

**FULMER NEWSLETTER 72nd edition**

**June 2023**



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE VILLAGE XMAS PARTY!

Please put 1 December 2023 in your calendar for the Christmas Party. Last year's format with delicious canapes, great music and a brilliant raffle was enjoyed by lots of locals. Look out for the sale of tickets later in the year, there will be reminders in David Brackin's weekly bulletin and flyers.

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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the June edition. We want to express our thanks to the late Edward Guinness, Creator and Editor of this Newsletter which has been so important to the village as an entertaining and informative publication. It was an innovative idea of Edward's and we were delighted to take on the editorship some years ago. In this issue, as always, we have reports from the many activities that happen in our village and special thanks go to all those who made Fulmer Fun Day so brilliant on 7 May. This annual event is a fixture in the village calendar along with the Firework Party (3 November) and the Xmas Party (1 December). Thanks to all those who have contributed articles, our advertisers and the helpful group who deliver the newsletters around the village.

Susie & Ronnie Simkins

### 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!



## BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2023 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The application for this year's competition has now been lodged. Hopefully, we can improve upon last year's result, as runners up. The judges are keen to see evidence of community engagement - Village web site, Newsletter and display of posters. When participating please record those activities on camera, be it litter-picking, cutting back low overhanging branches or overgrown verges.

Besides the need to maintain and look after the overall appearance of the graveyard, playing fields, community hall, war memorial and other community facilities it also extends to bus stops & shelters, public seating, and notice boards. We will be ensuring that our floral displays in hanging baskets, planters and tubs are stocked with flowering plants and that all hedges, and verges are suitably trimmed.

We are looking for volunteers so we can achieve our usual high standards; dates will be published soon as to when the maintenance works will take place. Saturday mornings are most popular although those who are retired may prefer to volunteer on a weekday, by arrangement. Judging starts on 1<sup>st</sup> June through until the end of July.

Fulmer Conservation Volunteers do not just confine their activities to the Best Kept Village Competition. There are always things that require their regular attention throughout the year. The most obvious is litter picks. Fortunately, most Villagers do tend to pick up litter in their immediate area. However, a great deal of litter is thrown out of vehicles passing through the Village. This is particularly noticeable in Fulmer Common Road and Stoke Common Road. This is more evident as most discarded items can be seen floating in the flooded ditches following the heavy rains earlier in the year. This calls for a "team" effort to help clear this culminating problem around the Village before it becomes an eyesore.

The footpaths, bridleways and public rights of way also need occasional attention due to fallen branches and overgrown hedges and foliage. These need to be cleared to ensure that they remain passable.

Ian Bocock  
thebococks@hotmail.com

From DAVID BRACKIN, Chairman Fulmer Parish Council

The roads of Fulmer seem to have dominated my agenda for the first half of this year. Roads' maintenance falls under the responsibility of the Buckinghamshire Unitary Council, but as a Parish we help escalate persistent defects and highlight areas where a longer-term solution might be appropriate. Bucks has been undergoing a change of contract provider – TfB is no more – and Buckinghamshire Highways took over in April. To compound this, they have also had a vacancy in the position for our Local Area Technician – the person who is responsible for inspecting our local roads and to whom your Fix My Street reports go first. Unfortunately, this coincided with some terrible weather and I have not seen our roads looking so bad for a long time.

I personally called Bucks Emergency Lines and then the Police to close two roads that had become too dangerous to drive and I'm grateful to neighbours who placed cones in the holes on Fulmer Common Road when the puddles there seemed to have grown teeth. There was one week the mobile tyre repair van seemed to have taken up permanent residence in the village. I met with our MP, lobbied our unitary councillors and wrote to the cabinet member responsible for Highways but the sheer number of road defects across the county had the council completely swamped.

Things are improving now. Many of the major defects have been addressed with either temporary or substantial repairs and we have a new Local Area Technician, Elliot, with whom we will work closely to keep an eye on ongoing defects. There are still many areas to be addressed. The advice remains that the best thing to do is to report any road defects via Fix My Street and if they remain unaddressed to let either myself, Ian Boccock (the parish councillor with highways responsibility) or Pauline (our clerk), know and we will escalate accordingly.

With the roads temporarily patched, I am determined that some of the longer-term solutions are addressed. Too many of our roads still flood and water damage destroys roads quicker than anything else. I will be looking at what can be done on this over the summer.

Heavy Goods Vehicles are using the village as a through-route for delivering HS2 waste as landscaping material, and HGVs cause an impact on the roads over 25,000 times greater than passenger cars. I have spoken with the site managers at three local development sites to ensure they stick to their approved routes for HGVs. The more intelligence we have on persistent HGVs, the better we can try to stop them at source.

Beyond road maintenance, we still face dangerous driving in the village. With long straight downhill roads leading to several tight bends, our roads are not well driven.

There have been thankfully few incidents this year but still several have occurred. Do please let me or Ian know if you witness any so that we can keep records up to date – the only way we can keep pressure on Bucks for improvement is through this data. Ian has Speedwatch equipment on loan from Thames Valley and they will write to and target any speeding motorists that his group catches. If you think this is an issue, please do volunteer to help out. If we do not use the equipment, it will be taken back and the authorities will not take our claims seriously if we cannot show that we have speeding motorists.

Finally, we have secured funding to make road safety improvements. Pinewood's development permission is contingent on them paying £250k for seven road safety schemes including width restrictions and junction improvements. The Community Board has promised £50k of funding towards improving the verge parking on Fulmer Common Road to get parents cars off the roads when using King George's Field and I continue to ask developers to consider road improvement contributions when submitting applications.

Thank you for all your support and communications letting me know where issues have arisen (and also where problems have been solved) as well as joining in our collective efforts to lobby to protect Fulmer.

## Fulmer Parish Council & Duties 2023-24

David Brackin:	Chairman (chair@fulmervillage.uk ; 07970 793058) Finance Group Representing Fulmer in Bucks (Community Board, Police etc)
Susie Simkins:	Deputy Chairman; Councillor (susiemsimkins@gmail.com) Liaison with Pinewood Studios, Teikyo, RDA and Fulmer School Fulmer Newsletter Editor & Publisher
Ian Bocoock:	Councillor, 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
Lorette Du Toit:	Councillor (lorettedutoit@hotmail.com) Allotments liaison Chair & FPC member, Fulmer Sports & Community Assoc (FSCA)
Kathryn O'Reilly:	Councillor, Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison (kathryn@westmeathcapital.com)
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	
Barbara Zoltowoska:	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)



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## PERSONALIA

We send condolences to the families of Edward Guinness CVO who died on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022. A service of thanksgiving was held at Fulmer Church on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Ian Trott who died on 13<sup>th</sup> February. A service of thanksgiving was held on 9 March.

Peter Kelly (former Parish Clerk) who died on 4<sup>th</sup> February. A celebration of Peter's Kelly was held on 23 February at St Edward's Church, Windsor

Marina Rigby who died on 15<sup>th</sup> February. Marina's funeral took place on 23 March in Amersham.

Val Dewhurst who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. A celebration of Val's life was held at St James, Gerrards Cross on 19 December.

John Willis – a celebration of John's life was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May in Fulmer Church.



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Cecil Edward Guinness CVO  
26 June 1924 - 29 December 2022

Our family's association with Fulmer began in 1963 when our parents, Edward & Elizabeth Guinness, bought a house in a field, which had been built just 7 years earlier, and this developed into a deep and life-long affection for the village of Fulmer, which has been our family base for 60 years. Both Edward & Elizabeth were keen gardeners and before we moved in, they designed and planted the garden that has given both of them, friends, family and anyone visiting Huyton Fold lasting memories of sitting in the sunshine, enjoying good food, good company and good conversations.

Edward was born in Adlington, in Lancashire, the eldest of 5 children, and known by his siblings as the Guv'nor! His father was the manager of the cotton mill and bleachworks, Davies and Eckersley, owned by Edward's mother's family, at the time when cotton was king, and the business was flourishing. Edward was brought up within a loving family, his grandparents nearby, growing up alongside the family business, in which his grandfather was still actively involved. His mother had a deep Christian faith, and understood the importance of a strong community, which she shared with all of her children.

Edward's father's childhood had been difficult, and his education limited. He was determined to give his own children the best education he could. Edward was educated at Summerfields in Oxford, and later at Stowe under the legendary headmaster, J F Roxburgh. Edward felt immensely grateful for the opportunities that his time at school gave him.

In 1931, following the famous Round Table Conference with Gandhi, the cotton industry began to decline, with the closure of most mills, leading to widespread unemployment, benefit payments were a pittance, people looked and were hungry, and some children went barefoot. For Edward, this was a formative time, observing his family's commitment to the wellbeing of their staff and families, and to the community in a time of deprivation. The outbreak of the War in 1939 changed this.

On leaving school in 1942, Edward joined the Royal Artillery, and he always said for him the barrack room was a great experience in the University of Life, a great preparation for his future roles in personnel and line management. In 1944, while recovering from an accident during training, he went to meet his godfather, Ernest Guinness, one of the directors of Arthur Guinness and Son Co Ltd. During that weekend visit, the chairman of the brewery, Rupert Guinness, 2nd Earl of Iveagh, was invited to come to meet Edward, and Edward was offered a post as Junior Brewer at the Park Royal Brewery.

