



Phew! What a Scorcher

38.7c (101.66f)



The Met Office has confirmed the record for the highest temperature officially recorded in the UK was set on Thursday 25th July as a heatwave

gripped the country, A temperature of 38.7c was recorded at Cambridge Botanic Garden, exceeding the previous record of 38.5c set in Faversham, Kent, in August 2003.

Must have been at least that hot in Fyfield!

Future of St. Nicholas' Church

A Church Public Meeting is being held in September to provide an update on developments, review the Church membership and finances and to hear the PCC's plans for the future.

See Rev. Christine's letter and notice of meeting inside.

Best Kept Front Garden Contest

John & Liz Horsman, David & Jenny Humphries and Sally & Richard Wallden were this year's Best Kept Front Garden Contest winners and were presented with their award certificates, prizes and the Cup to the 1st prize winner.

See inside for full details of this year's competition.


Defibrillator for Fyfield

Many thanks to the Village Hall Trustees for financing a Defibrillator for Fyfield. This will be positioned outside the Village Hall as the optimum location to serve the residents considering the spread of the population.

The Fyfield Spring Festival on 2nd of June raised **£2,345** for St. Nicholas' Church.

The sun was out and so were the residents and visitors to the Church to support this annual event which also includes a fun dog show.

Village Diary 2019



05-Aug	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
05-Aug	E.F.D.C. - Life Walk	Village Hall, 9.30am
06-Aug	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
11-Aug	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 10am
14-Aug	Fyfield Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
20-Aug	Praying Morning Prayer Together	St Nicholas Church, 9am
20-Aug	Coffee With Cops	Village Hall, 10am
02-Sep	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
03-Sep	E.F.D.C. - Life Walk (All day)	Village Hall, 9.30am
03-Sep	Praying Morning Prayer Together	St Nicholas Church, 9am
03-Sep	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
05-Sep	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
08-Sep	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 10am
09-Sep	St. Nicholas Church Public Meeting	St Nicholas Church, 7.30pm
11-Sep	Fyfield Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
14-Oct	E.F.D.C. - Life Walk	Village Hall, 9.30am
15-Sep	Fyfield Footpath 5K & Family Fun Run	Village Hall, 10am
16-Sep	Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)	Jubilee Park Pavillion Ongar, 8pm
17-Sep	Praying Morning Prayer Together	St Nicholas Church, 9am
21-Sep	Fyfield Litter Pickers	Village Hall, 9.30am
25-Sep	WI 'Just Desserts' Fundraising Event	Village Hall, 12pm
28-Sep	Coffee With Cops	Village Hall, 5pm
29-Sep	Table Top and Craft Sale in aid of the Scouts	Scout HQ, 10am
01-Oct	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
03-Oct	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
07-Oct	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
09-Oct	Fyfield Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
13-Oct	Harvest Festival - St. Christopher Church - Willingale	St Christopher Church, 9.30am
13-Oct	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 10am
21-Oct	Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)	Jubilee Park Pavillion Ongar, 8pm

Many Thanks

To our regular and ad hoc advertisers, sponsors and donors without whose support we would not be able to produce this magazine and distribute it free of charge.

Sponsors – 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020:

Fyfield Post Office & Village Store – April/May 2019 – Colour Edition

Donors – 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019:

Brian & Kim Carpenter, Church Lunch & Afternoon Tea, Fyfield Bowls Club and Fyfield Parish Council

Having the first word....*Having the first word*



The Focus is still looking for a new Editor and Design & Production Manager (to be in place by the end of the year) and if we are not successful in filling these vacancies The

Fyfield Focus, which has been in existence for 40 years, will be no more. Please see the advert in the magazine which gives you details of responsibilities, skills required and the amount of commitment required in man days. Please consider volunteering and get in touch with me if you can help in anyway.

Rev. Chris Hawkins continues to be very active across the two benefices and in addition to the Church Services she is introducing a new initiative 'Praying Together Morning Prayer' where you can join her from 9am for 30mins of prayer. See her article and the timetable of where Rev. Chris will be when. Rev. Chris' letter provides an update on developments in relation to the position of our village church, St. Nicholas, since the well-attended Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May. It is very informative and also see the notice of a Church Public Meeting, to be held in September, to review the latest developments in membership and church finances and to hear the PCC's plans for the future. The Lay preaching team at Matching extend an invitation to all parishioners within the 2 benefices to join their Pilgrim Group – see their invitation inside for details.

Dr. Walker's School has been very busy and the team at the school and all the pupils deserve a well-earned rest. Well

done to Dr. Walker's School for achieving a GOOD school rating from their recent OFSTED inspection. Please see their report which tells more about this and all the activities the children have been up to.

