



FULMER NEWSLETTER
May 2013
ISSUE 53
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SPRING IS IN THE AIR?

“If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” asks the poet, Shelley, in his ‘Ode to the West Wind’ and how often must we in turn have asked this in a long-enduring and bitterly cold Winter. True we did not have the pre-Christmas snows of the previous year, but the winds of February/March have been biting and if one allowed for wind chill, daily temperatures had a long spell below zero. One was left with great respect for those creatures who seem to know by instinct only to leave their hibernation when warmth has returned to the Earth. There was a brief let-up, one Tuesday, when the temperature rose to 18 degrees and the warmth of the sun could be felt on one’s back so that Spring gardening and sowing seeds became a possibility. But by the next day the North Easterly wind had made an unwelcome reappearance and we shivered once more.

But behind this there were many signs that Nature was seeking to re-establish itself: the snowdrops and the croci in flower; the new buds appearing on trees and shrubs and on the clematis, forsythia and many others; daffodils, narcissi and grape hyacinths bursting from the ground the birds, aware of the lengthening of the days, singing their evening songs later and later. It was as though Dame Nature was saying; “You mortals must behave as you must but I have an eternal Agenda to fulfil”. The poet tells us ‘in Flanders’ fields, the poppies blow’ to soften the horrors of the Western Front in the Great War and from personal observation I know that willow herb grew to hide the scars of homes left in ruins by the Blitz and we know that through it all Nature will be constant in adapting to the demands of each succeeding year.

And what of us mortals? Well, the media tells us that we have not been behaving very well of late. One scandal seems to follow another affecting the time-honoured cornerstones of our lives – our Politicians, the Police, the Press, the Health Authorities and even Mother Church. It has been so much the Institutions themselves that have been at fault as some of those engaged in them, which undermines the whole and leaves people uncertain of where they stand. As one scandal has followed another, it has been suggested that we have become scandal-fatigued and accept each with a shrug of the shoulders. But this is dangerous for any community. A popular word at the moment is that such and such is ‘unacceptable’. Is it not then right to make every endeavour to turn the unacceptable to be ‘acceptable’! Some efforts are made to ensure that it can never happen again but these are not sustained and sadly it does happen again, in some guise or another, again all too shortly afterwards. History has shown that one of the dangers in a secular society is that it loses the notion of what is right and what is wrong, leading to a series of moral compromises. We should beware!

It has been suggested that after all the triumphs of last Summer with the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the Paralympics, the summer of 2013 will be something of an anti-climax. It could be so, but successes provide a platform for the future. To me the great successes of 2012 were firstly the demonstration of what we as a nation, acting in an united way, can achieve, both in presentation to the World and in the prowess of our athletes and that army of cheerful volunteers; secondly is that renewal of confidence it gave us all and thirdly (and I admit to some personal partiality in this) the awareness of what can be done if we foster the courage of our disabled people in their wish to play a full part in the lives of their communities. My prayer would be that the Summer of 2013 is seen as a time to consolidate and expand and not to let what was so good, evaporate.

EDWARD GUINNESS

ADRIANA ROZEK

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST



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PERSONALIA

Births

We congratulate:

Anna and Phil Mann on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Grace, on 28 January, a sister for Zoe and Sophie. Phil is the Associate Minister of St James' Church and the family live at 54 The Uplands. On Palm Sunday Zoe and Sophie handed out the palm crosses at Fulmer Church.

Juliet and Edward Ryder of West Isley, Berkshire on the birth of their daughter, Holly Diana Emily on 18 December, a granddaughter for Rosie and Ronnie Lamb of Dunrobin, Stoke Common Road.

Weddings

We send good wishes for great happiness in their future life together to:

Natasha Louise Stone and Matthew Steward Price who were married in Fulmer Church on 15 December. The bride is the daughter of Sue and Richard Stone of Howards Wood Drive, Gerrards Cross. She is a nurse and he is a doctor.

Mandeep, daughter of Karamjit Kaur And Joginder Singh Chana and Supinder, son of Baljeet Kaur and Avtar Singh Sian of Copthorne, Windmill Road whose wedding and wedding celebration took place on Sunday, 21 April at Copthorne.

Funerals

We record with great sadness the funeral in Fulmer Church on 16 January of Jean Christina Lathey. Jean lived at Cosgrove, Windsor Road and died aged 83. She has entered the family grave of her mother, Ethel Alice Dubber, in Fulmer Churchyard. For

Also the funeral of Brenda Lilian Kelly, the wife of Peter Kelly, Clerk to Fulmer Parish Council, on 28 February at St Edwards's Roman Catholic Church, Alma Road, Windsor. Until recently Brenda and Peter had lived at Vale Road in Windsor but had moved to Maidenhead.

Burial of Ashes

Roy John Nichols on 27 February. Roy died in Wexham Park Hospital on 6 February aged 84. He lived at Winroys, Farthing Green Lane, Stoke Poges. His ashes have entered the family grave in Fulmer Churchyard. For many years he was a familiar figure in Fulmer pushing Winifred, his wife, in her wheelchair on Fulmer Day

in particular and during cricket matches at the Recreation Ground. When Winifred died he wrote a moving tribute to her which appeared in the 2009 Newsletter. They were married in Fulmer Church in 1952 but tragically lost their son, Robert, aged 27 in a car accident in 1980 and their daughter, Virginia Couzens, aged 42, in April 1999.

Achievements

Patrick Sanders, son of Marianne and John Sanders of The Ridings, Windmill Road has been promoted to the rank of Major-General. Patrick is now Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations). He was formerly with the Green Jackets and the Rifle Regiment and in the course of his career became a Commander of the British Empire and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. (*Patrick's father, John, has written a fascinating article in this Newsletter describing about both their careers*).

Spencer Evans-Walker has been appointed Deputy Head Boy for the Chalfonts Community College for the next academic year. Spencer lives with his mother, Tracey, at Oakley, Hay Lane.

Peter and Henrietta Greig with their son William at Pipers' Farm, Cullompton, Devon won the South West Country nomination in the Local Food Championship sponsored by the Daily Telegraph. DEFRA, The Countryside Alliance, The Farmers' Guardian and 'Hunter Wellies'. The Final took place at the House of Lords on Wednesday, 13 March from which Pipers' Farm emerged as the National Champions for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Peter and Henrietta are the son-in-law and daughter of Elizabeth and Edward Guinness of Huyton Fold, Windmill Road. Peter is President of Fulmer Cricket Club.

STEPHEN HARRIS
1951-2012

Steve and I met in January 1968 when I was sixteen and he was seventeen. It is safe to say that I cannot remember a time when we have not been together ... until now.

Steve was an apprentice footballer at Watford and I was training to be a hairdresser. We started our journey with our wedding on 8 April 1972. By this time Steve had started building with his Dad and we soon settled in our first home in Farnham Common. After 3 years we moved to Iver Heath where our first child, Yvette, was born. At this time Steve was playing football for Hertfordshire, then Amersham. Our first son, Gregory, was born in 1979 followed by Howard in 1982. We moved another three times in Iver Heath before settling in Fulmer in 1993. Steve was always busy renovating houses, which in turn gave us a secure livelihood. Steve started to play cricket for Fulmer while taking on a managerial position for Hillingdon Borough Football Club. I think Steve will always be remembered for his kindness and willingness to help anyone who needed him. He was a very popular man who was loved by so many as we could see by the 250+ people at his funeral last August.

Steve was all about “family”; he built our lovely homes and loved us all unconditionally. Steve will always be with us in our thoughts and our hearts. He was a very special and loving man.

There are not enough words in the world to describe him and what we all miss about him and all his loving ways. We miss his jokes, his laughter and most of all his love and the love for us all. What we wouldn't give to have him for just one minute more to hug him and tell him how much we love him.

