

FULFORD VILLAGE NEWS

www.fulfordvillage.com

September 2012

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION –THE RESULTS!

The village received highly commended for this year's efforts, not quite as good as last year's third place but still a result to be proud of! Despite the appalling summer weather the village still looked welcoming even when the verges couldn't be cut - thank you to everyone who helped and took care of their particular area, it is really noticeable how so much more of the village is colourful and kempt. In preparation for next year there will be one Sunday morning clean up in November to clear leaves and paths as well as the usual ones in the Spring. Fulford covers a large area and lots of help is needed. Congratulations to Hilderstone who took second place this year!

PHOTO COMPETITION

There were many impressive entries with plenty of potential for the 2013 Fulford Calendar but after a great deal of deliberation Tim Hill from www.tjhphotography.co.uk selected the following winners for awards and three to be highly commended:

WINNERS

Baulk Lane Tulips – Kath Gibson

Busy Bee – Colin Gill

Three Winter Trees – David Godfrey

JOINT UNDER 14 WINNERS

Day off School – Ellie Gill

Misty Path – Ella Ostrouchow

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Green in Blue – David Hammonds

Toad in the Hole – Phillip Knapper

Dawn Chorus Sunrise – Colin Gill

VILLAGE GARDENS COMPETITION

Despite everyone's best efforts the weather has made gardening very difficult this year, however the judges from Milwich Gardening club had a very enjoyable afternoon looking at every front garden in Fulford and were impressed by the amount of effort that had gone into making the village look so cared for. Many gardens had obviously been beautiful during the previous sunny period and others were just waiting for some sun but they could only choose the gardens and tubs that looked best on the day (Monday June 11th). The following people received garden vouchers but thank you to everyone for taking such care of their gardens and the village.

LARGE GARDEN: Hillberry House, Fulford Road (Mr & Mrs P Wilkinson)

MEDIUM GARDEN: 4 Lancaster Avenue (Mr & Mrs J Hooley)

SMALL GARDEN: 22 Kingfisher Crescent (Mr & Mrs D Tams)

HANGING BASKETS AND TUBS: 44 Kingfisher Crescent (Mr and Mrs J Halket)

AFTERNOON TEA Friday 21st September

Come to the village Hall between 1.00 p.m and 5.00 p.m Friday 21st September for an afternoon fundraising event in aid of the Blurton Douglas MacMillan hospice.

If you are available to offer some help please contact Jean Conlon 01782 388784

VANDALISM

The notice board at the end of Meadow Lane with the legs broken thrown in the hedge, the new village hall notice board door broken and clear perspex thrown in the bushes, the commemorative bench by the Bus stop ripped from its fixings and moved – if you witness any of this activity or know who did it please report it to the police.

FULFEST 2012- what a great day!

Compared to the previous weeks and particularly the previous day, when at one time all the roads out of Fulford were flooded, the weather was kind for Fulfest 2012 and the village was able to enjoy good music, food, drink and each other's company. The music started at 2.00 and carried on until late in the pub but by mid-morning the following day the village green was back to normal. Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, collected money, organised car tours of the village green (and raised nearly £100!), the musicians, the technicians and Steve and the staff of the pub who made it such a memorable and fun day. Now for Fulfest 2013!

Some people were asking where the money goes that is raised on the day and so to clarify:

- Fulfest is organised by a small group of unpaid volunteers as a free community event for the village, with many hours spent before, during and after the event to make it successful
- The money raised on the day and in advance is used in the organisation of the following year's festival. A small amount of money is kept aside for unplanned expenses.
- This year the Festival cost £1150 to put on, with the money raised used to pay for insurance, the marquee, the road closures and signs, first aid and for one of the bands on the Green - most of the musicians play out of goodwill, or some lunch and a bottle of wine at the most.

Plans are underway for a fundraising event in the New Year for Fulfest 2013. Please try and support the evening as this, along with the raffle and collection on the day, will provide the main income for next year's festival.

VILLAGE WALKS - first Sunday of the month 11.00 Village Green

The village walks will begin again on October 7th and as usual, will last about 2 hours at a fairly leisurely pace and will involve climbing over some stiles. We are always back though in time for a drink and or Sunday lunch at the Shoulder. Everyone is welcome including dogs!

NEW!! FULFORD COMMUNITY CHOIR Sundays 4.00 – 5.30 in the village hall

Haven't we all seen Gareth Malone on the television and thought, I wonder whether singing with friends is as much fun as it looks? I wonder whether with a bit of help I could sing? Well Fulford now has its own community choir and its very own Gareth Malone in the guise of the professional choir trainer Dan Hollingshurst! This choir open to all – there will be **no auditions** (just be willing to have a go) and **no singing on your own**. No previous experience of singing / singing in a choir is required, **it doesn't matter if you can't read music** and **it doesn't matter if you don't think you can sing** – just come and have a go!

This choir is for everyone in the local community and a warm, friendly welcome is guaranteed with the emphasis on fun, enjoyment and getting to know others in the local area. There is no obligation in the first session, our main aim is that everyone goes home at the end of each rehearsal with a smile on their face and a song (or two!) in their head!

