

Annual Fovant Parish Meeting Fri 20 May 2022

Agenda

1. Welcome by the outgoing Chairman of the Parish Council. Proceeding to reports from organisations and groups.
2. Report from Ward Councillor Nabil Najjar
3. Fovant Community Support Group (FCSG)
4. Fovant Network
5. Fovant Village Website
6. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – J70
7. Fovant Parish Council (FPC)
8. Dinton Church of England Primary School
9. Fovant Village Hall Management Committee
10. Fovant Youth Club
11. Spring Orchard Surgery
12. Fovant History Interest Group (FHIG)
13. Fovant Badges Society
14. Fovant Village Hall Coffee Morning
15. Valley Choir
16. Three Towers fete
17. St George's Church
18. Three Towers Community Magazine
19. Fovant Independent Ladies Group (FiLGroup)
20. The Open Door
21. Fovant Relief in Need Charity
22. Police
23. Open Forum.
24. Closing Remarks

1. Welcome by the outgoing Chairman of the Parish Council

The 2022 Fovant Annual Parish meeting opened at 6.30 pm on 20 May 2022, in Fovant Village Hall. Eighteen residents attended, as well as the Ward Councillor Mr Nabil Najjar. Notices advertising the meeting had stated that the meeting was open to all electors to speak on any issue of local interest. Twenty one local organisations and groups had been identified and were sent reminders of the meeting, and all of them had submitted written reports. According to tradition, the outgoing Chair of the Parish Council, Dr Tony Phillips, chaired the meeting and read out reports where the proposer was absent. In view of the large number of reports submitted, the Chair asked that questions and comments be left until the Open Forum at the end of the meeting.

Reports from Groups

2. Nabil Najjar, Ward Councillor for Fovant and the Chalke Valley

It has certainly been a busy start to 2022 at Wiltshire Council and I am continuing to work hard to deliver on my promises from last year's election – tackling speeding and road safety, supporting my communities and residents, and lobbying for more funding for Fovant and the Chalke Valley.

I'll start this report by expressing my relief that the waste collection strike has come to an end – I know this was an inconvenience for everyone, and I know I'm looking forward to seeing the mountain of recycling that has accumulated in my shed finally being removed. Thank you all for your patience while we worked through this issue with the unions and our contractor.

In more positive news, we were able to secure Wiltshire Council funding for a whole host of projects across my villages. This was the result of a lot of work at my end, and a huge amount of work done by parish councils across the division, and I would like to thank them all for their support.

We secured funding for new speed indicator devices in Barford St Martin, and Berwick St John, in addition to the three SIDs we funded for Fovant last year, which will go a long way towards improving road safety and tackling speeding through these villages.

We secured £5,000 for a new playground in Barford St Martin, helping the village develop lasting assets for the community, and we delivered a further £4,000 for the Chalke Valley Sports Centre to help them expand their offering and grow their membership. I know this money will be well spent.

We were also able to provide funding for new pedestrian gates in Sutton Mandeville, footpath improvements in Fovant, and financial support for the Summer Concert in Compton Chamberlayne.

These are just some examples of how I am working to ensure that my villages receive their fair share of Wiltshire Council funding.

Alongside this, I am developing a creative solution to address speeding and road safety more widely in our area. I formed the Chalke Valley Speed and Flood Working Group, bringing together representatives from all 15 of my parishes to help develop a holistic solution for the whole area.

I recently invited our Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Mark McClelland, and John Derryman from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to help us develop these plans, to ensure we make our roads and communities safer.

More broadly, I continue to engage proactively with our major stakeholders, such as the Cranborne Chase AONB, and I was delighted that Wiltshire Council has continued its current funding levels for the AONB, despite budgetary pressures.

I continue to work with communities to ensure that contentious planning applications are addressed openly and transparently, and I worked with the community at Heath Farm Park to help voice their concerns about proposed developments in their area.

In my role as the Council's Portfolio Holder for Arts, Heritage, and Tourism, I continue to promote the importance of our fantastic natural, historic, and cultural assets across the county, making sure they are the heart of our economic regeneration, and the future of our market towns. I have some very exciting plans for our High Streets, and a potentially game-changing programme called What's On In Wiltshire, on which I hope to release more details soon.

I was also delighted to have been given additional responsibility for the Environment within my portfolio, and I will be working with colleagues across the county to encourage and promote sustainability, biodiversity, protection of landscapes and habitats, as well as celebrating everything great we are doing at Wiltshire Council to support the environment.

It has now been almost a year since I was elected as your County Councillor, and the experience has been thoroughly enjoyable, albeit challenging at times. I am committed to delivering on my election promises, and I hope that this update reflects the progress that we have made to date.

As always, if you'd like to get in touch, please feel free to email me on nabil.najjar@wiltshire.gov.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

3. The Fovant Community Support Group (FCSG)

The FCSG was formed in March 2020 at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The aim was simple: to create a support network offering help to those in need during such difficult and unprecedented times.

Volunteers were recruited with ease, and over the next year, a constant stream of support continued, mainly involving the collection and delivering of prescriptions and shopping trips.

Times have moved on, and with recognition and gratitude to the incredible roll out of the vaccination programme by the NHS, the FCSG was able to stand down a year ago.

However, it remains on standby, and it is in a position to step up once more at a moment's notice if needed.

The communication between the hubs in the Village, originally created 2 years ago, remains in place, and has proved to be an effective quick and simple means of communication to address a need which may arise.

The formation of the support group demonstrated the wonderful community spirit which exists in Fovant and the willingness to step up and offer help to those in need.

Diana Rae

4. The Fovant Network

The Fovant Network came into being in early 2021. Its origins come from discussions within the Fovant Community Support Group (FCSG) team. Within this group there was an interest in ensuring there was a legacy benefit from the village support network created by FCSG that would survive beyond the acute stage of the C-19 pandemic.