YVETTE HARRIS, his wife

BRENDA LILIAN KELLY
1921-2013

Brenda was born in Wallasey, Cheshire in February 1921. Her father, Walter, was a Captain in the Pacific Steam Navigation Company which sailed out of Liverpool. He had the privilege of being able to take his wife and daughter on board and Brenda loved the coastal trips he used to take them on. She attended Wallasey Girls' High School and when the School was evacuated to North Wales at the start of the War, she became a keen tennis player at the Prestatyn Club. She also showed great talent at tapestry, much of which is still retained within the family.

During the War, Brenda served as an Operations Room Plotter with the WAAF in the control room at Rednal Airfield near Oswestry. In fact Mum and Dad met at Prestatyn when he was serving in the Merchant Navy as a Radio Officer. Their courting was much interrupted by his absences at sea but they were to marry in Prestatyn Church in December 1959.

They moved from the Wirral to Essex where Alison and I were born in 1961 and 1963 respectively. Family holidays, weekends together and parties made for very happy childhoods and they achieved a great reputation for their hospitality. A memorable moment occurred on a holiday in Spain when the champagne flowed perhaps a little too freely and Dad had to push Mum home in a wheelbarrow!

The family moved to Windsor in 1975 when Dad changed his job. They were welcomed into the Windsor community especially at the Church. Brenda went through the stages of being a loving wife, devoted mother and latterly a devoted grandmother to her five grandchildren. She loved every moment of being surrounded by members of both her own and her extended, close-knit family.

Sadly since September Mum had been in and out of hospital with her condition deteriorating daily and now she has gone to rest and is in peace.

THERESA MARKS, her daughter

The beautiful Requiem Mass and Celebration for the life of Brenda Kelly took place at St Edward's Roman Catholic Church, Windsor on Thursday, 28 February. She was the wife of Peter Kelly, Clerk to Fulmer Parish Church Council since 2000. Members of the Fulmer Parish Council, past and present, attended.

From our MP

I always hope at each New Year that the coming 12 months will be a quiet one in respect of local constituency matters. But I have to admit that four months into 2013 there is plenty locally to keep me busy. The new planning project for Pinewood (168 letters against and 8 local letters in favour) and the Secondary Academy in Stoke Poges (614 against and 12 in favour) all highlight community disquiet over possible developments with which the District Council is going to have to grapple.

As I explained at the public meeting I attended concerning the school, I will endeavour to ensure that the strength of local concerns in both cases is fully understood by both the District Council and by central government. In the case of the school I have had a meeting with officials and the junior minister to do just that. But I cannot guarantee that opponents will be successful. The shortage of land in the South east and the pressures from population growth in the last 15 years largely fuelled by the previous government's immigration policies are raising difficult challenges that are only likely to increase over the coming years.

I hope I may have an opportunity to meet more residents over the summer and that the weather this year may allow us to enjoy the outdoor delights that South Bucks has to offer and which I wish to see maintained for future generations!

Dominic Grieve

From the Parish Council

What has the last six months been about? Planning, planning, planning. What will the forthcoming months be about? Planning, planning, planning. Just in case you haven't been reading and listening to the Media the whole planning process is currently under pressure and nowhere more so than our Green Belt and our Village. I'll start with the concerns about plans for redevelopment of the Muschamp Stud site, which were very tentative and in the end not real. Now the community has a chance to determine future developments can happen in the Village, and prevent unwanted ones, by participating in a process known as the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This means that decisions on local development in Fulmer can now be determined and set in stone by our community. However, there is a lot of work to do to ensure this happens. It will contain a vision for what we as a community want in terms of planning policies to be enacted in the future for Fulmer. If you would like to get involved in shaping this please let me know as we are now looking for volunteers to set up the Working Party to start the process.

If we have a plan it will have to be taken notice of and will have some weight in planning issues and protect the Village for years to come.

The new Pinewood Studios planning application has been submitted and the date set by South Bucks District Council (SBDC) for the first hearing is 16.15hrs on Wednesday 15th May at the Capswood offices on the A40. It's even more important that we resist this development again, as it will mean construction traffic (large lorries) through the Village for fifteen years and then even more commercial traffic on a daily basis, serving the newly built film sets and the promised thousands of new jobs. SBDC are providing the same facilities in terms of a marquee as last time. Please make an effort to go, as they are relying on our apathy. This time it is not a done deal just because we won last time as this time Pinewood have Peel Holdings' money behind them. They really don't intend to lose.

We also now have a date for the Appeal Hearing for the illegal development of the Green Belt at the end of Fulmer Lane, by the travellers. It has been set for 16th July at SBDC. I hope those of you who pass the site will take the time to come and show your feelings about the illegal development. Proofs of evidence need to be with the Planning Inspectorate by 18th June. More details can be found at www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk case id APP/N0410/A/12/2185586.

The new Fulmer Place of Worship in Windmill Road, which was previously occupied by the Exclusive Brethren will now be a public place of worship for the Khodam Al Mahdi Organisation, registered charity 1137000. The new owners have been invited to the next Parish Council meeting so we as a community will have the opportunity to understand their plans for the site and any consequences in terms of increase in traffic etc. If they accept we will let you know.

The presentation of the planning application to SBDC for the new Secondary School in Stoke Poges has been postponed to Wednesday 22nd May. The Parish Council has been opposing the conversion of the Pioneer site to a School on two grounds, the obvious increase of traffic through the Village from 840 pupils and 100 staff and consequent pressure on the Green Belt, and the loss of free travel to Chalfont Community School for children living in Fulmer, unless they want to go to the School in Stoke Poges. We are still awaiting developments at Fulmer Hall and The Pickeridge.

We now have a Fulmer Christmas Party committee organising this year's Village Christmas party taking place on Friday 13th December. With lots of involvement from our local community it will be a fun as well as festive evening.

The PC is sharing with Hedgerley Parish Council the purchase of a new Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign to be placed for six months along

specific stretches of our local roads, not only to remind motorists of the speed limits, but also, to collect data on the speed and volumes of traffic locally. We hope to use this data when defending planning applications such as the Pinewood, and Sikh School applications, on the increase in traffic grounds.

Fulmer will yet again be entering the Buckinghamshire's Best Kept Village competition this year. In order to improve our chances we will have a refurbished pole and plaques for all of our previous wins.

Michael Saxby is publishing a bigger and updated Featuring Fulmer, first published and sold out seven years ago. The new edition will be on sale in May at a cost of £10, making it a self-financing project for the Village. I have just finished the proof reading and can testify to it being a fascinating read, full of historical facts and anecdotes of our village through the centuries.

We can also report that the future of the Beehive Nursery School is now assured. This School has always attracted top marks with Ofsted and has been a feature of the Village community for over forty years. It also underpins the economy of the Village Hall, being its largest tenant, so a double result.

And finally on to our people, we say a very sad goodbye to our hard working and long standing County Councillor Peter Hardy who moves on to other areas as a result of boundary changes. Latterly, as the member of Cabinet with responsibility for Highways Peter has ensured Fulmer has had the road repairs it needed. We now welcome Roger Reed, not only a County Councillor but also Deputy Leader of South Bucks District Council and a member of the Planning Committee so I have every confidence Roger will be able to contribute to life in Fulmer, albeit in a different way. To find out more about what happens in the Parish and what the Parish Council do you for you (and how we spend your taxes!), you are always welcome to attend PC meetings, dates are published on the Village web site, www.fulmervillage.org. The next dates being Tuesday 14th May at 8pm for the Annual Parish Council meeting, followed a week later by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm to hear what other organisations do in the community, quite a village social occasion.

Finally, in mid February, our sympathies went out to Peter Kelly, our Parish Clerk who sadly lost his wife of over 60 years, Brenda. Brenda had been ill for a while and I'm sure she and her family felt relief when the end finally came. However, her inimitable dress sense, matched by her sense of fun and sociable personality will be missed by Peter and his daughters and their families for a long while to come. Brenda accompanied Peter on numerous Fulmer social occasions, and we will miss her too.

