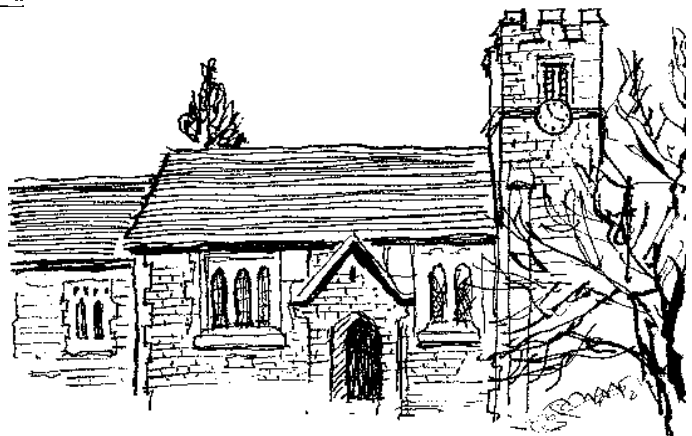




FULMER NEWSLETTER

June 2019 – Issue 65

www.fulmervillage.org.uk





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Email: steve.maguire@mlhs.co.uk

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Fulmer Day 2019

Saturday 22nd June 2pm - 5:30pm

Food, Drink, Stalls & Music

Bungee Trampolines

Mini Funfair & Petting Zoo

Magic Show and Punch & Judy

... Plus Face Painting and much more...

Centre of Fulmer Village

Free Entry & Free Parking - Car Free Zone

Road Closed to all traffic from 11:30pm to 6:30pm - Evening Party at The Black Horse

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If anyone would like to advertise in a future issue, please contact Susie Simkins 662537 susiemsimkins@gmail.com

From the Editors

Welcome to the 65th issue; it always seems celebratory when the number ends in 5 or 0 and we thank Edward Guinness for creating this newsletter in 1986 and hope this issue covers most of the numerous activities and events that our village offers. The main annual event is, of course, Fulmer Day, and we hope for a fine day again and a good attendance on 22 June.

We have fingers crossed for a successful Best Kept Village competition and wish to especially mention the Conservation Volunteers whose members have been working so hard throughout the year to keep the village tidy and attractive for the judging period. We are sure everyone is aware how much litter is dropped, continually, and Charlie Gray with the volunteers has galvanized a number of helpers who are working to litter pick on frequent occasions. We know everyone will do their bit, too, to keep things tidy.

Our usual thanks to our advertisers and contributors and also to those who help us deliver a copy to every household

Susie & Ronnie Simkins

PERSONALIA

Baptisms Fulmer – we congratulate

Christening of Lachlan James Rakowski, son of Charlotte Rakowski and Niall Dunne and brother of Freya and Rowan, on 2 December 2018 of Fulmer Common Road, Fulmer.

Burials – Ashes – we send sympathy to the families of

Harold Munday, Windmill Road, who died on 16 April and a memorial service was held at Fulmer Church on 30 April. (Harold's life, in his own words, follows this page)

Announcements – we congratulate

General Patrick Sanders CBE DSO, age 53, has been promoted to a 4 star General and is Commander Joint Forces Command based at Northwood. He is responsible for preparing Joint Forces (Army, Navy, Airforce, Special Forces, Marines, etc.) for operations. Patrick is the son of John & Marianne Sanders.

Farewell - We say goodbye to:

Yvette Harris and family who have moved from Heath Lodge, Fulmer Common Road after many years in the village.

Arrivals – we welcome

Paul Laming and Holly Bond to Little Durrants, Fulmer Common Road

HAROLD PETER MUNDAY
'A Short Resume of a Life'
6 July 1930 – 18 April 2019

I was born on 6 July 1930 in London's East End in the shadows of the London Docks.

In August 1939 as the war clouds gathered I was, together with the pupils of my school, evacuated to Somerset, where I spent eleven months in various foster homes. The fear of air raids from Germany in London during this period never materialized and I persuaded my parents to allow me home. This was to be a short respite, since in September 1940 the London Blitz began in earnest. Our proximity to the London Docks proved to be an attractive target for the enemy bombers, and thus we found ourselves in the frontline for the incessant bombing. Amidst this continuous bombardment and devastation that resulted, my parents decided in November 1940 to evacuate me a second time to Wales, where I stayed for the next four years with a new foster family. This proved to be one of the most unhappiest times of my life. I suffered unspeakable cruelty at the hands of my foster mother.

In April 1941 on returning home from school, I was told by my foster mother that my father had been killed and our house bombed and destroyed. I later understood that my mother and sister were homeless and sleeping on the floor of a local school.

Early in the spring of 1944 my mother allowed me home, and by this time had managed to find a house to rent in Welling, Kent with my sister. However, this was not the end of the enemy bombardment, for we were then subjected to the flying bombs (V1's) day and night. These you could see coming over and one waited with trepidation for its engine to stop and falling indiscriminately with a tremendous explosion and resulting devastation and loss of life. These instruments of destruction were to be superseded by an even more deadly weapon called the V2. These were invisible and silent since they flew some five miles high in the stratosphere and on falling caused terrible devastation and loss of life. One of the most horrifying incidents was when a V2 fell on Woolworths store in New Cross, filled with Saturday shoppers and killed some 250 women and children. The attacks continued until autumn 1944, when the allies who invaded the continent in June 1944 were able to capture the source of these terrible instruments/weapons of destruction.

I left Erith Technical College and attended part-time whilst waiting to commence my training as a Civil Engineer. During this interim period I found a job working in a joiners' shop in Bexley, Kent; I spent a very happy 18 months there. My initial training as a civil engineer started on a site in Orpington, Kent on a large development of houses for the bombed out families in London. Here I was introduced to all the instruments that were to become part of my professional life for the many years ahead. Training was interrupted in January 1949 when, much to my employers' annoyance, I opted to enlist for my compulsory military service in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in Aldershot, Surrey. I could have claimed exemption

until completion of my training, which my employers wished me to do, but I just wanted to get my duty done as quickly as possible.

On demobilisation in 1950 I rejoined my training scheme and was to continue this on the Royal Festival Hall and Festival of Britain sites. During this period I was attending various colleges for my technical training, including the London School of Building & Civil Engineering. Subsequent to the completion of Festival (where I was presented to the late King & Queen), and my training I was then seconded to Argentina to build a bridge. Needless to say my widowed mother was horrified, so I had to decline this opportunity to travel. Thus I launched out on my professional career, building bridges, tunnels, roads and sewage works, together with large building contracts in London, perhaps the most notable being the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in Parliament Square. Finally I was in charge of property development, Building & Civil Engineering for a construction company in West London, where I spent some 13 years.

In 1982 I decided to form my own property development company, purchasing various land sites and building several developments, which I really enjoyed doing until retiring early in 2000.

However, after retiring from business and doing nothing after working for so many years, was not a very attractive proposition for me. So I decided to re-enter the world of study and enrolled as a mature student at Brunel University at their campus in High Wycombe to study antique furniture restoration. This was a degree course in the technical, historical and physical restoration of antique furniture. In the second year I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of two students seconded for further studies in Parish at Leco Boulle, a college of the famous Sorbonne University of France. After gaining my Bachelor's degree I was then invited to study for a Master's degree in environmental conservation and was privileged to be involved in the restoration of artefacts for the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. After these five years of continuous study and two degrees, I decided it was time to travel and see as much of the world as time would allow. During the past few years, with one or two exceptions, I have travelled extensively to all main continents, including Australia, New Zealand, North & South America, Falkland Islands, Africa, Middle East, India, China, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Europe – to name but a few. I guess there is always more to see with anno Domini and approaching my 9th decade, I am just content with my garden, church activities and as much cultural activities as time will allow, until I am called to a new address and more adventures in Heaven, I trust.

Post Script – Looking back in retrospect, from those early days of my boyhood in Custom House, West Ham, there have been many pitfalls and mountain peaks which I have managed to climb. Now in my dotage, I cannot do the things, which I have always enjoyed, due to the health and physical limitations that age inevitably imposes on us all eventually. However, after a relatively long life by some standards, I have come out on the other side reasonably unscathed and must be satisfied and grateful for managing to do this after a somewhat tumultuous period in the history of this country.

It has also been my privilege to meet people from all walks of life. Particularly after I was elected as a City Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers (as a result of my father working in the tin mines in Cornwall). I was then subsequently granted the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony at The Guildhall in London.