The first meeting of The Fovant Network (January 2021) established membership and purpose. The membership currently includes nominated representatives from the Fovant Badges Society, Fovant Village Hall, Spring Orchard Surgery, Fovant Parish Council, Fovant Community Support Group, The Waterside Youth Club, St George's Church, Fovant Relief in Need, and FILGroup. Other village-based groups are welcome to connect into The Fovant Network by providing a nominee to attend the occasional meetings. The network is supported by Dr Jeremy Hinks who acts as convener and facilitator for the group.

The purpose was agreed as 'to share knowledge, experience and resources between village groups, supporting their ability to provide facilities and activities for all age groups. In doing so to ensure that Fovant is a village having something to offer everyone who lives here.'

The Fovant Network exists to ensure that the collective wisdom and experience across the village can be brought to bear on project work of interest to villagers. It does not meet for the sake of it. Instead, it is available to convene should there be a project that would benefit from the input from a group that is stronger than the sum of its parts. It has no budget or decision making authority yet it can quickly identify a consensus (or the lack of one) in support of projects intended to offer something to enhance village life. In doing so The Fovant Network empowers those groups within the village who have both budget and decision making powers to move to action.

While the Fovant Network cannot claim the credit for doing the hard work it has been influential in setting wheels in motion leading to the Fovant Village website (www.fovantvillage.com) and the many coordinated activities that are planned to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June.

Dr Jeremy Hinks

5. Fovant Village Website

Since its launch, last October, the Fovant village website continues to develop and build its audience providing a useful new source of information for events, groups, resources and facilities in the village.

It was developed and designed in response to two local groups; the Fovant Network and the Parish Council. Groups represented in the Fovant Network were enthusiastic about the concept of a website which could enhance communication around the village. The Parish Council needed to publish their meetings, agendas and business as part of their statutory responsibility, but they also wanted to engage with local people more readily and update villagers on progress and projects. In short, the website was tasked with being a reference point and a communication tool. Both groups were consulted during its development.

It is pleasing to note that the website is now attracting quite an audience and for the last 5 months the number of new visitors has increased by between 8 – 11% each month, representing up to 78% of the total numbers of users. The most visited page is the Homepage and the average time spent here is 4.30 mins. This is understandable as it is the kicking off point for upcoming events and also contains the village calendar. The Parish Council page is the most popular page alongside Planning. When new planning details are added to the site the number of hits shoots up noticeably, so this is information which is really appreciated by the users. The most popular traffic source currently is via Google with 69% of users using this search engine to find the site. Direct address accounts for a further 17%, Facebook 10% and Bing/Other 4%. Since the launch there has been a 72% increase in direct address traffic which is an indication of the website's success. 50% of users choose their mobile phone to access the website; 47% use their desktop pc and 3% their tablet. The annual running costs of the website are £172.13, and met by the Fovant Parish Council although all the design, development and maintenance of the site is completed for free.

Of further note:-

When the recipe Blog is published this increases traffic to the site on that particular day

In the early days of the website's existence, users visited via the Fovant Resident Facebook links, this has now changed, and people search for the website in its own right.

In January, the village walks pages attracted a lot of interest

A Business Directory page was added in April so telephone numbers and contact details of local services can be easily found.

Local groups send new information through regularly for updating by the webmaster and any changes requested are made immediately – organisers do not have to wait for publication.

The contact email address linked to the website is used daily by people for queries, bookings & questions which the webmaster responds to.

The website has hosted the Mentimeter survey concerning the road closure for the Jubilee Street Party. It was an invaluable tool for getting feedback and gauging village opinion easily, speedily and

in a manageable format. This is something that could be used much more by groups to gather opinions and consult with the village on a whole variety of issues.

The existence of the website has also proved significant in adding value and providing crucial evidence for recent successful grant applications for the village; Wiltshire Community Fund and National Lottery.

Derryn Hinks – Webmaster of www.fovantvillage.com

6. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – J70 2 – 5 June

Out of the 'Fovant Network Meeting' led by Jeremy Hinks in late January, emerged the unanimous desire to 'do something' in the village for the Jubilee. Three strong ideas quickly emerged and gained momentum; a Street Party, a Lantern Procession & a Crown Beacon on the Fovant Downs. Happily, each project attracted a volunteer lead, each with a strong vision of what could be achieved.

A Jubilee Focus group was set up led by Diana Rae who gathered a team around her to deliver every aspect of the Street Party including road closures, risk assessments, catering, artistic projects, decoration and activities. This event on 3 June, is the core activity of 'Fovant Celebrates,' as it is a wonderful opportunity for our linear village to mix and socialise with old and new friends and neighbours in the safe environment of Tisbury Road. Whilst traditional cream teas will be provided by FILGroup, there will also be a strong emphasis on activities for the young people in the village as well as creative projects which everyone can enjoy. Two activities in particular aim to provide lasting art installations to commemorate the occasion; a pebble mosaic of the Jubilee graphic for the village, and a tile wall mural for the Youth Club. Julie Wallis & Chris Brantingham have been instrumental in pulling these together, involving 'Open Door' members as well as the Youth Club. On the actual day of the Street Party we hope everyone who wants to get involved, of whatever age, will try their hand at painting & creating.

Meanwhile, Leslie Brantingham led on the Crown Beacon project to coincide with the International Beacon Lighting across the country at 9.45pm on Thursday 2 June. He has also gathered a great team of supporters to prepare the site on the centenary poppy & to ignite the beacon on the night as well as stuffers and fuellers of old food cans!

To extend the Beacon idea, Derryn Hinks has led the Lantern Procession project which has been generously supported by Susie Newman who volunteered her time to deliver two fantastic lantern making workshops for the children & adults in the village. The lanterns will gather at East Farm by kind permission of the Williams family, shortly before the beacon is lit, to hand over 'the light'.

Many individuals & organisations have stepped forward to make this possible and given their time, money, gifts in kind, artistic talents, skills and ideas to ensure that 'Fovant Celebrates' is an occasion for everyone in our community. Without people's help and generous support none of this would have been possible.

