

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

# FULXMAS!



James Ellis-Brown

Residents of Fulking and Edburton are invited to celebrate the turn of the dark days and seasonal, as well as religious, goodwill on Friday 18 December, 6.30pm in the Village Hall for the Grown Ups, and Monday 21 December, 2pm for the Nippers. Grown Ups – don't forget to bring your plate of savoury finger food. Organise nosh amongst yourselves so we don't get too many thousands of sausage rolls. Also bring **MONEY** for Hollie Trist's Tombola Extravaganza, to raise funds for the North Town Field play equipment. Parents of Nipper Partygoers: take notice of coded instructions for 'presentiments' on the inside pages

## • Register to receive Pigeon Post on paper •

You must make your request known – or your paper edition will stop!

Much appreciation and plaudits to Jo Hudek and Ken Smith, recently arrived to take up residence at Kent Cottage. Hardly is the chimney warm than they are offering their services for the sake of the village – in this case printing *Pigeon Post* in colour! Fab! Editor's dream!

So you are seeing this edition on paper in colour for the first time in 18 months. And it's all down to Jo and Ken, so many thanks to them again.

### BUT – YOU MUST REGISTER TO RECEIVE THE PRINTED EDITIONS.

It's no secret that as editor I have always wanted PP to return to its colourful paper incarnation, but money has been the obstacle. We currently print 150 copies in black and white with Burgess Financial Services, and thanks to them for their sterling work. Now we're back to colour production, we need to know that every one of those copies is wanted and valued; we suspect that 150 is

probably more than we need. It's an **OPT-IN** thing. In other words, **YOU HAVE TO TELL US** if you want to continue receiving Pigeon Post on paper. **IF YOU DO NOT LET US KNOW, YOUR PAPER EDITION WILL CEASE.** Phone or email: Aidan Walker, [aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk](mailto:aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk), 857735; Chris Gildersleeve, [gilder6646@aol.co.uk](mailto:gilder6646@aol.co.uk), 857552; or Bob Rowland, [bob.pamrowland@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.pamrowland@btinternet.com), 857271.  
Aidan Walker, Editor

## Village Diary

**Saturday 12 December, 7.30pm**  
CHANCTONBURY CHORUS  
SINGS HANDEL'S MESSIAH  
St Andrew's Church Steyning  
Jen or Chris, 857552

**Sunday 13 December, 8pm**  
SPECIAL XMAS QUIZ NIGHT  
Shepherd & Dog  
Lee Holden, 857316

**Wednesday 16 December**  
9.30am–3pm: 6–8pm  
JEWELLERY OPEN HOUSE  
The Coach House, opp. N end of  
Clapper's Lane  
Aine Henson, 857036

**Wednesday 16 December, 7.30pm**  
LAST XMAS CHOIR PRACTICE  
All welcome. St Andrew's Church

**Friday 18 December, 6.30pm**  
VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY!  
Village Hall

**Sunday 20 December, 6pm**  
CAROL SERVICES  
St Andrew's Edburton &  
Holy Trinity Poynings  
Rev Caroline Curren, 857456

**Monday 21 December, 2pm**  
KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!  
Village Hall  
Nicole, 857735

**Monday 21 December, 5.45pm**  
VILLAGE CAROL SINGING  
Meet at The Paddocks  
Tricia, 857255; Alison, 857705

**Wednesday 23 December, 10am–1pm**  
JEWELLERY OPEN HOUSE  
As above

**Thursday 24 December, 11.30pm**  
CHRISTMAS COMMUNION  
St Andrew's Edburton & The  
Transfiguration, Pyecombe  
Rev Caroline Curren, 857456

**Thursday 14 January, 8pm**  
THE FULKING FLYERS  
Shepherd & Dog  
Aidan, 857735

**Wednesday 20 January, 8pm**  
VILLAGE SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
Village Hall  
Jenny, 857382



A phlegmatic Geoffrey Bush sent these pictures in to tell the story of what happened to his twins' 18th Birthday Marquee on the night of Friday 13 November. 'The party didn't take place,' says Geoffrey. 'Fortunately, nobody was hurt – except their feelings!'

## History mystery – that wartime Junkers 88

More on last month's crashed German plane on Devil's Dyke. Tony Brooks has been talking to Ken Browne, a 16-year old country boy in 1941, who discovered the bodies of the dead airmen

Last month I delivered a **Pigeon Post** as usual to Ken Browne, an old Fulkingite friend. Two days later he arrived unexpectedly, climbed out of the car all excited, and said: 'I must tell you this. The plane crash in the **Pigeon Post** – I was the one who found the dead airman.' Here are his memories of the occasion:

'I was walking along the Poynings road and approaching Wickhurst Barn house when I saw a white object just below the footpath up the hill. I climbed up and found it was a parachute, all bundled up. I started to unravel the parachute, and saw a terrible sight I shall never forget. There was a young blond German airman, about 18 or 19. Dead, his face was perfectly composed, showing no signs of panic or pain. He was probably just two years older than myself. It was now obvious that his parachute had failed to open. In his hand was a flick-knife, on the handle of which were his initials, K. I. (Karl Illsemann). It is believed he also had an Iron Cross. Tracing

the trail of blood up towards the Dyke I found the exact spot that he had hit the ground. He had then rolled down the hill to the spot where I had found him. I took the knife and kept it for many years, later giving it to Andy

war wedding dresses were quite often made from parachutes).

