

Note from the editor: 2020 has been a year like no other, and Covid-19 has affected *Pigeon Post* like everything else. Our usual features Upcoming Events and Regular Events are still furloughed thanks to a second lockdown which began in November. However local groups are still meeting regularly online... Life goes on, community spirit is still strong, and in the last week or so, the announcement of vaccines to tackle the virus has given hope to us all. Hopefully by the next edition of *Pigeon Post* in the spring, things will have started to return to normal, or rather to a new post-Covid version of normal...

Groups in Fulking by Tricia Robinson

Sadly for safety reasons the Village Hall remains closed. Let's hope we will be able to have Toddlers, Craft and Yoga back in the hall before too long, with the COVID-19 vaccine hopefully starting in December!

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

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.

Environmental matters by Pam Rowland

What a strange year it has been, but what a wonderful place to live during a "lockdown"! Nature fortunately doesn't recognise Covid: birds still need fresh water and feeding in colder weather. Roads still get icy when the temperature drops; don't forget to scatter grit from the bins when necessary. Drains still get clogged with leaves; please keep the ones near you clear to help prevent flooding. And of course the dreaded artificial outside lights; please, please turn them off when you are all home for the night and make sure you have environmentally friendly fittings and we may get to see those stars yet! Keep safe.

Carol singing round the village

Despite Covid, local singers are still hoping to sing carols around the village, on Monday 21 December, or Tuesday 22nd if Monday is wet. Tricia (255) suggests meeting outside her house at 6pm and then walking through the village singing while observing social distancing. Bring a torch or safe lantern, she has carol sheets. We could sing in the NT Field at the end, and perhaps people could donate towards the hall or a charity. More details to follow via fulking.net and the PC round robin email.

Fulking Village Hall Christmas fundraiser with the Ginger Jungle by Suzanne Venn

The Ginger Jungle online plant shop based in Fulking has decided to do a Christmas fundraiser in aid of Fulking Village Hall. Since the first

lockdown, the Hall has remained closed to regular groups, meetings and events, and consequently income from hall hire has dropped to zero... thankfully the PCC has paused the rent, but amenities and other running costs remain. To help out, we have donated a beautiful Christmas tree outside the village hall.

Pre-order your Christmas tree from us, and a percentage of the sale will go toward the village hall. For all Christmas tree enquiries please email: suzanne@thegingerjungle.com or visit www.thegingerjungle.com.

We offer:

- Click & Collect - we are based in Clappers Lane
- Free local delivery
- Gift packed houseplants & home accessories
- Avoid the panic buying and pre-order from the Jungle
- Give back to our wonderful village this Christmas

We have also set up a go fund me page which you can donate to now too. <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/fulking-village-hall-fundraiser>

Autumn in Fulking by Chris Gildersleeve

The last time we posted we had come out of lockdown and were enjoying meeting real people outside. Our Quotations group enjoyed meeting in the North Town Field, and so did my dog Wolfie! Sadly all this kind of activity has stopped at present because of further lockdown rules. So it is back to Zoom for groups and meetings, and no pub garden meals. It has been disappointing not to be able to open the village hall for socially distanced groups, as these would have been welcome in these dark days.

I think many of us are feeling a bit uncertain about the Christmas period. The usual magnificent Christmas party hosted by the Social Committee has had to be cancelled, of course. Lee Holden has done a great job of lighting his garden and I am sure others will soon follow suit! We hope to sing carols and also meet in the North Town Field with candles to sing together on

either 21 or 22 December, depending on the weather. Our Community WhatsApp group has flourished and provided vital information, free-cycling, and support for Fulking and Poynings.

The horses in the field below Stammers Hill have rejected lockdown and escaped twice recently. Many thanks to David the farmer for renewing the wonky stile and upgrading the fences neglected by the owner. Of course the great news about the vaccines provides light at the end of the tunnel. Tricia Robinson is coming out of retirement to help with vaccination clinics! I am sure we are all looking forward to more normal times in 2021, especially those who have been unable to work during lockdown.

Bobservation No.75 December 2020 Christmas Quiz

All things being equal you should have received a hard copy with *Pigeon Post* of the Bobservation Christmas Quiz. It is intended for all the family to get involved and some questions, quite a few actually, are much easier than others. Just as a suggestion: let the youngest in the house have first go at solving the puzzles. Once you have solved as many as your 'bubble' can, email me the number you have solved by 30 December at the address shown on the quiz. No need to send the answers, unless you are the winner, in which case, I will require you to send them to me, to avoid mistakes! You may enjoy solving the quiz better WITHOUT any help from Wikipedia etc.

Coronavirus

There seems to be a light, however small, at the end of the Coronavirus tunnel. Hopefully, the vaccines will turn out to be successful. It is at times like this that we all need to offer support to each other, particularly those villagers who will be on their own over Christmas. So far as I am aware neighbours have been pretty good at looking after each other, which is no more than one would expect in Fulking. After what has been a difficult year for most of us one way or another, I wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a considerably better New Year in 2021. Hope we can have a village fair on Sunday 25 July!

Looking ahead

Both the Coronavirus and Brexit give us all a chance to change the way we live in the future. Perhaps we could consider:

1. Changing our electoral system from 'first past the post' to some form of proportional representation.
2. Showing a great deal more respect and empathy towards immigrants who risk their lives to reach UK.
3. Funding our respected NHS properly.
4. Improving the benefits system so that mothers do not need food banks to feed their children.
5. Enabling every child in our country to have an education as good as the private schools.
6. Reorganise the Houses of Parliament to save

the enormous cost of repair.

7. Build a modern Parliamentary building in a more central location in the middle of England.

8. Abolish the House of Lords and have a democratically elected Upper House.

Well, there are a few to go on with. What can you add?

Happy anniversary, Bob!

Pigeon Post would like to congratulate Bob on 75 Bobservations. Humorous, interesting, sometimes controversial but never boring – you can catch up on all Bob's thoughts since his column began in October 2014 on fulking.net.

Church News from St Andrews by Jane Warne

Our Church at Edburton has sadly remained closed during lockdown. If you would like to visit for private prayer please contact us using the details below. We have all enjoyed joining with the other three Benefice churches for regular services via 'Zoom' on Sundays. If you would like to have the invitation link sent to you each week let us know. Graham has provided amazing topical drawings for us every week, and we can send these to you as well if you would like.

Throughout lockdown we have continued to receive books and Bric-a-Brac and are grateful to everyone who has donated to us. We have sold quite a bit on the internet which has kept a much needed trickle of money coming in. We have not felt able to open the Book Nook, but once charity shops are open again we will gladly open by arrangement – so if you would like to stock up on books for Christmas, let us know and we will arrange to meet you there.

Now we are looking forward to next Spring and hope against hope we will be able to have our usual Bric-a-Brac sale. As ever we are happy to collect unwanted saleable bits and pieces and books. Thank you again from us all at St Andrew's for your continued support. To contact us phone 07812-465-559 or email StAndrewsEdburton@yahoo.co.uk.

COVID-19 Support in Fulking

The PC says: 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 01273 857049.

DIY and gardening in Fulking

Mark Wagner is available to do local DIY jobs, such as gardening, carpentry, brickwork, plastering and decorating. Ring 07970 461414 or email wagner.mark1@gmail.com

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