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AUTUMN 2021 SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER

Edited by Jen Green jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk

Note from the editor: In the last issue of *Pigeon Post* I expressed a hope that life in Fulking might be returning to something approaching normal this autumn, now that many of us are double-jabbed against the COVID virus. Now I am indeed happy to announce a very cautious approach to a new, post-Covid normal. Fulking Fair happened despite the weather, we are meeting together again, and Fulking Village Hall is reopening. The calendar of events for this autumn is still very sketchy, but groups such as Quotations, yoga, toddlers, craft and games evenings are making a long-awaited return in person, hence a return to the usual format for *Pigeon Post*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Village Hall Action Group Meeting Saturday, Sept 25, 9.15 am in the hall. All welcome.

Harvest Festival Service, St Andrew's Edburton October 3, 10.00. 'Bacon Brunch' to follow the service.

St Andrew's Day Annual Quiz, Fulking Christmas Party, Toddlers' Christmas Party: to be announced

REGULAR EVENTS

All events take place in Fulking Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Yoga Mondays 9.30-10.30. Drop in, mixed ability. Contact Tricia Robinson 255
Mondays 18.30-19.30. Drop in, mixed ability. Contact Tricia Robinson

Quotations Mondays 10.45. Discussion group reflecting on quotes from the world's faiths. Contact Samantha Leader 07479 458323.

Craft and chat Second and fourth Thursday in the month, 14.00-16.00. Contact Tricia Robinson

Toddlers / family coffee mornings Wednesdays 10.00-11.30. A friendly group for toddlers, older children and carers. Toys, activities, singing, refreshments. £1 donation. Tricia Robinson

Games evenings Twice a month on Fridays from 19.30 pm. Contact Jen Green jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk or tel 552

Book Nook, Fulking Chapel. 2nd Sunday in the month 11.00-16.00, or by arrangement with **jane warne** <lkhenfield@yahoo.co.uk>

Parish Council News by Mark Hind, Chair of Fulking PC

Roads

You may well be as frustrated as I am regarding the ongoing roadworks affecting our village. The Parish Council has no involvement in the approval and scheduling of this essential work which is controlled by West Sussex County

Council (WSCC). However, we have pressured WSCC to improve the signage used by the contractors including removing the signs when work is not actually underway e.g. weekends. In addition we have ensured that, in future, we will receive advance notification of road closures from WSCC which we will circulate via email.

Clappers Lane has been in a poor state ever since I moved here in 1992 and especially the water which covers the road at all times of the year. I am pleased to advise that we have recently agreed with South East Water to undertake a survey to identify whether the water is run off from the fields/springs or in fact leaking pipes. In addition, I am hopeful that our application to WSCC for a grant under their "Operation Watershed" initiative will be successful, in which case we will be undertaking water management groundworks on the Lane. Sorry, more road closures to come!

New Ruskin Ram Pump Sign

Following restoration of the "fountain" by the Parish Council in the 1990s, a leaflet was produced which described the history of Fulking's "Water Supply System". In conjunction with South Downs National Park we are now going to install a sign, close to the RAM pump by the Shepherd and Dog car park, which provides a summary of this history for visitors to the village. A big thank you to Gerald Gazdar and Miles Firth who provided content and photos. I have just signed off the artwork, so hopefully the sign will be installed before the end of the year.

Bobsonation No 84 September 2021

The postponed Fulking Fair

In spite of the weather forecast we went ahead with the fair on August 8, and although the rain came in, at times heavily, the event really got underway by early afternoon in dry and quite pleasant conditions. First, mention must be made of the village helpers who put a tremendous effort into making it so socially successful. Villagers were involved in flyer distribution, sign making and placing, parking and traffic control, bar, BBQ, cakes, children's games, stall

allocation, rubbish collection, cash counting and banking, first aid and supervision. I hope I haven't omitted something! Considering this is a very small village, they all did a great job, and we made a profit of £414! Secondly and equally worthy of a gold medal were the stallholders who gave us their support, although financially it must have been a pretty poor day for them. We look forward to seeing them all next year. Last and by no means least, the RSPCA fun dog show was a great success, and without it attendance would have been worse. I hope that Fulking and RSPCA will form a Fair partnership for many years to come. Personally, my involvement makes it one of the most enjoyable days in my year. Dare I suggest Sunday, July 31 2022 as a date for next year's fair?