Pauline Vahey, CHAIRMAN, Fulmer Parish Council pvahey@btinternet.com

A new Plan is in place

Were you aware that in November 2012 our Policing system was radically changed when the election took place of our first ever Police Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld? He will be in office for four years. The election turnout was the lowest ever in recent years, only 13% of the national population participated. The new order of things is a plan produced by the Home Office to divide England into 42 policing districts each with its democratically elected Commissioner. The aim of the change is threefold, accountability, transparency and financial efficiency. The Commissioner is accountable to us, the electorate. His plans and actions will be made transparent and it should all cost less and be financially efficient. A Police Crime Panel has been set up on which I sit, along with 17 others from districts in the Thames Valley to scrutinise him, his plans and his budget. I represent you on this Panel and have direct access to the Commissioner on your behalf, so if you have an issue you should let me know.

It is very early days and there can be no radical change this financial year since the Police budget was set before he took office. Further, Anthony Stansfeld and his Deputy are very familiar with the Policing system having been involved in police organization for a long time so we can be confident in their observation of what works and what does not. This is not the case in all districts as you may have read in the Press. Some Commissioners are less familiar with the system and have made uncomfortable changes.

How will this new system benefit you? Firstly, the Policing objectives stay the same, which is to provide a crime and fear free environment, as much as is possible, and protect the vulnerable. Secondly (and this is a major change) all complaints and issues of dispute go through his office. This is important to us all because if you have a matter about which you are not happy you can direct your problem to him. Equally, if it is not pressingly urgent you can inform me and I will table a question for a public panel meeting so all could benefit from the response given. The Commissioner has a website, an email address and a department set up to deal with our questions. It is the aim of Anthony Stansfeld to visit all and everyone in the Thames Valley and to hold public meetings so if we want him in Fulmer we can ask.

He does have a lot of power but there are checks and balances which is where the Panel where I represent you comes in. He can hire and fire the Chief Constable, he can set up his own policing plan and he controls the budget. Across the Thames Valley which is one of the largest Policing areas and very diverse in needs, the operators of smaller budgets like Community Safety, Youth Offending Services, Police Community Support officers are looking anxiously to 2013/14 to see whether their budgets will change if the Commissioner's priorities alter. The complete Plan for 2013 has just been published and can be seen on the web. There is a clear aim to improve the success of Detection Rates, tackle rural crime more effectively and look for prevention of crime more effectively.

We are fortunate in the Thames Valley that we have not seen the excesses as reported in the Press in some areas. We do not have a Youth Crime Commissioner or large hordes of deputies; we do not have excesses of spending or staffing. You can rest assured that the Police Crime Panel (which is an unpaid group) scrutinises everything and would be on the case if any of these actions occurred. We will meet, six times a year in different areas of the Thames Valley and will host a large information exhibition event in the Summer to answer and inform those who wish to know more about how the system is working. There will be one session in South Bucks District Council offices, which will be publicised. Do please come.

So there we have it, democracy in action. It is like all things in our democratic system though only as good as the people involved. We have to be active, vigilant and informed if we want our needs to be met. I am anxious to pass on your concerns if and when you have them. Do be in touch so that our democratic policing in the Thames valley can be just that.

ANITA CRANMER District Councillor
Cabinet Member for Community and Community Safety
ac@thecranmers.com



**Fulmer Day 2013
Saturday 22nd June**

Fulmer Day is coming around again – that wonderful day when we step back in time. The road is closed, there are no cars and families are enjoying all the fun of the fair and stalls. This year we are truly family and children orientated with face painting, games, roundabout, slide, a new 'fun house' feature and loads more to make a great day out for the family.

We are fortunate enough to have two main sponsors again this year. Fulmer Day is again sponsored by The Black Horse who allow us to again take over their car park with the stage and fun fair as well as keeping thirsts quenched all day.

The Black Horse is of course the centre of the activities and this year our new landlords are really pushing the boat out with love music and entertainment going on into the night, so Fulmer Day is party day for everyone young and old!



Indigo have again sponsored the programme and are also providing authentic indian cuisine – it is so great to have the choices and Jazz and his team of chefs will be right outside the village with hot fresh food.

The RDA, The Scouts, The Brownies and of course Fulmer School will all be there raising funds and that is where you the great public come in. We need you to come along and have a great day out, spend some money, meet friends over a drink and some food and see a fantastic array of stalls – many coming for the very first time!

Fulmer Day Civic Awards

These awards recognise outstanding contributions to village life and when they were announced months ago, Edward Guinness very kindly offered his patronage to sponsor the Awards for five years and we are asking YOU for your nominations.

Who do you know who contributes to village life? Send your nominations to fulmerday2103@gmail.com by 20th May.



Anyone wanting to be kept informed regarding booking a stall or helping in any way can send an email to fulmerday2103@gmail.com. We hope to increase the number by another twenty stalls so next year will be a real humdinger. Keep **Saturday 22nd June** free in your diary and come and join in the fun on what I know will be another superb day in quintessential England.

Larry Brooks.

Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens, Church Lane, Stoke Poges,

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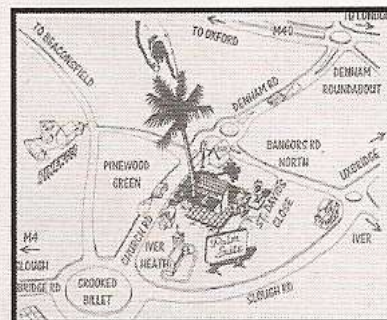
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Fulmer Infant School

The Spring term has been very busy but, sadly, the school had to be closed for three days at the start of the term due to unsafe weather conditions and a broken boiler. Fortunately we had just completed our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) so the children had enough work to access at home on the internet. Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Windsor Castle, which supplemented their learning of the topic 'Houses and Homes', and Year 2 had an excellent trip to the Roald Dahl Museum, Aylesbury, which enhanced their knowledge about 'Famous People' which was their topic this term. These trips are so important as they not only embed and enhance learning but also give children memorable experiences.

The whole school celebrated Story Telling week with a workshop from a drama and music group. The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing stories from different cultures with live music backing. World Book Day was celebrated by all the children as they brought in their favourite book to share with another member of the school. Everyone had the opportunity to read with a different year group and enjoy listening to and reading a story. This was also covered by the press.

As the only Fair Trade school in Buckinghamshire we celebrated Fair Trade fortnight in style with a spectacular 3D display in the foyer at Tesco in Gerrards Cross. There was also coverage in the Bucks Advertiser.

Mrs Mardell, supported by Mrs Bhatti, led an excellent writing workshop for Years 1 and 2. Parents reported that they have an even better understanding on how to support their children improve their Literacy skills.

The flooring in Year 1 had been a cause for concern so over half term new carpet and lino was laid so the classroom is now a lot fresher and safer.

There was a wonderful concert on the Friday before Mothering Sunday. The children sang their hearts out, their actions were delightful and there weren't many dry eyes in the audience!

We had a delightful week mid March as we took delivery of 10 chicken eggs in an incubator and watched them hatch. Everyone was so excited and the teachers reported that the children's writing about the project was inspirational. If you go on our website and navigate to the curriculum page then you can see the first chick hatch. They are now in their new home at Apple Tree farm in Iver Heath. The children had fun wearing something red on Red Nose day and we raised £86 for this very worthwhile cause.

Finally we finished the Easter term with a wonderful Easter bonnet parade. All the bonnets were quite delightful and the children were charming as they walked down the catwalk. Our very own compere, Mrs Harrod, was truly entertaining and a jolly time was had by all.

MRS CATHY HUNT – HEADTEACHER



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The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

A member of family over 16 years old will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS disclosure.

