



**FULMER NEWSLETTER**  
**December 2018 – Issue 64**  
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## From the Editors

We hope all readers enjoy this edition – we have had some new contributors this time and we think the newsletter content reflects the interesting mix of activities that our lovely village provides.

All this is able to happen because people volunteer and help to keep Fulmer so special as our Parish Council Chairman, David Brackin, echoes. Whether it is helping to bell ring at St James; assist with reading at Fulmer Infant School; help the Fulmer Conservation Volunteers, support our pub, etc etc or just picking up litter – it all helps our community. If anyone wishes to assist in any of these activities mentioned, the newsletter gives contact details.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
Susie & Ronnie Simkins

## PERSONALIA

### **Baptisms – We congratulate:**

Tallulah Lily Connor, daughter of Wayne and Jane Connor of Fulmer Lane, Gerrards Cross, on 30 June

Charlie Oliver Lindsell-Davis, son of Christopher Davis and Jennifer Lindsell, of Gerrards Cross on 1 July

Oscar John Martland, son of David and Katrina Martland of Iwer, on 5 August

Tatiana Louise Elizabeth Fagan, daughter of Edward and Al Fagan of Watersplash Farm, Fulmer on 5 August

Filip Horowski, son of Bart Horowski and Sintija Stromane of Fulmer on 2 September

Alexandrina Jane Robb, daughter of Stuart and Andreea Robb of Taplow on 30 September

**Weddings – we congratulate:**

Ivana Peterova and William Willcox of Slough, married on 1 September

**We send condolences to the families of:**

Peter Prowting who died on 11 May, his funeral took place at Chilterns Crematorium on 7 June.

Richard Marshall who died on 14 June, his funeral took place at Chilterns Crematorium on 6 July.

John Hedley who died on 3 July. A thanksgiving service took place on 25 July at Fulmer Church.

William (Bill) Hill who died on 11 July. A thanksgiving service took place on 25 July at Fulmer Church.

**JOHN HEDLEY**

23rd November 1939 - 3rd July 2018

John was born in Stockton-on-Tees and went to Grangefield Grammar School. He then in his words 'came south'! to Sheffield University where he studied Science, graduating in 1963. He came down to London and studied for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at the University of London Institute of Education. It was his school friend from Stockton, David Lawson, who was already teaching at Gayhurst School, who suggested they shared a flat in Gerrards Cross and John travelled up to London. John and David came to services at Fulmer (then a separate parish) in the mid 60s and joined the choir (there was a link with the sons of the Rector Rex Lloyd). There was a Crusader Class in Gerrards Cross at the time and John and David were invited to join the other two leaders to help develop the class. John played the piano for their worship sessions! In 1967 John met Pauline when she joined the choir and they married in Fulmer Church in 1971. It was Rex Lloyd's successor, Bill Taylor, who suggested that John should consider becoming a Reader so he could help with leading the services. He was licensed as a Reader in 1977 by the bishop of Oxford in Christ Church Cathedral. He was to play an active part in the life of Fulmer Church for about 40 years!

John's first job was at the British Museum in what became the Science Reference Library. After a while he decided he wanted a change and did a Computer Course and got into computing. He worked for British Rail for a time and then joined a computer company in Slough, which became the Concurrent Computer Corporation. He was in the international division, which meant he did a lot of travelling to Australia, Singapore, Kuwait, Athens, and

nearer to home, Dublin and Brussels. His final job before he retired was as a tutor in the Open University.

Music always played an important part in John's life, and Dr Ann Hall talked about his musical interests at the Thanksgiving Service for John's life held in Fulmer Church in July. He joined the choir of his parish church when he was about 8 years old and sung with various groups while at school and university. Also while at school he played the violin and was in the Durham Youth Orchestra. When he came to Gerrards Cross he sung tenor in the Amersham & Chesham Bois Choral Society and with the Harewood Singers. He was also the Chorus Master of the Misbourne Opera Group. After he and Pauline married he joined her and sung with the Windsor & Eton Choral Society. The patron of that society is the Queen so invitations to Windsor Castle to sing at concerts for the Queen were enjoyed by all its members. He also sang with the South Bucks Choral Society. Several years before he became a Rotarian, John conducted the John Hedley Singers in concerts to raise money for Rotary charities. He also conducted Ann's Antique Ringers & Singers, which used to visit pubs and restaurants in the area to raise money for the work of Cancer Research and the Blind of Bucks during the Christmas season.

It is good to know that he did not suffer too much in his final illness and is now at peace with his Lord and joining in the music of heaven.

**Pauline Hedley**

### **John's Musical Interests - A Tribute from Dr Ann Hall**

In 1969 I first met John, no, not in Mr Scrapehard with the Harewood Singers because John had left them as I joined, but at the Misbourne Opera Group rehearsing Ernani. John had straight brown hair, which tended to flop and horn-rimmed glasses and he was the chorus master. (He told me he had been on a conducting course and learned to use his arms independently and that conductors should never bend their knees). For Ernani John had to stamp on a thing (it was probably an empty plastic bottle) to make the sound of a gun shot exactly in time to the music which he managed with his customary aplomb. He was meticulous about timing and musical note lengths. After this came Aida. For this production he was promoted to a singing role of the messenger as well as chorus master. The performances took place in the Farrer Theatre at Eton. We were the first members of the general public to use the theatre and we opened with a full house.

We had invited a friend, Deke Arlon, a theatre impresario, to the performance. All went well at first. The audience went for drinks at the end of Act 1. The Safety Curtain came down and then people took their seats for the resumption of the show. The orchestra started and the safety curtain rose to reveal a change of scene. The stage was full of priestesses singing to the goddess Phtha. The grand priestess stepped forward and began to trill away when the safety curtain slowly descended! She saw this but continued singing, bending her knees, her back, her head, and finally bent to the side at a right angle and singing out of the corner of her mouth gamely continued trilling trying to finish. Disaster was averted by a stagehand leaping to the ropes and hauling hard. Three times we regrouped and attempted to start the act but the malfunctioning safety curtain made its appearance each time. Our gallant chorus master abandoned us and we glimpsed him, feet just off the ground pulling with all his might trying to defy gravity! I peeped into the auditorium and saw our friend in the third row with tears of laughter streaming down his face. "Keep that in the show" he said later "It was great".

As a result of this, when my husband, Desmond, organised the first Rotary Gala Concert he asked Deke to produce and direct it. Deke promptly suggested that the Misbourne Opera Group and Orchestra should appear on the bill and open proceedings. We sang Neopolitan songs and our chorus master, John, added a smattering of yet another language - Venetian - to his list of sometimes useful words and phrases in German, Italian, Greek, French, Arabic, American and "Strine". It proved difficult getting 30 singers and 30 orchestral players with chairs, stands and instruments on the stage at Newland Park easily and so for the second concert "The John Hedley Singers" made their first appearance with Edward Chubb as soloist. We were coached and directed by professionals and learned a lot from working

with them. John loved it. He and I would chose the theme for our melodies (weather, railways, cowboys etc.) then had to sell it to Deke. After that John worked on the arrangements and the linking method (if in trouble try a seventh). We had help from Fi Trench on the piano.

We learnt from Deke among other things –

- Give people things they know
- That we were there to entertain and not to educate but you could slip a lesser known song into a melody
- The importance of a good starting song and a strong one to finish an act
- How to acknowledge any applause and bow at the end and how to milk that applause to get more (we never had enough to practice this)

At rehearsals thereafter John would often quote the following - An amateur rehearses until he gets it right but a professional rehearses until he can't get it wrong. SMILE always.

The John Hedley Singers performed at over half of the 11 Rotary charity concerts. Gilbert Runnicles joining in 1976. We appeared with Roy Castle, Ivor Emmanuel, Roger Moore, Elizabeth Welch, John Laurie, Marion Montgomery, Jess Conrad, Mike Yarwood, Harry Worth, Val Doonican, Ernie Wise to name some of the stars. What an experience!

John was always in great demand but I had a bit of luck in 1971. I was searching for a new conductor for my carol-singing group and the records of Ann's Antique Carol Singers show that Miss P Ebdon and Mr J Hedley (Conductor) joined the group for the first time then. I managed somehow to persuade them that they would enjoy it and John continued as conductor thereafter. Pauline gallantly made John some blue reveres to his Victorian type jacket and some Victorian petticoats, dresses, capes and hats for herself: all very elegant. John usually carried a sturdy music stand, much needed for the music we had cobbled together for the handbells and remembering Deke's words, John led us with panache, insisting on the best entrance we could manage, and starting our performance with a well known carol or song.

We went where we were invited to parties, functions and weddings; to Pinewood, Cliveden and to fetes and restaurants locally and to London. In London we went to the Cafe Royale, the Mayfair Hotel, Quaglinos, Mortons in Berkeley Square, the Astor Club, the Blue Angel Night Club and had dinner at the Stafford Hotel. John made a point of knowing as many Maitre D's as possible as he appreciated a good meal). These Christmas trips raised many thousands of pounds for the Blind of Bucks and Cancer UK.