For the first years, he lived in Bodiam, the staff house at the brewery, and he frequently shared evenings with Ben Newbold and Sir Hugh Beaver, both successful managing directors of the brewery, which gave him a valuable understanding of the brewery, its history and their plans for the future. These conversations instilled in him the integrity of the Guinness company, business ethics and a life-long pride to be able to serve the company. Edward spent five and a half years on the production side at Park Royal and St James's Gate, Dublin, and then in 1951 became Labour Manager at Park Royal, a role that he found challenging and rewarding.

In 1950, he met Elizabeth at a Grand National party, they fell in love, were married in June 1951 and bought their first home at Midway in Templewood Lane, Farnham Common. Here they raised their 3 daughters, Char, Kiki & Dida, until moving to Fulmer.

Edward's career in Guinness flourished with managerial roles in personnel, sales, marketing and transport. In 1970, at the height of apartheid, the England v South Africa Test series was cancelled. Freddie Brown gathered together a Rest of the World side to play 5 Test Matches against England. With full TV coverage, Edward recognised the opportunity to promote Draught Guinness and Harp Lager, both relatively new drinks, to a wide audience. He persuaded Guinness to sponsor the series. The trophy for the series was a harp on a plinth of Connemara marble, now on display in the Lord's museum. With enormous crowds and entertaining cricket, the series was won by the Rest of the World. Edward presented the trophy to Sir Garfield Sobers, captain of the Rest of the World XI. The £20k sponsorship generated publicity and goodwill for Guinness way beyond any expectations!

In 1971 he became Chair and Managing Director of Harp Lager Ltd, one of the most rewarding experiences of his life, the closest he came to running his own business.

From 1964 to 1987 Edward was a non-Executive Director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries plc, now Marstons plc. In 1977 he became Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers, the first Guinness to be elected as Master.

In 1982 he became Vice Chairman of Arthur Guinness Son & Co (Great Britain) Ltd, and, in 1985, Vice Chairman Guinness Brewing Worldwide Ltd. In 1986 he was appointed Chairman of Brewers Society, the culmination of 40 years in the sector, and during his year as Chair, he secured flexible opening & closing hours for pubs, which required a new Act of Parliament.

Ernest Saunders was appointed to Guinness in October 1981, made ruthless changes, discharging numerous senior staff & 7 out of 8 executive directors, Edward was the only executive director to be retained. Ernest recognised that there was a huge

respect for Edward within the brewing trade, and the valuable role he held within Guinness.

The takeover bid for Distillers and the Guinness Scandal are well recorded, all of which was unfolding at the same time as Edward was deeply preoccupied in his role as Chair of Brewers Society, negotiating for flexible opening hours, and Saunders encouraged him to continue with this as his priority, in the interests of Guinness. This kept him remote from negotiations for the takeover, and although he was attending Guinness Board meetings both formal and ad hoc, there was no mention at any time of a share-support operation. When the DTI investigation began, Edward was chosen as the most senior director to tell Ernest he had to stand aside until the alleged financial improprieties had been investigated.

As a Crown Prosecution witness In the Guinness trial at Southwark Crown Court, Edward faced five and a half hours of cross-examination by Barbara Mills QC, and Ernest Saunders' counsel, Richard Ferguson QC, one of the toughest moments of his life.

Despite this, and the devastating blow to the integrity of the company that meant so much to him, Edward had a respect for Ernest, he had learned a great deal from him and for the most part had enjoyed working in collaboration with him. And the irony is that Guinness was a far stronger company in 1987, compared to 1981, making it a suitable company to merge with Grand Metropolitan to become Diageo, now the world's largest alcohol company.

Edward was due to retire in 1987, but was asked to continue working until 1989, when the management of Guinness had regained the confidence of the City of London.

When Edward arrived in Fulmer, he joined the congregation at St James's Fulmer and offered his support to Reverend Bill Taylor, who had recently arrived in Fulmer with his wife and 3 daughters. He became churchwarden and Chairman of the Fulmer Parish Council, a post he held for 18 years, and he was succeeded by Ronnie Lamb, who held the post for a further 18 years.

Edward firmly believed in the importance of a strong community, with a thriving church and pub at its heart, and he actively encouraged any initiatives that nurtured and encouraged a sense of pride in the community. He led on many local projects, including the Best Kept Village competition, which Fulmer won on many occasions. He was a great supporter of Fulmer Day, the Harvest Supper, and the many wonderful parties held for celebrations either at the Black Horse or at the Recreation Ground. He was determined to see Fulmer connected to main drainage, which he finally achieved in 1994, the culmination of 19 years' struggle!

He was an active supporter of sport in Fulmer, understanding the importance for young people, for individuals to relax and build communities through sport. He became President of Fulmer Cricket Club, which celebrated its centenary in 1995 and he led the fundraising campaign to improve drainage of the pitch and replace the old pavilion on the King George V Field Recreation Ground. He started the President's XI fixture, comprising a team of close family & friends v Fulmer Cricket Club, which has been played for the last 26 years on a Sunday in July.

He was a strong advocate of starting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Fulmer, working closely with Thames Valley Police to achieve this.

He was the first boy editor of the Stoic magazine, he started the Guinness company magazine "Guinness Time" to help employees feel involved and connected to the growing and diverse business, and he started the Fulmer Newsletter, which continues to flourish to this day, to disseminate information to local residents, and to allow them to have a voice in matters that affect them.

Edward had a strong belief in using his skills, talents and experience to improve the lives of others, and he had a talent for fundraising, leading and supporting many fundraising campaigns. In 1981, he became Chair of the Governors of Dame Alice Owen's School, a mixed-gender voluntary aided comprehensive school in the state system in Potters Bar, one of 2 schools supported by the Brewers Livery Company through long-established bequests. The school had been founded 350 years before in Islington in London, had moved to Potters Bar in 1976, and Edward's goal was to achieve the highest standard of education in its various forms. In his final year as Chair in 1992, Dame Alice Owen's School achieved Grant Maintained Status and is consistently one of the top ten comprehensive schools in the League tables, firmly establishing the school as a respected centre for education. He led and advised on several campaigns to build modern facilities for the school, including the Performing Arts Centre, with practice rooms and a theatre, named the "Edward Guinness Hall", the Edinburgh Centre for Computer Technology, opened by the Duke of Edinburgh, new sports facilities, the Science Block, opened by Lord Winston.

In 1980 as President of the Licensed Victuallers National Homes for the year, he achieved a record breaking fundraising.

From 1970 to 2004 he was a Trustee of the Windsor & District Postgraduate Medical Centre, later East Berkshire Medical Education Trust, and led the fundraising campaign for the new gastro-intestinal department at Wexham Park Hospital.

In 1980, he was introduced to an acquired brain injury charity, the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People, at their annual fundraising Guinness and Oysters

Luncheon at the Mansion House, where he was making the welcoming speech on behalf of the "House of Guinness". He went to Leatherhead to see the work of the charity and was so impressed by what he saw that he vowed he would do all he could to support them. In 1993 he became Chair of the Development Trust to raise £4.8m to improve the facilities at the Foundation. He achieved his goal in 1996 and became a Trustee of the Foundation until 2012 when he retired at the age of 88.

In August 2019, he was asked by Karen Deacon, CEO of the Foundation, if he would put his name to an appeal to raise the final £2.7m to complete a new, purpose-built £15m Care and Rehabilitation Centre at QEF in Leatherhead. At the time none of us could have imagined the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fundraising, which stopped all events for over 2 years.

Edward launched the Edward Guinness Appeal at Brewers Hall in November 2019, at the age of 95, and gathered around him a team of friends to begin the fundraising campaign. With unstinting determination, meticulous attention to detail, and incredible support from friends, family, trusts and foundations and events (once we were allowed to hold them), within 3 years the funds were raised and the building was open and working.

Edward made 2 visits to the Centre and was immensely proud of all that had been achieved, to see the multi-disciplinary team working their magic on clients who have experienced a life-changing brain injury, and getting them back to be able to lead as independent a life as possible, returning to their families, communities and even their workplace. For Edward it was incredibly satisfying to see this impressive building completed and working and he knew that it would be fit for purpose to provide care and rehabilitation to its beneficiaries for decades to come.

In 1956 he was invited to join the inaugural Duke of Edinburgh Commonwealth Study Conference, which Prince Philip described as "the great experiment", and for Edward was a profound and transformative experience which shaped his decision making throughout his whole life. The conference developed leadership skills in upcoming leaders, mid career, an understanding of different cultures and viewpoints, and how best to work alongside and manage people with different perspectives, good negotiating skills, important for his role as labour and personnel manager at Guinness, and through the conferences he developed lifelong friendships. He held a firm belief in the need for skilled leadership in every walk of life, as relevant today as ever.

Following the 1956 conference, he and a group of alumni continued to meet and formed the UK Board of Trustees, of which he was Chair for 18 years. In the 1986 Birthday Honours, Edward was awarded the honour of Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, in recognition for his work for Prince Philip, and he received his CVO

badge from HM The Queen Elizabeth II at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh Commonwealth Study Conference continues and an interview filmed in 2021, when Edward was 96 years old, 65 years after the first Commonwealth Study Conference, is being used to promote the 2023 Commonwealth Study Conference in Canada, which Edward's eldest grandson, Ed, has been invited to attend.

