

BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2016 – Highly Commended

The results are in and sadly Fulford has had to say goodbye to the trophy that has looked so splendid on the village green all year. Despite not reaching the finals the comments were very positive:

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2016 – JUDGES' COMMENTS FULFORD

BKV awareness was tackled through items in local publications, the village website and emails to residents. There were plenty of BKV posters on sites all around the village; with the "Working Together" banners looking very eye-catching. They certainly got the message across!

All the noticeboards were in good condition with neatly displayed notices. There was a good spread of up-to-date local information - "we knew what was going on and who we would need to contact".

The churchyard in May was not at its best; however, in June it looked very neat and tidy, and had been mown to a high standard. There were attractive planters by the church door and the new noticeboard contained relevant up-to-date information. The car park was tidy.

The village hall car park and surrounds were very neat and tidy; but there were a few cigarette ends and other litter near the front in June. There were some attractive, well maintained planted areas.

The Shoulder of Mutton surrounds, car park and beer garden were tidy, litter-free and looked well cared for. The community herb garden at the front illustrated links between the pub and the community.

The telephone call box was beautifully painted and "in pristine condition inside and outside". There was no litter or weeds in the surrounds. There was a BKV poster displayed inside.

The bus shelter was well maintained, with an up-to-date bus timetable and the surrounds were free from litter and weeds. All seats and benches were in good condition, with clean, weed and litter free surrounds.

The Well and both structures on the Village Green were excellent features. There were also excellent planting features on the bridge parapet, at the junction of Meadow Lane and other smaller planted tubs.

The Village Green and all the small open spaces and verges were in excellent condition, neatly mown and well cared for. The small open space at the village hall created a good welcoming impression. Apart from one or two, private gardens were maintained to a very high standard, "with lots of colour and nice shrubs".

Judges said that "the children's play area was delightful"; with equipment in good condition, excellent safety surfaces and well mown grass surrounds. Very little litter was seen and no dog mess. There was good evidence of BKV awareness and involvement of village residents throughout the judging period.

Fulford was described by judges as "a pleasure to visit – even on a damp day in July". There was again a great deal to praise in Fulford this year and in the very closely contested Small Village category in the Stafford Area the village was unlucky not to reach the Area Finals. Judges were convinced, however, that Fulford would be competing for "top honours" again very soon.

John T Perry, MBE (Chairman, BKV Working Group) September 2016

AUTUMN TIDY Saturday 12th November 10.30 a.m. Village green.

The village green looks so much better in the spring and the paths around the green are safer if the leaves are cleared in the autumn. Just an hour from lots of people will quickly get this job done so put Saturday November 12th in your diary, bring a rake and/or a brush and we will provide the bags!

CRY BABY AND THE HOOCHIE COOCHIE BOYS November 19th 8.00 p.m. Village hall

A five piece rhythm and blues outfit combining the 50's Chicago rhythm and blues sound with high energy British blues, Cry Baby and the Hoochie Coochie Boys have been gigging around the Potteries since 2009. Recently described as a 'Dance Floor Rhythm and Blues Band' Cry baby were a massive hit at Fulfest and that pretty much says it all – Cry Baby will soon get you on your feet! Tickets cost £8.00 and will be available on the door or in advance from anyone in the village group, there will be a bar (so please do not bring your own drinks but do bring nibbles if you wish) and doors open at 8.00 p.m. All monies raised will go towards village funds.

THE REVEREND PREBENDARY PETER DAKIN

We were very sad to hear that Peter will be retiring on health grounds and that Peter, Cathy, Michael and Sarah will be moving away from Fulford. The family have been part of village life for many years and will be sadly missed but particularly Peter's kindness, caring and humour. We all wish Peter well for the future and thank him for his contribution to the parishes of Fulford and Hilderstone.

HARD BACK BOOKS WANTED

Money keeps coming in steadily from the sale of books at the pub with £1,100 having been raised for the Church so far. A request has come in however for good quality, hard backed books to furnish a library and the customer will make a significant contribution if these books can be supplied so please, if you have some hard back books you no longer need please drop them off at the pub. Books that do not sell are taken to Oxfam and over £140 has been raised from the sale of these.

HIGHWAYS

Maintenance of the village infrastructure is no longer done routinely so it is in our interest to report blocked drains, holes in the roads, street lights, flooding, areas that have become hazardous, grit bins that need filling, etc. It is a very easy process either by phone, or quite simply and accurately on the County Council website, it takes 2 minutes on www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ "road or lighting faults". Or phone 0300 111 8000. Environmental issues, such as littering, graffiti, dog mess, sharps, fly tipping and problems with children's play areas, can all be reported with just one phone call to StreetScene or on the Borough Councils website www.staffordbc.gov.uk/.