As well as conducting and singing tenor John could play the piano, had a go at the organ, performed with the accordion and learnt to ring hand bells and conduct at the same time and was adept with the pitch pipe.

When John came to Fulmer in the 1960's, Rex Lloyd was the Rector and Ronald Knight the organist. The choir was much larger then with a flourishing children's section affiliated to the RSCM. John helped lead the choir under successive organists including Donald Cashmore and the amazing Iain Ledingham. He said once that if he had not gone into computers he would have liked to be a lay clerk in St George's Chapel. But the electronics won. He always liked gadgets that went ping or whoosh, or that made coffee or gave information. He joined in the Fulmer activities, quizzes, carols, harvest, summer extravaganzas, parties. He gave a rendition of "Excelsior" or "Come into the garden Maud" whenever required.

We are struggling on but miss him.

**EDWARD WILLIAM (BILL) HILL**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June 1921 – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

If I tried to account for daddy's 97 years, we might be here till Christmas...

But a few years ago he slipped me a sheet of paper - entitled Eulogy First Draft – its scantiness typical of his modesty. Interesting was what he included about himself; he wanted to join the Navy aged 19 but was rejected on health grounds - Little did they know! .so joined the Army. He landed in France just after D Day and wrote simply “despite being very close to the front line at times, Bill managed to keep alive and eventually ended up in Berlin” - his insuperable modesty again. After the war, he coordinated the men awaiting de-mob – a skill set ripe for the movies. He wrote that he would have stayed on, but the War Office declined promotions and he came home, to the life he built for us.

His rise in films from 5 guineas a week was stellar. Our childhood vocabulary was Hitchcock, Huston, Columbia. Inane late night calls from Hollywood saying “Gee, Bill Hill, where's Hong Kong?” were water off a duck's back. He wrote in his CV of 1983, “What I don't know about producing a major movie, might be squeezed on a quarter page of shooting script”. The eruption of Vesuvius and the French Revolution were just in my student years. Daddy's knack was for the Big and the Small. He navigated Dressing Rooms, Directors and Unionised Crew with equal skill. He once comforted a drunk on a train who turned out to be sitting at the head of the boardroom when he came to pitch an idea; he never mentioned they had met before. He had a benign way of looking at the world. People fell in love with him.

His modesty was matched by his constancy. If I remember anything about our childhood it was that Daddy was always the same. Consistent. Scrupulously fair. The only punishment meted out was combing our hair with his metal comb. He was **never** late. He always had a clean handkerchief. He always wore navy blue. He always had a smile, even when receiving highly charged “instruction” from mummy on his bridge skills or his choppy golf swing! He always had time for you. He never judged our differing choices. A safe lap for the grandchildren, safe shoulders to carry you. His filing was immaculate, his own eulogy in place. No ego, no fuss. Very little phased him in his later difficult months except possibly a short haircut. Broad shoulders came with creative hands. He couldn’t ignore badly arranged flowers, or wrap a present without a ribbon. The hands that worked out the shooting schedule were always there to take up yours whoever you were, big or little. He was enormously fond of the wonderful friends who surrounded him and cared for him in his retirement in Gerrards Cross. It took ages going anywhere with him - if he wasn’t chatting, someone was chatting to him.

His own short eulogy ends modestly that his children “had acquired their mother’s intelligence and good looks – and to her he was extremely grateful for the devotion and care over 50+ years that she had bestowed on him”: as are we. In fact it was 58 years and I **know** that the adventure he began when he set foot in Tobago in 1960 and lured Mummy was the making of him. It was an adventure – a mighty mother-in-law, three sisters-in-law, two step-children and then two more children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. “Babar Bill” was his name.

Life was about people for daddy. We are so lucky to have been his people.

**Kathryn Buscall**



## **DR. RICHARD MARSHALL**

16<sup>th</sup> December 1945 – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Richard grew up in Bishops Stortford and went to Hertford Grammar School where he studied Zoology Botany and Chemistry to A level. Further studies at Hull University followed where he graduated with a degree in Botany. After leaving Hull he worked at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany on research into diseases of barley and wheat, his thesis on which, earned him his doctorate from Cambridge. He then worked for Nickersons Seeds in Lincolnshire. A stint in France saw him specialise in sunflowers and soya beans! Redundancy followed, when after a brief spell as a self-employed consultant, he joined Uniroyal Chemical working in Langley. This involved travels in East Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall. His boss at the time was German and when they went from West Germany to East Germany he had to go through Check Point Charlie whilst his boss who dropped him there had to use a different Check Point. Richard found standing outside Check Point Charlie waiting for his boss to pick him up in his car stressful to say the least. Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Albania and Romania were included in his travels. On one occasion he found himself seated next to a robed farmer with a goat under his arm! He was searched at gunpoint when leaving Dushanbe with staff from the American Embassy after an uprising. The UK had no Embassy in Tajikistan then so the Americans helped get UK nationals out.

Richard moved to Fulmer in 1995 although initially he was often away on business. He was a founder member of the Fulmer Volunteers primarily started to improve the local footpaths and local environment. All appreciated Richard's hard work in surveying what needed doing and organising the volunteers to carry out those works together with Ronnie Lamb, Parish Council Chairman. Richard also organised the administration, Health & Safety, Insurances etc. In the early days a number of kissing gates were installed on the footpaths by the volunteers. Later much effort was concentrated in helping to achieve success in the Best Kept Village competition including such activities as painting the children's swings on the recreation field. He had a true feeling for nature and the countryside and was in favour of not cutting or leaving at least part of various plants some of which appeared to be weeds, to host wildlife and he would ensure the Volunteers tried to avoid cutting hedges in the nesting season. He regularly walked or cycled the footpaths and liaised with the County Council where works were required. He hated litter and litterlouts and vehicle drivers who exceeded the speed limit through Fulmer. He liked vintage cars and owned a much prized Morgan.

Richard was a private man and enjoyed a Stella in the Black Horse after a hard mornings work with the Volunteers. He travelled extensively liked to holiday in Mexico with friends and had experience of the Communist bloc through his work in agrochemicals when it needed a brave person to travel on some of the more remote airline routes and a hard head to keep up with Russian and other members of the bloc and their drinking habits. Richard died after a short illness aged 72 from a brain tumour; our thoughts are with his friends and family.

WRITTEN BY PETER MARSHALL, COLIN GRIFFIN & COLIN MORAM

*I am sure readers of the Newsletters, like us, will greatly miss the interesting and informative articles Richard used to write twice a year. His passion for the Fulmer Conservation Volunteers was clear and I am sure they will continue to do the sterling work*

*of keeping Fulmer tidy and beautiful. It is good that Charlie Gray from the Parish Council, has joined the Volunteers now - Editors*

The logo for Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens. It features the name 'Stoke Poges' in a green, cursive script font, with 'MEMORIAL GARDENS' in a black, serif, all-caps font below it. The background of the logo is a faded image of a large tree.

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*Jingle and Mingle*



## **Fulmer Village Christmas Party**



*Friday 14 December 2018*

*7-11.30pm*

*Fulmer Village Hall*

**Drinks - Seated Dinner - Raffle - Dancing**

**Tickets £33**

**Early bird special £28 book by 30 October**

**Welcome drink included**

**Cash Bar**

**Spaces limited**

**To book**

**Email [fulmerchristmasparty@gmail.com](mailto:fulmerchristmasparty@gmail.com)**

**Tel 07764 132305**

**Raffle proceeds in aid of Riding for the Disabled**

**Organised on behalf of Fulmer Parish Council**

The past six months have been busy for the Parish Council. We have welcomed back Pauline Vahey to join us as Clerk on an interim basis to redefine and update the role after Peter's departure, and Charlie Gray has come on board as a councillor, quickly taking on responsibility for Highways and Environment. I'm delighted to have both on the team and pleased they are having such an impact so quickly. Since taking over as chairman, I've taken the opportunity to have a good look at what we are aiming to do for Fulmer and how to be more effective.

We have some legal responsibilities to deliver things like street lighting and maintain verges, but our wider brief is to do what is possible to Keep Fulmer Special. There are three main strands to this -- the first is doing all that we can to support, foster, encourage and fund the community institutions and activities that bind us together as more than just a group of people that live in the same postcode, but as an actual community. We are actively contacting people and institutions within and around Fulmer to see what more can be done and asking to keep in regular touch, but if you have something that you think might be good for the community and perhaps we could help, then please do let us know. When Larry suggested purchasing the Tommy for the centenary Remembrance celebrations, we were delighted to match other donations to make it happen.

The second area is around Highways and the Environment -- an area where we are making good progress with the recent resurfacing through the village and our close ties with the team prosecuting the fly-tippers who occasionally blight our lanes. We are also determined to put in a good showing in the Best Kept Village competition in 2019.