When I read the articles from the 1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout group it never ceases to amaze me at how many development opportunities and fun the Leaders provide their members. Seeing Bear Grylls on TV last week and hearing him say 'My mission as Chief Scout is to bring the opportunity of adventure to young people worldwide, wherever or whoever they are.' 'So much of who we are as an adult is formed when we are kids,' said Bear. 'What Scouting says to people is: "it's okay to go for it in life"'. I think our Scout Group are a wonderful example of embracing whole heartedly Bear Grylls mission and they should be congratulated on all they have done and continue to do for so many young people.

The scouts are holding 2 events to raise much needed funds; the 5K fun run on 15 September and a craft and table top sale on 29 September – see 5k advert, the village diary and the Scouting Report for full details. The WI is also holding a fund raiser in September (25th) a Just Desserts event.

Well done to the Village Hall Trustees for their hard work in raising the money to enable a Defibrillator to be fitted at the Village Hall for the benefit of residents and visitors to our village – a huge thank you. The 75th VE Day Celebration next year will be celebrated across Britain and the Village Hall will be organising a village

celebration on 9 May – put this in your diary so you don't miss out.

The Focus continues to attract new and returning advertisers which is a key factor in the magazine's financial stability.

Bespoke Window Dressing is an established business which is owned by a

new resident to the village (Debbie) and the Bluebell Forest School returns to advertise their Pre-school.

Wishing you all a great Summer and I hope we all manage to keep ourselves cool!

Cheryl Hadley,

THE PILGRIM GROUP

'The Pilgrim group' will have reconvened on Tuesday 18th June at 12.30 pm in The Feast Room, Matching – open to those who have been with us before and anyone else who would like to come along.

Thereafter we will meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month unless confirmed to the contrary.

- **Tuesday 9th July**
- Tuesday 13th August
- Tuesday 10th September
- Tuesday 8th October
- Tuesday 12th November
- Tuesday 10th December

Bring along your lunch for 12.30 – we provide the tea or coffee. From 1.00-2.00 pm it is a friendly, informal, sharing time together.

The Pilgrim course we have followed in the last few years (as our Lent Courses) has been an innovative and inspiring programme for enquirers and new

Christians. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion in the company of a small group of fellow travellers. The eight Pilgrim Course booklets have covered: Turning to Christ; The Lord's Prayer; The Commandments; The Beatitudes; The Creeds; The Eucharist; The Bible and finally Church & Kingdom.

We have now completed the Pilgrim Course but we retain the name for our Group.

We will have started 'something new' on Tuesday 18th June but feel free to join us at any time of the Journey.

Come and join us – you are so welcome.

Tina Webb (01277 890241) and Joan Jones (01279 437762)

Members of the Lavers & Matching
Benefice Lay Team

Working in conjunction with Revd. Chris

St Nicholas Church Fyfield

Monday 9 September 2019

7.30pm in the Church

You are invited to a Public Meeting to review the latest developments in membership and church finances and to hear the PCC's plans for the future.

This is a follow-up meeting to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in May 2019.

We look forward to welcoming you.

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact:

Rev Christine Hawkins, ☎ 01277 286113 revcah56@gmail.com

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

Opening Times

Village Store

Monday, Weds & Friday	7.00am to 6.00pm
Tuesday & Thursdays	7.00am to 5.00pm
Saturday	8.00am to 2.00 pm
Sunday	8.00am to 12.30pm

Post Office

Monday to Friday	9.00am to 5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am to 12.30pm
Sunday	Closed



Fyfield Spring Festival

Last year it was very wet, the year before, very cold, and the year before that so windy that the marquees blew down! This year we actually had **SUN!!** So many more people came to support us and we raised £2,345 towards the running of our beautiful church.

As usual a lot of people worked incredibly hard, both before and during the day to ensure the success of the event. Signs, posters and bunting appeared; raffle prizes and sponsorship obtained and stalls organised; the church grounds were prepared; the marquees

went up; car parks were provided by Lizzie Webster and Lesely Wallis and stalls were erected. The gates were manned, the refreshments were delicious and the dog show was great fun. The flowers in the church were stunning – this year's theme was 'A Good Read' and the Fyfield Handbell Ringers played a selection of music with a bookish theme.

So, thank you **everyone** for your help and support. You are too numerous to mention (*and I would be bound to leave someone out*)! **THANK YOU!**

Carol Cox



Fyfield Festival Dog Show 2019

The sun shone for our Festival Dog Show! Not so many folk entered their dogs but all appeared to enjoy the afternoon.

Our winners!!

