

FULFORD VILLAGE NEWS

www.fulfordvillage.com

August 2013

FULFEST 13 JULY 2013

What a great day that was! The sun shone, the children played, wine and beer flowed, the music lasted well into the night and everyone took the opportunity to socialise with family and friends as well as meet new people from the village. Thank you to everyone involved in making this really special community event happen - to the organisers, Steve and the pub, to everyone who made cakes, served refreshments on the day, put tents up, sold raffle tickets, picked up rubbish, performed or just contributed to the general ambience.

One of the special features of Fulfest is that it is a free community event organised by and for the benefit of the village as a whole, but even though it is free on the day this doesn't mean that it doesn't cost anything to put on. This year, even though once again the vast majority of the musicians played for nothing and the organisation was done voluntarily, the cost rose from £1500 to £1800. With continued price increases the anticipated cost for the main 2.00 – 9.00 event on the Village Green next year is in the region of £2000 - £2300.

The group of people who organise Fulfest are just volunteers from the village (by the way this could be you as well – there is no committee, please get in touch if you want to help or have ideas or skills to offer!) who are now considering how to fund next year's Fulfest. The money raised at this year's fundraising event plus the raffle and donation money collected at Fulfest did not cover costs and it was only the £400 "Big Gig" grant that helped save the day.

Fulfest can only continue with the efforts of volunteers, your donations and your enthusiasm. It will be so much easier to organise knowing the funds have been raised in advance so please look out for fund raising events and sponsorship requests over the coming months and show your support throughout the year, if you enjoy Fulfest and want it to continue.

THE RESULTS!!!

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2013

The results are out and once again Fulford was awarded Highly Commended for its efforts in the Best Kept Village competition 2013 – congratulations and thank you to everyone for helping the village achieve this recognition, it was wonderful that so many people were involved in helping Fulford look its best throughout the summer. First prize in Fulford's category (Stafford district small village) was awarded to Burston, second to Salt and third place to Hilderstone. 53 villages from across Staffordshire entered the competition this year with the overall county trophy going to Haughton (large village) and Oakamoor (small village) with a special commendation to Great Haywood. The full break down of comments will be out at the beginning of October and made available on the village website.

With the growth and success of other village activities help is needed with next year's entry. Do you have some spare time, a few friends who would help out? It is hard to believe that five years ago when the village first entered the competition that as well as the usual cans of lager and cigarette packets, the village clean up produced settee cushions, a television and off cuts from a kitchen work top from the hedgerows, as well as ten bakers baskets from the stream. There were no planters, no daffodils by the school and on the village green, and no village sign. It has been a real team effort and the Best Kept Village competition a catalyst for many of the things that now take place in Fulford so please contact wendy.godfrey51@yahoo.com if you would like to help.

GARDEN COMPETITION 2013

We were thrilled that David Moreton from **Oak Tree Farm Rural Project** was able to give his time to walk around Fulford and choose five gardens for this year's £20 garden vouchers from Mount Nursery and David's choice reflected his love of the natural gardens that he felt represented the rural location of Fulford.

As well as the five previously advertised categories however, David felt that one particular gardener should have a special award from Oak Tree Farm. There is a new category this year 'The Judge's Favourite 2013' and Connie Forrester of Greenacres, Meadow Lane was awarded a Tea Rooms voucher with the compliments of Oak Tree Farm for her beautiful and colourful front garden.

Congratulations also go to:

Pots and tubs: Matthew Ball, Manor Barn conversion

The verge: John Allen-Fletcher, 1 Green Park

Small garden: Michael and Sally Jones, 50 Highview Road

Medium garden: John and Evelyn Hooley, The Brambles, Lancaster Avenue

Large garden: Maralyn Fleming, The Olde House on the Village Green

PHOTO COMPETITION 2013

This year the winning photo was chosen by public vote at Fulfest and there was one clear favourite, the singing thrush by David Godfrey. The under 14 category voting was so close there was actually a tie with Jacob Gill's bee on a flower and Ella Oustrachow's sheep in the snow both receiving winning vouchers. As you will have seen from the Church newsletter, the display is now in the Church annexe (including photos of the winning gardens). There are some beautiful photos both of Fulford itself, its wildlife and a few marking village celebrations.