Finally, Planning is an area where we review every single application made in the parish and submit comments where appropriate. Where we think that there is a significant impact we'll also publicise this more widely and may actively seek your comments, but you are always welcome to draw our attention to any issues. In this area, because of the complexity and increasing sophistication of those who would promote over-development to the detriment of our community, we have decided to selectively engage professional help to make our voice better heard by the planning officials. We are also seeking advice on whether a Neighbourhood Plan might help further.

As part of this review, we've also restructured how we spend our time in council meetings to be more effective on these issues and taken a long look at our budget and reserves for replacing assets and unexpected expenditures which we are proposing making more robust to deal with unexpected events.

The Parish Council is just one small bit of local government -- most of your council tax goes to South Bucks District Council (Planning, Rubbish etc.) and Bucks County Council (Highways, Schools, etc.) -- so a lot of the Parish's work is influencing and lobbying these larger bodies to act for Fulmer's benefit. And while they have the money, they do not have such a close tie to the community and as good a knowledge of what our priorities are. This situation is only going to get worse when the two layers of District and County are merged to form a Unitary Authority next year as was announced in November. It is the close relationship with residents that means these larger bodies have to pay attention and I would urge you all to come along to a Parish Council meeting and let us know your thoughts, strengthen that relationship and use us as an amplifier to help Fulmer get the services it needs. Alternatively contact me directly if you'd like to chat.

**David Brackin, Chairman Fulmer Parish Council**

#### **PARISH COUNCIL – LIST OF DUTIES**

DAVID BRACKIN	Chairman; chair@fulmervillage.uk 07970 793058
PARM KHANGHURA	Deputy Chairman/planning/finance parm@connectglobalconsulting.com
MICHAEL SAXBY	Transport, Minerals & Waste, County & District Policies, michaelccsaxby@aol.co.uk
SUSIE SIMKINS	Newsletter Editor; Pinewood liaison

FRANCESCA HALL- DRINKWATER LORETTE DU TOIT *CHARLIE GRAY	susiemsimkins@gmail.com Village website; St James' Fulmer francescaatrushworths@gmail.com Allotments, FSCA lorettedutoit@hotmail.com Conservation Volunteers/Highways & Environment charleslawsongray@gmail.com 07785 266431
PARISH CLERK	clerk@fulmervillage.uk Finance Group; Council Admin; FSCA; Notice Board; Allotments
Others:-	
BARBARA ZOLTOWOSKA	Fulmer Village Hall Chairman Barbara.e.zoltowska@gsk.com
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR	Malcolm Bradford Cllr.malcolm.bradford@southbucks.gov.uk
COUNTY COUNCILLOR	Roger Reed roreed@bucksc.gov.uk
BRIAN WEILD	Neighbourhood Watch; Police & Community Liaison weild@btinternet.com
KATE ROBINSON	Deputy Neighbourhood Watch; Kathryn@westmeathcapital.com
KAREN NELMS	Village Hall Lettings Secretary 07498 041253

*\*Charlie Gray moved to Fulmer with his wife Alexis and young daughter Perdie in 2014 and welcomed another daughter, Thea, into the family in 2015. Perdie will soon be finishing Year 2 at Fulmer Village Infant School whilst Thea will join the reception in September. Charlie is a keen runner and cyclist so you'll often see him down the lanes or in Black Park. Sitting on the Fulmer Parish Council as a liaison between the District Council and local residents for 'Highways and the Environment', he is a champion of well maintained and litter free roads, green spaces, working to ensure the village and its environs always look their best.*

# THE ESSENCE OF YOGA

## WORKSHOPS

with  
KENDRA TOOTHILL & ALEX FAGAN  
at  
WATERSPLASH FARM, FULMER

### ABOUT:

Nestled on a quiet 25-acre farm in and amongst woodlands and a picturesque landscape, we will be exploring the true nature of Yoga and its original teachings. Bringing the 'simple' back to Yoga and exploring its essence through learning, discussion, guided meditation, breath work, physical practice and much more!  
All workshops last for 2.25h and will take place in the most natural of environments with peace and tranquillity surrounding us at all time. When weather allows, we will be in fields, woodland, tents and airy barns.

### WORKSHOP DATES: Second Saturday of each month from APRIL - October

Saturday APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> 2019

### DETAILS:

2.25hr Workshop  
£45 per workshop  
Gift Bag on Arrival



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Refreshments

**BRIEF OVERVIEW:**

Explore the land and get settled  
Guided meditation  
Learn about Yoga, its Origins and Ancient Teachings  
Learn how to Actualize Modern Day Practices into Your Life  
Undertake Movement Practice, Breath Work & Yoga Practice  
Quiet Time & Explore the Land  
Departures & Until Next Time

There will be 7 workshops in the whole course. You may drop in to as few or as many sessions as you wish.

**No experience required.**

**To book, email [alex.fagan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alex.fagan@hotmail.co.uk)**



## THE ESSENCE OF YOGA -Kendra Toothill

### **South Bucks District Council - Fulmer & Wexham Ward**

South Bucks District Council is very disappointed with the decision by the Secretary of State recently announced by James Brokenshire, to support the proposed single Unitary Authority for the whole of Buckinghamshire excluding Milton Keynes. South Bucks Council will now consider their options. This should not be a takeover by the County Council, but will bring some radical changes to the way things work today. The timeline proposed for the changeover will happen sometime in 2020; this means the 4 district Councils need to review and consider the proposed elections due in May 2019 for current elected members. South Bucks preferred option was to have two Unitary Authorities North and South, which is believed to be the best solution and the right approach to deliver the services to our residents.

Fulmer and Wexham planning Enforcement issues have continued to disrupt our lives in the Parishes, causing anxiety to many residents with the time its taking to resolve any breaches of the planning policy. The planning department will continue to work efficiently to Enforce where necessary within the constraints of the legal process and deliver the best solution to those residents who decide not to comply with planning rules.

South Bucks District Council has been running a trial in partnership with Bucks County Council to tackle weeds growing on road edges in the South Bucks. A change in policy meant that Bucks County Council ceased weed spraying activities several years ago, but this trial offers a more affordable and joined up approach to tackling a growing problem.

Street sweepers used across South Bucks have been retrofitted with weed spraying kits, allowing the sweepers to spray weeds with herbicides as they go about their daily business along the kerb edge.

The Council continue their hard work to reduce the baseline cost to the Council by working in Partnership with Chiltern District Council in sharing services which now includes the Planning Department which is located at Chiltern with office facilities at Capswood.

Several large Projects like HS2 and Heathrow Expansion continue be the focus of the Council to minimise any impact to the surrounding Parishes and were possible apply for grant funding from the projects to support those communities that may be affected by the change.

The Council will continue providing what I believe is an excellent service to our residents. Looking at options to reduce the running cost but still maintain the quality of service that's delivered today. Now Winter is upon us it will present further challenges to the Council to manage our services and keep residents informed of any changes to our services.

Councillor Malcolm Bradford (cllr.malcolm.bradford@southbucks.gov.uk)

## **PLANNING IN FULMER**

In the 12 months to November 2018, a total of 48 planning applications for the Parish of Fulmer have been received and reviewed by the Parish Council – an average of just over 4 applications per month. For comparison, Gerrards Cross Town Council received 414 applications in the same period, or nearly 35 per month (34.5). Iver Parish Council 315 and Hedgerley Parish 29, respectively. As is often the case the applications received have ranged from permission to fell a single tree, to the construction of completely new houses. However over the last 12 months larger requests from developers have been received ranging from 13 new homes to 25. The process is that the Parish Council is given a few weeks to comment on any planning applications before the South Bucks District planning officers meet and decide on each case. We do not expect the process to dramatically change as we move to the governance of a Unitary Council and we will keep you updated to any changes. Parish residents are welcome to attend the monthly Parish meetings to voice their thoughts and concerns on planning matters. We will continue to act as your conduit into the planning office to express your concerns and reflect your thoughts on planning matters in the Parish of Fulmer. The main priority of the Parish council in providing its views to the Planning Officers continues to be the protection of village life and prevention from overdevelopment. Our aim being to promote development which helps the Parish to continue to function as a participative community, preferring buildings for permanently resident families, over huge 'structures' that can sometimes attract temporary residents. In addition we are exploring the benefits of a Neighbour Plan to work in parallel to the Council Local Plan. In the 12 months from November 2017, South Bucks District Council have published decisions on 48 planning applications affecting the Parish of Fulmer. In comparison 50 applications were decided upon in the same period last year and 42 for the previous year. (Below you can see what the number of applications has been over the last 10 years).