We feel very privileged to have this wonderful, personal life story from Harold Munday and are grateful to his family for allowing us to reproduce it - Editors

FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN – DAVID BRACKIN

As the sun returns and the village bursts into bloom, I am constantly reminded how grateful we should be to live in such a special place as Fulmer. In the last edition, I wrote about how the Parish Council is changing its overall objective to Keeping Fulmer Special and I'm pleased to introduce a new Parish Plan (following this piece), which lays out how we are planning to go about that. At its core it is about listening to your views more closely and jointly representing all our interests to the various authorities and agencies, as well as doing all we can to prevent damage to the rural feel of the village while nurturing those things which join us together as a community. I'd appreciate your thoughts on the plan and support to deliver it.

I'd like to thank everyone who came along to the Annual Parish Meeting where we discussed and debated points from the plan -- such as what our approach to Planning should be -- and were also able to chat over a glass of wine and share views. And over the past six months, we've had some extremely well attended council meetings where we've been able to bring together people to discuss issues such as school parking, developments and Pinewood's expansion. It's been great to have so many views represented and to see the results coming out of these discussions. If you've missed out, then do please check the website and Village Notice Board for future meetings. For example, over the summer, we're looking forward to having our local Police along to discuss crime in the local area.

Finally you must all have noticed how good the village is looking at the moment thanks to the efforts of the Fulmer Conservation Volunteers, who have gone from strength to strength this year. With judging for the Best Kept Village competition soon upon us, anything you can do to come along and help out, or just tidying and improving on your own is all helpful, and hopefully we can do even better this year.

Keeping Fulmer Special – The Fulmer Parish Plan

INTRODUCTION

Fulmer is a special place to those of us who call it home: a pretty little rural village surrounded by countryside, but within 20 miles of Charing Cross and boasting superb transport links. It has tremendous properties nestled along the Alderbourne Valley, but isn't over-developed. There is a strong sense of community with a busy church, school, sports clubs and pub and several events each year when residents and visitors can get together. There are many long-term residents but it is welcoming to newcomers. However, this is not to be taken for granted. The present state of development stems, mostly, from the agreement of three large landowners in the 1950's, and the precarious protections of green belt policy. Community institutions need nurturing and supporting through adversity if they are to survive, and changes to the way we live and the growth of nearby cities threaten to permanently overwhelm Fulmer - as they have so many other villages.

MISSION AND STRATEGY

The MISSION of the Parish Council is to *Keep Fulmer Special*.

The strength of the Parish Council is the fact that it is drawn out of the community and is closest to the needs of the community. There is no other part of government that cares only for Fulmer. It speaks most strongly for the community when it listens most closely to it, and so a critical role of the council is one of COMMUNICATION: engaging with local residents within and around the village so that it can truly identify the needs of the community. The Parish Council itself has limited resources to get things done so must seek to magnify its effectiveness by working through others. It comprises 7 voluntary councillors (including a Chairman and Deputy) and a professional Clerk. Through council taxes it raises an annual precept (see Budget) and owns some of the community assets in the village (see Asset Register). It has limited direct duties, with most of the responsibilities of local government falling to the Primary Authority for the area. In 2020 this is changing from being the multi-layered South Bucks District Council plus Buckinghamshire County Council to be a single unitary authority: Buckinghamshire Council. The Parish Council needs to use its intimate knowledge of the area to be an EFFECTIVE VOICE ensuring this resource-constrained and increasingly remote authority fulfils its obligations properly within the parish. The Parish Council can also work to identify and act with the community to PREVENT activities which threaten to permanently disrupt the delicate balance of Fulmer, whether that is over-development, fly-tipping, crime or anything else. Moreover, the real joy of life within Fulmer comes from the many other institutions and organisers of events which make Fulmer a better place to live on a daily basis, and the Parish Council should offer SUPPORT and CO-ORDINATION to them: promoting the good activities which bind us together as a community and increase our resilience to a changing world.

The STRATEGY which the Parish Council will follow to *Keep Fulmer Special* is four-fold. Likely indicators of SUCCESS in each area are also given:-

1. Communicate and engage closely with residents and all who form part of our community.
 - a. Majority of residents understand the role and support mission of the PC.
 - b. Significant engagement at council meetings.
 - c. Effective communications channel with majority of residents.
2. Be an effective voice to direct other authorities and agencies as well as effectively managing its own responsibilities.
 - a. Other authorities responsive to FPC communications. Seen to be organised and effective.
 - b. Residents see FPC as a “one-stop-shop” for local government issues.
 - c. Panel of experts on call to support and advise on escalation.
3. Identify and, in so far as is possible, act to prevent bad things from happening.
 - a. Increase in enforcement and prevention of crime, fly-tipping etc.
 - b. Long-term threats to Fulmer identified and plans in place.
 - c. Strong controls in place on development.
4. Co-ordinate with local institutions and events to nurture and support the things which make Fulmer such a special place to live.
 - a. Vibrant community with full calendar of well-supported events
 - b. Local institutions seek out FPC for co-ordination with community
 - c. Fulmer known as best-in-class

ACTIVITIES & POLICIES

The activities of the council describe how it goes about delivering its strategy and the policies describe the basis on which it takes decisions about how to spend its time and other resources.

1. Communication

- 1.1. Hold ten regular meetings a year and allocate time during each for any members of the public to raise any issues. Organise an annual meeting to discuss parish issues and host any ad hoc meetings as required.
- 1.2. Maintain the noticeboard publish core council information. Recognising the advantages of technology, maintain the parish website to advertise this and all parish council information. Explore other online platforms as appropriate for communicating with residents.
- 1.3. Maintain a Neighbourhood Watch group and email distribution lists for parish news and crime and safety updates. Seek to increase coverage.
- 1.4. Publish the Village Newsletter twice a year for distribution to all residents
- 1.5. Publish a list of council members and responsibilities
- 1.6. The council believes in open government and will make decisions in public. Subject to confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, it will publish the minutes of its meetings and decisions.

2. Planning

- 2.1. Designate a councillor for reviewing all planning applications and presenting to the council together with recommendations for scrutiny.
- 2.2. The council strongly believes that the green belt and conservation area policies are necessary to preserve the unique rural character of the village. It notes and supports the Local Plan's zero housing requirement in the Parish. It supports the improvement of individual properties, particularly for long-term residents and where they are shown to be in keeping with the character of the area. It is concerned by the division of larger properties into smaller sub-units, particularly where this is likely to create a strain on local resources and highways. It is concerned by the impact on the rural nature of the village by the conversion of farmland to residential use.
- 2.3. Develop panel of professional experts to advise and support submissions
- 2.4. Explore and develop, where appropriate, a Neighbourhood Plan to more closely consult with residents on desired planning policies and to bring tighter control on these issues in the parish.
- 2.5. Encourage the development and appropriate use of derelict properties, in particular the large sites of The Pickeridge & Fulmer Hall.
- 2.6. Report all planning enforcement issues and demand regular updates on progress by the Primary Authority.

3. Highways & Maintenance

- 3.1. Build a close working relationship with the Local Area Technician to highlight maintenance issues
- 3.2. Support and educate residents in reporting maintenance issues. Act as a point of escalation where issues are not properly addressed. Keep a list of unaddressed issues and demand regular updates from the Primary Authority.
- 3.3. Collect and publish data on highways use and road traffic accidents.
- 3.4. Consider a holistic and data-led approach to road safety, in particular what enforcement (Community Speed Watch, Police), education (MVAS, signage) and engineering (road furniture, traffic calming) will have the greatest effect.
- 3.5. Develop panel of experts to support and advise on highways issues.
- 3.6. Maintain Streetlights, Grass-cutting, Notice Board, Defibrillator and other assets.