Best Puppy - Border Terrier *Smudge Cooke*

Best Condition - Weimaraner *Rufus Saward*

Junior Handler - German Shorthaired Pointer *Olly Fairs*

Waggiest Tail - Crossbreed *Lucy Crump*

Best Crossbreed - *George Lamb*

Best Rescue Crossbreed - *Pippa Potter*

Best Dressed Dog Cavapoo *Barnaby Eggleton*

Golden Oldie & Best in Show - Stella Lock's Springer Spaniel *Barney*

Thanks to our Judge Pauline of Brentwood Dog Training.

Thanks also to:-

Roy & Richard for constructing the ring and the contribution of hay bales from Perry Farms to complete the scene.

Ann Stockman of Premier Badges for the donation of the beautiful rosettes.

Jan & Laura our registration ladies & Mrs Witham for our gazebo.

Sponsors - House & Jackson Vets, Bubbles Pet Shop & Polly Pets.

Joy Davis

Help

Help is needed with the watering of the hay baskets on the Bridge at Queen Street/Willingale Road and the planters at the Bus Stop.

If you think you can offer some help please contact me on:

01277 899840 or eMail me at cherylhadley@gmx.co.uk

Many hands make light work and any help would be really appreciated.





Update On St Nicholas' Church

Following on from my letter in last month's 'Focus', which reported the improved attendance

numbers at services as well as an increase in financial giving, I am now delighted to inform you that we have a new Treasurer. Michael Wallis has kindly volunteered to add the PCC to his existing portfolio of Treasurer roles in the village. I extend my sincere thanks to Michael, on behalf of the PCC. Whilst thanking Michael, I also need to thank our interim Treasurer (*a friend of mine who wishes to remain anonymous*), for her sterling work in keeping the finances on track since last December. Michael's appointment means that she can return to her other voluntary work and that I will no longer need to make several trips to Harlow with the Sunday Collections. It is much easier all round when church officers live locally.

The Wallis family have truly responded to our plea for help as Lesley Wallis has taken on the provision of music for services, which will help tremendously to improve both the mood of the services and the singing. Thank you, Lesley.

So, we've had two pieces of good news recently. Thanks be to God.

As I indicated in my last letter, the PCC met with the Archdeacon of Harlow and the Area Dean to discuss the future. We had a wide-ranging conversation, discussing our hopes and fears for the future as well as explaining the village's desire to keep St Nicholas open.

The Archdeacon then outlined three possible ways forward for the church:

The first being a revival of the church in Fyfield! (*This is the PCC's favoured outcome*)

The second was the recognition that the worship community (*according to numbers at the time of our meeting*) is unsustainable and the church building will close.

A third possibility is that St Nicholas's becomes a festival church.

A festival church is usually a rural church which is not needed for weekly worship but is valued and takes Festivals of the Church (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Rogation, Harvest Festival etc.) The building can still be used by the community. Insurance and maintenance may be delegated/pooled or outsourced with a trust managing these on behalf of the PCC.

In a subsequent meeting, the PCC agreed to have a 'watching brief' until the end of the summer 2019 to ascertain whether attendances continue to increase (*with the concomitant increase in giving*) and also to see if we could attract additional members of the PCC as well as volunteers for the vacant office of

Church Warden. We also agreed to have a follow-up meeting with members of the village community to give an update on the outlook for St Nicholas and to inform the community about the PCC's plans, going forward.

I hereby give notice of that meeting, in church, on **9th September 2019 at 19.30**. Please do come to share your views with us.

The Archdeacon stated, at a meeting with the Joint Wardens of both benefices, that the church is neither The National Trust nor English Heritage, but a community centred on a living faith in Jesus Christ. There is, clearly, huge affection for the building of St Nicholas' Church, but the endeavour before me and the PCC is to inspire a devotion to the Christian Faith and a desire to join the people who **are** the Church in Fyfield.

One or two recent attenders have commented that services are not 'modern' or engaging enough. We would like to work towards making our services more accessible and livelier. However, these changes depend on a number of factors, including the availability of musicians (*and the financial means to recruit them*); people to share in the day-to-day running of the church, including the ministry of welcome and hospitality, and the willingness of the whole church family to engage with the minister in making the improvements. If you wait until change happens before deciding to join us, your commitment might be too late, because we need **YOUR PRESENCE** to make those changes possible.

When people join a sports club, a village hall committee, a bridge club or the WI,

they rarely do so because everything is already so lively, upbeat and modern! They join because they have an interest and want to be part of that group, doing together what they enjoy and then working together for change *from the inside*.