The Parish Council & Wiltshire Council SWWAB have financially supported all of these projects and money was also found to give the children of the village a commemorative keepsake medal which it is hoped will be a special memory of this momentous occasion. In addition, a successful grant application was made to the National Lottery by Derryn Hinks for more permanent reminders to mark the occasion of the Queen's 70th year on the throne, for the village. These will take the form of a new flag pole and flag for the Village Hall, Village Art installations and a commemorative bench to enhance the beauty of Fovant.

Diana Rae, Leslie Brantingham, Derryn Hinks

7. Fovant Parish Council report

After the inconvenience – and probably inefficiency - of virtual meetings the Council was able to return at last to face to face meetings. However interactions with the Area Board remained virtual and difficult until March, and the Board's commissioning of Highways projects important to Fovant were repeatedly delayed by contractor staffing disruptions. The Council settled into meetings every two months with intermediate meetings when needed for urgent matters such as finance or planning. One of the planning meetings to consider applications by the Greater Good Public house attracted 18 members of the public, many of whom spoke.

We have made good progress this year on a number of fronts, and you can see a description of the main Projects in Progress on the Parish Council part of the Village Website. So, I don't need to go through the detail here. The list was updated last week. The headings so far are:

Website..

Defibrillator.

Highways improvements.

SIDs, metrocounts and the police.

Road drains.

Working group among the (14) Ward parishes.

Interaction with County for road safety and footpath grants.

Emergency equipment and planning.

Updating of footpaths and planters.

But I must highlight a few things about the year. First, the website itself. It seems to me that the skill and dedication of webmaster Derryn Hinks, and her enthusiasm for quick updating, has changed life for all of us. A small part is the advantage for the Parish Council, enabling us make changes to our web sub site without any delays for residents. We will continue to pay the small cost of the fees to run the site.

Secondly, we continue to focus on Highways matters, to keep our village roads safer. We obtained a grant for the purchase of three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), a scale of initiative recognised as unique among the 39 parishes of the Area Board. These SIDs are installed in our 20 mph limits, on verges on High Street, Tisbury Road and Dinton Road, courtesy of the householders. We also achieved a change to the 30 mph signs on the A30 at the entrance from Shaftesbury, with better signs, rumble strips and clearance of the verge to provide better visibility of the signs. The first lot of Metrocount speed tubes that we asked to be laid in that 30 mph section show that there is a case for police enforcement action.

Thirdly, we have started to increase the pressure on Wiltshire Council to do more to clear our road drains and so reduce the risks of flooding to houses and also increase safety for pedestrians.

However, there is much still to be done. The illuminated speeds of the SIDs are only a first step because we intend to use the speed data collected by the devices to persuade the police to come and carry out enforcement. Data in 2021 from metrocount tubes at roughly these locations showed that up to half of motorists at any time through the day were exceeding the enforceable speed of 24 mph. However, we will have to argue skilfully and persuasively to find a police door to open, as there is no evidence yet that the police have been asked to respond to data from SIDs. The second troubling issue is the lack of County funding for preventive drain clearance - again, we must find a

door, and force it open. We are going to need active support from our Ward Councillor Nabil Najjar to achieve these goals. The committee structure of the Area Board that considers grant applications for highways, and now for footpaths and flooding, is changing, something else for us to learn how to work with and ensure our share of the benefits. Success cannot be guaranteed, but we'll try.

One potential point of concern is the number of councillors we have to cope with the increasing complexities of some of these tasks. We started the year with seven councillors, but two resigned quickly so we are now down to five – of the 9 permitted. I'm pleased to say that two further residents have come forward and asked to be co-opted, and I hope that will happen later tonight. The other point here is that you don't need to be a Councillor in order to take part in Parish Council projects. This year we had a joint initiative with the Village Hall committee to install a defibrillator outside the hall, and Martin Wallis organised the wiring and is checking the device on a weekly basis. And the charity Seeds for Success, to be seen at the Waterside every week, is helping Councillor Will Hobbs to achieve updating of more of the footpaths around the village – FP 16 up on Fovant Down is the latest one planned for attention. Another 'joint' project is that the Trustees of the Youth Club have agreed to install a small room in their building for the Council to store its collection of emergency equipment. Our two generators were used by several householders during the recent power cuts.

We of course continue to allocate proportionate grants to support specific needs of village activities. This year we provided grants to the J70 activities, the Burial Ground, the Free Church notice board replacement, and a payment to the 3 Towers magazine towards the printing costs of Council information.

Lastly, our Clerk and Proper Officer Les Brantingham retired in March. Les has done much to regularise administrative matters hanging over from the previous Clerk. Our new Clerk is Tim Culver James, who is also an employee of Tisbury Parish Council.

Tony Phillips

8. Dinton Church of England Primary School

This academic year has been a very successful chapter for the school. By the summer term, school life has returned to normal after two years of interruptions linked to COVID. The school currently has 82 pupils on roll, 18 of our pupils reside in Fovant. Our School is the catchment school for children in Fovant, so the council continues to provide a free minibus service every day.

The school budget is very healthy meaning that the school can afford to return to 4 classes in September. The youngest children will be taught in a straight Reception class of 14 pupils while other class will range in size from 18 to 25 pupils. We also welcome two new teachers to the team who will bring particular strengths to music and the arts. Sadly, after 33 years we say a fond farewell to Mrs White. She has undertaken pretty much every role possible in a school over the years, and will be sorely missed. If you know Maggie and want to be involved in her leaving events then please get in touch with the school office at admin@dinton.wilts.sch.uk

One of the best things about this year has being able to take children out on trips. The children have visited a number of places including Wardour Castle, Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Lulworth Cove, Mudeford, and Salisbury Cathedral. We have also attended a number of sporting events, winning an indoor cricket festival and enjoying, football, athletics, golf and swimming. Art continues to be a real strength of the school with children making and designing a range of artwork including masks and paintings. Children get the opportunity to enjoy music with a choir, recorder lessons and lessons on brass, drums and piano.

The school environment has had a makeover with internal redecoration, a new suite of computers and the development of a space for Forest School Education. The school has also purchased new outdoor play apparatus for the youngest pupils and a cricket pitch. Children have also enjoyed planting 30 trees as part of the Queen's canopy initiative.

