



# Pigeon Post

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



Top, John Hazard's magnificent pic of poppies heralds a flaming June... above, no, we are not the below mentioned cows...

## Warden clears cow confusion

Thanks from the Parish Council on behalf of the village to National Trust warden Charlie Cain for his informative talk at last month's Annual Parish Meeting (*see p2*), much of which directly addressed complaints to the PC about the churning and erosion of footpaths and banks caused by the cows on Fulking Escarpment (*PP May*). Charlie understood people's concerns, but explained that although in recent years sheep have been grazing these slopes, cattle grazing had certain advantages over sheep. Apart from the problem of sheep being vulnerable to uncontrolled dogs,

the main issue was the spread of invasive coarse grass which inhibits the diversity of plants – which in turn support a wide array of insects. Whereas sheep just nibble it before deciding they don't much like it, cows grab chunks before it's too late to find out that they don't like it either – but... grazing job done.

Walkers were concerned that these cows were pretty frisky and ran quite fast, making them difficult to avoid. However, explained Charlie, the whole Escarpment needs to be grazed and young cows are more suited to the task as they are just more willing and able to move up

and down and across the steep slopes – and sometimes into the pub garden!

In the early season they were given the run of the whole hill in order to spread the erosion, but the NT plans to restrict their grazing area by late spring. Whilst sheep don't cause erosion, they tend to nip off flower heads which are needed for pollination. So for the National Trust it's a complex balancing act between conserving the chalk grassland, where different species want different things, and maintaining the Downs for the public to enjoy. *Paula Hazard*, Clerk to the Parish Council: [paula@hazzy.net](mailto:paula@hazzy.net)

## Village Diary

Saturday 6 June, 2pm  
POYNINGS VILLAGE FETE  
Rectory Garden. Betty, 857215

Sunday 7 June, 9am-3.30pm  
MID SUSSEX ECO FAIR  
St John's Park, Burgess Hill  
[www.midsussex.gov.uk/ecofair](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/ecofair)

Saturday / Sunday 13 / 14 June  
HENFIELD GARDENS & ARTS  
Information in the 'Blue Guide'  
from most Henfield shops

Sunday 28 June  
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT  
Jenny, 857382

Thursday 2 July, 8pm  
FULKING MUMS' NIGHT  
Shepherd & Dog  
Marie, 857668

Sunday 2 August, 2pm  
FULKING FAIR  
Downside Meadow  
Bob Rowland, 857271

Tuesday 4 August, 7pm  
THE ODD (female) COUPLE  
Play in North Town Field  
Tickets: Alison, 857705



# Village Fair News



Not long to go, but plenty to do. That's the message for our Fair, whose 'Executive Committee' met on 26 May. It was decided that we would charge £1 entry, mostly because everyone needs to have a ticket carrying an insurance disclaimer. Here's an incomplete (alpha-sorted) list of who is running which stall or activity, with phone numbers in case you would like to help:

**Alpacas:** Lee Holden 857316.  
**Art:** James Lightfoot 857090. **Bat conservation:** Jen Green, 857552.  
**BBQ:** Jill Malby 857454. **Books and DVDs:** Sheena Trist 857011.  
**Cakes:** Ros Foulds 857312. **Dog Show:** Charmayne Diamond 857197. **Drinks:** Jenny, Shepherd and Dog. **Duck Bobbing,** Jennifer Parmar 857626. **Face Painting:** Sarah Rushton 857393 with Kate Moore. **Fairy Stall:** via Myriam Bresser. **Gladiators:** TBC. **Handmade cards:** Tara,

857064. **Jewellery:** Aine Henson, 857036. **Kids' Fancy Dress Competition:** Carolyn Loveless 857280. **National Trust:** TBC – Jen Green 857552. **North Town Field Appeal:** Hollie Trist 857011. **Plants:** Tony and Doris Brooks 857200. **Pony rides:** Nick Hughes 857868. **Produce:** Phil and Henri, Sunflower Vegetables. **Puppets:** Sheila Marshall, 857482. **Raffle:** Bob Rowland 857271 with Anthony Kenney. **Teas:** Myriam Bresser and Janet. **Toys:** Tony Brooks 857200 with Rachael Wheeler. **Tug o' War:** TBC – Carolyn Loveless 857280. **Vegetable Art:** No offers yet. **Welly Throwing:** Flynn Rushton 857393.