I believe everyone has an interest in the life of faith. I do not care if you have only a minute interest; if you do not know the Bible, or if you don't understand the seemingly strange ways of the institution (*nor do I entirely!*). What I do care about is **YOU**. I care about you, because God cares about you and I try my best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in drawing others into the love that God has for each of us. I want to invite you to join us at St Nicholas to share in that joint interest in faith and to experience the difference that faith can make to your life; to make a difference to the church *from the inside*.

I look forward to seeing you on the 9th September, but also before then at any of our services.

Every blessing to you all.

Chris

*Priest In Charge
The United Benefice of Bobbingworth,
Fyfield, Moreton & Willingale and
The Benefice of High Laver w Magdalen
Laver and Little Laver with Matching
The Rectory
6 Forest Drive
Fyfield
Ongar
CM5 0TP
Tel: 01277 286113
07851 934174 (mobile)*

Services at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Christine Hawkins 01277 286113

ST NICHOLAS, FYFIELD

August	4		No Service
	11	18.00	Family Communion
	18		No Service
	24	18.00	*Monthly MMU Refresh Service
September	1		No Service
	8	18.00	Family Communion
	15		No Service
	22	11.00	Family Service
		18.00	*Monthly MMU Refresh Service
	29	10.00	Family Communion Joint Benefices St Germain Bobbingworth

*MMU – Mission and Ministry Unit – working across Parish boundaries to come together in fellowship and mission. Clergy led initiative open to everyone to attend this worship.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MORETON

August	4	9.30	Holy Communion
	11		No Service
	18		No Service
	24		No Service
September	1	9.30	Holy Communion
	8		No Service
	15		No Service
	22		No Service
	29	10.00	Family Communion Joint Benefices St Germain Bobbingworth

ST GERMAIN, BOBBINGWORTH

August	4		No Service
	11		No Service
	18	11.00	Family Communion
	24		No Service
September	1	11.00	Family Service
	8		No Service
	15	11.00	Family Communion
	22		No Service
	29	10.00	Family Communion Joint Benefices St Germain Bobbingworth

ST CHRISTOPHER, WILLINGALE

August	4		No Service
	11		No Service
	18		No Service
	24	9.30	Family Communion
September 1			No Service
	8	9.30	Family Service
	15	18.00	Evening Prayer
	22	9.30	Holy Communion
	29	10.00	Family Communion Joint Benefices St Germain Bobbingworth

Praying Morning Prayer Together

Religious communities, for centuries, prayed the ancient 'Divine Office', also known as the 'canonical hours' or 'liturgy of the hours' This is the official set of prayers which mark the day and "sanctify the day with prayer", according to the following pattern:

- Matins (*during the night, at about 2 a.m.*); also called Vigil
- Lauds or Dawn Prayer (*at dawn, about 5 a.m., but earlier in summer, later in winter*)
- Prime or Early Morning Prayer (*First Hour = approximately 6 a.m.*)
- Terce or Mid-Morning Prayer (*Third Hour = approximately 9 a.m.*)
- Sext or Midday Prayer (*Sixth Hour = approximately 12 noon*)
- None or Mid-Afternoon Prayer (*Ninth Hour = approximately 3 p.m.*)
- Vespers or Evening Prayer (*"at the lighting of the lamps", about 6 p.m.*)
- Compline or Night Prayer (*before retiring, about 7 p.m.*)

The pattern has been simplified over the years and it is comforting to know that we are not now required to get up at 2 am to say our prayers!

In the Church of England, we now follow the Common Worship Prayer Book (CWPB), which makes provision for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer as well as Prayer in the Day and embraces

the three key elements of praise, intercession and engagement with scripture. All ministers are required to pray Morning and Evening Prayer every day. They are intended to be occasions of public prayer. Prayer is enhanced when it happens in the company of others – another demonstration of how, in the words of Pope Francis, we are '*better together*'.

Therefore, from the beginning of August, for a trial period of 4 months, instead of praying alone in my study, I will be praying Morning Prayer in each of the churches in the two benefices according to the timetables (for August & September) which appears next in this magazine.

We will be at prayer at the ancient hour of Terce, between 9.00am and 9.30am Monday to Thursday every week. I will also aim to be available to meet up with anyone who wants to come for a private consultation or just for a catch-up afterwards.

You are all most welcome to join me for prayer, indeed, I hope and pray that many will come to offer up prayers for ourselves, for our families and community and for the world, but most of all to thank God for the beginning of another new day.

If you need any further information, please do get in touch.