STRICTLY NO AGENCIES PLEASE

Planning List Nov 12 to March 2013

Property	Proposal	Result
Pinewood Studios 13/00175/OUT	Reconfiguration and expansion of facilities	Pending
Pinewood Studios 13/00176/FUL	Highway changes to the Five Points roundabout	Pending
Oakville Fulmer Common Road 13/00196/CLOPED	Single storey side extension with integral garage and two storey rear extension	Pending
The Birches Windmill Road 13/00048/FUL	Replacement detached dwelling house and construction of new vehicular access (amendment to previous application)	Permitted
Langley Wood House Fulmer Common Road 12/01991/CLOPED	Erection of detached garage, swimming pool and plant room.	Granted
Aldbourn Cottage (Area 2), Fulmer Lane 12/01990/FUL	Change of use of land to 1 gypsy pitch	Refused
Langley Wood House Fulmer Common Road 12/02051/FUL	Two storey rear extension and associated remodelling of dwelling house	Permitted
Fugelmere Grange Fulmer Road 12/01533/FUL	Two storey extension	Permitted
	<i>ALAN GODLEMAN, Parish Councillor</i>	

THE PICKERIDGE

The revised Building Application was approved by South Bucks District Council in July 2012. Permission has been given to carry out the necessary works to allow the buildings to be used as a residential home, following considerable building works, given that the existing buildings will have to be essentially demolished in view of their rundown state. To date there has been no activity on site and further damage is being sustained to the existing buildings and the grounds are becoming overgrown. It appears that the residential home will be for aged and mentally handicapped people.

RONNIE LAMB

The Annie Russell- Jones Cup

Once again the judging for this year will be in early June with Eric Price as the principle judge. The Cup will be presented at the Stoke Poges, Wexham and Fulmer Horticultural Show in July. Last year the joint winner's plots were of a very high standard with their scores being 36 points each. However, five plots earned less than 10 points each and most of these were subject to considerable weed infestation. In recent years there has been a waiting list for a plot and it would be only fair, if someone has a plot, but does not want or is not able to look after it, that they might consider surrendering the plot to someone who would cherish it.

RONNIE LAMB

The Fulmer Sports and Community Association

The pavilion refurbishment is now more or less complete and as a result we have an excellent facility; much of the credit for this must go to Paul Colloff, the General Manager, who makes a great contribution to the Association. The extent to which he puts in many more hours than required by his contract has to be recognised. Where necessary this will mean increasing his financial rewards but perhaps more importantly ensuring that work which should or could be done by Club members or volunteers is not left for Paul to do.

Overall the facilities at The King George V Field are in very good condition although requiring a lot of care to keep them in that state.

The Clubs will make their own reports but we do need someone who is prepared to take charge of the tennis section. The courts are in good condition and locally there are many people who would like to take part but require some organising. Is there anybody prepared to make the effort on behalf of the community to get the tennis club back into a real club?

RONNIE LAMB

NEWS FROM ST JAMES' FULMER

As I sit here writing this, it feels like Spring has finally sprung (although I am nervous saying that as I don't want to scare it away!). After what feels like a very a long and cold winter, including snow on the ground on Easter Sunday, the sun is finally shining and the birds are singing.

Spring time is one of my favourite seasons because of what it represents. It is full of hope and new life coming out of the dark winter months. The first sign of colour in the garden, the warmth in the air, the animals giving birth to their young all speak of what is to come and fills us with hope for the future. This of course echoes with the Christian faith. We have recently celebrated Easter, where we remembered that Jesus died for us upon the cross and that the story did not finish with death and winter but burst forth into life with Jesus' resurrection. It must have been incredible to have been there with the disciples that day when they first saw Jesus back from the dead. They must have felt a sense of awe and amazement at the signs of life, and the hope that comes with that.

A number of years ago Arsene Wenger, the manager of Arsenal FC was interviewed on "Sports Personality of the Year." He was asked to comment on Arsenal's December programme and its effect on the race for the premiership and he replied "Christmas is important... but Easter is vital." How true! Easter is vital for the Christian faith as the resurrection shows us that the Christian faith is real and that we have new life in Jesus and a hope for the future.

One of the things we are looking forward to as a church this term is the "Fulmer Film Festival." On Friday 17 May and Saturday 18 May we will host a mini film festival in the church. We will turn the church into a cinema and show three films across the weekend. We would love to welcome you into our historic church building for some modern entertainment and hospitality. The following Thursday after our usual 9am coffee morning we will have the church open for prayer all day. Everybody is welcome.

So may you have a great spring and summer and as you see the flowers coming through and sun in the sky may you be reminded of the new life we have because of Jesus.

God bless

Rev PHIL MANN
Associate Minister, St James' Fulmer

St James' Church, Fulmer - Full of Firsts and Lasts!

We have been blessed in recent months to welcome some new people to the inviting atmosphere of our beautiful village church, offering weekly services of Holy Communion at 8.00am and Morning Worship at 11.15am with Communion on the third Sunday at 11.15am. We hope that they, our regular congregation and people from the village will participate in and enjoy some of the special events that 2013 offers.

Firsts - Looking Forward - The Spring and Summer herald a landmark event for St James', Fulmer as it holds its first mini-Film Festival! Happening over the weekend of 17-18 May, this is part of the wider Chiltern Churches Festival running between 11-26 May. We plan to show films for three different age groups with suitable refreshments for each and some fun activities relevant to the films' theme on Saturday afternoon for the children. The church will also be open all day on Thursday 23 May. Our usual Thursday coffee at 9.00am will be followed by times for private prayer, with fun activities for children after school has finished and a service of celebration. Please check the publicity leaflet enclosed with your newsletter for exact details and timings.

The weekend of 21-23 June that includes Fulmer Day promises to be equally busy. There will be another 'Words and Music' celebration to mark the Queen's coronation 60 years ago as well as the Community Service and Reception on 23 June. Here are all the key dates for your diary:-

- Friday 17 May - an evening film aimed at teenagers and young people.
- Saturday 18 May - an afternoon film for primary school age children plus their parents
- Saturday 18 May - an evening film for an adults.
- Thursday 23rd May Church open all day - various activities.
- Friday evening 21 June - a celebration in Words and Music of the Queen's Coronation.
- Sunday 23 June - Community Service & Reception at 11.15am.

Lasts - Looking Back - On 25 November we marked another very significant occasion at St James', Fulmer when John Hedley retired as a Lay Reader in Fulmer after more than 35 years' dedicated service. The Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson, granted John 'Reader Emeritus' status in recognition of his wonderful record of service and our Rector, Martin Williams, presented John with the certificate to mark this honour at a celebration lunch party in the Village Hall. Many in the congregation from both St. James churches contributed to the gift of an iPad for John, as a token of heartfelt appreciation for his incredible record of service to our village church and its wider community. John and Pauline met each other singing in the St James', Fulmer choir and were married in the church. So we are delighted that John will continue to lead the choir, where he and Pauline have now sung for more than fifty years!

Christmas and Easter - Fulmer Infant School held performances of their Nativity Play in the church in the lead up to Christmas and these were enjoyed by children and parents alike. We welcomed many to a full church on 23 December for the Carols by Candlelight service. As always we enjoyed wonderful Christmas music followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall afterwards. The church was very busy again for the family service on Christmas Day and it was a delight to welcome so many family, friends and visitors to this joyful occasion as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

Our Easter services have also been very well attended, starting on Maundy Thursday and then Good Friday with the moving service of 'An Hour at the Cross' - and culminating in an early service of Holy Communion and a family celebration of Easter with a Communion service on Easter Day.

Continuing Too. - Our Thursday morning coffee initiative in the Village - coffee and conversation at 9.00 for parents, carers and younger children, is now two years old! Encouragingly the numbers continue to build and genuine support has been offered to some people, especially those coping with the loss of a loved one. We are delighted to know how much all appreciate the warm welcome extended by our faithful team of supporters and, on alternate weeks, by Phil Mann our Associate Minister and Tom Holbird, our Curate. We hope too that we may be able to build on this initiative in the coming months.

Come and Join Us!

We extend an open invitation to everyone to join us at our regular services, at Thursday coffee or one of the special events we are planning over the spring and summer. You are assured of a very warm welcome and, in church, wonderful music and beautiful flowers.

**Jacky Hughes
Francesca Hall-Drinkwater
Churchwardens**

Bell Ringing at Fulmer

For anyone living in Fulmer who is about to retire - or has already retired - and is looking for something challenging to do, I can suggest just the thing. Volunteer to be Fulmer's Tower Captain and Steeplekeeper!