Please keep an eye on what we are up to at www.Dinton.wilts.sch.uk

9. Fovant Village Hall

It was a great relief to re-open the Village Hall on May 22nd 2021 following its transformation into a warm and well insulated venue for activities and events, and it now has the added benefit of WiFi due to the efforts of Linda.

Before too long the hearing loop and new speaker system will be installed. Derryn has been the driving force behind this and has also secured grants to help with this project which will greatly improve the experience for those with hearing difficulties.

In December the hall hosted a Jazz evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there though the usual Ploughman's Lunch was cancelled due to the worry of infection. A Wine and Cheese evening was organised by Derryn and David at the end of January. It was a huge success and something which we may include in our activities again. In March we hosted John Hegley the performance poet-the previous booking in February having had to be cancelled as John had Covid. On April 23rd we at last had our much enjoyed Quiz Night again. With Andy in charge of the quiz questions it was an enjoyable and challenging evening with the hot food provided by Cheryl and the puddings from a number of ladies in the village.

Although some events have had to be cancelled due to surges of Covid infections it has been well-used during this year. The exercise class, pilates, tap and the Filgroup have all been welcomed back. Thursday Coffee mornings resumed in July and Valley choir in September. Moon's Massage Retreat continues with their monthly Monday of meditation sessions and lunch. There have been new activities in the hall this year. On Saturday mornings Cheryl Holloway has begun cooking breakfasts, which are enormously popular and extremely good! She has also started an Open Door morning on Tuesdays which now incorporates the craft club and is open to everyone to chose an activity; play card games, join in a board game, draw, paint or just come in for a coffee or tea and a chat. Lunch is also available at a very good price. Lizzie Heavenor has returned with her Sunday Yoga sessions and Rick Haynes has started a Creative writing Group which meets every other Wednesday in the late afternoon. The hall continues to be booked for parties and also as a rehearsal venues.

Outside the hall Beryl has been looking after the plants in the troughs and the right hand trough now has Heuchra in it, an evergreen perennial which doesn't mind the shade. The banks both sides now have a range of plants and they are all doing well. Most of the stumps have now been removed though some are still resisting! The committee would like to thank Jacquie Maggs for keeping the hall clean for all to use and I would like to thank the committee for all their much needed support this year and their positive response for help in the running of hall activities.

Celia Haselgrove

10. Fovant Youth Club 'The Waterside.'

1. The past year has been notable for several things not related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, FYC has undertaken a transformation from being partly moribund into a more vibrant and outlooking organisation.

2. There have been multiple changes wrought to the facilities financed by a combination of our own reserves, Wiltshire Council COVID support grants, Wiltshire Council South West Wiltshire Board grants, donations from local people and help by both local trades people who either donated their labour at no cost or discounted rates and self-help by committee members. This fantastic combination and contribution from all these sources has enabled us to provide a facility which is enabling the second stage of our rejuvenation. The most notable changes wrought in the past year have been:
 - a. Work to improve the ventilation and breathability of the mainly solid stone wall building and the outside road drainage by the gable wall which faces onto the road.
 - b. Replacement heating using Air Source Heat Pump.
 - c. Internal redecoration.
 - d. Fencing of the perimeter reducing access to the stream.
 - e. Provision of a disabled access toilet, allowing conversion of another room into a dedicated store.
3. All the above is but the enabler for us to provide a better service to the community of Fovant and surrounding villages. We have re-established and expanded our services to young people through activities managed by the trustees and activities delivered in our building by other organisations. We are in the process of building a range of activities for ages 0 – 25, and currently provide:
 - a. Baby/Toddlers group
 - b. After school Juniors (up to age 11)
 - c. Age 15+ activities provided by the charity Seeds4Success (S4S) who provide this across South and South West Wiltshire.
 - d. A location for a local Home Education group to meet.
4. Our next challenge will be to complete some external changes to our site and to round out the gap in our activities, notably the 11 - 16 age group and more family orientated activities. We are planning a Summer Fayre on 2 July and will also be part of the Fovant commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee.
5. All this would not be possible without a diverse and numerically strong committee. The past year has seen several trustees join us and, importantly, collectively provide the ideas, impetus, organisation and labour for a number of the improvements and activities.
6. We have a new Secretary, following the retirement of the previous Secretary (who had been secretary since the start of the century!), and we are always looking for new trustees to help us with as much expertise, help etc as they are able to provide – most notably we will not be able to sustain an 11 – 16 club without trustees who are able to provide their time on a rota basis. The future of the Youth Club is always more dependent on people than anything else and I believe we have laid the foundations for the Youth Club to continue well into the future.

Clive Roberts

11. Spring Orchard Surgery (2021/22)

Practice issues

There have been significant changes in the Spring Orchard team over the last 12 months.

Tony Clarke retired after over 40 years of General Practice. He has been replaced by Dr Françoise van Dorp on Tuesdays.

Kathryn McCleod-Jones resigned earlier in the year, taking a break from practice nursing to be able to support her children at a key point in their education. She has been replaced by Sarah Fry, and Mandy Newland

Our Friday dispenser, Georgie, left to pursue her dream job, working with primates at Paignton zoo. She has been replaced by Sharon who works at the Wilton branch of the practice for the remainder of the week.

COVID issues

We have had a challenging year, with an ongoing and sustained increase in workload as we continue to recover from the turmoil of the COVID pandemic.

We continue to contact all patients by phone before arranging face to face appointments – this has allowed us to prioritise care for those who need face to face appointments at the most appropriate time with the most appropriate member of staff.

Telephone triage has allowed the practice to cope with at least double the number of requests for appointments compared to pre-pandemic.

In the last week we have re-opened the waiting-room for those patients who prefer to wait inside before their appointment. All patients continue to be given the option to wait in the car and be called in by buzzer if they are more comfortable with this.

General System issues

You will all be aware from news reports about the pressure on all services within the NHS .

