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SUMMER 2021 JUNE–AUGUST

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

**Note from the editor:** First, apologies for the late publication of Pigeon Post, due to important community developments which made a short delay vital to accurate and up-to-date news reporting! In Summer 2021 Covid-19 is still affecting our daily lives. Like everything else, *Pigeon Post* has been changed by the pandemic. Our usual features Upcoming Events and Regular Events are still furloughed thanks to a third lockdown which began in January. However local groups are still meeting regularly online... Life goes on, community spirit is still strong, and the speedy vaccine rollout provides hope that communal spaces will reopen and things will return to near-normal very soon. As always, *Pigeon Post* is delivered to every household in Fulking and Edburton, and also available online at [fulking.net](http://fulking.net).

## Groups in Fulking

To comply with government regulations the Village Hall remains closed at present. We hope to reopen for Toddlers, Craft, Messy Church, Yoga, Games Evenings etc very soon.

## Yoga classes by Tricia Robinson

Mondays 9.30-10.30, & 18.30-19.30. Drop in, mixed ability. Tuesdays 19.00, Fridays 9.30 in North Town Field or on Zoom, contact Tricia 255

**Quotations** Mondays 10.45. Discussion group reflecting on quotes from the world's faiths. Now taking place either in the North Town Field weather permitting, or on Zoom: contact Samantha Leader 07479 458323 for more details.

## Parish Council News by Mark Hind, Chair of Fulking PC

As the newly elected Chairman of Fulking Parish Council I am looking forward to serving the community and taking action to enhance and preserve our special village. Two areas which are hot topics right now are the village hall and secondary school places.

## Village Hall

The Parish Council registered the hall as an "asset of community value" last year which provides us with some legal rights should the hall be sold. Earlier this year we became aware the Church was considering the future of the village hall, which it owns, but I can now confirm it has no intention of selling the hall.

The Council is in discussions with Reverend Tim Harford and the Village Hall Action Group (VHAG) to see what we can do to replace the current informal rental arrangement with VHAG with something more formal to protect the hall for the community. These discussions are ongoing but include both short and long term lease arrangements.

The Council intends to hold a public meeting (Covid-19 regulations permitting) co-hosted by Rev Tim Harford and VHAG to consult with the village once we have detailed proposals to

discuss. We will also circulate some background information to all residents in advance of this meeting. Further communications to follow.

## Secondary Schools

Earlier this year a number of children from the village were denied their first choice of secondary school (Downlands) which came as a shock to both parents and children. I am pleased to say that after pressure was applied by the parents, the Parish Council and our local West Sussex Councillor, Joy Dennis, all the children were eventually offered places.

However, the lack of priority given to our residents remains a concern for future years and we are working hard to try and resolve the issue going forwards. This item will be on the agenda of our next Parish Council meeting on July 22 and I would encourage anyone interested to find out more to attend.

## Get recycling! by Samantha Reynolds

There is much that can be recycled that is not yet collected by the council in our blue bins. We have a joint programme with Sustainable Henfield 2030 to collect these. Please check out the SH2030 website ([Recycling in Henfield](http://Recycling in Henfield)) for a reminder of the full list. A copy is on the bus shelter notice board. There is a box in Fulking bus shelter too for these items, or you can take it directly to drop off points at shops in Henfield. We will post on the Whatsapp group chances to help 'sort the box' and for help in dropping off in Henfield. SH2030 will also be at the fair where you can learn more about the various initiatives related to the environment. For further information contact Samantha 07475 458323.

## Spring in Fulking by Chris Gildersleeve

We had a cold, dry spring this year, and plant growers have suffered with late frosts and lack of rain. Then in May we had rain in abundance, and lately very much warmer weather. The crops have perked up wonderfully. A positive of the cold spell was the long life of primroses and bluebells this year! Now that lockdown rules

have relaxed somewhat we are able to meet under certain conditions outside. Our Quotations group has returned to the field, weather permitting. In early May we held a plant sale in the village hall garden, our first community event since lockdown. Not quite the same as in the pre-Covid days with tea and cake in the hall though! But when lockdown rules relax further we will be able to reopen the hall for yoga and other events. Our village WhatsApp continues to be lively and useful, in spreading local information and freecycling unwanted goods.

