

pigeon.post@fulking.net

SUMMER 2020 JUNE – AUGUST

Edited by Jen Green jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk

Note from the editor: This issue of *Pigeon Post* is a bit different. Our usual features Upcoming Events and Regular Events have had to be furloughed due to Covid-19. However, I believe it is still worth publishing this quarterly newsletter, despite and perhaps especially because of these extraordinary and difficult times. Many of the reports below reflect the fact that our sense of community has never been stronger. The Parish Council and online forums such as fulking.net and the Community Skill Swap WhatsApp group are helping us to keep in touch with another and ensure help is available for all who need it. Events such as Seedling Sunday, Evergreens, Toddlers, Messy Church, Poynings 650 celebrations and of course, our own Fulking Fair have sadly had to be cancelled, but church services and groups such as yoga and Quotations are now happening online. For details of all this and more see below. Let's hope by the time the next issue of *Pigeon Post* is published, there will be full details of future events and regular meetings to report...

Church News May 2020 by Jane Warne

Since the start of lockdown our Downlands Benefice Churches, which include St Andrew's, have been holding a weekly 'online' service at 10.30 am each Sunday. Although our Vicar, Tim Harford, conducts the service from his house he manages a backdrop of one of the churches. You really feel that you are there. There is no singing but the service does contain readings, prayers and an address from Tim. Recently we have also had some new drawings from Graham Jeffreys. There has been a regular congregation of about fifty and it is good to catch up with and 'see' local friends. If you would like to be sent the 'Zoom' link to this service each week let us know by emailing us at StAndrewsEdburton@yahoo.co.uk.

Obviously our other activities are at a standstill. The Book Nook is shut and we don't know yet whether we will be able to hold Hymns and Pimms on 12th July. We hope that we will be able to hold our Harvest Festival on 4th October and our quiz on its new date of 23rd October.

We have a few jigsaws in the Book Nook if anyone would like to borrow one. We are still collecting books and bric-a-brac (ready for next year) and if you have been doing lots of clearing out we are happy to take your 'clearings'. They can be left outside the book nook by arrangement or can be delivered to our storage shed in Woodmancote. Please contact us by email or phone 07812-465-559. Finally, we have been selling knitted rainbow badges in aid of church funds with a donation to the NHS. If you would like to order one they are £2.50 (contact details as above). We are all looking forward to being able to meet again in our lovely church.

Groups in Fulking by Tricia Robinson

Yoga With the help of my neighbour Sienna before lockdown, I set up Zoom for my yoga classes. I have been teaching all my classes live at the normal times, we have time at the end for a

chat, it is so good for everyone to keep in contact. My different classes have got to know each other as they can attend any class. There is no driving, no parking problems, and the heating and lighting is how individuals like it! Some people are now practising yoga in their gardens! We are missing physically seeing each other, and look forward to being back in the Hall, but we might be able to use North Town Field for yoga sooner, as it is easier to social distance in the open air! For more details of online yoga ring 857255 or email Tricia Robinson <tricia.robinson@sky.com>.

Toddlers, craft groups Sadly Toddlers has had to break until it is safe to return, but if playgrounds open sooner then we can meet there. I think Zoom Toddlers would have been a challenge! Some of the Craft Group attenders have been making scrubs, and most of us have been making masks, as well as catching up with unfinished projects! I'm hoping when we can return to the hall there will be lots of new people as craft has become popular! There is much to appreciate, with this beautiful spring, less pollution, more quiet and the opportunity for neighbours to communicate with each other!

Quotations Mondays 10.45. Discussion group reflecting on quotes from the world's faiths. Now taking place on Zoom: contact Samantha Leader 07479 458323 for more details.

Spring in Fulking by Chris Gilderleeve

This has been a unique spring here, with huge adjustments to be made by all of us. I expect most of us have got used to social distancing, closed shops and hairdressers etc. (Dogs and humans are looking rather shaggy now!) There have been compensations however. We have been able to chat to neighbours over the garden fence and on dog walks. The Truffles van has been a great boon in providing a surprisingly

wide range of baked goods and groceries, and has also offered opportunities for conversations in the socially distanced queue. The WhatsApp group, started providentially by the Quotations group before the virus came, has been a useful and heart-warming asset. People are offering help, tools, plants and advice. As soon as someone asks for something, people seem to respond very quickly. This group includes Poynings villagers as well, and it's been great to get to know a slightly wider community.

Our Fulking Seedling Sunday plant sale was cancelled of course, but I and several others offered plants outside our houses for folk to swap or take. We asked for donations to the refugee charity UNHCR, and raised £150. There seems to have been an upsurge of growing vegetables in the village, with first-timers like me getting advice from seasoned growers. People are continuing to swap vegetable plants via WhatsApp. It has felt a little like World War II, in that people are supporting others and being resourceful. An additional benefit has been the largely sunny weather which has allowed us to enjoy spring walks and be thankful that we live in such a beautiful place. Of course, these advantages are not to deny hardships and isolation from family and friends and restrictions on movement. But all in all, I think the present crisis has fostered community spirit, and I hope this will continue after it is over.

COVID-19 Support from Fulking PC

The Parish Council has collected together information on how to get by under the latest coronavirus restrictions. This ranges from the UK Government official advice, to what local shops are doing and how you can help your neighbours, see fulking.net for details.

Communication

Minutes of PC meetings are available online at fulking.net, and the next PC Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for Thurs 2 July in Fulking Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Fulking.net – Will carry regular updates as the situation changes.

Mailing List – We use the mailing list as an official channel for Council announcements, including those about the anti-virus measures. To join up contact Miles Firth: Miles Firth<miles.firth@fulking.net>

Facebook – There are two FB Groups in the village, [Fulking Villagers](#) and [Fulking Village Community Group](#). These are private groups, containing comments, observation and

notifications affecting the community. You can apply to join when you land their pages.

WhatsApp – Community Skill Swap – Founded to share skills and equipment within the local community, presently focused on helping others cope with the crisis. Contact Samantha Leader on 07479 458323 to sign up.

Poynings.net: Announcements from our neighbouring village's website are worth keeping an eye on. Visit www.poynings.net

Henfield Hub: A good source of information about our largest country neighbour, with regular updates on status of shops and services.

NB If you are vulnerable and/or self-isolating and need help with shopping, collecting medical prescriptions or other issues, please email Trevor Parsons on parish.clerk@fulking.net or tel 07767 422733 or Mark Hind on 012273 8577049.

Bobobservation No 69 June 2020

Fulking and medics

You may not realise it but Fulking is blessed with a quite disproportionate number of medical and medical related villagers. Consultant, surgeon, GP, administrator, nurse, midwife, paramedic, orthodontist, dentist, care home worker... they are all here in active or retired format. Indeed some of the retired medics have offered their services to the NHS during the present crisis. I think this a good opportunity to thank them all for entering such a caring profession. We might also thank all those who serve us in so many other ways and at the same time put their lives at risk every day.

Covid19

The restrictions placed upon us by this Coronavirus have brought villagers together more than anything I can remember. In addition it has opened up a spirit of cooperation between the Downland villages that has been most impressive. The time available due to 'lockdown' has generated a new cooperative enthusiasm for gardening reflected in the Community Skill Swap WhatsApp site. This has brought many of us closer together through plant and seed swapping, helpful advice and a general feeling of communal togetherness that has been lacking in the relatively recent past. Let us make it a permanent feature of life in our village.

And finally: The next edition of *Pigeon Post* is due out on Sept 1. All contributions welcome – deadline is one week before.