**CALL TO ACTION:** Help where you can. Contribute to the books and DVDs and the toy stall: and **DELIVER YOUR BUNTING TO SARAH AT FOUR ACRES BY SATURDAY 4 JULY!**

## Trists collect for Fair, North Town Field, Boma

We need books, DVDs, CDs (even videos, vinyl and cassettes!) for the book stall at the Village Fair. Proceeds will be split between new play equipment for the North Town Field and the Boma Orphanage in Tanzania (*PP May*).

Hollie wants to take a car load of items to the Poynings Car Boot Sale to raise funds for the NTF and the Boma Orphanage. Do you have anything you can donate? Bric-a-brac, garden equipment, etc - anything small enough to fit into a hatchback car.

Please call **Sheena** or **Hollie**

on 857011 for collection of items for both purposes, or drop them off at The Perch, Edburton Road. **Sheena Trist**

And a note from **Hollie:** I'm looking for help from village children with fundraising for the NTF. Are there any older children/teenagers who would wash cars parked in the field during the Village Fair? I'm sure that way we could raise some money. Please call 857011 or email [hollie\\_trist@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hollie_trist@hotmail.co.uk).

Another idea is a sponsored walk, one for the smaller children and a longer hike for the older

# Parish meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting, held in the Village Hall on Thursday 7 May was attended by no more than a dozen villagers other than the invited speakers and the members of the Parish Council. This is clearly not good enough. In addition it is a great chance to meet some of the other people living in the village.

Come on Fulking! you can at least show some appreciation for the many unpaid hours that the Parish Council puts in on your behalf. Led very ably by the Chair Jenny Vaughan they do a difficult job for the village very well and it is our duty – and our pleasure – to support them. Please watch out for the date next year,

probably Thursday 6 May 2010. Put it in your diary now.

After the re-election of Jenny Vaughan as Chair, Tony Brooks as Vice Chairman and Pam Rowland as Chair of the Planning Committee, we were entertained by a talk on local crime by Eve Todhunter, the Police Community Support Officer, a most interesting explanation of defibrillators by David Fletcher, Leader of the Henfield Area Response Team, and an update on the activities of the National Trust by Charlie Cain, dealing in particular with the issue of cattle grazing on the Fulking Escarpment.

**Bob Rowland** 857271

## Chris' Nature Watch: Shortage of cuckoos



I have heard only one cuckoo calling this spring. The Daily Telegraph reported that there are fewer of the birds about – probably because of a decline in host species, cold springs reducing insect numbers, and hotter weather in Africa affecting their winter habitat. The RSPB is concerned that our native cuckoo numbers are falling into further decline, which could take it from the Amber List where it currently sits, to the Red List; a register of the UK's most endangered breeding birds. BBC Weather woman Isobel Lang, via The Woodland Trust's 'Nature's Calendar' project, is asking people to listen out for cuckoo songs – <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/news-media/our-president/faces/isobel-lang/Pages/default.aspx> **Chris Gildersleeve**

## The North Town Field needs your help!

As a result of a health and safety inspection there are several tasks that need to be carried out in order to bring the playground up to standard. For example, the benches need rubbing down and treating; the climbing frame needs a coat of paint and there are several gardening chores.

We are asking for volunteers, particularly parents with children who use this play area. Contact **Pam Rowland** on 857271 to help.

## 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 PCSO Eve Todhunter, 0845 6070999 ext 27921. Also report burglaries/damage to **Richard Corner**, 857219, [corners@talktalk.net](mailto:corners@talktalk.net).



## The Odd (female) Couple comes to post-fair Fulking

Incisor Productions, the theatre company that regularly performs summer plays in Fulking, is bringing this year's production – the 'women only' version of Neil Simon's classic *The Odd Couple* – to the North Town Field on Tuesday 4 August at 7pm (St Andrew's Church if it is wet). The play will be at The Scented Garden, St Ann's Well Gardens in Hove from 15 July - 2 August, then here in the village for one night only.