The job description is clearly set out in "A Tower Captain's Handbook", published by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. "Leading a band," it says, "is a job that demands devotion, time and self-sacrifice. It is also hard work, and nobody who is in ill health or very elderly should be expected to do it." Which, on the second count, is why it will not be long before the post will fall vacant! "Why is it so important a post?" queries the handbook. "Simply because the person appointed is responsible for everything to do with the bells and ringing in the tower. Preferably you should be a churchman as well as being regular and punctual in coming to ringing," the handbook says. "It is desirable that you should be an able instructor and conductor, but it is quite possible to delegate these duties to other members of the band." In fact you can call upon the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, to which Fulmer is affiliated, for help in teaching new ringers; and that mention of delegation could offer a loophole should you not be, or are never likely to be, a ringer yourself. You would not be the first Tower Captain to be a non-ringer.

Recruiting new ringers will be your first and most difficult task because the number of ringing members living in Fulmer, which has six bells, has fallen to one. The handbook points out: "Only a band large enough to enable all the bells in the tower to be rung each Sunday can be considered to be up to full strength, and the aim must be to build up and maintain a band big enough to do this. Experience has shown that to ensure all the bells are rung, one and a half to two regular members are required for each rope. That is to say that a six-bell tower needs nine to ten members. Only people who attend more often than not can be counted for this purpose. Recruits are best looked for amongst boys and girls aged from about twelve years upwards, before they become too committed to their examinations. Such recruits are most regularly found from the choir and youth organisations in the parish. Ringing is a good way of holding youngsters of that age in the church, which has few other jobs to offer them when they have become too old for the choir or Sunday School."

"Boys and girls in their 'teens certainly make the most apt pupils, but some recruits will obviously be older. Older people will probably be involved in the church already and will make loyal members of the band of ringers, although they may find learning rather harder work."

Bells are among the most valuable assets of the church and must be properly cared for. There is a great deal of expert advice available about the care of the bells and to help you fulfil your responsibility as Steeplekeeper for this part of the Tower Captain's job you can consult 'The Maintenance Handbook' or 'The Towers and Bells Handbook'. You can also attend one of the Guild's Tower Maintenance courses. In my experience I have found that it takes just over an hour to service a bell, and you can keep up with the maintenance task by servicing one of the six bells every month. Then there is the clock! An electric motor winds it up automatically, but it is not fitted with an automatic regulator so someone has to go up and adjust it when it gains or loses time in response to changes in temperature, when it has to be put forward or back an hour when summer time comes and goes, or when there has been a power cut. That someone is currently the Steeplekeeper!

The Guild runs an award scheme based on a technical inspection of the bells every other year followed by the presentation of a certificate recording the grade achieved - Bronze, Silver or Gold. Fulmer joined the scheme for the first time two years ago and was awarded a Bronze certificate. This is now due for renewal and I hope we can hold on to the Bronze award, if not progress to Silver. So there is another challenge for you in volunteering for the post - look forward to winning a Gold! Tempted?

GEOFFREY COOPER

Mark Dearlove

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FIFTY YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

Hidden away in Fulmer are two individuals who between them have been involved in nearly every military adventure this country has been involved with since 1955. Perhaps this revelation will encourage other Fulmer residents to pass on details of their lives to us.

Colonel John Sanders - Born in 1936 and commissioned into the 10th Gurkha Rifles from RMA Sandhurst in 1956; he joined his regiment in Hong Kong after a five week voyage on Nevasa, one of the troopships of that era. The ship called at Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Suez, Aden, Colombo, and Singapore, most of which were coloured red on the world map, indicating they were then part of the British Empire. Our role in Hong Kong in those days was to counter any attack from mainland China, a pretty optimistic and totally unrealistic aim.

From Hong Kong he moved with his regiment to Malaya and the Malayan Emergency a long forgotten war involving all three services fighting against an attempt by Communists to take over the country, which eventually failed. Many of the 4 Gurkha Regiments as well as British troops spent long periods in arduous jungle operations against the terrorists. Our eventual success was cited as one of the few successful counter insurgency operations of the time. Because the Gurkhas were regarded as experts in jungle operations John spent long periods in the jungle with occasional breaks in the fleshpots of Singapore. and a cruise to Japan with our Frigate Squadron as a guest of the Captain of HMS Mounts Bay, all part of our Far East Fleet in those days.

Two years later he was appointed Aide de Camp to the Commander in Chief Middle East and moved after an idyllic skiing holiday in St Moritz to Cyprus. The EOKA campaign where Greece was supporting a Greek Cypriot attempt at union with Greece against the wishes of the Turkish Cypriots was in full swing and as usual we were the targets as the Colonial power in the middle. John vividly remembers arriving on the island and going straight to Government House where Sir Hugh Foot the Governor was in the middle of negotiations with Archbishop Makarios and Rolf Denktash for a resolution of the war and independence. In those days Middle East command stretched from Gibraltar to Pakistan; we had numerous airbases in the region and HMS Surprise was still the flagship of our Mediterranean Fleet. Very comfortable she was too and John recalls spending an evening on board with the future King of Greece, then a young naval officer on board, anchored off Piraeus.

The General with his own aircraft, (a VIP Hastings) and a vast parish so that the next two years provided John with a magical view of the Middle East as he accompanied his General to see many of the countries and meet a lot of the leading characters of the day. As well as Sir Hugh Foot, he also met Archbishop Makarios, Rolf Denktash, The Shah of Iran, the King of Greece, The Ministers of Defence of most countries in the region including Israel, The PM of Malta, King Idris of Libya and King Hussein of Jordan where he attended his marriage to Muna, his English wife and mother of the current King. He and the General also undertook an extensive tour of the Far East where the General visited the 10th Gurkhas in Malaya and Hong Kong of which he was the honorary Colonel. At the end of his tour he drove home from Cyprus via Berlin where whilst staying with our Minister Geoffrey McDermott he watched the Berlin Wall go up, an extremely

tense and dangerous period.

Before John returned to Malaya to rejoin his regiment he met his future wife Marianne in Oslo to whom he is still happily married. On return to Malaya John was soon caught up as an Instructor at our Jungle Warfare School in training some of the first American Special Forces to deploy in Vietnam. The Americans thought they could learn our successful tactics in defeating the Communist terrorists. Although the Special Forces he trained were very good, the Americans were eventually defeated in Vietnam many years later.

There was a short period where based in Johore Bahru just over the causeway to Singapore where John was involved in the suppression of rioting in Singapore. He found this entertaining and amusing as the Singaporeans had a great fear of the Gurkhas and every time he appeared on the streets with his men the mob would disperse for fear of having their heads cut off with Gurkha Kukris,

Life continued to be unexpected with the first Brunei rebellion swiftly followed by President Soekarno of Indonesia threatening to invade North Borneo as he opposed the newly established Federation of Malaysia, being a union of Malaya, Singapore and North Borneo (Sabah). The Brigade of Gurkhas who were about to be reduced in size because of defence cuts, was immediately deployed to counter the threats and John and his regiment were moved rapidly by Aircraft Carrier to Kuching and then down to the Border with Indonesia. Although unexpected, John had been deployed several years earlier on an Exercise based in Sandakan on the east coast of Borneo in anticipation of such a possibility. Initially he was based with his men on the border in deep jungle amongst the head-hunters, (heads could still be found in the rafters of the long houses) forbidden to give chase across the border to pursue incursions from Indonesia. He had a vast area where he used to take a week to travel on foot round his various patrol bases. As time progressed and despite repeated denials by the government in Whitehall they started to cross the border in hot pursuit. At one stage after a big incursion on the east coast by the Indonesians, where they attacked a logging camp at Talabakan killing several locals and Malay soldiers, he was based on the Governors Yacht with the title of Senior Officer Tawau Assault Group commanding a large mixed water borne force of Gurkhas, Indians, Malays and Chinese based in a huge mangrove swamp on the border being regularly shelled and shot at by the Indonesians.