- 3.7. Monitor footpath use, accessibility and maintenance.
- 3.8. Organise and support the Fulmer Conservation Volunteers with the goal of covering additional maintenance not on Primary Authority responsibility. Aim to win the Best Kept Village competition each year.
4. Community Institutions and Events
 - 4.1. Maintain a list of the main community institutions and events and allocate a named councillor to be their primary point of contact with the Parish. Provide a guide for how often the councillor should contact and update the council. (See Community Contact List)
 - 4.2. Sit on the executive of the Fulmer Sports and Community Association and encourage the development and use of King George's Field for recreation and enjoyment of residents.
 - 4.3. Maintain close relationship with Pinewood.
 - 4.4. Support the running of social gathering for the community, such as the Christmas Party, and explore others as appropriate.
5. Other Authorities and Agencies
 - 5.1. Maintain good working relationships with the Police. Invite to update the public at council meetings.
 - 5.2. Work with all layers of government and government agencies and associations, such as SBALC, MKBALC, HMG, Constituency MP etc to ensure that issues are heard at appropriate levels and lessons can be learnt from other councils.
 - 5.3. Work with BT/Openreach to improve broadband connectivity.
6. Finances
 - 6.1. Keep and publish accurate financial records and agree audited annual accounts.
 - 6.2. Agree and publish financial policies
 - 6.3. Agree and publish an annual budget
 - 6.4. Approve expenditure in line with that budget, approve payments in line with that expenditure.
 - 6.5. Insure, maintain, improve and replace village assets.
7. Other
 - 7.1. Provide and maintain allotments for residents as required.
 - 7.2. St James' graveyard is now effectively closed except for the burial of ashes. Full burials can be made at South Bucks cemetery.

PARISH RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr D Brackin, chair@fulmervillage.uk

Chairman. Finance committee. Local Area Forum

Community contact: Mosque, Black Horse.

Mr P Khangura, parm@connectglobalconsulting.com^[1]_{SEP}

Deputy Chairman. Finance committee. Planning portfolio.

Community contact: Convent, The Pickeridge, Fulmer Hall

Ms L DuToit, lorettedutoit@hotmail.com

FSCA executive. Allotments

Community contact: Fulmer Rise, Scouts & Guides, Riding For Disabled, Sculpture Garden, Teikyo School, Fireworks

Mr C Gray, charleslawsongray@gmail.com

Highways portfolio. Fulmer Conservation Volunteers

Community contact: Village Hall, Black Park, Stoke Common

Ms F Hall-Drinkwater francescaatrushworths@gmail.com

Website.

Community contact: St James Church, Family Fun Day, Fulmer Day.

Mr M Saxby^[1]_{SEP} Councillor.

Ms S Simkins susiemsimkins@gmail.com

Pinewood liaison. Newsletter

Community contact: Fulmer Infant School

Ms P Vahey clerk@fulmervillage.uk

Parish Clerk. Responsible Finance Officer. Finance Committee. FSCA executive.

Planning enforcement. Liaison with other authorities/agencies. Council administration and publications. Correspondence

Others

Mr B Weild weild@btinternet.com Neighbourhood Watch

Ms K Robinson Kathryn@westmeathcapital.com^[1]_{SEP} Deputy Neighbourhood Watch

PARISH COUNCIL VISITS TO SOUTH BUCKS RDA AND TEIKYO SCHOOL

The Fulmer Parish Council would like to establish closer links with the organisations within and close to our parish. With a new chairperson, David Brackin, and new councillors in place, we decided it would be a good opportunity to introduce ourselves to our neighbours the South

Bucks RDA and the Teikyo School. Although they are not officially part of our parish, these two organisations have played an active part in our village life, in particular on Fulmer Day, for many years.

David and myself met the management team of Teikyo School in September last year in an attempt to reach out to members of our immediate community and establish a contact point. Interestingly Edward Guinness has been in contact with them for years and is a board member, which neither of us knew.

This was a very pleasant and interesting meeting between ourselves and Mr Tadashi Nakayama (the Headmaster), Mr Kenji Horikawa (General Manager) and Dean Simpson (the Bursar). The school is a thriving community of approximately 60 Japanese students at the Teikyo School itself as well as around 80 students attending the International School of Creative Arts (ISCA), which is a completely separate school on the same premises.

We also spent a very enjoyable morning with Di Redfern at South Bucks Riding for the Disabled (RDA) in February and met Alan Lawrence, the trustee responsible for fund raising. It was clear from our visit that the South Bucks RDA fulfill a great need in the community. There are currently almost a hundred children with mental and physical disabilities taking lessons here, many locally as well as from schools as far as Uxbridge and High Wycombe.

South Bucks RDA's main challenge is to raise enough funds annually to keep things going. It is also very reliant on volunteers to offer their time to help - there are currently around 50 volunteers helping with various tasks. Anyone in the community who would like to get involved or volunteer at the South Bucks RDA can contact them at info@southbucksrda.org or on 01753 662 796

The visit was a good way to establish contact with South Bucks RDA and it was uplifting to see an organisation in our local community doing so much to improve the lives of others in our greater local area.

Lorette du Toit

Who is my neighbour?

In St James Fulmer there's a beautiful stained glass window based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. It's the very first Bible story that I remember being read to me as a child by my grandmother. Found on the south side of church the window comes ablaze just after midday (if the sun is shining!) in a cascade of colour. The story begins with dialogue between a lawyer and Jesus. The lawyer wants to know how he might inherit eternal life. He knows the Jewish law to love God and love your neighbour as yourself and asks the question: "who is my neighbour?" I wonder how we might answer that question. There are 250 properties in Fulmer and we may know one or two of our neighbours - and may not even know them by name. Sadly, such is the way of many communities these days. As human beings relationships are important to gain a sense of belonging and wellbeing in the place that we live.

In answering the lawyer's question, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan (found in Luke's gospel). It's the story of a man (a Samaritan considered to be an outsider) who shows compassion upon a Jewish man who has been robbed. A priest and a Levite pass by the man who's been left for dead on the roadside, pretending not to notice. The Good Samaritan not only tends the man's wounds, he also takes him to an inn leaving sufficient money to pay the bills until the man is well enough to leave.

Do we know our neighbour? The person who lives next door or down the road from where we live or the stranger we meet in the pub or at a Fulmer community event? What's their story? How are they? Are they experiencing difficult times and in need of a friend and neighbour? Do we have a need ourselves?

In my role as the Associate Minister for Fulmer I have the privilege of meeting many people in church or other village gatherings and events. I've lived in the village for over 20 years and am still discovering new people I haven't met before – people of different ages and different backgrounds. I find that everyone has something to contribute, and it may be the person we least expect that will help us in our time of need. We're not all called to be Good Samaritans but we can be good neighbours, making a difference to a family, a person living on their own, the bereaved or sick, someone needing a listening ear or a helping hand. Take time out this summer to find out who your neighbour is – you could make a significant difference in someone's life.

Come and join us at the Saint James Fulmer Community Service on Sunday, 7th July at 11.15 am. It's a great opportunity to meet local organisations and local people that you may not have met before and to enjoy a couple of drinks and some light finger food together after the service. Please find enclosed your personal invitation.

Revd Jill Roth, Assoc. Minister
Saint James Gerrards Cross with Fulmer

St James, Fulmer

The Reverend Matt Beeby joined us late in February as the new Rector of St James Gerrards Cross with Fulmer. Recapping from my Christmas entry, Matt studied for ordained ministry at Oak Hill Theological College, after a City career with Ernst & Young. He served his curacy in a dual role at Christ Church Mayfair and Dundonald Church, in Raynes Park – a lively church of a similar size to St James Gerrards Cross with Fulmer. Post his curacy, he was the Senior Associate Pastor at Dundonald, still preaching at Christ Church, Mayfair, focussed on professionals in the West End. Matt and Amy have three children, all now settled in local schools. Matt's first Sunday in Fulmer was March 3rd. He has commented he will take the Summer to learn and review all we do across our 2 sites, begin to form his ideas and following some consultation sessions in September, introduce his vision. Exciting times!

Before moving on, we would like to thank Anthony Bargioni who stepped down as Warden in April. He and Kerrie have contributed much during an important few years in St James, particularly when we welcomed Reverend Jill Roth in September 2016. We wish them well with family matters and hope we will see them in Fulmer often.

Major renovations to the Porch have continued. The new wooden roof has been beautifully crafted and fitted with the re-plastering recently completed. The new benches will soon be installed with lighting and the noticeboard returned to full functionality. We had some urgent work done to replace the boiler which reached the end of its life. Fortunately, a very good company managed to join the new boiler with the relatively recently installed pipework which has been successful. Security lighting was also installed at the back of the Church.

Recap of Events.

With Reverend Jill, the Fulmer Leadership Team and those who serve faithfully have continued to work to key priorities. Christmas services were well attended; our 'Carols by Candlelight' service with c 160 people, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall. Our new venture was Community Carols sung in the pub. We have been asked to repeat this next Christmas! Our Christingle Service was popular with young children and extended families. The Christmas Day services welcomed many families, friends and visitors. We saw 548 people across the 6 Christmas services!

