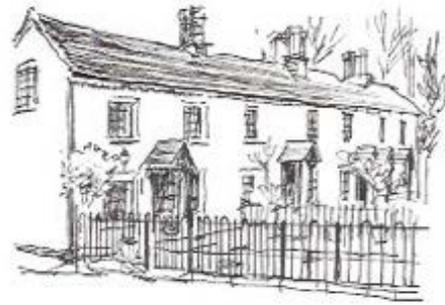


# FULMER NEWSLETTER



**December 2021 | ISSUE 69**



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## WELCOME TO THE 69<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE OF THE FULMER NEWSLETTER

As always there has been a lot happening in our village these past six months and the opening of 'The Studio' is one of the highlights and we wish it every success. It adds a lot to our busy village with the variety of classes on offer and we hope those who haven't experienced it yet will maybe make it a New Year's Resolution to do so! You will be assured of expert teaching in a lovely space. Well done to all those involved to get it up and running so quickly.

We thank all those who have contributed to make this Newsletter offer something for everyone, and we are so grateful to Edward Guinness, Nicholas Barber and Ken Peters in this issue (and many earlier ones) for the time they have taken to send in such entertaining articles. Do let us know if you have something you would like included in a future issue.

Our thanks to the small team who help us distribute the newsletter to each property in the Parish.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

Editors

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We are very grateful to our advertisers and their contribution helps to fund this newsletter twice a year - Editors

## Fulmer Parish Council & Duties 2021-22

David Brackin:	Chairman (chair@fulmervillage.uk ; 07970 793058) Finance Group Representing Fulmer in Bucks (Community Board, Police etc)
Liz Finan:	Deputy Chairman (lfinan@btinternet.com) Finance Group
Charlie Gray:	Councillor (charleslawsongray@gmail.com) Transport, Highways & Environment Fulmer Conservation Group Trustee Fulmer Village Hall
Francesca Hall-Drinkwater:	Councillor (francescaatrushworths@gmail.com) St James Church Liaison, Churchwarden Parish Website Manager
Parm Khanghura:	Councillor (parm@connectglobalconsulting.com) Planning - inc Enforcement & Neighbourhood Plan
Susie Simkins:	Councillor (susiemsimkins@gmail.com) Liaison with Pinewood Studios, Teikyo, RDA and Fulmer School Fulmer Newsletter Editor & Publisher
Lorette Du Toit:	Councillor (lorettedutoit@hotmail.com) Allotments liaison Chair & FPC member, Fulmer Sports & Community Assoc (FSCA)
Pauline Vahey:	Clerk (clerk@fulmervillage.uk) Proper Officer – Council administration & governance Responsible Finance Officer – Finance Group FPC member & Secretary, FSCA Liaison with Bucks Unitary Authority & other county-wide partners Communications
Others	
Kathryn O'Reilly:	Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison (kathryn@westmeathcapital.com)
Barbara Zoltowska:	Fulmer Village Hall Chairman- Barbara.e.zoltowska@gsk.com
Karen Nelmes:	Village Hall Lettings Secretary 07498 041253
Guy Hollis:	Unitary Councillor (Guy.Hollis@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
Santokh Chhokar:	Unitary Councillor (Santokh.Chhokar@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
Paul Bass:	Unitary Councillor (Paul.Bass@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

## PERSONALIA

Birth – Cassius Frank Joseph Chitty on 28 July – a third grandchild for Ronnie & Susie Simkins

Baptism - James Ronald Martland, known as Jimmy, son of David & Katrina Martland and grandson of Sue and Richard Stone received a Baptism welcome on 3 October in St James' Church Fulmer.

Welcome to - Marika and Frank of 4 South Row, Fulmer

Deaths – we send condolences to the families of:

Victoria Wootton who died on 10 August 2021. A service of thanksgiving was held at Fulmer Church on 22 September.

Alvar Nicholas Theodoulou who died on 10 October 2021. A service was held at Fulmer Church on 8 November.

### Achievements

Congratulations to Beth Spittle of Cherry Tree Lane who has graduated with a 1st Class Honours in BSc (Hons) Veterinary Physiotherapy. Beth is now a qualified, fully insured Veterinary Physiotherapist and has opened her practice, Squirrels Chase Veterinary Physiotherapy, specialising in Equine and Canine physiotherapy treatments. To see what service Beth offer you can visit her website – [www.scvetphysio.co.uk](http://www.scvetphysio.co.uk) or call her on 07442 878945.

Alvar Nicholas Theodoulou  
December 1942 – October 2021

Alvar Nicholas Theodoulou passed away peacefully on 10 October and will be remembered in all sorts of ways: as husband, dad, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, family member, good friend and neighbour.

He was born on 16 December in Southall, but his family heritage finds its roots in a small village called Palaichori in the Troodos mountains of Cyprus. It was a humble peasant's background of goats and goat herds and growing grapes. Alvar's father, Nicholas Yanni Theodoulou, came to England in 1928 at a young age, seeking his fortune. After several jobs as a wine waiter and carpenter he set up his own timber merchants, HG Timber Ltd, in 1945 and received a Royal Warrant.

Alvar was the youngest of 4 children, born to Nicholas and Violet, then living in Southall. Victor, Andrian, Alvar and Marina. Alvar is survived by his older brother Victor and sister Marina. Alvar attended Clark's College in Ealing until the family moved to Fulmer. Alvar's love of animals most likely came from his Dad's background. The difference was that for Nicholas, farming was more of a hobby, and the timber merchants subsidised the farm he bought here in Fulmer. The farm enabled Alvar to have a job, living in Fulmer Place Farm flat when they moved to Fulmer in 1954, aged 16. Unfortunately, after a week's work, Alvar was sacked by his Dad for not looking after the farm stock as he didn't like getting up early, but thankfully was reinstated! Apparently his Dad was a force to be reckoned with and Alvar liked playing his guitars too much. He was also in trouble for playing his guitar in the halls at College in Burchetts Green, now known as the BCA, the British College of Agriculture. At college, Alvar did a farm husbandry course and also a dairy course, which seemed ironic as he didn't actually like cows very much.

It was obvious Alvar really enjoyed his music. He played and toured with Lee Allen and The Sceptres, together with Mitch Mitchell, who later became the drummer for The Shadows. The tours stopped, however, when Alvar married Heather. Heather's Dad was the head butler at Fulmer House, and they lived at 5 Fulmer House Cottage where Heather was born. Heather and Alvar met in the village shop where Alvar bought Heather a Mars bar. It must have been the way to Heather's heart as they were later married here in this church on 11 June 1966. Karen was born a year later followed by Marcus a couple of years after that and there are now 6 wonderful grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

You'll be pleased to know that Alvar was later reunited with his music band and unbeknownst to him, all the band members came to his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. I believe Alvar's only regret was that he didn't become a professional musician, but he had much to do looking after his animals.

So, what was Alvar like as a person? According to his family he was a bit of an introvert, a home bird who enjoyed his own space, plus he had a great love for his pigs, sheep and Basset hounds as well as being a musician. And I gather from Marcus and Karen that their Dad was very strict and could be very stern at times but was also very generous and kind, and fair if you were fair.

Everyone who knew Alvar will have known him in different ways and he will be much missed by all.

## Vicki Wootton



Vicki was born in Portsmouth but spent many years living with her grandmother on the East coast of Scotland. She told stories of her time there, including having to knit, at Christmas time, socks for one of her aunts, (whom she didn't like), so she found the itchiest wool she could and used that! After school she obtained a degree in English Literature specialising in Middle English.

She moved to London, living in Crouch End for many years where she brought up her daughters Alice and Jennifer and they remember that she used to take them to their local church for Midnight Mass every Christmas Eve. In London Vicki owned and ran her own business making and selling baby clothes on a stall in Covent Garden. Alice and Jennifer recall spending many hours running around the market, visiting all the stallholders and watching the street performers. There are also many embarrassing photos of them as children modelling the clothes Vicki made and looking very '90's chic!

Throughout her life Vicki loved sewing and was always learning new skills or putting her sewing skills to new uses. More recently she started making patchwork quilts and needle felting, making lots of wonderful things for her grandchildren that will be treasured. She loved going to antique fairs and charity shops. She would buy antique bedlinen from a lady at Alexandra Palace antiques fair and Alice and Jennifer remember sleeping on cool linen sheets their whole lives.

Vicki loved all things Art Nouveau and her house was always filled with William Morris wallpaper and furnishings and Mackintosh prints and objects. She was full of imaginative ideas and Alice and Jennifer remember the mural on their bedroom wall that she would paint at night by torchlight, whilst they slept, so that when they woke up they believed the fairies had done it!

Vicki was an incredibly generous person, whether it was with her time, or giving her belongings away. Alice and Jennifer never came away from a visit empty handed; often they were loaded up with treasures that she'd picked up, or claimed not to need anymore.

She was a strong, independent woman, knowing and speaking her own mind, but always willing to listen when someone had a problem or was troubled.

After moving to Fulmer she found comfort in the church there and made many friends.

“.....but there was no room for them at the Inn!”

is a familiar quote from the Christmas story found in Luke's gospel, read in church at Christmas, a story loved by children and adults alike. It's a time when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, an event that took place 2000 years ago. Jesus's birth was announced by the angel who visited Mary in Nazareth to tell her that she would give birth to a son and to call him Jesus. In Luke's gospel we read that the angel tells Mary that the child "will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever and his kingdom will never end."

And it so happened that Mary, then heavily pregnant, and husband Joseph, made the trip to Bethlehem. A census was called by the Roman Empire that meant they must go to their hometown to register. Bethlehem is known as the town of David and Joseph belonged to the house and line of David and so baby Jesus would have a great dynasty. It doesn't seem quite right that they'd travelled so far, by way of a donkey, and that Jesus's parents had to make do with a stable, being the only place where they could lay their head, and where the Christ-child, God's Son, would make his appearance in the world.

The fact that there was no room at the inn is the fulfilment of the prophecy found in Isaiah 53:3-6, which says that the Messiah would be: "despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." This confirms Jesus's humble birth and also points towards the death that Jesus would face on the cross, bearing our sin upon his shoulders, so that we might be forgiven and have life in and with Him.

Jesus said the reason he came was to seek and save the lost and to take up residence in our hearts, to give us life in all its fullness. He wants to dwell in our hearts, for us to make room for Him in our lives. So often we don't make room for Jesus, missing out on the wonderful joy it is to know and to serve Him. This is no different to the innkeeper in the story of his birth where we don't want to make room for Jesus. Yet Jesus came to show us a new way, to give us direction because we mess up so much on our own. So, let's choose to make room for Jesus this Christmas.

Join us at one or more of our Christmas services at Saint James, Fulmer or at Gerrards Cross and find out the reason for the season. Be assured, you will find 'room at the inn' here for you, where all are welcome.

Look out for Christmas service information and check out our website: [www.saintjames.org.uk](http://www.saintjames.org.uk). And, be assured of our prayers for our village, residents, businesses and Associations, that we will have a blessed, joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year.

We very much look forward to seeing you this Christmas.

Revd Jill Roth, Saint James, Fulmer

#### St James' Fulmer.....

St James' continued with live streamed services from Oxford Road throughout the Summer. There were further relaxations from the Government and the Church of England in terms of social distancing and from July 25 we were allowed to sing in Church. In Fulmer we continued with Private prayer on a Wednesday, Communion some Wednesdays and Zoom coffee on a Sunday until the end of August.

September 5 was our return to normal services with the weekly 11.15am and a slight change to the 8.00am which will now be monthly, on the second Sunday. Our Choir gathered, depleted in numbers and especially missing Gilbert Runicles, our former Choir Master. The choir led singing and the Anthem was so enjoyed and so welcome. A good number of the congregation returned and we were able to serve coffee as we do every Sunday.

September 2 had also seen a very welcome return to Coffee & Chat on a Thursday morning. Usually for Fulmer Infant School Mums, Dads and carers and, of course, those from the Beehive, and we are also encouraging folk from Fulmer village to attend. Do know you are welcome. We will be holding some events as part of Coffee & Chat. The first is on Dec 2; how to make eco gifts and decorations and then next term parenting events.

September 24 & 25 saw our return to inviting the Church Family to a Vision Dinner at the Centre. Many came to listen to Matt and others in the team speak on "For all who are Thirsty". The evenings were a great success and the food and companionship after such a long time was very enjoyable. The talk was held again over coffee on the following Monday for any who wanted a shorter event.

Our next big service was Harvest Festival, an all-age service when we were pleased to welcome the children from the Village and the school. Some children took part, giving a great readings and interacting, with a very good talk given by Daf. The service also included a Baptism Welcome. On a more sombre note we gave thanks on November 14 - Remembrance Sunday, welcoming many as is usual, including our new Unitary Councillor Paul Bass.

Each week more people have returned to Church and enjoyed fellowship; long may that continue. Rev Jill and I have been pleased to see new people stepping up to serve and help in various ways since we gathered together again. Thank you to those that have. And, of course, to those who have always served, especially throughout the past 18 months.

Now we move into Advent and our Christmas services, just around the corner.

Fri, 17 Dec Carols at the Pub 6:30pm The Black Horse. Families do come, invite friends for carol singing, a drink and mince pie. Ross Mungavin will give a short Christmas talk.

Sat, 18 Dec Carols By Candlelight 6 for 6:30pm. A beautifully lit traditional service of readings and carols.

Sun, 19 Dec 8am in Fulmer. A short BCP service in Fulmer for those unable to come to Church on the Common. There will no 11.15am service on the 19.

Sun, 19 Dec Church on West Common 10am. All 4 congregations of Saint James', will gather on Sunday morning for worship. One church with four congregations, coming together to express that unity! Come in the morning for church and bring friends later for Carols.

Sun, 19 Dec Carols on the Common 4pm. [saintjames.org.uk/carolsonthecommon/](http://saintjames.org.uk/carolsonthecommon/) Bring your friends to Carols on West Common! There will be a marquee for 500 people on West Common, outside Wildwood. Family fun, classic carols. A chance for your friends to hear about Jesus.

Sun, 19 Dec Carols on the Common 7pm [saintjames.org.uk/carolsonthecommon/](http://saintjames.org.uk/carolsonthecommon/) Like the 4pm but with a more 'grown-up' feel. Who could you bring along?

Fri, 24 Dec Christingle Carols 4pm, Fulmer. For families, come and celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional Christingle service.

Fri, 24 Dec Christmas Eve Service 9:30pm Fulmer. A quiet and reflective Christmas Eve Service

Sat, 25 Dec Christmas Day Celebration 11.15am Fulmer. Come and celebrate with us on Christmas Day with a short service for all the family.

Please join us for some of the above and indeed for our usual services into the New Year. We pray we can all gather again for Christmas this year.

A heartfelt Happy Advent and Christmas to everyone!

Francesca Hall-Drinkwater – Church Warden

**FULMER CHURCHYARD**

We are always happy and grateful to welcome any volunteers to assist with keeping our lovely churchyard looking colourful and tidy.

Do contact me if you are able to offer any help Sue Fagan

[susanhumefagan@gmail.com](mailto:susanhumefagan@gmail.com)

01753 662193

From David Brackin, Chairman Fulmer Parish Council

It has been a busy six months for the Parish Council as we have slowly emerged from the stricter covid restrictions and resumed in-person meetings. Much of our role is defined by our mission of Keeping Fulmer Special, and one of the things that gives us strength is how well we all as a village come together. This is only possible with good communication – such as this newsletter which is hand-delivered to every address in Fulmer – a huge effort from Susie and all her helpers. Thank-you. I have also been delighted at all the articles, photos and other information that has been sent to me for the weekly briefing email – and a reminder that if you don't receive this then you can sign-up to by going here:- <http://eepurl.com/gm28Xb>. I'm also pleased to be meeting people in person again and my contact details and all those of the councillors are in this newsletter and we welcome attendance and participation in the monthly Parish Council meetings. I am hopeful that we'll soon have the sound working better for people to join us by Zoom as well so we can have the best of both worlds.

Wellbeing has never been higher on the agenda than over the pandemic, and these past few months has seen the establishment of The Studio at King George's Field. This is a remarkable community facility for the village, brought about by the hard work of the trustees to enact what village residents said they wanted. We owe them a huge thank-you for bringing this to life. I have been enjoying Men's yoga and the Kettlebell classes and equally enjoy the social side of seeing other Fulmerites as much as the fitness improvements! There is also more tennis being played on the courts and there really is something for everyone, so do try out the taster classes and come along and get involved – and I am looking forward to all the further improvements that the team have planned for 2022.

Next year I hope that we will see things return to normal and we can start to plan more community events such as the return of Fulmer Day and what special celebrations we would like to make to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. If you have ideas that you would like see happen, or would like to volunteer to help make these events special for our community, then please do let us know – many hands make light work!

I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful festive season, a Happy Christmas and for a return to a much more normal way of life in 2022.

FROM OUR M.P. Joy Morrissey

One of the key issues that is affecting many of my constituents, in Fulmer and beyond, is accessing face to face appointments with their GP and I recently led a Westminster Hall debate on the subject. I took the opportunity to raise a number of cases brought to me by constituents with the Minister in attendance. The chances of misdiagnosis increase dramatically if GPs rely on an email or telephone call. I speak from experience, for days my own mother-in-law was misdiagnosed as having a UTI when in fact she had suffered a severe stroke. Precious time was lost, and terrible damage done because she had not been seen by a GP. For every hundred ailments that could be diagnosed safely without seeing a GP there will be one that won't. One that could prove to be fatal and that is not a price worth paying.

The brutal murder of Sir David Amess has left all of us in Westminster in a state of some shock. Universally liked and respected on all sides, Sir David trod the difficult line of holding onto his deeply held principles while making and keeping friends from all parties. All MPs have had to reassess their security arrangements, with a significant amount of advice and guidance provided by the Parliamentary authorities. I am determined not to let these tragic events diminish my ability to see my constituents face to face, indeed I was out the very next day doing just that.

The Chancellor unveiled his new plan for the economy in his much-anticipated Budget, and he did not disappoint. In it the Chancellor set out how Britain will transition to high skill, high wage economy with public services which are sustainably and responsibly funded without enlarging the national debt. The Chancellor showed that the Conservatives are still the party of business and economic growth by backing business through new business rates relief and slashing alcohol duty supporting our Great British Pubs. The high street has been struggling for some time now and COVID simply made a bad situation worse, so it is great to see the Chancellor giving this important issue the attention it deserves.

## FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

I had the pleasure of attending the Remembrance Day Service at your wonderful Church on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. Whilst there I managed to meet Jill, Francesca, John and the rest of the enthusiastic team as well as meet so many people from the village in the congregation that day. The choir were simply magnificent and many thanks to Jill, Francesca and Pauline for making me feel so welcome, before the event. The day itself is always a poignant reminder for me, to reflect and pay my own respects to those who gave so much, having served for more than 30 years in the Royal Navy, as a Commander in the Submarine Service. But this was also another poignant reminder of the special village life that Fulmer supports, with institutions like the Church at the centre of that ongoing effort to maintain those qualities that are only understood by those that live there. It feels like a constant challenge at times, with attacks coming on many fronts – Fulmer is very fortunate to have a dedicated Parish Council as your first and most important line of defence against visible and invisible flaunting of planning rules, safety and condition of the highways, fly tipping and in protecting those Public Services that are so precious when living in a rural setting. Unfortunately, as is always the case when fighting battles on many fronts, not all can be won immediately, but please take my word for it that there is a great deal of strategy going into winning the war.

I am a local; I live a stone's throw from the Tatling End entrance to Fulmer Lane, where I live with my young family – my wife is a GP Partner at Denham Medical Centre – some of you may know her. Since leaving the military I've been on a Busman's Holiday and instead of driving Submarine's, I now help design and build them. I was fortunate enough to be elected into the new Unitary Council in May of this year, along with 2 other colleagues in the Fulmer, Denham and Gerrard's Cross Ward. We agreed the best way to support the Town and Parish Councils was to align ourselves to a single 1/3 of the Ward. Which is how I ended up here today.

I mentioned earlier the local challenges; it's fair to say that in wider Bucks the Unitary Council faces others. The merging of the legacy councils into one provides opportunity and risk, some of which undoubtedly has flown down to the local level. As a member I can see these being faced head on and hopefully as new strategic contracts and ways of working are formed we shall be able to see the benefits. From what I see and hear, it would seem the promise to clear (all) the gullies is happening, it is important that this is maintained and also that underlying problems that go unseen, but are felt, are also addressed. I know Charlie, your Parish Council Highways lead, has an excellent relationship with the Local Area Technician – this is proving invaluable in getting the best possible service for Fulmer in this area. We know that road safety through the Village is a high priority and there are several activities

underway to provide mitigation. And, believe it or not, we are actually making some headway with enforcement action around the Ward.

I'll leave it there for now, David and his wonderful team in the Parish Council will continue to serve the Village and I will continue to help as much as I can, whether directly through making connections and/or elevating within the Unitary environment, or more subtly in supporting the many local initiatives. I hope to see many more of you in the future either in Pub, Church, at the Parish Council meetings or maybe even at the King George playing fields. If you want to get in touch with me directly feel free to email at [paul.bass@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.bass@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

## FULMER VILLAGE HALL

Finally, the Village Hall is back in use and bookings are starting to look up, with evening classes and parties back on the agenda. Alongside our 'still growing' timetable of activities, we have been working hard to keep the Hall clean, Covid safe and maintained to its continued high standard. As always thanks go to our Lettings Secretary, Karen Nelmes, for keeping everything safe and running smoothly.

However, villagers will have seen the terrible result of yet another reckless driver speeding through the village in the early hours. The perimeter wall opposite South Row was completely destroyed but, rest assured, that we are working hard to get the damage fixed as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, CCTV didn't capture the registration number of the offender, but we have been in touch with the Police and we are working with them to try and gather evidence.

On a happier note, we are delighted to welcome back the drama group on a Monday evening and we also have our usual ballet class who book on an ad hoc basis. At weekends the hall is busy with children's parties, weddings etc. and it's so great to see life returning to the Hall. Of course, not forgetting our long time partners the Beehive and Honeycomb Nursery who operate from Monday to Friday, 9am - 3pm during term times. In the new year we are hoping to re-connect with our martial arts group and band practice. Finally, 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 Nelmes on; 07498 041253, for further details. We look forward to seeing you at the Village Hall very soon!

Barbara Zoltowska - Village Hall Chairperson & Secretary

## BROADBAND NEWS

As many of you will be aware the much-anticipated Broadband roll-out last year was thwarted by Building Digital (BDUK) having a budget cut and so we were back to square one.

Chris Denza has made a huge effort to keep the campaign going and has had interest from Swish Fibre (they have been working recently in Gerrards Cross) who plan to carry out a feasibility study in the village around the time of this newsletter's publication.

At the same time Chris has been in touch with our MP, Joy Morrissey, to keep the pressure up after BDUK let us down. Julia Lopez MP, Minister for Media, Data & Digital Infrastructure has now been involved and she reports to us as follows:

'I have spoken with officials in BDUK to investigate the options that are available to improve the broadband connectivity in Fulmer. As you may be aware we have recently conducted an Open Market Review in Bucks that will be used to clarify the earlier modelling and start to shape the premises that are not likely to gain coverage through commercially-funded deployment and will therefore be within the scope of Project Gigabit. As this Open Market Review has recently closed, we are currently processing the data which will then provide us with a clearer picture on whether any commercial rollout is forthcoming to Fulmer. If Fulmer is not included with any upcoming commercial delivery, Fulmer will be included in Project Gigabit rollout. Buckinghamshire is included in Phase 2 (Lot 26) of Project Gigabit, which has an estimated procurement start date of May 2022 before a contract commencement of April 2023.'

We are all keeping our fingers crossed for a successful outcome.

Editors

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## PLANNING NEWS IN FULMER

From 1 November 2020 to 9 November 2021, a total of 32 planning applications for the Parish of Fulmer have been received and reviewed by the Parish Council – an average of 2.6 applications per month. In contrast to the 44 received over the same period in the previous year. In comparison to our Parish Neighbours, Fulmer Parish has decreased the number of applications submitted. For comparison, Gerrards Cross Town Council received 375 applications in the same period, or just over 31 applications per month an increase on the previous 12 months from 316 applications. Iver Parish Council 247, in comparison to 248 applications over the same period in the previous 12 months. Hedgerley Parish 26, marginally up from the 22 last year.

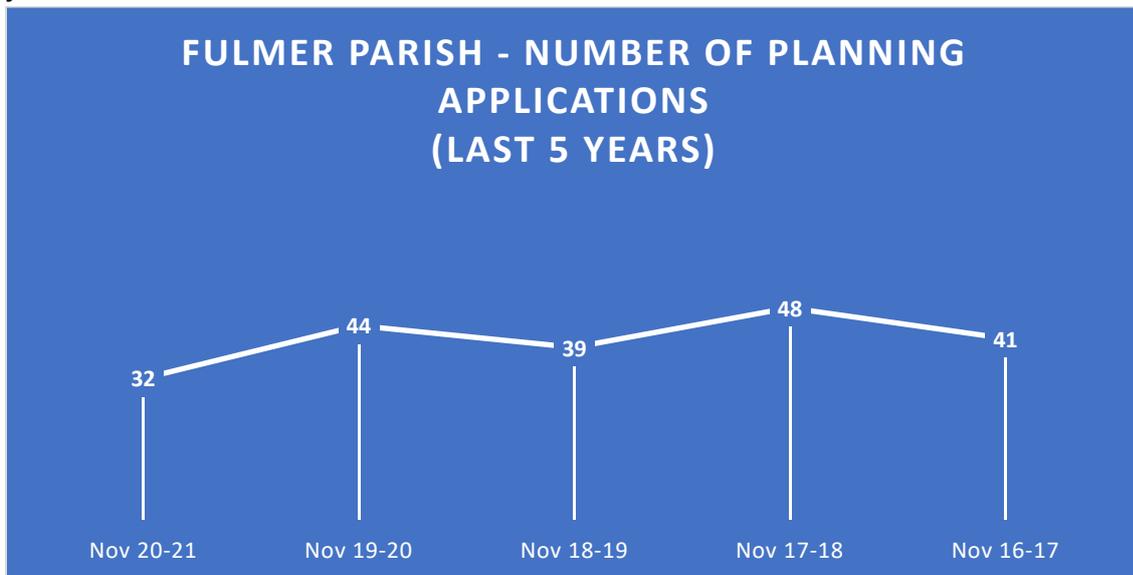
As is often the case, the applications received have ranged from permission to fell trees, to the construction of completely new grand houses, to single storey developments as well as some barn conversions and change of use requests. There are always contentious developments, and we continue to work with concerned residents to deal with such developments as well as enforcement issues, working closely with the Council to address concerns raised.

The process is that the Parish Council is given a few weeks to comment on any planning applications before the South Bucks and Chiltern District planning officers meet and decide finally on each case. We have seen improved traction with the Planning teams now under a unitary body and have seen a few historic applications finally move to a decision. 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.

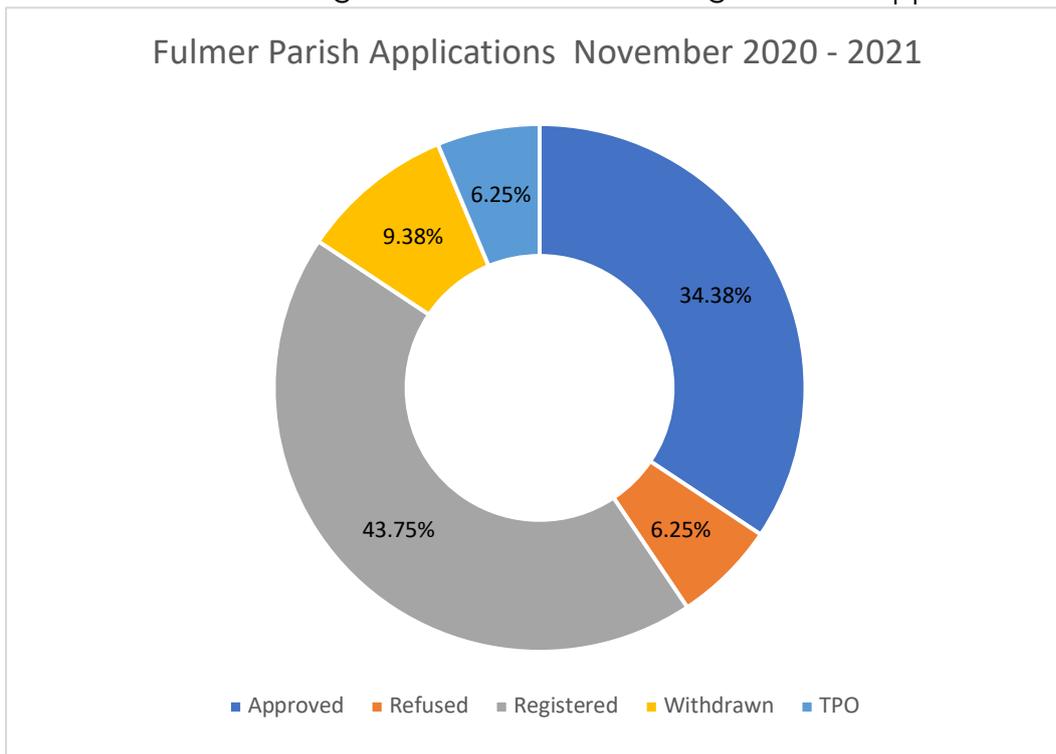
The main priority of the Parish council is providing its views to the Planning Officers. We remain committed to the protection of village life and prevention from overdevelopment; our aim being to promote development which helps the Parish to continue to function as a participative community, preferring buildings for permanently resident families, over huge 'structures' that can sometimes attract temporary residents. We continue to consider a Neighbourhood Plan, waiting on the Local Plan to be finalised (having been withdrawn on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020). We have registered our desire to create plan to the local authority and currently are exploring the process and available support.

In the 12 months from November 2020, Chiltern & South Bucks Council have published decisions on 32 planning applications affecting the Parish of Fulmer.

Below are the number of applications received over the same period in the last 5 years.



In addition, the graphic below shows the split of type of application and its outcome. 43.75% are still awaiting a decision – most coming as recent applications.



Fulmer Parish Council will continue to provide commentary on Parish views with regards to planning applications. We will continue to work with Fulmer residents on a number of long-standing Enforcement activities, working closely with Chiltern & South Bucks Council. The Village continues to be very active despite the reduction of applications, with the number of Planning requests high for such a small community. The Parish Council would like to hear from Residents on how we work better in providing information and supporting any concerns for all planning matters.

PARM KHANGHURA

REPORT FROM THE FULMER SPORTS & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
(FSCA)

The Fulmer Family Fireworks Night was a great success on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The fireworks, fire eaters, fire dancers, stilt walkers, amusements, live band, BBQ, cake stall and bars made it a fun and entertaining evening. The road closure which included a mile stretch of Fulmer Common Rd was also a great addition so that only cars parking for the event were able to use it. This created a much calmer and relaxed atmosphere when entering King George's Field. My deepest thanks go to everyone who volunteered to help on the night with special thanks to Linda who formed half of the committee. Without all the volunteers' selfless contribution and sacrifice there wouldn't have been an event.

This summer the guide hut has been renovated creating an exercise studio. Funnily enough this is called 'The Studio'. (See Ian Finan's article that follows).

We are hoping to have our annual quiz night at King George's Field at the end of January followed by our Fulmer Family Fun Day in May.

For further information about the club and facilities, including booking for adult parties or enquiring about Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Football Club, Fulmer Cricket Club and Fulmer Tennis Club please call me on 07879 404745 or make contact via e-mail on kgffbookings@yahoo.co.uk.

Andrew Nealon, General Manager

FULMER'S NEW EXERCISE STUDIO!

The Studio at King George's Fields has now been up and running for 3 months, and in that time, we are delighted that a diverse range of classes has started up. The Studio is open to all. We have 11 instructors with classes ranging from Kettlebells, Yoga, Pilates, Dance classes, children's exercise, Martial Arts' sessions, through to classes tailored for the elderly. You can pay as you go or buy packages where available, in order to obtain discounts.

The website has recently been upgraded so please have a look at its new design [www.thestudiokgff.com](http://www.thestudiokgff.com)

If you haven't tried a class, then why not have a go!

Ian Finan, FSCA

Fulmer Cricket Club – [www.fulmercricketclub.com](http://www.fulmercricketclub.com)

You will be pleased to read that we managed a full season this year following the Covid-19 impacted season last year. Despite being open for cricket we had 11 of our potential 47 matches cancelled, mainly due to the weather.

Playing performance in 2021 - Our winning percentage advantage that we have enjoyed over the last few years abandoned us this year. We won 14 matches, lost 21 and had one draw. Our closest matches were both against regular opponents, Little Marlow where we won away by 2 wickets and lost at home by 4 runs. Of the 36 matches played 23 were at home. This imbalance reflects the situation that many of our traditional Saturday "fixtures" match opponents have moved to league cricket or have been dissolved. Many fixtures, consequently, are against league sides, who have a bye, or colts' cricketers. This situation has resulted in our Club considering the potential of league cricket, which is covered under a separate heading below.

The annual President's match, which took place on 25 July, saw a drawn game. In the 26 years of the President's matches, the President's XI have won 14, Fulmer 10, 1 was a tie and now we have a draw. The day started with the traditional lunch, mostly supplied by Kiki and Peter, and served with the help of Sue Box and other helpers from FCC. The weather was fine to start with, as evidenced in the photo of both teams, but unfortunately rain arrived about halfway through the President's XI innings after Fulmer had posted a score of 270-4. After waiting for a considerable time for the rain to disappear it didn't play ball, so we abandoned play and agreed an honourable draw. It was great that Edward Guinness was able to join us during the afternoon. We wrapped up a wonderful afternoon, despite the rain inflicted result, with a BBQ and a few drinks. All thanks go to Kiki, Peter and members of the Guinness family and Sue and other members of the Fulmer CC for making it such an enjoyable day.

### League Cricket

As mentioned under playing performance, there has been a gradual decline in our traditional opponents who play "fixtures" cricket on a Saturday. There has also been a keen interest from many of our playing members to play league cricket. After a significant amount of research into our options for league cricket and the inherent obligations in joining a league, we put a paper to members and asked them to vote on the prospect of league cricket. There was significant vote in favour of league cricket, so we have applied to join Chilterns League commencing in 2022. We will continue to play "fixtures" cricket on a Sunday.

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](http://www.fulmercricketclub.com)

2022 Season - We look forward to our first league season, assuming we are admitted by Chilterns League. We will arrange pre-season indoor nets and let players know about the arrangements in due course.



Off Field activities –

David Timms has done a great job in getting the end of season statistics together. We should also mention Ben Fisher who attends each home game and manages the bar while the match is in progress. He also does a great job with packing up at the end of the day and making sure the pavilion is properly secure before leaving. Tony King, our Hon Treasurer, does a great job in keeping the finances under control, making sure that all players pay their dues, and Armando Borges does a lot of work behind the scenes as a Hon Secretary. Our skippers Tony, Paul, Dan Randall, and Peter Bradford play a big role in getting out teams and managing our playing performances. Acknowledgement goes to Dan for his sterling efforts this year. The Covid-19 restrictions meant that players came to the ground dressed ready for cricket, brought their own teas, regularly hand sanitised and socially distanced when off the field of play. These restrictions were well adhered to which was pleasing to see.

Awards for 2021

Sadly, we were not able to find a suitable date for this year's awards evening but, for the record, the award winners are as follows:

Batting

Most runs 639 - Mani Raza

Highest innings - 106, Priyan

Best average - 70.00 Nigel Field

Bowling

Most wickets - 23, Aqeel Raja

Best in a match - 6-29 Aqeel Raja  
Best bowling average - 16.64, Zeeshan  
Duck Cup - Armando Borges

#### Qualitative Awards

Players' player - Peter Bradford  
Best fielder – Joe Acland  
Manu Kapila Award for Best Young Player – Joe Acland  
Most improved – Peter Bradford  
Most valuable player – Priyan  
Outstanding contribution – Dan Randall  
Chairman's award – Derrick Randall and Paul Colloff

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.fulmercricquetclub.com](http://www.fulmercricquetclub.com)

2022 Season – We look forward to our first league season, assuming we are admitted by Chilterns League. We will arrange pre-season indoor nets and let players know about the arrangements in due course.

PETER BOX

#### Fulmer Ladies Tennis Tournament

It was a bright, sunny morning on 13 October when a number of Fulmer residents opened their tennis courts to welcome 24 ladies from Fulmer and the surrounding areas to take up their tennis rackets and have a go at making their way to the finals. With thanks to Susie, Charlotte, Lorette and Timothy for loaning their tennis courts and providing refreshments.

The finals were held on the tennis courts at King George's Field, where a delicious lunch was laid compliments of Susie Simkins. Claudia Agha and Claudia Sylvestre beat runners up Julie Rose and Neepa Patel in a closely fought final.

Entry fees combined with a wonderful raffle raised £630 for the charity that day! The inaugural Fulmer Ladies Tennis Tournament, organised in aid of the King George's Field Fulmer Charity, was a huge success and a lot of fun. All of the entrants are keen to play again next year during the Summer when we will be holding the event across more courts in Fulmer and hope to welcome many more entrants to come and join in the fun!

Linda McKenzie - FSCA

# Did you know?

By the time you are 80 years old, you will have walked an average of 110,000 miles – the equivalent of walking around the world five times!<sup>1</sup>

It's easy to take our feet for granted but poor foot care can lead to problems in the future that can negatively impact our daily activities. It is therefore important to take good care of your feet and seek help from a foot health professional if any problems such as athlete's foot or verrucae persist.

## 5 Simple Steps To Good Foot Care<sup>2</sup>

You can keep your feet in good health with these tips from the NHS:

### Wash Your Feet Often And Dry Them Well

Use warm soapy water every day and make sure to dry between your toes to avoid a build-up of fungus

### Moisturise And File Dry Skin

Carefully remove dry skin with a foot file or pumice stone. Be careful not to take too much and damage the new skin underneath

### Cut Toe Nails Straight Across

Never pick or cut toe nails at an angle as this can cause painful ingrown toe nails

### Wear Shoes And Socks That Fit

Pay particular attention to the width of your feet when choosing shoes and socks, making sure they fit properly and comfortably

### Treat Fungal Nails<sup>3</sup>

Yellow or discoloured nails can be unsightly and sometimes painful. Over the counter treatments are available or, if these do not work

for you, there is a treatment called Clearanail® that makes tiny holes in the nail plate. These holes allow topical treatments to reach the nail bed in much higher concentrations for fast and effective results.

Your local chiropodist can help. If you are unable to treat any foot problems at home, contact your local foot health professional. They can offer treatment and advice for foot problems such as hard skin, verrucae, athlete's foot, ingrown or fungal toenails.

### References

1. How far does the average human walk in a lifetime? Available at: <https://sciencemadefun.net/blog/think-about-it-thursday-how-far-does-the-average-human-walk-in-a-lifetime/>. Last accessed: December 2018.
2. Tips on foot care. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/tips-on-foot-care/>. Last accessed: December 2018.
3. Clearanail®. Available at: <http://www.clearanail.com/home-page>. Last accessed: December 2018.

## Sore feet? We can help!

At The Eaton Practice, we give your feet the care and attention they deserve:

We offer treatment and advice for all common foot problems such as corns, hard skin, verrucae, athlete's foot, ingrown or fungal toenails.

Come and visit us in Gerrards Cross or book online

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

6, Oak End Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8BR

Available in our surgery;  
Gerrards Cross or at home

Book your appointment today:  
**01753 888740**

  
THE EATON PRACTICE  
Chiropody & Foot Health



## FULMER FOOTBALL NEWS

Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Football Club was founded in 2002. It has grown from one team in 2002/3 to some 200 registered players in 12 age groups from Under 6 to Under 18. From its small beginnings the club has grown to achieve Football Association Charter Standard status and has numerous FA accredited coaches. The club strives to provide a balance for all children who wish to participate in football between competition, fairness and loyalty.

The club plays at King George's Field in Fulmer and at the Packhorse ground on Gerrards Cross common. The clubhouse is at King George's field in Fulmer and is part of the Fulmer Sports and Community Association which also offers cricket and tennis facilities.

On Tuesday October 19, Gerrards Cross & Fulmer FC hosted a Shooting Stars Festival for girls in Years 3 and 4 from 4 local schools. The FA Shooting Stars campaign, inspired by Disney and working in collaboration with the Youth Sport Trust and the National Literacy Trust, uses Disney storytelling to inspire girls to advance their footballing skills while engaging in imaginative play.

Over 170 girls attended from Gerrards Cross, Farnham Common, Stoke Poges and St Mary's Primary schools. The girls enjoyed a variety of football practices led by a number of Coaches including Mark O'Donnell of AMA Soccer Coaching and Anthony Shaw of Gerrards Cross & Fulmer FC. The event was led by the South Bucks Schools Sports' Partnership.

Gerrards Cross School noted that it was a 'great morning of football coaching' and 'hopefully the girls will be inspired to play regularly in the future.

Our club is on a mission to continue to promote and develop the girls' game by providing a pathway for local girls to develop their football skills and, above all, have fun.

Anthony Shaw, Chairman GXFFC ([chairman@gxffc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@gxffc.co.uk))

## Fulmer Infant School Report

It was wonderful to welcome back everyone into school in September. The children all settled in very well and it was lovely not to have to segregate the children into 'bubbles'. However, we are still vigilant, all our rooms are well ventilated and we follow social distancing rules as much as we can.

Roles of Responsibility in Year 2 - Every Autumn term children in Year 2 learn about British Values and Democracy. This term they learned about democracy as they held a secret ballot to vote for a Chair, Secretary and Finance officer for the School Council. They learned that they could only vote once for each role and should vote for the best candidate and not necessarily their friend! These children have already led an assembly discussing how we can raise money for our link orphanage and school in Pakistan. It came as no surprise that the school decided to have a donut sale! There are other roles and responsibilities for Year 2 children, namely Eco Warriors and Playground Monitors. The Eco Warriors lead assemblies on how to look after our environment. The Playground Monitors check that children are having a happy playtime.

Harvest Festival - Earlier this term the children had an excellent assembly to celebrate this year's Harvest. They sang their hearts out and recited some beautiful poems. All parents who watched the assembly were very impressed. Children also donated non-perishable food to 'SHOC', a local charity helping homeless people.

### Macmillan Donut Sale

There was great excitement when we held a special donut sale to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Families donated a selection of donuts which children then enjoyed buying raising £219.03 for this important charity.



Trips and visitors - On Friday 15 October, children from our Year 1 and 2 classes went out for an educational visit to the Environmental Centre at Iwer. Due to Covid, this was the first time we have been able to go out for

a visit since 2019 and the children were incredibly excited. They had great fun learning all about trees and plants and particularly enjoyed doing pond dipping activities and making bug hotels.



The children's learning has also been enhanced this term with a dance workshop to celebrate Black History month, a visit from an ambulance, a talk from a mother who is a local GP, a day dressed as scarecrows to write in role having read *The Scarecrows Wedding* by Julia Donaldson and many activities to celebrate Diwali

National Online Safety Accreditation - After a lot of hard work and training we are thrilled to announce that we are now a National Online Safety Certified School. This is a testament to how seriously we take online learning and how we aim to protect and educate the children in their safe use of the internet and technology.

Nativity - Finally, the school is now humming to the tunes of our Nativity play so we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

CATHY HUNT & TRACEY DOWSING – Joint Headteachers

## FULMER CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

As another year in the life of Fulmer village passes by and we cosy up for winter, I'm once again struck by the beautiful surroundings of our village and parish. My regular runs through Fulmer take me down green lanes, past the immaculate Black Horse Pub, the Church and its gleaming weather vane, the bustling Village Hall and then off through fields with grazing horses and trees resplendent in their golden autumn foliage. We live in a truly special place!

It was also lovely to sit this morning on the corner of Hay Lane and Fulmer Road, and contemplate life a little in the seating area that was beautifully restored this summer in memory of Anya Whitehead. The plaque and its location are a fitting tribute for someone whose life was centred around the village for over 30 years and was a very well known and much loved member of the Fulmer community. Thank you to Anya's parents, Susie Weeks and all those who helped with the project.

Unfortunately, there was no Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition again this year, but that was no excuse not to plant out the troughs and hanging baskets which took place in early May for the start of the Summer. Many thanks once again to Tom and Liz at Pinewood nurseries for their continued support and supplying the flowers for these and to all the volunteers that helped plant them out. I would also like to say a big thank you to Darren for organising regular litter picks in and around the village. All of these efforts really make the village shine, as I am regularly told by those that pass through it!

As always, there are jobs in and around the village that need attention so please feel free to get in touch ([charleslawsongray@gmail.com](mailto:charleslawsongray@gmail.com)) if you can lend a hand and some time. If there is a project you feel needs attention or there's a conservation project, however small or large, that you have undertaken please let me know as it's always great to showcase our residents' achievements in the weekly Fulmer newsletter.

Thank you again for everyone's efforts; I know many of you are unsung heroes, picking a bag's worth of litter on a walk or making the extra effort in your front garden. It's all appreciated and we look forward to 2022 and the return of the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition.

In the meantime we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Charlie Gray and the Fulmer Conservation Volunteers.

## STOKE COMMON NEWS

Stoke Common is lowland heathland, a habitat created through a combination of the presence of poor acidic soils and land management (including grazing) that keeps the vegetation open. It is the largest remaining fragment of heathland in Buckinghamshire. Since 1800 around 80% of the UK's heathland has been lost to development, road building and cessation of management. As a habitat, heathland is home to many rare and unusual species of invertebrates, reptiles and birds that are quite different from those of grassland and woodland.

Since the City of London took ownership of the Common in 2007, we have been working hard to restore the heathland habitat. During the first ten years of ownership, some relatively drastic changes took place with clearance of large areas of silver birch scrub and other areas of slightly more mature woodland. The heathland restoration was aided by a great quantity of dormant seed in the soil that was released when the soil was disturbed, creating large areas of new heathland plant seedlings. Within just a few years, the habitat on the common greatly improved, and today the area not only looks far more like lowland heath, but some of the key species that are found on these habitats are returning and starting to thrive.

The current management plan is aimed at maintaining and improving upon some of the progress made in the first ten years so that in future, there will be far fewer dramatic changes occurring. Despite the common remaining quite wet for most of the year, and restrictions brought about by the pandemic, City of London Staff, volunteers and contractors have been able to carry on the management work on the heathland. Contractors have continued clearing small areas of young woodland along the firebreaks by cutting out 'scallops' along the edges, both protecting nearby homes from the risk of fire and improving the look and habitat value of the area.

Scrub of all ages has great value for wildlife, as long as it is managed, and not allowed to grow uncontrolled to the detriment of other habitats, and the species within them. Since the start of September, volunteers have been managing young silver birch and pine scrub near to Frame Wood, thinning and coppicing, rather than clearing it. Through allowing some to re-grow and cutting different areas each year we can be sure that the scrub on the common has a varied structure, from very young and sparse to taller, more dense patches – scrub is particularly good habitat for birds. While conditions remain dry enough, staff and volunteers will continue to manage scrub in the areas identified in the plan for this year.

One unwelcome thing that kept the Rangers very busy over the summer months was the monitoring and later removal of Oak Processionary Moth nests. This non-native species has slowly been expanding its territory in the south of England since its

accidental introduction to the country in 2005. This notifiable pest of oak trees is a hazard to both human and animal health, due to the irritant hairs with which it is covered. It can cause skin, eye and throat irritations and, occasionally, respiratory difficulties in people and animals. They were first found on the common in 2020 but, despite removal of those nests, their numbers have increased to a level of around 90 nests. The nests were removed by specialist contractors wearing protective equipment but unfortunately, rather like Covid, this may be something we have to learn to live with in the future.

On a brighter note, a species that we were very happy to see flourishing on Stoke Common is the nationally scarce Bog Bush-Cricket. Stoke Common is the only known location in Buckinghamshire where this species is found. A team comprising staff and volunteers spent a couple of days during the summer hunting for the cricket and found 56, more than double the count achieved in 2009, and over a far greater area. The fact that this species is not just present, but expanding in numbers and territory, indicates that the quality of the lowland damp heathland at Stoke Common is good, and that is a fabulous reflection on the work that has been carried out on the SSSI since the City acquired it in 2007.

The Friends of Stoke Common Volunteers are always looking for new volunteers to join them. You don't need any experience, just plenty of enthusiasm, a liking for tea, coffee and biscuits and some free time to come and help out. If you would like to be involved in looking after this beautiful nature reserve, please contact them at: [friendsofstokecommon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstokecommon@gmail.com).

Chris Morris – Senior Ranger

#### Black Park update

It has been a very busy summer again in Black Park, visitor numbers have remained high with many people choosing to stay at home rather than going abroad and outdoor activities such as Go Ape are popular as we continue to go through the Covid pandemic. The ranger team have done an amazing job keeping on top of litter, supported by our Adopt-a-Patch volunteers who have made a massive difference in keeping the park litter free, especially the hard to reach areas that the rangers often do not get time to visit. There are several new faces in the ranger team with Anna, Ben, Matt, Josh and another Josh, joining us over the last few months. Filming in the park has been busy too and has been very positive from an income generation perspective, allowing us to re-invest in parks infrastructure and support safety and conservation work. The Country Parks Team are very aware however that not everyone likes seeing filming in the park and at times it can be disruptive, so this year we have trialled putting in several enforced breaks where we have closed to filming

for several weeks at a time, these have work really well and we have another one beginning shortly running all through December and the first week of January.

Managing development pressures seems to have become a bigger part of the country parks teams role over the last 10 years; currently we have HS2 and National Grid working in Denham Country Park and are still monitoring the Heathrow position in relation to Thorney Park. Locally, The Country Parks Team, like Fulmer Parish Council are still engaged in the consultation relating to the Pinewood Screen Hub development. We are working hard to ensure that whatever the outcome of the planning decision, Black Park remains protected and any potential impacts are adequately mitigated against. Comments we have submitted are available on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal.

There have been several really positive developments in the conservation side of our work. A colony of the very rare Bechstein's Bat have been found in the park and survey work is now underway to understand more about what we can do to protect them and improve habitat for them. Bechstein's Bat lives in woodland and roosts in old woodpecker holes or tree crevices. Like other bats, the females form 'maternity colonies' to have their pups. Unlike many other bat species, it prefers to feed on the ground or on trees rather than on the wing. We have also had a Nightjar return to our Heathland area for the first time in several years. The nightjar is listed as an Amber species under the Red List for Birds, meaning it is a species of conservation concern. Loss of habitat for breeding is believed to be the biggest issue for nightjar populations and our heathland restoration work is aimed to help address this locally. This winter we are delivering further habitat work with Groundwork South and their 'Green Team' trainees, to create a link between our two existing heath areas that are currently separated by a compartment of non-native Pine and Fir trees, once completed this will significantly improve connectivity for heathland specialist animals, such as Nightjar, creating a much larger area of continuous habitat for them.

As we approach Christmas and the end of a busy year, The Country Parks Team, would like to thank Fulmer Parish residents for their support throughout the last year, we know many of you are regular Black Park users and often our eyes and ears on the ground, from spotting fallen trees to letting us know when a cow on the heathland is looking unwell. Without this type of support our work would be a lot harder and a lot less enjoyable.

Tim Williams  
Team Leader Country Parks  
Communities Directorate  
Buckinghamshire Council

## Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society

Our Autumn programme started on 8 September when Maureen Barton gave the first lecture evening since the Covid 19 break. Her illustrated talk on setting up the Facebook Group, Growing Together, in Lockdown 2020. She shared photos and anecdotes illustrating its small beginnings through the gifting of sunflower seeds to villagers in Stoke Poges and showed how it evolved to become the worldwide gardening support network it is today with nearly 9,000 members. Maureen told of her passion for schools' gardening and getting children and families involved with growing vegetables and flowers. She shared pictures of her garden and wildflower meadow with plenty of advice and ideas with some very inspiring posts from members over the last 16 months. There was a Q&A session after and a display of ideas and free seeds was given to attendees.

Members' Autumn Social Evening - held on 13 October with a very good attendance. Many thanks to those who contributed food, raffle prizes and exhibits for the table show. All classes had at least one entry and the Best in Show Award was won by Bev Nealon, from Fulmer, with her wonderful begonia. As our speaker was unable to attend, Franzi Cheeseman, Head Gardener at Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens, stepped in with a most colourful and interesting talk with photographs about three well-known Gardens in Philadelphia – Winterthur, Longwood and Chanticleer. Many thanks to Franzi.

AGM 13 November. The meeting was followed by a light-hearted quiz, hosted by Jon and Heather Homan, while we all enjoyed Afternoon Tea. Many thanks to Jon and Heather and to all those who provided the delicious food. New committee members are vital to take us forward. Please consider joining the committee or asking someone you know. So many people have enjoyed the benefits of gardening since Lockdown, it is more important than ever to hold our Annual Show and keep the Society going. We welcome all volunteers, particularly anyone with strengths in social media and website management, who may wish to come forward. Please contact our Secretary, [naomi.arnold33@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.arnold33@gmail.com). or Chairman, [ruth@rooley.com](mailto:ruth@rooley.com) if you would like more information.

Future Events – Members' Spring Social Evening 9 March 2022 8 pm at The Stoke Poges School. Postponed from October Stefan White will give his illustrated and amusing talk 'Skullduggery in the Shrubbery'. The inspiring story of John Tradescant and his family – 17th century Gardener to English Royalty, founder of the world's first museum, widely travelled plant collector, adventurer and collector of nature's rarities, all stolen by a rascally lawyer, who took all the credit. It featured the last remaining dodo, mermaids, Kings and Queens, intrigue and treachery. We will have a finger buffet, table show and raffle. Non-members are most welcome but will be asked to contribute £3.50 for the cost of the buffet.

Annual Plant Sale – 30 April 10–12 noon - We will be returning to the Village Centre; we cannot guarantee the beautiful weather that we had this year when the sale was held at the Rose and Crown. Reasonably priced, good quality bedding plants, herbs, vegetable plants, many grown by our members, will be on sale, as will delicious home-made cakes. The money raised goes towards the cost of hiring the huge marquee for the Annual Show. Lecture Evening - 11 May 8 pm at The Stoke Poges School

Co-op Community Fund - The Society has once again been fortunate to be nominated to receive funding support from the Co-op Community Fund which will go towards the cost of our Annual Show in 2023! But what you may not know is: Co-op members must confirm/reconfirm their choice of charity to receive support for every new period of funding. The current 12 month payment ends on 22 October 2022. If you have not already done so, please become a Co-op member, you will receive a 2% discount on Co-op branded products and services and a 2% contribution to your chosen charity. Our cause number is 62848. Co-op members can choose a cause to support by signing into their [membership account](#) or calling the membership helpline 0800 023 4708. Or via <https://causes.coop.co.uk>. Please be sure to nominate our Horticultural Society (Charity Number 283786). Here's the unique link for the Society <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/62848> Please sign up, nominate us, and ask your family, neighbours and friends to choose us to support the Annual Show.

Annual Show – 23 July 2022, The Stoke Poges School. Please join our unique horticultural show which is a wonderful community event RUTH ROOLEY



## South Bucks Riding for the Disabled – Fundraising

South Bucks RDA has been a part of the Fulmer community for many years, we pride ourselves in the therapy and lessons our horses, ponies, instructors and volunteers give to local disabled people. We've also had some success at Regional, National and European sports levels and then there's the two Paralympian's who started their careers with us and now have 14 gold medals between them. We also have some Royal connections with HRH Princess Anne as the President of National RDA.

Before covid we were providing therapy and lessons to over 100 riders a week but the pandemic has taken its toll on us as it has with many other charities. We've been around for over 50 years and intend to be here for many more to come, we have some great plans in place for South Bucks RDA, but all this comes at a price we rely on donations and fundraising to continue with our work.

We will hopefully be at Fulmer Day in 2022, and attend the Church Service with Pip, he's one of our ponies and a member of our fundraising team. We also attend other events in the local area as well, to raise much needed funds. We will keep the Fulmer community updated on where we will be so please come along and support us.

In the summer of 2022 we intend to have an open day where every household in Fulmer will be invited to come along and see what we do and meet the horses, ponies and people of your local charity.

In the meantime, should anybody like further details of our fund-raising and work at the RDA, please contact me as below

Alan Lawrence – Trustee  
alanlawrence5@btinternet.com  
07881 950147/01753 662796  
southbucksrda.org

## News from South Bucks RDA

When we last wrote to you in May we were starting to have more regular rides again with the support of parents as side helpers. As more and more volunteers and families have had their second vaccination we have been able to expand our services. More of our riders have returned, some though have grown a little too big for the ponies if they need significant support. Usually each summer we send a few riders off to regional competitions and then hopefully to the nationals. This year it was all change. The regional and National competitions were virtual. All riders who wanted to join in had their competition entry filmed in May for the regional competition and we were fortunate enough to qualify several riders for the Nationals. Being virtual meant that some of our ponies who would find travelling stressful because of their age were still able to compete from home. Our thanks go to the volunteers who helped with the filming. Every rider did well and we had several in the top six of the classes entered that were shown on a virtual championship weekend in August.

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to one of our very special horses Lambrusco. He had been with us for many years as a dressage horse, he took Sophie Christensen to gold position in the Beijing Paralympics, and in later life was a key horse for many of our less able riders in general classes. He will be greatly missed.

As part of our opening up of the facilities we have started some of the schools' classes during the week. It is so lovely seeing the excited faces of the children as they learn new skills. We have also started a new activity 'Tea with a Pony' where we welcome residents from a local care home to come and interact with some of our ponies then have a cup of tea, some cake and a general chat. Though I have heard that one of our dogs thinks it ought to be 'tea with a dog'! He loves to come and say hello too.

We have recently been loaned a new horse Wilma, he (yes he, aka Warrior II) will be a great walk trot horse for our more independent riders. He has retired from his competitive dressage life and will hopefully enable some of our riders still waiting to return to take up the reins again. Our mechanical horse is busy with some of these riders helping them to keep supple. We have been lucky enough to have a donation that has enabled us to purchase George a young cob, capable of carrying our larger riders. He will need a few months of training before he is ready to join in classes.

This year we hope to hold our carol service on 5 December, with the riders and their families gathering together to retell the Christmas story with some of our ponies joining in. We all look forward to a more interactive New Year with even more of our riders being able to participate.

We continue to look for new volunteers, so if you are interested please call Gina on 01753 662796  
Theresa Drake - Volunteer Coach

## The Story of Guinness Time by Edward Guinness

It was in the late summer of 1947; I had started with Guinness two years before and was resident as a Junior Brewer in Bodiam, the staff house in Twyford Abbey Road which was connected by a covered corridor with Udiam its twin (both were so named after two of the Guinness Hop Farms on the borders of Kent and Sussex). In terms of the then Guinness hierarchy, Bodiam was the senior as it housed Colonel Newbold, who came from Dublin where he had been a Senior Brewer. I was the most junior of all the brewers. It was a curious arrangement to have the Managing Director and the most junior brewer resident in the same house, but it was in the days of realignment at the end of the Second World War. I learnt a great deal at this early stage, the most valuable being in conversations between Ben Newbold and myself when there were no others from the brewing fraternity spending the night on a visit to the Brewery. When there were no other guests, after dinner Ben would educate me in the ways of the Brewery over glasses of port and cobnuts from the Hop Farms. Sadly Ben died in his sleep at Bodiam. By that time I had become responsible for three junior staff appointments, in spite of my age and inexperience. Clearly these conversations with Ben proved a unique opportunity at the start of my 44 year career with Guinness, as it gave me a much wider opportunity to see how the governance of Guinness operated. Ben Newbold was quickly replaced by Sir Hugh Beaver, who in fact had been understudying him for the previous six months.

Although there had been a wartime gap between his two periods with Guinness, Sir Hugh came to accept that he had inherited some old and, in certain instances, worn out plant which would have to be adapted and modernised to maximise the potential of the then 10 year old Park Royal Brewery. During the war he had become the Minister for Works, an important wartime responsibility. Initially he worked with the traditional governance and work practice at Guinness, and gradually he started to introduce many innovations including work study and job evaluation. Contemporaneously other sections of the brewery were reorganising and modernising working practice with the new modern equipment. This made for inevitable difficulties between the traditionalists and those whose experience had been drawn from elsewhere. But that was quickly overcome. From the start, the brewery was a happy place to work. Concurrent with his modernising work at the Park Royal Brewery, Sir Hugh was concentrating on the creation of the Clean Air Bill to rid London of the pea-soup fogs that were prevalent at that time. These were so appalling that I can remember motorists abandoning their cars, unable to continue to travel, and forced to take the train home.

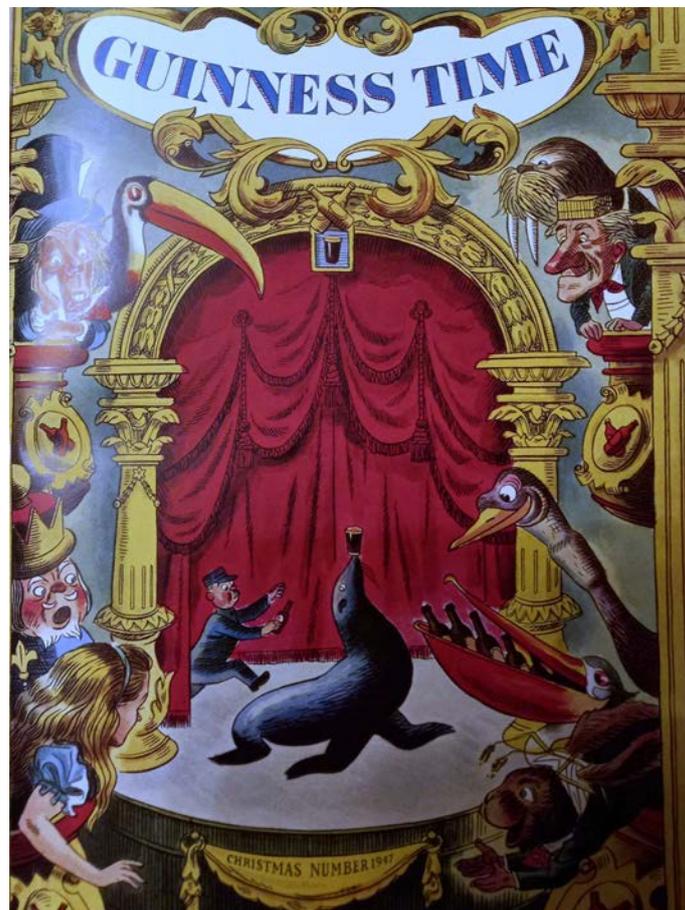
One morning in late 1947, Norman Smiley (an ex-brewer who was appointed to assist Ben Newbold in various facets of running the new brewery at Park Royal) and I were having breakfast at Bodiam, discussing the weekend, when members of the Park Royal staff had excelled themselves in the London Breweries Sports Day which was a

further way of achieving normality, as the Sports Day itself was part of the inter-brewery rivalries, established many years before. I said to Norman "It seems a great pity that there is no method here by which we can record these successes", as they were obviously important in the links we were forging among the brewing fraternity in London. Norman said that he had been looking for some time for someone to initiate a magazine in which these and other feats could be recorded, and would I take this on? Sir Hugh Beaver approved of the idea and provided a budget for the enterprise, saying that, as he felt most of the work would be carried out in Guinness Time, the name of the new periodical should be just that, and so 'Guinness Time' was born. (Sir Hugh's observation was somewhat unjust, because the preparation of the magazine involved the burning of much midnight oil while George Gracie, who had become Joint Editor, and I worked away at his home in Rossall Crescent).

A national feature of that time (embraced by the Industrial Society) was encouraging organisations to inform their staff and employees on the success or otherwise of the whole enterprise. In this we were enormously helped by the under brewers' experience in Dublin which made it possible for new practices to be developed to blend in with practices that were gradually replacing the old. An additional feature was that Guinness had guaranteed that those in the Brewery would be re-enrolled at the end of the war when they returned from their overseas service. In the 5½ years of wartime existence, many who had left Park Royal in junior roles had returned a good deal more senior than when they had left, and it required great skill on the part of the Labour Department to absorb them into the mainstream working of the brewery. In this respect it was fortunate that the numbers were comparatively few. With the benefit of hindsight, I can see that one of the major influencers of labour relations at Park Royal at that time was an initiative of Sir Hugh Beaver's when he invited representatives of the Transport and General and the Craft Unions to negotiate inside the Park Royal Brewery enabling the brewery to become 100% unionised. The Dublin Brewery, who had been resisting the Unions who were pressing for recognition, were horrified. However, at a time when employers generally were reluctant to negotiate with the Trade Unions directly, which was the cause of much unrest throughout industry, it enabled me in my role as Labour Manager to have Guinness at Park Royal administered to the general satisfaction of all parties. Sir Hugh's initiative enabled both management and unions to recognise they had a great deal in common, and so it was possible to forge a stable working environment with an agreed disputes procedure. It meant that all personnel at the Park Royal Brewery were covered, except for the transport side, which at the time was a separate company, Thomas Allen. As this initiative was working so well, agreement was reached with the transport branch whereby they became a department of the brewery, so able to enjoy the same working conditions as the non-transport section. This was the atmosphere into which Guinness Time was launched at a charge of 6d a copy. It became a form of mouthpiece for the initiatives being introduced and even

contentious issues, like disputes, could be amicably resolved. Returning to Guinness Time, I knew the qualities of enough people in the brewery to form a committee and I enrolled the great John Gilroy (who was responsible for the Guinness animals used in the advertising campaigns at the time) to become our illustrator. The actual launch was in December 1947, and I remember haunting various places within the brewery to pick up comments. Undoubtedly this owed much to the novelty value, but at the same time was also fulfilling the objective of keeping the staff at the brewery well informed. As had been planned, Guinness Time became the fount of information which replaced former Board Orders, which had been very formal as a means of communication. In fact Guinness Time lasted for over 20 years and often received compliments from other organisations (including the Industrial Society) for informing staff and employees with understandable news, and, at the end of its life, it had become the normal source of information in the company. At the end of its days, we held no ceremony to mark its conclusion, so that the various offshoots could take their place as the various forms of brewery information. It however meant I was not personally involved and it was my good fortune to sign off with something that had met the needs of its time, for keeping everyone informed.

*Thank you Edward for these wonderful recollections and for everything you have contributed to the Newsletter which you started 69 issues ago – what a feat – Editors*



## ROME – OLYMPIC GAMES 1960

During January 1960 some of my fellow students started dreaming of going to Rome for the forthcoming Olympic Games. Our best squash player, a Rhodesian called David Dale, followed the athletics scene avidly and he planned to travel out on his motorbike. Why not join him? By train? My roommate, Julian Garland, was also keen. That spring I heard about a car for sale, a 1938 Morris 8, folding roof, £30 ono, from an address somewhere in Essex. I 'happened' to mention this to my rich godmother, Florence Bradbury – including the fact that I didn't have £30. Rather wonderfully she gave me £20 towards it. So, to deepest Essex I went, haggled with the seller, and suddenly I owned my first car, for £25. In honour of my generous Godmother I named the car Florrie B.

My parents were highly sceptical at the idea of driving Florrie B to Rome and back, over 2000 miles in an antique; it was bound to break down and I knew nothing about cars. I assured them that my co-driver, Julian, was a scientist, reading chemistry, and was technical to his fingertips. Nevertheless, I acquired some spare parts and my father pressed on me an AA handbook with a page about breakdowns and problem-solving.

Our plan was to drive out via the Rhine and Bavaria, reach Italy by the Brenner Pass, and so to Rome via Venice, Ravenna and Florence; then back via Paris. All for the first time. Rarely had I felt such a keen sense of anticipation. As we left the Ostend ferry, the sun was shining, the temperature was up, the roof was down, life was perfect. Our happiness was short-lived. The car started to slow down, then stopped. My 'highly technical' co-driver had no more understanding of the problem than me. Out came the AA handbook. The engine was overheating. To keep things cooler try driving with the bonnet sides propped open. It worked! We went on our way.

The next day was even hotter and despite the open bonnet the engine cut out once more. The AA suggested the petrol might be vaporising in the feed line between the pump and carburettor, in which case the answer was to wrap these items in wet rags. It worked again! But only briefly. The rags had become bone dry within five minutes and the car repeated its fit of the vapours. The AA handbook had no answer to this. However, the fuel line was on the passenger side of the engine and I hit on the idea of keeping the rags wet by drip-feeding water onto the rags from the passenger seat. We had a jerry-can and funnel and spare hoses for the radiator, so we rigged these up to provide a Heath Robinson form of continuous irrigation. Problem finally solved! Of course, the arrangement made us look absurd and passing drivers visibly smirked (in the words of Asterix 'ils sont fous ces 41nglaise!'). But we were finally on our way.

This was my first time in Belgium. We spent our first night in beautiful Bruges and the next day in Brussels. But what I most remember were the bridges over the motorways. In England the M1 had recently opened and its most obvious feature was the ponderous brutalism of the concrete bridges. The Belgian bridges were a striking contrast, light and airy. Why couldn't our engineers achieve this sort of elegance in England? After Brussels our next target was Cologne's famous cathedral. Then the Rhine. Approaching Mainz Florrie B had another hiccup. The weather had become cooler and the vaporisation issue was behind us, so what now? We got her to a garage where a friendly mechanic diagnosed an alternator problem. He fixed it at modest cost – phew! The man was typical of so many of the Germans we met, friendly and helpful with no sign of the wartime belligerence which the British newspapers had led us to expect.

We left the Rhine at Karlsruhe and drove up the long hill onto the Bavarian plateau. It was rush hour on the two-lane autobahn towards Munich. Florrie B could barely reach 40mph and was happy in the slow lane, tucking in behind a line of huge trucks, while the speeding Mercs and BMWs shot past on the outside. Suddenly the truck in front of us pulled out to do some overtaking. The next truck became competitive. Up the hill they went for the next many miles, wheel to wheel, while a vast queue of sleek saloons built up behind. Their horns became deafening but neither truck driver was about to give way. We much enjoyed our ringside view of this scene of Teutonic theatre. We stopped in Ulm to admire the world's tallest spire, then pressed on to Oberammergau, home of the famous passion play, performed every decade to mark the village's grateful recovery from a plague in 1634. We admired the restaurant staff in their lederhosen shorts and dirndl skirts, and got the giggles when to find the change for our bill the waitress had to lift multiple aprons and skirts to find the pouch hidden deep in her underwear.

And so, via Seefeld and Innsbruck, we crossed the Brenner and reached Italy. First stop Venice where all the timeless superlatives came to mind. Then, at Julian's instigation, to Ravenna. Venice had felt somehow familiar from all the photographs but nothing had led me to expect the excitement of Ravenna's Byzantine mosaics. Likewise the octagon design of the S. Vitale basilica which had inspired Charlemagne's more famous octagon cathedral in Aachen. Florrie B had taken the Brenner in her stride but not so the Apennines. We were near the top of the pass when a tyre blew. As she veered off to the right, we were glad to coincide with a verge, unlike the sheer drop 20 yards behind us. Soon afterwards the electrics began to play up. In Florence the mechanic scratched his head. 'Who fitted this alternator?' A mechanic in Mainz, we said. His face was wreathed in schadenfreude as he contemplated this failure of German engineering. Vorsprung durch Technik? More a botch job by Bosch.

We had a deadline for reaching Rome and time pressed. Only one night in Florence and another in Perugia. No time for Siena or Assisi, nor did we barely scratch the surface of Florence. At least we had had a taste of Tuscany and Umbria, enough to ensure we would want to keep returning as we grew older.

In Rome we had been lent a flat belonging to Andrew Macaulay's sister conveniently close to Mussolini's Stadio Olimpico. We had expected to find David already there – was he OK? Had we mixed up the date? It was almost midnight when he finally arrived, completely worn out after steering his bike round Italy's endless hairpins, especially on the coast roads around Genoa. His misery was magnified when a few minutes later he went back downstairs to collect his gear only to find his jerrycan of extra engine oil had just been stolen. Now we knew we were in Italy! Julian and I used to worry about Florrie B's spare wheel being stolen from its perch at the back, and we were always on high alert at traffic lights, but Italian thieves seemed to have higher standards.

Olympic tickets were expensive and we only went to the stadium once. But our one day was a treat with world records set by the American Otis Davis in the 400m and Australian Herb Elliot in the 1500m. But more than the athletics what struck me most was the concerted cheering of the Germans. They were there in force, all seated together, and they seemed to comprise nearly a third of the crowd. Whenever one of their athletes was in contention their spectators cheered in unison with staccato cries of 'oy,oy'oy!' We were chillingly reminded of old films of the Nuremberg rallies. The fact that Davis beat his German rival by a photo-finish was particularly satisfactory. To watch the other days' events we befriended a local restaurant owner who for the price of spaghettis let us watch his black and white TV in a backroom. He had spent some of the war in British POW camps and was keen to practise his English. Copious chianti appeared, all on the house. One evening a dozen ebullient Germans came in and started dancing a conga round the room. They saw the three of us. 'You English will do the conga with us'. David's 'I'm not English' drew the response 'You English now' and the conga line duly increased by three. These Germans were good company with none of the triumphalism we had seen in the stadium. And they had an extra reason to celebrate as in those days the two Germanies, East and West, were competing as a single team, United Team of Germany.

In Rome we did some of the tourist things (Forum, Vatican, Villa Borghese) but a particular highlight came on the Sunday when we drove out to the Pope's summer residence at Castelgandolfo, a small town south of Rome. It was set on the rim of an extinct volcano and its crater had filled with a lake, blue like the sky. We wanted to see the exciting new Pope, John XXIII, elected the year before. The church was on the highest part of the rim. A large crowd gathered outside to see the great man emerge from morning mass. He waved and smiled as his open top car drove slowly

past us, almost in touching distance. I was sure he looked me straight in the eye, a great honour, but David insisted it was on him that the papal look had been bestowed.

David had a Jesuit cousin who had given us an introduction to the English College where English-speaking Catholics trained for the priesthood. It was a mile further round the rim and we arrived in time for lunch, looking out over the same blue lake several hundred feet below. We felt quite a buzz. Not only had we (almost) met the Pope but this was no ordinary pope. This was the controversial priest from a peasant family who had already announced Vatican II and was getting ready to lead the Catholic Church into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with major reforms including a much more ecumenical attitude towards other Christian denominations.

From Rome we went our separate ways, David hurrying back to his lab in Oxford, Julian and I driving in a more leisurely way through northern Italy and over the Mont Cenis Pass into France. Things were uneventful until Paris where we felt duty bound to introduce Florrie B to the thrill of the Rond Point in the Place de la Concorde. This is the granddaddy of all roundabouts with five lanes of traffic. The Parisian drivers were as aggressive as the Italians and we found ourselves squeezed onto the inner lane. Extracting ourselves was hair-raising.

Just north of Paris Florrie B developed a burping poise which slowly mutated into a repetitive fart. Should we worry? After a while we noticed the car's performance was not affected. In fact, if anything, she went a bit better. We relaxed. Even so the noise had become measurably louder by the time we reached the Channel. And louder again when I dropped Julian off at his house in Suffolk. By now I was seriously worried and drove ever more slowly. As I left the A1 for the last lap home via Chesterfield I saw an AA man at the Ollerton roundabout and stopped to ask his advice. 'You're lucky', he said 'your gasket has blown – a new one only costs 1/6d. But not today, it's Sunday'.

'OK, good – I'm only 20 miles from home, so I'll drive on'. 'Drive on?! Not like that, sonny. It's your exhaust flange gasket. Highly inflammable gases are escaping next to the carburettor and the car could become a fireball at any time'. 'Maybe but I've driven from Paris like this, so she should be good for another 20 miles'. 'From Paris? Where's that? I don't come from this part of Nottinghamshire'. He turned pale when I told him I meant the capital of France. It was quite a relief when I finally reached home.

Nicholas Barber

*A very big thank you to Nicholas for continuing to entertain Newsletter readers with his wonderfully interesting reminiscences – keep them coming please! – Editors*



## TEIKYO SCHOOL UK

A Japanese Boarding School providing secondary education for students aged 15 to 18.

The teachers and students returned from Japan in September for the start of the new term, without too much trouble that has been experienced by many international travellers. So, it's back to face-to-face teaching in the classroom.

Our annual School Fete was held in the beginning of October, but it was pretty much an internal affair, as Covid-19 infections were still high. We sincerely hope that we can invite all from the local community next year.

We have now completed the mid-term exams and this week the students have been away on School trips. One group off to Brighton to attend morning lessons at an English language school and sightseeing in the afternoon, and the second group to Cornwall to walk along the coastline and see the Eden Project and other attractions.

In November the students were out and about in the area on Work experience and Teikyo held its cross country run within the School grounds – it's usually a quite muddy affair. Now we are in preparation for the end of term exams in early December followed by a termly Closing Ceremony and flights back to Japan for the Christmas holidays.

Merikurisumasu from all at Teikyo School  
Dean Simpson – Bursar

## DID YOU KNOW?

Since the story of Red Riding Hood was written by the Brothers Grimm, what happened to Grandma and afterwards has been variously altered by later publishers, so why not yet another version? It is assumed, of course, that readers of the Fulmer Newsletter are naturally familiar with the original story and also that of Ms Hood's cousin, Robin and his Merry Men, so read on or, at least, do the decent thing and try.

## A TWISTED TALE

At around 12.10 on 12/10 in 1210, Mistress Hood, having cast the pearl barley from her wooden trug before the swine, turned to her young daughter and said, "Nellie, (for that was her real name), "Why don't you put on your new Red Riding Hood and take some of my pigeon pies to Granny?"

"She will be so pleased to see you and my pies are much better than those she has delivered from the Whiterose stall in the market."

"Yes mother," said her daughter, for despite being fourteen years old she was, surprisingly, a biddable girl who quickly put on her new garment and told her mama that she was reddy. Mistress Hood wrapped half-a-dozen pies in a snow-white (she'll turn up later) cloth and when she passed-the-parcel to Nellie, who we'll now call Red Riding Hood, instructed her daughter to stay on the straight and narrow path through the woods and on no account to speak to any stranger. Well, one could hardly meet anything stranger than a wolf who walked the walk and talked the talk. Having bid Red Riding Hood "Good day," which was pretty remarkable, he enquired where she was going and, confused and redder, Red Riding Hood told him.

"How charming", said the wolf, "But why not pause and pick a posy or two for your Grandmother from the forest flowers? for he was a wily wolf and, as we all already know, while Red Riding Hood tarried he loped off to scoff poor grandma who, being short-sighted, had opened the door when he knocked and mistaken him for her long-lost son, which turned out to be the last mistake she ever made. Licking his lips the wolf, as we know, dressed himself in grandma's nightgown and cap and slipped into the still warm bed – then nodded off.

Soon, Red Riding Hood, carrying her posies and pies, arrived at grandma's home and after politely knocking on the door but receiving no reply guessed correctly that the incumbent was asleep, so gently stepped around the door, shutting it quietly behind her, then approached the sleeping occupant of the bed.

Forget all that guff about "What big eyes you've got and what big teeth you have", for Red Riding Hood might be a simple country girl but a ninny she was not. Instantly she realised that 'Granny' was not herself, so to speak, but The Big Bad Wolf.

Horrified, Red Riding Hood let out a gasp – no not her last – but enough to waken the wolf. She turned to run for her life but four legs are faster than two, for the wolf having leapt out of bed, barred her way so she could not keep the wolf from the door. He had knocked the posies and the pies to the floor but, always partial to a few nibbles before the main course, the wolf, while pleasantly diverted by the pies, still did not move away from the door. Red Riding Hood, realising what must have happened to Granny, recognised what was to be her fate and fainted away – but not far enough to stop the wolf from putting a paw on her person and preparing to make a meal of her.

Suddenly, there was a loud twang as Robin Hood, in leaping through the open window, caught his braces on the latch, lurched, lunged, yet loosed off a fatal arrow. The wolf fell dead, Robin recoiled, the window slammed shut, and Red Riding Hood gasped; which given the astounding circumstances seemed a trifle inadequate a response.

“Dashed tricky,” said Robin as he twisted and turned to free himself from the clutches of the latch.

“Must say, the situation looked pretty Grimm.”

“Wasn’t it Anderson?” said Red Riding Hood, being in a state of confusion and suddenly feeling all of a quiver, but that was because Robin’s arrow case had jarred her as he regained his balance and composure.

“Anderson?” said Robin, “Nah, old Hans only wrote fairy stories but those Brothers Grimm were well-named for they collected and wrote down all sorts of horror stories, disguised as fanciful tales, which were actually Germanic myths and legends, the moral of them being, “See what happens if you don’t do as you’re told and obey orders.” Suddenly he stopped to scribble a note on a handy Fiver, fitted it onto an arrow which he then shot through the now open door. “What are you doing?” quavered Red Riding Hood. “I’m sending a note to a local Fryer to bring us some Tuck,” said Robin. “I’m feeling a bit hungry, aren’t you? Look at the time,” and he turned to look out of the window, remembering it was closed, to check the distant church clock. In so doing he saw the two Johns approaching. The big one, called Long could be a bit scratchy but the smaller one called Little was one of Robin’s men and a dab hand with a quarter-stave. Robin had once wondered what Little John would do if given a whole stave but decided that he was not sufficiently musical even though Little John was well acquainted with Handle and Water Music.

Hurrying after them came Will Scarlet, red in the face because he had just been harried by Maid Megan who was in one of her litigious moods, not that Will knew the meaning of the word but was bright enough to realise it could cause trouble ‘t Mill where, of course, he should have been. “Ho,” said Robin, when told. “Looks as though she’s put some wind in your sails – better hurry and put your nose to the

grindstone," being given to using cliches but thinking it was a fine joke. Just then Friar Tuck arrived with the takeaway Robin had ordered earlier which gave Robin something to chew on while he considered the situation. Now assembled in the cottage were:- one Granny, dead by consumption; one wolf, dead to the world; a foolish virgin in the shape of Red Riding Hood and three of his Merry Men – at least they were merry when well away from Megan the Migraine, as they called her, when well out of earshot.

"Mein Gott," said Robin, who had a German Grandpa, (bet you didn't know that). "Da haben wir die Beschreibung, aber es wird schon werden"\* only to realise that if he were overheard word would reach the ears of that pretty Princess Patel who could well determine that he was an unintelligible immigrant and have him banished from the Kingdom. Sure enough, within minutes came the sound of tramping feet, but then of voices singing "Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work we go" and a line of small, burly persons came into view.

"Oh Lord" said Friar Tuck. "Not another Welsh choir." "Well" said Red Riding Hood, "Their stature does suggest they are all minors." They were followed by Snow White, looking very pale, as she was on her way to meet a most poisonous person not at all the apple of her eye.

By now the Cottagers – that is to say all those in the cottage, with the exception of the wolf who was beyond caring, wearied by all that had happened and the length of this improbable story were suddenly refreshed by an uplifting, fluting sound, so beguiling that they were impelled to go outside to listen. Strolling by was the Pied Piper of Hamleys, toying with the desires of all of those who heard him, so much so that, just like the children of his legend, all our characters also responded and followed him until reaching, not a dreary cave, but the wondrous emporium of playthings for the young and young-in-heart, they vanished inside and were never seen again. Well it wasn't long to Christmas and you know who would be waiting in his grotto, but thereby hangs another tale.

Merry Christmas

KEN PETERS

\*This is a nice mess but it's going to be alright

*Ken – we are really grateful that you continue to write such original pieces for our Newsletter – thank you very much – Editors*

## NEWS FROM PINEWOOD

Pinewood Studios were honoured to host a remembrance service and tribute of silence. Representatives attended from the Royal British Legion of Iver, the RAF, Imperial War Museum, Iver Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Council and the AFPU to pay respects to our armed forces community past and present. The service, led by Father Andrew Montgomerie of the Iver Parish Church, involved a number of poignant readings and a two minute silence bookended by the Last Post and Reveille.

In early 1946 a simple dinner marked the end of AFPU and RAF presence at Pinewood Studios in wartime and on 21st April 1956, the plaque commemorating both Services was dedicated to the members of both Units who lost their lives during the Second World War. The names on the plaque remember the photographers and cameramen, drivers and despatch riders, flying crews and airmen who lost their lives producing imagery in all theatres of Commonwealth operations which is so highly valued today. Readings were by Kathryn Maidment, Pinewood's Senior Community and Education Outreach Manager, Andrew M Smith DL, Pinewood's Corporate Affairs Director and representing Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Air Cdre Edward Sansome and Paul Clark, one of three surviving members of the AFPU who served from Pinewood during World War II.

CAROL SERVICE - We will, once again, be hosting the Candlelight Carol Service in the ballroom on Tuesday 7 December at 5pm. We are delighted that Father Andrew can lead the service and that students from Iver Heath Junior School will return to lead on the carols, accompanied by bells. Father Christmas is due to make an appearance post service, with mulled wine and mince pies served. If you would like to attend this service, please email [Kathryn.maidment@pinewoodgroup.com](mailto:Kathryn.maidment@pinewoodgroup.com) to add your name/s to the guest list.

FULMER INFANT SCHOOL FUNDRAISER - We are delighted to welcome the pupils and parents/carers to a fundraising screening of ELF on Saturday 3 December in the John Barry Theatre at Pinewood Studios. All proceeds raised will go directly to the school. Pinewood is providing the theatre, film and security, but any questions about tickets, please contact [friendsoffulmer@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffulmer@gmail.com).

FAREWELL - After nearly 6 years at Pinewood Studios, I wish you a fond farewell as I move back in to production. It has been a total pleasure to get know some of you over cups of tea or a glass of wine and promise to have my colleagues introduce you to my successor just as soon as one is appointed. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, happy and healthy New Year and a prosperous 2022.

Kathryn Maidment  
Senior Community & Education Outreach Manager



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