'I concluded there must be a crashed plane somewhere not far away, and, with Gilbert Rapley, set about finding it. Up the Saddlescombe Hill Road, we

airmen were seen walking on the top of the hill at the Dyke and were soon arrested and taken away by the Military Police.

'Karl and one of the other airmen who was burnt in the crash were buried at the south end of Poynings Church cemetery with full military honours. We know that Karl Illsemann and the other airman were exhumed in 1950 and taken back to Germany and reburied at home.'

Now there are still several mysteries about this plane. Could it have been that they were intent on bombing the very secret RAF station down Clappers Lane? Or was it possible that Karl had parachuted in to join the two spies in the village, their possible mission to guide attacking aircraft to the secret RAF camp? There is still the mystery of the five Poynings men and the machine guns. Who were they? We shall never know.

**Blitz over Sussex** is available from Middleton Press in Midhurst, 01730 813169.



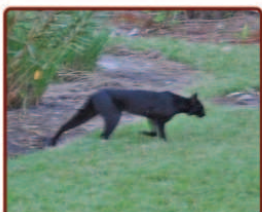
PC Boon discusses the wreck with The Army. From Carole Hampson's 'Poynings Yesterday', just launched, available from the Royal Oak, Poynings

Saunders, one of the authors of "Blitz Over Sussex".

'I walked on to Poynings and reported my find to the village policeman, PC Boon, and told him where to find the airman. I later found out that PC Boon – who had six children – kept the parachute of pure silk for his wife to make underwear for herself and their daughters (during the

looked straight down from the viewpoint and saw the wreckage of a plane at the bottom of the valley. I can still see it now. The plane had had a fire and there were two men still seated in the front of the plane (pilot and co-pilot burnt to death?). They still had their helmets on but their bodies were very horribly burnt. We heard that two other German

## Catch as cat can – some say they're out there



[www.sussexbigcatwatch.org.uk](http://www.sussexbigcatwatch.org.uk)

I recently met a chap in Clappers Lane, says **Linda Harris**, who said he was from Sussex Big Cat Watch. He asked if I was a local then said there had been a sighting of a big cat this side of Poynings just recently. There have also been reports over at

Mile Oak Farm and also at Dyke Hotel. Another friend told me that when they were walking along the old railway link near the Cat and Canary someone coming in the opposite direction had seen a big cat. As it says on his card, 'They are out there somewhere!'

## Lilly Knight

It is with great sadness that we have to tell of the death of another of our elderly residents. Lilly's life was devoted to her husband Ted, her son Clive and the hounds. She was a lovely person. Our love and best wishes go to Ted, Clive and Vivien.



## Christmas services in our local Downland Churches

**The Downland Churches**  
*Holy Trinity Poynings*  
*St Andrew's, Edburton*  
*St John the Evangelist, Newtimber*  
*The Transfiguration, Pyecombe*

Welcome to the  
**Christmas Services in your Village**  
**St Andrew's**  
**Edburton**



**Children's Communion at the Crib**  
**11am Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**Carol Service with Choir**  
**6pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
 followed by refreshments

**Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**11.30pm Christmas Communion**

**Other Christmas Services in the Benefice**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
 6pm Carol Service w brass Band, Pyecombe  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
 2.30pm Family Carol Service, Newtimber  
 6pm Carol Service + mulled wine, Poynings  
**Christmas Eve**  
 3.30pm Christmas Eve service, Poynings  
 11.30pm Christmas Eve service, Pyecombe  
**Christmas Day**  
 10am Family Communion, Newtimber

## Chris Gildersleeve goes to Africa again – appeal

I'm off to Tanzania again in mid January. Apart from helping Boma orphanage – which exists hand to mouth on donations – I'm hoping to get some resources for my friend Imakulata's day nursery. At present she has nothing except exercise books and pencils. When I was there last year there was no floor in the toddlers' room. She makes very little money because many children can't pay the modest fee and she is too soft hearted to turn them away! So, any contributions of money or small, light toys for toddlers to 5-year olds gratefully received. Thanks!  
 Chris Gildersleeve, 857552