We have now held 7 Breakfast Church services, for children and families. We offer a tasty breakfast with fun craft activities for families to do together, songs and a Bible story with a prayer and blessing. This format seems to be popular with parents and grandparents and bringing in folk from the Village, Fulmer Infant School, Beehive and beyond. Mothering Sunday was once again a fun service with several school and village families singing songs, they had practiced for school concerts.

This year at Easter we opened the Church for Holy Week, with Morning Prayer each day celebrating various forms of prayer, both in and out of Church. Our "Hour at the Cross" on Good Friday Service was well attended as well as our Family Easter Day Services.

Looking forward –

Fulmer Day is on **June 22nd** when we will have our usual activities at St James, Flowers, Organ playing and Bell ringing as well as Children's crafts, small snacks and juices in the Churchyard.

A Summer Concert will take place on **Friday July 5th** followed by our special **Community Service** on Sunday **July 7th** with a light buffet to follow.

Further out

Our **Harvest Supper** is on **Friday 4th October** 7 for 7.30 pm, with our **Harvest Family Service** at 11.15 am on the 6th October followed by **Harvest Lunch** in the Village Hall. Our **Bereavement & Thanksgiving Service** will be held on 3rd November at 3.00pm.

Do come and join us at any service or event 8.00am or 11.15 on a Sunday with coffee on a second and fourth Sunday; our wine and nibbles in the Village Hall on 5th Sundays and a Prayer and Chat gathering on the first Tuesday of each month. Breakfast Church is held at 9.30 on the first Sunday of the month. You will be assured of a warm welcome!

Francesca Hall–Drinkwater, Church Warden



Grade I listed gardens of unique design and beauty.

Plots and gardens available for the interment of cremated remains.

The gardens are non-denominational and plots are available in various settings to all faiths.

Guided walks for groups by appointment.

www.southbucks.gov.uk



Church Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2 4NZ | 01753 523 744 | memorial.gardens@southbucks.gov.uk

The Chelsea Fringe visited Stoke Poges

Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens are very excited to have taken part in the Chelsea Fringe Festival (chelseafringe.com) for the first time this year. The Chelsea Fringe is an alternative garden festival, which ran from 18th - 26th May 2019. Now in its eighth year, the Fringe featured a wonderful mixture of public spectacles, horticultural happenings and community celebrations. Primarily, events took place in London, however, more and more communities are taking part now as far afield as Japan. The festival aims to harness and spread excitement about gardens and gardening and encourage people to express themselves through plants and gardens. This resonates with us and we are keen to tell the stories of some of the people who are buried here using the medium of gardening. As well as our famous residents like Austin Reed, Alexander Korda and Kenneth Horne the festival enabled us to introduce visitors to some of the unsung heroes at the Gardens like the survivor of the Kindertransport who dedicated his life to supporting foreign students coming to this country and the third husband of a famous opera singer.

If anyone wants to find out more about the gardens do visit our website www.southbucks.gov.uk/stokepogesModule/gardens - you will find details of all our activities or email – franzi.cheeseman@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk

FRANZI CHEESEMAM

RING OUT THE BELLS AND SET DOWN THE WELCOME MAT

I'm writing this article on the afternoon of Sunday, 3 March. Why? Firstly it was Fulmer's first opportunity to welcome the new Rector, Matt Beebee and a right welcome he and his family were given. As the snowdrops were succeeded by crocuses and daffodils in the churchyard, the bells, silent for so long, rang out from the Church Tower in greeting and only the sun, so evident in the early days of the week, failed to join in the celebration. Rather than choosing a well-worn favourite sermon for his first occasion, Matt spoke in line with the current study of St Luke and the Acts. Fortuitously the second chapter of the Acts is one of the most important in the Bible and Matt's interpretation was masterful and easy to follow. The full choir sang two anthems including my favourite 'The Lord bless and keep you ...' and Jill Roth included prayers for many known to us who are unwell, in her Intercessory prayers.

After the Service, we proceeded towards the Village Hall for a buffet lunch, passing the Churchyard Magnolia tree, full of buds and Will Wilcox's beautifully carved wooden cross, to mingle in the Hall with friends, some of long standing and those who only recently became part of our Fulmer community, and are most welcome. Disability forces me to find a seat quickly, but a vacant seat or two either side of me means that I soon feel very much part of the party. Among these were David Brackin, the recently elected Chairman of Fulmer Parish Council, succeeding Michael Saxby, for whose long and devoted service we are greatly indebted, and Pauline Vahey, who, after four very valued years as Chairman, has rejoined the Parish Council as the Parish Clerk, bringing a wealth of experience from her earlier role. As a former Chairman myself, it was exciting to hear something of their plans for Fulmer and we'll 'watch this space' with keen anticipation.

On the last occasion that I talked with Hector Laing (Lord Laing of Dunphail) before he died, we were sitting just in front of High Meadows, his home in Upper Fulmer, in the warm evening sun when he suddenly and without any form of lead-up asked, "What do you think is the future of Fulmer in these changing times?" I answered "1973 was the year in which Fulmer Village was awarded the status of Conservation Area coinciding with my being elected Chairman of the Parish Council. On the plus side and in accordance with our status, the village buildings have been largely unaltered with a high standard of maintenance and gardens, including the Churchyard, colourful and neat. Both the Village schools – the Infant School in Alderbourne Lane and the Nursery School in the Village Hall – were giving

education to a high Ofsted approved standard; the Black Horse, after some difficult periods was now settled and attracting many from outside Fulmer to spend time in our Village and each Fulmer Day brought in many more. The efforts of our Conservation Group and other residents had enabled us to win the Best Kept Village competition for many years, a tribute to the pride Fulmerites have in their Village. 1994 saw the completion of the Mains Drainage Scheme, which has removed the stench that permeated the Village every time the drains were emptied. Within the Parish we have a new, modern Pavilion and Playground at the Recreation Ground where Cricket and Youth Football flourish; the Allotments are fully taken and the Riding for the Disabled off Framewood Road has had some notable successes even in International Competitions. Compassion in Fulmer extends to care for the older and infirm members of our Family and one could mention much else such as the Scouts, the Guides and the active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Additionally, the Fulmer Newsletter, delivered by hand to every property (and posted on the village website) ensured that everyone was kept well informed of the contribution they and their neighbours had been making to Fulmer's progress. On two recent occasions there had been well attended meetings in the Village Hall when it had been resolved that Fulmer must continue to be an active, living community rather than a dormitory village or traffic thoroughfare. "Yes" I concluded, "I would have every confidence that the Community Spirit would see Fulmer survive for many years to come".

Hector had been listening intently and asked some questions, most especially "Had the closure of the Village Shop and Post Office had a serious effect?" I replied that it had, mostly in terms of being a great and welcome amenity for small household purchases and providing a meeting place for people to exchange news and views and its passing was much regretted. But I felt that people's greater mobility and changing shopping habits made competing by small village retailers in these Supermarket days, very difficult. Hector then asked, "You have not mentioned Fulmer Church. What of its future with an ageing Congregation and not much sign of the seed corn, the young people, for the future being nurtured?" (In the recent past Hector had been the Churchwarden and occupied his seat in the congregation with great regularity every Sunday.) I answered that I could not speak with the same confidence as I felt regarding the future of Fulmer Community Life. While the clergy from big St James have served us well at Sunday services since the merger of 1986, 23 years previously, my opinion nevertheless was that for an active Church to flourish, it needed the leadership to come from within. St James, Fulmer had been our Parish Church for 375 years prior to the merger and I was worried lest this lack of inner leadership and young seed corn could result in a passivity, which could prove fatal. We agreed that we both hoped that these fears would prove unjustified but the prospect was far from promising.

I wish it were possible for Hector and I to be sitting in front of High Meadows again in this coming Summer sun ten years later. For of Fulmer Church there would be a different story to tell. The leadership has indeed come from within as Jill Roth and her family have been resident in Hay Lane for many years and her return to Fulmer from an outside curacy with her appointment as the Associate Minister with the special responsibility for Fulmer, Church and People, has been widely welcomed. She has to date been laying a particular emphasis on young people with the Sunday Breakfast Club proving a spectacular success. Could we be entering a new era? For a rural community at heart, a strong church is a very important factor. If only Hector and I could meet again to mull over this and the future But 'Oh, to be in Fulmer, now that Spring is here!'

EDWARD GUINNESS

South Bucks District Council, Fulmer & Wexham Ward

South Bucks District Council continues with its ongoing plan to provide temporary accommodation for residents in need. The Council has acquired several new sites which are currently under construction and due to complete in 2019. This will reduce the need to house residents by 40% in private temporary accommodation like hotels and reduce the cost to the Council.