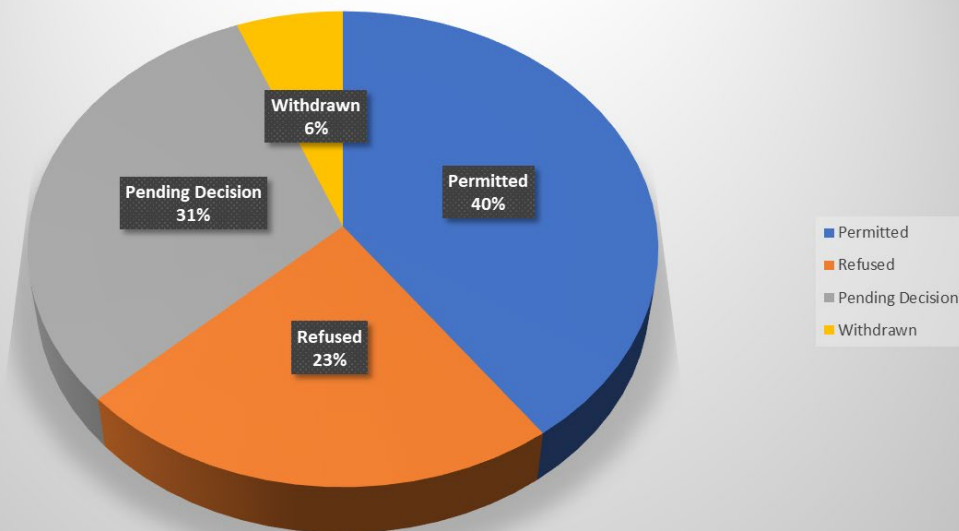
## Number of Planning applications Fulmer Parish (Last 5 yrs)



Though it is worth noting that the difference in the number of applications received and decisions made reflects that decisions are not always taken in the same period as the applications are received and this has certainly been the case as the planning team has recently the transition of the team.

Of the 48 applications submitted, 19 were permitted (40%), 11 were refused (23%), 15 are still pending a decision (31%) and 3 were withdrawn (6%).

### Fulmer Parish Applications (Nov 2017 to Nov 20th 2018)



The Fulmer Parish Council will continue to provide commentary on Parish views with regards to planning applications.

We will continue to support and work with Fulmer residents with regards to a number of long outstanding Enforcement activities working closely with both District & County Council representatives (Unitary Council moving forward). This continues to be a drawn-out process.

The Village continues to be very active with the number of Planning requests high for such a small community.

The Parish would very much like to hear from Residents of the Parish on how we work better in providing information and supporting any concerns for all planning matters.

**Parm Khanghura – Parish Councillor Planning**

## Fulmer Day



Thanks to everyone who made Fulmer Day 2018 such a fantastic success!

A total of £3,891 was raised between the Committee and Fulmer School. The committee donated £2,000 to Fulmer Village Hall for ongoing maintenance.

A special thanks to the Committee for all their hard work throughout the year to ensure the event went ahead smoothly and was a huge success.

Thanks also to the Black Horse for their continued sponsorship of the event, which is greatly appreciated.

The weather was hot and sunny and whilst the World Cup did distract from the event; lots of fun was had by all.

It's now time to plan for the 2019 event, unfortunately, without additional committee members this is in jeopardy as several of the current committee have decided its time to hang up their hats. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me on

darren2712@btinternet.com. Without additional committee members the 2019 event is unlikely to go ahead which will be a sad loss for our special village.

**Darren (Fulmer Day Committee)**

### **A SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE ...**

As Christmas approaches, the church looks forward to celebrating once again the birth of Jesus Christ, an event that took place over 2000 years ago. Some would argue that Christmas has no significance for today and yet it is still celebrated by millions of people around the world. It's a time to capture the nostalgia of our own childhood as we look through the eyes of our own children or grandchildren at family get-togethers. It's also seen as an opportunity to indulge in eating copious amounts of food and drinking excessive amounts of alcohol. But, Christmas can also be a difficult time for those who've lost a loved one or for those struggling with ill-health or financial worries. And what about those who are living in war torn places throughout the world and others with their own personal battles because of relationship breakdown or mental health issues where peace and joy might seem non-existent?

I believe the story of the birth of Jesus Christ is as relevant today as it was over 2000 years ago. It's a story of hope; a celebration of the time that God chose to come down to earth to live among us, born of a woman called Mary. God looked down upon our world with love and compassion. He's seen babies being born, people dying, acts of great generosity and acts of war and terror (very much like our world today). God's gift of his son, Jesus, is the hope of the world. Christians believe that Jesus is our only hope for the future. This is very significant for each and every one of us. Baby Jesus - meek and mild - was the embodiment of God on earth, fully human and fully divine. He grew up to be a man full of love and compassion for all people, but especially the lost, the broken, the lonely, the sick and the persecuted. His love was poured out for us as he died on the cross to pay the price for our sin (every bad thing that we've ever done or said) so that we might be forgiven if we believe and trust in him. This gives us a fresh start. You see, Jesus' birth was the beginning of God's rescue plan for the whole of mankind. He invites us to place our worries, our fears, our uncertainties, even our whole lives at his feet. It's an invitation to us made in love. It's a message of hope not fear. Hopes and fears are often bracketed together in common language, but if we recognise that hope is about certainty (not wishful thinking), then our faith and trust in God, our hope in Him, will enable us to rise above our circumstances and take away our fears. To put our faith and trust in God through Jesus Christ can bring about an inner peace and joy beyond our circumstances as it takes us forward to a time when there will be no more pain, no more wars, or death and suffering. So, let's enter the Christmas period with a sure and certain hope in Christ our Saviour, God Immanuel (God with us).

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen."* Romans 15v13.

Do join us at one or more of our special Christmas services this year at St James, Fulmer. Check out the St James's Christmas Services leaflet or go to: [www.saintjames.org.uk](http://www.saintjames.org.uk) for more information.

**Revd Jill Roth, Associate Minister - St James, Fulmer**

### **St James's Fulmer.....From the Churchwarden**

We are pleased to tell those of you who don't already know that our new Rector will be the Reverend Matt Beeby. 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 The Two Saint James. Having completed his curacy, he took on the role of Senior Associate Pastor at Dundonald and remains a regular preacher at Midweek in Mayfair, an outreach to

professionals in the West End of London. Matt is married to Amy and they have three children (ages 6, 8 and 11). He has long been involved with ministry amongst business people, young people and with Christians in Sport. Matt is also a member of 'City Cohort' – the City Centre Resource initiative, working on church planting and resource church leadership with the Bishop of Islington, Ric Thorpe. He is also Captain of the Diocese of London cricket team. His first Sunday in Fulmer will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the past few months the Fulmer Leadership Team, led by Rev'd Jill Roth have completed work on the Mission Action Plan. This was presented to the PCC in September and approved. Key priorities remain widening the attraction of traditional worship, being accessible to all through pastoral love and care and enhancing communication with the congregation and the Village. Jill will share the vision more widely during the early weeks of 2019.

Our major projects; the new railings around the boiler steps and our new Coffee and Tea kitchen in Church are completed! Now we are working on major renovations to the Porch. Currently the wooden beams are exposed and will dry out before re-plastering in March.

#### Recap of Events.

Once again Fiona Gray and her talented crew created and delivered a super Summer Concert in June with drinks and nibbles outside on a sunny evening. On Fulmer Day we joined with Fulmer Infant School to provide kids' food and juices as well as crafts and face painting along with our usual activities; Flowers, Organ playing and Bell ringing. Many went to the Black Horse or King George's Fields to watch the World Cup game against Sweden, which of course we won! Our special Community Service on with a buffet lunch also went well.

Our Harvest Supper in September offered a super meal with traditional singing and celebrations. At our Harvest Family Service several children joined us from Fulmer Infant School and the village to sing songs. A poem was beautifully read by Freya Dunne. Also, in October we launched Breakfast Church, a children's service at 9.30 for local families and those from Fulmer Infant School and The Beehive. We offer a tasty breakfast of bacon butties, pastries, and fruit, plus coffee, tea and juices with fun craft activities for families to do together. We sing songs and tell a Bible story with a prayer and blessing. Children take home a goody bag for the crafts they've made and a colourful balloon. It was well attended and appreciated by many, Breakfast Church takes place on the first Sunday of the month, 9.30 am-10.30 am.

On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the 1st World War, we held a special Remembrance Service. Larry Brooks had organised for the Village to buy a "There but not there" soldier silhouette and Will Wilcox had carved a cross where the Brownies and others laid poppy wreaths. The names of the fallen in were written on wooden outlines of soldiers. The first part of the service was held outside. We were pleased to welcome many to both parts of the service accompanied by our wonderful choir and bell ringers.

Next, we approach Christmas time! Where has the year gone? Everyone is welcome to join us at our various services. Please see the full Christmas Brochure accompanying this Newsletter. For Fulmer the services are

Sunday 16 December 6.00 for 6.30 Carols by Candlelight

23<sup>rd</sup> December 4.00pm Community Carols outside!

