



October 2011

# Pigeon Post

## Fulking must find a way to keep Parish Hall



The Pigeon goes a bit tabloid for the pic, but the headline says it all. The truth of the matter is, as everyone knows since well before the Village Plan made it clear, the hall we call the 'Village Hall' and Chapel in the middle of the village are in a parlous state, both structurally and financially. Something has to be done, and done fairly fast, before something falls off it and hurts somebody, or we all get trapped inside in an inferno during the village Xmas party because there's not enough fire exits for it to be safe. (Except the Party is at the Nomads, see inside and Diary listing.)

The matter has come to a head over the last few months with the departure of the GoodStart School as the hall's tenant, and St Andrew's Edburton Parochial Church Council deciding that it has to take the bull by the horns and look at options to rectify the situation which from the PCC's point of view is dire. Far from bringing money into the Church, the hall is actually costing it money, and although confusion about Edburton

church's finances could arise from its recent expensive restoration, the fact is that that money was raised through a combination of assorted fund raising activities and grants. The church itself, like most rural churches, is under severe financial pressure, and severe pressure from the Diocese to fix the situation.

Feelings about the possible loss of the hall to Fulking have been running high and many opinions have been expressed, a good few of them in language that would get me into serious trouble if I printed them. So having talked and swapped emails with a number of the 'key players' in the situation, I am writing this from my own understanding of it and without attributing quotations, opinions or indeed anything else to any single individual. If I've got something wrong, write and tell me.

First: does everyone in Fulking know that a) Fulking is in the ecclesiastical parish of Edburton (the two villages are one ecclesiastical Parish, but separate civil parishes), and b) the Parochial

Church Council of St Andrew's Edburton acts as the owner of the village hall? (The actual situation is more complicated than that, but for the purposes of this report it's true to say that the PCC is the owner of the hall.)

Be clear about the difference between the PCC and the PC. The PCC is Edburton's church governing body, with responsibility for managing the church's assets (one of which is the hall) to its benefit so it may carry out its work of ministering to the surrounding population. The Parish Council is a civil or secular body dealing with matters of local governance.

As any organisation hard pressed for cash would do, the PCC is looking at ways of sorting its own finances out. The hall obviously comes up on a 'to do' list, because a) it needs a load of one-off money spending on it which the church hasn't got, and b) it is an ongoing cost to the church, one it can ill afford. Again as any secular organisation would do, it is exploring ways to resolve this situation, and sale of the land

and buildings is one of those choices. I am confident that the PCC – seen by many Fulkingites as 'not us' – is not about to ride roughshod over the wishes of the Fulking residents and sell the hall out from under our feet. But the sale cannot be ruled out, because so far, no other viable alternative has been suggested.

It is not a hopeless situation. The first stages of this emotionally charged process have been much muddled by miscommunication and misinformation, and of course there is the only natural suspicion of one community for another when that other seems to threaten what the first thinks of as its own. What we have arrived at – and there is plenty more to come – is an agreement for the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council to jointly host an open meeting for all villagers so that the actual facts can be straightened out. This must surely lead to consensus and a plan of action. Date of meeting to be announced.

I am reliably informed that some villagers are already >>>>

«««« out there researching ways, means and routes by which the situation can be resolved to mutual satisfaction. I doubt anyone in Fulking would disagree that the Village needs its hall, and despite the increasingly positive relationship between the Preston Nomads and the village – another story not without its past tensions – the Nomads' club

house is when all's said and done a cricket club house, not a village hall. We're grateful for its use, but it just isn't the same.