After a brief spell in Europe to get married in Oslo he returned with Marianne to his regiment in Malaya and within four days was back in the jungle to counter an airborne landing by an Indonesian Force on the mainland of Malaya. This force was rapidly either killed or captured and John was then sent back to Borneo where he was involved in a fairly bloody escalation of the conflict. Six months later being due UK leave he returned home and eventually transferred to the Royal Fusiliers.

He then moved with his regiment to Sharjah in the then Trucial Oman (soon to become the United Arab Emirates) at the time when we were extricating ourselves from a very messy situation in Aden. Sharjah in those days was just out of the dark ages and oil had yet to be found in Dubai next door to which it was joined by the only tarmacked road in the whole region, unlike the modern UAE which today is unrecognisable. Life there was one big adventure, which had

all the romanticism of the Arab world so beloved of the time of Lawrence of Arabia. From Sharjah the family moved to Gibraltar and spent two years of relative peace on a Rock sealed off from Spain. John was away a lot in Cyprus, the Middle East and Morocco on various operations. It is interesting to note that Patrick, his eldest son, was also to serve in Gibraltar, this time with the border with Spain open, some 15 years later.

At the end of this tour John returned to the realities of European politics and found himself in a burning Londonderry, Northern Ireland at the start of the troubles of the late 70's. He was to do three tours in Northern Ireland over the next year or so each different and each frustrating and depressing as we failed to solve what seemed to be an intractable problem hated one minute by the Catholics and the next by the Protestants. And here, like Gibraltar, his son Patrick was to return with his regiment some 15 years later faced with the same problems.

It was with some excitement and trepidation that he escaped this scenario being appointed at a very young age as Defence Attaché to our Embassy in Baghdad Iraq, learned Arabic at Beaconsfield and then promptly loaded up his car with a wife two young children and Brutus the Labrador and drove out to the unknown, just as the price of oil doubled. The next nearly three years could not have been more exciting as not only did we get to know the Iraqis but saw much of the country as well as making frequent trips to Kuwait, Iran, Syria Turkey and Lebanon and meeting Saddam Hussein and his entourage on a number of occasions. Little were we to know then that a few years later we would very rashly invade the country where yet again his son would serve twice under very different circumstances. John reported on the war with the Kurds and subsequently as a civilian visitor was shelled in Baghdad on visits during the Iran /Iraq war and then rocketed when visiting his son in Baghdad much later.

Very soon after Baghdad John took early retirement and entered in a new and varied career, moving to Fulmer 25 years ago. The link to the 50 years service is Northern Ireland where Patrick his eldest son was to serve and the link continues in the next story

John is married to Marianne and has three children, Patrick a serving officer, Gabrielle who currently lives in China and Hugo married in London who is a Banker. His main interests are skiing, shooting, rugby, reading, international affairs and wine

Major General Patrick Sanders CBE, DSO - Patrick was born in 1966 and grew up in Norway, Gibraltar and Baghdad, before settling in the UK. He was educated at Worth Abbey and Exeter University before being commissioned from Sandhurst into the Royal GreenJackets in 1986.

His early career with the Regiment took in Germany, Norway, Jamaica, Canada for two years skiing for the British Army and Northern Ireland where he served in the very difficult bandit country of Crossmaglen and West Belfast some 15 years after his father had served in the same conflict. After Staff College in 1998 he commanded an Armoured Infantry Company in Germany and whilst there did six-month tours to Kosovo in 1999 and to Bosnia in 2001 and then on being

appointed as Chief of Staff of 1 Mechanised Brigade he returned to Kosovo in 2002, experiencing some of the horrors surrounding the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2003 and then spent a fascinating and frustrating 7 months in Baghdad shortly after the second Gulf War as the political/military advisor to Lieutenant General Sanchez the Commander of all US and Coalition Forces in Iraq. The General appreciated that Patrick had grown up in Baghdad and had regular contacts with Iraqis through his parents back in UK and had a better understanding than the majority of his officers of the culture and mentality of the Iraqis. During this period his father John managed to visit him in Baghdad where he had served 20 years before as the Defence Attaché in the British Embassy. You therefore had rather uniquely two Colonel Sanders (father and son) thoroughly enjoying the excitement of the regular rockets and mortars being fired into the Green Zone in Baghdad at that time. There were many memorable moments not least of which was being driven in a convoy of police cars by the Chief of Police, with sirens blaring across Baghdad to see John's former very damaged Office in our old British Embassy and the Sanders' former home and Patrick being greeted as a long lost brother by a former friend and neighbour. At the end of his tour Patrick was awarded an operational OBE.

From Baghdad, Patrick was posted to the Staff College as an Instructor before assuming command of 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets in Bulford in 2005. In command he assisted with the formation of The Rifles, managing the transition to his Battalion becoming 4th Battalion The Rifles in February 2007 and trained the Battalion in the UK and Canada, preparing it for Operation TELIC 10 in Iraq.

The resulting tour in Basra Palace (one of the many palaces built by Saddam Hussein) on the banks of the Shat Al Arab was difficult yet rewarding. They were constantly shelled, mortared and ambushed over a period of 3 months and the Battle Group suffered 11 killed in action and 63 wounded before handing over Basra Palace to the Iraqi Security Forces in good order. The remainder of their tour was spent patrolling the Iranian Border to try and deter the flow of arms from Iran to the Iraqi Insurgents. The DSO he was awarded and the bravery awards for his men were welcome recognition for the remarkable courage and skill displayed by all those he commanded.

On return from Iraq, Patrick attended the Higher Command and Staff Course and in early 2008 was promoted to full Colonel and then assumed an appointment as Colonel Army Strategy in the MOD in London working for the Assistant Chief of the General Staff with responsibility for long term strategic planning for the Army at a critical time as the Government was looking at the future cuts in all three Services.

In 2010 Patrick was promoted to Brigadier and moved to Paderborn in Germany to command 20 Armoured Brigade and Paderborn Garrison. Almost immediately the Brigade started the intensive training period both in UK and Canada prior to their deployment to Helmand Province in Afghanistan in September 2011. Patrick assumed command of Task Force Helmand commanding virtually all British Troops deployed in the British Sector in Afghanistan on operation HERRICK 15. After a very successful tour, sadly not without losses both killed

and wounded, where Afghan Forces assumed a growing responsibility for running Operations he returned to Germany in April 2012 and was subsequently awarded a CBE along with other awards for his soldiers once again welcome recognition for the outstanding courage and undoubted skill displayed by all those he commanded.

In July 2012 he moved to Washington as the British Chief of Defence Staffs (CDS) representative to the American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an interesting post at the heart of British American cooperation. However he was recalled to London unexpectedly to take up a position as the one star Head of Operations for Afghanistan and other countries in the region.in September 2012.

In February 2013 he was again unexpectedly promoted to Major General to become Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff Operations responsible for all Defence operations worldwide thus continuing the 50 years history of the Sanders service to the Crown.

Patrick is married to Fiona and has an 18 year old son, Kit, in his last year at school in England. When not working, Patrick's main interests are skiing, cycling, shooting and whisky.

I'm sure readers will thoroughly enjoy details of John's and Patrick's very impressive military careers and as Editors we are delighted to have such an interesting article to print. As John mentions at the start of his piece, perhaps there are others in Fulmer who would like to share their lives with us and please let us know if that is the case.

SOUTH BUCKS PARTNERSHIP

A few snippets on District Council affairs. The Olympics were rated a triumph for Bucks with Eton Dorney the most popular venue, attracting 30,000 spectators daily; and, we won't forget Sophie Christiansen's Paralympic successes.

Electronic One Stop Shop (Bucks Connect). This is an online directory of care and support services and community services. It is available to all above age 18 and any organisation can make an entry.

Green Deal. Objectives: prevention of rogue traders, provision of financial advice – especially for those on benefit, grants to pay for energy efficiencies.

Census results for South Bucks: 15.7% non-white, 0.4% travellers, 62.3% Christian, 2.7% unemployed.

Right To Build. Under this scheme local people can submit small scale, site specific, community led developments, such as homes, shops, playgrounds. Green Belt sites could be allowed, subject to constraints (I am not sure that this option would be in local interests). 50% of electors would have to be in agreement.