24 December 4.00pm Christingle 9.30pm Holy Communion

&

25 December 8.00am Holy Communion 11.15am Christmas Family Service

**Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Churchwarden**

## **CHURCH BELLS AND RINGING Questions and answers**

1. **Why ring bells?** The purpose of all bell-ringing is to call people to church and is a real British Folk Art. The method has been practised in this country, although not in the rest of Europe, for over 400 years. Ringing at Fulmer started in 1542 when the oldest bell was cast and hung in the original church on the marsh and was moved to the new church in the village in 1615 and is still in service today. The other times the bells are rung are for celebrations, weddings, Christmas, the New Year and for funerals and times of national mourning such as Remembrance Sunday and the death of the Sovereign.
2. **How many bells are there in the Fulmer Tower and how heavy are they?** There are 6 bells, the lightest weighs  $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwt (180 kilos). It sounds the highest note and therefore is called the treble. It is the first to be rung when ringing in 'rounds'. It is also the oldest bell in the tower, having been cast in about 1540 and hung in the medieval church on Fulmer Marsh. The no 2 and no 3 weigh  $3\frac{3}{4}$ cwt (c.190kg) and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  cwt (216.3kg) respectively and cast and hung in the tower in 1741 and 1884. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> bells were cast and hung in 1617 shortly after the new church was built in the village. They weigh  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cwt (228kg) and  $5\frac{1}{4}$  cwt (267kg). The heaviest bell, striking the lowest note, thus called the tenor and ringing last in 'rounds' weighs  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cwt (c.382kg). These are not considered to be a heavy set of bells.
3. **How are bells rung?** From the C17 bells have been mounted on a complete wheel with the rope passing around the circumference before dropping down through a hole in the bell-chamber floor to the ringer below. The ringer then swings the bell gently back and forth but with increasing effort until it reaches a nearly vertical position with the mouth of the bell uppermost. The bell is then swung 360 degrees until it is mouth up again and then another 360 degrees anti-clockwise until it is 'mouth up' again. 'Full-circle' ringing accomplished the twin aims of full control and maximum noise.
4. **What is change ringing?** The art of change ringing began when ringers first mastered complete control of their bells and got bored with simply ringing them in order, 1,2,3,4,5,6 etc., and started to change the order in which the bells were sounded; hence 'ring the changes'. In 1668 Fabian Stedman published a treatise 'Tintinologia'. In it he explained that the different orders in which bells could be rung

was based on the factorial system: on 3 bells the number of permutations is only 6, whereas on 12 bells it is 479,001,600 which would take about 40 years to ring. In practice patterns have been composed to suit different numbers of bells and are regularly learnt and rung by bands.

5. **Who can be a ringer?** Change ringing was originally said to be a 'gentleman's recreation'. But we know from the existence of external doors to many church towers that ringers were kept to the 'tradesman's entrance' because their rowdy behaviour was felt to be inappropriate in church. Nowadays ringers come in all shapes and sizes, men and women, young and old, boys and girls and there is no need to be a regular churchgoer. Indeed many ring just to enjoy the art of ringing and to prevent Church bells from falling silent.
6. **Could I be a ringer?** Almost certainly; age and sex are immaterial. An elderly lady ringer who was interviewed last week is still ringing at 100 and I read in the magazine 'Ringing World' recently of an 8-year old boy ringing a quarter peal i.e., (1250-60 changes taking about 45 mins). Some people take it up as a retirement hobby. You don't have to be musical, mathematical, or particularly strong or fit. It helps to have a sharp eye, a keen ear, a sense of rhythm and a sense of humour. You need to be able to commit to at least one evening a week for an hour and a half for ringing practice. It will cost you nothing but patience.
7. **How long does it take to learn?** Initial teaching takes place on a one to one basis, most learners will be able to control a bell and will be ringing with the band in about 6-12 weeks. But like learning a musical instrument there is always more to learn and a greater skill to acquire.
8. **Am I needed?** YES. There are hundreds of lovely but silent towers across the country. In Fulmer we had been reduced to one tower member and although there are now 5 of us and have been able to restart our Thursday evening practices we really need 12 ringers to sustain the tower. That we can ring the bells on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, weddings and other occasions is thanks to the assistance of ringers from neighbouring churches.
9. **What's in it for me?** You can't ring on your own. Ringing is about being part of a band. Everyone's contribution counts and after the 'jam' there is the opportunity to socialise and slake your thirst in the pub next door. Apart from the sense of being part of a team, usually a very diverse group of people, acquiring a skill that is hundreds of years old and contributing to the continuity of an ancient art you will find that ringing keeps you physically fit and mentally young by co-ordinating ear, eye, hands and brain.

So why not come and try. Just turn up on a Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9.00pm or telephone me for more details. **Celia Thomas 01753 647270 or 01494 775503 e-mail celiandafydd@btinternet.com**

### **Fulmer Brownie makes history as the first Brownie to make her Girlguiding Promise at New Scotland Yard**

1<sup>st</sup> Fulmer Brownies, with Brownies and Guides from Farnham Common made history when they visited New Scotland Yard, becoming the first uniformed group to visit New Scotland Yard. As part of their celebrations of the centenary of women in the UK first getting the vote, the girls have been learning about women in key leadership roles. Fulmer Brownies wrote to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Cressida Dick, who invited them to visit New Scotland Yard for lunch and to hear about the work of woman police officers.



The girls met a number of key officers based at New Scotland Yard, the head office of the Metropolitan Police. These included, Commander Catherine Roper, who is a Guide Leader herself. The girls also met Police Constable Jo Mills and Police Constable Emma Robin and their dogs, Fizz and Eddie. They learned how Fizz plays an important role finding items such as illegal drugs and money and how Eddie is ace at tracking down people using her sense of smell. The girls had tremendous fun getting to know Fizz and Eddie, who were excited to have so many girls to fuss over them. The Brownies and Guides heard from Commander Roper how she had become a police officer, and were given the opportunity to try on her uniform and to discover how the police vest is made – and how heavy it is. They were also shown how body-cams help police officers to undertake their duties.

Commissioner Cressida Dick explained how she had been delighted to receive the letter from 1<sup>st</sup> Fulmer Brownies, as no other Brownie, Guide, Scout or other youth group had visited New Scotland Yard in the past. She was very pleased that Fulmer and Farnham Common Brownies and Guides were making history as the first uniformed group to do so. The visit coincided with the beginning of the Metropolitan Police celebrations of 100 years since women took police roles in 1919. Commissioner Dick shared her story of how she became a police officer in 1983, after attending university and considering a career in accountancy. Brownies and Guides were given the opportunity to ask the Commissioner about some of the difficulties she faced in her role. Commissioner Dick explained how it was sometimes challenging but highlighted how lucky she was to have such a loyal, professional team and how much she loved her job. Brownies asked her if she had ever met the Queen. She told the girls that she had met Her Majesty on a number of occasions and what a special person the Queen is. For one Brownie from 1<sup>st</sup> Fulmer, Lily, the day was very special. Lily made her Brownie Promise with Commissioner Dick present. The Commissioner was also presented with a Brownie Promise badge, which she was very pleased to receive.

Brownies and Guides were each presented with New Scotland Yard pins. The girls felt all felt it had been a fantastic and special day were inspired by all the amazing police officers they had met, especially Commissioner Cressida Dick. Many of the girls are keen to learn how they might too become police officers of the future – and one day, maybe Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.





**Angela Hurlstone**  
**Leader – 1<sup>st</sup> Fulmer Brownies**  
**Fulmerbrownies@hotmail.com**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Gerrards Cross & Fulmer Scout Group**

We currently have 93 children attending each week, 3 Sections at our HQ in Fulmer and 2 Sections in Gerrards Cross with 14 Leaders to run the Scout, Cub and Beaver sections. Scouting is in a very healthy position at the moment and we have a long waiting list for children although we increased the number of sections only a few years ago. The addition of Leaders is very encouraging as they will follow their children through the group and this will provide continuous leadership and ensure the strength of the group.

As scouting encourages girls to join, I am very happy that we now have 20 girls in total in our Group; 11 in the Scout section, 3 in Cubs and 6 in Beavers.

As usual our Fundraising last year was at the Gerrards Cross Christmas Lights Festival in December where the girls and boys had great fun selling a vast amount of Krispy Kreme doughnuts in Station Road in a very short period of time and later in December we bag packed at Tesco GX on a Sunday morning when most of the children came and this helped our funds considerably.

We celebrated Remembrance Day at the GX Memorial Centre Sunday Service this year; it is very pleasing to see that we always have at least 30 of our children attending which is a great effort.

During the last 12 months all the Girls and Boys have enjoyed a large range of activities in all sections with the emphasis on camping skills and using the outdoor facilities we have at our Fulmer HQ. Even in the winter we do try and run evening activities outside as much as possible.

We are pleased that 3 of our Scouts won places for 1.5 weeks at the Jamboree in 2019 at Kandersteg in Switzerland. The Scouts have to fundraise the cost of the tickets themselves so



we have had extra events so they can raise the funds such as a Disco evening and a Barbecue at HQ, extra bag packing, etc. I believe they had nearly covered the cost to attend.

Yet another good year for our group with the new sections consolidating, higher numbers throughout the group and improved adult support.

Please don't forget we still need adult help from 18 - 80 years old and you don't need any scouting experience just some enthusiasm, so get out of your chair and join us as we are only 'up the hill' from the centre of the village! Or, if you prefer we need help with admin jobs (no uniform) for a few hours a week so please contact me!