Chris Hawkins

PRAYING MORNING PRAYER TOGETHER

Rota of Services 9.00am – 9.30 am

August

Monday 5th St Christophers Willingale	Tuesday 6th St Nicholas Fyfield	Wednesday 7th St Mary's Moreton	Thursday 8th St Germain Bobbingworth
Monday 12th St Marys Matching	Tuesday 13th All Saints High Laver	Wednesday 14th St Mary the Virgin Little Laver	Thursday 15th St Mary Magdalen Magdalen Laver
Monday 19th St Christophers Willingale	Tuesday 20th St Nicholas Fyfield	Wednesday 21st St Mary's Moreton	Thursday 22nd St Germain Bobbingworth
Monday 26th St Marys Matching	Tuesday 27th All Saints High Laver	Wednesday 28th St Mary the Virgin Little Laver	Thursday 29th St Mary Magdalen Magdalen Laver

September

Monday 2 St Christophers Willingale	Tuesday 3 St Nicholas Fyfield	Wednesday 4 St Mary's Moreton	Thursday 5 St Germain Bobbingworth
Monday 9 St Marys Matching	Tuesday 10 All Saints High Laver	Wednesday 11 St Mary the Virgin Little Laver	Thursday 12 St Mary Magdalen Magdalen Laver
Monday 16 St Christophers Willingale	Tuesday 17 St Nicholas Fyfield	Wednesday 18 St Mary's Moreton	Thursday 19 St Germain Bobbingworth
Monday 23 St Marys Matching	Tuesday 24 All Saints High Laver	Wednesday 25 St Mary the Virgin Little Laver	Thursday 26 St Mary Magdalen Magdalen Laver
Monday 30 St Christophers Willingale			



NB Shaded Boxes - on these dates rev Chris is not available but prayers may be led by a member of the congregation.

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Fyfield Footpath 5K

& Free Family
Fun Run

Sunday 15th September – 10am start

Walk – Jog – Run

The Fyfield Footpath 5K
Fyfield Village Hall

Register now at:

www.fyfield5k.com

Adults: £12 – Children: £7

Free Family Fun Run

Dogs welcome

Free Parking



1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group

Registered Charity No. 1081501

The Fyfield Footpath 5K 2019.



Last September, over a hundred runners, joggers and walkers took part in the inaugural Fyfield Footpath 5K, in aid of 1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group. Traveling around a varied course along the footpaths of Fyfield, many participants said that the route was particularly beautiful. Many children took part and several dogs

even completed the route. The fastest time was 20 minutes and 39 seconds, but almost half of those taking part enjoyed taking it at a walking pace.

This year, the Fyfield Footpath 5K is on Sunday 15th September starting and finishing at Fyfield Village Hall. Registration is open online at www.fyfield5k.com and everyone is welcome to take part, all participants receive a souvenir t-shirt. All the profits support our Scout Group who provide amazing opportunities for young people in our area from the age of 5 all the way through to 18.

Even if you do not want to walk, jog or run you can come along and cheer people on. Food and drink will be available on the day, as well as free parking and bag drop for participants.

Matthew Wadey

St Nicholas Church Fyfield

ADVANCE NOTICE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival this year with our neighbouring church – St Christopher, Willingale.

Date: 13 October 2019

Time: 09.30

at St Christopher, Willingale.

Donations of food and other urgent items will be given to

Harlow Food Bank.



Dr Walker's School

Summer Term

Dr Walker's is a GOOD school – Ofsted – June 2019. We are very pleased to announce the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. The report stated that, 'Teaching is consistently good across the school and is relevant to the pupils' needs and interests.'

We pride ourselves on being a family and our first priority is the happiness of the children. Ofsted acknowledged this, - 'There is a strong sense of nurture and inclusion.'

The full 2019 Ofsted report is available on our website.

We will be announcing some Open Days for September 2019 onwards, so please look out for those.

Recently, the school engaged in a whole school project – *IsingPOP*. The whole school learnt six pop songs with a Christian ethos and then recorded our own CD. To end the project we performed at St Nicholas' Church in Fyfield for family members and the local community. It was great to see so many faces and we all enjoyed it so much.

We have also enjoyed Sports Day and our yearly Fun Run. Parents and families came to cheer the children on and it was great to see. Normans house won the Sports day!

We have also been awarded the Gold School Games Award this term, so there is a lot to celebrate in Sports.

Miss N. Willis
Headteacher



Sports Day



IsingPOP Concert



New School Uniform



Black Bull – Ascot Day Lunch

On 21st June The Black Bull held an Ascot Day Lunch from 12.00 noon.

We enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch followed by an afternoon of races showing on various televisions in the pub with a bookie taking our bets. There was also a Best Ascot Day Hat competition with the 1st prize being won by Jan Hall and the second prize going to Pamela Orris.

