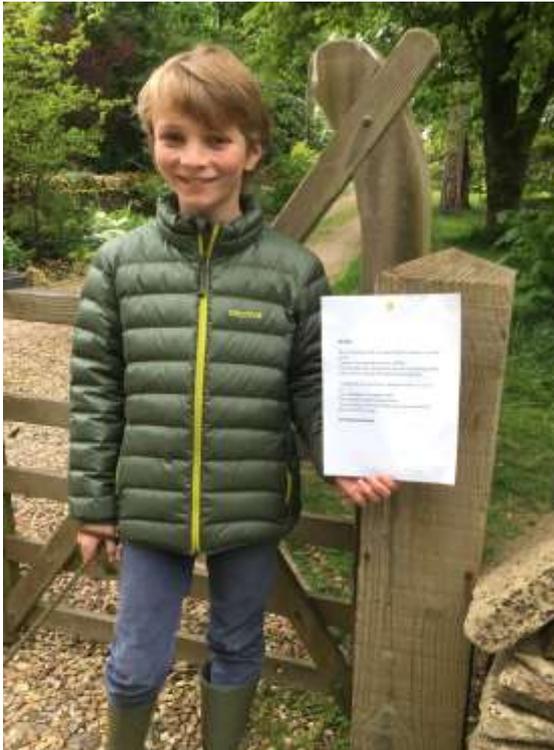


The Fulbrook News

Our Quarterly Newsletter

June 2020

Number 81



**Freddie Marsh with
his VE Day poem
which won plaudits
from his school
teachers**

**(See page 6 for a copy
of the poem)**

A note from the Editorial Committee

This issue of The Fulbrook News is rather different from usual as many of our regular contributors didn't have a contribution for us as they are closed due to coronavirus, so we invited contributions from villagers and we received photos of VE Day and stories of their experiences of the lockdown, all of which you can find on pages 14, 18 & 19.

We've also created a feature of World War 2 stories and pictures of some of our residents, which you can find on page 7 and which replaces our regular 'A conversation with . . .' feature.

We hope you like what we've done.

WANTED for publication! Please send us your articles, comments, ideas, letters, poems, whatever. This is your Newsletter – please send contributions to our email address: fulbrooknews@gmail.com

Next Issue: September 2020, Copy Date – Monday 10th August 2020

The Fulbrook News is distributed free to every household in the village. Subscription copies are available by post at £5.00 per annum from the distribution office at Dolphin House, Westhall Hill, OX18 4BJ

Dear Readers,

“... there is something about everything that you can be glad about, if you keep hunting long enough to find it.” – Eleanor H. Porter

Following the suggestions in Kim Kekwick's email from the Parish Council, many of us observed the 2 minutes silence at the front of the house on VE Day. Personally I found it very moving, perhaps reflecting as well on our present day troubles. Later there were street parties of a sort around the village, all showing their respect to social distancing – some photos on page 14. It was a good day for most and light relief from the same old day in, day out routine of the lockdown - such days can lift spirits as we remember the fallen and the war effort, but also celebrate the outcome from the sacrifices made. On page 7 you will find some interesting accounts of the war years from villagers.

Over the past few weeks we have encountered many a villager on our permitted daily exercise outings. Some of us applauded Pauline Ingleby as she managed to cycle to the top of Beech Grove in one and she wasn't even puffed out! - respect. Sam at Wisteria Cottage takes Dylan, whose 5th birthday had to be celebrated during lockdown so no long-awaited party this year, for his walks and runs as part of his home schooling programme. Rebecca is expecting their second baby in June and we wish her well - another baby in the village is very welcome. Residents of Westhall Hill in their large gardens have made a fantastic effort as we have witnessed on our many walks to Burford. What a pity we can't have an open gardens day at the moment. It does lighten the mood to have a quick chat with people as we go by, at a distance of course. The young people in the village are getting plenty of school work and their parents, I am sure, are learning a lot too and not just the 3 Rs!

Some very helpful villagers have been shopping on a regular basis for those shielding, and making trips to the chemist to fetch prescriptions, sending out emails and ringing to see what is required. Kim, our Parish Council clerk, has kept us up to date with developments locally, which has been very welcome. I know that she has also done some shopping runs.

How many of us have ordered groceries and take-away meals from the Carpenters Arms? I'm very pleased to report that lots of deliveries have been made and those of us using this service are very grateful for it. It's not easy for a business to survive in these trying times so it is reassuring to know that our support is helping to keep our village pub alive. I'm sure I can speak for us all when I extend a big "Thank you to Tom, Siobhan and Ryan for all that they do". A further tribute can be found on page 12. Let's look forward to an end to lockdown so that "We'll Meet Again" in The Carpenters.

There are also those key workers keeping our local services afloat: the chemist, the Post Office & newsagents, the Co-op and Mrs Bumbles and our wonderful postie, Mike. We salute you all!

The village has recently been beset by earthworks as Gigaclear lays its network. Many of us have found the workforce most helpful and obliging given the disturbance it was bound to cause. I'm sure it will all be worth it!

At the time of writing, Anne Hoyle is in the JR recovering from surgery on wrist and knee injuries suffered in a recent fall at her home. We offer our best wishes to Anne for a speedy recovery and to John at this difficult time.

We would like to welcome our new residents Alan and Jackie Thin to 2 Carpenters Place. We hope they have settled in and will be very happy here. Sadly, we say a fond farewell to Sandy & Vida Forrest – see a message from Vida on page 18.

Weekly bouts of clapping and some fireworks have joined in the national tribute to our beloved NHS. There have been many occasions lately when I have been very appreciative of fellow villagers and so **GLAD** that we live here.

Lesley Beveridge A.K.A. Pollyanna!

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FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Note on Coronavirus pandemic.

We generally pride ourselves as a neighbourly village. These present times of adversity have proved it to be so. At the start of our present troubles, the Parish Council posted a note to every house in the village asking for volunteers to help and for information about those in need of assistance. This simple approach worked really well and has settled into something of a routine. However, we must remember to manage our expectations as to what our kindly volunteers can do! Try to stick to fairly basic needs. This should be easy to do given the number of local businesses now providing shopping and delivery services. Kim Kekwick, Parish Clerk, has compiled a helpful list (below). That said, if you are aware of needs not being met in any way, please contact Kim on clerk@fulbrookvillage.net.

