



April 2009



Pigeon Post

Current and past editions at www.fulkingvillage.co.uk. Advertising enquiries and editorial submissions by 21st of month preceding publication to the Editor: Aidan Walker, aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk, 01273 857735

HAPPY EASTER!



St Andrew's opens for Easter Sunday

'When something dies, something's being reborn – and you know that can't be bad.'

The words of the song are not specifically Christian, but Easter is a time when all and sundry recognise and celebrate the power of renewal. The onset of Spring – or, if recent days are anything to go by, Summer – is always a cause for delight, though there is sadness too. The pictures above, taken by **John Hazard** and **Lydia Bush**, express the sense of excitement at the revival of life and warmth in the countryside. It's a Poynings lamb

– our village sheep's maternity ward is running a bit behind schedule – and Lydia took the catkins, crab apple and daff on the road between Fulking and Edburton. Thank you both.

The Church pic shows the floor membrane being prepared before the stone slabs go down.

It's a delight for all who care about St Andrew's, whether regular churchgoers or not, that the Church will be open again at Easter, after a massive restoration programme whose scale and expense is an eloquent testament to the love and

devotion of the congregation. It's a special opening, though. At the Easter service you can:

- See the impressive restoration work;
- Share as Tony Brooks presents the proceeds of his book 'The Changing Times of Fulking and Edburton' to the Church;
- Be part of the group photo to be circulated to the press;
- All welcome!

Services after Easter depend on final completion of all the restoration work. Details will be advertised.

Village Diary

Thursday 9 April, 8pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Village Hall
Parish Clerk, 857957

Sunday 12 April, 11am
EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE
St Andrew's Edburton

Friday 17 April, 7.30pm
VILLAGE PARTY!
Bring food and a bottle
Four Acres, Poynings Road
Sarah, 857393

Friday 24 April, 7.45pm
GAMES EVENING
Village Hall, then Shep & Dog
Jen Green, 857552

Sunday 26 April
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT
Jenny, 857382

Wednesday 6 May, 9.30am
BLUEBELL WALKIE TALKIE
Meet at the stream by pub
Joanna Cairns, 857540

Thursday 7 May, 8pm
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Parish Clerk, 857957

Fulking Fair picks up the pace



The Fulking Fair Action Committee (really the Social Committee with a few unruly additions) took pleasure in the first Fair Planning meeting at Perching Holt on 17 March. Activities were discussed and decided upon and tasks allotted, but the main topic of conversation was Charmayne and Harry Diamond's very generous offer of the use of their double field, 'Downside Meadow', which stretches from the north side of Poynings Road just after the road turns sharp left at the exit to the village right down to Clapper's Lane, where it turns sharp left near the entrance to the cricket club. The photographs above show the gate to the Meadow at the top, and then the second, lower field which has a very welcoming, tranquil air about it. It also has trees and hedges for shade, and will, says Charmayne,

be trimmed, topped and generally manicured to a high standard.

Despite an affection for the North Town Field, which most Folkingites will surely feel, the Diamonds' handsome offer is to be taken seriously – if only because the top field is perfect for parking and the lower one seems just right for the festive occasion itself. The other major argument in its favour is that the Fair is getting set to rival the controversial Beachdown Festival (see below) in scale, if not in volume of noise, and the diminutive NTF will be hard pushed to cope. We already have 44 lines and counting in the 'Fair's Fairest' volunteer spreadsheet, not all of which represent separate stalls and activities, but there's no doubt that we won't be spoilt for choice of what to do with ourselves that sunny August afternoon (subtle

hint to the Weather Gods).

The only possible obstacle to the village taking the Diamonds up on their offer is insurance. The implications are being investigated and a decision will be made in time for an announcement in the next PP. Meanwhile, heartfelt thanks to Charmayne and Harry.

The current status of who is doing what and with whom is to be found in the aforesaid spreadsheet which can be downloaded from www.fulkingvillage.co.uk. Be careful though, and read it with a pinch of salt, if such a thing is possible – by no means all the names against the 'line items' are genuine volunteers. The idea is that you read it, get excited, have loads more ideas and decide to contribute your own time and effort to make a fab fair.