For patients at Fovant surgery these are the issues which seem to be a particular problem at present:

- Hospital waiting times are long, and a significant proportion of our queries from patients are about issues connected with delays in hospital care.
- Mental health services are under severe pressure since the pandemic.
- The community nursing team is overstretched due to a general increase in patient need.
- Rapid access nursing support is very difficult to obtain when patients need urgent nursing care at home. This means some patients are admitted to hospital as there is no way for them to remain at home safely.
- There are long delays for finding staff for longer term care packages funded by Wiltshire council, this is leading to delays in discharge from hospital, and occasionally patients are sent home with insufficient care and support, so are readmitted to hospital.
- Patients and their families struggle to find private carers locally.
- Medication supply for certain medications has been erratic with unpredictable shortages of certain commonly prescribed medications.

These system issues have an impact on many of our patients, which in turn has increased the complexity and challenges of providing good GP care, as we are often asked to help cover gaps in service provision.

Despite this, morale is surprisingly high at the practice, and we continue to do our best to help care for the people of Fovant. According to the annual GP Practice Survey our patient satisfaction rates remain some of the highest in Wiltshire, and we continue to provide significantly faster access to care compared with other practices across the county.

Dr Lindsay Kinlin

GP The Orchard Partnership

fovant@nhs.net

01722 714789

12. Fovant History Interest Group FHIG

Background to the report

Fovant History Interest Group was established around 20 years ago with the following purposes:

- To do further research on the history of Fovant from external sources as well as from local residents and ex-residents.
- To index the historical records and images of Fovant and make them available via a website and publications.
- To interest the residents of Fovant in the history of their village by organising or being involved in events.

Membership has always been open to anyone in any location wishing to learn more about any aspect of the village's history or to provide any information about the same.

Key members since the group's inception have been Mike and Liz Harden, Beryl Paton and Margaret McKenzie. During this year they have continued to carry out some research in their individual areas of interest, and Liz took responsibility for responding to any enquiries received through the website and for recording any new historical information received as a result of such enquiries.

Unfortunately, during 2021 all of these stalwart members of FHIG decided it was time to step back from their committee roles and so these were taken on by other interested villagers as described below. Sadly, Margaret McKenzie and Mike Harden have subsequently passed away and so we would like to take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of the group and the village for their huge contributions to the current archive of information and the formats it is available in.

Changes in Committee Membership

Mary Kirman, who became a member of the group in 2001, has now taken over the role of Chairperson of FHIG from Liz Harden.

Nicola Matthews, who was also an early member of FHIG, has now taken over the role of Treasurer of FHIG from Beryl Paton.

Rupert Williamson has taken over the role of webmaster of the website www.fovanthistory.org from Mike Harden.

Vivien North temporarily took over the role of Secretary of FHIG but had to step down owing to family commitments and so we will be seeking a replacement

. As a result of publicising the change to the committee in Three Towers and asking for anyone interested in joining the group to make contact via the website, two new members have come forward and so one of these may be able to take on the role of Secretary going forward.

Activity in the past year

Activity of the group in the past year has principally taken the form of:

- Establishment of the new committee and holding meetings to discuss the future direction of the group.
- Moving the content of the website to a different platform in order to make it more readable, which has involved some cost. As part of his work on upgrading the website, Rupert Williamson has taken on the receipt of any email enquiries received through the site via the address info@fovanthistory.org
- Storing Margaret McKenzie's collection of historical research in the form of documents and artefacts temporarily in a secure location in the village, in order to catalogue it and look into the possibility of displaying it in a suitable venue in the village in the future, if this is possible, in line with her wishes.

Future plans

The group has agreed to hold an exhibition in the Village Hall on Saturday 4th June 2022 as part of the village's celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The exhibition will be open from 11 am to 4 pm with refreshments available to purchase courtesy of volunteers made up of friends and family of the group's members, to be enjoyed away from the exhibits in the back room. Entry will be free but donations will be welcomed since the hire of the hall for the day will need to be paid for from FHIG funds. These are primarily made up of sales of the book *Fovant – Pages from our History* which was published in 2005 and which will be on sale at the exhibition. It is the first time that the group has held such an exhibition since 2016 and it is hoped that it will be of interest to the many newcomers to the village since that time, as well as to all longer term residents, and that it will elicit more information to be recorded for posterity, and generate new support for the group's activities.

Mary Kirman

13. The Fovant Badges Society

Founded 1949

Registered Charity No. 1045087

Patron: HRH The Earl of Wessex KG, GCVO, CD, ADC(P)

- For those newcomers present, the Fovant Badges Society is a registered charity (run entirely by a volunteer committee) that exists to raise funds to preserve and maintain the chalk military badges and emblems on Fovant Down.
- The first badge was cut in 1916 by soldiers stationed in Fovant Camp, and the most recent badge to be fully restored was the YMCA emblem in 2018.

So, what have we done in the last year?

- Leslie Brantingham, our Conservation Officer, organised and oversaw maintenance of the badges in the summer of 2021. Soldiers from the Royal Corps of Signals fully restored their "Jimmy" badge using chalk we bought in previous years. They also restored the Centenary "Poppy" badge.
- The 2021 Drumhead Service had to be cancelled, mainly because of Covid-19.
- Our membership and regular donor numbers stands at about 200 and we are thankful for all the support given to the Society by the community of Fovant and further afield. However, we would

like to encourage new members to join, so please contact our membership secretary on 01722 714651 to obtain a membership form.

- The Australian Government continues to support the Society with a generous annual grant. This is primarily to fund the maintenance of their “ACMF” badge but can also be used to restore other badges.
- Our Chairman Mark Elcomb has retired from the Society. We are very fortunate that Jose Green (who many of you know was our County Councillor for many years) has become Chairman of the Society.

What's happening in 2022 -23

- The annual Drumhead Service has again been cancelled, due to be held on July 3rd. This decision was made back in January for mainly operational and administrative reasons. At the time, the pandemic was still making life very difficult, and the safety and health of attendees is always our paramount concern. We will review the situation in 2023.
- In 2022 we will carry out full restoration work on the remaining eight badges using KDC, a local contractor based in Dinton. We have bought 161 tonnes of chalk, which we hope will be sufficient for the job! KDC have made some progress with these Works; innovatively Flymo-ing the sward rather than strimming we will see if it that works better than the close crop strimming traditionally done.
- We are working on a new version of our Booklet, which should be on sale soon.
- The Centenary Poppy has been strimmed by volunteers from the village, and the Crown Beacon is now set out preparation for the installation of flares made by the village for the nationwide Jubilee Beacon Lighting Celebrations on June 2nd.

14. Fovant Village Hall Coffee Morning

We meet in the hall each Thursday from 10 am to 11 am. During this time 2 volunteers serve coffee/tea/biscuits to all who come and introduce any newcomers to the regulars so that they feel welcome.

There are sometimes 20 people enjoying this social event – sometimes less – but the level of conversation indicates that participants are finding it a satisfactory occasion! It is good to be able to meet again after the lockdown – “inclusion” in a social situation is so very good for the well-being of all the participants.

50 pence is charged for entry/coffee/biscuits so hopefully no-one is excluded because of lack of money?

Beryl Paton

15. Valley Choir

Although the Valley Choir resumed again in September 2021, many members were reluctant to come and sing due to the worry of spreading the virus through singing-this was completely understandable, singing being the activity which was deemed to be capable of spreading the virus easily. Since January the numbers have picked up a little and we remain hopeful that people will gradually feel it is safe enough for them to return without being dangerous for them or their close vulnerable relations. Those who have been able to return have been grateful for the joy of singing

together again under the direction of the ever patient choir leader Brian. There is even hope of a Summer concert!

Celia Haselgrove

16. The Three Towers Fete

The Three Towers Fete was postponed in 2020 and 2021 as a result of restrictions in place in relation to the pandemic. This followed cancellation due to extreme wet weather in 2019. The possibility of organising a fete in 2022 was considered, but in view of celebrations being organised by villages in relation to the Queen's Jubilee, was not progressed. The funds which were raised from the kind donations of sponsors in 2019 remain in the Three Towers account with the intent that these are used in relation to a fete possibly in 2023 if there is sufficient support to organise the event.

Paul Rae

17. St Georges Church Fovant PCC

The PCC had to be flexible throughout 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on activities. Members physically met twice during the year, with any interim business undertaken by email. Services similarly have been intermittently disrupted with none in the church from 5th January to 28th March due to the 3rd national lockdown. We were able to have a Harvest Festival Service followed by Lunch in the Village Hall in September, the profits were given to the Fovant Youth Club; and we were able to hold our well attended Remembrance Service in the churchyard and church. A particular thank you to Colin Lee who came back to play the Last Post, which makes it very special for us, surrounded as we are by the war graves.

There were no weddings during the year, but a Baptism, a funeral and two thanksgiving services were conducted and there were two internments of ashes in the churchyard.

The newcomers' coffee morning, missed in 2020, was very successful with at least 33 people attending; the most for several years.

We did as much fundraising as we could to help with the endless building repairs. The plant and cake sale raised £787 and £965 was raised from teas and a plant sale at the Fovant House Open Garden in June.

The St George's 50/50 club has had a refresh with Sharon Knight and Liz Dawe taking on the management and introducing on-line banking for the scheme which, this year, donated £843 to the Church Finances.

Three people took part in the 'Ride and Stride for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and St Georges received £382.

We donated £250 to the Royal British Legion following the Remembrance Sunday Service and this year we have contributed towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

So much of our time and money is spent on keeping the Church building in the best repair we can manage. Damp is one of the main causes and we now leave the main door wide open, only closed by the porch wire cage. This allows air to circulate and has made a huge difference.

When cement was introduced it was used indiscriminately and this prevented the natural breathing effect among the stones so that, where one part of a wall appears perfect, the part above is receiving

all the damp which then starts to swell and the plastering to crumble. We have one wall dealt with, only to find another very recently. It is never ending.

Added to that, the little wall between the Church and the Old Farmhouse started to fall to pieces and inevitably once we cleared the area we discovered the deterioration was far greater than expected. You will see work was begun and had to stop as we were looking at a fee of £5000 to fully rebuild. We are in the process of obtaining permission to plant a small hedge just in front of the bad part, with the idea that if funds ever become appropriate, the wall work could continue.

Further to all that, the lovely old Church organ has been in the building for very nearly 100 years. It was given by a village family and now needs major cleaning and refurbishing. Starting with a very generous donation from Judy Snowden's family we are gathering funds to carry this out early in 2023. Applications for grants have been quite successful and so far we have nearly £14,000 of our £19,000 target.

Many years ago the Church had decorative ceiling bosses, in some cases going back hundreds of years in age. When one fell down luckily missing the congregation it was decided they must all be removed on safety grounds. They have been stored ever since. Two retired National Trust Conservators came to look at them and were fascinated. We can provide some pictures for the website. They have catalogued them and are currently looking for grant schemes which will support us to research them further as well as conserve them.

We are very grateful for the continued support from so many helpers. People may not necessarily want to come to Church Services except the special festivals but they do like to have their Church looked after. It is such a special place and steeped in history. The Nadder Valley Bellringers were able to ring all 6 bells for services from July onwards. The Churchyard was mown and kept in good order in 2021 by Simon Martyn. The Churchyard Working party were able to resume their usual work and keep the churchyard looking tidy. They meet on the first Saturday of the month, 9 am until about 10.15 followed by coffee and chat. More volunteers are needed, especially those with trimmers. Do join us.

A rota of people come daily to open and close the church for visitors. There is also a cleaners' list. Flower arrangers brighten the church, and the sidesmen greatly aid the smooth running of services.

2022 Activities:

The Plant and Cake sale was held on 7th May in the garden of Brookside Cottage near the Surgery. We raised £250 from a raffle to send to the Ukraine and raised £668 for Church funds.

A "meet the neighbours" afternoon tea is on Saturday 21st May (tomorrow) so if you know of any new neighbours please do encourage them to come along and meet others from the village.

A special Church Service is to be held on Sunday 5th June to give thanks for Her Majesty's 70 years of faithful service. It will finish with a loyal toast. Everybody welcome!

Reverend Graham Southgate

18. Three Towers Community Magazine – Treasurer Needed

I have taken over as temporary treasure, but we need a new one. Accounts for 19/20 and 20/21 will be in July Magazine. MY report is that we lost 11 Advertisers during the pandemic, but numbers are beginning to pick up again. I personally purchased a new all inclusive machine as our old ones would no longer function. The £11,000 pounds was to be my donation to Fovant for all the wonderful years I have had here.

Our financial year is Nov to 31st October, but Christmas time is bad for income. Sadly the major loss of income meant we have drained our reserves. Pleas to the Parish Council resulted in £250 in 19/20 £600 in 20/21 and so far £200 this financial year.

The Magazine is produced monthly by 2 volunteers and then is distributed by 30 villagers from our 4 Parishes. Currently 550 copies are produced including those sent by post to previous residents.

The average month is 23 double side pages, so that is a total of 12,650 sheets to process! This month's will be more with a lot more colour. Colour side is 4p a side! Please can you send b/w with no blue for email address. I change it but the machine has a mind of its own and one blue word means we are charged 4p for 550 sides!!!!

The Three Towers has been produced for about 50 years, so please continue to support the magazine with your articles, photos and contributions. A special 'thank you' to all our advertisers without whose support the magazine would not be possible.

A lot has been mooted about only on line. I have had howls of NO NO NO!!!!

Finally if anyone would like to take over as Editor, please let me know

Mrs Pauline Story

19. FILGroup Fovant Independent Ladies Group

After 18 months without meetings the FILGroup welcomed everyone back in July 2021 to the garden of Gervase House on Dinton Road. Previous members, their families, friends & new residents enjoyed a lovely evening of drinks & nibbles all provided by the members of the committee.

Following on from this event the FILGroup moved forward to an interesting year with many talks & visits. We welcomed Trish Gray in September who gave a very humorous account of the road she has travelled and how she literally 'fell into' becoming an award winning spinner, weaver and noted sheep breeder.

In January the ever wonderful Roz Liddington bounced back into the village hall for Filgroup's first meeting of the year and instantly lit up an otherwise cold and miserable January evening. With her vast collection of old clothes, accessories and historical artefacts, plus her energy and enthusiasm, she transported us all back in time through old portraits and posters, referring to them as 'a blink in time'. Her collection is remarkable and very nostalgic.

Other interesting talks included Elizabeth Green' on the 'Great Wall of China' Spire Appeal charity walk; a representative from Neal's Yard; the Wiltshire beekeeper.

In November FILGroup members and friends enjoyed a visit to the JHG jigsaw factory in Ashmore over a year later than originally planned. It was interesting to see a UK business that had truly thrived during lockdown. After the tour we all enjoyed tea & cakes before leaving clutching our jigsaw puzzles.

Our Easter event of chocolate was maybe a little messy and perhaps frustrating at times, but lots of fun was had in April when members were encouraged to not only decorate a chocolate Easter egg but also cut out and make a box for the egg to stand in, then wrap it in pretty cellophane ready for presentation. The results were impressive and everyone turned out some very pretty eggs. Anne Mallelieu provided wonderful spring flower arrangements which were later included in the raffle of a large boxed Easter egg, helping to raise £52 towards the Air Ambulance charity.

The highlight of the FILGroup year was the Christmas buffet which was enjoyed by members & friends in the village hall. Guests were treated to prosecco & canapes followed by a delicious hot & cold buffet and an array of wonderful desserts. Full praise was given to Marilyn Willoughby who (with some assistance) from her daughter had created a truly mouth-watering feast.

The FILGroup meets once a month usually on the 2nd Thursday at 7.00pm in the village hall & we have many exciting events planned for the next year.

- A tour of Foxhill's beautiful garden on Dinton Road in May
- A day trip to Jane Austen country at Chawton House in Hampshire June
- The yearly garden party in July & other events to include reflexology, quilting & a make - up evening.

We are always happy to welcome new members-look our for the meeting details in The Three Towers.

20. The Open Door

Every Tuesday from 10 am until 2 pm, Fovant Village Hall hosts The Open Door.

Admission price is £3 including tea or coffee and biscuits.

Everyone is welcome - from the village and beyond. Come in for a drink and a chat. Perhaps play cards or a board game or try painting and drawing. Games and equipment provided or bring your own games and craft work.

Lunch is available from 12 pm and the prices are :

Soup & crusty bread	£2.50
Daily special main meal	£5.50
Dessert or cake	£1.50

(Beverage included).

Cheryl and Margaret look forward to welcoming you.

'No-one should ever feel isolated.'

21. Fovant Relief in Need Charity

The Fovant Relief in Need Charity (Charity no. 260569) is a small charity with limited funds, set up with the aim of making "dispensations of monies to residents of Fovant who are in need of financial assistance, this can be children, elderly, or anyone in need".

After many years of dormancy, the charity has now been revived under the leadership of the following five Trustees:

Matthew Boatwright *

Anne Cooke*

Karen Gilbert*

Celia Haselgrove*

Graham Southgate (*ex officio*).

Fovant Parish Council appoints four of the Trustees for a set term (indicated by *, above); the fifth Trustee serves *ex officio* in his/her capacity as Rector of Fovant.

Any financial support for the charity will be gratefully received, and applications for financial support will be considered.

Contact details are published on the inside front cover of *The Three Towers*.

22. All Police Reports in Fovant 01/05/2021 – 01/05/2022

Please find below all the crime reports and incidents for FOVANT. These run from 05/21 until 05/22. This is an average of 3 (2.75) crime reports a month for the community.

I would encourage that the community make use of the online crime reporting service on the Wiltshire Police website. However, should this not be practicable then please call 101 and the call operators will triage your report and make sure it reaches the right person. Our neighbourhood Policing team would much rather you made these reports than not. If the incident is a crime in progress or an emergency, then please dial 999.