FULFORD COMMUNITY CHOIR Sundays 4.00 – 6.00 Village hall (roughly fortnightly)

Fulford Community Choir is open to everyone regardless of age or experience and is a great way of relaxing and making friends. For more information, contact Wendy 01782 398186



FULFEST 2016

Despite the best preparation ever, a fantastic programme of music, children's activities and pub music and food, the weather just did not want to be kind. After torrential rain overnight the village green was sodden and quickly turning into a mud bath so, for safety and comfort, the decision had to be made to move everything to the village hall. If ever there was an example of the fantastic community spirit that exists in Fulford, this was it! With the amazing help of the Staffordshire Police Cadets, some imaginative thinking from the organisers and lots of willing helpers, in a matter of hours the festival was relocated. We were all sad to see everything disappearing from the village green but there was soon a steady stream of people making their way to and from the village hall to the pub and there was live music in the pub until late into the night. At the village hall tea and cake was soon being served, children's games organised, the bands were playing and in spite of the last minute reorganisation the schedule was running to plan. Thank you to the Parish Council for their ongoing support and to everyone who helped to make Fulfest '16 a day to remember!

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

All the winning photos are now framed and on display in the pub (they can be seen en-route to the toilets!) and last year's winners have received their framed pictures to keep. Thank you to everyone who submitted their photos to this year's competition – keep snapping great views of Fulford!

FULFORD 2017 CALENDARS

The Fulford 2017 Calendars are at the printers and will be on sale at village events soon. The photos selected for the calendar were submitted in the photographic competition and feature scenes and wildlife from Fulford. The calendars are available in two formats and cost £6.00 or £4.00 with all money raised going towards projects in Fulford.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON 01782 399320

The Wednesday quiz continues to be really popular with cash prizes for the top three places and the added bonus of Play Your Cards Right at the end of the evening. The quiz starts at 9.00 but it is best to arrive by 8.45 to get settled with a drink and make a start on the picture round. The Christmas Quiz on Wednesday 21st December will be all of this and more with spot prizes for the best Christmas jumper and other festive challenges.

Keep an eye on the notice board outside the pub for information about other special events.

HALLOWEEN AT THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON Sunday 30th October from 5.00 p.m.

Come along to the Shoulder for some Halloween fun including a £5.00 buffet and a prize for the best fancy dress costume. More details will be available from the pub nearer the time.

NEW YEAR AT THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON

Just a short walk from home and at only £10 a ticket to include a hot buffet and disco (fancy dress optional) this promises to be a great way to welcome in the New Year!

More details including ticket sales will be available from the pub nearer the time.

FULFORD VILLAGE GROUP MEETINGS

These open forum meetings take place on the **first and third Tuesdays of every month at 8pm** in the Shoulder, everyone is welcome.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library now visits Fulford Village Hall at 11.55 and Moss Lane at 1.15 every 3rd Friday.

THE VILLAGE HALL www.fulfordvillagehall.org.uk

The Village Hall continues to be a fantastic resource for the village not only for the activities it hosts but as a location for fundraising and social events for the local community and for private parties, weddings and birthdays. Pilates classes are now held on a Monday and Thursday evening, Badminton on a Monday evening and Table tennis every Friday 10.00 – 12.00.

For a timetable of the regular bookings held in the hall and for information about forthcoming events, please visit the website, and for party bookings tel. 01782 388784 or email bookings@fulfordvillagehall.org.uk.

WHAT'S ON IN FULFORD 2016

(but check www.fulfordvillage.com for the latest info)

OCTOBER

Sunday 30th Halloween party from 5.00 p.m. the Shoulder

NOVEMBER Sunday 6th Village walk 11.00 a.m. Village Green

Saturday 12th Autumn Tidy 10.30 a.m. Village Green

Sunday 13th Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 19th Cry Baby and the Hoochie Coochie Boys 8.00 p.m. Village Hall

DECEMBER Friday 2nd Santa and Soup 6.30 p.m. on the Village Green

Saturday 3rd Christmas Fair 2.00 p.m. Village Hall

Saturday 3rd FCC Christmas Concert with Stone Choral 7.30 p.m. Christchurch, Stone

Sunday 4th Village walk 11.00 a.m. Village Green

Sunday 11th Fulford Choir Christmas Concert 7.00 p.m. Village Hall

Friday 16th Carols and mulled wine 7.00 p.m. on the Village Green **(date tbc)**

Sunday 18th Carol Service 6.00 St Nicholas' Church

Wednesday 21st Christmas Quiz 9.00 p.m. at the Shoulder

Saturday December 31st New Year party the Shoulder

JANUARY Thursday 5th Games night 8.00 p.m. the Shoulder

Sunday 8th New Year Walk 11.00 a.m. Village Green

FEBRUARY Sunday 5th Village walk 11.00 a.m. Village Green

Saturday 11th Barn Dance with Folkus Pocus Village Hall

MARCH Sunday 5th Village walk 11.00 a.m. Village Green

KEEP UP TO DATE

If you would like to keep more up to date with what's going on in the village join the Fulford Village email list by sending your email address to fulfordvillagegroup@googlemail.com

**Thank-you to the 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.**