

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



SPRING MAYNIA

The bluebells were early this year, but no less magnificent. A big hand for Bob and Pam Rowland who regularly share the natural beauty of their land, trees – and above all, the spectacular flowers – with villagers. Nature is bountiful, so are the Rowlands....



John Hazard

Cattle battle on the hill

Paula Hazard wonders how the damn things get down without skis...

(I think this will be of interest, says Paula, to anyone who can't believe how much ground cows can cover, and how they manage to go straight down without skis.)

You may have noticed (heard) the herd of cows sweeping majestically and precariously across the Fulking Escarpment. While it's a miracle that they don't topple over and harm themselves as they gallop wildly straight down the steepest parts of the hill, they are harming the landscape by churning up the footpaths, making them uneven and slippery, and trampling over

the spring flowers. They also present an intimidating sight for walkers, faced with 30 possibly argumentative cows coming straight at you.

The Parish Council asked the National Trust about the problem. They reply as follows [square brackets denote unauthorized Editorial commentary]: 'The cattle were put out a little earlier this year [as distinct from which years, exactly?]' and due to the wet weather this will have made the paths muddier than we would have anticipated. [Not anticipating rain

in February and March then?]' They are however the best way to conserve the environment on the escarpment and this is the method recommended by English Nature who are very happy with our management of this area. We do have a fencing project for early May to enclose some compartments and then 'target-graze' specific areas. This should hopefully alleviate some of your concerns.' The National Trust's talk at the Annual Parish Meeting (Thur 7 – be there) will discuss this and explain how they look after the Downs.

Village Diary

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

Sunday 10 May, 9am-3.30pm
RUBBISH GOBBLER
(recycling)
Henfield Library Car Park

Wednesday 20 May, 2.30pm
MID SUSSEX RURAL LINKS
Scaynes Hill Village Centre
Faustina Bayo, 01273 405885

Sunday 31 May
SHEPHERD & DOG QUIZ NIGHT
Jenny, 857382

Tuesday 2 June, 9.30am
WEST SUSSEX RURAL FORUM
ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Ashington Community Centre
Claire Reynolds, Action in Rural
Sussex, 01273 407305

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

Fulking Fair progress report



The second Fair meeting took place on 21 April at the house of Charmayne and Harry Diamond, who have generously offered their field for the event. It's actually two fields – apologies to those who don't like to see pictures repeated in their local papers – but above right you see the lower one, which used to be a campground, and is set down the hill towards Clappers Lane, from where it is also visible. The insurance issues that cast a slight question mark over whether we are able to use the field have been sorted out so we can now make the definite announcement

that the Fair will be held at Downside Meadow. (Sorry about that James E-B, thanks for yet another update of the logo!)

Enter by the top (south) gate, where the car park will be, and go down the slope through the gate at the bottom to this secluded and delightful spot. As you can see, it's considerably larger than the North Town Field, which means among other things that we're in need of a great number of stalls, booths, activities and general goings-on that fall under the overall heading of 'All the Fun of the Fair'. A good number of villagers have already

offered their time and expertise, to all of whom many thanks.

At this point however the principal task is co-ordination. To this end, rather than continue with an assortment of unwieldy and over-large meetings, we are forming an Executive Committee, whose task will then be to rouse you from your beds in the middle of the night and put you to work.

Seriously, it's a great thing for the village to do, and fun in spades for everyone, but it just plain won't happen unless people turn the talk into real and rapid action. Your community needs you – the unseen and unsung

helpers just as much as the volunteers who are already in the 'Front Line' with stalls and suggestions.

The village website www.fulkingvillage.co.uk sports a great big Fair logo on the home page, and there is a link there to download a spreadsheet listing who is doing what, and more importantly, what needs doing. Contact **Bob Rowland**, 857271, bob.pamrowland@btinternet.com, to note your interest / determination to contribute, in whatever humble way at all. The entire village will be for ever grateful!

Hollie's appeal for NTF Play Equipment



I am organising a few events over the summer to raise money to buy some new equipment for the playground in North Town Field. The Parish Council have said that they will also help apply for a grant to help us reach the total we need. I would love it if any children would come forward with any suggestions and let me know if you would like to help, or have some money-raising ideas. **Hollie Trist**, 857011, hollie_trist@hotmail.co.uk

Chris' bus campaign held up at lights



So far only six Folkingites and six Poyningites have responded to my suggestion for getting the number 17 bus (not the 23, above) re-routed every two hours through the Downland villages. This is not enough for me to make a case to the bus company. This bus is great for shopping in Brighton, as it takes you right to Churchill Square, and – as their campaign says – no parking problems! **Chris Gildersleeve**, 857552, gilder6646@aol.co.uk