Editor's note: One person has certainly been left out of this roll call of thanks: Bob, whose inspiration continues to drive the Fair, and without whom the event would certainly be poorer. A big round of thanks to Bob!

Environment Matters by Pam Rowland
If you haven't walked up the concrete path towards Nettledown lately you should. David the farm manager has planted several swathes of sunflowers in the field margins, they look stunning, a splash of sunlight on these dreary cloudy mornings.

With the recent road closures and traffic not knowing where it's meant to be going, lorry and van drivers trying to make up for lost time are speeding at a dangerous rate down Clappers Lane, we have already lost two pets in the Lane (may be more?). Please be aware and keep your pets – and children – safe.

Oh dear, rubbish again! Sorry to go on about it, but it has been bad lately with people out and about again. There are areas that are suffering with this problem, please try and find time to get out there and clear your area. Enjoy the rest of the summer if it ever arrives!

Summer in Fulking by Chris Gildersleeve
Well, not the best summer. Recently I have reverted to a hot water bottle! Many of us have suffered slug damage to our vegetables, unlike last year when we had bumper crops. The poor barley has suffered too, and lost its lovely wave effect when a breeze blows. On the bright side, things are becoming a bit more normal now many of us have been double-jabbed against COVID. And against all odds the village fair happened again! Well done everybody, especially Bob! The Quotations group met in the village hall for the first time in many months, which was great. Of course we can also meet in the field if the weather cooperates. We are still living with uncertainty about the future of the village hall, but carrying on as normal for now. Road closures have been a feature of the summer too, but the Whatsapp Community group keeps us all

updated as to what is closed where and when. Let's hope for an Indian Summer!

Fulking Village Hall needs your support! by Jen Green

It's great news that after nearly 20 months of closure, Fulking Village Hall is finally opening its doors again to groups and regular events. The building is also open for one-off and private events and parties – to book the hall contact Carolyn Loveless <cj@rogerl53.plus.com>. We are always looking for new ideas about how to make this vital asset even more central to our community.

However after being closed for so long, with heating, water etc turned off, it's no surprise that the hall is in need of a spot of maintenance and TLC. In recent years some of our most stalwart supporters have left the village. So... if you are willing to be part of the Village Hall Action Group (VHAG) which maintains and runs the hall, please contact jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk or Tricia Robinson on 857255.

In July the electrics in the hall were thoroughly checked and overhauled, resulting in a sizeable bill which has made a dent in our finances. The departure of some Fulking residents as mentioned above has also reduced the monies that are regularly paid into the hall account through standing orders. These provide vital regular funds needed to maintain our hall. So – if you feel able to contribute a small sum in the form of a standing order, such as £5-£10 a month, it will make a really big difference. Please contact Jen Green or **Carol Mazgay** <frogmoremaz@aol.com> for more details / a standing order form.

Church News by Jane Warne

We were all so pleased at the beginning of August to be able to open our four churches in the parish and return to real services using the same rota as before, and starting at 10.00. For details of services please see the accompanying leaflet. All services will also be zoomed. We look forward to welcoming you either in person or online. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84660338130?pwd=Y2c0eVlzT1Q1dU81dStEbmY4SHZRZz09>. The passcode is 536874. Now we are getting back to normal help is needed again both inside and outside the church. Will you consider joining our cleaning and gardening rotas? This only means giving up a couple of hours three or four times a year to help us keep our beautiful church and graveyard in good condition. We would love to hear from you. Contact 07812-465-669 or standrewsedburton@yahoo.co.uk.

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 – deadline is one week before.