Direction from central government means that formal meetings of the Parish Council have been suspended, and we have satisfied ourselves with holding informal Zoom meetings to ensure we are keeping up to date with events as much as we can.

Amenities Committee

Village clean-up

Malcolm Taylor, councillor and chair of the amenities committee reminds us that the April village clean-up did not take place, but would welcome thoughts on how we might take a household or family approach (observing social distancing rules) to clean up a patch of our choosing. It's an idea worth thinking about... contact Malcolm on 07788 3911665 if you want to discuss.

Plant sale

In similar vein, the annual plant sale (a significant fund raiser for the amenities committee) was another casualty of coronavirus and didn't go ahead this year. However, keep an eye out at the front of David Foster's house (plant sale stalwart) where you may find some of the plugs and plants and seedlings grown for the event (PS. David tells us that all these plants have now gone!) Donations may be made through Malcolm. A big thanks to David for his generosity.

The amenities committee and parish council have no specific plans in the present fluid situation, but will be ready to respond to changing needs. Whilst the situation is rapidly changing, informal updates and commentary are to be found on our village Facebook page. In the meanwhile, we urge that you listen to government advice and continue to be the good and responsible neighbours we know you are.

The Carpenters Arms:

(thecarpentersarmsfulbrook.co.uk) is now offering an extended list of groceries available for delivery to addresses in Fulbrook, Burford, and Swinbrook.

Order by 2pm on Wednesdays for delivery on Thursday by 6pm. Ring 01993 823823 or 07419 356931. The same number will also enable you to order their excellent take away meals.

The Co-op in Burford: is now offering a home delivery service for those who are over 70 or vulnerable. Call in the morning for delivery the same afternoon. Payment by card over the phone, or by card machine at your door. Please telephone 01993 823038 to place your order. Opening hours are 7am - 9pm Mon- Sat. and 8am-8pm on Sunday.

Mrs Bumbles: has a pop up grocery store operating from her premises at the bottom of Burford High Street. For the vulnerable or over 70s, Sally is offering a daily delivery service of hot meals at £4 per portion and £5 for a Sunday roast, Sally also has available vegetables, bread, bacon, eggs, milk, sausages, pasta etc. Call 01993 822209 or email fryingpanfire@aol.com

WJ Castle Butchers/Farm Shop is now open in Burford High Street.

Cotswold Cheese Shop: will take your orders by phone and then you can pick it up from their store. 01993 823882

The Post office: is open, but please go by yourself and not as a whole family.

The Bakery on the Hill is open and taking orders for bread, cakes, and Cornish pasties for collection. They will deliver too if you need. 01993 823898

**Parish Council Chairman: Peter Burns
823640**

**Parish Clerk Kim Kekwick: 07792 020903
Amenities Group Chairman: Malcolm Taylor
824179**

**Don't forget the website:
www.fulbrookvillage.net**

Peter Burns, Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

From the Parish Clerk:

Please note the new email address for Kim Kekwick the Parish Clerk is: clerk@fulbrookvillage.net and her mobile number is 07792 020903.

The Parish Clerk sends out a weekly e-mail to those who ask for it, detailing events in the village, planning applications and other information from West Oxfordshire District Council. If you would like to be added to this list please e-mail clerk@fulbrookvillage.net

*Kim Kekwick
Parish Clerk*

Walford Ingleby – Chairman, Fulbrook Parish Council

Walford 'Wally' Ingleby did an exceptional job as chairman of the Parish Council. His approach went way beyond that seen in many other similar villages. Wally, with typical patience and calmness, has always been willing to help someone to understand, for example, the complexities of the planning process, or help in neighbourly discussions that happen in all villages.

Wally successfully guided the village Speedwatch campaign. It confirmed what we all knew: far too many motorists speed through our village. Thames Valley Police vacillated in their support for the project. However, Wally's persistence may be rewarded. It seems the many conversations with TVP, our MP and other interested parties may have paid off and, after the present difficulties, permission is likely to be granted to recommence, which will underpin the VAS (vehicle activated sign) which was repaired during Wally's watch.

During Wally's tenure OCC withdrew the public transport subsidy and the village lost its 233 bus. Despite valiant efforts by Chairman Wally with Go Ride, the company that took over the route, the service failed. He managed to give assistance to the Villager, which is still used by people in the village.

Another of Wally's significant contributions was leading the negotiations with Cottsway Housing Association to ensure the village would still have access to the Playpark, signing a 7-year lease. During Wally's tenure, the village website was upgraded, and the IT support was changed to a new provider in Witney.

His calm, thoughtful, and engaging approach will be sorely missed! We wish him well and remain grateful for his service.

Peter Burns on behalf of Fulbrook Parish Council

THE FULBROOK FORUM

**5 Mar 2020. It's Now or Never! What should Fulbrook do about the climate emergency?
By Malcolm Taylor and Professor Peter Burns.**

Whatever the cause, it is an undeniable fact that the world is warming. Can we reduce our contribution to this warming? With the facilitation of Professor Peter Burns (Director of the Institute for Tourism Research) and Malcolm Taylor (Finance Business Partner for Earth Watch) we explored the issues. They reminded us that, historically, changes have been successful: Smog in London is a distant memory since the 1956 Clean Air Act. We can measure and reduce our personal carbon footprint www.carbonfootprint.com/measure.html. Are the planners sympathetic to wind turbines and solar panels in an area of outstanding natural beauty? Low energy houses (Passivhaus) were first built in 1988 in Europe. Why haven't our developers adopted the technology? www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/. Why does regulatory compliance imposed by the Council mean that it costs £250 to plant a tree on the verge? In conclusion, it was thought it might be helpful to invite someone from the council and someone from Passivhaus to explore matters further.

All future meetings of the Fulbrook Forum have been cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus lockdown.

If you would like a notification of when we are able to resume our meetings please e-mail fulbrookforum@gmail.com to join our mailing list.

Meetings take place at 3pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Fulbrook Meeting Place at the back of Fulbrook Church. All welcome, no membership required. A donation of £2 please which includes refreshments.

Oliver Sharpley

HISTORY GROUP

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone all meetings of the History Group due to the lockdown restrictions.

We will let you know when we are able to resume.