Fulford Village calendar 2014 is now being collated (mainly using photos from the competition) and will be on sale shortly - let's see whether we can match the 100 that were sold last year!

FVG MEETINGS - first and third Tuesdays of every month 8pm to whenever in the Shoulder

Don't forget these are open to **anyone** and **everyone** from the village – there is no formal structure, no agenda, no committee - just a group of people with a drink. If you have an idea, feedback or concerns then come along one week.

MONTHLY SUNDAY WALKS

These will start again on Sunday 6th October, and continue to be on the first Sunday of each month at 11.00 am lasting about one and a half to two hours. They are not over strenuous or over energetic walks but just take in the lovely scenery on the foot paths around Fulford. Wear stout shoes, bring your dog, have a chat, get to know some new people and blow away the cobwebs - it is a great way to relax on a Sunday morning and if you feel like lunch in the Shoulder afterwards that is all the better!

THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON 01782 399320 www.theshoulderofmuttonfulford.co.uk

MONDAY MADNESS is still happening - that is, buy two evening meals and get the cheapest free and **TUESDAY – THURSDAY LUNCH TIME** – buy one lunch and get one half price!

In the evenings, Tuesday is pie night, Wednesday buy a main course and get a **dessert for FREE** and Thursday is special curry night.

Don't forget that Wednesday is quiz night (8.30 start) with all money raised (£1 per person) going to First Responders and from Steve the landlord, the added bonus of free chips and sandwiches for those taking part. Some great nights of live music are being planned so look out on the pub board for details nearer the time.

FULFORD COMMUNITY CHOIR

From small beginnings the choir now has a membership of 60 of all ages and abilities and although singing in the choir is essentially about making music, learning a new skill and performing and working as a team, it is also about community, friendship and fun. If you would like to be involved just come along one Sunday afternoon and see if it is for you - everyone is welcome (age 11 and over) and it is really a case of the more the merrier. The choir begins rehearsals again on Sunday September 15th 4.00 – 6.00 in the village hall.

The full **rehearsal dates** for Sept - Dec 2013 are Sept 15, 29, Oct 13, 27, Nov 10, 17, Dec 1, 8, and the Christmas concert is Dec 8 in the village hall.

The **rehearsal fees** Sept – Dec 2013 are **Adults:** £3.00 per rehearsal (total £24) or one payment of £21 to include two complimentary concert tickets. **Children:** £1.00 per session and **Family membership:** a one off payment of £45 to include four complimentary concert tickets.

We are hoping to start a children's choir (aged 5 – 11) so look out for the publicity! The rehearsals will be from 2.30 – 3.15 on the same Sundays as choir and cost £1 per rehearsal. To **contact us** visit: www.fulfordvillage.com, email: wendy.godfrey51@yahoo.com or tel: Wendy 01782 398186

MUSIC AT ST NICHOLAS'

Following the cancellation because of snow earlier in the year the Walton Trio have rescheduled their concert for 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd November. We are very grateful to the musicians who give their time and skills for free so please come and hear them play and support the Church. You will be rewarded not only with a fantastic evening of live, light classical music but also a glass of wine, nibbles and a raffle. **THE WALTON TRIO**, a Palm Court Trio from Stafford, will be performing a varied programme of music for violin, cello and piano with some history and anecdotes along the way. Tickets are available on the door (£6.00 adults, £2.00 children, £14 for a family ticket) alternatively to reserve tickets email wendy.godfrey51@yahoo.com.