**Mark Shaw – Group Scout Leader**  
**07788 891232 [scoutermark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scoutermark@hotmail.co.uk) / [www.gxscouts.co.uk](http://www.gxscouts.co.uk)**

### **Fulmer Infant School**

School reopened on September 6<sup>th</sup> and all the children, especially the new Reception children, settled into school life very well. It was not long before the children celebrated Harvest festival with songs and poems to all parents and carers and friends of Fulmer. Parents very generously donated non-perishable food items, which were taken to our local centre for the homeless, SHOC, by the churchwarden, Francesca Drinkwater-Hall; thank you. We have also supported the charity Jeans for Genes Day with a mufti day, MacMillan Cancer research with a coffee and cake morning and Children in Need with a sale of toys and books organised by our Year 2 children.

We have had several trips and workshops. The children in Year 1 had a great day learning about Victorian times entering into the spirit wearing Victorian clothes. Later that month the whole school painted beautiful masks and learned fabulous dances to celebrate Black History. Year 2 have had a great morning baking pizzas at Pizza Express, Year 1 have spent a wonderful day at the Iver Environment Centre learning about wild life and habitats and Year 1 and Reception have had two wonderful sports' days at DCHS school. We engaged in Walk to School week, encouraging families to walk that little bit further to school to help our environment and to keep fit.

Friends from Fulmer including staff, governors, parents, the Church, staff from Pinewood studios and staff and students from Teikyo school spent a very busy weekend transforming the outside area, creating a wonderful run around space for the children with artificial grass, constructing a garden area, weeding, repainting the fences and one parent designed and made a beautiful oak gate with the name of the school embossed on it. The outside area is now wonderful and is being enjoyed by the children and staff. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the project.

We have had a very popular Open Day with over 70 people attending and there was very positive feed back from all prospective parents.

We participated in anti-bullying week with assemblies and lessons reiterating the message that children must tell an adult if they feel bullied so that the adults can sort out the problem.

Friends of Fulmer have not only transformed the outside area but have organised a pumpkin party and are organising a Christmas Fayre with all monies raised going to the school. And now that it's December we are busy rehearsing for our Christmas production.

Have a Happy Christmas

**Cathy Hunt – Headteacher**

I have already covered Hong Kong, Singapore and Cyprus in earlier editions of this august magazine. I now propose to move to Dubai where once again I was privileged to experience this extraordinary place before the discovery of oil, modern communications and mass tourism there. I flew into RAF Sharjah on a very hot (50C+) summer's day in the mid 60's to spend almost a year there, unaccompanied by my family.

We were still a power to be, east of Suez, but unfortunately for the tribes in Yemen and particularly in Aden we had become "persona non grata" and we made a rather undignified exit. We needed an alternative base on the route to the Far East so it was decided to bolster our presence in the Gulf. We had bases in Bahrain and Sharjah in the form of RAF stations and we were politically very close to Kuwait. We had a political agent in Dubai who reported to Bahrain and effectively governed the Gulf States and we had established a rather romantic military force called The Trucial Oman Scouts (TOS), with British officers, whose object was to keep the warring tribes from cutting each others throats. Dubai and Abu Dhabi were quite good at this especially over their disputed territory. Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Um al Quain, Ras Al Khaima and Fujaira were the seven Emirates all with ruling Sheiks who we controlled on as loose a rein as possible, and today these make up the United Arab Emirates.

Into this hotchpot I descended with my Regiment. Much of the equipment from Aden had been hurriedly shipped and dumped on the airfield at Sharjah and the TOS had vacated their camp and moved nearer Ajman to allow us to take over their accommodation. It is the only time in my army career that I arrived at my allocated room in the officers mess to find it devoid of any furniture and to be told by our Quartermaster to drive down to the airfield and pick my own furniture! Initially the hot weather was very trying as air conditioning was not widely available. I inherited an extremely heavy ex Aden fully armoured, open top Landrover which, when not fitted with sand tyres, (they were in short supply), needed several shovels, sand plates and plenty of muscle to dig out of both the sand and sabkha, the latter being a glutinous sand and mud surface where one easily sank up to the axels. One never went anywhere without a compass, a supply of petrol, and lots of water in dried goats' stomachs hanging off the side of the vehicle and in jerrycans.

Sharjah consisted of a dried up creek, and a covered Souk that had not changed for hundreds of years. The Rulers Palace was decrepit and outside was an ancient canon beside which, until a year or so before I arrived, robbers had their hand cut off and the stump plunged into a barrel of tar. The air base adjoined the town. The only tarmaced road in the whole of the Gulf States ran the short distance from Sharjah to Dubai across the desert. Dubai was just waking up to the modern world although they had not yet found the oil they later discovered. There was a small airport there, which could not take any large aircraft. They had survived on fishing, pearls and trade with Iran, but fortunately a new Ruler, Sheikh Rashid Al Maktum became the Lee Kuan Yew of Dubai. He was an amazing man who had extraordinary vision and started the transformation you see today. He depended very heavily on a small group of British Advisors like Jack Briggs who ran the police, Eric Tulloch who ran the water, Mike Kelly who oversaw the banking sector Dorothy Miles who ran the school, David Roberts, the political agent and Bill Duff who was the financial wizard. Sheikh Rashid lived in a very modest palace by today's Arab standards. I was hugely privileged as I got to know most of these people, as the Army provided a bit of new blood in the town. There were very few expats.

Dubai was divided in two by the Creek, later properly dredged to take bigger ships by a gift/loan from Kuwait and followed by the creation of Port Rashid, a huge new harbor, built down the coast. But Dubai was the side where most of the town and Souks were and you crossed the Creek in lovely old Arab boats to the Deira side where the Political Agency and rather good covered Souk and a small group of houses were situated as well as some very nice bungalows along the coast. It also led to the sort of rough track, which meandered across the desert and sabkha to Abu Dhabi. The jetties along the Creek were absolutely fascinating. They were full of Arab Dhows, many of which had come across from Africa with the trade winds or from Iran and further east. I got to know (and still see) Easa Gurk who

was Iranian by birth but had settled in Dubai. He was a consultant to the British Bank of the Middle East, represented various European Companies and was one of the principal gold smugglers to India. Every so often a plane would land from London full of gold bars which were then transferred to very fast motorised dhows and smuggled to India; a very lucrative trade. Easa was very kind to me and allowed me to use the very rough concrete swimming pool he had in his gardens at Ras Al Kheima. He is now a multi millionaire with an estate in Essex and was for many years UAE Ambassador to London. There was one decent hotel along the jetties and one rather tired one at the airport. The big banks were just beginning to move in. It was of course a hardship post.

I was very lucky, as through Dorothy, who ran the school where most of the ruling family's children went I was able to participate in the odd activity with the ruling family. I remember one rather cold early morning hunting trip with some of Sheikh Rashid's sons including Sheikh Mohammed, the current ruler, going out in a fleet of 4x4's and the odd Mercedes to shoot and go hawking in the desert, which was a memorable trip. We also had a falling plate competition with the young princess running up the range lifting the skirts of their Jalabas. On another occasion we invited all the Rulers to a clay pigeon shoot. Some of the poorer ones turned up with the most amazing blunderbuses, but they were cracking shots and I think we lost (diplomatically?). Another amazing man was Father Eusebio, an Italian Catholic priest who had been given land to build a church by Sheikh Rashid who then promptly furnished it as well. He was a human dynamo and ran a hugely successful church largely attended by the Indian and Phillipino workers who were starting to move in.

Getting around the Emirates was always a huge adventure. One could drive to Rhas al Kheima over the sabkha, providing you stuck to the right tracks and then along the beach for some distance, to arrive at a very sleepy hamlet. I had a memorable lunch with the Ruler, seated on the ground, as they slaughtered a sheep in my honour. It was all washed down with delicious camel milk.

Fujeira, on the Indian Ocean was real adventure as the track was deeply indented through the mountains and invariably if you saw oil on the track, you knew that ahead would be a vehicle minus its sump, that is, if you had not already lost your own. Fujaira itself was totally unspoiled with a string of fishermen's simple houses dotted along the beach. The drive to Buraimi Oasis (Al Ain), where there was a real Beau Geste fort manned by a TOS Squadron, was epic. One could either go via Abu Dhabi, or brave the sand dunes by the direct route where we usually got stuck. The Ruler of Abu Dhabi would decamp from the coast in the summer heat to Buraimi Oasis by camel train, taking a week. Now I think it takes about 40 minutes on a motorway! It could take us anything between 4 to 6 hours, depending on the number of times you got stuck.

I have so many wonderful memories from shopping in the gold souk, to nights in the desert where you found utter silence and incredible night skies, to frying an egg on a landrover bonnet in +50C, to eating fresh crayfish flown up by the RAF from Salala, to diving into a cool desert pool hidden in some mysterious gap in the mountains. Naturally we had a military life, which was always full of challenges, not least of which were the various expeditions we mounted into the mountains and deserts.

