



March 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



We can't use daffodils, that's for April. The March feast for the eyes is John Hazard's shot of snowdrops, taken in Newtimber woods



The logo, specially created by James Ellis-Brown

ALL THE FAB FUN OF THE FULKING FAIR

Village takes the plunge in brave bid to outdo the great 90s fayres

At the most recent meeting of the Fulking Social Committee, under the agenda item 'Event Ideas', a number of wildly improbable suggestions were put forward. A fair, a play (though not a fair play), a barn dance, an Old Henfield Railway talk – and last but not least, a picnic – but 'only as a fallback if the fair does not go ahead.'

Out of all these groundbreaking initiatives, Folkingites near and far will be overjoyed to hear that they need to save the date on their calendars for the Fulking Fair. It is to be held on the North Town Field on Sunday 3 August, from 2pm onwards. Attractions, events and activities range from a BBQ to Gladiators... but that is by no means all, and that's where you come in.

The ideas mooted about what

might be suitable (or achievable) include: A BBQ, Punch & Judy, drinks (of course), Afternoon Teas, Second hand books and DVDs, a Cake Stall with Cake Competition, a Produce stall, an Art show, Face painting, animals including Alpacas, Beagles and Bats, Woodlanders Whittling, a stall from the National Trust, Battling Gladiators, Pony Rides, a Children's Fancy Dress Parade, Welly Boot Throwing, Bash the Rat and / or Duck Hooking. And that's just for starters. All volunteers, their stalls and their requirements will be posted on fulkingvillage.co.uk.

Here's one you can't get away from; Sarah Rushton is co-ordinating the production of the Village's 2009 Bunting to be used at the Fair. Everyone in the village is expected to provide bunting triangles with their

names and the date on. Make a pendant 30cm long and 20 cm along the top edge to form a triangle of individual material (your / your spouse's / children's / dog's favourite old shirt etc). Write your name on one side and leave it in the postbox on the gate at Four Acres, Poynings Road. Sarah will fix them all together to make Fulking's Village Bunting. Nice.

Similarly, your ideas, contributions, time and effort are encouraged – nay demanded. Anyone with ideas for a stall or wishing to help, please contact Bob Rowland on 857271 – and attend the next Social Committee Meeting on Tuesday 17 March at 7.30pm, hosted by Nick Hughes at Perching Holt, 857868. And don't forget – get bunting! Details and updates at fulkingvillage.co.uk

Village Diary

Wednesday 11 March, 9.30am

WALKIE TALKIE

Meet at the stream by pub
Joanna Cairns, 857540

Friday 13 March, 7.30pm

GAMES EVENING

Village Hall, then Shep & Dog
Jen Green, 857552

Saturday 15 March, 10.30am

VILLAGE CLEAR-UP

Bring your own gloves & bags
Bob Rowland, 857271

Tuesday 17 March, 7.30pm

FULKING FAIR MEETING

Perching Holt, concrete path
Nick, 857868: Bob, 857271

Saturday 21 March, 10.30am

ENERGY SAVING FAIR

Henfield Village Hall
Tony Jackson, 492636

Sunday 29 March

SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ

NIGHT

Jenny, 857382

Thursday 9 April, 8pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Village Hall
Parish Clerk, 857957

Friday 17 April, 7.30pm

BRING A PLATE OF FOOD

AND A BOTTLE PARTY

Four Acres, Poynings Road
Sarah, 857393

The Green Pigeon flies in

We are aware that Pigeon Post is becoming something of a green soapbox, but make no apology. The general idea is to disseminate debate and awareness so that environmental matters become a matter of normal thinking for everyone. These issues affect us all, but people respond to them in different ways: an allotment is important to some, a bus service to others. So if the Pigeon chirps on about it enough, we will all begin to see where it fits our lives, and hopefully work together as a community. But space in a small paper is limited. Please check James Lightfoot's excellent assessment of the situation on fulkingvillage.co.uk