There's not enough space in

a paper like this to list everyone and everything, so please refer to the website. There does seem to be room, however, to air one or two of the more recent and less sensible suggestions, which may tickle someone's fancy: a village scarecrow competition, a plate painting project to commemorate the Harvest Festival, chicken races, displays of the rudest and the most animal-like vegetables, a search for the best decorated flowerpot... and many more besides. Pick or come up with your favourite activity and phone or email Bob Rowland, 857271, bob.pamrowland@btinternet.com, with your commitment.

The next planning meeting is at Downside, the Diamonds' home, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 April. All are welcome.

Finally, an apology from the Pigeon for getting the date wrong. It's Sunday 3 August.

Beachdown 09 goes ahead despite localised pressure

A disappointed Richard Corner reports from the licensing application hearing

The Beachdown licensing application hearing ended on Tuesday 10 March, with approval being given to Future Festivals' application for Beachdown 2009. That result was disappointing for those Fulking and Poynings residents who had noise problems last year. The one consolation is that 2009's live music is restricted on Friday and Saturday to 11pm, rather than 12 midnight as in 2008.

- My request for the bass

noise limits to be reduced from 65 to 55dB wasn't approved.

- Future Festivals verbally committed themselves to re-measuring the ambient noise levels in Fulking at Hillbrook Farm, Clappers Lane, and at Thatchley, The Street. Every 24 hours, computerised monitoring logs from these locations plus two in Poynings will be printed and passed by Beachdown's noise consultant to MSDC by midday.

- Future Festivals promised that their noise monitoring line would be better manned than in 2008 – when it appeared to be one single person. The Licensing Committee did not agree to MSDC providing an independent noise helpline as they did in 2008 (though all that line did was to forward calls to Beachdown).

- In 2009, Future Festivals plan to squeeze cars into the car park by using valet parking.

They also promise that car parking won't extend outside the licensed area and block the South Downs Way (both happened in 2008).

- There are no free tickets for Fulking and Poynings residents this year.

Richard Corner, 857219, corners@talktalk.net

NB: Richard's report is very much edited for space. The unedited version is at www.fulkingvillage.co.uk/beachdownfestival.html (sic).

Irene Stace



Sadly, Irene died at home with her family on 26 March. Her sons **Thom** and **Nick** and her husband **Tim** invite all who knew and loved Irene to a service to celebrate her life on at 2.30pm on Saturday 11 April at St Andrew's Edburton. Family flowers only by request. Donations to PA may be sent to Freeman Brothers of Horsham, 01403 254590. Our thoughts are with Tim and his family, who much appreciate the kindness showed to them by villagers.

'Talk with us' mystery solved

Last month we printed a report from **Mike Airey** about a 'Sustainability Matters' 'Talk With Us' event in Hurstpierpoint between locals and the relevant West Sussex County Local Committee. The feeling was that Fulking and the villages had missed out because of inadequate publicity, and the Pigeon wrote to the chair of said committee, Andrew Barrett-Miles, to ask about it. Here is his reply: 'Dear Mr Walker, I believe that both Parish Councils were informed inline with our normal practice. The officer concerned is away at present but on her return I will investigate to find out whether they were informed.'

So there was notice given; whether it was adequate is another matter. **Paula Hazard**, clerk of the Parish Council, says: 'I always get a poster from WSCC advertising these meetings and they go up on the Parish Council noticeboard.' On the West Sussex County Council home page it comes under a link called "Talk with us": <http://talkwithus.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/portal/>.

Village Webmaster James Lightfoot has uploaded this link at www.fulkingvillage.co.uk/parishcouncil.html, and Paula will let him know when there's a meeting coming up so he can put it on the home page. Otherwise – the noticeboard!

Chris' Nettle Watch

The **Nettles** are springing up now. Although nasty, remember they provide places for butterflies to lay their eggs and food for the caterpillars! Try this nettle soup:

- 1lb chopped potatoes
- Half a pound of young nettles (picked with gloves!)
- Chicken or vegetable stock
- Butter, salt and black pepper
- 4 tablespoons of sour cream.

Cook the potatoes for 10 minutes, then drain. Melt the butter and add the nettles and stew gently for a few minutes. Add the potatoes and heated stock, and simmer for 10 minutes or until tender. When soft, cool slightly and puree in a blender. Add seasoning and sour cream.