On the other hand, St Andrew's PCC has a duty to itself and to the Diocese to make ends meet, and to manage its assets in such a way that its primary purpose – ministry – continues to be served. The hall is costing

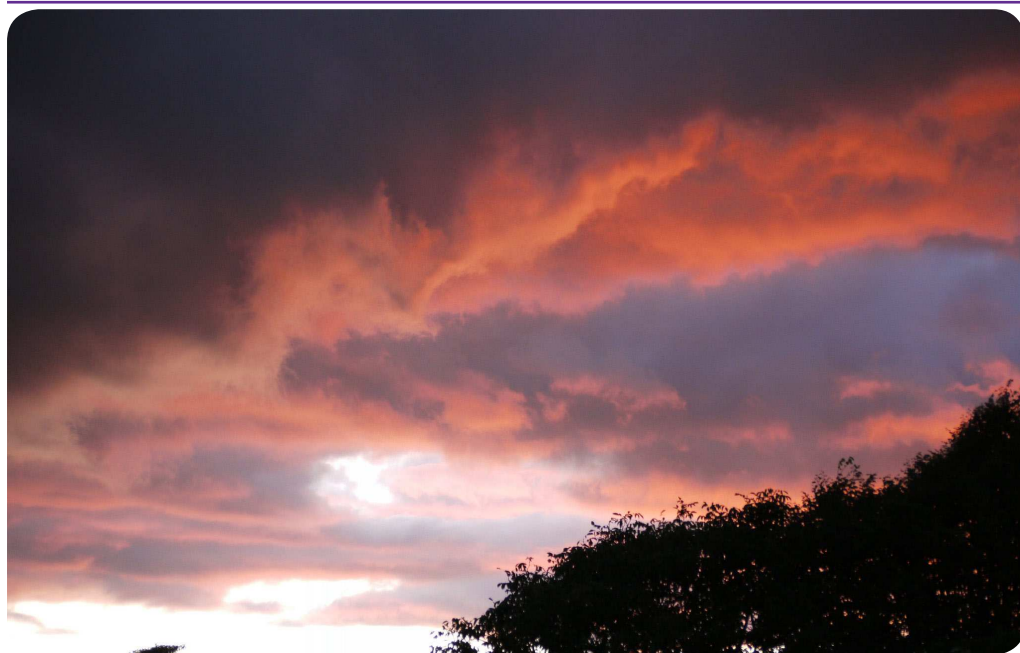
the church money, and if the church can't pay its way, it closes. Simple as that. And I'm sure no one in Fulking would like to see that either.

So, Pigeon Fanciers: get on your thinking caps, make a few calls to those rich cousins in Australia, research the possibilities of lease or other innovative methods of land

ownership / management, and work out some way for the village to have a hall. It has to be a new one anyway, you don't have to be an expert to conclude that the old building is not worth repairing and restoring.

The Pigeon says: Let's work together and we can crack it. More, much more, to come.

Aidan Walker



Two highly atmospheric pictures from Richard Corner bring us a sense of the onset of winter and the ambivalence that comes with it... what a heart-achingly beautiful place we are privileged to inhabit. But: are we truly gleefully looking forward to scraping the ice off our car windscreens?

## Village Diary

Tuesday 18 October, 7.30pm

**GROWING FLOWERS FOR CUTTING**

Talk at Poynings Village Hall  
Entrance £2 includes refreshment

Friday 28 October, 10am

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Preston Nomads Clubhouse  
Jan Smith,  
SMITHAD@aol.com

Saturday 29 October, 7.30pm

**QUIZ & SUPPER**

Organised by Edburton  
Church PCC

Preston Nomads Clubhouse  
Chris 322, Jane 492948

Thursday 8 December 7.30pm

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Shepherd & Dog Pub

All welcome

Jenny Tooley, 382

Friday 16 December 6.30pm

**VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Preston Nomads Clubhouse

Bring tasty nibbles.

Bob Rowland 271

Saturday 17 December 4pm

**KIDS' VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Preston Nomads Clubhouse

Jen Parmar 626

Sunday 18 December 6pm

**CAROL CONCERT**

St Andrew's Church Edburton

Alison Daly, 705

Rehearsal details in this issue

Thursday 12 January 2012,

7.30pm

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Village Hall

Jenny Hartley, 07814 788407



# Village Miscellaneosityousness



## Picture 'perfect'

This framed picture has been presented to **Harry** and **Charmayne Diamond** as a token of the Village's thanks and appreciation for their generosity in giving the use of their two fields for the village fair. Many thanks to **Richard Corner** and **John Hazard** for the use of their excellent pictures, and special thanks to John for the mounting of the pictures. The inscription reads: 'To Harry and Charmayne: You have our gratitude and appreciation for the use of your fields for the Fair. Without your help with the car park and the great dog show attraction in your own garden, such very large and successful fairs could never have been achieved. With sincerest thanks from all the Social Committee 2011.' **Tony Brooks**