The Government announced the approval of the proposed single unitary authority this year for Buckinghamshire. This involves the County Council and 4 District Councils forming a new Buckinghamshire Council in May 2020. South Bucks has accepted the decision and will support the Interim Executive Council in place to work through the details to merge the services provided today. This is a huge challenge for all involved to review process, resources and systems ready to start business next year.

Pinewood Studios started its second phase as planned in 2018 with construction well under way to complete later this year. There appears to have been less disruption to residents and a reduced number of complaints compared to the first phase since works commenced. Pinewood have also brought more land close to the new site, no applications have been received by the Council to build on this location.

The Joint Local plan between Chiltern and South Bucks continues which will outline policies for determining planning applications, site allocations and proposed new developments including other land located in the Green Belt. This will replace the current local plan up until 2023. The proposed release of green belt land in the new plan is 2% in South Bucks and Chiltern.

The number of elected Councillors remains at 28 representing 12 wards until the new Council in 2020. The Environment waste collection team empty almost 4,000,000 bins each year, which I believe has been an excellent service from our contractors. Protection of the Green Belt within Fulmer & Wexham remains one of my key tasks to protect the natural beauty within the District. Planning Enforcement issues continue to cause frustration for the Council and residents I believe we do achieve good results however I accept the process take a long time because of the legal obligations and cost to the Council.

Cllr Malcolm Bradford

Cllr.Malcolm.Bradford@SouthBucks.gov.uk

FULMER VILLAGE HALL

It's been another busy year at the Village Hall with regular classes, parties and wedding receptions taking up most of our time and being ably managed by our Lettings Secretary; Karen Nelmes. Alongside this successful timetable of activities, we have been working hard on maintaining the Hall to its continued high standard.

As always there is a never-ending list of jobs that need doing, some of which have included:

- Fixing, re-sanding and re-varnishing the lovely parquet flooring
- Having new radiator covers built and fitted
- Fitting of a new Worcester boiler
- Repairing a hole in the driveway
- Re-painting the walls

So, as you can see, keeping the Hall to its high standard is a time consuming and expensive task, as soon as one job is completed, another three pop up! With this in mind, I'm sure I speak on behalf of all villagers when I say that our thanks go to everyone on the Village Hall Committee for their hard work and commitment to keeping the Hall running so smoothly and looking so good.

Our current timetable of activities is as follows:

Monday	Band Practice
Tuesday	Yoga, who are taking a short break and will be back soon
Wednesday	Martial Arts
Thursday	Yoga, who are taking a short break and will be back soon

We also have a ballet class who book on an ad hoc basis and, of course, the weekends are taken up with children's parties, weddings etc. Not forgetting our long time partners the Beehive and Honeycomb Nursery who operate from Monday to Friday, 9am - 3pm during term times.

We are also delighted to have teamed up with the Fulmer Conservationists who are going to help us with our planting scheme in the garden. They will very kindly be installing planters along the railings, painting the bollards and guiding us on the colour scheme for our stone planters so that we match the flowers around the rest of the village. We are very excited to see the results.

Finally, don't forget, if you have any special events coming up and you are looking for a lovely venue at a competitive price, we are always happy to welcome you.

Please contact Karen Nemes 07498 041253, for further details.

We look forward to seeing you at the Village Hall very soon!

Barbara Zoltowska

Village Hall Chairperson and Secretary

A VIEW OF NORWAY

Changing away from my Colonial Buffer mode of recalling my early life in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya and Cyprus and the UAE, I will switch to Norway, a relatively new Country, which got its independence from Sweden, after a 100 year union, in 1905. Specifically a Norway before they discovered oil and became one of the richest countries in the world and one of the best to live in, if you can survive the long dark winters. I am fortunate enough to have been married to a Norwegian for the past 55 years so I dare to say I can speak with some authority.

My first impressions of Norway, and that of my contemporaries, as a young man in the 1940's and 1950's, was as part of Scandinavia consisting of Norway, Sweden Denmark and strangely, Finland as well. Lands full of tall beautiful blonde Viking ladies, free love and generally pretty liberal. How wrong I was; except perhaps for the ladies. All four countries are distinctly different, they speak a similar language, except for that of the Finns, whom nobody can understand. They do however speak English with a Terry Wogan Scandinavian accent.

My first introduction to Norway was in the early 1960's whilst on leave from my Regiment in the Far East. I took up a long-standing invitation from the Charge D'Affairs at our Embassy in Oslo to visit. His very Italian wife, Maria, had, for some time, believed that at 25 it was high time I got married. In those days Norway was very poor and survived on fishing, timber and hydro electricity with some mineral exports. It had surprisingly survived with a Labour Government for some 30 years, was strongly Lutheran, ultra Nationalistic as only a new country could be, and very much against alcohol which was very expensive and rigidly controlled by State run shops known as Vinmonopolets; it still is! It had a population of only just over 3 million people.

Once one was well clear of the few main cities there were no tarmacked roads and travelling round the mountainous country could be quite exciting, especially during the winter. Very few Norwegians travelled abroad except of course their seamen who travelled the world, rather like their Viking ancestors, in the many Norwegian ships that plied the world's oceans. Many Norwegians felt that with their mountain chalets for the winter and their summer houses on the south and west coasts there was no need to desert the beauty of their own country. Norway was occupied, very savagely, by the Germans during the Second World war and it came to the attention of the world at large with the incredible bravery of its Resistance fighters and post-war by the exploits of Thor Heyedahl and his team who crossed the Pacific on a balsa wood raft called "the Kon Tiki".

I met my Norwegian wife, thanks to Maria, and eventually we got married, but that is a long and convoluted story and I am not proposing to turn this into a romantic novel. I was very privileged to marry a lady from a very distinguished Norwegian Family who can trace their lineage back to King Harold Haarfragre (850-933 AD) and whose relatives had therefore raided and pillaged our shores. They had largely been Viking Chiefs, Administrators, Clerics and Artists and my wife is a direct descendant of Martin Luther as well. It rather puts us Brits to shame as very few of us can go back before William the Conqueror in 1066. It was shortly before my marriage in Oslo that a Norwegian lawyer introduced me to one of my favourite books, "Three in Norway by Two of Them". This wonderful book recounts the exploits of three Englishmen who travelled to Bergen in the spring in the late 1800's and spent five months in the remote areas of western Norway travelling with their canoes and pack horses and some local natives fishing the most incredible trout and salmon, shooting game and deer and living off the land. It was also at this time that several English and Scottish families realised the wealth of fishing in the Norwegian rivers and built houses and bought the rights to fish on these rivers. I know of only one English family that still has a property and the fishing rights on their local river. We like many Norwegian families have a mountain lodge in the mountains as well as a large lake full of trout which has been in the family for well over a hundred years and has provided us with endless hours of happiness away from the stresses of modern life.

Another very amusing book I acquired at that time was one entitled "How to live in Norway". It extolled the general modesty of the average Norwegian (still true), the very nationalistic fervour of the Norwegians (less true now) and much of the strict protocols of behaviour that existed then (which are dying out sadly). For example, if you walked up Karl Johan, the main Street in Oslo, everyone wore hats and it was very touching to see the men pause and doff their hats to anyone they knew. Now if you walk up Karl Johan you are lucky to see a Norwegian, such is the number of refugees that Norway has accepted. Another chapter was on the art of "skaaling" - when you should toast your hostess at dinner and which guests should also be toasted and the art of toasting itself. All practised when I first arrived and still carried on today. Another delightful practice was that when the children left the table after a meal they went to their host and hostess, the boys bowed, the girls curtsied and said "takk for maten" (thank you for the food). The adults did the same without the bows and curtsies, (some still do).

Norway has a coast of some 17,991 miles, including bays and fjords. In those days, and up to now, many of the villages and towns along this very rugged coast were inaccessible from the land and only accessible by sea. Every day a boat left Bergen on the west coast to travel the 1000+ miles to Kirkenes, well inside the Arctic circle and close to the Russian border. It carried a few passengers and much of the supplies needed along the coast. Early in our marriage we put our car on the deck of this boat, travelled to Kirkenes and then drove through Norway and Finland and through the magnificent Fjords on the West Coast, back to Oslo. Nowadays the boats are much bigger and the Hurtigruten trip is a major tourist attraction.

