pigeon.post@fulking.net

WINTER EDITION DEC 2026–JAN 2027 Edited by Jen Green jengreenuk@yahoo.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fulking Xmas Party, Friday December 4 6.30-8pm, Fulking Village Hall

Lighting of the tree Dec 6, 6pm, Cora's Corner Poynings for carols, mince pies and mulled wine

Preston Nomads Christmas Fair Sunday Dec 6 3-7pm Preston Nomads Cricket Club, Fulking

Christmas carol service with Sussex brass band December 13, Pyecombe, 6pm.

Toddlers' Xmas Party Dec 16, 10am Fulking village hall. Father Xmas is coming!

Carol singing around Fulking **T**uesday Dec 23, starting 5pm from 37 Clappers Lane for mulled wine and finishing at the Shepherd and Dog at 6pm to sing carols..

Christmas services: **December 24**, 4pm Crib service, Poynings; 9.30pm Bethlehem Midnight mass St Andrew's Edburton
December 25, 10am St John the Evangelist, Newtimber

REGULAR EVENTS

Events take place in Fulking Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Yoga My Monday evening class 6.30-7.30pm is on Zoom for winter. Other classes are all on Zoom. I am a BWY trained teacher, with a medical background and I have taught yoga for over 40 years. WhatsApp me via the community skills WhatsApp. or 07729688636.

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 & third Thursdays 2-4pm, with refreshments. A friendly group, you can bring any activity to work on, there is plenty of help & advice. Donations towards the hall & heating are gratefully received. Contact Tricia.

Toddlers A friendly group for the under 5s, on Wednesdays, 10-11.30am. Babies & children need to be accompanied by an adult. We have refreshments, plenty of toys & sing at the end. Please make a donation towards the hall & refreshments. Contact Tricia or toddlers.fulking@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. Open second Sunday of the month, 11-4pm, or by arrangement with Jane Warne <lkhenfield@yahoo.co.uk>

Fulking Village Hall Update

On November 14 Fulking Village Hall Trust (the CIO) held a public meeting to discuss next steps following the Church's decision to withdraw from sale of the hall – a decision made by the local Church Council (PCC) in June, but only explained four months later. The meeting was attended by 67 people, with a total of around 100 expressing disappointment at the PCC's decision.

There was strong community support for the CIO's resolve to challenge the finality of this decision. The CIO continues to invite the Church to reopen negotiations and reach an agreement that will allow us to move forward and rebuild bonds between Church and community. Meanwhile Fulking Parish Council (FPC) has secured the hall's listing as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), which gives the community six months to bid if the PCC decides to sell the hall on the open market. We're also taking steps to secure protection under the Landlord and Tenant Act (1954), but seeking to avoid legal processes and ultimately enforcement, we would much rather reach amicable agreement. The CIO remains determined to protect the hall for the benefit of the community for generations to come.

Wishing you a very happy festive period,
The CIO Trustees

Fulking Parish Council (FPC) News

Councillors

The council has sadly said goodbye to Mark Hind after 14 years of being a Councillor and latterly Chairman of FPC, following his house move to pastures new. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Mark, who worked tirelessly to support the village during his time on the PC.

We are however delighted to welcome Peter Boarder as a new Councillor. Peter has lived in the village for four years and is also a

Trustee of the CIO. We currently have a vacancy for a Councillor. So if you are interested please contact one of our Councillors or email clerk@fulking-pc.gov.uk for more information.

Village Hall
The FPC is extremely disappointed to learn that the Church have withdrawn from sale of Fulking Village Hall to the CIO, advising that they wish to sell on the "open market". The hall has been a valuable asset to the community for over 100 years. However, the Council has recently re-registered the Village Hall as an "Asset of Community Value" and we are reviewing other matters pertaining to the status of the hall in order to protect the asset going forward. We are still hopeful that Rev Tim and the PCC will re-think their decision.

North Town Field
Following the tree survey undertaken in June 2026 the Council has now arranged for the tree works to start. This will rectify the main issues identified in the survey.

Planning
Mark Hind and Geoff Zeidler (MSDC Downland Villages Councillor) attended the Small Acres Planning Appeal Hearing on Tuesday 25 August. They both made strong representations at the hearing, objecting to the development. Despite all representations, including the objection of the South Downs National Park Authority, the Planning Inspector quashed the previous enforcement notice and granted planning permission for one Gypsy plot.

Events in Fulking by Benjamin Murray
Call my Bluff
Thank you to everyone who joined in on Saturday 7 November for a hilarious and highly entertaining Call My Bluff Wine Evening at Fulking Village Hall. It was wonderful to have over 40 people together for a fun evening. It was a perfect example of how important this community asset is for people who live here.

Fulking Village Christmas Party: Friday 4th December (6:30-8pm). Open to all in neighbouring villages, with delicious mulled wine and mince pies provided. Bring a plate of finger food to share so we can celebrate the festive season together as a community.

On the farm by David Ellin
I can hardly believe that nearly 18 years have passed since taking up the reins at Perching Manor Farm. Like most of Britain's hardworking farmers, producing high quality food whilst trying to look after and enhance our natural environment has always been my passion.

You may be wondering what the thick green crop is that we've planted this autumn in several fields on the farm. Known as multi-species winter cover crop, it contains fodder radish, crimson clover, phacelia, oats and vetch. It grows rapidly, absorbing nutrients which may leach from the soil over winter, such as nitrogen and potassium. Plant roots also set to work breaking up the soil to improve drainage and help increase our worm numbers. After a few frosts you'll probably see the crop start to wilt, and by the spring I'll aim to reincorporate it back into the soil where it'll release the captured nutrients ready for the next crop to be planted.

Predicting the weather when choosing the crops to plant is all part of being a farmer, but the more unpredictable and extreme it becomes, these decisions are all the more important. Fortunately linseed seems to favour a summer drought, so come next summer you'll be once again treated to an amazing sea of blue flowers.

Bobservation The Last Post by Miles Firth
In the spirit of Bob Rowland, who sadly died in September, it seems appropriate to make some observations on how to be a key part of the local community. It helps to live here for decades, be on good terms with everyone around you and to have a beautiful bluebell garden which you open to all every spring. More formally, you can get involved in the Parish Council and support it long after you finish your term. Or perhaps run a Social Committee to protect village activities and assets. But how do you fund these? Well, you could run an award winning Village Fair, or hold an annual Call My Bluff wine evening and tell a few 'edgy' stories to spice things up a bit. Later in life you can reflect on village matters, world affairs or social inequity every month in the village newsletter or website. Then maybe become involved in regular quotations meetings to debate the deeper philosophical topics with other villagers.

Bob did all of these things and much more – of course supported and encouraged by Pam. He was a true gentleman and an example for us all of what community involvement means. Fulking will miss him.

Autumn in Fulking by Chris Gildersleeve
Early September was still too hot! We did get some rain; the grass turned from yellow to green almost instantly, and local sheep looked more comfortable. Garden flowers lasted a long time, and some are still blooming. November brought more wintery weather and a lovely late show of colour on the trees. Sussex is still very low on water, and our reservoirs have not yet recovered, so we still need to be careful with water.

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