Laurence Balbes

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, June 2020 Safer Communities, Safer Fulbrook

LOCAL ACTIVITY UPDATE

Who could have imagined that given the unprecedented public health emergency we find ourselves in I would be reporting a significant drop in crime... I daresay even criminals are apprehensive about contracting the disease.

Thames Valley Police are continuing to play their part in helping to protect us and the vital services provided by emergency services. Police frontline staff have been given personal protection equipment to use so I think we can expect to see them wearing this as they go about their public duties or when they are called to assist the public at home.

Protect Yourself Against Scammers: don't be a scam victim

With many of us staying at home during the lockdown we have been far more active online – so have the scammers! Here are a few watch outs:

Purchase Scams

Criminals will advertise goods such as face-masks, anti-bacterial gel and vaccines. They ask for payment directly to their account, they then disappear and you never get what you paid for. Always purchase goods through a reputable website

Another one, which I have experienced a few of recently, is via email, stating that a company or individual has made a BACS payment into your account and to 'click on' the link to see the information. By doing so you open up your computer to the probability of a trojan being planted

into your computer system which will then collect your passwords and other personal details. Be aware and delete immediately.

Courier Scams

Criminals may contact you offering to do your shopping for you whilst you are isolating. They trick you into handing over your card and PIN or they ask you to withdraw large sums of money. Stay Alert, NEVER give your card and PIN to a complete stranger.

Savings Account Scams

Criminals may call you and claim that your money is at risk due to the possible collapse in the economy. They convince you to move your money to a 'safe account'. When you do, you can't access it and your money is gone. Genuine organisations will never ask you to move your money to a 'safe account'. Always check with your bank/building society first.

Insurance Scams

You may be tricked into believing you are due compensation with your travel insurance company, but in order to receive it you have to pay some money up front. If something seems too good to be true, it usually is.

If you are suspicious of any activity, heed your instincts! You are probably right. Check with someone you trust.

Beyond Lockdown

Like many, I fear that once the lockdown starts to ease and our economy starts to pick up, the UK, like many countries, will find itself heading towards recession. With uncertainty about jobs and income, it is highly likely that crime will rise. Desperate people will take desperate measures. This is likely to coincide with better weather and more of an outdoor life. Please be aware that this is quite likely to signal a resurgence in crime so please be mindful of leaving garage or back doors open – it just takes a passing opportunist to nick something of value, including keys, that are on display. Equally, please lock ladders and garden tools away at night – they are a huge help to burglars hoping to break in.

And finally, Neighbourhood Watch have relaunched their website www.ourwatch.org.uk so please feel free to visit the site for any information on crime prevention or related matters.

Would you like to be the Fulbrook Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator?

I have been happy to be the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Fulbrook for these past 11 years. And in doing so I have learnt a lot about crime and more importantly the community in which I live. I do feel though that perhaps the time has come for a fresh approach and someone with some new ideas and thinking might re-frame this important community initiative. Could this person be you? Do please get in touch with either myself or Peter Burns (Chairman, Fulbrook Parish Council, clerk@fulbrookvillage.net) and I will be happy to handover in a timely manner. Thanks for all your continued support meantime.

Crime cannot flourish in a community that cares, let's do our bit to keep our Fulbrook and our neighbours secure.

If you see something, report it! In an emergency dial 999. Otherwise contact Thames Valley Police on 101.

*Jim MacAllan, Email: jimmacallan@aol.com
Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator for Fulbrook*

Fulbrook Newsletter – Safe for the next few years!

We have continued to receive an excellent response to the article in the December issue of the Newsletter in which we said that the future of the Newsletter was in jeopardy as we had a shortfall of £180 per year of income versus expenditure and we had drawn down our reserves to an unacceptable level.

As well as the donation of £400 from the Parish Council which we reported in the March issue, we have received very generous donations from a number of villagers including £200 from Desmond Patrick-Smith and £100 from John Monks. Thank you to all those who have supported us; as a result of these donations, the future of the Newsletter is secure for the next few years.

Any other readers who would like to support the Newsletter are very welcome to send us a donation. Any amount, however small, will be gratefully

received. Please send a payment directly to our TSB account, sort code 30-91-43, account number 00074712 using your name and Donation as the reference or send a cheque or cash to the Treasurer at Meadow Way Cottage, Meadow Lane, Fulbrook, Burford OX18 4BS.

The Editorial Team

This quarter, instead of our regular poem from our resident poet John Hoyle, we are using a VE Day poem written for a school project by Freddie Marsh who lives at High Pound on Westhall Hill with his parents Richard and Tori (see Freddie's picture on the front page):

VE Day

We turned the radio on, expecting the news to be the same.

It wasn't, but we were not to blame.

The war was over, the bombs weren't dropping,
there was no more sound of distant guns
popping.

It would be lots more fun, seeing no-one carrying a
gun

A bonfire was lit, laughter split.

The weapons were melted down.

Any mention of those fateful war years would be
greeted with a frown.

Freddie Marsh

Fulbrook News and Views

From the Editorial Team.....

In this issue we include a message from an ex-US Airforceman who lived in Fulbrook in the 1970s, an article on bees swarming in May from Gareth John, photos of how the village celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day and much more ...

The purpose of Fulbrook News and Views is to highlight issues or interests within the village. For this to work successfully we need contributions from as many readers as possible. As you can see here, these can be of a serious, flippant or humorous nature. Please contribute!

All Our Yesterdays! - The World War 2 stories

As we couldn't do our regular 'A conversation with . . .', and due to its topicality with the VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations, we asked several villagers for stories of their WW2 years and received some very poignant, personal and in some cases amusing accounts of the war years, together with photographs of them as they were at the time.

Wendell Jones

At 11 a.m. on 3rd September 1939, Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany. The air raid siren blared out; we grabbed our gas masks and waited for the bombs to fall. Nothing happened - the phoney war was on!

In the Spring the Germans launched their blitzkrieg. The British army was evacuated from Dunkirk but lost all its equipment. France fell and with it invasion became a likely prospect.

So, the Jones/Davies/Douglas families conferred; the result being that my mother and myself, aged 10, were dispatched by train to Neath, followed by the Douglas cousins, cycling from Ealing, and their mother and my brother. We assembled at my grandfather's house - about a dozen strong.

A large party directed itself at a local hill, about 4 miles away. Music so we thought came from the village below, but it turned out to be an air raid siren.