REHEARSAL DATES:

September 30th – the launch! 4.00 in the Village Hall

October 7th, 14th, 21st

November 11th, 18th, 25th

December 2nd, 9th – rehearsal followed by 7.00p.m concert

REHEARSAL FEES:

Adults £3.00 per rehearsal plus concert (£30 total) or

One payment of £24 to include 2 complimentary concert tickets

Children £1.00 per session

Family membership one off payment of £46 to include 4 complimentary concert tickets

DAN HOLLINGSBURST – THE CONDUCTOR



Dan Hollingshurst, our Musical Director, is an experienced choir and music workshop leader. He is Musical Director of Endon Community Choir, directs a successful primary school choir and is a former conductor of the Young Phoenix Singers, Leek. Until recently he was also a Vocal Force Co-Facilitator in Staffordshire for the government's highly successful "Sing Up!" scheme. Dan's musical roots are many and varied. His love of folk, classical, jazz, sacred music, current rock and pop ballads and musical theatre gives him an extensive repertoire from which he will select the choir's songs – although he's keen to incorporate choir members' ideas too. Who knows, you might end up singing your favourite song! Above all, Dan believes that musical variety is key to a community choir's appeal and success. A qualified specialist music and performing arts teacher, Dan's approach to singing is based firmly on fun, enjoyment and the belief that everyone really can sing, regardless of their age, experience or ability.

THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON 01782 399320

The Shoulder continues to offer tasty home cooked food and, with the new fireplace and sofas and a great team behind the bar, is a really welcoming place to spend time with friends. As well as the Wednesday quiz (in aid of First Responders) look out for special events on the board outside the pub.

MONDAY TO THURSDAY OFFERS

Buy two starters, mains or desserts and get the cheapest item half price

EXTENDED HOURS FOR FOOD

Sunday 12.00 – 7.00

NEW! Food on Mondays 5.30 – 8.30

Tuesday – Saturday 12.00- 2.30 and 5.00 – 9.00

OPENING HOURS

Sunday 12.00 – 11.00

Tuesday – Thursday 12.00 – 3.00 and 5.00 – 11.00

Friday and Saturday 12.00 – 12.00

Thanks also go to Steve for supporting the bookcase in aid of the Church – over £450 has been raised so far so don't forget to drop off your holiday books if you have finished with them and take the opportunity to pick up some new reading for the longer evenings. £1.00 a book!

FULFORD VILLAGE SIGN

To commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and celebrate the village community, the Parish Council has agreed to fund a village sign to be erected on the corner of the Green near the well. There has been a very positive response to the design that was displayed at Fulfest and more recently at the Church for feedback. Village signs originated in Norfolk where nearly every village has a sign designed specifically to reflect their area. The Fulford sign content was put together as a group effort and does the same, reflecting the Church, the farming, the wildflowers and the origin of the name of the village. The sign also incorporates the Jubilee and the Staffordshire Knot and will be made in black steel with gold decoration on an oak post. Thank you to Kath Tooth for putting the final art work together.

BUS SERVICE 249 - use it or lose it!

From September 3rd this service between Longton and Stone via Fulford changes to be operated by Bennetts Travel. It gives 2 or 4 hours shopping time in Longton or Stone each day.

FULFORD VILLAGE HALL tel. 01782 397629

The village hall continues to be incredibly busy and a fantastic resource for the village. For a timetable of the regular bookings held in the hall and information about forthcoming events please visit www.fulfordvillagehall.org.uk

Responding to BKV judges' comments, a new roadside notice board has been commissioned from a craftsman in the village - please don't use it for football practice - it has already been damaged!

The Committee with its own funds and having secured grants from the Staffordshire Environmental Fund, Fulford Parish Council, Staffordshire County Council, and from Stafford Borough Council, has undertaken a building programme to create a rear extension to the hall which will provide an ante-room, storage, and direct access to the grassed area. This will benefit all hirers and also the pre-school which operates from the Large Hall.

LITTLE LEARNERS PRE SCHOOL tel. 01782 393105

Little Learners pre-school has vacancies for children aged 2 years and above, and will also be starting a "Play and Stay" session on a Wednesday morning in the autumn.

FIRST RESPONDERS - What is a Community First Responder?

Community First Responders are teams of volunteers who are trained by the Ambulance Service to a nationally recognised level and provide life- saving treatment to people in their local communities. The group is self- funded and receives no grants or financial support from the ambulance service or government, they just give us the radio and the training. A CFR is always backed up by an ambulance resource, whether that is paramedic in a car, or a traditional ambulance.

Since going 'live' in July 2008, Fulford and District CFR's have responded to 969 call outs (up to end of July 2012). The call outs were 16 in the 6 months to the end of 2008, 31 in 2009, 156 in 2010, 290 in 2011, 476 in the first 7 months of 2012. As you can see our services are being required much more often! We need more volunteers to become CFR's or supporters of the group in other ways if you don't fancy the 'medical side' of it. We do respond to any calls and locations that the ambulance service need us to when it gets busy, but we do get quite a lot of calls to 'our patch' which covers Meir Heath to Moddershall, Sandon, Milwich, Leigh, Blythe Bridge and everything in between. Training to be an Intermediate CFR takes about 7 days (usually over weekends) plus two shifts with a paramedic on the road. You can improve your skills by becoming an Enhanced CFR further down the line with about 7 more days training. 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.

HEART START....

Heart Start courses are **free** 2 hour sessions that cover what to do in the following situations; choking, heart attack, unconsciousness, severe bleeding, not breathing. There is the opportunity to discuss what you would do, and have a go at most things! The sessions are relaxed and informal with interaction, and you don't just get talked at! You get a certificate of attendance at the end of the session. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions give Mike (07703475888) or Nic (07736327397) a call. One person in the village has already benefited from attending the course having had to deal with two bleeding incidents that both required hospital treatment. The knowledge and confidence gained from the training was invaluable.

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