Previous Incisor productions

include last year's *She Stoops to Conquer*, plus *Abigail's Party* and *Blithe Spirit* from the years before that.

This year's play is raising both awareness and money for CLEFT, a medical charity conducting research into cleft palates. Many thanks to [Alison Taylor](#) for co-ordinating the 'outreach'. The picture is from Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina – not Incisor! Tickets are £10/£7 on the door or in advance from Alison, 857705, [amctaylor@doctors.net.uk](mailto:amctaylor@doctors.net.uk)

## West Sussex Rural Eco Forum

We attended this very successful forum on Climate Change – Community Responses to the issues in West Sussex – in Ashington on Tuesday 2 June, jointly organised by Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS) and West Sussex County Council. We put forward the village's concern about lack of public transport and allotments for local food growing. Apparently there is a waiting list of 50/60 people in Henfield for allotments! The [landshare.co.uk](http://landshare.co.uk) website, organised by TV chef Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, seeks to link seekers of land for growing vegetables with those who have land to offer.

We heard about 'The Greening Campaign' which identifies various local green goals. There is no shortage of grants, we learned, available from West

Sussex County Council to initiate and sustain action in relation to climate change issues relevant to the village.

*The Age of Stupid*, the recently released green 'drama-documentary-animation hybrid' film, is available through AIRS, and we are discussing whether to show it one evening in the village. The overall message was not to criticize other countries such as India and China for their contribution to climate change, but to maximize our own efforts to encourage others to follow.

We 'unofficially' acquired enough copies of the leaflet *Action in Rural Sussex – the 21st Century Rural Community* to enclose it with next month's Pigeon Post. Read, digest – and act! [Bob Rowland](#) and [Chris Gildersleeve](#)



## Taxi to school, anyone?

In these financially difficult times you may feel reassured to learn that our County Council intends to use public funds in an efficient and effective manner. You may however wonder how the £20 million of efficiency savings for 2009/10, heralded in West Sussex's corporate plan, will be made. If our experience is anything to go by it certainly won't come from common sense decision making.

We were amazed to discover that although St Andrew's Church Edburton, right next to our house, is the first stop on the route for the Downlands school bus where two children who have moved out to Small Dole get on and off each day (see pictures above), the catchment school for children in Edburton is Steyning Grammar. As Steyning is further than the three-mile statutory

walking distance, the Local Authority is obliged to provide transport, which they do by taxi!

The cost of sending a taxi to collect our son – one child – from Edburton and take him in the opposite direction from all the other children in the local community will be at least £20,000 over the five years of compulsory secondary education, which is more than the school will receive to educate him. We expected that Council officers would be concerned about this unnecessary and profligate waste of money when it was brought to their attention, but no, despite appealing to the Education Department to think again, Daniel will be going on his own in a taxi to Steyning in September. It's very hard to square this with the efficient use of our Council Taxes! [Ros Foulds](#)

## Eco grant system improves

[Trish Comrie](#) from Transition Mid Sussex has sent us these notes from eco-expert [Peter Browne](#): [office@pbrowne.co.uk](mailto:office@pbrowne.co.uk).

'Various improvements have recently been made to the government grant system. The company we use for photovoltaic installations – 'The Green Electrician' – has told me that if six members of Transition Towns get together he would be able to give them each a £1000 discount on a PV system – on top of the £2500 government grant. In April next year the government

is introducing the Feed-in Tariff System. The rates have not been fixed yet, but assuming a rate of 30p, this means that on a 2kw system you will earn approx £510 for what you generate plus save £200 off your bill, giving you an annual benefit of approx £700.

The government is also introducing the Renewable Heat Incentive, in which you are paid for the heat generated from a solar water panel, heat pump or CHP system. We use 'Eco Hi Solar' in Hove for all our solar thermal installations.



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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**Going away?**  
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My name is Ruby Cooper and I am a responsible, reliable teenager (15 years) looking to earn some extra money locally.

I have experience with cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, fish, hamsters, mice (and even snails) and I am a fast learner.

If I can help you please contact me at 857593. Thank you!



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