

Music Rehearsal in Fulking Village Hall

If you are a Fulking resident and an amateur musician, you (and your group) can use the village hall for rehearsals at low cost¹. You just need to book a slot and collect the key.

Although the stage is small and cluttered, there is plenty of room in the rest of the hall – enough for a thirty-voice choir². There are no music stands though – you will need to bring your own. The hall offers toilets and a small kitchen with a kettle and mugs so you can prepare refreshments during breaks in the course of a long rehearsal. You will need to bring supplies with you, though. If you need something more substantial, the Shepherd & Dog is a one minute walk away. The nearest food shop is at Rushfields in Poynings.

Here's how you set about making a booking:

- 1) Check the calendar on the village website to see if there is already an event listed for the time you want to book. Not all the events listed there take place in the village hall: for example, Bob's Cafe activities take place in Poynings and family communion happens at St. Andrew's. Conversely, not all village hall events are shown on the calendar: private events, like music rehearsals, are typically not listed.
- 2) Contact Carolyn Loveless (cj@roger153.plus.com) to check that the slot(s) that you want are actually available. If they are, she will book you in and tell you what it will cost you. She will probably check that you really are a resident and ask you what sort of group you belong to. Carolyn will also tell you how to get the key from her: she lives at Woodlands in The Street (enter her drive via the Backway).
- 3) If you are unable to use the slot you have booked, make sure to notify Carolyn as soon as you know so that she can make it available to others.
- 4) On the day, collect the key and unlock the main door to the hall. This is easier said than done but a bit of patience and fiddling around will eventually be rewarded.
- 5) Noise: the hall is closely surrounded by residential property so you should treat the noise issue much as you would if you were rehearsing at home. The noise you make will be more noticeable in the evenings and at weekends. Builders and traffic offer competition during weekdays and many residents are at work then. No matter how hot it gets, do not prop the the village hall door open during your rehearsal: open the top lights on the side windows instead.
- 6) If you have to leave the hall unattended at any point (e.g., to get lunch), make sure to lock it up before you go.
- 7) At the end of your session you should restore the hall to the state it was in when you first arrived: re-stack any chairs you have used, wash up coffee mugs, tidy the kitchen, etc. Close any windows you have opened. Turn off the lights and any other electrical equipment that you have switched on. Take any rubbish you have generated with you.
- 8) Lock up and return the key to Carolyn's letterbox.

1 Professional musicians are also very welcome to book the hall for rehearsals – but they will be asked to make a slightly larger financial contribution to the maintenance and running costs of the building.

2 If your group is large, you will need to bear in mind that on-street parking in Fulking is very limited, especially in the evening and at weekends. The nearest bus stops are thirty minutes walk away. Solutions to the choir parking problem may be pricey, e.g., hiring a minibus, or booking lunch at the Shepherd & Dog and parking your cars there.