## Rattus Norvegicus Gymnasticus



Funny how we always name something we don't like after foreigners! I must say the brown rats in the garden have been very entertaining of late. Their athleticism is astounding – leaping across huge distances – hanging upside down on the fatball feeders, one baby sitting on top of a fatball having leapt from the porch. But oh dear – they breed so quickly, and are supposed to carry diseases. Reluctantly we resort to poisoning them but they always come back. I have tried humane traps too, but only caught squirrels! It is a dilemma – we love to feed the birds, but this obviously encourages the rats, and in any case we have a compost heap. What is the answer? I suspect rats will be around long after humans! Chris

## Fulking Village Christmas Miscellany – and other notes

### Parental instructions for Kids' Xmas Party – this means you!

The Children's Christmas Party is on Monday 21 December in the Village Hall from 2 – 4pm, strictly for children of families in Fulking and Edburton. Bring a present for your child/ren, with HIS / HER NAME/S on it, to 1 SEPTIMA COTTAGE, THE STREET, by 12 midday on 21 December. It should cost no more than a fiver. You are also required to bring a PLATE OF TREATS to the party itself, NOT to Septima.

Big thankyou to all the village elves and helpers for their organisational talents and seasonal goodwill. Names and packdrill next issue.

### Village Choir at Christmas

We will be singing at the Carol Service at St Andrew's Church at 6pm on Sunday 20 December, around the village on Monday 21 – meet at The Paddocks at 5.45pm – and at the midnight service at St Andrew's on 24 December. Last rehearsal is on Wednesday 16 December at 7.30pm at the Church. It's good fun and anyone is welcome to join the choir.

Alison 857705 or Tricia 857255.

### Christmas Party Tombola Prize Drop-Off

You can contribute a prize for the Tombola at the party (18 December, 6.30pm in the Village Hall, in case you just arrived from Andromeda XVIII), which is being run by **Hollie Trist** in aid of playground equipment for the NTF. Please take your Tombola donation to one of these: **Bob Rowland**, Furzefield, Clappers Lane, 857271; **Carolyn Loveless**, Woodlands, The Street, 857280; or **Michael Trist**, The Perch, Edburton Road, 857211.

### Good Things at the Shepherd & Dog 1 XMAS QUIZ NIGHT 13 DECEMBER, 8PM

Bring your Santa gear, your wits and plenty of jokes (eg: Heard about the dyslexic devil worshipper who sold his soul to Santa?). **Mr Lee Holden**, aka Santa's Little Helper, is in the chair. Sort yourselves into teams of six, or you will be **so** sorted.  
**2 XMAS RAFFLE DRAW 31 DECEMBER, 8PM**  
 Jenny says: 'Prizes from locals, funds going to locals – SocCom

fund. Would like everyone to contribute something, however small or large, if it's something small we could add it together to make one prize. Eg Tim Stace offered two bottles of wine and I offered another four to make a case. If you can't offer a prize, buy ticket/s, £1 each or £4 a strip of 5. I am contacting Springs, Coles & Rushfields for prizes, and may also ask Springs if they could sell tickets. Prizes offered so far: B & B voucher – **Sarah Rushton**; Meal for Two – **Jenny, S&D**; Homemade Hamper – **Jo Hudek**; Case of wine – **Tim Stace** and **Jenny, S&D**; Homemade table centre decoration – **Charmayne Diamond**; 20 per cent discount on jewellery – **Aine Henson**.

I think you'll agree, some good prizes so far – so come on everyone, offer a prize and/or buy tickets!

### 3 FULKING FLYERS 14 JANUARY 8PM

Pub too small for the full noisy four piece, so here's the 'Lite' version – just **Aidan** and **Shep** – with some heartwarming, heartrending, and heartburning renditions of your all-time favourites. And some, er, not.

### 4 WINE QUIZ

17 FEBRUARY, 7.30pm

£10 a head. The pub will supply wines and good nibbles. Numbers are probably limited to about 44/48 people on tables of 4. There is also a raffle, including some prizes from the S&D's wine supplier (hopefully!). Attendance is strictly limited to villagers in the first instance. 'Call my bluff' or straight quiz – your call.  
**Jenny Tooley**, 857382; **Bob Rowland**, 857271.

### Barn Dance

The Fulking Social Committee isn't hanging about, as you see from the Diary column on p1. The new event is the Village Barn Dance, whose date is now fixed for **Saturday 19 June**. Hazy summer days just around the corner. Marquee and Band already booked. Step out!

### Thanks

To all houses who withstood the Trick or Treat challenge on Hallowe'en!  
 Also, says **Linda Harris**, Merry Christmas and thanks to **Mr Jones** of Nettle-down for keeping the tracks so beautifully clean!

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



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Diary p. 1  
for details



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CHRISTMAS QUIZ, SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 8PM!

Join us for breakfast on Boxing Day and  
New Year's Day from 11am.

New Year's Eve: Christmas Raffle Prize Draw  
and Party Games Evening!

01273 857382 [shepherdanddog01@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shepherdanddog01@yahoo.co.uk)