### **Fulking Village Hall: Cause for Celebration** by Jen Green

In just a few months the Village Hall Action Group (VHAG) will have been looking after Fulking Village Hall for a decade. In late 2011 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) raised the prospect of selling the hall. However following a public meeting, it agreed not to sell if a group of villagers maintained and ran the hall, and paid rent to the PCC. The Village Hall Action Group (VHAG) has now performed this role for almost ten years. It has not only maintained the hall but made substantial improvements, for example renovating the roof, installing new windows and new kitchen, heaters and hand driers, and organising grants and fund-raising campaigns.

To comply with government regulations the hall has remained closed for many months, but we are hopeful it will be able to reopen later in the summer when restrictions end. Many have missed regular activities taking place in the hall, for example yoga, mothers and toddlers group, messy church and craft and games sessions. Following the reopening, we will be looking for new ideas on how to use this, our only communal indoor space, even more than in the past. With a well-equipped kitchen, PA and sound system, internet connection and stage, there is scope to revitalise use of the hall for films, plays, concerts, art exhibitions etc as well as public meetings and private parties. When restrictions end you can book the hall by contacting Carolyn Loveless <cj@rogerl53.plus.com>. Contact Jen Green on [jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk) or Tricia Robinson 255 with ideas about how to make this vital asset even more central to our community.

### **Bobervation No 81 June 2021**

#### **This changing world**

Jenny reminded me the other day of some of the really involved people who are no longer in the village. At the risk of omitting someone, in no particular order, Nick, Kate, Jo, Jim & Carolyn, Tony & Doris, Nick & Jill, Sarah, Harry & Charmayne, Ian and Jill, Adrian, Anthony, Alison, Tim, Annette, Holly & Ollie, Brian, Barry, Dave & Emily. I apologise for omissions! The point I am making is that since they left it has been harder and harder to get enthusiastic supporters of village events. Whenever the

Coronavirus is controlled, life as we knew it will never be the same again. I hope that the acceptance with which people were prepared to 'put up' with things will be replaced by a more questioning attitude and a demand for a fairer, more egalitarian society. Assuming this leads to material change, particularly in the NHS, it can only be a good thing. Indeed, I think it is for villagers to do everything that they can legally to assist in bringing about such change.

### **RSPCA fun dog show at Fulking Fair**

Subject to regulations concerning the virus and, of course, the weather, we are on track for a really good fair on Sunday July 25 from noon till 5pm in the North Town Field. There will be live music, hot food, a bar, childrens' games, teas and cakes and some interesting stalls. RSPCA will be taking part for the first time with a fun dog show from 12.30pm. National Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Woodland Trust will be there. We are still short of helpers for all manner of jobs, so if you would like to join us and help raise some funds for Fulking village needs, do get in touch.

### **Church News from St Andrews** by Jane Warne

The weekly Parish Service continues to be 'zoomed' from Edburton where those would rather attend in person are always welcome. The services are at 10.30 and the link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84660338130?pwd=Y2c0eVlzTlQ1dU81dStEbmY4SHZRZz09>. The passcode is 536874.

When lockdown ends all our churches will be open again, and the service pattern will return to the format that was in use before Covid. They will start at 10.00 am. Our service at Edburton will be on the first Sunday in each month, followed by services at Newtimber, Poynings and Pyecombe on subsequent Sundays. Services on a fifth Sunday will be at Poynings and these will be family services. All welcome. Meanwhile our two support groups, 'Friends' and 'Church Mice' continue to be busy behind the scenes caring for the church (including regular cleaning), maintaining the churchyard, manning the Book Nook (on the second Sunday in the month) and planning future events. If you would like to join us in these activities please contact us on 07812-465-559 or email [StAndrewsEdburton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:StAndrewsEdburton@yahoo.co.uk).

On Sunday July 18 we hope to hold our Songs of Praise Service, **Hymns and Pimms** at 6pm. We look forward to singing our hearts out, having been silent for so long, so come and join us. As always we are on the lookout for Books and Bric-a-brac to sell at events – we will be there at Fulking Fair – and are happy to collect.

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