## Clappers Lane – SLOW DOWN!

The Parish Council is in the process of writing to local organisations about our concerns over speeding traffic on Clappers Lane. The Council is aware of two recent traffic incidents, one involving a child and the other horses – both of which could have been avoided if users of these roads were aware of the dangers, and remembered to reduce their speed. We hope you will join with us in educating all users of Clappers Lane of the dangers of excessive speed, and help us prevent any such issues in the future.

## www Buying, Selling, Lending, Borrowing

Paul Brewer has set up a great site to help locals <http://i-canhelpposterous.com/pages/i-canhelppoynings-list>. The idea is that people think about what they can offer or what they need, like offering or asking for help, offering to lend or asking to borrow things, giving things away or asking for a freebie. People can add their email address or phone number or both and only people who follow the link can get access.

## Quiz & supper

St Andrew's Church PCC is holding a quiz on Saturday 29 October to raise money towards the running costs of the church. It's at Preston Nomads Cricket Pavilion at 7.30pm. Cost is £25 if you enter a team of four, or £6.25 per person to make up a team. Ticket includes a ploughman's supper. The bar will be open and there is also a raffle. To book tickets please phone **Chris Wooldridge** on 322 or **Jane Warne** on 492948.

## Carol Concert & Rehearsals

The Christmas Carol Concert at St Andrew's church Edburton is at 6pm on Sunday 18 December. Rehearsals will be held at 'The Keep' in Fulking at 6pm on Sunday 20 November, 27 November and 4 December, and at St Andrew's church itself at 6pm Thursday 15 December. Everyone welcome, please come and add your dulcet tones!

## Snow ideas

The grit bins installed round the area last winter will be maintained and kept full if you keep the 'key holders' up to speed. In the absence of their names (which will be posted on [fulkingvillage.co.uk](http://fulkingvillage.co.uk)), if a bin is running low, please contact the Parish Council deputy chair **Kate**

# YOU'RE INVITED

**Date: Friday 28th October**

**Time: 10am to 1pm**

**Venue: Preston Nomads CC**



**M&S Café**  
The official partner of the  
World's Biggest Coffee Morning

**Watson**, 07730 502 698, **kate.watson.pc@btinternet.com**.

There is also a plan to make a list of 4 x 4 owners who are willing to help out in snowy times. Volunteers please contact **Kate**, details above.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

This year Preston Nomads Cricket Club is hosting the MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 28 October from 10am to 1pm. See [www.preston-nomads.co.uk](http://www.preston-nomads.co.uk) for directions. Meet your friends and enjoy delicious tea, coffee and cakes. Enter the Raffle, have a mini manicure, buy a gift from the Bring & Buy gift stall and more.... Entry charge is £2. The first 24 people will be entered into a 'guest list' draw with a potential prize of £2000 for their £2 entry fee!

Let **Jan Smith** ([SMITHAD@aol.com](mailto:SMITHAD@aol.com)) at the Club know if you are able to attend and if you are likely to bring a friend – just so she knows there will be enough tea, coffee and cakes. If you can't come along, then a

donation of a cake, a raffle prize, or an unwanted present for the bring and buy stall will be very welcome. If you want to run your own stall and give a percentage to the fund, just let Jan know.

## Village Xmas Parties

The village Christmas party will be at Preston Nomads on Friday 16 December from 6.30 - 9.30pm. The social committee will supply drinks and as in previous years, everyone is under orders to bring a plate of tasty nibbles and an item for the raffle. This is for adults and kids!

We need volunteers for sales of raffle tickets and to help with clearing up. Please let **Bob Rowland** (271) know if you can help. If anyone has any decorations they no longer use or need please let **Jenny** at Shepherd & Dog (382) know, or just drop them in to the pub.

The children's Christmas party is the next day, Saturday 17 December, from 4 - 6pm. For more info on this please contact **Jennifer Parmar** on [drjparmar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drjparmar@yahoo.co.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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