Neighbourhood Planning. This is a result of the Localism Act. Communities (ie Parish Councils) have the right to draw up a neighbourhood plan and to say where development can take place. A radical innovation is that the Parish Council could grant full or outline permission.

MICHAEL SAXBY



Six months down the line and here we stand, how time flies! We seem to have made plenty of friends along the way but if you haven't popped in we'd love to see you and show off our extensive refurbishment and new look Black Horse.

For all those who haven't been in we have done some major renovations on the pub, from a new front garden to opening up original fireplaces; we now feel confident to say we are a great community pub.

We are also really excited to announce a couple of new happenings at the pub. By the end of May we will have our boutique en suite bedrooms up and running, so if you need to get rid of the mother in law we'll happily take her off your hands.

Secondly we will be launching our new spring/early summer menu by mid-May; again we will be trying to show the produce off to the best of our ability with a broad menu to meet all tastes from business lunches on a Monday to Saturday night dining with friends.

But, in the end we are a pub, first and foremost, with the community at the forefront, plus we are open all day every day.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Rich and the team.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we were as determined as ever having won the Gurney Cup and the Sword of Excellence in 2011 "not to rest on our laurels", but to do our very best in the competition with our fellow winning villages and small towns in competition for the Tindall Cup - 'the cup winners cup' in 2012. Unfortunately we were not successful, but were once more highly placed as joint runners up behind the winners Chalfont St Peter.

We have had another difficult season weather wise until now, but we have spent some useful time in the village to try to keep things in general under control. Quite early on well before we saw any daffodils we had a blitz on Fulmer Road getting the verges tidied, raking up and disposing of leaves, removing litter, tidying around the lay-by in Fulmer Lane and doing our best to mitigate against the repeated damage caused by careless vehicles overrunning the grass verges in the very wet weather. This unfortunate practice by some uncaring individuals has continued and has resulted in destruction of some of the daffodils. Some contractors apparently running cables seem to be particularly careless and even park their vehicles on top of the flowers when in bloom. Other damage is just by people who are turning and have no mind for the damage they do in the process. It has been particularly bad this year because of how wet the verges have been.

The replacement of the lamp-post at the first bend going into the village from motorway bridge awaits replacement of the lamp and housing. In addition the chevrons and kerbstones have yet to be repaired. It is hoped that this will be attended to before the beginning of June judging.

In mid-April FCV have spent a morning at the Alderbourne stream, a little bit later than usual and we will return there soon. Thanks to the Russell's-mum Claire, and children Fraser and Finlay in Fulmer Cottage for mid morning coffee.

FCV has also already had a session at King George's Field, cutting and clearing grass and removing fallen branches and generally tidying around the containers. However it still looks as if a further session will soon be required. There is a continued improvement of the wooded areas and it becomes a little easier each time to maintain in good shape throughout the year.

In the village itself many thanks go to my neighbours for maintaining the container on Fulmer Road and others who look after and plant the one at the other end of the village and also to the contractors who will be keeping our main grass verges in good shape after the daffodils have finished. In general we face some challenges with the late start to the work and hope that residents and builders alike will respect our efforts to keep the village tidy.

FULMER PARISH FOOTPATHS/BRIDLEWAYS

I know that most or all of the volunteers miss working on the footpaths as do I, so I like to keep a check on the condition of the paths to remove any

obstacles or keep vegetation in check. FCV continues to do much less on the footpaths than in previous years, but in December we had a session on Footpath Ful 1. [Hay Lane to Windsor Road] to make it much more accessible. Bridleway Ful.7 runs adjacent to or on the same surface as footpaths Ful. 1, Ful. 4 and Ful. 3. In general FCV does not take responsibility for anything to do with these except where they share the same surface, but if any cutting or clearing work is required we can support users accordingly.

On Ful.1 and at the junction with Ful. 4 a central way-marking post needs to be re-instated. This post bears the various way-marking arrows applicable for footpaths [yellow] and bridleways [blue]. These circular signs with arrows in different colours are each according to a British Standard size and Munsell colour definition. The signs look to be serviceable and could be moved to a new post by either ourselves, or BCC. Further along the left branch Ful.4 at the junction of Ful. 3 and Ful. 4 one of our FCV regulars, Willie Forrest, has made and installed new finger signs where the old ones had rotted and these are now in place.

On a recent walk I have picked up litter along virtually the whole length of the paths, this was accessible, although there often seems to be a conspiracy to position the most tantalising and shiny items deep inside thorny thickets. The only part where I did not pick up litter was on and adjacent to the concrete path section to and from Stoke Common Road. Litter on the Pickeridge land and at the end of the path at Stoke Common Road all needs clearing. It would appear someone had a firework party, but left absolutely everything for someone else to clear up.

The rubbish I collected was approaching 25 kg comprised of 18 plastic bottles including a 5 litre plastic oil container, 18 drink cans, sweet papers, crisp wrappers, chocolate wrappers, 3 aluminium 'ready' barbecue trays-the fourth was too well embedded in the brambles, 3-4 pairs of blue latex gloves, one child's left hand glove-purple, one adults left hand glove-medium and black. Also there were a substantial number of dog poo bags (probably with contents) and some found immediately next to the latex gloves. So the philosophy of some dog owners is apparently and sensibly, keep their own hands clean, but dump dirty gloves in the environment next to plastic bags of dogs' poo. I expect that most people take care but many people don't. At Windsor Road opposite the cemetery there was a disgusting amount of rubbish and then past the nursing home there was just continuous rubbish in the hedge.

After returning from these paths at Hay Lane side of village, I have walked along the path Ful. 6 to/from village and the recreation ground, where I found the 5 litre empty oil can near to the house at the bottom. Generally speaking the path was free of rubbish, though there is a sheet of hardboard to remove from the playing field end when time permits. Some cutting back of the laurels would be advisable before too long. I have not walked to full length of Ful. 2 from St James to Fulmer Rise Estate. The notable things that happened this year were the loss of the very big oak near to the church and a further smaller one about halfway to the first kissing gate. We are indebted to the Stud for removing these trees that fell onto their property. The two quite large tree trunks remain in-situ, but for the time being they do not appear to be

impeding water flow in the Alderbourne. As always, local walkers are asked to report any reasonable concerns.

Lastly FCV has not lost any volunteers recently, but it would be appreciated if others could volunteer just from time to time. The current list of regular volunteers is an absolute maximum of 8.

Please note that there is a map of all the footpaths in the Parish on the Noticeboard at Fulmer Village Hall.

Dr. Richard Marshall

Richard and his band of volunteers do a magnificent job of clearing and tidying so that our village footpaths and open areas can be enjoyed by us all – we are very grateful for the time he and his team devote to looking after this project - Editors

STOKE COMMON NEWS

You may think that with it being so cold overwinter (especially this year) there would not be much in the way of fodder for grazing animals, but the City of London's hardy Exmoor ponies are more than used to browsing their way through tough heathland vegetation like gorse. They spent just under two months on the West Common in February and March munching their way through the gorse and making quite an impact. The Rangers carried out daily checks to make sure they were healthy and that there was still enough for them to eat. Cattle will return to both sides of the common over the summer months once the vegetation has begun to grow.

Stoke Common is a great place for a long dog walk and whilst there, dog walkers are asked to do two simple things:

- 1) Always bag and bin your dog waste; keeping the Common clear of dog faeces makes it better for people and wildlife. When you do bag your dog mess please take it home with you and dispose of it responsibly; dog mess left in a bag on the side of the path or in a tree cannot break down, increases litter and creates a health hazard.
- 2) Make sure you keep your dog close to you and always in sight. Between April and October please keep your dog on the main track ways. Species of ground nesting birds such as woodlark (which are a rare species for Buckinghamshire), can be heavily disturbed and their nests and chicks trampled by dogs chasing balls and running through undergrowth. If you feel that you cannot keep your dog to the paths, please keep it on a lead.