One cannot write about Norway without mentioning skiing. After all it was the Norwegians who invented skis. Until I went to Norway I was an avid downhill skier but the joy of putting on a pair of cross country skis and heading off on a 30km ski into the wilderness is beyond comparison and today the facilities in Norway are 100 times better than when I first went there for both downhill and cross country skiing. Even access to our remote mountain lodge has changed. My wife remembers sitting on a sledge drawn by a horse to be hauled up the long trek to the lodge on the far side of a huge frozen lake. Now a snow scooter will take the women and children and all our gear as the men slog up the mountain on skis.

Again the changes I have witnessed in the last 50 years are truly remarkable. I know of no roads that are not now tarmacked. There are more road tunnels in Norway than anywhere else. They have discovered vast quantities of oil and managed their resources very cleverly. They have the biggest Sovereign Fund in the world for future generations. Land reclamation in Oslo has produced large new commercial and public housing areas. A world class Concert Centre has been built on reclaimed land. They have accepted large numbers of refugees on

the basis they have the money to cope. Their rail system is one of the best in the world. And they will move entirely to electric cars by 2025. I could go on and have only briefly touched on some of the aspects of this wonderful country and its people.

JOHN SANDERS

Thank you John for another fascinating article with such insight and information written in your inimitable style. Please keep writing for us! - Editors

Fulmer Churchyard.

While every effort is being made to keep the beds and Church surrounds pretty and in good order, it would be appreciated if a few volunteers could come on board to help, perhaps just to take on a small job in their own time.

If anyone feels like helping in this way, please let me know.

Sue Fagan
01753 662193

'FULMER'S FALLEN'
The Unknown Soldier

One more name was added to those of Fulmer men who fell in the Great War of 1914-1918 when the toll was read out on Remembrance Sunday at St James Church, Fulmer – George Kenner Hawkins. This made the service in 2018 doubly poignant; first the names were re-called at the eleventh hour, exactly one hundred years to the day the fighting stopped at 11am on the 11th November 1918; second after those one hundred years had passed, due recognition was finally given to Corporal G K Hawkins of the 2nd Battalion of the Life Guards in the Household Cavalry who died of mortal wounds on the 10th January 1918. Sadly his name does not appear on either the memorial brass plates above the choir-vestry door or the enamel and wood Roll-of-Honour on the west wall of the nave, nor is there any account of him in the book 'Fulmer's Fallen'; published in 2009. His name, does, however, appear on the Peal Board in St James bell-tower, as Kenner G Hawkins, for it transpires that he preferred to be known by his second Christian name and this also served to distinguish him from his father and grandfather both of whom were named George Hawkins. It is due to Kenner George Hawkins being a bellringer in his early years that his sacrifice in The Great War, was discovered.

Brian Mawer, known to many in the St James' congregation, and to Fulmer as the once owner of the village shop, also has an interest in bell-ringing and so it was that Mr Alan Regin, who is responsible for the Rolls of Honour at the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, let it be known to the Fulmer Tower Captain in December 2017 that the 10th January 2018 would be the 100th anniversary of George Kenner's death. As a result Brian decided to research George's history.

Brian established that George Kenner Hawkins was born at Kemerton, Gloucestershire in December 1896 and by April 1911 was living at Alderbourne Farm, Fulmer where his father was Farm Bailiff. The young man rang his first Peal (the treble to Oxford treble Bob Minor) on the 17th May 1913 and would have been 17 years old when he was part of the Band that rang a peal of 720 to Kent Treble Bob Minor in Fulmer Church on the 7th June 1914. On the 9th September that same year he enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of the Life Guards in the Household Cavalry at Windsor. At some time after this date, but before 1918, his family

moved away to Manor Farm at Ifield in Sussex so, it is said, no-one in Fulmer would have known of George's demise.

It is remarkable that despite the bells being rung by George Kenner and his name inscribed on the Peal Board, no one thought to include his name on the Fulmer memorials but, as stated, in 'Fulmer's Fallen' "..... there is no record of how the names to be commemorated were determined." Perhaps this was because his family were no longer resident in Fulmer at the time of George's death in which event it seems a case of "out of sight, out of mind".

The war diary for the 2nd Life Guards is very detailed and shows its movements and other activities for each day. The battalion landed at Zeebrugge on the 7th October 1914 and marched to Ypres where it arrived on the 14th October having been targeted by snipers and, from the 16th October, heavy enemy fire. The battalion withdrew from the frontline on the 15th June 1915 to act as a reserve unit and to supply other regiments with officers and other ranks as and when required.

George Kenner did not embark for France until the 14th September 1915 and joined his battalion on the 20th based at Pont Noyelles, 13km north east of Amiens. It was on the 9th January 1918 that he fell. The casualty form for Corporal George Kenner Hawkins, as he had by this time become, shows that his multiple wounds, which proved mortal, were caused by a high explosive shell that landed in the immediate area where he was, and he died the next day. It is significant that the 2nd Life Guards were stationed in the village of Ribeaucourt, 43 km north west of Amiens, well away from the frontline.

Exactly where George was when the fatal shell exploded is not known as official records relating to where a soldier was killed, wounded or taken prisoner show only 'Theatre of War' and in the case of George this would have been 'France'. What is clear is that George Kenner, when mortally wounded, was not with the 2nd Life Guards battalion. Why? Brian formed the opinion that the only possible explanation lay in the War Diary of the 2nd Life Guards wherein it records that a relief of three Corporals of Horse proceeded to the 7th Dismounted Brigade on the 6th January 1918 and George Kenner could have been one of those three men.

Following George Kenner's death an obituary was published in 'Ringing World' dated the 1st February 1918.

THE LATE CORPL. HAWKINS.

AN APPRECIATION.

By the death in France (as reported in your last issue) of Corpl. Kenner G Hawkins, 2nd Life Guards, late of Alderbourne Manor Farm, Fulmer, Bucks, at the age of 21, the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, has lost a very promising and enthusiastic member. Deceased took up ringing in 1912, and had rung three peals, one of Grandsire Triples and two of Minor. He was also a member of the Middlesex and Sussex County Associations. Always of a happy and unselfish disposition, he was very persevering at the practices, and "never late" could have been written across his character regarding his attendance on Sundays. He was very fond of horses, an expert rider and a fine shot (having practised both from his school-boy days); he was a fine typical English lad, of the like of which, alas! we have already lost far too many. The writer has recollections of many happy days spent in his company, and can truly say of him, that he was "one of Britain's best boys."

G. H. G.

An insert of this account will be added to the special copy of 'Fulmer's Fallen' on the Memorial table in St James, Fulmer and details of Brian Mawer's comprehensive research deposited with the copy of 'Fulmer's Fallen' held in the archives at the County Records office at Aylesbury.

Narrative: KEN PETERS
All research by BRIAN MAWER

Thank you Ken & Brian for this fascinating and important tribute to another of Fulmer's Fallen. We respect the amount of work this has involved – Editors

Fulmer Cricket - www.fulmercricketclub.com

We are looking forward to another enjoyable and successful year.

Preparations for the season - The football has finished and the field has been treated with significant tons of new topsoil courtesy of the Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Football Club and with considerable help from Paul and Derrick. The square has emerged from its winter hibernation and with some warm weather and sun forecast it was in good shape for our first home game on 4 May. It has been very pleasing to see so many of the cricketers at the indoor nets this year. The last session saw no fewer than 16 enthusiasts who looked forward to our first game away, which was at Little Marlow on 20 April.

2019 Season - By the time you read this article we will be well on our way for the season. The fixtures for the season have been arranged for most dates, which stretch from 20 April through to 29 September. They are available on our website. For those dates still to be filled we will arrange them as we move through the season. There are new fixtures against Chalfont St Peter and Star and Ley Hill have returned after a few seasons' absence.

New Players Welcome - We have excellent playing facilities and are a very friendly Club. New players, of whatever standard, are always welcome. Please refer to our website for contact details www.fulmercricketclub.com

PETER BOX

The Saxby Glare

I was serving with the British Air Forces of Occupation at Wahn, near Cologne, 1948/49. One day I was walking near the airfield and my attention was drawn to a group of German workers raking a patch of soil level. The group was laughing at one of their members who was making a swastika in the soil. I stopped and glared at them. Immediately the merriment ceased and the swastika rubbed out. I had some time off and was walking along a pavement in Cologne. Approaching was a tall, tough looking German civilian. One of us would have to step into the road and it was not going to be me. I stopped and glared at him. He was obviously furious, but thought the better of it and got out of my way. In the 1960's I was with the family on holiday in Austria. A teenage relation was having a good time dancing with young Austrian men. At one point, I noticed that her partner's hand was slipping down from her waist to her bottom. I stood up and fixed him with the Saxby glare. He promptly moved his hand back to her waist..

