

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

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Double whammy: top, the Village Ghouls get scarier, fiercer and more persistent each year, this Hallowe'en so scary indeed that they apparently rendered even themselves speechless with fright. Who would dare offer a nonchalant taunt of 'Trick!' to these pitiless marauders? Photo Julie Healy. And above, Poynings fireworks lit up the sky – or would have done, if there hadn't been 100% cloud cover at 100ft. This spectacular shot by John Hazard is from last year. Yes, we are allowed to do that...

Social Committee chair and ongoing plans

We are delighted to announce that **Jenny Tooley** of the Shepherd & Dog has agreed to Chair the Social Committee. Here is her Inaugural Address: 'I'm really looking forward to getting stuck into my new role as Chair of Fulking Social Committee, and am grateful for the opportunity to work with and for the village, so thank you, Fulking. Let's do as much as we can to raise

funds for the village. After the meeting this Wednesday in the Village Hall I'm aiming to set up another meeting in January where everyone can come and share their ideas about the sort of things we can do – and indeed how we can spend the money! No pressure, you won't be roped in just by setting foot inside the door, we just need to gather as many ideas as we can. The

date will be in next month's PP. If you can't make it or don't like speaking up in public, drop me an email – shepherdanddog01@yahoo.co.uk – or even come and bend my ear in the pub. I look forward to meeting you all and creating some great events for Fulking!

Rank-and-file membership is informal, based on who comes to the meetings. So be there!

Village Diary

Wed 18 November, 9.30am-12.30pm
JEWELLERY OPEN HOUSE
The Coach House, opp. N end of Clapper's Lane
Aine Henson, 857036

Wednesday 18 November, 7.30pm
SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Village Hall

Thursday 19 November, 8pm
WINE TASTING & COMPETITIONS
Shepherd & Dog
Jenny, 857382

Friday 27 November, from 4.30pm
FREE FAMILY PORTRAIT SITTINGS
Village Hall
Infinity Photographic, 834610

Thursday 3 December, 8pm
FULKING MUMS' NITE
Shepherd & Dog
Marie, 857668

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

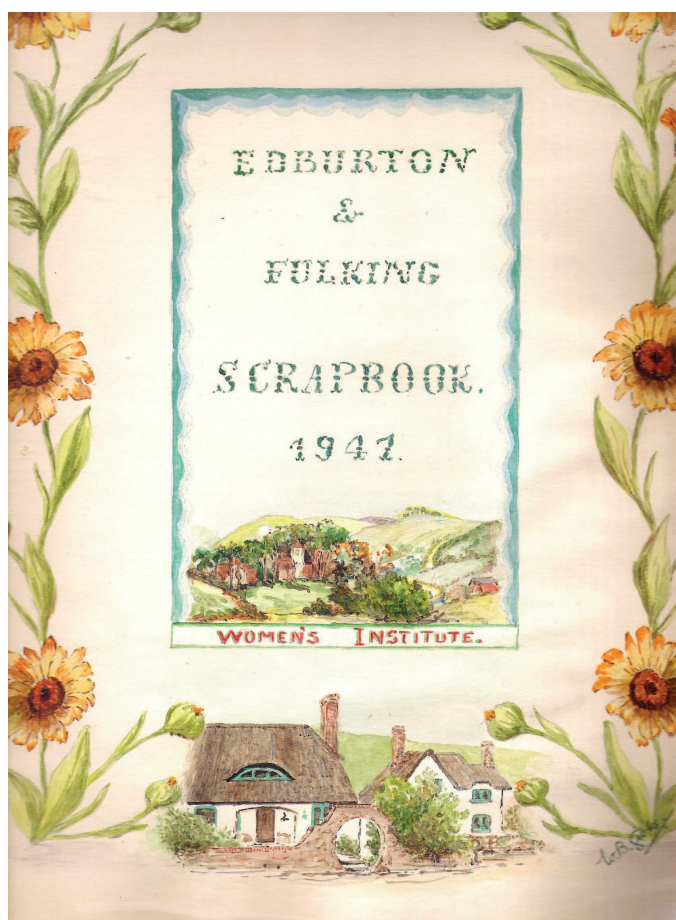
Sunday 13 December, 8pm
SPECIAL XMAS QUIZ NIGHT
Shepherd & Dog
Lee Holden, 857316