Four of us played Monopoly. The game was interrupted by a whine, screech and thump and the game ceased, perhaps not the only instance of a dive bomber causing a game to be abandoned. Peter cycled down town and reported casualties.

In the days that followed I, grumpily, was hauled out of bed and installed under the stairs beneath an enormous picture of Wellington meeting Blucher (a Prussian) after Waterloo - some contrast! Llandarcy oil refinery was set on fire - a black thunder cloud across the sky. The families regrouped, Michael to Lampeter, mother and I to rejoin father in Boston. I was then despatched to Nevill Holt, a school sited on a hill bordering Rutland. Hitler never bothered us in 4 years.

Easter 1941 holidays. I awoke to the sight of Boston "Stump" perhaps England's finest and loftiest Parish Church, on fire. A casual Hun, not bothering to go as far as Coventry had ditched his bombs. My father and Michael put paid to the incendiaries on the roof and doorstep. My services were not required.

Father got promoted to Major in the Home Guard and was sent to Lloyd's Bank, Canterbury branch as manager. Half the centre of Canterbury had been destroyed in a Baedeker raid in 1942.



On the 6/7th June 1944 at Nevill Holt we were summoned from our beds to listen to George VI's broadcast on the Normandy landings.

In Summer 1944 we listened to and saw the pilotless aircraft (V1s) despatched from Pas de Calais and aimed on London. It was slightly reassuring to feel that their engines were still running and one was safe - alas others weren't. Some RAF pilots tried to bend the V1s with their wingtips!

In September the traffic was going the other way - hordes of aircraft and gliders going to Arnhem - we were 35 miles from Calais, it could not be an exercise.

In September 1944 I went to Repton a little further from Canterbury. In May the war in Europe ended and we were granted 4 days extra holiday to celebrate. I completed my School Cert Divinity paper and headed immediately for the train! Major Cattley, a master, told us about the JTC (Junior Training Corps) and explained that we had all volunteered! I became quite proficient with the Bren (Machine Gun) and went on Field Days when we all ran amok in the countryside.

Jennifer Capon - Memories of 1938-1945

I have no memories of VE Day except that I was in bed with tonsillitis. My brother (pictured with Jennifer), whose 11th birthday it was, remembers going down to the village and seeing crowds of people. On VJ Day, 15th August 1945, I was in the cottage hospital having my tonsils removed, but I do have some memories of the years before.



1938 Aged six I remember seeing on my maternal grandfather's TV, Neville Chamberlain arriving back from his meeting with Hitler in Munich. I remember my brother, aged four asking "Where's Hitler?"

1939 3rd September at my grandfather's home again everyone standing by the wireless hearing from Neville Chamberlain that we were at war with Germany. My uncle was in the Army already having been in the Territorials.

1940 21st June in central London after the marriage of my uncle we heard that France had fallen and everyone was concerned and anxious at the possibility of the invasion of their country. I remember clearly still as my brother and I slept in a cupboard under the stairs, considered to be a safe place, the distinctive rumble of the German bombers overhead and the sound of a local anti-aircraft gun.

1941 Two members of the local ARP fitted a steel Morrison Shelter (named after the Home Secretary) under the dining room table where my mother, brother and I slept. I remember 'Wings for Victory' and other causes to raise money for the war effort. There were fêtes held in large gardens which I enjoyed cycling to collecting a spent incendiary, pieces of shrapnel and balloon fabric to make a museum outside our house.

1942 My father was posted to India in March after volunteering for the RAFVR in 1940, which was after Singapore fell to the Japanese. The journey from Liverpool to Bombay (now Mumbai) via Cape Town took six weeks. I still have the censored air mail letter cards and airgraphs he sent to me, some taking up to six weeks to arrive. Now it's it's an iPad message that arrives in less than a minute!

I have recently read them again and was interested to learn that Gull Mohammed was my father's "bearer, friend and bodyguard" and went with him when he was posted to the eastern side of India in 1943.

1944 I remember, of course, the V1s, waiting for the engine to stop and for the sound of the explosion as it hit the ground. Then the V2s which we did not hear at all until they exploded. One dropped about three miles away, but we were very fortunate with little bomb damage nearby throughout the war. My mother was calm and I do not have memories of being frightened. Other memories include the following: childhood infectious

diseases; having lunch occasionally at the British Restaurant; sharing my sweet ration with my brother; going up to London to see Snow White, the Wizard of Oz and, on my 11th birthday, the ballet; seeing empty spaces in terraces where houses had been bombed.

I do not remember air-raids while at school but there was one in London after my ballet class and we went into the basement of a nearby Lilley and Skinner.

In August 1945 I had my first view of Burford with its lovely stone houses on either side of the road as we came down the hill. We were sitting on the back seat with a springer spaniel on our laps on our way home from our first family holiday since 1939 in Pembrokeshire and stopped for tea upstairs in Huffkins.

Thankfully my father had returned in April; if he had not survived I would not be so fortunate as to have lived for so long on Westhall Hill. Sadly he died three days after moving here in March 1969.

Diana Lethbridge - Glimpses of memories

My earliest memories were the reactions of my mother and father. I was five, it was August and we were on holiday in Suffolk when my father said we were going home the next day. He told us to look out of the window where soldiers were laying coils of razor wire over great concrete cubes along the beach. He said "That means we shall soon be at war with Germany". At home a month later my mother, tearfully, told us "We're at war".

We lived in the village of Penn in Bucks so we experienced little of the horror. Air raid warnings were exciting as we hurried down to our large store cupboard, now reinforced with timbers, where we sat clutching our gas masks - I coveted my baby sister's mask as it was shaped like Mickey Mouse. We had bicycles and rode off to the nearby railway line and our favourite game became putting a halfpenny on the line so that when the train came it was squashed into a penny!



Quite early in the war we were woken up by anti-aircraft guns and we could see searchlights crossing the sky. A German plane crashed in the woods and our garden was full of tinfoil strips or 'chaffs' which interfered with the enemy radio systems.

One day my mother took me to London on the train and we witnessed the shattered remains of houses after a severe bombing raid. I saw, hanging from a beam, high up, a baby's cot and dressing gown - a sight that has never left me.

When the blitz began, a blood red sky at night indicated that London was burning. Each evening the 9pm news on the wireless broadcasted Churchill's voice, regularly interrupted by Lord Haw Haw, a Nazi sympathizer, and our father explained that it was false propaganda designed to frighten us.