On 27 April this year, Princess Anne invited members of the Commonwealth Study Conference to a dinner at St James's Palace to celebrate the role that Edward had played over the years for the DECSC, and we, his family, were also invited. It was a wonderful moment for all of us, including all 7 grandchildren, to hear leaders from across the Commonwealth describing the vision, inspiration, encouragement and leadership that Edward had shown. We were honoured to receive a medal to celebrate his lifetime of dedication to DECSC.

Edward recognised the importance of leadership and succession, and was very supportive and encouraging of the next generation of leaders with DECSC, and Worshipful Company of Brewers, and for clergy in Fulmer & Gerrards Cross, and many friends embarking on a venture, who have appreciated his wise counsel and encouragement to give them the confidence to continue.

In 2010, at the Mansion House, Edward received the Order of Mercy award for his charitable works, an honour he cherished.

Edward was a man of integrity, with an immense loyalty for Guinness the company and the Guinness family, with lifelong friendships, recognising the importance of family and his strong Christian faith to sustain him.

His family and his faith were the bedrock of his life, and he loved to gather his family together as often as possible to build strong family bonds. This included trips each year with his grandchildren to the Windsor pantomime and then to the theatre in London at Christmas time, and the President's XI cricket match in the summer. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren in the Yorkshire Dales, Wiltshire and Devon, he had fond memories of formative family holidays travelling from Lancashire for the month of June to Thurlestone on the South Devon coast before he started school at Summerfields, and family holidays in Wales, Greece and the Greek islands, Kenya and Tanzania, Tobago, Italy and Herm Island. He loved birds, nature and wildlife and enjoyed sharing his beloved garden with all the wild visitors, birds and animals.

Huyton Fold became a safe haven for so many people and there was always a warm welcome from both Edward & Elizabeth, and he has been a friend to so many, always

interested in people, an incredible memory for people and recall of occasions, a mentor and encouragement to many, a wise counsel, enriching the lives of others.

He had a strong sense of humour, a fine wit and was a great raconteur, an entertaining and accomplished speech maker, in his year as Master of the Brewers Livery Company he gave over 300 speeches!! He enjoyed writing, communicating and keeping in touch with family and friends.

He wrote 3 books, in October 1988 "The Guinness Book of Guinness", an anthology of recollections of the first 50 years of the Park Royal Brewery; in 2010, with his great friend, Ken Peters, he was co-author "Fulmer's Fallen", the lives and deaths of the 19 residents of Fulmer killed in the two World Wars; and in 2014, at the age of 90, he published "A Brewer's Tale, Memoirs of Edward Guinness CVO". He was an avid reader of history, politics, biographies, newspapers and right to the end, he kept abreast of news, through television and newspapers.

As a family, we feel incredibly lucky that both Edward and Elizabeth were able to stay at Huyton Fold to the end of their lives, thanks to the wonderful care and support given by a succession of carers from all over globe, especially from New Zealand and South Africa, and latterly Zimbabwe and Botswana. It is a testament to both Edward and Elizabeth that we are still closely in touch with many of those carers, and Gill Bath, who has helped Edward and all of the family for over 16 years, has spent 2 months earlier this year in New Zealand visiting several of them.

Edward always described Fulmer Church as his spiritual home, and his strong Christian faith has helped him through challenges, such as the illness and death of Charlotte, his eldest daughter, in 1998, Elizabeth's prolonged illness and her death in 2017, and his own health issues. He was proud that all 3 of his daughters were married in St James Fulmer, followed by a party on the lawn at Huyton Fold.

It was fitting that we could hold a service of thanksgiving to celebrate his life in Fulmer Church, beautifully conducted by Reverend Jill Roth, and with Ian Ledingham playing for us and the bellringers welcoming everyone. The service was livestreamed, because there were many friends and family abroad or in the UK, unable to come to Fulmer, who were keen to be with us to celebrate the life of their friend.

Fulmer Church was packed and, thanks to Howard McPherson, there were many more with us in the two lodges in the Black Horse garden. And 181 live links across the world at the time of the service, in Spain and Canada, America and Australia, New Zealand & South Africa. Back at Huyton Fold we celebrated his life with the finest draught Guinness, served by the team from the Black Horse, in Guinness glasses flown in for the occasion from the St James's Gate Brewery in Dublin!!

Edward had touched the lives of many and it was wonderful that so many could be with us to celebrate his life. As his godson in America wrote, Edward was a touchstone of fundamental English decency. He is survived by his youngest brother, Rick, his daughters, Kiki and Dida, and his 7 grandchildren, Ed, Christopher, Kate, Will, Rosie, Henry and Chessie.

As he lay back on the pillows and fell asleep for the last time, his final words were: "It has been a great life, I have enjoyed it enormously, thank you for inviting me to it."

Kiki Greig & Dida Lamb

*A wonderful tribute to a very special and important man who played such a big part in Fulmer Village life - Editors*



PETER KELLY 27 May 1933 – 4 February 2023

Born on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1933 in Madras, Chennai, Peter spent his childhood in India and Australia. He became a Merchant Navy Radio Officer in July 1952 and joined his first ship – Durango. With the Merchant Navy he travelled the world and sailed on many ships.

His family had settled in the UK in Prestatyn, North Wales where he met Brenda, his wife whom he married in 1959. They had their first child Alison in 1961 and he worked for Marconi in Liverpool.

The family then moved to the Shenfield area in Essex as Peter had a transfer to the Head Office in Chelmsford. In 1963 Peter and Brenda's second daughter arrived, Theresa, sadly losing a third daughter - Susan in 1965.

In 1975 Peter and the family relocated to Windsor where they spent the remainder of their married life. Peter spent many years as part of the Windsor and latterly Maidenhead Catenians.

When he retired from Contracts Management, he became Parish Clerk to Fulmer Parish Council in 2000 working alongside Ronnie Lamb, Pauline, Vahey, Alan Godleman, Michael Saxby, Brian Weild and David Brackin, finally retiring in 2018.

During Covid Peter completed a lifelong ambition which was to write a book about his life – he did this calling it '*Intriguing Revelations of a Lifetime*', covering his early life in India, Australia, all the ships he sailed on and life ashore, not to mention his beloved daughters and 5 grandchildren whom he adored.

Sadly Peter died in February 2023 and is hugely missed by all the family. As the final page of his book states: 'Peter Kelly – Mariner, Father, Grandfather and Autobiographer – *still young at heart*'. *One greatly missed gentleman.*

Theresa Marks

## IAN TROTT

Ian Benington Trott was born in Birmingham but at the start of the war his family moved to the West Country where his grandparents lived and enjoyed his new home beside the sea in beautiful Weymouth. When he was nine years old he joined his brother David at the Quaker boarding school, Sidcut, in Somerset; in those days it was full boarding, meaning coming home only at the end of term! He left after his A levels but instead of doing National Service for a couple of years he joined the FAU, Friends Ambulance Unit and worked for three years in various voluntary roles as a hospital porter in London, manual labouring jobs digging ditches and laying pipes (and potatoes) as well as helping in a school for children with special needs. When his stint with the FAU finished, he really had no idea what to do next, he loved sport passionately and had been very sporty at school but that wasn't an option for a career and his father strongly suggested he needed to get a proper qualification with career prospects under his belt! It was decided he should do his articles to become an accountant. Ian never knew how he managed to pass his finals, particularly with a broken wrist from a rugby tackle, but he did, much to his parents' relief!