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

Sunday 20 December, 6pm
CAROL SERVICE
St Andrew's Church, Edburton

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

Historic stories under the Downs



MSDC 'Waste less' Challenge

Mid Sussex District Council is inviting denizens to take up a 'Waste Less' Challenge. It divides into the 'Waste Less to Landfill Challenge' and the 'Waste Less Energy Challenge'. (www.midsussex.gov.uk/page.cfm?pageID=8593)

The 'Waste Less to Landfill Challenge' is to see how empty you can get your landfill bin. By reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill you help to reduce the release of methane. You record what you throw away for a week and then follow some tips to see how much you can reduce the amount you throw away the next week. To help we are offering a pack of things to help with waste reduction to the first 20 people to sign up to the challenge. If you enter this challenge and return your

summary sheet you'll be entered into a free draw to win a Green Johanna food waste digester (www.greencone.com).

'The 'Waste Less Energy Challenge' is to see how much you can reduce your electricity demands. Record how much energy you use / how often you use appliances. To help we are offering FREE Current Cost meters to the first 20 people to sign up to the challenge. If you enter and return your summary sheet you will be entered into a free draw to win a solar powered charger.'

To sign up for either of the challenges, email challenge@midsussex.gov.uk, including your name and address and which challenge you would like to take part in. Or phone 01444 477440 with the same details.



Two matters of note appear this month, connecting us to Fulking's shared experience of years gone by (it seems that we're strong on the 20th century but I haven't come across anything earlier yet – can anyone shed any documented light on local history of the C19 or before? - Ed): the Village Archive, whose quaintly beautiful title page is reproduced at left, and above, the mysterious WWII story of the crash-landed German bomber, a Junkers JU88, which apparently came down at Wickhurst Barns.

The Archive first, since [Linda](#) and [Terry Harris](#), who are now its proud and responsible keepers, are looking for contributions about matters old and new. It was started in 1947 as part of a 'Village Scrap Book' competition organised by the West Sussex County Federation of Women's Institutes. The cover is a tour de force of embroidery, stitched by a lady of 81 years, we are told, without the help of spectacles.

Contents include hand written memoirs from members of old Fulking families, a strangely moving page from Mr PW Lucas, who arrived at Fulking Post Office and Stores in 1897 as a 12-month old baby and who lost his airman son to the war in 1939 – shortly after he had won a Gold Medal for his Hovis bread – photos and drawings of village houses and all manner of things besides.

This is what Linda and Terry say: 'The Village Archive is being brought up to date. However, "The Keeper of the Archive" would like to know if there are hidden treasures tucked away. If you do have anything of interest

about Fulking, Edburton or the Dyke/Downs, please drop them down to 39 Clappers Lane or leave a message on 857486. If anything is too precious or fragile it can be photocopied and the source will of course be shown in the Book.'

It so happens that Linda and Terry are the source for the Junkers story as well (the pic is just a general one, not the specific plane in question), from a book called 'Blitz Over Sussex 1941 - 42' by Pat Burgess and Andy Saunders. 'On the night of the 1/2nd June 1941,' they explain, 'a Junkers 88 was shot down at Wickhurst Barns. All the crew baled out. Two were captured quickly, one was killed in the crash and one other was found next day on the Downs – his parachute had failed to open.

'The interesting thing here is that two machine guns were pinched from the aircraft in spite of a police presence. Who were the five locals seen cycling away with a heavy sack and one machine gun?' Rich pickings indeed, and one is put to ponder about who those five could have been, and who they would be in modern day Fulking.

[Tony Brooks](#) has an angle: 'I know of this story, as one of the "borrowers" told it to me. The flying jacket kept him very warm through the winters. I chickened out of putting all the details in my book, just merely mentioned where it had crashed.

'During the war... censorship was very strong. If you or I had obtained film and taken a picture we would have immediately been locked up and accused of spying...'

Family portrait photography



Lesley and Trevor Taylor, a father and daughter photography team based in Newtimber, are offering free family portrait sittings in Fulking Village Hall on **Friday 27 November** at 4.30pm. (They're also in Poynings Hall on Thursday 26.) Here is what Lesley says:

'We would like to invite your family to attend a free photographic sitting. Your sitting will be an ideal opportunity to capture some "moment in time" memories of your family. Most importantly, it's fun, free and just in time for Christmas!

We have agreed with Ros from the Good Start School to donate

our 15% sales commission fee to the Good Start's Children in Need 2009 fund so we hope you will join us in helping to raise money for this very worthwhile cause.