Sustainability Matters, but not to us? Important County Local Committee meeting happens – without official Fulking or Poynings representation

Did anyone in Fulking or Poynings get an invitation from Andrew Barrett-Miles, Chairman of the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee, to an important meeting on 18 February in Hurstpierpoint with district councillors – who were able to allocate a £17,000 budget for community initiatives? The 'Sustainability Matters' 'Talk With Us' event, apparently in conjunction with Transition Mid Sussex, was attended by 60 residents – but no one officially from Fulking or Poynings. Mike and Chris Airey, and Justine Johnson, all from Poynings, were there but only because they had stumbled across it. The Pigeon doesn't know yet whether this is an oversight on the part of the Council, laziness on the part of the residents (us), or perhaps that the Council has different



plans to engage the downland villages in the sustainability debate – and the money. A question to Mr Barrett-Miles about this has been sent and we will publish his reply and post it on fulkingvillage.co.uk. Email him at andrew.barrett-miles@westsussex.gov.uk and let him know we need to be involved.

'At the meeting,' says Mike Airey, 'people questioned the district council committee with great enthusiasm, and it

also considered applications for such as refurbishment of fingerpost signs and replacement of bus shelters. £17,000 is their annual budget. There were five applications totalling £10,345 to be considered at this meeting. Some of this was allocated and some deferred. £2,000 remained unallocated and will be carried forward.

'Issues such as footpaths, school travel, potholes and speeding vehicles were debated at the Public Question Time, and there were also presentations by the district's cycling officer on the Pedalling Ahead initiative and by the chairman of the Green Circle Network, which works with local people for the conservation of wildlife and wildlife routes to connect areas surrounding Burgess Hill.

'Our villages should join in

with these meetings and take the opportunity to suggest items to be discussed such as the shortage of allotments, regular buses, safe walking and cycling routes. The next meeting will be on 29 April 2009 at a venue to be determined.' Transitionms.co.uk, the website of the nascent Mid Sussex Transition group, has the details and you can download their winter programme, shown here, from that site. But strangely the leaflet doesn't seem to have details of the February meeting we missed. Digging around on the West Sussex website – westsussex.gov.uk – didn't throw anything up, though it's probably hidden in there somewhere. So get on to either or both Transition Mid Sussex and West Sussex County Council, get yourself hooked up to their mailing lists, and make yourself heard.

A Conversation on affordable solar water heating, grants and other energy / sustainability issues

Hi James – You might want to put a link to the Low Carbon Building Programme on your site for those who are interested in grants for such as solar thermal panels – £400 grant. Please beware of installers who charge too much and can't access the LCBP grants. Solar thermal should cost about £3500-£5000. The OVESCO website has some good links to local installers – ovescoco.co.uk. Chris. (Also contact Celia

Austin, Sustainability Officer for Mid Sussex on 01444 477370, CeliaA@midsex.gov.uk - Ed)

Hi Chris – Have you come across a company called Solar Fusion? They came to me to discuss evacuated tubes but were very expensive. They are fully government accredited and claim to provide the best technology for top buck. How important do you consider their certification

to be, and is there ever a case to spend £8950 on solar thermal (to heat water for a four bedroom house) as they quoted? James

James – £8950 is outrageous unless the solar thermal is going to heat your home as well as supply hot water. Have you got a hot water tank? Try Suntrader (suntrader.co.uk), Southern Solar (southernsolar.co.uk) or Solar UK (solaruk.net) and make

sure anyone you use belongs to the Solar Trade Association (solar-trade.org.uk) and / or the REA (r-e-a.net) as well as being registered with the Low Carbon Building Programme (lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk). Also have a look at the Good Energy web site (goodenergy.co.uk), as they are offering money to customers who use solar thermal and buy electricity from them. Chris

St Andrew's works continue, all hopes for Easter



The work inside St Andrew's Church is progressing well, and most of the replastering has been done or is waiting for the final thin top coat. It's still a bit early to say when decoration can start. Inevitably some

problems have emerged. The joists supporting the timber pew platform on the north side will have to be replaced; fortunately the boarding itself can be reused. The work revealed a large brick-vaulted tomb next

to the central aisle, likely to be late 18th or early 19th century. We are hopeful the Church will be open for Easter: Fowlers will be working on completing a sufficient area of the church to enable Easter services to be held safely.