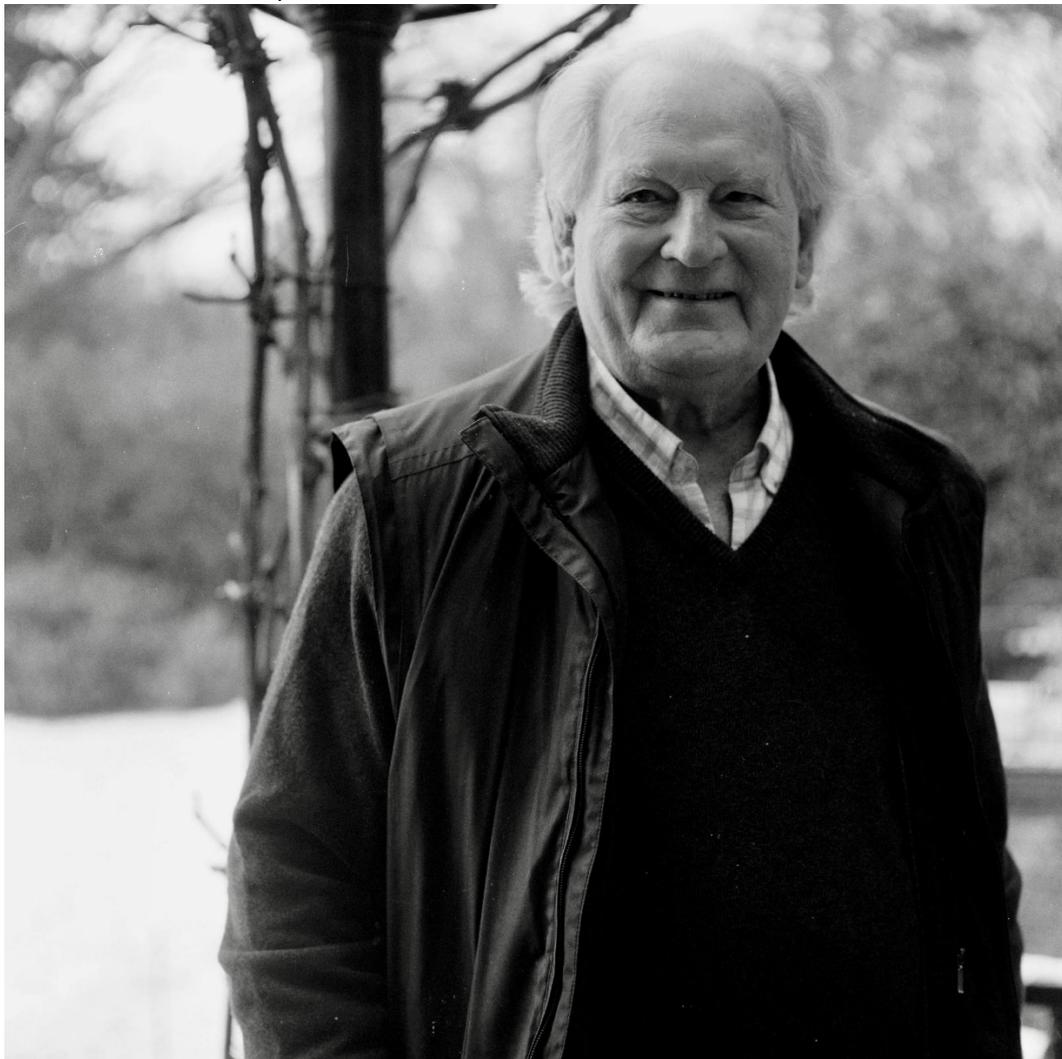
Meanwhile Ian had met and married a pretty nurse he had met in London and once he was qualified they moved to Bristol and began their family. Three daughters came in quick succession and again the family moved back to the West Country, this time to Plymouth where Ian was working for Unigate as part of a Diversification team. They say that when one door closes another one opens and this was the case for Ian. Unigate decided to close the division down but Ian persuaded them to sell him a Kentucky Fried Chicken shop that was yet to open in Gloucester Road, west London, and to lend him the money to do so! This was a daring gamble, as fast food was a real unknown in this country in the early '70's, however, the store was an immediate phenomenal success and he was able to buy a second shop in London followed by 5 others in Essex and the first drive-thru restaurant in Basildon. This, of course, meant the family had to move and they relocated to Stoke Poges. Ian was never a reckless man but he did take bold opportunities when they came his way. When the first two Mexican fast food restaurants in London went into administration he bought them and he opened two Spud-U-Like stores at the same time too. All his girls at sometime got to do some work experience in the shops and learned how to serve KFC or make a burrito or indeed delivered leaflets for the shops dressed up like a large potato! Ian had other business ventures too over the years, some successful, others less so, but I think his great motivator wasn't to make a lot of money or look successful, but he enjoyed learning about new fields and passions and skills of others, and if he could help them in any way, that really excited him too.

In 1991 Ian and Anne had the thrill and excitement of buying Fulmer Gardens House. In the past Ian had enjoyed buying and doing up flats and offices, but they took on this Victorian house with historical gardens and turned it into a home where they lived for the next 32 years. They both loved being part of the village and helping in any

way, whether that was contributing to the cricket pavilion or singing in the choir or being on the Parish Council, he got involved. In 2004 Ian took the unusual decision to be baptised at St James, Fulmer. Having been brought up as a Quaker he hadn't been christened, and indeed never thought seriously about what his faith was. But after doing an Alpha course and having had a 'profound' experience in a church when on a trip to Italy, he decided he wanted to publicly declare his new-found faith in Jesus and serve at St James. This was significant and wonderful for him and Anne also, they did it together and enjoyed leading a prayer meeting once a month at the house and Ian was also a Churchwarden for a few years too.

Sadly Anne's health deteriorated in the last few years and Ian also experienced health problems which meant they didn't often go out as much and see their friends. But having family close by and ten grandchildren who loved to pop in on them regularly, they never felt lonely and were lucky and fortunate to be able to stay to the very end in the house they so enjoyed together.

Ian passed away in February, four months after Anne. They would have been married for sixty-five years this April. Blessed beyond measure.



JUDI SPRATLING

## CORONATIONS PAST & PRESENT

Unable to be in the UK on the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, I had missed the pomp and ceremony surrounding the crowning of our new monarch. I was delighted to receive a copy of the Fulmer Coronation Celebrations programme of events celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953, sent to me by a lady who'd attended Halidon House School. A fascinating read, the programme shares history of Fulmer village and St James Church. The earliest mention of 'Fugelmere' – meaning bird haunted mere – is in 1198 and was a dwelling place long before that as proved by the discovery of a Romano-British pottery kiln higher up in the valley.

A list of Coronation events included in the Programme for 1-6 June 1953, begin with the judging of Best Decorated Houses and Garden Competition on 1 June. A public viewing of the Coronation for the over 60's was held on 2 June at Fulmer School on three SOBELL Television sets made available by Mr M Sobel of Fulmer Lane. On 6 June, a procession from Fulmer House to the Recreation Ground included children in Fancy Dress and members of various village organisations, with decorated carts carrying young children and members of the Evergreen Club accompanied by accordion players. Entertainments and side shows, including Pony Riding and the Judging of Fancy Dress and Vehicles Competition then took place. Ice cream, refreshments and teas were served by Members of the Fulmer W.I.; a bar in the evening serving beer and spirits; sports for children and adults and a Presentation of Coronation Souvenirs to Children. 'The Grand Prize' offered prizes of £15 (1<sup>st</sup> prize), £7'10 (2<sup>nd</sup> prize), and luxury items including a De Luxe Thermos Flask, dinner basket, basket of eggs, bottle of Sauterne, 100 Cigarettes, and more. The Lucky Programme Number Draw included a Johnson's Wax 'Beautiflor' Electric Floor Polisher (1<sup>st</sup> prize). And, the day ended with Community Singing accompanied by Dickie Dancer and his Band, Square Dancing and a Bonfire and Fireworks to finish. Sounds like a very full fun day for all.

A United Open-Air Service took place on Sunday, 7 June conducted by the then Rector of Fulmer, The Revd R Lloyd and The Revd H Ingle, Free Church Minister and Senior Captain Cook/ Capt. Bowyer from the Salvation Army with the Address given by Major W. Mainwaring-Burton. Well-known hymns were sung accompanied by the Slough Salvation Army Band. The Programme entry that fascinated me the most was the Coronation Quiz. Without the answers given, I doubt I could have answered many at all. Here are a couple:

1. Who wrote of a Coronation incident: "The Archbishop (had most awkwardly) put the ring on the wrong finger"; where was it written, and how did the mistake

occur? [Queen Victoria, in her diary (journal). The ring had been made for her little finger and was placed on her fourth.]

2. Which part of the Coronation route was described by a Prime Minister as “the finest site in Europe”? [Trafalgar Square, described by Sir Robert Peel.]
3. How many English Kings since 1066 have not been crowned? [Two: Edward V and Edward VIII.]
4. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be presented with “the most valuable thing that this world affords.” What is it? [The Holy Bible]

When the 1953 Coronation Bible was presented to Her Majesty during her Coronation, it was with the words: “We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.” Traditionally, a Bible has been presented to the monarch in this way since the joint Coronation of William III and Mary II in 1689. HM King Charles III also received a specially commissioned King James Bible, presented to him by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, during the Coronation service, upon which the new monarch placed his hand when he took the Coronation Oath. The oath was to swear to God that he would govern the peoples with justice and mercy and uphold the Churches and publicly prayed for grace to be ‘a blessing to all ... of every faith and belief’ and to serve after the pattern of Christ.

Prior to the coronation, Justin Welby, said: “The Coronation will be a service of Christian worship, deeply rooted in the wisdom we find in Scripture. The Bible which will be presented to His Majesty The King is a reminder that Scripture is not just at the heart of the responsibilities he undertakes at the Coronation, but at the heart of Christian life. On this momentous occasion, the Bible will be the first and most important gift offered to The King. The Scriptures offer a guide and light to all – and I pray that His Majesty will continue to find them in these living words. “The Bible, therefore, is incredibly important for it holds the message of Jesus Christ, it speaks of the works and wisdom of God through Jesus dying on the cross to bring forgiveness for all people.

His Majesty the King has had an incredible honour bestowed upon him by God. The symbol of the Sovereign’s Orb is a symbol of Godly power. A cross above a globe, it represents Christ’s dominion over the world, as the monarch is God’s representative on earth. Together with the Sovereign’s Sceptre these symbolise the King’s power and authority as the Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. His role as Sovereign of this nation, therefore, holds a great weight of responsibility, of allegiance to God and to us all. Let each one of us pray for His Majesty, King Charles III, as he continues to pray for us and that he will be a blessing for all people during his reign, and that he will regularly seek wisdom from God’s Holy word in the Bible as his guide.