So what's the catch? Absolutely nothing! All you have to do is call to reserve a sitting slot, turn up at least five minutes before your appointed start time and then smile! Post shoot, we send your family's proofcards to your home where you have the choice to order either on line or directly from us.

Sittings are in 15 minute slots. Call 07867 525090, or email lesley@infinityphotographic.co.uk.

Local hand crafted jewellery



Local Mum and creative talent **Aine Henson** has started making jewellery from hallmarked silver and semi-precious stones to her own designs, working out of her home at The Coach House at Woodmancote, immediately opposite the north end of

Clappers Lane. Aine actually has an open morning on **Wednesday 18 November**, but that is the same day your PP arrives, so you'll have to move fast if you want to catch her then. She also sells through Bay Tree Trading and Natashas in Henfield, Vanilla in Hurstpierpoint and Apres Choclat in Cuckfield. She welcomes commissions and delights in creating something special and uniquely personal. Contact her on 857036, 07771 847770, or ainehenson@live.com.

Nature notes: Ladybirds...

Have you noticed any ladybirds in your house? They are probably coming in to hibernate. They like curtains and corners. We have three on the bathroom ceiling – the only problem is that every time the bathwater runs they wake up as it gets hotter! **Chris**



Fulking Charivari, otherwise known as Village Miscellany

Village Choir at Christmas

We will be singing at the Carol Service at St Andrew's Church at 6pm on Sunday 20 December, and around the village during Christmas week and at the midnight service on 24 December. We will be rehearsing on Wednesdays: 25 November, 2 December, 9 December and 16 December at 7.30pm at the Church. It's good fun and anyone is welcome to join the choir.

For more information phone **Alison** 857705 or **Tricia** 857255.

Village Christmas Party

It's on Friday 18 December at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Bring a plate of savoury finger food on the day, and beforehand you can contribute a prize for the Tombola, which is being run by **Hollie Trist** in aid of playground equipment for the NTF. Please take your Tombola donation to whichever of these addresses is nearest to you: **Bob Rowland**, Furze Field, Clappers Lane, BN5 9NJ, 857271; **Carolyn**

Loveless, Woodlands, The Street, BN5 9LT, 857280; or **Michael Trist**, The Perch, Edburton Road, BN5 9LR, 857211.

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

As you see from the Diary column, the Children's Christmas Party is on Monday 21 December in the Village Hall from 2 – 4pm. It is strictly for children of families in Fulking and Edburton, so don't start getting enthusiastic with invitations to all your far-flung mates in Wigan or wherever.

Father Christmas will be delving into his sack to hand out presents for the kids, and miraculously there WILL be a present for each child, with HIS OR HER NAME emblazoned upon it. This is because, as good parents, you will have provided said present beforehand. It should cost no more than a fiver, it should be clearly marked with your little darling or darlings' name(s), and it should be

delivered to 1 SEPTIMA COTTAGE, THE STREET, by 12 midday on 21 December, the day of the party (No, FC doesn't live there, he's just using it as a loading point.)

You are also required to bring a PLATE OF TREATS to the party itself, NOT to Septima.

Without destroying any fragile early years belief systems, let's just say a big thank you to **Harry Diamond** for his, ahem, Yuletide Paternalism, and all the other village elves and helpers for their organisational talents and seasonal goodwill. No names, no pack drill, no email addresses.

Wine quizzes at the Shepherd & Dog – act now!

1. First one – pay attention, you might miss it! Is this **Thursday 19 November** at 7.30pm. One table will carry seven or eight wines of the New World, and the next will carry seven or eight matching vintages from the Old World. You get a booklet for tasting notes, and there is a competition for choosing correct grape and

region, with prizes. Cheese and biscuits are also included in the price of £5.50 per head. Wines are by Hallgarten Wines and **Adrian Dew**, our wine merchant, will host and answer questions (not the quiz ones though!) 2. **Friday 19 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. The format may be 'Call my bluff' or it may be a straight quiz – let us know your preferences.

Jenny Tooley, 857382; **Bob Rowland**, 857271.

Post Pigeon dates

The December issue of **Pigeon Post** will be out around 14 – 15 – 16 of the month, like this one. We'll get it back to the first week of the month with the Feb issue. Remember, no PP in January.

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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Takeaway Fish & Chips with Peas £6.50
Christmas Lunch & Dinner bookings
now being taken. Christmas menu 1 - 24 December,
free glass of mulled wine with every booking!
CHRISTMAS QUIZ, SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 8PM!

01273 857382 shepherdanddog01@yahoo.co.uk