

# pigeon.post@fulking.net

SPRING EDITION MARCH–MAY 2022

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fulking Village cleanup** Sunday April 10, 10.30am, see article below.

**Easter Services** April 10 Palm Sunday  
Newtimber 10am, Pyecombe 6pm;  
April 14 Maunday Thursday Edburton 7pm;  
April 15 Good Friday Pyecombe Middy;  
April 17 Easter Sunday Eucharist Poynings 10am

**Seedling Saturday** Saturday, May 7,  
10.30am-1pm, Fulking Village Hall, see below

**Hymns and Pimms Songs of Praise service**  
Sunday May 29, 6 pm, Edburton

**Royal Jubilee celebration picnic** Sunday June 4  
or 5, 2pm in the North Town Field, see below

**Fulking Fair** July 24, 12-5pm, details to follow

## REGULAR EVENTS

Events take place in Fulking Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

**Yoga** - continuing online Mondays 9.30-10.30.  
also 18.30-19.30. Both classes drop in, mixed  
ability. Contact Tricia Robinson 255

**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, 2-4pm. Contact Tricia Robinson

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

**Table tennis** Twice a month on Fridays from  
7.30 pm. Contact Jen Green  
[jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk) or tel 552

**Book Nook**, Fulking Chapel. 2nd Sunday in the  
month 11-4pm, or by arrangement with jane  
warne <[lkhenfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lkhenfield@yahoo.co.uk)>

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

A lot is going on in our village at the moment and  
below is an update on some hot topics:

### Downlands School Allocations

After a campaign last year, we managed (with the  
help of our County and District Councillors) to

get West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to  
allocate places at Downlands school for children  
who had previously had their applications  
rejected. One family this year also had their  
application refused and sought help from  
ourselves for the appeal. I am pleased to say that  
WSCC have now also changed their mind and  
allocated a space. However, the fact remains that  
residents are being initially refused their first  
choice of Downlands school, which is creating  
unnecessary anxiety for local families. We will be  
discussing school allocations at our next Parish  
Council meeting on April 7 at 7.30pm in the  
Village Hall. I would encourage people to attend  
so you have an opportunity to express your views  
directly to County and District Councillors.

### Full Fibre Broadband Scheme

Although by the February 25 closing date, we  
achieved 100% of our target unfortunately a  
number of the pledges made were not valid and  
we are now short of the number required for the  
scheme to go ahead. Thankfully Openreach have  
agreed to extend the deadline so we can get more  
pledges. The pledge site remains open ([https://  
www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity](https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity)) so  
we would ask anyone who has not made a pledge  
yet and has received a letter from us inviting  
them to do so, to pledge now.

### Village Hall Update

A public meeting was held on December 4 2021  
where a proposal to set up a Village Hall Trust to  
buy the land and hall from the Church for £75k  
was presented and discussed. At the end of the  
meeting a vote was taken and 80% of attendees  
voted in favour of proceeding with the proposal.  
Plans to launch the fund-raising campaign are on  
hold at the moment awaiting formal approval  
from the church to proceed with the sale. In the  
meantime, a Fulking Village Hall Trust is being  
set up which will be the best way to raise funds  
and secure the hall for the community.

### Road Closures

We recognise it is necessary to close roads from  
time to time, however the recent situation where  
WSCC shut two out of the three roads from our  
village was unacceptable. The PC raised this with  
WSCC and we are hopeful that they will take  
action to stop this occurring in future.

### Ladybrook Spring

Those of you who use Edburton Road will have  
noticed that Ladybrook Spring continues to flow  
across the road despite the drain cleaning that

was undertaken last year. Following pressure from the PC I am pleased to advise that WSCC have just confirmed approval of capital expenditure in this year's budget to undertake permanent repairs.

### **Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy**

You may have noticed a new tree in the North Town Field close to the playground. This tree was planted on March 26 as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy', a nationwide initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. The West Sussex Association of Local Councils has encouraged every town and parish council to plant at least one tree in its community and we were keen to play our part. I am pleased to say the North Town Field Trust approved our request to plant the tree and Tricia Robinson, Chair of the Trustees selected an apple tree called 'Red Windsor' also known as 'Sweet Lilibet', which fits the bill perfectly.

### **Bobson's No 91 April 2022**

#### **Rural housing support grants**

I understand that the government is proposing an annual grant of 20% of the rateable value of rural housing for properties with four or more bedrooms. This will be the cornerstone of 'Levelling up' to ensure that the responsibility of maintaining a large rural property is rewarded. As yet it is not quite clear how this will be implemented for billionaires, but some sort of compensation for their contribution to society will have to be found to allay public sentiment. Of course, if this comes to fruition it will form a major part of the Conservative manifesto at the next General Election. In the event that this will cause a surge in the demand for larger properties, a 'help to buy' scheme will be instigated, but only for taxpayers in the 40% bracket of income tax. (1.4.22)

#### **Bluebells**

By the middle/end of April we should have a really good display of bluebells at Furzefield. As it has been for the past 30 years, villagers, their families and friends are most welcome to have a walk around. Please take every care to stay on paths and keep children under strict control. Regrettably no dogs. Best if you give us a shout before you come (tel 271).

#### **Spring in Fulking** by Chris Gildersleeve

As I write this our garden is full of daffodils and celandines and the forsythia is bursting with yellow. We have had some lovely spring days, although they might be over for now. David has ploughed his fields to plant barley again this year. The village is coming back to normal now, despite high levels of covid infections. The toddlers group and and table tennis have resumed in the hall. The Quotations group is meeting in the hall garden when the weather is fine. I am

planning to hold a spring SEEDLING SATURDAY event in the village hall garden or in the hall if raining. NB Please contact chris gildersleeve<gilder6646@aol.com> if you can contribute seedlings or cuttings to make this viable. The provisional date is Saturday May 7, 10.30am-1pm. I know it is usually a Sunday but I am busy that Sunday and away the next one. I am assuming I will have plants but am under attack from wood mice in the greenhouse! I have caught three in my humane mousetrap, so I'm hoping there are no more! Proceeds will go towards Village Hall maintenance costs.

#### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee picnic**

A picnic in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been suggested in the North Town Field on 4/5 June 5 at 2pm, depending on the weather. More details to follow on the WhatsApp group if anyone will take the lead on this. Bring your picnic and a blanket.

#### **Fulking Annual Spring Clean**

Please come along on Sunday April 10 at 10.30 am. to keep our village free of rubbish. As usual there are four meeting points: Party 1 starts at the north end of Clappers Lane and heads south; Party 2 starts at the south end and works north. Party 3 meets at the Ram House by the pub and moves up The Street; Party 4 meets at The Dean in Poynings Road and works to The Street. If you can't make the suggested date and time, just make your own time and do your bit to keep our village beautiful. Any queries ring Jen on 552.

#### **Church news by Jane Warne**

Our Mid Downland Parish is supporting The Diocese in Europe and USPG who have launched a joint emergency appeal to support humanitarian work both in Ukraine and with refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries. Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities, churches and agencies carrying out humanitarian work in Ukraine and organisations helping Ukrainian refugees. Donate here to support this appeal:

<http://www.uspg.org.uk/ukraine>

At Edburton our bacon butties continue to be popular innovation and all are welcome to partake at about 11am after our monthly service on the first Sunday in each month. Details of our Easter Services are on our attached letter from Tim. After Palm Sunday palms can be collected in the porches of the church and chapel. The rest of our future plans and dates are included on our attached flier. In particular do join us on May 29 at 6pm for our Songs of Praise Service, Hymns and Pimms, at the start of the Jubilee week.

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