If you wish to report something anonymously then please use the crime stoppers website or call 0800 555111.

As your Community Policing Team we can only resource and deal with the incidents we know about so correct and accurate crime reporting is essential.

I would encourage any questions, queries or concerns to be emailed to your community policing team officer. This would usually be myself. However, I am soon to be changing my role within Wiltshire Police and my replacement is being recruited. Once this person has been appointed, they will pass their details onto the Parish Council for dissemination amongst the community. Please use the email WarminsterAreaCPT@wiltshire.police.uk in the interim period.

Your area PCSO remains PCSO Neil Turnbull.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dan

PC 2930 CHAVENTRE

54210041848 – Child concern reported following male heard shouting at child on bus.

54210045980 – Road Traffic Incident. Single vehicle incident where rider has come off motorbike on OXDROVE BYWAY.

54210048857 – Road Traffic Incident. – Three vehicle collision. SHAFTSBURY ROAD.

54210051216 – Common Assault – Domestic Incident.

54210051529 – Concern for Safety of person following a domestic verbal argument.

54210055378 - catalytic converter theft.

54210056224 – Common Assault following road rage incident between vehicle and cyclist.

54210057228 – Criminal damage to vehicle.

54210061870 – Road Traffic Incident where vehicle has reversed into a property.

54210063380 – Anti social Behaviour. Reports made of persons shouting comments at the users and proprietors of a riding school.

54210063493 – Unknown suspect has made sexual comments during phone call to victim.

54210064599 - Unknown suspect/s have gained entry to an Outbuilding by cutting the lock with what appears to be an angle grinder. The suspect/s have gained entry but do not appear to have stolen any items.

54210065504 - Unknown suspect has gained access to the victims vehicle by damaging a lock on the side door and stolen a petrol strimmer.

54210067237 - 2 vehicle Road Traffic Incident. DEAN LANE/

54210074360 - Two suspects are continually shouting in the stable yard and when asked if they could keep the noise down have shouted obscenities to residents.

54210074504 – Theft: Victim has received a photo - from a delivery driver - of a parcel on her door step whilst she was out. When she got home, the parcel wasn't there. Unknown person has taken parcel from step.

54210078665 – Internet Fraud and Scam.

54210078668 - Known child has been trying to access victims garden by trying to push through to the fence, no damage caused to gate

54210079866 – Known child has been trying to access victims garden by trying to push through to the fence, no damage caused to gate

54210080619 – Common Assault following a neighbourhood dispute regarding bonfire smoke.

54210084826 – Anti Social Behaviour following neighbourhood dispute.

54210090553 - Suspect has threatened to damage an extension that he has recently built and knock it down following a civil dispute regarding payment.

54210092370 - Suspect(s) have forced entry to secure shed by prying off the lock bracket. Petrol Lawn Mower and 2 x strimmer's have been stolen from within.

54210103638 – Domestic incident verbal argument.

54210104460 - Unknown suspect/s have gained entry into an outbuilding and stolen a number of items.

54210106370 – Public Order Incident following road rage incident.

54210106559 – Sudden Death – no suspicious circumstances.

54210107178 – Domestic incident - Common assault.

54210118110 - suspect has gained entry to a house using the keys that were left in the door. Items have been stolen. The house is not lived in and is owned by a business who are renovating the houses in the street.

54210122532 – Domestic Incident - Assault with injuries amounting to ABH.

54210122729 – Domestic Incidents reporting Common Assault.

54210122897 – Theft of parcel from front door of property.

54210125132 - Unknown suspects shot 6 x hares and threw them out onto the pavement along the roadside over a 1/4 mile.

54220031340 – Road Traffic Incident. Public order offence following Road Rage.

54220031341 – Breach of sexual harm prevention order.

54220035201 – Unknown suspects have gained entry to a shed and stolen a tractor from within this.

54220035428 - 10yr old child found in distressed state with no adult nearby.

54220041447 - victim has returned home and disturbed 3 males in his property. Suspects fled the address and made off in a silver/grey car. 22 rifle stolen from gun cabinet by suspects was later located by officers within the property.

23 & 24. Open Forum & Closing Remarks

Two subjects were raised by residents and several people contributed points to the ensuing discussion.

A) Discussion of the Three Towers Community magazine report

- The Financial year of the magazine (to end October) and the business year of a Parish Council (to end March) differ. In its business year 2021-22, Fovant Parish Council (FPC) had provided funding of £600 followed by £200, to defray printing costs for FPC information. FPC has yet to decide on appropriate funding for 2022-23.
- FPC has never suggested that print publication should cease and transition to digital. Digital availability was only thought of as an alternative that could be offered, as a means to reduce the number of copies being printed and at the same time facilitate distribution by not requiring delivery by volunteers or by post.
- Conversations between residents in the last few weeks for example at village coffee mornings confirms that having a printed copy to read is appreciated by many people.
- There is currently renewed recognition of the importance of an accessible historic resource for Fovant. Having a collection of PDF files of the magazine could be an important element.
- Perhaps colour could be restricted to the front page, to cut printing costs.
- Cash payments as a charge for each copy of the magazine would be too difficult to collect. However, many readers may be willing to make periodic payments direct to the Editor. This strategy should be investigated.

B) Discussion of the proposed cost of the Stonehenge tunnel scheme.

- A concern was raised about the potential cost of the proposed Stonehenge tunnel, £1.7bn, seemingly excessive relative to improvements needed to other sections of the A303. Another view was that to remove the public's view of the monument from the South in perpetuity by the closure of existing roads would be unjustifiable.
- The Chair contacted Ward Councillor Nabil Najjar and Area Board Chair Cllr Bridget Wayman subsequently to ask about the potential draw on Council Tax. There would be a small cost to Wiltshire Council because officers would have to deal with ancillary matters such as the design of interfaces with local roads, and County archaeologists and ecologists may also be involved. However, most of the funding for our Wiltshire Council's Highways team comes government anyway so there should be only be minor costs to be funded from Council Tax.

Tony Phillips, as Chair, 28 May 2022