**Revd Jill Roth, Pastor, St James Church, Fulmer**

## St JAMES, FULMER.....

We began our celebrations for Christmas with our wreath-making event at Coffee & Chat, held on a Thursday in termtime for school Mums, Dads and carers. It was productive and fun! This was followed by the Wives Fellowship Carol Service on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A few of us decorated the Church in its full Christmas colours in time for Advent Carols on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>. On 16 December we had our "Carols at the Pub" at The Black Horse, accompanied by our Worship Pastor Josh with guitars and drums. We sang carols, ate mince pies and drank mulled wine. It was freezing cold, but a number of stalwarts came and a couple of folk said in wonder, is this really Church? Ross gave a short Christmas talk. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrated with "Carols By Candlelight", slightly different in format this year with a wonderful solo performance. Many more attended this year, perhaps with the fears of Covid in previous years subsiding. On Christmas Eve, we held our traditional Christingle service. We welcomed many families, 111 adults and around 60 children, sitting anywhere possible and sharing! A great atmosphere and lots of fun! Later that evening at 9.30 we held our reflective evening service and on Christmas Day, Christmas celebrations with the children taking part.

After the cold snaps we had through the winter it was lovely to see the pretty daffodil posies distributed on Mothering Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you to those who picked and tied them and our children giving them out! Our solemn Good Friday "Hour at the Cross" was appreciated by the many attending with our Easter Sunday all age service well attended. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated World Mission Sunday for the first time with a guest speaker, Sue Wilmot and Liz Williams from Wycliffe Bible Translators. They updated us and it was heartening to hear how current day technology will significantly reduce the remaining years it will take the translators to provide bibles for every country. This was followed by Lunch at the Centre.

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will stay in our memories for a long time. King Charles III was crowned at Westminster Abbey on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Many generations saw such wonderful pageantry for the first time. We decorated the Church with bunting outside and red, white and blue flowers inside with a floral crown on the Font. The Church bells were rung on the Saturday joining the bell ringing celebrations across the nation. The bell ringers returned again on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> for our Community Faith and Service Celebration. Thank you! We held the service early to be ready to prepare for the St James team to be up at the Rec, Kings Georges Fields, to be part of the Coronation Lunch and Fulmer Family Fun Day. We had several activities, sand art, colouring, bubble blowing, cakes and drinks with many happy children taking part. Thank you to all who came to help! A very successful village Coronation weekend. Do please join us for our services at 11.15 every Sunday and 8.00am on the second Sunday in the month. We look forward to welcoming you. Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Warden

## RINGING THE CHANGES, TRYING SOMETHING NEW

Most likely at some point or other on 6 May, unless you were either out of the country or wearing immersive headphones, you will have sensed the special rounds of bellringing marking the Coronation of King Charles III by churches across the country – including St James, Fulmer. For those living in a village, as most readers do, the ringing of church bells is a familiar and frequent aspect of life – something that perhaps we almost take for granted as part of the established fabric of countryside society. But to keep this wonderful and centuries-old tradition going, more ringers are urgently needed. Why not you?

I no longer live in Buckinghamshire, and was only there for a couple of years, but I was very keen to give bellringing a try. When I spotted a newsletter snippet calling for new ringers – much like this article you're reading now – I knew that was the nudge I needed. It was simple – I called the contact person, arranged to observe a group ringing practice, and then set up a one-to-one bellringing lesson to see how I'd get on. There were no strings attached – only the ropes to operate the bells! The lowest part of these ropes, known as sallies, are the bits you grasp onto and which I was learning to pull correctly, by adopting the right rhythms, pressure and patterns, to create some semblance of the peals of bells we know so well. I was soon hooked.

I love everything about bellringing, and I'd sincerely encourage anyone to give it a try. You have nothing to lose! It's learning a new skill, it's feeling connected with your local community, it's keeping local traditions alive. It's like learning a musical instrument – except your instrument if you're a ringer in Fulmer is a set of enormous cast iron bells weighing several tonnes, that date as far back as the 1500s and are housed in a beautifully weathered stone 17th-century church tower. Being in direct contact with this tradition is, for me, profoundly awesome – in its own way, prayerful. It's a way of touching and breathing history and heritage – and feeling more grounded because of that. For me though, more than all of this, bellringing is a way of being part of a unique group of lovely people who swiftly become like family. In spite of my relatively short time as part of this community, it will always feel a little like a home from home. And I find it fascinating to reflect that this was once the way we passed on a certain type of important village message. A peal of bells touches the soul, and it sure beats a group text message, a tweet or an email for sharing critical information.

Bellringing is one of the best things I've ever done - *By Gemma Parkes*

*If you're curious to find out more, attend a bellringing practice or arrange a trial lesson, get in touch with Celia Thomas [celiandafydd@btinternet.com](mailto:celiandafydd@btinternet.com) or 01494 775503*

## PLANNING UPDATE IN FULMER

In the 12 months from May 2022, a total of 44 planning applications for the Parish of Fulmer have been reviewed by the Parish Council – an average of 3.66 applications per month comparing to the 33 received over the same period in the previous year.

Locally, Gerrards Cross Town Council received 332 applications in the same period, or just over 27.6 applications per month a marginal increase on the previous 12 months from 324. Iver Parish Council 243, in comparison to 241 over the same period in the previous 12 months. Hedgerley Parish with 24 applications against 21 received previously.

Compared to our neighbours, Fulmer Parish has seen a significant percentage increase (over 30%) on the number of applications submitted 12 months previously. Our Parish neighbours have essentially recorded similar numbers to last year.

As is often the case the applications received have ranged from TPO orders (mostly permission request to fell trees) to the construction of new standalone buildings, to single and double storey developments as well as several conversions and change of use requests. There remain contentious developments and working with residents we have seen more concerns raised at Parish Council Meetings in the last year. We will continue to work with residents when such concerns are raised.

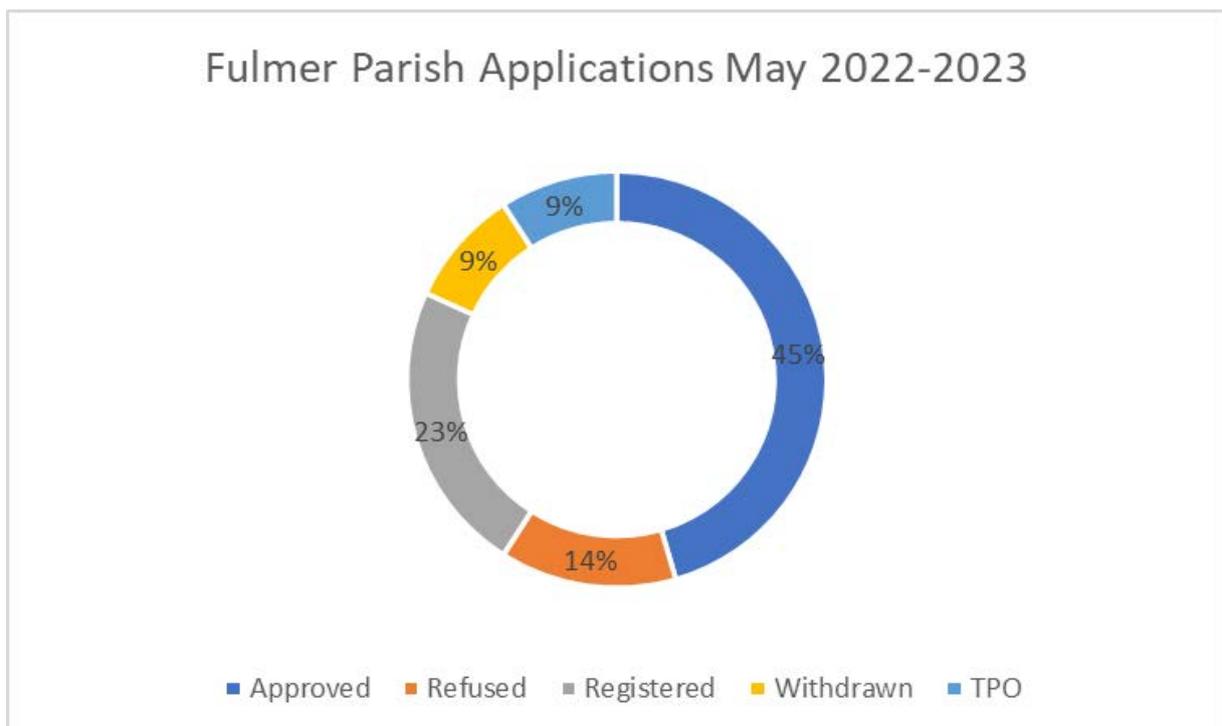
The Parish Council is given a few weeks to comment on any planning applications before the South Bucks and Chiltern District planning officers meet and decide finally on each case. We have seen improved turnaround by the planning teams on some very slow-moving cases, which is a great positive. In addition, we have seen increased support working alongside our Local Council Representatives. 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 and we are committed to the protection of village life and prevention from overdevelopment. Our aim is 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 8th 2022, South Bucks Council have published decisions on 44 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. 23% are still awaiting a decision – most coming as recent applications. Over the last 12 months over 77% of applications having had a decision reached.



Fulmer Parish Council will continue to provide commentary on Parish views with regards to planning applications. We will continue to support and work with Fulmer residents with regards to a number of long-standing Enforcement activities working closely with 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 could make any improvements in providing information and supporting any concerns for all planning matters.