Surveying and monitoring the species on a nature reserve is essential to

establish what lives there and what response there is to any management being carried out. Staff, volunteers and specialists carry out regular surveys at Stoke Common and last year a survey was conducted using malaise traps to collect insects, beetles and bugs. The results found several species of saproxylic (or dead wood loving) species, which had never been recorded at Stoke Common before and are possibly new records for Buckinghamshire too. Many of the recorded species are very reliant on heather; one, a beetle called *Ampedus sanguinolentus*, is a classic heathland species, mainly found in the New Forest and Hampshire, but never recorded this far north before. Finds like this are good news as they suggest that the restoration work going on has had a positive effect on the quality of the habitat.



Chris Morris
Senior Ranger
Open Spaces Department
Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common

Featuring Fulmer

Stand by for the second edition of this local history. The first edition was published in 2007 and, of course, a number of events have occurred since then. There are 34 extra pages and many illustrations now in colour, plus more. The additions include a unique water colour of the village. Look for layout changes and amendments. One item has not changed - the price. Still £10. So, not only those who missed out first time, but everyone will find something of interest. Keep an eye out for availability on the website: fulmer.village.org.

MICHAEL SAXBY

REPORTING HIGHWAYS DEFECTS

The County has allocated extra funds to repairing footways. When you spot a defect in the road or pavement, the ones to contact Buckinghamshire County Council Transport for Buckingham (TfB for short). Telephone number: 0845 230 2882, ask for "Operator" and you will be put in touch with a human being.

No change to reporting lighting defects. Please notify Peter Kelly, Parish Clerk, with the light standard's reference number and location. His new telephone is 01628 628183

For Street Names - Contact Simon Gray of Property and Contract Services, South Bucks District Council, regarding any problems with street signs. Telephone: 01895 837200. Simon also deals with a wide range of issues, such as registration of new house names.

MICHAEL SAXBY

FULMER VILLAGE HALL

As the new Village Hall chairman, I think the first thing I should do is introduce myself. My name is Glynn Jones and I first moved to Fulmer in 2001. Now I know that in Fulmer terms that means I am still regarded as a visitor, but hopefully with time I will earn the right to be called a local ! In November 2007 I got married in St James Church Fulmer, and held the reception in our village hall, it looked fabulous. Consequently having tested the facilities I highly recommend it for what ever the occasion. Which brings me to the Village Hall itself, a number of key things have happened over the past 6 - 7 months.

Firstly in October 2012 the Hall had a make over, this redecoration included painting and refurbishing the floor, it looks splendid. The only down side to this redecoration is the vast drain on it's financial resources. As a consequence I would ask you to support your village hall

in any way you can - from hiring the hall for birthdays, weddings, parties etc., and supporting any fundraising events over the coming year.

Another big change is to do with our nursery the "Beehive". It has been part of the fabric of Fulmer village life, based in the village hall, for the past 43 years. After such amazing service Moira Ellis, and her team, have decided to take a well-earned rest and sell the business. I am also pleased to announce that prospective new owners are in the process of taking over the "Beehive" and I am sure you will be pleased to hear they will be keeping the "Beehive" name and Moira has agreed to stay on to lend a hand. The new team hope to be up and running by the September term. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Village Hall management committee and I am sure on behalf on the village itself, to offer Moira and her team a big "thank you" for all their time and effort in providing the village with such a stable and well-run nursery. I hope to be able in the near future to announce the names of the new owners once the formalities have been concluded, but it goes without question that we wish them every success.

Meanwhile bookings for the village hall continue to do well, but we are always looking for more, if we are to build up our finances to look after our valuable asset. Looking after this asset is not only financial but also cosmetic, since as I mentioned earlier we have had the inside painted etc., and now we are looking at the outside. Commencing in the coming weeks, a team of spirited volunteers will rub down, make good, and repaint the railings just in time for the "Best Kept Village" competition.

Ever since I arrived in this beautiful village of ours, I have been deeply impressed with the friendless kindness and unselfishness of all its inhabitants. We need to look after it and all it's assets - our church, our school, our local pub, the "Black Horse" and, of course, our Village Hall.

You may see me walking around the village with my little black and white cocker spaniel "Frankie", she is not the quickest so we will be moving at a very sedate pace. If you have any suggestions/comments, regarding our village hall (polite ones preferably) please stop and tell me. Until then, if you have any special events coming up please think of your village hall as a perfect venue. If so please contact Karen Nelmes our letting secretary, 01753 662988 for further details.

Thanks once again

Glynn Jones, Fulmer Village Hall Management Committee

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News from South Bucks RDA

We, like many others, have found this winter very long, cold and wet. After the hustle and bustle of last summer, the snow, rain and cold meant that even with the great facilities we have we were unable to stay open for the full season. At times it was so cold inside the stables and school that even the water buckets froze over. Many of the young children found it too cold to ride for more than a few minutes, as parents who were not horsey had sent them in from their schools with no extra layers of clothes.

Our fields have been so waterlogged that they are getting churned up, the cold winds stop the grass from growing which means that we have had to feed more hay for longer than in the past. Many of our horses are getting on in years and need careful extra feeding to keep them healthy. This means our winter feed bills will be much greater than last year.

Currently we have 18 ponies and horses actively taking part in RDA lessons during the week, we have one younger pony in training who will be introduced to the classes over the summer months. Training ponies for RDA can take many months, as they need to learn to move with good rhythm and balance; we work from the voice of leader or rider, and they need to be able to stand for several minutes at a block while riders mount. The ponies have to learn to have several people crowding around them, to stand while riders' bodies are moved; even learn to cope with young people who can be quite noisy when on top. In many respects the training of the RDA pony is similar to that of a police horse.

Along with the arrival of the sunshine comes the preparation for the summer season of competitions from the RDA regional show at Fulmer on 19 May to Sophie's national Paradressage competitions around the south of England.

If you are interested in helping the group, we are always looking for volunteers to support our activities. We hold weekday riding sessions on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. We also have sessions on Saturday morning to early afternoon. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please ring 01753 662796 and talk to one of the team.

THERESA DRAKE
Instructor

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

2013 has seen an active start to the year with our Annual Quiz Night in February held in Fulmer Village Hall to a complete sell-out. We had an excellent fish and chip supper provided by Andrews in Gerrards Cross and our Quiz Master, Roger, providing a brilliant selection of subjects and questions. It was, as always, a most enjoyable and successful evening.

April saw the postponed 14th Annual Christmas Clay Shoot held again at Watersplash Farm. 36 guns attended in teams of 6 and 8 over a series of different shooting positions all expertly arranged by Roger Hance. This time we were spoilt with the first day of spring enabling us to have a shooting lunch and prizes in the garden!

Our next event will be the Fulmer Tennis Day to be held on Thursday 6th June at The Spinney. If anyone would like to play and has not had a flyer, please contact Susie Simkins on 662537 or susiemsimkins@gmail.com.

Our Annual Bridge Drive will be held on Monday 25th November at the Memorial Centre in Gerrards Cross. If you would like to play, please contact Sue Fagan on 662193.

All these events contribute greatly to the arduous work of the volunteer lifeboat men, especially with all the recent floods. Interestingly some of the busiest crews are on the Thames.

SUE FAGAN
Hon. Secretary

AND FINALLY

We hope you enjoy this issue – there seems to be so much changing all around us in many different ways and yet so many features of Fulmer Village Life, as reported here, continue year after year. We thank all those who have taken the time to write articles and appreciate all the efforts they give in volunteering.

Our thanks too go to the helpers who delivered this latest edition to everyone in the Parish and to our loyal advertisers who help to ensure the continuation of the Newsletter. Please let us know if you can suggest any organisation or individual who would like to advertise in a future issue.

Editors - Ronnie & Susie Simkins (susiemsimkins@gmail.com)

Fulmer Village Website

www.fulmervillage.org

Unravel the message!!

T	L	G	E	F	N	E	W	S	Y	Q	S
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We really do need your help!

*A Mars bar for the first three correct entries
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www.fulmervillage.org

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