At one point we had a stream of refugees joining us. Frieda, a Czech mother, cried for her sister who had been taken by the Gestapo. Somehow or other various relatives in danger also arrived and we became used to squashing up into smaller and smaller space.

We had to feed the family on the extremely meagre rations so us children were entitled to free issues of haliborange, milk and rose hip syrup all to provide necessary vitamins. 'Dig for victory' was well under way. We kept chickens and shared eggs around, but if the chickens didn't lay we had to resort to 'Chinese egg' which was powdered and obnoxious. Each week Lord Woolton published a suggested recipe, hence carrot cake was born. Rations meant eking out every morsel of food to make meals for the week. Anything metal became 'salvage' for the war effort, clothes were lengthened with old curtains and woe betide anyone leaving a light on.

In 1938 my father ordered from America a new fangled contraption called 'a washing machine', a vast thing with a blade like a propeller. No rinser machine though as the ship it was on was torpedoed so this was done in the sink with a mangle.

Petrol was rationed and we had to walk the mile and a half to school and back again. Later on we had bicycles. On my return from school one day I decided to try hands-free cycling and promptly

fell off landing on my face. A very tall, bronzed American soldier rolled up and wiped away the blood and my tears and returned me, with bike, home in his immense car - consequently I had to live with a metal plate encasing my top teeth for a year!

We loved Children's hour on the radio at 5pm each day and we had a lot of books so I read voraciously. I didn't know whether to choose Mr Rochester or Heathcliff for my future husband and Biggles taught me how to spot an enemy fighter coming from a blinding sun.

I remember on VE Day seeing bunting and Union Jacks everywhere and, of course, listening, rapt, to the King's speech.

Richard Lethbridge - World War Two

In 1939 my mother took us four children to live with our grandmother in Sidmouth, where we stayed until 1943. I was five when the war started and I remember my mother told me that the banana I was enjoying was the last one I would have until the war was over!

There were huge tank obstacles on the beach at Sidmouth and I remember being woken to see the flames and red sky over Exeter when it was blitzed. Also, a local lad had gone down when HMS Hood was sunk causing much sadness in the house.

On VE Day we had an afternoon off and a service at the school war memorial. VJ Day however was in the school holidays and my father took us to London where we joined vast crowds, I suppose we were outside Buckingham Palace but it was all rather a blur.

When my father was demobbed I remember the worry about how we should greet him as we didn't do hugs and kisses between men in those days. In the end we solemnly shook hands!



David Foster - Memories of World War II in Burford

Reading Kath Wain's reminiscences of wartime Burford in the recent issue of "The Bridge" prompts me to recall some personal memories of that time that may be of interest. Kath recalls the cinema that used to operate in the Falkland Hall, with a charge of 6d for a seat in the first 2 rows. On Saturday mornings there was a showing of films deemed to be suitable for children. My brother and I were regular attenders – the charge for us was 3d for the first 2 rows and, as Kath implies, it was pretty spartan – an ordinary wooden kitchen chair with a hard seat. My father occasionally acted as projectionist. I recall an occasion when the Burford firemen staged a public demonstration of how to deal with an incendiary bomb. They set one off in the middle of the High Street by the junction with Priory Lane. For some reason this terrified me, and I had to be taken away promptly as my screaming was creating a public nuisance, so I'm afraid I missed the important advice as to what was the best thing to do about the burning bomb. Odd that - as all my life since I've enjoyed setting fire to things. It came to my attention (this would have been, probably, in 1941 when I was five) that rides were being given in a bren-gun carrier on Burford golf course for a charge of 6d. The bren-gun carrier was a smallish, open-top, caterpillar-tracked, all-terrain vehicle. I pestered my mother to the extent that the necessary coin was procured and I set off. Children were given a lot more freedom of independent action in those days! I hated it - I was convinced I was going to be thrown out by the lurching of the vehicle and crushed beneath the tracks. I distinctly remember gripping the underneath of the seat and wishing the ride was over. During the war, as an encouragement to buy National Savings, communities were set a target in the form of the cost of a particular piece of military hardware and local purchases were totted up in the hope of reaching that sum. There was a huge "thermometer" on the Tolsley with a red line creeping up towards the target. Burford was "buying" a corvette, but at the time I didn't know what



a corvette was. Strange times indeed, but the present crisis feels a bit like 1940 without the risk of bombs.

Harvey's Tales and other Fulbrook Memories

In 2013 Anne Weir published her book entitled Harvey's Tales and other Fulbrook Memories. The following are short extracts of accounts of the war years from people of Fulbrook.

- The Home Guard - During WW2 Burford and Fulbrook had a Home Guard. Harvey was in the platoon led by Mr Jay-Smith. [**Harvey Crook** was born on twenty-seventh October 1912 in Crocus Cottage, Meadow Lane, Fulbrook]. When war was declared, Harvey volunteered but did not pass the medical.
- **Peter Corney remembers** childhood during the war - Burford and Fulbrook became training areas for the troops. Various regiments were stationed here. I remember the East Lancs, the Royal Berks, RASC and the Royal Scots. Walks to school, accompanied by two evacuees billeted on Mrs Jurd, became most exciting. Troops hid in every hedgerow, thunder flashes were set off and men popped up from the slit trenches they had dug, their rifles at the ready.
- **Joan Smith's War** - I joined the ATS at the beginning of '41. [In the book Joan tells us about her postings and some of her exploits].then I went to Edinburgh - West Pilton - out on the coast. I was up there for a year and joined a battery up there. I was on the height-takers with the guns with the AckAck and then the planes flew about 2,500ft. [She was stationed in various places, to name a few: Ratho, Stockton, Redcar, Loughton. She certainly saw quite a bit of action]. I was demobbed from Sheerness on the isle of Sheppey.



Joan is in the middle

Our dear Joan celebrated her 101st birthday in April and she is doing very well staying at home. Due to the lockdown we were unable to speak with her.

Snippets from The Pickings

Tony Picking remembers that, at the age of 12, he went off on the train from Cheam by himself on VE Day. His aim was to hear the Prime Minister's speech. He recollects arriving in central London, getting caught up in the throng and feeling very overwhelmed and frightened. A policeman came to his aid and helped him cross the road. He made it to Buckingham Palace and did indeed achieve his goal!

