village Fair. We can all help.' Wise words, Mr H. Hate to see some sort of rift. [Aidan Walker](#)

Burgess Financial Services sponsors the printing of Pigeon Post

VILLAGE HALL UPDATES

Many thanks to all who have already given money or set up standing orders in response to the appeal in February **Pigeon Post**. The response so far has been good, and we have raised about half the money we need to cover running costs for the hall in the coming year. Please note this money is not for the Church, just to cover running costs to keep the hall open for villagers.

So if you are thinking of setting up a standing order or

giving us cash or a cheque, but haven't quite got round to it yet, please do it!

The standing order form is attached. Return the completed form to **Jen Green**, 3, Stammers Hill, Fulking (that's no. 3 from the end of the cul-de-sac, a white picket gate) or **Nick Hughes**, Perching Holt, Edburton Road, Fulking. Or ring Jen on 857552 and we will collect. Alternatively, cash or a cheque would be great.

The response to our appeal

to utilise the hall more has been fantastic! Many new groups have started to use the hall on a regular basis, and one-off events are also planned. But we still need your help to cover running costs. If you have set up your own standing order, please drop us an email to let us know: jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk. You don't have to say how much.

Again, a very big thanks to all who have contributed so far.

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**

Main Hall Points

• So far £743 in donations received, from which £200 charges subtracted for February. • Standing orders of

value of around £85/month currently set up. • PCC will probably add a rent of £200 to the present charges of £200 from February 2013.

• Sealing of floor will cost around £60 and will be done by Jim and 2 volunteers on 17 March. • "Cleaning blitz" and VHAG meeting on 31 March.

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. 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. 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 do not have to change your service provider or email address. Please register ASAP before we lose out again. **Tony Brooks** (200) is co-ordinating this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Village Diary

Every Wednesday, 10 - 12

Family coffee mornings. Village Hall

Friday 16 March, 7.30pm

Board games evening. Village Hall

Saturday 17 March, 10am – 6pm

E.On windfarm exhibition
Albourne Village Hall

Tuesday 20 March, 7pm

Zumba - dance fitness with
Debbie Leppard. Village Hall. 881;
07592 570603

Friday 23 March, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Youth Club. For ages 10 - 15.
Village Hall. **Nick Hughes** 868,
Nicole Walker 735

Sunday 25 March, 10am

Village Clean-Up. Details
opposite. **Bob Rowland**, 271

Tuesday 27 March, 11am – 6.30pm

E.On windfarm exhibition
Henfield Village Hall

Friday 30 March, 7.30pm

Games Evening. Village Hall then
Pub. **Jen Green** 552

Saturday 31 March, 9.30am

Village Hall 'Cleaning Blitz'

Saturday 31 March, 10am

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

Thursday 12 April, 8pm

Fulking Parish Council meeting
Village Hall

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.

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



01273 857735
07768 283 373

The usual Village Misc, never to be misced

Running Club

The Fulking Running club is now up and running (or in most cases, jogging or walking...). We meet every Sunday morning at the village hall at 9am (unless the weather is just too miserable). All you need are some trainers and wear something suitable (expect some mud)! It's a social event, so no need to worry about your running ability. We go out North of the village, so no hills! Everyone's welcome (adults only), and we tend to run, walk, jog or walk for about 40 minutes, depending on the ability of the attendees. Why not blow the cobwebs off on a Sunday morning and enjoy our wonderful Fulking countryside? We ask for a £1 donation which goes straight to helping to support the Village Hall. Any questions give **Ade Caroen** a call on 902 or mail him adrian.caroen@seymourpowell.com

Exercise bike needed

Has anyone got an exercise bike gathering dust that I could borrow/ have if you don't need it any longer? Thanks. **Helen Wilson**, 23 Clappers Lane, helenwilson645@btinternet.com.

Youth Club

The Youth Club 'tester' session was a success, as was the next meeting on 9 March. Next is 23 March, 6.30 – 8.30; age range 10 – 15. **Nick Hughes** 868 or **Nicole Walker** 735.

Warning: Toad Road

It's toad season again. Please keep a sharp eye out on Clappers Lane as you come over the hill near the kennels. That's where they cross the road to get to the water, and that's where they can get squished.

Zumba!

After a bit of a false start at Preston Nomads before

Christmas, Zumba is coming to the Village Hall, courtesy of **Debbie Leppard**. Combining Latin and international music with a fun and effective workout system, it's an excellent way to keep fit and have a laugh. Start date Tuesday 20 March, 7pm, £5 per session. Debbie is on 881, d.leppard@hotmail.co.uk



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 Summer Party and the Village Fair. Any help you can give will be much appreciated.

Get those seeds in!

Remember the seedling swap/ tea and cake session is on 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. You need to start soon if they are to be ready for April! 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**

Village Clean-Up Sunday 25 March

Many thanks to **Bob Rowland**, **John Hazard** and **Roger Loveless** for a hard morning's work on 25 January in the North Town Field. As usual it is looking great and is an asset for the village to be proud of.

Now: please get involved in keeping the Street and Clappers Lane tidy and free of rubbish on Sunday 25 March. Start time 10 am or when you can. Bring dustbin liners and good gloves. Party 1 starts at the stream by the Shepherd & Dog and moves up the Street. Party 2 starts at The Deans in Poynings Road and moves up the Street towards Party 1. Party 3 starts at the finger post outside Fulking Cottage and moves up Clappers Lane. Party 4 starts at the junction of Clappers Lane and Holmbush Lane and moves towards the village and Party 3. If you can't join a party then just picking rubbish up from the verges will help. Dispose of collected rubbish in your wheelie bins or if you have a problem give me a ring.

Take care of traffic and wear bright colours if you can. Meet up at the Shepherd and Dog, if

you feel like it, afterwards. **Bob Rowland** (271), Fulking Social Committee.

Thieves

We've had a lovely large Spanish pot stolen from our drive by the back door in the last couple of hours. Very sad. We've had it on the drive for about 18 years – a bit damaged but we still loved it. It was filled with very heavy stones so it would have taken at least two people. I think the village should be alerted and keep a look out in case they come back. **Joanna Cairns**

Dog-sized Cat

I've just seen a black cat as big as a medium-sized dog in a field opposite The Deans. Perhaps the one sighted fairly often around the Downs. I'm happy to have had my scepticism so pleasantly dented on this one. I spent several minutes standing watching this animal as it stood, moved a short distance then sat like a huge black ornament. I was willing myself to believe a feral cat could grow that enormous. A minor event! **Gill Milner**

Remembering Ted Knight

The village's oldest resident passed away on 5 March. Ted's parents moved into the village in 1928 when he was seven, with his brother and three sisters. By the age of 13 he was working with the hounds and at 16 he was officially employed by the 'The Brighton Foot Beagles'.

Ted served with the Royal Engineers during the WW2. In 1958 he took over from his father as Kennel Master and won many prizes at shows. Ted was a quiet, gentle man, a joy to talk to and a great help with my book. Our sympathies go out to his son, wife and family at this sad time. His funeral is at the Downs Crematorium on 26 March at 2.15pm. **Tony Brooks**

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

Burgess

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