**Councillor Parm Khanghura**

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SECURITY IN THE PARISH

The past Winter seems to have been a rather long, cold and dark affair and it seems that the more disreputable elements of our society have chosen to take advantage of this. I am aware that many people have been concerned by the spate of burglaries in Gerrards Cross. These now seem to have tailed off however it is a salient reminder to be vigilant in our home security. Checking windows and doors before leaving the house is the most obvious. Other simple and cost-effective measures to take can include laying gravel in vulnerable areas or adding trellising to the top of fencing. These are both effective deterrents as chance burglars do not like the noise created by walking on gravel and are aware that trellising will not support their weight. A door chain can help with feeling secure at home although it is perfectly permissible to speak with a caller through a window and not necessary to open the door. Any individual representing a utility company will be carrying ID and will be happy to produce this.

If your property is set back from other neighbouring properties CCTV warning signs can deter burglars as will dog warning signs. Neighbourhood Watch window stickers are also available at no cost. If you would like one please e-mail our clerk - [clerk@fulmervillage.uk](mailto:clerk@fulmervillage.uk) and these can be collected from King George's Field prior to any of the Parish Council Meetings. Please continue to keep an eye out for neighbours. As a Village we are very good at this and I do believe this helps to keep us safe.

Kate O'Reilly – Fulmer Parish Councillor

## SPEEDWATCH REVIVAL - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fulmer lies on one of the natural North/South routes from Gerrards Cross to Slough. Consequently, it is not surprising that local traffic adopts it as their preferred route. Unfortunately, over the last two years, we have witnessed some 15 traffic incidents which have seen extensive damage to boundary walls, fences, gates, railings, and property. One of the contributory factors to these accidents has been speed. As both approaches to the Village are down long hills prior to encountering the oldest section of the road containing two sets of S bends and the narrowest part of the carriageway, it is not surprising that this is where most of the impact damage has occurred.

From a drivers' point of view, Fulmer Road is a fast and attractive section of road when either descending into the Village or as a potential "hill climb" driving away from it. Motorists passing through however, have little regard to the 14 openings or driveways of the residents between the Village boundary gate and the Church, some of which are concealed. The difficulties are either getting into and out from them during peak hours, particularly during the dark winter nights. To date, this has resulted in one speeding car overturning and another coming off the road into the crash barrier. Residents in Windmill Road also encounter the same issues. Being on a recognised ambulance route we cannot introduce the usual traffic calming measures such as the installation of speed bumps. Our only strategy is to ensure that the speed limits are acknowledged and adhered to. Hopefully, this will help reduce the chances of further potential accidents or further incidents occurring. Even pit lanes on motor racing circuits have speed limits for the same reasons!

Speeding traffic is nothing new in the Village. However, we are seeing an increase in the volume of traffic passing through as well as the nature and size of the vehicles. Everyone will have witnessed the frequent number of 20-ton haulage trucks that have adopted Fulmer as a convenient route to carry away waste from HS2 operations. At its peak this rose to 100 movements a day. Besides the size and weight of these vehicles there is the noise and dust that they create, not to mention the damage caused to the road surface. In order to navigate the S bends, they also need to use more than the width of the carriageway thereby increasing the likelihood of a collision.

The original Speed Watch Group operated before the pandemic and was reliant on having to borrow a speed gun from another local group. This limited the amount monitoring in the Village. During the pandemic, all national speed watch activities were suspended and the structure of community policing has been dramatically changed since the lockdown was lifted. Organised by Thames Valley Police, all Speed Watch participants must now complete a short training programme and groups are provided with their own speed monitoring equipment. To help preserve

and maintain the quality of life in Fulmer the existing speed limits need to be enforced. The problem is not going to go away by ignoring it otherwise we will just have more impact damaged properties to show for it.

Remember, the more volunteers there are, the more frequently speed watch groups can operate. For further information, either see <http://communityspeedwatch.org> or contact me directly.

Ian Bocock, Parish Councillor  
[thebococks@hotmail.com](mailto:thebococks@hotmail.com)

**FUN, ACCESSIBLE, HIGHLY ENTERTAINING... THIS IS SHAKESPEARE FOR ALL!**

William Shakespeare's  
**TWELFTH NIGHT**

Immersion  
THEATRE

**LANGLEY PARK**  
FRI 28 JULY | 6.30pm  
[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/countryparks](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/countryparks)  
Billet Lane, Iver, Buckinghamshire, SLO 0LS

## FULMER FAMILY FUN DAY & THE BIG LUNCH

This year to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, we combined Fulmer Family Fun Day with Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, a date that had been set aside specifically for the Coronation Big Lunch. We invited residents, families and friends from Fulmer and the surrounding areas to come along with a picnic, unwind, relax, and enjoy some of the fun activities we had laid on for the day. This turned out to be most fortuitous because despite the pouring rain during the previous week and indeed the downpour on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, Sunday saw the sun break through the clouds and the temperature rocketed to a very pleasant 21 degrees centigrade!



Fun activities included Archery, Football Skills challenges, Welly Wanging, Minefield and our old favourite, the Coconut Shy. Our younger visitors also had lots of fun on the bouncy Assault Course and Castle.



Sonia Marr, together with members of her family and friends from nearby Stoke Poges, set up a beautiful stall providing a delicious "Afternoon Tea".



Both young and young at heart enjoyed visiting the Petting Zoo and the Fire Engine with Fire Fighters from Gerrards Cross Fire Station.



As usual, the children's races were free to enter and are always popular. We had races for all age groups: the Dash, the Egg and Spoon, the very tricky Three-legged race and of course the Sack race. Some Mums and Dads also had great fun taking part in the Three-legged race so we may run a few more of these races next year for the young at heart. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were proudly won by many entrants and of course all entrants enjoyed the sunshine! Once again, the wonderful Beth Spittle, Fulmer's only dog physiotherapist, ran the very popular Fun Dog Show. This year the arena was larger to accommodate all of the entry classes which included Waggiest Tail, Loveliest Lady, Most Fabulous Fella and Best Trick.



Susie Simkins, Children's Races organiser with Ian Finan, Event organiser.

St. James Church Fulmer had two marquees at the event and entertained great numbers of children with a variety of games and activities.



The Riding for the Disabled Association ran a Tombola. They also brought along one of their working ponies to the delight of many of our visitors.

The Family Fun Day has been organised by the Fulmer Sports and Community Association and held at King George's Field, Fulmer for many years and continues to be a much loved and well attended event. With the addition of the Coronation celebrations this year, we were honoured to be joined by the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Lady Howe, who, together with David Brackin, Chair of Fulmer Parish Council, kindly presented floral tributes to thank people for their tireless efforts in supporting the community.



Lady Howe with Janet Mutters of "Appreciating Animals". Janet has been running this much-loved Petting Zoo for many decades and travels Buckinghamshire to attend events such as ours with lambs, piglets, rabbits, guinea pigs, ducklings and hens. Children particularly love this rare opportunity to spend time feeding and petting these animals.



Lady Howe and David Brackin with Brendan and Kay Keane who were presented with a floral tribute and thanked for their services to the Fulmer Community over so many years through thick and thin and for being among the team who first began organising Fun Days in Fulmer over 20 years ago and still volunteering their time on this day.



Lady Howe and David Brackin with Lorette du Toit, Chair of Fulmer Sports and Community Association, who received a floral tribute with thanks for demonstrating true community spirit and strength of character in taking on the responsibility of Chair of Fulmer Sports and Community Association.

During the last few years Lorette has guided the association with passion to support the King George's Field, Fulmer charity and provide a place in Fulmer where its residents and those from surrounding villages can come and enjoy fresh air and physical activities that raise the spirits and wellbeing of the community. The FSCA would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make this year's event so special, without them this fabulous day for children and adults alike could not take place. Thanks and gratitude also go to Pinewood Studios and Fulmer Parish Council for supporting this ever popular annual event.

Linda McKenzie, Event Organiser and KGFF Trustee

*The Fulmer community would like to extend a huge thank you to the main organisers of this event: Linda McKenzie, Andrew Nealon and Ian Finan. Without their hard work and dedication wonderful community events like Fulmer Family Fun Day and Fireworks Night would not have been possible – Lorette du Toit, Parish Councillor, Chair FSCA*

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER, FSCA

Many of you know I am leaving King George's Field on the 7 July after almost 8 years and I feel a change is due. To say the least it has been an eventful, busy and interesting position and I have enjoyed serving the club, Fulmer and the community.

In those years the club has held Fireworks Nights which included some creative bonfires such as the re-enactment of the burning of the Houses of Parliament, the Scottish house in Spectre and a smouldering volcano. So much effort had gone into them it was a shame to burn them down. We have held regular Fulmer Family Fun Days which brought a unique flavour of traditional games and animals.

Last year the Guide Hut was renovated and a new exercise studio was born. The football and cricket clubs have increased in membership and have more teams than ever. A new all-weather surface is replacing the old one in June. The front car park has been renovated and the rear car park created to alleviate all the congestion that built up on Fulmer Common Rd. This is a club which has flourished and will continue to do so.