Tricia, Hudson as she was then, was only 5 on VE Day and remembers going to the street party near her home in Hillingdon where there were lots of people rejoicing in the victory, except for one very irate gentleman who kept shouting "This is NOT the end of the war - it's still on". Tricia at such a tender age was very confused by this because everyone said the war in Europe was over! Little did she realise at the time that fighting was still raging in the far east. Prior to that day she does recall making trips to the air raid shelter and seeing the house next door but one completely obliterated, which was "Very scary".

Carpenters Arms to the rescue!

In household isolation and having repeatedly failed to get a supermarket delivery slot, we would like to make a public acknowledgement of thanks to Tom, Siobahn and Ryan of the Carpenters Arms, Fulbrook who came to our rescue. They bravely and unselfishly decided to keep their business going offering delicious takeaway meals and household provisions delivered to the doorstep of local residents. The meat and vegetables are of superb quality and they even went the extra mile to get us unnecessary luxuries (chocolate) from a supermarket. Special mention must be Tom's fish pie, fish and chips and we are looking forward to the Sunday Roast.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your fantastic service

From the Sharpley family

Message from Las Vegas

The Fulbrook News received the following e-mail from an ex-US Air Forceman in Las Vegas who lived in Fulbrook in the 1970s and was trying to contact Joan Smith:

I am Ron Volkmar. My wife, Mona, and I enjoyed living in Fulbrook from 1975 to 1979 on Upper End while I was serving in the U.S. Air Force at RAF Upper Heyford. Joan Smith was my neighbor and a good friend. My children still have memories of Mr. Smith walking to his shed when they were playing in the garden.

This weekend a British detective TV series based in Oxford bought back those fond memories and I did a Google search for Joan. I knew of Myndig's death and hoped to learn about Joan. I was pleasantly surprised to find the story of her 100th birthday in your June 2019 issue.

We also visited Joan and the Alexanders several times when we lived in Germany and my wife also flew over from the States once with her sister. We used to exchange Christmas letters until Myndig passed away.

Mona attended the Catholic Church on the High St in Burford. She was also in a local bridge club. (I am not sure if you know this story. She showed up with the club at a member's home for an evening of play and found her hanging. The police said it was suicide). I was the vice-president of your local camera club for a few years. We used to meet in the old church.

We have put Ron in contact with Joan Smith via Lesley Beveridge

VILLAGE WELCOME PACKS

If you know of someone who has moved into the village and would like to receive a WELCOME PACK, please could you let Nicola Hillman know either by phone on 01993 823260 or by email to nicolahillmanart@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

Nicola Hillman

Swarm Time!

May is swarming season. Of the many hives in our garden one, a Freedom Hive, stands elegantly above head height on a tripod in a flower border. Hence the gardener is unbothered by the bees and the bees think they are living, as nature intended, in a hollow tree. On a recent warm day, a little before midday, I noticed that this hive was particularly active. Were these young bees on orientation flights, learning where the hive entrance is as they begin their lives, or was it the start of a swarm?

By the time I had gathered a skep (a straw basket used for collecting swarms) and returned to the hive, the answer was clear; there was a cloud of several thousand bees in the air. I had dabbed the skep with some lemon grass oil, which bees find highly attractive, and waved it through the bees to persuade them to settle directly on the skep. This approach often works, but not on this occasion. The cloud of bees grew larger and started to fly higher, ignoring me and the skep completely. Since this was a swarm I was keen to keep, it was time for plan B: drumming. Rhythmic drumming can cause a swarm to settle and I have a metal pan that produces just the right harmonies for this, so I rushed to get it. By now the bees were 50 feet up in the air, above the tops of the telegraph poles and I started drumming. After several minutes I noticed the bee-cloud was denser just above my head. It was beginning to work. Although swarming bees are generally very docile, I have experience of swarms attempting to settle on me and getting them in your hair (I do not wear a veil) is best avoided.

Luckily this swarm was settling not on me but in the adjacent bush, about 8 feet off the ground. I carefully balanced the skep over the growing swarm cluster and went in for some lunch. When I remerged it was just in time to see that the bees were once again taking to the air. Either they were relocating to another temporary resting spot or they had decided on a permanent home and were now going there. As I stood under them it became clear that it was the latter. The swarm was high in the air and had assumed the characteristic Zeppelin shape of a swarm with a purpose; they had places to go! Only a few hundred bees out of the total of maybe 15,000 know where they are going and these bees marshal the rest like sheep dogs. Standing below I could see these bees darting from the edges of the swarm inwards and forwards, forming a chevron of little streaks against the sky. This chevron points the other bees in the right direction and keeps the stragglers in.

Swarms fly at about 15 mph and following them can be interesting, especially if, looking upwards, one fails to see the approaching ditch! This swarm moved about 50 yards from the bush to the line of high trees that borders the road. Normally swarms either fly over such obstacles or pass through them but, 60 feet in the air, this swarm stopped. I was puzzled; as I often am with bees. Then I noticed that the bees had stopped immediately above an empty hive which I had placed for the very purpose of attracting passing swarms. It was clear, however, that the great majority of the bees were completely unaware that a potential home was right below them. Then, as I watched, a few bees appeared on the face of the hive. And then a few more. And a few more. If I stood close and looked upward I could see a steady stream of bees flying between the hive and the swarm cloud. The scout bees were calling the other bees down! As the minutes passed more and more of the bees in the swarm got the message and descended. After 15 or so minutes, the front of the hive was entirely covered by bees, as can be seen in the photo, and bees were swirling into the two hive entrances in whirlpool patterns, like water going down a plug hole. The bees were completely unconcerned by me and, after about 40 minutes, the great mass were snug inside their new home.



Although I have seen hundreds of swarms over the decades, I find that being present at the creation of new life never ceases to be a joy and a privilege.

Gareth John

VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations, 8th May 2020

A number of villagers have sent us photos of how they celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day:





NEWS FROM FULBROOK CHURCH and a Warm Welcome to All

Hello Church family and everyone in Fulbrook village. I hardly know where to begin, so much has changed in the way we live since the March newsletter. In that newsletter I wrote *'The church is a hub for all of our community in Fulbrook, not only for prayer, worship, weddings, baptisms and funerals but also for friendship and sharing in all kinds of events'*.