Village miscellany – messages from Folkingites to each other

Calendar gremlins attack Pigeon in its roost

Humbly Chagrin'd Pie is being given a disconsolate pecking in the Pigeon Loft this month – we got no less than two dates wrong, no excuses. The Fulking Fair is on **Sunday 2 August**, not Sunday 3. And the Village Clear-up advertised last month for Saturday 15 March was held on the true date, Sunday 15 March. Profuse apologies to all. The Clear Up (or lack of it) was mildly disappointing, it seems, so perhaps another one can be arranged.

Pick up dog mess in the NTF

Could dog owners make sure they pick up their pet's mess in the North Town Field? Please, consider other users of the park, most of whom are children. Thanks! **Myriam and Jim**

Spray warning

A villager walking up to the field below the North Town Field recently fell foul of a crop sprayer and although she took action to avoid the field itself, was nevertheless unable to prevent herself inhaling the

spray. 'Enveloped in it' is how she describes it. The Countryside Agency's booklet 'Managing Public Access – A Guide for Land Managers', available at www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk, – and endorsed by the Country Land and Business Association and the National Farmers' Union – says: 'In general, public rights of way and other highways should not be oversprayed. Pesticides and herbicides should be confined to the adjacent crop. You should cease spraying immediately if anyone steps on to a path which crosses or adjoins a field that is being sprayed. Allow them adequate time to get clear before recommencing spraying.' Farmers and those that work for them please take note.

Mid Sussex Eco Fair

7 June is the date for the Mid Sussex Eco Fair, to be held in St John's Park, Burgess Hill. Organised by Mid Sussex (South) Council for Voluntary Service, the Volunteer Information Point, Burgess Hill Town Council and Mid Sussex District Council, the fair will have stalls, activities and workshops of greenish

hue. Local businesses are encouraged to take stalls to sell food or 'sustainable products', MSDC will be promoting recycling, composting and energy efficiency, and a raft of environmental organisations will be taking stalls to explain their take on the great issue of the day. If you want to get more involved – even reserve a free pitch – phone 01444 477370 or email ecofair@midsussex.gov.uk.

Fulking Mums' (and non-Mums!) Night

Plans are afoot to start a monthly drinks/get together at the Shepherd & Dog for Fulking Mums – in fact, all for all ladies of the conurbation of 'Fulkburton', Mums or no – on the first Thursday night of every month. Social interaction, a snifter or two, and more than a few jokes would seem to be the order of the day (evening). Contact **Marie**, 857668, mlnords@yahoo.com.

Fulking Musicians, Unite!

Are there any musicians out there who would like to cautiously investigate forming a village band? My tastes tend

towards blues, rhythm'n'blues, soul, country and folk, broadly interpreted. I sing and play useful-but-not-virtuoso rhythm guitar and harmonica. At the very least we need a lead guitarist, bassist and drummer – but there's always room for ocarinas, trombones, triangles, woodwind, a massed choral ensemble, Kathakali dancers and much much more. Contact **Aidan**, 857735, aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk, if you'd like to try a few tunes one evening.

Neighbourhood Watch

Make your house look occupied if you're out for the evening. Report all non-urgent problems on 0845 6070999, but for a 'crime in progress', even if it seems minor, call 999 – the staff can decide how urgently a response is required. If you are deaf, or speech impaired, you can now text 65999. The Fulking Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), also covering Poynings, Pyecombe, etc, is Sharon Botting, 0845 6070999 ext 26671. Also report burglaries/damage to **Richard Corner**, 857219, corners@talktalk.net.

Advertise in Pigeon Post for £40 per year (11 issues) or £5 per issue. Contact Aidan Walker, 01273 857735 or aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk



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DESPERATELY SEEKING...

Weeder wanted

In spring / summer months for garden in Fulking, jobs to include weeding flower beds, edging, some watering, planting. Must have knowledge of plants as garden is specialised and I am fussy.

One day or two half days per week. Would suit retired person with energy who can bend!

Charmayne Diamond, 857197, charmaynediam@aol.com

Trailer wanted

I need a livestock trailer, roadworthy but doesn't need to be posh, ideally weather proof(able), looking to spend £500-£800.

Aidan Walker 857735, aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk