

FULMER NEWSLETTER



June 2025 - Issue 76

fulmervillage.org

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

FROM THE EDITORS

Hope all readers enjoy our usual reports on Fulmer's activities and huge thanks as always go to Linda McKenzie and her team for another fantastic Fulmer Fun Day on 5 May. We are so grateful to all who help to make it such a lovely event and roll on Fireworks and more Fun Days! We are sure everyone has seen that City Fibre have been busy in the area. This is all good news after years of hoping high speeds will finally be available to the village. Thanks to the advertisers, readers and those who help deliver this newsletter. Wishing everyone a good summer

Susie & Ronnie Simkins – Editors

FULMER VILLAGE HALL

Fulmer Village Hall is situated at the heart of Fulmer Village, opposite the 17th Century redbrick church, only a stone's throw from the equally historic Black Horse public house and surrounded by picturesque cottages. A frequent winner of Buckinghamshire's Best Kept Village competition, the setting of the Village Hall offers a charming backdrop for any function or celebration. Fully licensed for the sale of alcohol, facilities include a modern kitchen, numerous tables and chairs, disabled access to the main hall, a stage, one smaller meeting room and, of course, parking and loos, including a disabled lavatory. The Hall can comfortably accommodate up to 120 people standing or 80 seated. It is a venue for wedding receptions, anniversary and birthday parties, both children's and adults', as well as seated dinners, catered from the kitchen. It is also available for regular weekly or monthly evening activities.

The Hall is one of the best available locally, in the prettiest of settings, and offers excellent value for money. Please call Karen Nelmes (Lettings Secretary) on 07498 041253 for more details and to discuss your specific requirements. We look forward to welcoming you to Fulmer Village Hall!



FULMER PARISH COUNCIL & DUTIES 2025/26

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Ian Bocock:	Councillor (thebococks@hotmail.com); Transport and Highways Fulmer Conservation Volunteers
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Susie Simkins:	Deputy Chairman (susiemsimkins@gmail.com) Finance Group; Pinewood Studios Liaison; Community Institutions Liaison (inc. Teikyo, and RDA); Fulmer School Liaison; Fulmer Newsletter Editor & Publisher
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Others	
Barbara Zoltowska:	Fulmer Village Hall Chairman (bzoltowska@hotmail.co.uk)
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PERSONALIA

Deaths

We send condolences to the families of:

Phyllis Allarie, who died on 15 November 2024

Geoffrey Segrove who died on 13 April 2025. A thanksgiving service was held at Fulmer Church on 28 April.

Robert Suter who died on 8 March 2025. A thanksgiving service was held on 23 May.

Baptism

Congratulations to Alice & Stephanos Karageorgi on the Baptism of Theodora on 18 May

Marriage

Congratulations to Jennifer Anne Webb & Stephen David Emery on their marriage on 7 December 2024 at St James Fulmer.

Newcomers – We welcome

Jackie & Tony Walker who have recently moved into Parkspring Lodge



Stoke Poges
**MEMORIAL
GARDENS**

Grade I listed gardens of
unique design and beauty.

Plots and gardens are available for the
interment of cremated remains in formal
gardens and naturalistic parkland settings.

Guided walks for groups by appointment.

buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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

The image is a promotional flyer for Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens. It features a light grey background with a large, ornate stone urn on the right side. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout, with the garden's name in a mix of script and bold sans-serif fonts. The right side of the flyer shows a photograph of the stone urn, which is a Grade I listed monument, set against a backdrop of green trees and a clear sky.



Fulmer Family Fun Day

King George's Field, Fulmer on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

This year we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day at our traditional family fun day event. Fulmer residents, together with friends and families from our neighbouring villages all enjoyed themselves. Volunteers began arriving at 9am to set up marquees and deck them out with bunting, chopping fruit for the Pimms, getting the tea urn filled and heated and arranging the cakes and muffins stall. Two robust chaps arrived with two very large Bouncy Castles. The "Assault Course" (a test of both agility and endurance for many a child aged 8 years and over) and the traditional Bouncy Castle. Power is required for the pumps to "blow them up" however, so when they were plugged in and no power was forthcoming, nervous looks ensued! That power had been checked weeks before as well as the day before, so this was a complete conundrum. As one can imagine, a great sigh of relief was expressed when one of our volunteers saved the day by discovering that a simple timer was causing the issue.



Without the support of our volunteers help at the start, during and end of this wonderful day, it could never take place. But it did so magnificently this year, and the magic began just after we opened when four RAF Tornado fighter jets flew right over the field on their way back to base following the celebrations at Buckingham Palace! This kicked off our celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in style.

The choir from Fulmer Infants School received huge rounds of applause when they gave a fabulous performance of World War 2 era songs. The children had been rehearsing for the event over the previous few weeks and on the day they were supported by Head Teacher Julie Matton and her colleagues.



Exhibits featuring aspects and memorabilia from World War 2 were enjoyed by all of our visitors as well as our volunteers.



The VE Day Poster Competition run by Charlotte Rakowski was a real hit with our younger visitors who enjoyed the creative process so much.



The fun dog show run by Beth Spittle and assisted by her family and friends is always popular. This year, the classes included “Salute to Service” for the best veteran dog and “Little Soldier” for the best puppy in parade.



With thanks to Pinewood Studios for sponsoring our Petting Zoo this year. It is always so popular with the youngsters as well as their guardians.



St. James Church, Fulmer had a large marquee again this year. A great place to come for some peace and quiet after all of that bouncing! With thanks to Pyramid Pharmacies for sponsoring our Bouncy Assault Course and Bouncy Castle this year. Thanks to Rotary International for sponsoring the Coconut Shy, Archery and Minefield games and to Heritage Trees and LB Interiors for sponsoring our WW2 exhibits.



This event brought a lot of cheer to the people of Fulmer and the surrounding areas. It also raised much needed funds for the King George's Field, Fulmer charity. The charity supports the upkeep of the land, The Clubhouse, The Studio and the All-weather Games area for use by GX&FFC, FCC, AMA Football and many studio goers who enjoy the benefits of the variety of classes offered.

Thank you to our many volunteers, sponsors and supporters for yet another day of fun in Fulmer.

With best wishes and sincere gratitude from the organisers

Linda McKenzie, Geoff Pocock & Ian Finan.

Well done to Linda and her brilliant team and to all those who made Fullmer Fun Day 2025 such a resounding success. The effort that is made by all to ensure everyone has a memorable day is much appreciated! - Editors

John Willoughby Feltrim Fagan – 19 February 1936 – 1 November 2024

John lived his life for what he called his '3 Fs'. – his Faith, Farming and Family.

Early Years - He didn't grow up destined to be a farmer. He grew up in Gerrards Cross, son of a doctor (pre-NHS with his surgery at home) and led a normal, but wartime childhood. He told many stories of playing with his brother Richard, his cousins and neighbours. Despite being wartime, it was a time of excitement for young children; planes flying over, army vehicles driving past and nights living in the air raid shelter. It was certainly a time he reflected on fondly. It was also a time of scarce supply and rationing, something which would go on to have a lasting effect on his character.

Education - He attended Gayhurst School and went on to Wellington College, aged 13 in 1950. Despite being dyslexic and not excelling at school, he always said how much he enjoyed his time at Wellington and we heard stories of mending his housemaster's lawnmower and strapping rocket motors to small cars before running them around the gutters in the communal bathrooms! He was also very proud to have lined the route for King George VI's funeral in Windsor Great Park as part of the Wellington CCF.

Farming - The day after leaving Wellington he went straight to work with his brother Richard who had started farming a couple of years earlier. He often said that he has felt as if he's been on a permanent school holiday ever since. He and Richard started working for other people and bought a Fordson tractor to do a bit of contract work and one day while he was ploughing at Church Farm he looked through the hedge to Watersplash Farm and thought 'golly what I'd give to have that!'. Well, 4 years later his dream came true. In 1958 both Watersplash Farm and Saul's Farm (1 mile up the road) came up for sale. Richard was able to buy Saul's Farm with his new wife Gill, and John and his father joined forces to buy Watersplash. Anyone knowing Watersplash as it is today wouldn't recognise it as it was then. There was no power, no water and a little U-shaped bungalow – which he always joked was the perfect shape if you wanted to maximise the number of cold external walls! He set to work, digging in a new water supply, and even helped the electricity board by pulling in the overhead cables between the village and the farm with his little grey Fergie. He set up a pig finishing business, buying recently weaned pigs and growing them on before selling them for pork. He continued with the pigs, making regular improvements to the farm for about 15 years but, as the farm business grew stronger, his parents grew older and they needed more support and were less able to help. Conversely, he was in his late 30s, starting to think about settling down and finding a wife - but he couldn't leave the farm to meet anyone. But, as we all know, necessity is the mother of invention...and, fortunately, John Fagan was an inventor!

He set about designing and creating a milling, mixing and conveying system which delivered exactly the right amount of feed to every pigsty on the farm at the touch of a single button. Finally, he could delegate some of the feeding to his parents and he could get off the farm and start a social life. And he wasted no time, he built a boat and set up a Waterski club, joined group holidays to Morocco, the Alps and Greek islands and made regular visits to London for dinner parties....until he met Sue.....

Married Life at Watersplash

In 1983 they married, a milestone he always credited as being the moment his life really started. Between the two of them they set about building the Watersplash Farm we know it today. They built a wonderful new house, improved the farm buildings. and at the age of 50, he became a father to twins, Alexandra and Edward. Married life also marked a career change, he gave up pig farming and started Bucks Bulls. A business hiring pedigree beef bulls to farmers across the south of England. A particularly shrewd business as, if he worked it right, he was able to have a much larger herd than the farm would allow while other farmers fed his livestock and paid for the privilege!

(The twins have very fond memories of spending hours in the pickup with him going from farm to farm while chatting about everything and nothing). Sadly, in 2001 the restrictions introduced to control foot and mouth, stopped his farming business in its tracks and he took his cue for retirement from professional farming. Fortunately, he continued to find endless projects to amuse himself - fortunately as on the rare occasions he was without a project he was like a bear with a sore head! Latterly he found great enjoyment at the Chiltern Open Air Museum where he was able to pass on his knowledge of using and maintaining antique farming equipment – although he often protested that, 'it wasn't antique as he is still using it perfectly well at home!'

Although people could be forgiven for thinking that he was highly political, he had no interest in party politics, always believing that the system would self-correct if it went too far one way or the other. He credited long hours working on his own for being an independent thinker, unencumbered by the fashionable thoughts of the day. The political views he did have tended to reflect his thoughts on the massive societal change he had witnessed and protecting the British constitution which he felt had worked so well. He was always a great supporter of the local Sunday morning car boot sale. If you needed an example of how he could talk to anyone this was it, seeing him interact with the other regulars at a car boot sale in the heart of Slough was a wonder to behold. No pomposity or arrogance, he was one of them, a hunter, not of animals but of bargains. From his Sunday forays, he'd buy anything from furniture for the house, tools for the workshop, toys for the family and even something as small as a 99p torch. If it worked, great, if it didn't... even better! That would mean a challenge for the next few days, and the pure joy on his face when one of his bargains burst into life was something we will never forget. It was probably the scarcity of supply and rationing, which he saw as a child, and starting his farming business from scratch which really engrained his appreciation of the value of money. He'd make do and mend, rather than buy new and spend, at every opportunity. He had a wonderful expression which he would often cite, 'A pound saved is better than a pound earned...because you don't pay tax on it!' Although he would never spend frivolously he wasn't frightened of a sensible investment.

Faith - He always had a very strong faith and over his 66 years in the village was involved with St James Church as a Church Warden, a bellringer and Captain of the Tower. As a teenager he became one of the local Carol Singers for many years and while Captain of the Tower found the 8 handbells in the Belfry which had been replaced after a burglary. At one of the pre carol singing practices he produced the handbells and with Desmond and Anne

Hall they became Anne's Antique Carol and Hand-Bell Ringers which he was part of for over 30 years raising money for assorted local charities. As funds allowed the number of handbells increased to a total 16

Family Man - (Despite his thoughtfulness and his ability to make something from nothing, it's as a family man that he is most missed. John and Sue have been 100% loyal to each other, working as the most wonderful team to bring his family up in a stable home and give them the best start they possibly could.

Father - As a father and a Husband, he was second to none, entertaining, adoring and a guide, philosopher, and friend whenever one was needed. Being a farmer, he had the huge privilege of being at home all day every day. He would encourage any interest the family had and help it to grow - Alexandra chose horses and Edward chose machines! They were never the best horses, and the machines spent more time in bits than they did running. This certainly had its frustrations, but no one minded too much as it meant more time in the workshop with him! He would never have been the type to buy the best, but he was keen to pass on to us the satisfaction of taking something and improving it. The twins would compare their magical childhood on the farm as similar to Roald Dahl in his book Danny and The Champion of the World. It's a great story of good prevailing over bad but also the story of a magical father bringing up his son in a workshop, teaching him to strip down engines, making hot air balloons and flying kites. It's a fictional story but about as close to their childhood as you could find. John always took a huge interest in the children's work and hobbies and loved all their friends, greeting them with a beaming smile and a genuine interest in their lives. He endeavoured to make the farm as much fun as possible for them and offering new skills whether it be driving motorbikes, quads, go-karts, tractors, diggers, pony and traps, riding horses, shooting guns, splitting logs, mending buildings, mending boats or learning to weld and flying remote controlled planes and at the end of the day enjoying a glass of his homemade hedgerow wine ending in uncontrolled giggles all round!

Remembering him - We hope that he will always be remembered as a deeply principled man, 100% genuine and never pretending to be anyone he wasn't, great company, wonderfully practical and a gentle-man to his core. Above all, he was devoted to his faith, his farming and his family. He loved them all and one abiding memory we shall always have was when he quoted to a friend, "the only thing is, if Heaven is meant to be better than my life at the Splash, it must be pretty fantastic".

This is a wonderful tribute that John's son, Edward, gave at his funeral. John was a Fulmer legend and he is greatly missed - Editors

David Brackin, Chairman Fulmer Parish Council

As we head into summer, it's a good time to reflect on what's been happening across the village and what's ahead. We've just come through the local elections, and while Fulmer's own parish boundary remains unchanged, we are now part of a new Unitary Ward that includes Stoke Poges and the Farnhams. We look forward to working constructively with our new ward councillors and ensuring Fulmer's local interests are well represented. I want to take this opportunity to thank Kate Robinson, who has stepped down as a councillor. Kate's knowledge and efforts – particularly in advancing our enforcement work – has made a big contribution to Fulmer, and I will miss her involvement.

Locally, I'm pleased to report that the lunches at King George's Field are going strong. These regular offerings on each Tuesday and Thursday offer not only a warm and nutritious meal designed by nutritionist Sarika and chef Rob, but also a chance for people to meet up, catch up over a meal, and stay connected. If you haven't yet been, I'd encourage you to give it a try and come along. The Studio at King George's Field also continues to thrive, with a wide range of classes and activities on offer. I'm especially pleased that the initial funding provided by the Parish Council has now been fully repaid, meaning the facility has been delivered at no ongoing cost to local taxpayers.

On the roads, it does feel like we've been fighting a rear-guard action this past six months. With flooding slowly receding, it seems that now most of the roads are being dug up for utilities or being repaired. I have been working with our Local Area Technician to highlight areas of concern and also local land-owners where localised flooding has occurred. The better weather is most welcome. IT is also welcome for Speedwatch which is back and running again to monitor traffic and encourage drivers to slow down. We continue to need more volunteers to keep these sessions going, so if you can spare an hour here or there, please do get in touch. Every extra pair of hands helps. Cllr Ian Bocock has also been arranging regular monthly litter picks, and they're making a real difference to the look and feel of our village. Thank you to everyone who has been getting involved.

We're now under the eye of the judges for the Best Kept Village competition. Every bit of tidying and litter picking helps, so if you're able to do a little extra around your home or local patch, it will all count. All are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings which are public meetings and happen 10 times a year (timings and agendas are published in the Weekly Briefing and online) and if you'd prefer to speak with myself and the Clerk in a private session we hold that one afternoon a month which may also be attended by a unitary councillor. Finally, a reminder that you can keep up to date with what's happening in Fulmer by signing up for my Fulmer Weekly Briefing email. It's a simple way to stay informed about local issues, events, and updates.

Thank you for your support and for everything you do to keep Fulmer a great place to live. I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks in and around the village.

FROM OUR M.P.

As summer approaches, I wanted to take a moment to update you on some of the work I've been doing on behalf of residents in Fulmer and across our constituency. Fulmer is a truly special village — rich in heritage, natural beauty, and community spirit — and I remain committed to ensuring it remains protected and well-represented in Parliament.

First and foremost, I want to thank the brilliant Fulmer Parish Council for their tireless efforts in keeping the village so beautiful. Their dedication ensures Fulmer continues to be one of the true gems of our constituency, and I am deeply grateful for their hard work.

I've really enjoyed providing monthly updates to your village newsletter. It's been a great way to share with you the work I'm doing both in Westminster and across Beaconsfield, Marlow and the South Bucks villages — from championing local causes to standing up on the national stage for issues that affect us all.

One of the most important issues facing our area is the protection of the Green Belt. Fulmer is surrounded by stunning green spaces that are not just beautiful but vital for our wellbeing and environment. I remain steadfast in my commitment to defend the Green Belt from inappropriate development. I'm especially concerned about the impact of the proposed Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which risks removing local voices from planning decisions. It also significantly weakens Green Belt protections. If the Green Belt is eroded in places like Marlow or Iwer, villages like Fulmer will be next. That's why I've spoken out in Parliament and will continue to fight to ensure local communities have a say in shaping their surroundings.

Transport also remains a key concern for residents. The Chiltern Line is a critical connection for many local commuters. That's why I've joined fellow MPs from across the Chiltern Railways network in urging the Transport Secretary to approve a much-needed fleet upgrade. New, modern trains will not only improve comfort but also reliability for passengers across the region.

I have also continued to do all I can to protect our local rivers and streams. I proposed two amendments to the Water Special Measures Bill to provide greater protections to our waterways — including a ban on sewage discharges within one mile of aquatic sports sites. This was a promise I made during last year's election, and a promise I delivered. While the Government did not adopt these changes, I remain committed to pressing for stronger environmental safeguards to protect the rivers and streams we all value so deeply.

I have also been steadfast in my support for our farmers. The Government's decision to impose inheritance tax on family farms is deeply damaging — threatening to break up generations of hard work and dedication. I've stood alongside farmers from across the constituency, raising their concerns in Parliament and calling on the Government to rethink

this short-sighted policy. Farming is not just a job — it's a way of life, and it deserves to be protected.

I've also been standing up for our hospices. The recent tax hike imposed on these vital institutions is deeply troubling. When I met with the CEO of Thames Hospice earlier this year, she made it clear how devastating this will be for their ability to provide care. I secured an adjournment debate in the House of Commons to raise this directly with the Minister and will continue to press the Government to reverse this harmful decision.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this update. It remains an absolute honour and privilege to represent Fulmer. I look forward to continuing to work hard for you as your local champion and to ensure your voices are heard in Westminster. Fulmer is a truly lovely village — and I will always do all I can to protect and support it.

Joy Morrissey MP

ST JAMES, FULMER

The December issue of the Newsletter had gone to print before all of us knew that Reverend Jill had decided to finish her role as Pastor of St James Fulmer. We said goodbye, with a farewell service in early December, thanking her for her leadership, dedication and service in the past 8 years. This was a difficult time although the service was joyful, with many gathering to wish her and her family well. Thank you, Jill.

Once again, we began our celebrations for Christmas with our wreath making event at Thursday's Coffee & Chat, on Dec 5th. Around 12 people came along with some loyal helpers! Some attractive wreaths were made. Great fun! Friday 20th, the usual few of us decorated the Church in its full Christmas colours in time for Advent Carols on Sunday Dec 22nd. The Church really did look special. That evening we celebrated with "Carols By Candlelight". Our Choir have been together now for a year and we all enjoyed taking part. It was a wonderful service with a full Church, 149 adults and 12 children! On Christmas Eve, at 4.00 our traditional Christingle service, we welcomed many families, 120 adults and 45 children. Later that evening at 9.30 we held our reflective evening Communion service. Christmas Day was celebrated with an all age family service with children taking part.

Into the New Year and after a lot of rain we had pretty daffodil posies for Mothering Sunday, on March 30th. The children helped distribute them to all the Mothers and women. They were so welcome after the winter. Thank you to those who picked and tied them.

Coffee and Chat has continued as usual on a Thursday morning with our loyal crew, although indoors given the cold weather in January & February! Do come and join us – 8.30 to 10.00 on Thursdays in term time. For the first time we invited Mums plus to make Easter Wreaths at Coffee & Chat! Most successful.

Our solemn Good Friday "Hour at the Cross" was appreciated by the many attending. That afternoon a few of us decorated the Church with Easter flowers. On Easter Sunday our all age service was enjoyed with the Choir singing anthems and hymns at both services.

At the Fulmer Family Fun Day we had the St James Gazebo out with faith related family activities, a great opportunity for outreach to the local community. 100+ children came through, colouring pictures, playing games and happily enjoying themselves.

At the end of June 28th/29th we hold our Church weekend in with activities across Saturday and Sunday at St. James, Oxford Road. Please contact me if you are interested. Please join us for our Sunday services at 11.15 every Sunday. We look forward to welcoming you. Enjoy the Summer.

Francesca Hall–Drinkwater, Church Warden Tel: 01753 663619

FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As I write this article, I have just signed a parliamentary petition to save the Chalk Stream Recovery Pack – which would provide significant national investment, regulation and transparency for our chalk streams. Fulmer is home to one of Britain's most beautiful chalk streams – the Alderbourne. A quiet, quaint winterbourne stream that subtly flows through the beautiful parish of Fulmer and into the Colne Brook. Fulmer herself is nestled in the picturesque Alderbourne Valley - stunning chalk hills that stretch from Hedgerley to Gerrards Cross. The Alderbourne is one of the many hidden gems of Fulmer and I will fight for its protection within our Greenbelt and continue to work with colleagues and our MP Joy Morrissey for stronger protections for the Alderbourne.

Speaking of – I have been busy working on improvements to the Alderbourne Ford, whether it be working with the waste teams to clear out the abandoned caravan and fly-tipped mattresses from the ford road to the resurfacing of Hawkswood Lane and working with Fulmer Parish Council to secure a brand-new footbridge for the ford crossing. My pressing representations to highways continue on this issue, as well as our work to purge the potholes.

I have also been interacting with our MP Joy Morrissey and Fulmer parish councillors to secure weight restrictions for Fulmer Road, to prevent HGVs navigating through Fulmer village, to reduce risk to pedestrians and motorists. The narrow bend in the village simply does not provide the necessary clearance for HGVs to traverse. We are currently speaking with the Council to explore next steps of action.

Fulmer is home to significant heritage assets and therefore it is vital they are protected and preserved. This is why I have written to Historic England requesting Fulmer Hall and the Pickeridge in Fulmer Parish to be added to the Heritage at Risk register run by Historic England. It is a travesty that these once beautiful homes and estates are now falling into disrepair, leaving residents in the lurch to their future. There has been criminal activity on these sites, such as squatters burning plastic in Fulmer Hall that led to arrests, to fly tipping on the Pickeridge that lead to a custodial sentence. This criminality must end and so must the neglect of our abandoned heritage assets.

There is so much more to update – which you can find out more with my social media details below. Cllrs Dev Dhillon, Thomas Hogg and I are at your service as your Buckinghamshire Councillors for the Farnhams and Stoke Poges ward. We will continue to fight for Fulmer at every level. Any questions please feel free to get in touch below.

Wishing you all a warm and blessed summer.

Cllr David Moore

David.moore@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

07496 025599

Facebook: [fb.com/davidmoore4farnhamsandstokepoges](https://www.facebook.com/davidmoore4farnhamsandstokepoges)

PLANNING IN THE PARISH

In the 12 months between May this year and last, a total of 54 planning applications for the Parish of Fulmer have been received and reviewed by the Parish Council – an average of 4.5 applications per month. In contrast to the 41 received over the same period in the previous 12 months. For comparison, Gerrards Cross Town Council received 292 applications in the same period, or just over 24.3 applications per month a fall on the previous 12 months from 328 applications. Iver Parish Council 244, in comparison to 216 applications over the same period in the previous 12 months. Hedgerley Parish with 12 applications, in contrast to the 22 applications received in the previous 12 months. The table below illustrates the percentage change in the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 month period.

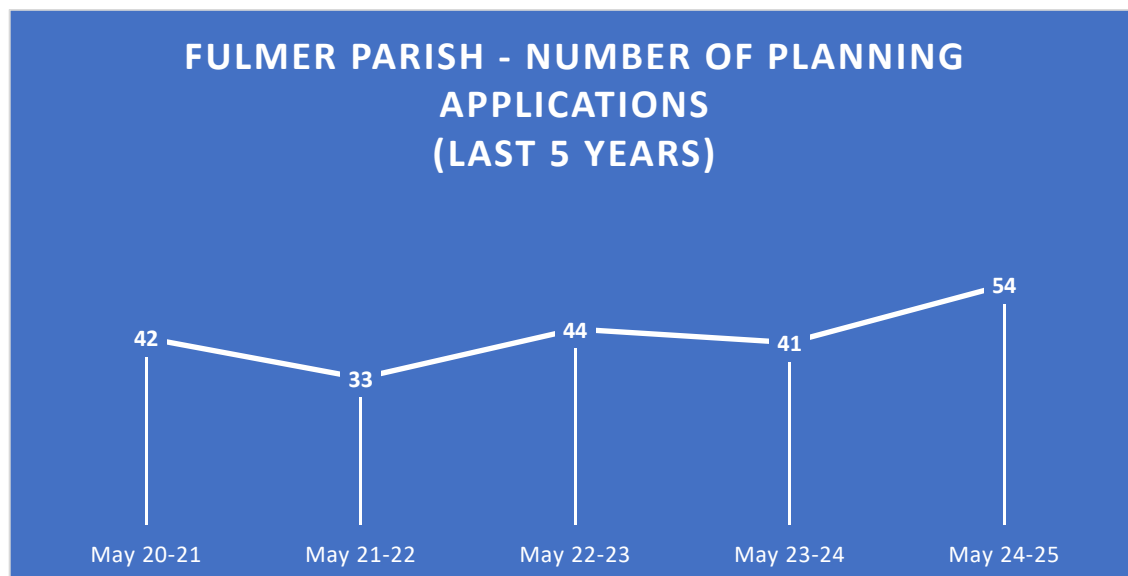
Parish	May 9th 2023 to May 9th 2024	May 9th 2024 to May 9th 2025	% Change on previous 12 months
Burnham	183	171	-7%
Denham	183	172	-6%
Farnham Royal	134	140	4%
Fulmer	41	54	32%
Gerrards Cross	328	292	-11%
Hedgerley	22	12	-45%
Iver	216	244	13%
Stoke Poges	164	121	-26%
Wexham	78	46	-41%

Fulmer Parish has seen a 32% increase in the number of applications submitted. Iver Parish also so seeing an increase over the same period of 13%. The majority of our Parish neighbours seeing a decrease in applications over the same period with some having significant reductions i.e. Gerrards Cross -11%, Hedgerley -45% and Wexham -41%. The only exception being Farnham Royal seeing a 4% increase. The applications have ranged from TPO orders (mostly permission request to fell trees or lower hedges) to the construction of new standalone buildings, to single and double storey developments as well as several 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 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 several historic applications finally move to a decision, in some cases awaiting a

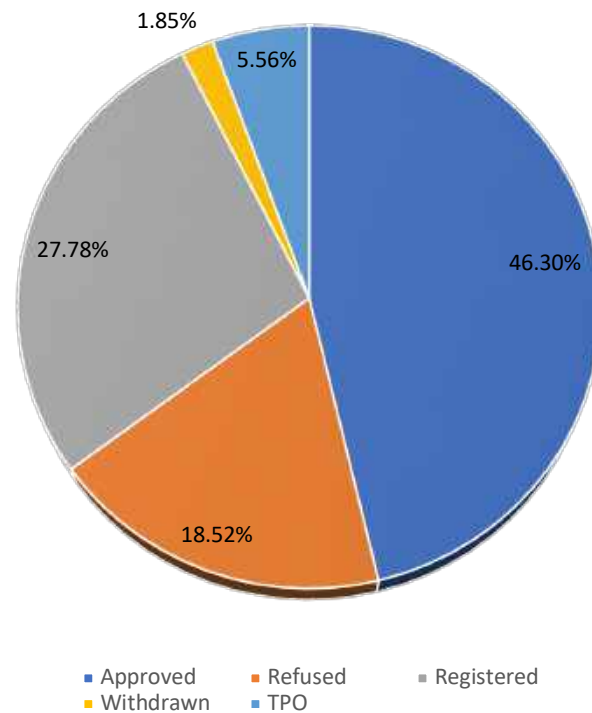
decision for over 20 months. Parish residents are welcome to attend the monthly Parish meetings to voice their thoughts, concerns or request our support on planning matters. We have seen a number of concerned residents attend Parish Meetings over the last year to voice their concerns and encourage residents to attend Parish Meetings as we will not always have same understanding or unique perspective as those closest to proposed developments. 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.

A key role of the Parish council is to provide 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. In the 12 months from May 9th 2024 Chiltern & South Bucks Council have published decisions on 54 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 the status of applications. 46.30% of applications being approved with over 18% of applications being refused over this period. 1.85% being withdrawn and 27.78% still awaiting a decision.

Fulmer Parish Applications May 9th 2024 - May 9th 2025



Fulmer Parish Council will continue to provide commentary on Parish views with regards to planning application and to support and work with Fulmer residents with regards to a number of long-standing Enforcement activities working closely with Chiltern & South Bucks Council. The Village continues to be very active with the increase of applications over the last 12 months, with the number of Planning requests high for such a small community.

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

PARM KHANGHURA

Update on Fulmer Recreational Ground at King George's Fields

Over the past few months, the recreational grounds in Fulmer have been a hive of activity, bringing together members of the community for a wide range of health, sport, and social events.

Weekly Lunches - Our Tuesday and Thursday lunch sessions continue to be a firm favourite. These gatherings not only offer good, wholesome food but also serve as a wonderful opportunity for residents to come together, socialise, and enjoy a relaxed community atmosphere. Feedback has been positive with many asking to expand the offerings and praising the quality of the meals and the friendly environment.

Cricket Season in Full Swing - With the arrival of warmer weather, cricket has taken centre stage. The grounds have hosted numerous matches (including 2 County over 60s matches) drawing enthusiastic participation and lively support from locals. The pitch is in excellent condition with all this sun and rain. The increased use is a great reflection of the sport's enduring popularity in the village.

Fitness at The Studio = The fitness studio has seen a rise in attendance recently. From regular users maintaining their routines to newcomers joining in to improve their health and wellbeing, the studio is bustling. Its range of classes and welcoming atmosphere continue to make it a key asset to the recreational facilities.

Fulmer's recreational grounds remain a vital part of our community life. From shared meals to sporting events and personal fitness, there's a strong sense of engagement and enjoyment. We look forward to continuing to support and expand these activities in the coming months.

IAN FINAN

SPEED WATCH AND VILLAGE GROUPS

The Group has not been as active since the last bulletin in this Newsletter. This is partly attributable to the long spell of wet weather at the beginning of the year and the subsequent road repairs to mend potholes and the closure of Windmill Road for sewer repairs. These have obviously affected the traffic flow and the speed of some vehicles through the Village. We have now obtained Speed Watch signs to signify that a Speed Watch Group operates in Fulmer. These have been erected at both ends of the Village and the ones along Fulmer Common Road will go up once we have established a new speed watch site that meets the approval of Thames Valley Police. Meanwhile the fixed speed monitoring advice positioned just before King George's Playing Fields is providing some useful data on traffic flows and average speeds.

The Parish Council did explore the purchase of a fixed speed camera for Fulmer Road which would be solar powered and provide for data retrieval on-line. Having consulted with Thames Valley Police as to its suitability, they deemed this particular model to be unreliable due to it sending incorrect details and misreads. Furthermore, they wouldn't be able to cope with the large amount of data that this device would be able to produce.

Meanwhile, our proposal for a weight restriction on lorries using Fulmer as a short-cut is gaining political support and an approach has been made to the Community Board to fund a new traffic survey. Apparently, the existing ones either don't cover the roads in question or are out of date. Hopefully, once approved, the results will see the proposal approved and implemented which will safeguard, in the future, our road infrastructure which has taken a pounding in recent years.

On Friday, 11th July, there will be a National Speed Watch Day, when all Speed Watch Groups in the UK will be in action. A media campaign will be launched prior to the event. We welcome any new volunteers to join our existing group for this event or for any forthcoming session. The more there are of you, the more sessions that we can run, especially on those days and at times when the traffic flow is at its highest.

Litter Pick Group

Volunteer sessions are held on the third Saturday of every month. We meet at the Village Hall at 10.00 am and focus on those areas that need immediate attention. Unfortunately, our planned pick for Fulmer Common Road had to be deferred as we were unable to use the park at King George's Playing Field due to another event on the same day. The Easter and Bank Holidays have further disrupted the frequency of our sessions. Hopefully, we can get back on track in June. So far, we have filled 38 bags in total. So, grab a pair of gloves and join us. Pickers and hi-viz vests will be provided. I can assure you we will never run of our rubbish and an hour of your time will make all the difference! You never know what you

may find as the Stoke Common Road pick session discovered the illegal dumping of industrial waste at Fulmer Hall. A very timely intervention was subsequently made by Thames Valley Police to take the appropriate action because of our alert.

Best Kept Village

The Parish Council has put in their entry for this year's competition. Hopefully, the road repairs will have been completed before judging takes place and the damaged Church wall has already been rebuilt. A new planter is being sourced to replace the damaged one by the boundary gate to the Village so we can now focus on planting and tidying up the Village to show Fulmer at its best. Any assistance would be welcome. Those with artistic flare may like to take on repainting our listed telephone kiosk!

Fulmer Conservation

We are pleased to hear that Buckinghamshire Highways have new funding for the forthcoming Municipal Year and that more money will be made available for Public Rights of Way. So if you notice any deterioration in the pathways or any fallen trees that need removal which impede use of the footpaths do keep us informed.

Ian Bocock – Parish Councillor

BLACK PARK NEWS

As many of you will hopefully have seen we have been very busy in Black Park over the last few months upgrading our visitor and catering facilities with the construction and opening of the Four Seasons Café close to the main car park. This project has taken a long time to develop but we are really happy to have finally delivered a new café, toilets and visitor arrival area that is more to the standard you would expect in at a destination like Black Park.

The building itself is quite special. Firstly, it is a modular building meaning that it was built as three large modules in a factory with many of the internal and external fittings already installed, this allowed the building to be 70% complete before leaving the factory! The modules were then transported to Black Park and craned in to place, the final fit out and exterior cladding were then completed. One big advantage of this system is a very quick build time that minimised disruption to visitors, groundworks for the building started on the 7th October 2024 and the building was complete with the exception of fitting out as a café by early January 2025.

The second very special thing about the building is that it meets Net Zero operational standards, to achieve this the building has many sustainable features, including:

- A large solar PV array on the roof, generating clean electricity to power the building.
- Air sourced electric heat pumps delivering both space and water heating.
- Heat recovery ventilation systems to efficiently recycle warmth from outgoing air.
- Enhanced insulation which exceeds building regulation standards.
- Low-energy LED lighting.

The landscaping around the building has also been designed to enhance sustainability, the surface water drainage and water from the roof is managed through Swales which allows the water to soak away naturally into the ground. The planting has incorporated native wild flowers and grasses which will benefit wildlife and add diversity to the area. We also worked hard to retain existing mature trees, these were protected all through the construction period and where paths or other infrastructure pass near them a no-dig construction method has been used to avoid root damage.

The café opened in late March and has been really popular with new and existing visitors, if you have not been there yet then it is well worth a visit, especially for the pizzas which are handmade at the café!

And congratulations to Thea Gray of Cherry Tree Lane for winning the competition to name the new café! - Editors



TIM WILLIAMS , County Parks Operations Manager
01753 511060/tim.williams@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

A PLEA TO DOG WALKERS AT STOKE COMMON

Are your pet treatments harming wildlife?

Dogs are man's best friend and probably the UK's most popular pet, although around 70% of households don't have one. They bring physical and mental health benefits and of course are great company for their owners. However, dogs can have a negative effect on wildlife and, whilst this is especially true of those which aren't under effective control (for example disturbance of ground nesting birds when running loose or unsupervised through heath and grasslands), there are other impacts which may not be quite so apparent. For example, dog fouls and urine increase soil nutrient levels and can change the delicate balance of sensitive eco-systems, encouraging more dominant plants like nettles at the expense of plants more typical of specific habitats (like heathland) and reducing the all-important biodiversity. What is perhaps less obvious, is the potential impact of some veterinary treatments on wildlife; a subject that has increasingly been in news reports recently.

Owners of the estimated 13 million pet dogs and 12 million pet cats in the UK regularly apply preventative treatments against parasites like fleas, ticks and worms. Many of these treatments are highly toxic to wildlife – imidacloprid (a neonicotinoid) and Fipronil have been banned for use in agriculture as they are linked to higher mortality numbers in wild bird chicks as well as being a threat to honeybees; one study mentioned on the Wildlife Trusts' website found that when birds collect pet fur for their nests, some are inadvertently exposing their chicks to the chemicals, leading to higher levels of unhatched eggs and dead chicks. The chemicals in the treatments can also leach into rivers and ponds, either directly when dogs swim or indirectly through faeces (that is not removed) and urine (that can't easily be removed from the open space), impacting on aquatic wildlife. They can also enter the river system through household drainage when owners wash their hands. A paper by Wells and Collins in 2022 found that up to 90% of a dose of these treatments can pass straight through the animal. The same study also found that these treatments can have a negative effect on the health of the pets treated, as well as that of their owners, impacting on lung function, affecting glands that produce hormones to regulate the way the body works, and alters dopamine and serotonin levels. Many such treatments are given monthly on a continual basis as a preventative measure.

The arguments against blanket control of pest and infection in domesticated animals are not new. Probably the best-known story is the use of penicillin in livestock as a preventative rather than treatment, which is believed to have contributed to some of the problems of penicillin resistance of infections that we are now facing. Of course, it is important that we protect our pets from parasitic infection, but the questions being asked at present are whether there is an alternative to the blanket approach and if there are more environmentally friendly ways of protecting our four-legged friends.

Developing guidance on the matter suggests the following:

- Speak to your vet about environmentally friendly methods of parasite control, rather than buying over the counter or on-line; it could even save you money.
- Consider only treating your pets when they have an active infection, if they are at high risk of getting parasites or if you have an immune-suppressed family member.
- Try to use oral treatments as these are better for the environment than topical spot-ons and flea collars which contain chemicals that can easily wash off and contaminate waterways.
- If you have used a chemical treatment, make sure you keep your dog out of ponds and streams.
- Make sure that you always dispose of your pet's faeces responsibly to minimise chemical exposure to the environment.
- Remember that a healthy pet will have a better immune system.

It doesn't have to be the case that dog walks and important places for wildlife like Stoke Common and Burnham Beeches are mutually exclusive, but please be aware of the potential impacts and how you can minimise them. Be a responsible dog walker and help look after wildlife and the environment, simply by adjusting the way you manage your dog to the environment on which it is being walked.

Chris Morris – Senior Ranger, Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common



FULMER INFANT SCHOOL

This academic year seems to be flying by, it is hard to believe that we are just about to begin the final half term of the year. The Spring and Summer Terms have been full of activities; here are some of the highlights:

Chance to Shine Cricket - Our Year 1 and Year 2 children took part in some cricket coaching sessions. They had a great time learning the skills of the game and they often play their own games at playtimes.

School Governors - Our school governors play an important role in the management of the school. They visit the school regularly, and this term have visited with a focus on our maths learning.

Little City Workshop - In February we held a Little City Workshop for all our children. Our school hall was completely transformed into a mini city. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the city and trying their hand at many different jobs, including; working in shops, being vets, being police officers, repairing cars as a mechanic and being hairdressers.

NSPCC Number Day - 7th February was NSPCC number day. We all came to school wearing something that had a number theme. The children worked together in small groups to solve quiz questions and we raised money for the NSPCC.

World Book Day - We celebrated World Book Day by setting an extreme reading challenge to our pupils. Children were tasked to read in an unusual place and send a photograph of themselves into school. We had some great entries and the teachers joined in too!

Robotics Workshop – As part of our Science and Computing Week, the children took part in a variety of science activities and a robotics workshop. The children enjoyed creating models and programming them so they could move.

Holi – To celebrate Holi, the Friends of Fulmer arranged for our children to decorate t-shirts with brightly coloured paint and then they wore them to school on Holi.

Make the Rules Day - The children had great fun making their own school rules for one day in March. Children wore nail varnish, had brightly coloured hair and were able to order doughnuts to take home.

Scooting Workshop - We had a fantastic scooting workshop, where the children had the opportunity to try out skateboards and scooters. We were very impressed with their skills.

Wonderful Women Assembly – In March we celebrated Mother's Day with a whole school assembly acknowledging all of the wonderful women in our lives.

Easter Hat Parade – Our annual Easter Hat parade was great fun this year. The children showed just how creative they are with their hat designs. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable morning!

Fulmer Family Fun Day – Our school choir learned some VE day themed songs that they performed at the Fulmer Family Fun Day. They sang very well and enjoyed joining in with the other activities on the day.

VE Day – In school we acknowledged VE day by having an afternoon of games and a picnic in the playground.

School Council - has been busy supporting with assemblies based on our school values of Be Kind, Be Honest, Respect and Achieve. They also make suggestions about improvements to the school.

School Eco Council - Our Eco Council are raising money to buy a bug hotel for the playground. To help with this they organised a day when we all came to school wearing green. The eco council continue to lead the school in our recycling efforts.

As always we remain very grateful for the support we receive from the local community, our reading volunteers are a huge support to our children by helping them to develop their reading skills. We are also very fortunate that we have a member of our school community who kindly plants flowers and creates displays at the front of the school. We continue to be grateful to the Black Horse who support us by allowing our parents to park in some of the spaces in their car park.

We are looking forward to enjoying the remainder of the Summer Term and our Sports Day, Marvellous Men Assembly and Summer Fair.

Mrs Julie Matton
Headteacher

We are looking forward to another enjoyable and successful year and some warm/dry weather. The season so far has been successful with 7 wins and 3 losses from the 10 matches played. This is our first year in the Thames Valley Cricket League ("TVCL") following the Chilterns League opting to join TVCL this year. Unlike last year when we had to deal with a mixed weather pattern, as we all know, we haven't had any meaningful rain for about 7 weeks. The dry weather brings its own challenges when preparing suitable pitches.

We play the league fixtures every Saturday until 6 September, so there will be a game at KGFF every Saturday. There are also "Friendly XI" matches on many Sundays. Our Saturday and Sunday fixtures are published on our website.

Outdoor nets, for training, are taking place on Thursday evenings, weather permitting, from about 5:30pm.

Chairman's v Captain's XI match, 13 July 2025

This match replaces the annual President's match, and it is very much a family day when the awards for 2024 season will be presented.

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 or come along to nets on a Thursday evening.

Bar and Spectators

As mentioned above we will be hosting matches at home every Saturday and spectators are most welcome. For the moment, the bar is open from about 1pm until about 7pm.

PETER BOX



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News from RIDING FOR THE DISABLED, South Bucks

Bank Holiday Monday was a chilly day (thankfully the rain held off) but that didn't stop the South Bucks RDA Fundraising team, including pony Pip, from having a fantastic day at the Fulmer Family Fun Day. We welcomed hundreds of people to our stall to enjoy the various games – Hook a Duck, the Tombola and our Money Tree were especially popular – and we raised a fantastic sum that will help to support our ongoing work with our community of participants and their families. Pip loved meeting lots of people and he enjoyed grazing on the fresh grass! Thank you to everyone who came to say hello and supported us.

SBRDA, based in Fulmer, provides people an opportunity to ride and have equine interaction to benefit their health and well-being. We have helped many disabled and neurodivergent children and adults over the years and thanks to our wonderful staff, coaches and volunteers, 2025 marks our 60th anniversary. Earlier this month Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal visited our centre, she met with volunteers, riders, coaches, staff and trustees, taking time to learn about the centre's history, its remarkable impact on the local community, and plans for the future. The visit was an honour for all of us.

On 16 May we took part in the RDA Fancy Dress Class at the Royal Windsor Horse Show – 'Team Mexico' was placed third. We all had a wonderful day and embraced the spirit of 'fiesta'! The same weekend saw many of our riders take part in the South Region Qualifiers for the annual RDA National Championships. Seven riders qualified for the competition which is in July. We were so proud of all of our riders and our horses and ponies too, of course! As well as these special events and running our regular rides and pony care sessions, over the last few months we have refurbished our classroom at the yard which is used by schools who visit us for lessons. We have also resurfaced both our outdoor and indoor arenas to ensure the comfort of our horses and ponies and we have published a brand-new website where you can find out more about us. www.southbucksrda.org

We run individual and small group lessons for riders during the week and at weekends – we are operating a waiting list but if you would like to inquire please email us - enquiries@southbucksrda.org

We couldn't operate without our wonderful community of volunteers, if you would like to find out more about getting involved, please do get in touch. We also welcome discussions about fundraising, sponsorship, corporate volunteering and team building.

Thank you to the Fulmer Family Fun Day team for organising such a wonderful day – we're already looking forward to next year.

Follow us on Facebook @SouthBucksRDA and Instagram @south_bucks_rda/

Claire Fryer- Trustee and Volunteer

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