And now what do we have in Dubai and the UAE as a whole. In 50 years there has been the most mindboggling transformation. The Dubai I knew is almost totally unrecognizable today. For those who have never been there, they are now on to their fourth airport rebuild and they have reclaimed great tracks of land and built artificial islands. It is a major tourist attraction with more five stars than you can count, they have built some of the tallest buildings in the world, a desert has been transformed into garden cities, motorways crisscross the country connecting all the Emirates, they have some of the top golf courses, they have indoor ski centres with snow and they have built a huge new port, Port Rashid, along the coast and so on. The list is endless. I always remember Wifred Thessiger (who had earlier crossed the Empty Quarter by camel) making a short trip to the UAE as it was growing and was so upset at what he saw and vowed never to return. For me Dubai is too much bling, is incredibly

expensive and somewhere I pass through en route to Africa or the Far East, although the latest airport is far too big. But one cannot deny that their achievements have been truly remarkable and why should they not be in the 21st century.

**John Sanders**

*Thank you so much John for sharing your fascinating reminiscences of bygone Dubai. Please keep writing your articles for the Newsletter! - Editors*

### **It Doesn't Always Pay To Be Friendly**

I was home on leave in civvies and a scruffy individual approached me and demanded a shilling. I declined to accommodate him. "No hard feelings" he said and offered his hand. I took it only to have him grasp mine tightly. Fortunately I was pretty fit in those days and squeezed his hand tighter. He soon gave up.

Many years later, I was at Wexham Park Hospital waiting to see a doctor. A chap came by complaining that he should not be kept waiting because he had fought in the Falklands. I said that a number of us had served in the Armed Forces and we were just waiting our turn. History repeated itself and he grasped my hand. Of course I was nothing like as fit then. I had to use both my hands to grip his. He got the message and let go.

### **Dakota Experiences**

The Douglas Dakota was a twin-engined transport aircraft used by the RAF and British European Airways (BEA). I had three widely different encounters.

In 1943 I had just been posted from being a Fitter Airframe to aircrew training starting in London. As we marched to a lecture a Dakota flew overhead. Part of one wing was severed, presumably from contact with a barrage balloon cable. Shortly afterwards there was an explosion marking its demise. Having experienced similar incidents as a fitter it was not so upsetting to me as to the new recruits.

In 1948 I was recalled from leave to attend a Control Commission Court case in Cologne as the key witness; penalty £5 for non-attendance. One blessing was that I was given an air ticket so I would not have to endure the otherwise long-winded boat and train journey. Arrived at Northolt to find the Dakota fully booked. However, because of my priority status A Squadron Leader was turfed off to make way for me - a mere Sergeant. Well, that cheered me up.

In 1953, now a civilian, I had been on holiday in Paris and made my way to the airport to board the BEA Dakota. There was a seat vacant next to a pretty lady. I asked her if it was available and she said it was. Shortly after a young man came along and started chatting to her. I suggested that I move and she said it was not necessary. Her visitor gave up and moved away. She said he had been trying to get acquainted previously and she was not interested. By the time we reached Heathrow I had her telephone number. A year later we were married.

**Michael Saxby**

South Bucks RDA is very proud to announce that one of our Equines, Lambrusco, was recently voted the RDA horse of the year. He joined the group in 2007 to help para dressage riders. He partnered Sophie Christiansen at the Beijing Paralympics, helping her to win her first Gold medals. Nowadays his life is quieter, helping a range of disabled riders achieve their goals. He is a firm favourite with many of riders and helpers too from children to adults in their 60's. He takes great care of his riders, a real school master.

Helen Burt, the stable manager supported a great team of riders and horses, at the National Championships in July. A great time was had by all and for the first time we were able to participate in the show jumping as well as dressage and countryside challenge classes and riders came home with well-deserved trophies.

Currently we have classes for school pupils on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday where the children come as part of their school curriculum. Riding can be used as part of their PE lessons, PHSE, learning about friendships and interaction; Geography, learning to navigate around the arena or even the woods and science learning about bodies, food and habitats.

At weekends we have individual riders, who ride for physical recreation and sport. In order to continue these and give opportunities to more disabled riders we are constantly looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the office on [info@southbucksrda.org](mailto:info@southbucksrda.org) or ring 01753 662796. Volunteering is a great way to meet others, get exercise and gain skills. SBRDA is an accredited DoE centre, for those wishing to complete elements of their award.

**Theresa Drake**  
**Trustee**

#### KING GEORGE'S FIELD, FULMER

The football and cricket clubs continue to thrive at King George's Field. The Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Football Club have a fully-fledged boys' youth programme between the ages of 6 and 18 who play on Sunday mornings. The girls' programme, which is expanding all the time for the U12 age group, play on Saturday mornings. The cricket club has also enjoyed a very successful year with an increase in its adult membership and the number of friendly matches it has won.

The Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Netball Club are not playing at the ground at the moment. The all weather surface is at the end of its life span and is no longer safe for them to play on. Quotes have been received from suppliers for a new surface. However, discussions are currently on going in relation to changing much of the layout of King George's Field including expanding the car parking facilities, the all weather courts and upgrading the playground area. Funding opportunities are currently being looked at.

The Fulmer Bonfire & Fireworks display was a great success. Our James Bond themed evening included the burning and blowing up of Skyfall House along with the Bond car and helicopter. Yet again, the fireworks display was fantastic. I would like to thank everyone who came from the village and surrounding area to help us to raise valuable funds for King George's Field itself. Thank you to everyone I received very positive feedback from. In particular, I would like to thank Paul Colloff, Brendan Keane and Darren Jones on the committee for all their hard work in making it a special event. Thanks also to the volunteers on the night and the following morning – their assistance was invaluable.

With regard to the facilities at the grounds we continue to make the area more environmentally friendly. Recently we have had all the standard lights on the inside and outside of the pavilion changed to LED fittings and lights. This will make a big difference in reducing the energy used and the financial costs. The main hall has been redecorated as well giving it a new, clean and fresh feel.

The pavilion has been booked out on numerous occasions for 40th, 50th and 60th adult parties, children's parties, Christenings and Wakes. The pavilion houses a bar, kitchen, toilets and main hall. Caterers can be brought in if you wish or food bought and brought in. You can have live music or a DJ to entertain. A marquee can be erected for extra space and can be used for a barn dance or extra partygoers. Kettle Bells continues to meet between 9.15am and 10.15am on a Friday morning. Yoga meets on a Tuesday evening between 7.15 and 8.15pm. New participants are all welcome.

For more information on hiring the pavilion or joining any of the clubs above please e-mail me at [kgffbookings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kgffbookings@yahoo.co.uk) telephone 01753 662705 or 07879 404745. Many Thanks.

**Andrew Nealon, General Manager**

### **Stoke Common news update**

It's been a busy 2018 and our focus during the year has been to write a new ten-year management plan taking us to 2028. This is an important document setting out the vision for Stoke Common over the next 10 years and not something we could have done alone. City of London staff based at Burnham Beeches have consulted with colleagues in Natural England and a range of specialists in various areas including invertebrates (insects etc), ponds, flora and reptiles and amphibians to identify the achievements and progress in restoring the heathland made during the last plan and help set the goals to aim for in the next ten years. In June we held two public consultation events, one in Fulmer and one at Stoke Poges. We received some great feedback on the future plans for the common and, pending approval from the City's Epping Forest and Commons' Committee, we should be publishing the new management plan ready for January 2019. We hope to be able to bring you more details in the next edition of this newsletter. We would like to thank all those who participated in the production of the plan, be that as a specialist advisor, or as a local resident visiting one of our consultations. In addition to the production of the plan, we have submitted a grant application to DEFRA to help fund the management of the site for the next decade.

Birds, reptiles, invertebrates and other wildlife take advantage of longer, warmer days for breeding. Consequently, the physical management of scrub and trees, be that cutting by machine or using the help of volunteers with hand tools, tends to stop. Instead management of the vegetation on the site is carried out by grazing and our grazier again turned out his Sussex cattle onto the heathland over the summer months. The eighteen cows on the main common and four on West common had another good season, gently keeping scrub growth in check and helping to increase the floristic diversity on both sides of the common. We really can't replicate the wonderfully 'patchy' way they graze with a mower.

To further increase diversity and encourage natural regeneration of heathland plants, staff and volunteers used a turf cutting machine to strip back the top layers of coarse grasses in

small patches. This management technique mirrors the ancient tradition of cutting turf for fuel, which was formally carried out by people with rights as commoners, or more latterly by the poor of the Parish. Turf cutting in this way has multiple benefits: heathland seeds that had lain dormant underneath the thick turf are exposed and given the chance to germinate; the bare soil and stacked turves make great basking areas for reptiles but particularly for a range of invertebrates; and, by cutting several small areas distributed across the common, it helps to add to the patchwork habitat created by grazing.