Homage to the Brussels Sprout - In 1942 I was a Fitter Airframe at an airfield near Grantham and despite working 10 days without a break I still had to take on night security patrol armed with loaded rifle and fixed bayonet. The Officers' Mess had a vegetable garden surrounded by rolls of barbed wire and it did not take long to realise that the rifle and bayonet was the ideal tool for poking through the wire to spear the target. A sprout consumed at 2am is the ultimate delicacy, without doubt.

MICHAEL SAXBY



Fulmer Infant School

I have listed many items below that show what a busy 6 months we have had since the last Newsletter!

Our Values - Following on from the assembly led by the school council we have revised our school's values which are now: Be Kind, Be Honest, Respect and Achieve, these values will equip the children to be good citizens in our very wonderful, if challenging, world. The School Council made up of three Year 2 pupils, led a whole school assembly discussing these values.

Footsteps Training (Year 1 & Year 2) - Thank you to Gill Davey, Chair of the School Travel Plan, Governor and regular volunteer of the school, Shabana Khan, former parent and regular volunteer of the school and Sandy Oldham, Governor and regular volunteer of the school for teaching the children how to use our roads safely with the Footsteps Training, this is a vital life skill. Thank you.

Litter Picking - Well done to Perdie and Freya (Year 2) for respecting our environment by joining the villagers to pick up litter. Members of our Eco Team, Hudson, Himmat and Adam led a whole school assembly this week reinforcing the message not to drop litter.

Red Nose Day - we raised £52 for this worthwhile cause.

Islamic Artefacts - Thank you to Dawud's mother (Year 2) who led an assembly teaching the children about Islamic artefacts. The children asked sensible questions and, in line with our values, were very respectful of each others' different beliefs.

Thank you to Rev Jill Roth for leading an assembly on Christianity; this was very much appreciated by all the children.

Live Music – A Year 2 father came in to play his guitar to the children. It is so important for children to hear live music and to be inspired to learn an instrument.

Clothes Bank - Friends of Fulmer have now arranged for a Clothes Bank to be placed in the staff car park. All donations of clothes and shoes will help raise funds for the school. The Clothes Bank is accessible 24/7 and donations can include adult and children's clothes plus underwear, linen, handbags and shoes (in pairs). Please put all items in a bag before putting in the Clothes Bank.

Sponsored walk – We had a lovely sunny morning for our walk and treasure hunt organised by a Year 2 mother

Parking - Thank you so much for taking advantage of the school opening earlier so that there is staggered parking, I have had reports that the traffic is much calmer so a big thank you to my staff for making this work.

The school raised £231.55 at the retirement collection after the Nativity concert and this photo shows the children at Al Jannat with their uniforms which our donation helped to buy.



Lunch time fun - Mrs Parrett, our sports' coach, arranges an obstacle race at lunch times on the astroturf area which is enjoyed by the children.

iPads – we now have 3 at school so a very big thank you again to Liz (Neil's mother in Year 1) who organised the fundraising.

Community Matters - Thank you again to Friends of Fulmer who have arranged for Fulmer Infant School to be in the Community Matters scheme from 1 - 30 June at the Waitrose shop in Gerrards Cross. Please do select the school when shopping there.

Cathy Hunt - Headteacher

KING GEORGE'S FIELD, FULMER

With regard to the sporting clubs at King George's Field, Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Football Club have had very successful seasons. Recently, the club had its annual presentation of awards for all the players and coaches celebrating all that was done over the season. In particular, the girls under-14 squad won their league, which is very impressive since the girls section was only formed a couple of years ago. The club welcomes both boys and girls of which there are 200 boys and 30 girls. Fulmer Cricket Club has just begun their

season and has made a good start. They have played 4 matches and have won 3 and drawn 1. The club has a good membership but are always seeking new players so if you would like to test the waters and play in a match you will be warmly welcomed. In November we had the Fulmer Bonfire night, which was a great success, with just under 500 people attending. The theme for this year was based on the James Bond film Skyfall and thus, the event was called Bonfire Night. Our very own Bond killed the baddies but couldn't save Skyfall itself to the enjoyment of the audience who saw the house go up in flames. On bank holiday Monday, 6th May we held the Fulmer Family Fun Day. The feedback from this event was also very positive with many families enjoying activities from archery to bouncy castles, coconut shy, welly wanging and target golf. We had a fabulous cake stall and BBQ too. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out at both events and to everyone who came and participated in them.

Finally, the club can be hired out for adult and children's parties, 5-a-side football and as a corporate venue. Please get in touch if you would like to hold your own event in an idyllic location.

Andrew Nealon
07879 404745



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KEEPING FULMER TIDY & SPECIAL

Fulmer is a really special village to live in, an oasis on the edge of London that feels as though you are in the heart of the countryside. Through the years the Fulmer Conservation Volunteers (FCV) have worked hard keeping the village looking its best and helped win the 'Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village' award on numerous occasions. Over the last few years though, the number of volunteers dropped considerably so when I joined the Parish Council last September I really wanted to help the FCV find some new helping hands.

The last six months has seen a surge in support and we now have over 20 volunteers regularly picking up litter, trimming hedges, planting out and generally keeping the village looking amazing. We are always looking for new people to join our growing community of helpers, it's very social; we generally meet in the pub once a month on a Saturday morning to catch up over a coffee and brief on the areas requiring attention and then fan out across the village. Or if you prefer to help out on your own schedule then we have a list of jobs that you can assist when you want. You can put in as much or as little time as you can spare.

This year we are going all out to win the 'Best Kept Village' award for the first time since

2014. The judges will be checking out the village in June and July so fingers crossed and would everyone do their bit in their 'patch' to keep it litter free! If you would like to help out with the FCV please contact Charlie Gray at charleslawsongray@gmail.com



Stoke Common news update

2018 was an important year for Stoke Common with the new ten-year management plan being devised, consulted upon, completed and then ratified by the City of London's Epping Forest and Commons Committee and Natural England. The new plan builds on the progress made to date with the main focus for the next ten years being to transition from restoration to on-going management. This will be primarily through grazing but will also include targeted management for specific features. The City's on-going management aims to maintain and build on the current variability in the heathland habitat.

Tree felling and scrub removal has changed the common, creating an open landscape with scattered trees and a protective woodland fringe. The woody material was stacked into habitat piles and initially the cleared areas were devoid of vegetation. However, the improved light conditions allowed dormant seed to germinate and an excellent, diverse heathland sward is now developing. The new target is for 5-10 trees per hectare in open areas, either singly or in clumps as well as retaining a woodland fringe around most of the site as a barrier against noise, pollution and visual disturbance. We will also continue with 'softening' the woodland edges through regular, rotational cutting back of areas and allowing them to regrow – this will also help ensure firebreaks are maintained. Later this year work will start on clearing a further 1.4 hectares of secondary woodland; part of the capital works phase of the Countryside Stewardship agreement.

The presence of grazing livestock has been an essential element of developing and maintaining the heathland habitat and will continue to be so in the future. Therefore, the use of Sussex cattle and Exmoor ponies will continue and for this summer the cattle will be back in late May/early June and the ponies will hopefully return to North Common in August.

The other essential element in the management of the site is work done by staff and volunteers. Early in the year, further scrub clearance was carried out on Main and West Common. This was followed with some fencing work to replace worn sections in preparation for the grazing animals and then some footpath surfacing later in the summer. Also worth looking out for are the four new information signs which have been designed and installed to

update the information on the site and, most importantly, make them more accessible for all visitors.

Our doors are always open to new members of the Burnham Beeches and Friends of Stoke Common volunteer groups. Tasks are either Thursdays or Saturdays and you can come for all or part of a day – the choice is yours - all tools, and as much tea or coffee as you can drink are provided. If you have some spare hours and would like to participate in looking after this fantastic open space take a look at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burnhambeeches or www.friendsofstokecommon.org.uk – or call 01753 647358.

CHRIS MORRIS – Senior Ranger

Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society

Recent events

Everyone enjoyed Derek Dexter's practical and entertaining talk on fuchsias at the Spring Members' Social Evening on Wednesday 13 March. Many took advantage of the wide variety of plants that he had grown and were for sale. Members also took home Ray Birt's handout fuchsias, which they will nurture for exhibiting in the Show.

By the time you read this article I hope that our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 4 May and the Practical Gardening Workshop, led by Franzi Cheeseman on 8 May will have been both successful and enjoyable.