THE FIRST RESPONDERS

Fulford CFRs have been fairly busy over the last few months. We have had 238 call outs in 2013 up to the end of July, with a call out happening on average, every 2 to 3 hours. Compare this to the first year of running - late 2008 and early 2009, there were only 19 calls in a year. Since we went 'live' in July 2008, we have attended a total of 1454 calls up to the end of July 2013. As you can see the demand for our service has increased massively. We are very grateful for the support given by 'The Shoulder' and the pub-goers for the weekly pub quiz nights. This fundraising keeps our car on the road, so thank you!

As some of you will know, by the end of September we will be losing 4 of our members who are now training to be full-time staff for the ambulance service. This leaves us with only a handful of responders, we need your help, we need more volunteers. We respond to any calls and locations that the ambulance service need us to when it gets busy, however a high proportion of our calls are to 'our patch' which covers Meir Heath to Moddershall, Sandon, Milwich, Leigh, Blythe Bridge and everything in between. No prior experience is required, we have people from varied walks of life, from teaching, purchasing, childminders to retired people. Full training is provided by the ambulance service as well as responding with an experienced responder for as long as you want to. Training to be an Intermediate CFR takes about 7 days (usually over weekends) plus two shifts with a paramedic on the road.

If you want to give something back to the community or are just interested to know more, give Mike (07703475888) or Nic (07736327397) a call. Alternatively if you see us about, stop for a chat, unless we are in a rush we are more than happy to speak to you.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY

If you can't find the book you need at the pub (£600 raised for the Church so far!) then maybe the mobile library is for you. The mobile library visits the village on the 3rd Monday of the month and is in Meadow Lane from 2.15 – 2.40 and then at the Village Hall from 2.45 – 3.15.

FULFORD VILLAGE HALL tel. 01782 397629 www.fulfordvillagehall.org.uk

The village hall continues to be a fantastic resource for the village. A new exercise class starts in September on Monday evenings; the Church will be holding their Harvest Supper on 6th October; and New Year's Eve is available for a village organisation wishing to hold a community event. For a timetable of the regular bookings held in the hall and for information about forthcoming events, please visit www.fulfordvillagehall.org.uk. For party bookings tel. 01782 397629.

LITTLE LEARNERS PRE SCHOOL tel. 01782 393105

Little Learners pre-school has vacancies from September for children aged 2 years and above.

BUS SERVICE 249 - use it or lose it!

The service between Longton and Stone via Fulford is operated by Bennetts Travel and gives 2 or 4 hours shopping time in Longton or Stone each day.

For timetable details see <http://www.stokebus.info/timetables/249.pdf>

For the morning/evening service 7/7A to and from Longton operated by Wardle Transport see http://www.stokebus.info/timetables/7_7a_wardle.pdf

WHAT'S ON IN FULFORD AUTUMN/WINTER 2013 (but check www.fulfordvillage.com for the latest info)

OCTOBER 2013 Sunday 6th village walk starting 11.00 on the Green

NOVEMBER 2013 Saturday 2nd The Walton Trio 7.30 St Nicholas' Church
Sunday 3rd village walk starting 11.00 on the Green

DECEMBER 2013 Sunday 1st village walk starting 11.00 on the Green
Friday 6th Santa around the village
Saturday 7th Christmas Fete 2.00 Village Hall
Sunday 8th Choir Christmas concert 7.00 Village hall
Christmas carols on the Green - date tbd

JANUARY 2014 Sunday 5th New Year walk starting 11.00 on the Green

JULY 2014 Saturday 12th **FULFEST** (date to be confirmed nearer the time)
Saturday 19th Steam train dinner – details from the Church soon

KEEP UP TO DATE

If you would like to keep more up to date with what's going on in the village and maybe contribute some thoughts and even help out at some of the events, why not join the Fulford Village email list – send your email address to fulfordvillagegroup@googlemail.com

Thank-you to the Shoulder of Mutton and Fulford Village Group for funding the printing costs of this newsletter. If you would like to contribute to the next edition please tel 01782 398186.