Nicky and Tony Walker were fabulous Hosts and it was a very enjoyable event.

Jan Hall



Tony Walker with Jan Hall & Pamela Orris

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- A sensory room and library/story telling area for stimulating educational progress.
- Home cooked food prepared on site with our in-house chef. We cater for individual children's dietary needs ie vegetarian, allergies, gluten-free etc.
- Poppets own vegetable patch in the garden, mud kitchen & sand pit.
- After school club available weekdays throughout the year, in our purpose built log cabin. Breakfast Club available for Chipping Ongar, Dr Walkers, High Ongar and Ongar Primary.

Contact our Nursery Manager, Michelle Pateman on 01277 365488 or by email

Michellepateman@poppetsnursery.co.uk

Unit 10, Fyfield Business & Research Park, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex, CM3 1PY

DR WALKERS SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Any young person who is resident in the parishes of Fyfield, Willingale or High Ongar may seek financial assistance from the Foundation. Assistance is also open to young people who currently attend Dr Walker's School or have attended Dr Walker's School for not less than two years and who, in the opinion of the Governors, are in need of financial assistance.

Assistance is available towards an education exhibition approved by the Governors, the cost of clothing, tools, instruments or books required to assist their entry into a profession, trade or calling, or otherwise promote their education. Applicants for university and other further education are particularly encouraged.

Applications for assistance should be sent to the Clerk to the Governors: Mr P Gilbert, 11 Roxwell Road Chelmsford CM1 2LY, to arrive no later than the first full week in September. Details of the Foundation may be obtained from the Chairman or any of the Foundation Governors listed below:

Mrs M Ellis - Chair
Rev C Hawkins
Mrs H Gingell
Mrs D Spanton
Mr R Wallden

Narrow Pavements - Take Care!

We have some particularly narrow pavements leading up to the village and around the Black Bull area. Residents have expressed concern that bushes overhanging from gardens further reduce the width and make it even more dangerous as people are forced to walk nearer the road.

It would be much appreciated if these could be attended to. If you need any help please do get in touch.

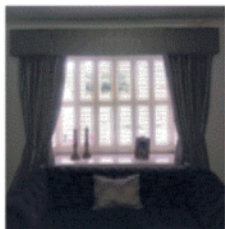
Thank you
Les Lamb



As we are talking about narrow pavements, I would add that cars parked along the road from the Church to the bridge often go up on the very narrow pavement which means that anyone walking along the path can't get through and is forced to go onto the road at a very dangerous point where the speed limit is still 60mph, the road narrows and the bend and camber of the road is completely out of kilter.

Sally Wallden

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The Gypsy Mead



The Gypsy Mead was originally a wooden one-room tea-room near the garage that a Mr. and Mrs. Morse had built about 1925-6. Legend has it that it had indeed been a gypsy encampment, and is said to be unlucky as one gypsy brother killed another in a fight over a girl! In the early days it was a favourite venue for cycling clubs out for a ride in the Essex country side and later it was enlarged and two tennis courts added to cater for its increasing popularity with the new breed or weekend motorists. John Wright recalls that some flag stones from a burnt out barn of his father's were used there in the grounds. According to Mrs. Hoy, who first worked there from 1935-40, becoming head girl at only eighteen, the rooms were always full of flowers and antiques, Mr. Morse being a keen gardener and collector. The waitresses were prettily dressed in white blouses, paisley silk head scarves and each girl in a different coloured striped skirt. She remembers the Morses affectionately as wonderful employers who treated all their staff like family. They served morning coffee, afternoon set teas (2/6d a head) and high teas until 6pm in winter, where a huge log fire was kept burning from October to April.

There was a thriving tennis club there and Betty and John Wright remember playing there, especially on Sunday mornings with their farming friends, and in 1941 their Wedding Reception was held there.

Luckily, being farmers they were able to supply their own milk, cream and chickens in those days of wartime rationing. Many other local people remember having their wedding receptions, 21st Birthday parties and other balls and celebrations at the Gypsy.

Eventually Arthur Morse took over from his parents and subsequently Merrick and Lynda Morgan, followed by the Marios, who made a great success of it as a full restaurant with dinner dances, hunt dinners, cricket club dinners, and Burns Nights, until Peter Mario's untimely death. The Gypsy then suffered a change of cuisine and a change of name, but did not really prosper and was sold yet again, reverting to its old name. However, mainly due to the recession, it has finally closed. It now stands abandoned and neglected, its future undecided, its colourful past still vivid in local people's minds. A melancholy end to this well-known Essex landmark.