So many people have supported me in my role. I have thought about naming a few but there are so many people to thank I couldn't do it justice. However, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me: the trustees, the groundsmen, all the volunteers who have helped on the fireworks night and Fulmer Family Fun Days, Fulmer Parish Council and Fulmer Church.

I wish Ian Finan all the very best in taking over my position. I think he will be a great asset to the club.

ANDREW NEALON

*Well done Andrew with the energy and effort you have given to FSCA over the past 8 years – Editors*

FULMER CRICKET CLUB - [www.fulmercricketclub.com](http://www.fulmercricketclub.com)

The Club is looking forward to another enjoyable and successful year. The start of the season so far has been mixed with the wet weather, losing 4 fixtures. We are breaking new ground again fielding a Second XI in the Chilterns League. There has been a win/loss ratio of 50% for the combined Friendlies, First and Second XIs. On 13 May we closely fought with the Firsts winning by 2 wickets and the Seconds losing by 2 wickets. With two teams in the league there will be a Home match every Saturday until 2 September. Our Saturday and Sunday fixtures are published on our website. With more than enough rain, the ground looks in excellent condition with the square being the greenest for some years. Paul and Derrick continue to do a lot of work to create a ground and square which FCC can be proud of.

**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) or come along to Nets on a Tuesday 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.

**President's Match** - The annual President's match is planned for Sunday, 23 July. Lunch is provided for the players and their families, but local community members should feel very welcome to join in the afternoon spectacle and enjoy a drink from the bar.

PETER BOX

Gerrards Cross & Fulmer FC

The squads are nearing the end of their football season.

330+ children have had great fun learning and developing their footballing skills over the course of the season.

At the end of April, the squads celebrated with a fantastic Awards' Day held on King George's Field!

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

# 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: <http://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.

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## STOKE COMMON NEWS

Stoke Common can be 'submerged' during the winter months but, this period is often the busiest for the staff and volunteers from Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. Whilst the grazing livestock have been doing a fabulous job of keeping the common open and its scrub under control, they aren't always able to do all that's needed to keep the restoration of the heathland on track, so sometimes they get a little help. During late autumn and winter, a 'cut and collect' mower is used to reduce areas of gorse domination in some areas and to help create a mosaic of different aged scrub – the varying age helps maximise biodiversity possibilities. Most of the cut material goes to green waste composting with some being used to supplement material on existing habitat piles. In addition, regular, cyclical cutting of birch, gorse and pine scrub by hand allows the team to ensure there is always a good variety in the age range of scrub, from clear areas to areas with scrub over 2m tall; perfect breeding and perching habitat for stone chats and Dartford warblers.

Over the winter of 2022-23, the Friends of Stoke Common Group and Burnham Beeches Volunteers, supplemented by the occasional corporate volunteer group, made great strides in continuing the rotational cutting, cutting any scrub over 2m tall. The newly opened areas have greater levels of sunlight reaching the soil, allowing ground flora to flourish whilst maintain the appropriate amount of scrub habitat. Another important, seasonal project was completed in late winter with the erection of the temporary fence around a pond in the centre of the common. This particular pond is the only site on the common where the rare water star fruit plant (*Damasonium alisma*) has previously been recorded. It is also an important habitat during spring for breeding populations of amphibians, especially newts. The fence is erected to discourage dogs from jumping in, as repeated disturbance caused by dogs stirs up silt and makes the water turbid, reducing oxygen levels and visibility, which in turn has a negative impact on the pond fauna and flora. A further problem is the treatments given to pets to control parasites – the chemicals can wash from their fur into the water and harm the natural invertebrates that live there. Once the breeding season is over and the livestock are returned to the nature reserve, the fence is removed allowing the cattle to walk up to the edges of the pond. The puddling effect of their hoofs on the clay edges of the pond helps to provide suitable seed germination sites for the star fruit.

Spring is the time to monitor the populations of reptiles and amphibians on the common. Each year our team of volunteers carries out a survey to establish how well these key species are doing. This in turn helps to guide us in the future work carried out. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who regularly visit the common to carry out the survey. If you see one of our corrugated survey mats, please do not touch it; the survey is designed to keep disturbance to a minimum and unnecessary lifting could have a detrimental effect on the very species that we are trying to encourage.

Spring of course is also bird nesting season. As Stoke Common is a heathland it attracts species that specialise in heathland habitat. Many of these are ground nesting birds and this makes them especially vulnerable to disturbance, especially by dogs who can easily scare a parent bird off the nest, leaving eggs or chicks vulnerable to predation or abandonment. It may seem that your own dog disturbing a bird once will have minimal impact but, multiply that by repeated disturbances over a day and it can be enough to scare the parent birds away permanently. It is therefore so crucial during this period that dog walkers always keep their dogs close and, on the tracks, and if they can't easily do that, on a lead.

As we move into summer, the cattle will return to both sides of the common around the end of May and early June. We would like to remind visitors that whilst docile, they are not pets and should not be approached or fed. Please also keep dogs under close control. Additional things to watch for over the summer are track maintenance work by the FOSC volunteers, some bracken control and continuing monitoring/removal of the Oak Processionary Moth.

As usual, new volunteers are always welcome:

Contact [burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk) or 01753 6477358 to find out more.  
CHRIS MORRIS – Senior Ranger Stoke Common & Burnham Beeches

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

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 29th, as the highly anticipated annual show is just around the corner. It will be held, in the grounds of the Stoke Poges School from 12.30 till 5.30pm. This traditional event, dating back to 1884, promises to be a delightful day, with all exhibits housed in a massive marquee.

Visitors will be treated to an impressive display of flowers, fruit, vegetables, art, photography, crafts, and baking. There is also a wide selection of children's classes available for under 16s to enter. In addition to the exhibits, other attractions include the wonderful Reading Spring Gardens band, a petting zoo, children's rides, a barbecue, a beer and Pimms tent, and delicious afternoon teas plus numerous stalls selling crafts and showcasing local groups. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or simply a lover of all things beautiful, this is an event not to be missed.

Come join the festivities and witness the culmination of months of hard work and dedication by members of the horticultural community. If you are not already a member of the horticultural society, why not take this opportunity to join? Members receive free entry to the annual show, as well as to all classes, and can take advantage of the society's extensive programme of activities throughout the year. Non-members need not worry, as they can join at the show and receive free entry. Don't miss this chance to become a part of a vibrant community of fellow plant enthusiasts while enjoying a fun-filled day out with family and friends. Putting on such a massive show requires a big team to be successful. The horticultural society couldn't do it without the generous help of volunteers. If you would like to contribute to the show's set up, help during the show, or participate in the after-show clear up, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Andy MacDonald, Show Superintendent, email [andyrmac65@gmail.com](mailto:andyrmac65@gmail.com) or phone 07484 745779 or Maureen Barton [maureen.barton@live.co.uk](mailto:maureen.barton@live.co.uk) or mob 07786 084813.

Your support is vital to ensure the success of this fantastic event, and any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Whether you have gardening expertise or simply a willingness to lend a hand, your contribution will make a meaningful impact. Join us for a day of celebration and camaraderie while helping to showcase the beauty of plants and gardens.

Our Autumn Talks 8pm at Stoke Poges School:  
13 September, Everett Leeds, Clematis through the Seasons 11 October, Matt George,  
Wildlife in the Garden. For the latest information please visit [www.hortsoc.org](http://www.hortsoc.org)

## SOUTH BUCKS RDA NEWS

Back in April the South Bucks Riding for the Disabled fundraising committee gathered for the first time this year, the focus of the meeting was to discuss our first three events for 2023.

The first of these was Fulmer Family Fun Day on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, this turned out to be an amazing day for us, we arrived on King George's Field to set up at midday. We had two tombolas running, one for children and one for adults; a pin-the-tail-on-the-pony game using a cardboard cut-out of Forrester who was one of the legendary SBRDA ponies and a money tree game. We also had Freddy, one of our ponies with us who is a 7 year old, piebald cob and loves people; he's the newest recruit to the fundraising team and Fulmer Family Fun Day was the first fundraising event he's attended. He really enjoyed all the attention he got and had a great day as we did, raising a good sum of money with every penny going to be used for the upkeep of our horses and ponies and to give the much-needed riding lessons and therapy to many local people with physical and hidden disability. We hope to be invited back next year, but in the meantime, please have a look at our website ([southbucksrda.org](http://southbucksrda.org)) for updates on other events our team will be attending and pop along to say hello.

Alan Lawrence – Trustee Fundraising



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## THE ROYAL VARIETY – A Regal Review

A thousand years of monarchy has been the rule in England, for one must not forget the Anglo-Saxon kings who were in control until Harold got 'one in the eye' as the saying goes and William the Conqueror with his Normans took over. Down the centuries there have been good Kings, bad Kings, duffers and a Drop-out. There have been Queens as well but one cannot risk being misunderstood. At present, in this country of ours, there are only two constants:-

The Monarchy

Potholes

As we are at the beginning of a new reign it is appropriate to turn our attention to the first and continue dodging the latter. So what, then do we have?

Personae Dramatis

King Charles III

The new paterfamilias, was much subject to unkind comment in his early years. As an adult he was mocked for his well-expressed opinions on a range of matters including architecture, conservation of land and the eco-system and the dangers of climate-change. Now it is recognised that he was right all along. In his own words: "As you may possibly have noticed from time to time, I have tended to make a habit of sticking my head above the parapet and generally getting it shot off for pointing out what has always been blindingly obvious to me."