Richard Rawlings, 857776

Holy Communion in the Downland Churches:

1st Sunday of the month

10am Poynings

2nd Sunday

10am Newtimber

6pm Pyecombe

3rd Sunday

10am Poynings

4th Sunday

10am Pyecombe

5th Sunday

10am Newtimber

Toad away



Watch out in Clappers Lane near Badger Pond, not only for the frogs'n'toads making their annual trip to the pond of a lifetime, but for the flash new road signs (above), all proper and Ministry official. The crossing season will last until mid-March or a little later. More info from Barry and Dawn Leppard, 857881.

Small but nonetheless important Village snippets, or 'Nibs'

Sheep stolen

No less than five sheep were stolen from the Windus' field on the west edge of Edburton on 28 February at about 11.30pm. Sandra Windus saw a suspicious van and shone a light but it moved off quickly. They left wire fence cutters which have been taken by the Police for fingerprinting. If anyone saw anything suspicious and can help with the investigation, phone Sandra on 01903 813186, and Sussex Police on 0845 6070999.

Good Start As You Mean To Good Go On

The Good Start School as usual is collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers in the hope of acquiring some extra equipment. Any donations of vouchers would be gratefully received. Please pop them in to Pam or Sandra between 9.30 and 12.30 on weekdays or leave them in the Chapel letterbox. Thanks!

Ros Nimmo, The Good Start School, 857287

Fulking Freecycling

Henfield does it via their website, and the wide wide world does it in one form or another; it's a completely logical idea. 'Freecycling', or in other words, giving away that which you no longer need and which someone else might. Why not in Fulking, we say? Webmaster James L is very happy to run a regular slot on fulkingvillage.co.uk; just email him - james@lightfootart.com - with your contact details and what you want to get rid of and he'll do the rest. Ask if he can use pictures.

It ain't rocket science, but these ideas need someone to bring them forward, in this case none other than Sarah 'Four Acres' Rushton. Well done and thanks Sarah. She would like to 'kick it off', she says, with: 'a well-used double TP swing frame with accessories - free to anyone who can dismantle and transport it themselves, also a frame for a small trampoline (no canvas)'. Call her on 857393 for more info, and

check fulkingvillage.co.uk to get rid of and / or acquire serviceable but semi-unsaleable items. If you want to extend your reach, use the Henfield site: henfieldvillage.co.uk/services/freecycle.aspx.

Bring Food and Bottle Party, Friday 17 April

It isn't Christmas, it isn't MidSummer, it isn't even Easter. But then, when did Fulking need an excuse for a good party? In Hungary on 17 April they have the X. Nemzetközi Kisüsti Pálinkafesztivál és Magyar Országos Pálinka, Nemzetközi Gyümölcspárlat Verseny; why not the The Fulking Village Bring A Plate of Food And A Bottle Party, or FVBAPOFAABP? It's at Four Acres, Poynings Road, on Friday 17 April from 7.30pm. All are welcome. Phone Sarah on 857393 to co-ordinate dishes.

Energy Saving Fair in Henfield, 21 March

No, not a way to get out of your morning constitutional, but free

low energy light bulbs for all, free advice about reducing your fuel bills, talks on lighting at 11.30 and grants for insulation at 2.30 and refreshments. It's in Henfield Hall Garden Room, 10.30am-3 pm, organised by Henfield Community Partnership with support from the Energy Saving Trust. Information from Tony Jackson, 492636.

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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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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available at Four Acres.

see www.fouracres.org.uk or

phone Sarah for details on 857393