

# pigeon.post@fulking.net

AUTUMN 2020 SEPT – NOVEMBER

Edited by Jen Green [jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk)

**Note from the editor:** Covid-19 has affected *Pigeon Post* like everything else, and currently this newsletter has a different format. Our usual features Upcoming Events and Regular Events have had to be furloughed, but local groups are still meeting regularly, whether virtually or outside. Life goes on, and many believe that our community spirit has never been stronger. The Parish Council and online forums such as [fulking.net](http://fulking.net) and the Community Skill Swap WhatsApp group help us keep in touch with another and ensure help is available for all who need it. Read on for news, views and full details of what's going on.

## **Groups in Fulking** by Tricia Robinson

The Toddler Group is still waiting until it is safe to return, hopefully before Father Christmas comes to visit! The Craft Group will also return when it is safe to open the village hall. Yoga has been on Zoom and / or in the North Town Field when the weather allows, with Zoom running from NTF at the same time from my phone! The group support of each other is as important as the yoga. We are longing to be back in the village hall! For more details contact Tricia 255

**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.

**Yoga** Mondays 9.30-10.30, & 18.30-19.30. Drop in, mixed ability. Tuesdays 19.00, Fridays 9.30 All on Zoom, contact Tricia Robinson 255

**Environmental matters** by Pam Rowland  
Unbelievable, isn't it, after all we've been through with Coronavirus, the litter bugs are still out there! Fortunately in Fulking we have a small army of litter pickers, wonderful villagers who go around cleaning up after them. Thank you all so much for being so diligent and helping to keep our village clean, your good work does not go unnoticed. As I write this, the long awaited rain is finally falling! Already the parched grass is turning green and soon we'll be moaning about having to mow the lawn!! Whilst the grass hasn't been growing the shrubbery has, so once again I'm reminding you to be mindful of your boundaries and to cut back any vegetation that is overhanging public walkways.

**Summer in Fulking** by Chris Gildersleeve  
Since the last newsletter, written in the middle of lockdown, the rules have eased considerably. For me, the first sign of this happening was coming across a group of Fulking fathers in the North Town Field having a barbecue! Other groups such as book clubs, the Quotations group and yoga are now meeting in the North Town Field, weather permitting. The downside of the relaxation of lockdown has been the increased

amount of traffic and parking problems. The Truffles van has stopped coming round and Rushfields are no longer doing home deliveries.

Vegetable growers have seen the fruits of their labours after a hot, sunny summer. Runner beans and courgettes seem to have been abundant and I have enjoyed sharing produce with neighbours. The warm weather has produced a glut of blackberries and apples this year. The WhatsApp group has become a useful way of recycling produce and unwanted goods.

The North Town Field children's playground has recently reopened and it has been nice to see the children playing there again. We have had two successful afternoon clay workshops for children, and any adults who were there. The village hall is still closed, so that when the weather worsens yoga may have to go back to zooming. Unless the hall reopens groups such as craft and games evenings cannot resume.

The barley fields have looked beautiful all summer and seem to have had reasonably dry weather for harvest. Although we are currently out of lockdown, most of us are still exercising various degrees of caution, being aware that the virus has not gone totally away. As autumn draws near, there are still unanswered questions about resumption of church services, choir rehearsals, and other group activities.

## **Clay workshops in the North Town Field** by Gill Milner

Resident sculptor Chris Gildersleeve agreed to organise a clay workshop for children in July and another in August. The workshops took place in the North Town Field. The minimum age for participants was 10 years old. The weather was perfect for the first event. Chris gave out generous portions of clay and boards to work on. Rules were forgotten and Art Happened! So much happiness and concentration. The results were dried and painted at home, and some were returned to show Chris. Other artwork was also shared. Fulking is still a lovely community!

## **Bobobservation No72 September 2020 International Fame at Last!**

I really never know whether any villager reads my monthly ramblings but it was a tremendous joy to be told by Becky Loveless that her colleague Hannah Clancy of Buffalo, NY, USA was a fan and indeed actually reads Bobobservation each month. I have taken it upon myself to award the first International Honorary Fulking Villager to her. She was delighted to receive the honour and intends visiting Fulking when the virus eventually abates. It would be very interesting to know if any other supporters exist, so let me know. Subject to the most onerous investigations you may even qualify for a similar award!

## **Covid-19**

This virus has pretty well put a stop to many social activities in the village. Observing distancing recommendations, the Whatsapp Community Skill Swap group seems to have been successful. Some of us have got together two metres apart for a glass or two of wine facilitated by the lack of rain and heatwave. At present the possibility of holding a Christmas party looks remote. I have my fingers crossed for next year's fair on Sunday 25 July. General opinion seems to be that another surge may well happen in the autumn, and so I do implore all villagers not to let standards drop. Face masks and social distancing do make a difference to the safety of our community.

## **Fulking Village Archives**

The village archives have just received a programme of the Edburton and Fulking Garden Fete held on Wednesday June 26, 1946. Lee Holden discovered it among some family papers, the connection being his grandmother who arranged 'mimes and music' by the Henfield players. The archives are currently in the care of Terry and Linda Harris who are quite happy to make them available to villagers.

**Church News from St Andrews** by Jane Warne  
Our Church has been shut during lockdown. In mid-September we will discuss how and when to reopen. During this time regular 'Zoom' services have been conducted by our Vicar, the Rev Tim Harford. Recently he has held the service in Poynings Church with a small congregation. If you would like an invite to these services and regular updates about our activities please contact us. Graham Jeffery has been very active during this time and we have all enjoyed some amazing and apt pictures from him each week.

Plans are now well advanced with the proposal to combine the four parishes in the Downland Benefice into one Parish. A notice giving the objects of this proposed pastoral reorganisation has been displayed on or near the main doors of each of our churches and on the Church of England website. If you require further information contact the Rev Tim Harford. Our

Annual Meeting was postponed in April and will now be held sometime in October – details will be posted in the village and at the church. If you would like details let us know.

The **Book Nook** has also been shut during lockdown but we are hoping to reopen on the second Sunday in October, but not on our usual Wednesday spot. Details of opening will be put on noticeboards at the three entrances to the village. Meanwhile we are still actively collecting books for the Book Nook and also Bric-a-Brac. We are happy to collect.

For more details phone 07812-465-559 or email [StAndrewsEdburton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:StAndrewsEdburton@yahoo.co.uk).

## **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](http://fulking.net) for details.

**Fulking.net** carries regular updates as the situation changes with regard to the virus. Dates of PC meetings and minutes of the meetings are available online.

**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](mailto: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. **Henfield Hub** is a good source of information about our largest country neighbour, with regular updates on 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](mailto:parish.clerk@fulking.net) or tel 07767 422733 or Mark Hind on 01273 8577049.

**And finally:** The next edition of *Pigeon Post* is due out on Dec 1. All contributions welcome, by email please to [jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk) – deadline is one week before.