Ah, his critics say, he talks to trees. So what? He's not barking mad. Plenty of people who talk to their canaries or horses aren't thought odd. Remember the advert jingle "It's Good to Talk?" It's true and at least a tree can be relied upon not to leak one's most innermost thoughts or angst to the media. Three cheers for King Charles.

Queen Camilla

Once a polo-pony gel when Charles first met her she introduced herself along the lines of "My great-Grandmother was your great-Grandfather's mistress," a pretty punchy opening quote when greeting a prince and heir-apparent to the throne. Once thought of as a Cinderella, times, public opinion and Editors have changed, true-love has prevailed and like all fairy-tale endings they'll live happily ever afterwards as Mr & Mrs King.

William, Prince of Wales

Sometimes known as William the Good, 'though not to his brother, he could serve a long apprenticeship before it's time for his own Coronation. Living like a good soldier by 'King's Regulations' his application to present royal duties and being careful of the public's perception of his persona, he is clearly conscious of his future history (it's called an oxymoron, Mildred, the words not the man). William has a good public

image and an easy way of meeting and greeting ordinary people which underlines his popularity. The portents are good, after all we already know that where there's a Will, there's a way.

#### Catherine, Princess of Wales

Usually referred to as Kate in the media, possibly ever since the Press dubbed her 'Waity Katie' once it noted William's interest in her and her patience over a protracted period before her husband-to-be was reeled in then put her foot in it – the silver-slipper that is. Given her sylphlike shape she could easily slip into any old thing and still look the epitome of a modern princess. She has adapted well to becoming a 'royal without any upset' (the run-in with Meghan doesn't count) or dismay and is popular. There is a 'stillness' in her make-up and an aura of competence about her that augers well for the future.

#### Prince Andrew

Has become the wicked uncle. Having arrived in this world as the spare and his mother's favourite, he went off to do gallant things, saving valueable paintings and other artefacts from a burning Windsor Castle and taking an active part in the Falklands War. He was popular, good company and a bit of a hero but he liked his luxuries and the jet-set high-life. Along the way he met a chap called Einstein who was hot on quantum physicals – perhaps the name was Epstein – a man of apparent charm with a huge amount of money, funding a private jet, a yacht, even his own beautiful island and seemingly anything else he fancied. Epstein's 'Familiar' was a person of social repute a certain glamour called Ms. Maxwell. Ah me. If only Andrew had been prompted to ask, "When did you last see your father?" even Randy Andy might, after a little reflection have thought it wise to make for the door – by himself of course. Now he's just a prince without a purpose or much principal to allow him to invest for the future.

#### Anne, Princess Royal

A tough, no-nonsense regal Lady, likely to call a spade a xxxx spade, tells pressing Pressmen to "Naff off," physically fought off an attempt to 'kidnap' her in The Mall, an Olympic horsewoman who rode for Britain – a kind of Boadicea without wheels, except when doing a 'ton' in her Scimitar car and getting done for it by a no doubt surprised policeman. First married to a gallant Captain unkindly nicknamed 'Fog' (dense and damp). This truly Royal Princess contrives to stay out of the glare of publicity yet fulfils more engagements than any other member of 'The Firm'. Now married to a Vice-Admiral whose special navigation skills are to be applauded so – can't resist it – everything is laudably 'ship-shape'.

### Prince Harry

Once the golden boy beloved by many maidens, a good mixer with ordinary people and popular with his men when in the army. He has now transformed into a Huffy Harry, scourge of the Press due initially to how he perceived the newspapers hounded his mother, unmindful of how Diana manipulated that same medium to burnish the image of The People's Princess. Now expert in litigation or rather its usefulness and a best-selling author of a new Book of Revelations, he has proved the dismay of the people and the despair of the Palace. Harry looked a lonely lad at the Coronation bringing up the rear of the procession by himself.

### The Duchess of Sussex

A somewhat enigmatic figure since it is unclear quite what she wants from life. This one-time TV actress (sorry, just 'Woke' up) actor, is now really famous having achieved every girl's dream, so goes the myth, and become a princess. Things then somehow proved not quite what was expected. Undoubtedly her earlier employment proved invaluable in her latest and greatest role. Soapy or abrasive? There is some confusion. Problem is, how does one determine whether the displayed emotions of an actor are real or a portrayal? It's all a great big shame, everything in the garden should have been rosy but it turned out to be Oprah Winfrey.

### Prince Edward

Derided as Wessex the Wimp for not being the Forces Favourite when he decided, while training with the Royal Marines, that the usual royal progression through the Armed Services was not for him and handed in his notice. His next move was to become a Film Producer/Director but success was wanting, though not in marital matters being the only one of the four royal siblings who hasn't had a divorce. Now he and Sophie have been elevated to become the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, quite a challenge for Edward following the previous Duke, his father, Prince Philip. Our prince has become Edward the Steady, a dependable person, strong on charitable good works and a reliable representative of our Royal Family. So, that's the cast, what about a script? There can be none, for the performance will be spontaneous with each member playing his or her part, as yet unknown. It could almost be called a Royal Peculiar.

Who the hell is Mildred?

Kenneth Peters



## **Fulmer Infant School**

We're nearly at the end of another action-packed academic year and below are just a few of our highlights.

**E-Safety Competition** - As a school we take e-safety very seriously and are proud of our National e-safety award. The children designed posters on how to keep themselves safe online. The best posters are now on display around the school as a gentle reminder on how to stay safe on the internet.

**Asthma Presentation & Coffee Morning** - The Frimley Health Nursing Team visited the school to talk to parents about asthma in children. This session was very well received and attended and feedback was very positive from parents with children who suffer from this debilitating condition.

**World Book Day** - The children looked amazing in their book character costumes and loved discussing their favourite books with each other. Every child was given a special World Book Day token. These are worth £1 each and can be used to exchange for one of the special books written especially for the occasion or to reduce the price of any other children's book by £1.

**Charity events** - Over the year the children have raised £3,255.07 for a range of charities including our link school and orphanage Al Jannat and in that total is a magnificent £839.61 for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.

**Year 1 Giants** - Every year the Year 1 children make 'giants' from junk modelling boxes as a homework project. These models are always amazing and this year was no exception. Some were as tall as six foot! The children then used their giants as a stimulus for creative writing which was stunning.

**Year 2 Visit RAF Hendon** - Year 2, have been learning about Orville and Wilbur Wright and the ability to fly in the sky. To enrich their learning they had a wonderful trip to RAF Hendon.

**Year 1's topic this term is 'Houses and Homes'** and, to enhance their learning, they had a thrilling trip to Windsor castle which was made more wonderful as the castle was decorated for the coronation.

**Mother's Day and Father's Day Concerts** - The children did themselves proud as they sang beautifully during these two concerts. Parents then had a wonderful time in Reception with their children with a 'stay and play' activity.

**The Easter Hat Parade and Country Dancing** - We have many traditions at Fulmer Infant school but our two special ones are the Easter Hat parade and Country Dancing. For the Easter Hat parade all the children wear homemade amazing Easter bonnets which they model on our makeshift catwalk in the hall. We have a compere and the children sing some Easter songs. It is always well attended and, as ever, the children sing with absolute joy. The Year 1 and Year 2 children learn

traditional country dances which they then perform with other local infant schools at Dropmore school. This is always such fun and a lovely way to meet other schools, **Chicks in School** - Every other year we watch chicks hatch in an incubator in our library. This is a joyful way to teach the children about life cycles. This year ten chicks hatched and after two weeks we rehomed them at a local farm. All the children had an opportunity to hold the chicks which was a wonderful experience. **Coronation lunch** - The children had a wonderful time celebrating the King's coronation. They had a special lunch with singing and then a surprise ice cream from one of our parents.

**Wonderful Assemblies** - Recently we have all enjoyed some lovely assemblies in school. We would especially like to thank:

Reverend Jill Roth who led an assembly on the Easter Story

Mrs Tawni, a staff member, who led an assembly on EID

Mrs Phalora, a parent, who led an assembly on allergies during allergy awareness week

The ECO team, in Year 2, who led assemblies on how to look after our environment; the school council, in Year 2, who led assemblies on how to make our school even better and Reception who will have their assembly before the end of the academic year (Years 1 and 2 have already had their assemblies). These are always joyful occasions and the parents are always amazed and grateful at how much learning goes on in the school.

**Thank You Friends of Fulmer** - Friends of Fulmer have organized cakes sales, sponsored walks and parties to name just a few of the events. All the money raised enriches their children's time here at the school and we would like to thank them all for their hard work.

**Good byes** - Finally, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to two members of staff who will be leaving at the end of term Mrs Mardell who is our senior teacher and Year 2 teacher and Mrs Walker who is our senior Teaching Assistant and has been with the school for 27years! They will be sorely missed. And it is also goodbye from the two of us. Thank you for all your support and we wish Fulmer Infant School all the very best in the future.

Best wishes

Cathy Hunt and Tracey Dowsing - Co-Headteachers

*We are sad to say farewell to the wonderful Head Teachers and Mrs Mardell and Mrs Walker. They have all contributed to make Fulmer School very special and high achieving – we wish them well in the future - Editors*



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