During the summer our main task, other than carrying out flora and fauna surveys, was management of the infrastructure; things like paths, benches and fences. During 2018 Burnham Beeches staff and volunteers along with the Friends of Stoke Common group have resurfaced another 50 metres of paths using local gravel. New signs were also installed to encourage horse riders to stick to the Bridleways and not to stray onto access tracks and firebreaks. This is really important as riding in these areas can cause erosion and damage to the developing habitats there.

Sadly, one of the habitat piles created by the volunteers on North common has been badly damaged by people stealing the logs, presumably for firewood. The woodpile was created to replicate the conditions in a fallen hollow tree and would have been great habitat for invertebrates, mammals and reptiles. If you see anyone removing timber from the common, please do contact the office on 01753 647358 or our 24-hour number 01372 279488.

In the coming months, staff, volunteers and contractors will continue with small scale tree felling and scrub management. The Burnham Beeches Exmoor ponies have again been turned out to graze the north common and will move across the site as conditions dictate.

Many of the jobs that we do on the site are not possible without our volunteers and our doors are always open to new members of both 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](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burnhambeeches) or [www.friendsofstokecommon.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstokecommon.org.uk) – or call 01753 647358.

**Chris Morris, Senior Ranger Open Spaces & Heritage Department, City of London Corporation**



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Katie Relf M.C.S.P. Bsc (Hons) Vivien Wood M.C.S.P.

[sbp@uwclub.net](mailto:sbp@uwclub.net)

[www.southbucksphysio.co.uk](http://www.southbucksphysio.co.uk)



### Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer 2018

2018 is the second year that we have staged an exhibition of contemporary sculpture in the grounds of Fulmer Gardens House. The property was bought by Ian and Anne Trott in the early 1990's and it has been a passion project of theirs over the years since, restoring and preserving the beautiful gardens and woodland which were originally laid out by Sir Harry Legge in the late 19th and early 20th Century. In its early years, the gardens were regularly visited by members of the British and European Royal Families as well as other significant figures of the time. It became a tradition for these visitors to plant a rare specimen tree or shrub to mark their visit. All this is to say that we now, a hundred or so years later, have a fine and previously hidden Victorian arboretum as the setting for some of the most ambitious and accomplished sculpture being made in the UK today.

This country has a great tradition of sculpture, over the course of the 20th Century it was perhaps our most significant contribution to the landscape of contemporary art internationally. The names of Jacob Epstein, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Elizabeth Frink, Lynne Chadwick, Anthony Caro, Nigel Hall and Anish Kapoor (to name but a few) are known around the world and their influence is felt throughout popular culture and design. These artists were able to reach these levels of significance and influence because of the time, space and opportunities they were afforded. These are three things that we aim to offer sculptors working today at Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer. Each year we invite a selection of around twenty artists, from emerging talents to more established names, to exhibit within the gardens. Each artist makes several visits to the gardens in advance to get a feel for the different areas as they begin to develop new work inspired by or with a relationship to the gardens. Many artists choose to make site specific pieces and even to work in the gardens making or finishing their pieces. We work closely with them in this developmental stage, encouraging them and offering advice to those artists who may be making their first outdoor work. Our hope is that each year we stage an exhibition, which lives up to the legacy of British sculpture while looking to the future. We want to open up conversations with our visitors, challenge their expectations and hopefully surprise and delight them.

This year Clare Burnett and Julian Wild (the president and Vice President of the Royal Society of sculptors) made artworks in polished stainless steel and in bronze respectively and positioned them near the water gardens. They caught the sunlight and shone out like jewels



as you approached them across the lawns; as you came closer their surfaces took on the reflections of the gardens surrounding them so that they felt at once of the gardens and apart from them. Elsewhere the young artists' collective BASK made a monumental concrete sculpture influenced by brutalist architecture, which, when positioned within a woodland glade was reminiscent of an ancient ruin or lost monument; its dappled surface taking on the appearance of lichen and moss. Amy Stephens' simple geometric forms in painted and stainless steel acted as windows or frames, creating new compositions with the

rhododendron which surround it. Award winning young sculptor James Capper exhibited "Telestep" a bright yellow machinated sculpture on six spiked legs that has the appearance of a JCB crossed with giant insect, its hydraulic system allowing it to climb off its plinth and walk around the gardens at the artists' control. This piece in particular sparked many discussions with our visitors, its appearance somehow so familiar, yet alien.

For the first two years of *Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer* we have focused on curating an annual exhibition that is worthy of this hidden jewel of a garden, at first limiting ourselves to inviting visitors from within the sculpture community and only opening to the wider public on select open days. As we look towards our future in Fulmer we would like to begin making our little secret accessible to the local community as well, in the hope that over the years it will become a cultural and creative asset of which you will be proud. We will reopen for the 2019 season in early May and we plan to hold some specific open days for the residents of Fulmer throughout the year. If you would like more information and to be notified about future open days and events please email [george@williambenington.co.uk](mailto:george@williambenington.co.uk)

Finally we would like to thank Ian and Anne Trott for their generosity in letting us use their gardens, and thank you everyone who has visited over the first two years. We look forward to welcoming more of you next year and beyond.

**George Marsh**  
**Director, William Benington Gallery**



## **Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society**

The Society has had two very interesting talks this Autumn, on 19 September John Marshall, a winner of national awards, brought some of his chrysanthemums for us and gave a most interesting illustrated talk. In addition to Chrysanthemums, he shared some very useful tips on growing vegetables.

On 17 October at our Autumn Social Evening Alex Burke, a well-known specialist, gave a talk and demonstration on Daffodils and propagating bulbs. There was much to learn with practical tips and help for both novice and experienced gardeners.

The New Year starts with our Spring Social Evening, which includes a finger buffet and Tables Show. There will be an illustrated talk on Fuchsias given by Derek Dexter, a specialist grower. Ray Birt, who leads our Fuchsia Group, will again be handing out fuchsia plants for members to grow and exhibit at the Annual Show. Ray has requested that anyone who has 3 ½ inch pots please bring them for him. This event will take place at The Stoke Poges School, Rogers Lane, Wednesday 13 March at 8 pm, (if exhibiting in the Table Show please come at 7:30 pm).

The Society has reverted to meeting on the second Wednesday of the month as it has done before, because the third Wednesday clashes with Hedgerley Historical Society meetings. The Horticultural Society meeting dates for 2019 are Wednesdays 8 May, 11 September, 9 October and the AGM on 13 November.

The Annual Plant Sale is on Saturday 4 May at the Village Centre, a bit later than usual, because of Easter. As always, there will be a selection of high quality plants at reasonable prices and home-made cakes for sale, with an opportunity to meet friends for a coffee/tea.

Advance notice – the Annual Show is on Saturday 27 July.

Volunteers to join the committee are always welcome, it would be particularly good to have someone from Fulmer. If you are interested and would like find out more, please contact me Ruth Rooley on email [ruth@rooley.com](mailto:ruth@rooley.com) or telephone 01753 648040.

**Ruth Rooley**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MESSAGING SERVICE**

If you want to hear about what is going on in Fulmer and be alerted to criminal activity in the village, you are invited to join the Fulmer Neighbourhood Watch & Information Service. This is a 2-way communication system; if members have any information that they think would be of interest to their neighbours, they e-mail the information to me and I circulate it to members. Also, I send notice of any celebrations, events, or other information that maybe of interest to villagers. I do not identify the sender, I merely refer to them as 'watch' members. Neither do I identify exact addresses relating to incidents unless asked to do so by the victim. To ensure members privacy all messages are sent as 'blind copies' so that e-mail addresses are not visible.

Some of the messages that I circulate are 'Ringmaster' messages received from Amersham police. They tend to be of a more general nature than the messages that I circulate and include crime prevention advice. I also circulate specific warnings, reports and requests sent to me by the police and local authorities. Following requests from Watch Members, I also circulate messages alerting Fulmer residents to other matters that may be of interest or concern. Some of these are sent on my own initiative; others are messages that I forward on behalf of the Parish Council or other village groups. In these cases it will be evident as to who has requested the circulation.

**EXISTING MEMBERS** - It is anticipated that in the near future the system will be upgraded. This may well require you having to agree to opt in again. I will notify all of you individually when this goes 'live'.

To join Neighbourhood Watch Messaging Service please send an e-mail with your contact details to:

weild@btinternet.com  
Fulmer Neighbourhood Watch Convenor  
01753 662509 Mobile 07766 587459  
Sycamore House, Windmill Road, Fulmer SL3 6HD

**BRIAN WEILD**



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# BLACK PARK SHED

**BLACK PARK SHED** is a community space where men and women of all ages, can come together to learn, share and make new friends, working on projects and activities which interest them.

We welcome everyone who has spare time whether that's due to retirement, bereavement, disability, unemployment, or if you're simply looking for a new hobby.

For more information or to arrange a visit.

Contact us through our website at [www.blackparkshed.org.uk](http://www.blackparkshed.org.uk)

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](http://www.blackparkshed.org.uk) or email [derek@blackparkshed.org.uk](mailto: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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