Rural communities and climate change



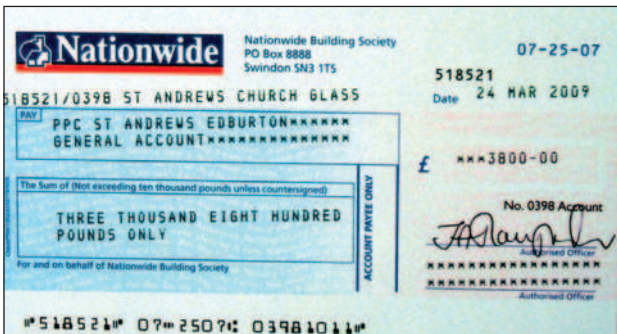
Action in Rural Sussex and West Sussex County Council are collaborating on a 'West Sussex Rural Forum' on Tuesday 2 June at Ashington Community Centre, Foster Lane, Ashington, from 9.30am to 1pm. Presentations, information, stands and networking opportunities are all promised. Topics include the '21st Century Village', the Greening Campaign, Recycling and waste reduction and a host more. Contact **Claire Reynolds**, 01273 407305, claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org to book a place.

'Welcome to the Nightingales' watch



The nightingales are back! There are four singing their thrilling song over at Dead Tree Barn in the blackthorn scrub there. That whole area is a brilliant place to hear birdsong. I always wonder why nightingales migrate to West Africa whereas other songbirds like blackbirds, thrushes etc choose to stay here. Any ideas? **Chris Gildersleeve**

The Church, The Author and The Cheque



John Hazard

As the St Andrew's Church restoration fund nears its £260,000 target, the Rev Graham Jeffery receives a cheque for a handsome £3,800 towards the fund from Tony Brooks, with his family looking on (he's the grinning gentleman at right of Graham, not the young'un in the foreground!). The proceeds of Tony's book 'The Changing Times of Fulking and Edburton 1900 – 2007', adds to the £240,000 already raised, with much of the work already completed. Tony's donation is towards the new toughened glass doors for the entrance porch. 'The day my family stopped being rude to me,' says Tony, which has to be a result – well done, fantastic job Mr B.

Fulking stretches out a hand to Tanzania's Boma Orphanage



Food for thought, left to right: Queuing for breakfast porridge; two little Downs' syndrome girls; the sad broken swing plus the 140-seater see-saw

I got back from Tanzania at the end of March. Thanks to those who gave me donations – I was able to stuff my luggage with toys for the Boma Orphanage – plastic toys, rattles, skipping ropes, balls, bats etc.

When I arrived I bought

lots of paper and coloured pencils and paints. The children obviously never see such things and settled down in complete silence to draw (and they put the pencils back in the boxes!).

The orphanage is struggling. There are more children there

than last year, and they don't have enough beds for them. One morning there was no breakfast for the children, but I was able to go to the local market and buy 25 kilo sacks of rice, maize meal and sugar, gratefully received. The one swing is broken, so

there is only a seesaw for 140 children! The children are lovely and are treated kindly, but have little stimulation and over 40 don't get schooling because of lack of funds. I hope to return and do some more there if I can. [Chris Gildersleeve](#)

Assorted village announcements and other matters arising, also known as 'Nibs'

Bunting Crisis...

... or it will be, if you don't get weaving. Or measuring, cutting, stitching and sewing like the accomplished seamsters and seamstresses you all are. When we first announced the Fair in PP March, a call went out for every family at least, and ideally every individual, to create at least one bunting flag out of 'individual' material, ie something that tells a little story about who you are or what you like. Make a pendant 30cm long and 20 cm along the top edge to form a triangle. Write your name on one side and leave it in the postbox on

the gate at Four Acres, Poynings Road. Sarah Rushton has kindly volunteered to stick them all together in a long line to go from one end of the village to the other. But it won't work with just two flags, which is all she has at the moment. So – Get Bunting!

Anyone for tennis?

Jen Green (857552, phone evenings only please) is looking for tennis partners over the summer. Women or men, any chance of doubles – anything welcome! I'm not in a club and usually play at a court in Upper Beeding, just a few miles away

– unless anyone has a local court we can use? I am of middling ability – not good and not hopeless. I can play evenings or weekends or could squeeze in a lunchtime locally.

Noise Warning

Flynn is having her end-of exams, end-of-school and 18th birthday party at Four Acres on Saturday 20 June. Apologies in advance for noise pollution caused, which will not be allowed to continue too late! Adults will be on premises (trying to keep out of the way). Best wishes. Sarah 857393.

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.

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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Going away?
Need someone to look after your pets?



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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