Since then we had to at first close for services where people would gather together, but remained open so that people could pray privately in church. It was with regret that we were instructed that we had to close completely and so now have the challenge of fulfilling the role of the church - as being the hub for the community without the physical space to do that – no church and no Fulbrook Meeting Place and no people physically meeting together.

In the Church we have had to learn quickly how to offer services online too – if you haven't tried one yet on a Sunday, go to www.burfordchurch.org and click on Sunday Services to find both the service at 10 and the Sunday Jam service for children.

In Holy Week leading up to Easter we were able to have some beautiful calm Compline services and one of meditation as well as services for both Palm Sunday and Easter Day, and we thank all the clergy involved in producing these for a very important time for us, and thank all members of the congregations who have done readings or prayers for these services.

There are also services provided on line as Church at home with the Bishops, every Sunday at 10am, which you can watch online or dial into. The order of service is available before the service on the website <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Parishioners unable to access the internet can dial **01865 920930** to hear the service (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Normal call rates apply.

The churchwardens have also been trying to keep in touch with as many of the church family and villagers that they can via an online newsletter, offering both spiritual support and practical information. If you aren't on our mailing list but would like to take a look, go to this link <https://www.burfordchurch.org/st-james-the-great-fulbrook> or contact Lyn on lynbibbings1@gmail.com to sign up for a newsletter straight to your inbox.

Now we are feeling the beginning of the easing of lockdown and we shall need to gently find what we can restart, what we need to change and what else we can do to meet the needs of this village community in a post-COVID 19 environment. We are hoping that we may be able to begin opening the church building again in July – both for private prayer and services, but we shall be guided by the Diocese about timings.

However, it would be very useful to hear from any of you about what you would appreciate in our opening our buildings again and in having services where we meet together again.

PLEASE let Lyn or John know what you would like to see us do in order to fulfil our ambition as being a hub for the core of the community within the restrictions we may have.

God bless you all, Lyn and John Churchwardens, Lyn 01993 823640; John 01993 824044



NEWS FROM THE FULBROOK MEETING PLACE

The Fulbrook Meeting Place is the back half of the Church, our village hall, but is currently closed due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Regular events which will resume when the restrictions are lifted – everyone is very welcome to come to all of these.

**** Keep Fit Group** A lively **weekly** group that meets to exercise with music at 9 – 10 am every Thursday. Led by Pat Ferret, it is £3 a session – and a lot of fun as well as being good for you!

**** Coffee morning at 10.30am** on the **4th Thursday each month**, with conversation, coffee and delicious biscuits – just turn up for a warm welcome. £1 donation.

**** Fulbrook Forum – 1st Thursday of every month**, speakers, discussion and tea - just turn up for a warm welcome - £2 donation.

**** Quiet prayer every Monday** at the back of the Church at 5.30pm.

The Fulbrook Meeting Place is our village hall and as such is available for hire, subject to conditions, at a very reasonable rate. If you are interested in hiring the FMP for a meeting, afternoon get-together or a family party, please contact our Booking Clerk, Lyn Bibbings Burns on 823640 or e-mail lynbibbings1@gmail.com.

Burford School News, June 2020

With the decision to close schools finally confirmed, the process of getting our students familiar with the forthcoming delivery of their lessons 'online' moved up a gear. All the staff, from IT to safeguarding, teaching to logistics, pulled out all the stops to ensure parents and students understood the new delivery methods and the expectations for signing in regularly with tutors and returning work to teachers.

Whilst many of us are now working from home, scrutinizing guidelines, preparing and marking work and keeping the lines of communication open with students and parents; a small number are still in school looking after the children of key workers and the most vulnerable. The School Office is manned each day to ensure anyone calling with questions or concerns can receive the help and support they require.

It's a challenging time for all our students and we are working constantly, not just to ensure that their education continues but that they take the opportunity to use this time to explore the creative and engaging online challenges which now abound on the internet. Writing competitions, art and photography challenges, scientific projects and musical opportunities are there to engage and stimulate and in doing so reduce boredom and anxiety. We are encouraging our students to talk regularly with their friends and thankfully, modern technology is ensuring that this can be achieved no matter whether it's to catch up with someone down the road or, as in the case of our boarders, in as far afield as Mauritius, Macao or Thailand.

Disappointing as it has been to wave goodbye to our planned trips to ski in Canada, visit the Belgian Battlefields, celebrate the end of five – or seven – successful school years with proms and parties, we know that we will eventually all come back together. We are immensely proud of the way our school community is pulling together and of the ongoing commitment our students are making to ensure that their school work continues to progress.

We are looking forward to catching up with them all in due course.

Sarah Duckworth
Marketing Manager

@burfordschool, facebook.com/burfordschooloxon,
www.burford.oxon.sch.uk

Farewell to Fulbrook - at last!

It was such a shame that we did not manage to hold the planned party, firstly because of my accidental incapacity and then the dreadful scourge of Covid-19. So, we are saying "Thank you" via the Newsletter.

Sandy and I are deeply grateful for our 17 years of life in Fulbrook. There have been so many things to delight in, but we shall remember especially the warmth of kindness in the friendship we have received. We extend our sincerest thanks and our best wishes to you all.

I have been so very happy here and always felt surrounded by the care and willingness to help from friends and truly wonderful neighbours. This has been particularly special in the present circumstances, with marvellous people who have done shopping for me and offered other thoughtful services. I can never be sufficiently grateful.

This dear village and its lovely people will be very frequently in my thoughts and for ever in my heart.

With my love and blessings

Vida Forest

Lockdown News from Westhall Hill

In amongst the misery of Covid and Lockdown we have had some joyous things happening here to cheer us up. There was the barn owl who glided silently every morning and evening around the fields along the hill, sometimes swooping down when he spied a catch or perching still as a statue on a post before flying off again. He's gone now but can still be heard calling at night. There are a pair of pheasants who visit each morning "chuck chucking" to ask for breakfast. Then, of course, we have the skylark in the fields above who the other day was singing and rising up as though he would never stop and to top it all the house martins have returned in triumph and are now busy refurbishing their nests under the eaves. Also, more mundanely, how nice it is to have so little traffic and such clear air. Thanks too must be given to The Carpenters Arms who have been keeping us well fed with delicious meals and groceries, and the Co-op for their helpfulness and efficient delivery service.