Betty & John Wright and Mrs. Rita Hoy

In view of the current proposals to build houses on the Gypsy Mead site I thought readers might be interested in an article first published in the Focus in 1993. The nostalgic memories above were supplied at the time by Betty and John Wright and Mrs Rita Hoy.

Pat Turnpenny

The Focus is going to attempt to write a further article on the Gypsy Mead site which will cover the history since the closure of the Gypsy Mead until the present time.

Cheryl Hadley



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Best Kept Front Garden Competition – 2019

This year's competition winners are:

1st Prize – John & Liz Horsman - Elmhurst, Dunmow Road



Neatly tended, this garden has an 'old' feel; well-loved and been lived in for a long time. It has many gardens within the garden with some very mature trees.

The garden

invites you in to be explored and we were very tempted to do so!

2nd Prize – David & Jenny Humphries – 2 Forest Drive, Elmbridge Gate

This garden is my favourite. To keep it looking so nice a lot of time and effort must be put into this garden. There is an array of flowers and shrubs. Lots of colour and architecture in the design. It's a little gem, hidden a bit round the corner. All the judges agreed with the judge's comments.



3rd Prize – Sally & Richard Wallden – Rowan Cottage, Cannons Green

A front garden which is maintained to a very high standard throughout the year. It has a lovely border to the right which the owner calls 'Her Friendship Garden' as it is full of plants given to her from her many friends.



Once again this year was a very close competition and making the final decision, through the process of elimination and debate amongst the 4 judges (Cheryl Hadley, Ann Jackson, Kate Lamb and Jenny Stone) took some time but the top 3 winners were a unanimous choice across the judging team.

Just to remind you how the judging is undertaken. Each judge has an area of Fyfield to review and then submits their top 5 gardens, along with their 1st round judging comments and the gardens' positions 1-5. The judging team then visit the 20 gardens as a group, the judging owner presents their views on the garden and justifies the position they have given the garden and the judges comment, question and review against the competition criteria. However, each judge keeps their thoughts close to their chest until later! Once the group review of all 20 gardens is complete the judging team start to go

through the process of elimination to get to the final top 3 positions.

The top 20 gardens for this year are listed below and we hope seeing your garden on the list encourages you that your garden has been viewed favourably and that you may not be far from winning an award in the competition. Judges also note gardens which stand out and are very close to being on the top 20 list or have made noticeable improvements either since last year or over the years.

Mill Lodge – Queen Street,
Pennyfeathers Farm – Moreton Road,
Rowan Cottage – Cannons Lane,
2 Lampetts Cottages – Moreton Road,
Eco House – Cannons Lane, 2 Forest Drive,
8 Forest Drive, Blackeney - Clatterford End,
8 Abbey Close, Spring Cottage – Ongar Road,
6 The Grange, The Cottage – Willingale Road,
14 Walker Avenue, 25 Walker Avenue,
30 Walker Avenue, Tannerwhites – Norwood End,
Sunnyside - Dunmow Road, Elmhurst - Dunmow Road,
Bridge House – Dunmow Road, Large Cream House opposite Does – Dunmow Road.

Gardens which have stood out this year and in the judges' opinion are worthy of comment are:

Tannerwhites – this garden was in the top 20 last year and again its maintenance and attractiveness has improved since last year – this is a garden to watch.

Thatched wooden house at the bottom of Cannons Lane – this garden is extremely well maintained and its planting is delightful – ‘The

Quintessential English Cottage Garden’ with lots of bird feeders. Unfortunately this is not a front garden but a back garden which is located on the side of the house – such a pity.

Eco House, Cannons Lane – This garden is well maintained and the development of it is a pleasure to see.

6 The Grange – This garden continues to be well cared for and very attractive – the hedge has a double row of Red Robin hedging and makes this house really stand-out – beautiful.

Walker Avenue – this area has many cared for and attractive gardens and the standard of the gardens continues to go up. In addition to the ones which appear in the top 20 list the following are worthy of mention: 16, 19 & 24 Also 34 has improved considerably since last year – it looks wonderful.

In addition to individual gardens being judged all judges submit comments about areas in the village which show high maintenance and attractiveness and which really add positively to the overall look and feel of our village.

The areas in particular are:

Lestrem, Dunmow Road – the large area of tree planting is magnificent – what a view when you enter or leave the village. Just stunning!

Dacres Gate – overall impression of this gated housing area is very attractive – smart, low maintenance & colourful.

The Grange is maintained to a very high standard and is very attractive.

Mellstock, The Mallards, Brook End & Penny Bridge (all near our telephone box) combine to make a very attractive row of houses.