Village Fete Rose Competition

June is a much better month for roses than the end of July, when the Society holds its Annual Show. This year there will be a Rose Competition at the Stoke Poges Fete on Saturday 8 June. This will be sponsored by the Horticultural Society and judged by Brian Christie, a National Rose Society Judge.

There will be four classes:

- 1 large-flowered bloom- fully open
- 1 large-flowered bloom - perfect stage 1/2-3/4 open
- 1 stem cluster-flowered rose carrying 3 or more flowers
- 1 stem miniature rose (any small-flowered rose eg. "Flower carpet" or "Seagull" type)

Entry will be free for Society members, on production of their membership card. For others entry fee is 50p. Please bring your exhibit/s to our stand during the first 30 minutes after the opening of the fete and collect them by 5 pm. Judging will take place once all the exhibits have been mounted. The best overall exhibit will receive a National Rose Society Bronze Medal. Winners of the individual classes will receive small monetary prizes.

The Annual Show,

Saturday 27 July, in the grounds of The Stoke Poges School, Rogers Lane

The gates open at 12.30 pm; the Marquee opens about 1.30 pm after the judging of the exhibits. There is free parking in the adjacent Recreation Ground, off Bells Hill. Entry is £3.00 for adults, £2.00 concessions, free entry for children. Members are free on production of their membership card.

There are competitions for best plants and flowers, fruit and vegetables, flower arranging, wine and beer, photographs, cookery, arts and crafts for both adults and children. We encourage you, your children and friends to enter the many and varied competition classes. There are a wide variety of junior classes, such as a

miniature garden, a scarecrow, flowers, baking biscuits or fairy cakes, a decorated plate. Other attractions include a Brass Band, Plant Sales and Garden Equipment, Classic Car Display, a Coconut Shy, Raffle and Tombola, Stalls, Tea Tent, Beer Tent, Lunches and Barbeque, and for children Special Rides, Face Painting and Ice Cream. If gardening is not your thing, there are many other classes you might enter, why not take a look at the schedule to see the full details.

The show is a unique and popular event for all the family. People from a wide area attend each year. Help is needed to prepare on Thursday and Friday, and on Show Day. We would welcome volunteers who would be willing to give some of their time assisting the hardworking show team; this year it is led by **Tom Robinson of Pinewood Nurseries**, our Show Superintendent. If you would like to help, please get in touch with me **Ruth Rooley, 01753 648040, ruth@rooley.com or Jon Homan, 01753 662166, homanhome@gmail.com**

The Show Schedule with full details and entry forms will be available in May online www.hortsoc.org or from **Heather Homan 01753 662166**.

Also please remember that the Society seeks to encourage gardening in the community. There are cups, which are presented at the Show for

Best Front Garden and Best Allotment in Stoke Poges and Best Allotment in Fulmer

Please see our website www.hortsoc.org for more information and seasonal tips.

Future Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 11 September – The National Garden Scheme - Janice Cross, Assistant County Organiser, NGS Bucks.

The talk will cover how the NGS came into being, how it has developed over the years, beneficiary charities, a tour of some of the lovely gardens in the scheme, and what it is like to open your garden.

Wednesday 9 October – My first year at Cliveden - Antony Mason, Head Gardener who will share his thoughts on his time at Cliveden as the new Head Gardener, his experience to date, where he has come from, share a few stories and plans for the next year.

Both these talks will be held at the Stoke Poges School commencing at 8pm.

RUTH ROOLEY

FULMER AND SMOKING

There is a connection and it is through 'Fulmer Chase', the estate which is situated to the north of Stoke Common Road. Fulmer Chase was originally an estate of some 200 acres, and was purchased in 1922 by Mr Louis Bernard Baron who built a beautiful country residence, an Arts & Crafts House with a central arched carriageway in red handmade bricks and clad with Cotswold Stone roof tiles (most unusual). The roof supports would have been very heavily timbered to take such weight and the house when new with its rich cream colour must have looked quite stunning - very chocolate boxy. The gardens up to the early 1940's must have been spectacular; the long winding drive sweeping up to the house with grass verges each side and lined with different varieties of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Japanese Maples. There was a large sunken Rose Garden adorned with statues and figurines on pedestals. A large Rock Garden, constructed with Westmoreland Rock, (at the time this would have been hugely expensive to build); an idea no doubt inspired from the Rothschild Rockery at Exbury Gardens, built at the turn of the century.

Louis Bernard Baron was born in 1876. During his time here in Fulmer he was known just as Baron – The Black Cat King. His father, Bernard Baron, was born in what is now known as Belarus – Eastern Europe. He had been taken, as a young man, by his father to live in America, where he found work hand rolling cigarettes. Sometime at the turn of the 20th century he invented a machine that could make cigarettes and he made a fortune. In 1905 he came to England and bought out the cigarette company 'Carreras' and so the famous Black Cat cigarettes were born. He introduced Gift Coupons with his products and

smoking became very popular. By the time of the 1914-18 war, smoking cigarettes was not only booming but socially acceptable everywhere. Bernard Baron died in 1929, Louis B. Baron was made a Baronet in 1930 but sadly died in 1934 aged 57.

The Future of Your Garden

I don't think there is any doubt that with climate change plus the increasing population there will soon be a total ban on using our Domestic Water supply to water our gardens, it will of course come when we need it most. If we care for our gardens we should be giving some thought to the storage of rainwater, the installation of a large water storage tank would be crucial for this, size of course according to the size and requirement of your garden and put in a place out of site or where it can be screened off. Rainwater can be collected quite easily from outbuildings, garages, sheds etc. into 170lt – 40gal. butts, fitted with a submersible water pump controlled by a float switch that will, via a hose pipe, pump the water to your main storage tank. The main tank should be fitted with a pump that has an adjustable pressure valve. There are a number of Horticultural Water Tanks on the market of various sizes starting from 2500 litres /600gallons. It is important that the tanks have a cover and are not open to the elements.

Enjoy your garden ... Eric Price

News from South Bucks RDA

Summer is on its way and with it a reflection on how things have changed for SBRDA over the past months. We have said "Cheerio" to some of our competition horses with Athene taking a break to hopefully become a mum in the beautiful surroundings of Devon and Futte going to join his Guatemalan owner so they can have more time together to preparing for competition. Sadly we have said goodbye to several of our RDA ponies as old age, with its infirmities, has come.

Through the legacy from one former helper and donations from volunteers and other organisations we have been able to buy three ponies "Billy", Pip" and "Duke", we have also been loaned "Billy G ", who we hope will support our junior riders. We are still in need of a larger 16-hand dressage schoolmaster to support Jess, in particular; a young rider who has just been selected as 'podium potential' for GB. So, if anyone has knowledge of a safe super star dressage horse wanting a very caring home please contact Helen Burt our centre manager 01753 662796.

I am writing this at the end of a busy, but successful weekend. The group took 4 horses and several riders to Wellington Riding in Heckfield for the South Region RDA Qualifiers. The group now have nine riders qualified for the National Championships in Gloucestershire in July. The riders will take part in the disciplines of dressage, showjumping, and countryside challenge. In the arts and craft section Coteford school, who send a group of children on a Wednesday to SBRDA, also won with an artwork celebrating 50 years of RDA. The team of volunteers and staff, worked so hard to present magnificent turnouts and the riders' performances were excellent.

Every week we rely on volunteers to come and prepare the horses for classes and then support the riders in their lessons. The riders during the week come out of school and the riding is part of their education. These young people need up to three people each to ensure that they get the most out of riding, so we are always on the lookout for new volunteers to enable us to give more children opportunities to learn. If you are interested please contact Gina, our Centre administrator info@southbucksrda.org or ring 01753 662796 to find out more, you can also visit our website www.southbucksrda.org.

Theresa Drake
Volunteer Coach/ Trustee

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Here to help people help themselves !



Black Park Shed, which is just one year old, is part of the Men's Shed movement in the UK. This started in Australia but has spread to other countries and is growing strongly in the UK with more than 450 Sheds currently. The Sheds are community spaces for people to connect, converse and create. The activities are similar to those of garden sheds, but for groups to enjoy together. Like many others, Black Park Shed is open to men and women and initially activities are based around woodwork and there is also a small garden area to be developed. Other activities can be developed in future in accordance with members' interests. For further information see our website www.blackparkshed.org.uk or email derek@blackparkshed.org.uk

We felt this initiative was something so worthwhile to share with our readers and hope you all agree - Editors

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150 years of*

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