



**SPRING EDITION 2025 MARCH-MAY**

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Poynings Village Open Evening** Saturday, March 15 6.30 pm. Free chilli.

**Board games evening** Sunday March 16 7.30 see below

**Fulking Village Hall Open Meeting and appeal launch** Saturday, March 22, 11am-12noon, see below

**Fulking Spring Clean** Sunday March 30 10.30 am, see below

**Easter services** as follows:

**Ash Wednesday** March 5, 7pm Newtimber

**Mothering Sunday** March 30 10am Poynings

**Palm Sunday** April 15 10am Newtimber

**Good Friday Meditation** April 18 12 noon Poynings

**Easter Day** April 20, Poynings 10am

**Downland Parish events** For more info contact Jane Warne <[lkhenfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lkhenfield@yahoo.co.uk)>

**Lily Ramona folk evening** April 12 Poynings village hall

**Spring parish walk from Edburton to Pyecombe** May 4

**Bat watch evening**, May 8, Newtimber

**Hamlet one-man show** Poynings village hall May 9

**Pyecombe Spring flower festival and plant sale** May 10-11

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

Events take place in Fulking Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

**Yoga** Mondays 6.30-7.30pm on Zoom at present but returns to the hall or North Town Field after Easter. Other classes on Zoom: 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 subjects such as kindness, death, resilience, truth etc. Members contribute quotes from world faiths, philosophers and writers for discussion. New members welcome, 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](mailto:toddlers.fulkingvillagehall@gmail.com).

**Table tennis** Once 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)>

**News from Fulking Social Committee** by Sally Brownie

As we said goodbye to 2024 and the very festive Christmas Village Party we look back on a very successful Call My Bluff evening which brought so many of our community together for probably the most fun we've jointly had since Lockdown. Huge thanks again to all involved and next September we plan to host a similar evening for us all to enjoy.

The Soc Com AGM is on Saturday, March 1 at 10.30am. Here we can reflect on the last year, the accounts and planning future events. Any residents who would like to join us are most welcome. So looking forward to 2025 and the spring and summer ahead and supporting the exciting VH fundraising campaign. Watch this space for events throughout the year.

**Fulking Village Hall Campaign News** by Jen Green for the CIO

Following the establishment of Fulking Village Hall CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to raise £85,000 to buy the hall from the Church for the community, great strides have been made over the winter. The CIO has negotiated that we have until the end of 2025 to raise the money. Just as important, we also plan to improve the hall so that it better serve our community. To that end we circulated a questionnaire to all residents about hall use and how we can improve it. We received an amazing 75 responses – a great result in a village of less than 300 people (although some replies were from non-residents). We also held an Open Day on January 11 to invite suggestions as to the way forward, which was well attended, with scores of lively suggestions!

**Consultation response and next steps**

The overwhelming response was that residents value the hall as a hub for the community.

Villagers would like to see more events and activities take place there, and support moves to make the hall more sustainable environmentally and financially. We hope to have news of more social activities soon, including monthly get-togethers for board games evenings and hopefully breakfast and afternoon tea.

We will shortly be publishing a Business Plan based on residents' responses and the CIO's vision to improve the hall for 2025 and beyond. The next step is an Open Meeting on Saturday, March 22, 11am-12noon to formally launch the appeal, give details of our business plan, and celebrate 100 years of our hall, commissioned a century ago this year.

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

#### **Noticeboard and signs**

Following damage caused by the winter storms a new parish noticeboard has been installed outside the village hall. West Sussex County Council has now installed the new 40mph speed limit signs along Poynings and Edburton Roads.

#### **RAM Pump Roof**

Access has now been gained to the pump house which has been cleared of mud and a professional assessment of its condition including the roof has been undertaken. Repair of the roof is a priority and we are awaiting quotations for this repair.

#### **Village Hall**

A charity called the Fulking Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has been set up with the aim of purchasing the village hall from the Church to protect its ongoing use by the community. Various information gathering and fund-raising initiatives are underway and the PC will be discussing how we can support this valuable community asset at our next PC meeting on Thursday April 10, 19.30 in the village hall.

#### **Board Games Evening**

By popular request we are launching a regular board games evening in the village hall on Sunday March 16 from 7.30pm. Hopefully this will become a regular fixture. For more info contact Jen 552 or Michael 011.

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

Please come along on Sunday March 30 at 10.30am 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 by the Shepherd and Dog and moves up The Street; Party 4 meets at The Dean in Poynings Road and works to The Street. For more info contact Jen Green 552. If you can't make the suggested date and time, just make your own time and do your bit to keep our village looking beautiful.

**Winter in Fulking** by Chris Gildersleeve  
Spring has seemed a long time coming this year! Snowdrops came on time, but daffodils are behind schedule. They have showed a little progress in the last few warmer days. At least we don't have to walk the dog by 4pm as the days are lengthening! Potholes continue to be destructive. There has been progress on the potential sale of the village hall, with ten trustees with a variety of skills. Fundraising for £85,000 will start soon!

#### **Bobversations** No 124 and 125 Excerpts

Martin Easdown has put together a most delightful and informative paperback (A4 size) history of the Dyke. This has extensive details of the three railways connected with the area, and marvellous photographs from various archives. The original hardback edition was published in 2023 by Marsteila & Brighton & Hove Museums. I got my copy from the dedicated Poynings villager Sheila Marshall, who had a few copies for sale at £10. This is an absolute 'steal' for anyone interested in local history.

#### **Fulking Village Hall**

The recent highly successful open meeting on the subject of the village hall seems at last to have opened up the subject of the acquisition of the property from the Church. Of course there are some villagers who feel that the acquisition should be made as a free gift to Fulking village. Despite what evidence there is to show that the property is an asset of the Church, I would have thought that as gesture of goodwill and in view of the considerable sums that have been spent by villagers over the years on maintaining the property, this might be the case.

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

Spring seems to be coming at last and our churchyard is looking particularly lovely at the moment with some areas being covered with snowdrops. Please do come and visit and share the peace and beauty of the surroundings.

Our 'Church Mice' are now resuming meetings and activities following their winter hibernation! We meet regularly to plan fundraising and social events in support of our lovely church. Activities include collecting books and bric-a-brac to sell at parish events and at the monthly Book Nook sale. We regularly clean the church and have 'garden' days when we tidy up the churchyard. More help is always welcome. Come and meet us when we spring clean the church on Tuesday April 8. A very Happy Easter to everyone.

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.