There seems to be a lot of "Digging for Britain" going on, and, of course, as it is our Open Gardens year, the gardens will be looking splendid. It might be worth a visit just to look over the walls.

We too, particularly with two midwives in our little community, have been coming out on Thursdays at 8pm, just after the Church clock has struck, to join the clapping and pan-bashing. It is lovely to hear the shouts and reverberations coming up from Burford and echos from the rest of Fulbrook all set off by Bob Warner's fireworks.

However, the best thing of all has been the kindness and generosity of neighbours. How lucky we are to have such friends and let us pray they all keep well.

Diana Brown

THE KAYS' LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

One thing above all which the enforced lockdown has reminded us is how very lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world – and never more so than at this time when traffic has been so drastically reduced and our long daily walks have been enriched by fresher air, happier birdsong and the cheery faces of our socially-distanced neighbours enjoying similar pursuits.

I guess we've been no different from everyone else in Fulbrook: our garden is better prepared for the summer than ever and weeks of glorious weather have made the effort involved ever more rewarding. As one of the so-called 'vulnerable old', I enjoy driving Gilly (who is not!) to Waitrose and sitting in the car with a good book while she does the shopping. I've never read so many books in my life, including a project I've had in mind for decades.

Long ago Gilly bought me the complete 48-volume novels of Anthony Trollope in the luxury Folio Society edition and over the years I've read most of them. But I put aside the six volumes of the *Pallisers* until retirement – each one approximately 700 tightly-packed pages – and with all concerts inevitably cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future, this has turned out to be what I imagine retirement must be like, and I've nearly finished the set. It's a marathon, but a wonderful way to pass the sort of leisure time I never thought I might have.

And what about the spring-cleaning? I sometimes wish we'd never bought so many pictures over the years though the business of cleaning them has made us look at each one afresh and we've seen details that have been hidden behind glass that always looked clean enough but clearly wasn't! - very therapeutic.

So perhaps above all, being perforce isolated in our homes has given us the time to enjoy and appreciate just how lucky we are, while constantly thinking of so many who are less fortunate. When the traffic eventually starts roaring through the village again as in days of yore, I guess we shall think back on this time with a sense of nostalgic pleasure. But by then we shall hopefully have had the mother of all parties to celebrate being back together again.

Brian Kay

Lesley's Lockdown Lesson

Before the clocks went forward, one evening I ventured into the garage, not my favourite place, to put away some roasting tins - we'd been cooking to prepare for the lockdown and that's where we keep spare tins. As I made my way to the cupboards I tripped on a block of wood that we keep for chopping kindling, the tins flew from my grasp and I fell on my rear end. To add insult to injury, as I fell, my foot glanced the aluminium step ladders which then came toppling down on my head. Yes it hurt, but I couldn't contain my mirth as tears of pain, laughter and utter 'I can't believe that happened' streamed down my face.

The lesson? Never go in the garage unless accompanied by your guardian angel and it's a good idea to put the light on.

Lesley Beveridge



Anne Purcell, who lived in Fulbrook for many years but has now moved to Devon, sent us this photograph of Fulbrook schoolchildren in the 1800s at the school which is now Nicola Hillman's home and which was apparently never claimed by the donor after the Fellowship (now Forum) photographic exhibition that was held a number of years ago. If this is your photo please contact the Newsletter.

News From The

*Carpenters
Arms*

The Carpenters Arms is now offering an extended list of groceries that is available for delivery every week to addresses in Fulbrook, Burford and Swinbrook. Visit the website thecarpentersarmsfulbrook.co.uk to keep up to date with new menus and offers. If you can't see what you want on the list please ask, and we will try to get it for you. Also available for collection for those further afield. Please order by 2pm on Wednesdays for delivery on Thursday by 6pm. Ring 01993 823823 or 07419 356931.

Tom has added some dishes to our new takeaway/delivery menu - these are really excellent takeaway meals. The new menu can be found on the website. Ring 01993 823823 or 07419 356931 to order.

Here's the latest recipe from our resident chef Peter Burns:

Rhubarb and Orange Cake

One of the few joys of lockdown is spending more time in the garden. Watching things grow (a much better experience than watching paint dry) is very rewarding. This year has been great for rhubarb and ours is being particularly generous with its juicy red stems crying out to be pulled and transformed into delicious comestibles. Rhubarb and orange make for an unusual cake, but the sweet and sour taste make an utterly logical combination. This rustic treasure, with its almond topping, can be eaten warm from the oven as a pudding (with custard!) or as an afternoon tea.

Ingredients (for a 9 inch cake tin)

- 400g Rhubarb
- 240g golden caster sugar
- 225g soft (room temperature) butter
- Finely grated zest and juice of orange
- 225g self-raising flour
- 100 ground almonds
- 1teaspoon baking powder
- 3 medium eggs
- Vanilla essence (a couple of drops)
- 50g flaked almonds
- Icing sugar for dusting

Method

1. Cut the rhubarb into thumb size pieces, tip them into a bowl and sprinkle 40g of the sugar onto them allow to macerate for about half an hour.
2. Grease and line a 9 inch/ 23cm loose bottom cake tin with baking paper.
3. Pre-heat the oven to 180C (a bit lower, say 160C for a fan oven).
4. Put the remaining sugar, butter, vanilla essence, orange zest and juice into a bowl and beat with an electric whisk until nice and creamy. Add the flour, ground almonds, baking powder and eggs, mix quite vigorously until all smooth.
5. Carefully mix in the rhubarb and any juices, put the mixture into the cake tin and level the top. Sprinkle the top with the flaked almonds.
6. Bake in the centre of the oven for about an hour and fifteen minutes (but check with a skewer after an hour). If it seems to be getting too brown for your liking, you can cover the top with kitchen foil.
7. Remove from the oven when cooked, leave for fifteen minutes and then remove from the tin and let the cake cool on a cake rack. Dust with a little icing sugar before serving

Extras

You could try roasting the rhubarb first by simply mixing the cut rhubarb and 40g sugar plus a couple of tablespoons of orange juice in a bowl and then placing in a roasting tin and put in a fairly hot oven for about ten minutes. You must cool the rhubarb before adding to the cake mix!! To concentrate the rhubarb flavour even more, macerate the rhubarb in the sugar and orange juice overnight before roasting. Either way, the cooked rhubarb must be added really gently or it will just mash up (it's not difficult, I'm just saying)

Tuck in!!

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