

pigeon.post@fulking.net

SPRING EDITION 2024 MARCH-MAY

Edited by Jen Green jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fulking Social Committee meeting
Saturday, March 2 10am, Village Hall

Easter services as follows:

Palm Sunday March 24 Pyecombe 10am

Maundy Thursday March 28 Communion with a simple meal, Newtimber 7pm

Good Friday March 29 meditation Pyecombe 12 noon

Easter Day March 31, Poynings 10am

Open Garden at Newtimber Place Sunday, April 21

Newtimber Church Brighton Fringe event 'An evening with Lady Montagu' Saturday May 4

REGULAR EVENTS

Events take place in Fulking Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Yoga All classes on Zoom at present: Mondays 6.30-7.30pm, Tuesdays at 7pm and Fridays at 9.30am. All are drop-in classes, mixed ability. Contact Tricia Robinson 255 or via the Community Skill Swap WhatsApp.

Quotations Mondays 11am. Discussion group reflecting on quotes from the world's faiths. Contact Samantha Leader 07479 458323

Craft and chat First and third Thursday in the month, 2-4pm. Contact Tricia Robinson

Toddlers / family coffee mornings Wednesdays 10.00-11.30 in term time, A friendly group for toddlers, older children and carers. Toys, singing, refreshments. £1. Contact toddlers.fulkingvillagehall@gmail.com.

Table tennis Once a month on Fridays from 7.30 pm. Contact Jen Green 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>

Fulking Events 2024 by SallyAnn Brownie, Chair of Fulking Social Committee
It has been suggested that this year, Fulking Fair be more of a 'village fun day'. The aim is to have a smaller event but to have local villages and residents more involved. We hope to have local arts and crafts stalls, music from a steel band, ice

creams and games for adults and children. We suggest bringing your own picnic, but there will be tea and cakes in the village hall and a bottle tombola or raffle to raise much needed funds. Currently the plan is to return to the North Town Field for this smaller event, but request extra field parking if needed. Suggested date is Sunday June 16, save the date in your diary! And do contact me if you want to join in.

Fulking Parish Council Report by Mark Hind, Chair of Fulking PC

Speed limits

If you have travelled along Clappers Lane you will have seen that the new signage for the 30mph speed limit is now installed. All speed limit decisions are made by West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and although a 20mph limit would have been preferable and was requested, it was not legally possible. The PC felt that going for the lower limit which could be approved was better than leaving the lane derestricted. Following discussions with Poynings and Upper Beeding PCs, a joint application to reduce the derestricted sections of Poynings and Edburton Roads to 40mph has been submitted to WSCC. The outcome will be shared.

Parish Priorities Statement

The PC has decided to proceed with producing a Parish Plan as encouraged by the South Downs National Park Parish Priorities Statement initiative. It is essential for us to gather the views of residents, so we are currently preparing a questionnaire which will be circulated to all as part of the consultation process. We expect to circulate this in the next few weeks, and further details will be shared once it is finalised.

Playground

New swings seats were installed in February, but it is clear that the playground equipment is coming towards the end of its life, especially the wooden elements, which are slowly deteriorating. Parish Councillors undertake bi-weekly inspections of the equipment, but if you notice any items needing urgent attention, please inform the Parish Clerk, parishclerk@fulking.net.

Winter in Fulking by Chris Gildersleeve
Well, spring is almost here — though it seems to have changed its mind for now! Daffodils, crocuses and cyclamens are in bloom, and the lovely magnolia next door is in bud, so

fingers crossed for no more frost. We seem to have our usual quota of road repairs, not always getting a warning. The Community Skill Swap Group on WhatsApp is still doing a grand job informing about closed roads, offering unwanted objects, and sharing information of all kinds! As some of you know, I had an operation in January and thank everyone for messages of support and offers of help. I definitely believe being ill in a village is better than being ill in a town!

A visit to a local waste recycling facility by Andrew Iverson

West Sussex residents can book a free visit to the Biffa Waste Recycling Facility near Ford Airfield, and my wife Angela and I went recently. We were moderate recyclers before our visit; now we are minded to try harder. The two-hour visit is well organised and comprises an interesting presentation over a cup of coffee followed by a described view of the process from a viewing platform above the machinery. Some observations I did not appreciate before I went:

- Seeing waste on this scale brings home the large amount of valuable resources that we currently throw away.
- Efficient recycling depends on recycling bins containing separated, clean, dry, and loose recyclable rubbish — not stuffed together, not bagged, nor wet.
- Recycling is profitable — the recycled materials are worth much more than the cost of collection and the profit is shared between WSCC and Biffa.
- We could all recycle more, especially aluminium cans and foil.
- The label on the inside lid of our bin has been very carefully composed and tells us what to do.
- Fires from broken electrical goods and discarded batteries (especially lithium rechargeable) are an issue. Electrical devices and batteries should not be put in any waste bin — take them to recycling point e.g. in a shop.
- Processing the paper makes a lot of dust.
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If you fancy a look for yourself then go to the West Sussex Council website [Book a visit to Ford MRF - West Sussex County Council](#)

Bobervation No 113 and 114 Badger Cull

You may be unaware that the badger cull in England is proceeding without any proof that it is effective in reducing TB in cattle, whereas vaccination is successful. I do exhort you to protest this wicked and cruel way of eliminating one of our largest native wild mammals. I am currently protesting via AVAAZ but you will have your own method.

Post Office

It should come as a salutary lesson to all of us that despite living in a democracy, if a government or government agency wishes it can inflict grossly unfair treatment on any individual or group of individuals it cares to. Such has happened to the 900 or so Sub-postmasters over the last twenty-odd years and is still not justly resolved. Whilst remaining apolitical, I would encourage you, when given the chance to cast your vote in a General Election, to consider yourself in the position of a post office sub-postmaster, and decide who you would want representing you in Parliament.

Henfield

Having departed Fulking 18 months ago it seems worthwhile mentioning the many advantages accruing to Fulking being so close to Henfield. There is no bank, however an amazing variety of shopping is available, in many cases of a very high standard. Much of the absence of banks is supplemented by the excellent service provided by the Post Office. To preserve continuity of friendships Henfield is a logical move when the relative remoteness of Fulking becomes difficult due to age or infirmity. This major village is probably one of the kindest and socially active places in the UK, with a multitude of clubs and societies open to anyone interested.

Hall heating help by Jen Green

The cost of heating the village hall has risen very, very steeply in the last year. We want to keep the incredibly low hall fee of just £1 per villager unchanged, but are requesting an additional voluntary contribution of £1 per session in winter, to help pay for heating. Without this the hall simply won't be sustainable.

Church news by Jane Warne

As we settle into 2024, we resume our normal pattern of services with Edburton holding ours on the first Sunday in the month. Everyone is invited to join us for bacon butties and coffee at 11am following our service at 10. Easter Day will be celebrated at Poynings. Our next All Age Services will be on March 17 and May 10, and all children are invited to join us for singing, craft and refreshments at Poynings. The Parish Annual Meeting is on Sunday May 5 at Edburton.

The Book Nook continues to open on the second Sunday in the month from 11am-4pm, or by arrangement. Books and Bric-a-Brac are always welcome. Contact 07812-465-559 for more details.

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 – deadline is one week before.