Mill Lodge, Mill House & River View collectively create a stunning view in the centre of the village which is admired by many residents and visitors to our village. It is a joy to see the seasonal changes and it is a sight we never tire of admiring.

Nos. 1 & 2 Queen Street are a pleasure to see walking down Queen Street and it is always lovely to see their seasonal plantings change. The fronts of these 2 cottages are very attractive & really enhance Queen Street.

Brewetts has new owners and the frontage of this house has been softened with 2 wooden planters - very attractive.

We are hoping to have this year's Top 20 Results with individual comments loaded on to the FPC Website as well as last year's and the full list of winners since the FPC launched the competition in 2013 along with the competition Purpose, Judging Criteria and Competition Rules.

Finally, it has again been a pleasure to be part of this FPC competition this year – we have such a wonderful village to be proud of and it is very satisfying to witness some of the improvements.

Cheryl Hadley, Ann Jackson, Kate Lamb and Jenny Stone.



Judging team -
Jenny Stone, Cheryl Hadley, Kate Lamb
& Ann Jackson

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Ongar Health Centre Patient Participation Group



The PPG have held the first of their Carers' Coffee Mornings at the Ongar Health Centre with the aim of getting local carers connected for friendship and support. The events

were a great success and we enjoyed coffee, cake and conversation, as well as some practical advice on benefits applications and the various support options available. An idea that stemmed from the meetings was to try to start a regular activity group for carers and their loved ones to attend together. As a result, the PPG will be liaising with the Health Centre and local community groups to investigate options for such a group to be set up. Thank you to all those who attended the coffee mornings, please look out for future dates if you or anyone you know would benefit from attending a future event.

We are also working to get the next edition of the PPG newsletter published in August so look out for an email if you are subscribed to our mailing list, or pick up a hard copy at the surgery. If you would like to be added to our email list then please contact us via the details below.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions of ways in which the PPG could best represent the needs and interests of patients at the surgery then please do get in touch. In particular, we would love to hear from patients who may have young children, who may have to care for a friend or family member, as well as those who either regularly use the surgery or rarely have a need to access the services. Please feel free to email us at ongarppgnews@gmail.com, follow us on Twitter @ongarPPG or leave any correspondence for our attention at the surgery.

Jenny Juttner



Jenny Juttner and Roberta Abbott at the first of the PPG Carers' Coffee Mornings

‘Coffee with Cops’ At Fyfield Village Hall



All residents of Fyfield, Willingale, Moreton & The Lavers are invited to join us at this informal meeting. This is your opportunity to come and chat to

raise any issues or concerns you may have with a member of our local police force, or simply listen to the flow of information over a cup of coffee and cake.

The next dates are as follows: Tuesday 20th August 10am – 11am, Saturday 28th September 5pm-6pm* (*this date is subject to change should the village hall be required for a private function) Please do support this valuable resource by attending the meetings when you can. As well as the useful sharing of information, there are often practical security resources on hand for distribution amongst those that attend. For further details please contact Cllr Barbara Seward – email: barbara128@ymail.com or Tel: 07747803829

Local Policing Your Help Is Needed

If you see something suspicious or out of the ordinary in the local area then please report it to our local police officer **first** before posting on social media sites. Our local PC Paul Harrison is frequently out on patrol in and around Ongar and the surrounding villages and can therefore respond quickly to reports, potentially thwarting criminal activity before it happens. Policing needs our community engagement and interaction and relies on intelligence information coming from us, the public. So if you see any suspicious activity or behaviour, please notify Paul in the first instance as he may well be in a position to respond and investigate immediately. His contact details are:

Mobile: 07815 491392

Email: Paul.HarrisonPC@essex.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: PcPaulHarrison1



Call 999 in an emergency situation

Fyfield Litter Pickers



tipping. Black sacks full of empty beer cans were removed as part of the June Litter Pick. A trip down Moreton Road is beginning to feel like Ground Hog Day!

It has been encouraging to see on the Village Facebook site that more and more people are doing spontaneous litter picks. Are we making a difference?

We have received a number of requests for a Litter Pick at the weekend so that

Once again, the lay-by on Moreton Road near Pennyfeathers Farm has been the target of fly

schoolchildren and others can join in. The next Litter Pick will be on Saturday 21st September meeting at 9.30am at the Village Hall. Please do try to come. All you need is a black sack and old gloves.

Fiona Baxter and Heather Porter



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Fyfield *Luncheon Club*



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lunch cooked for us by
The Queens Head
and a delicious
dessert made by
our lovely team
of helpers. If
you would like to

join our friendly group then please call
Sandra on 01277899519.

There is no meeting in August, looking
forward to seeing you at our next
meeting on the 11th of September.

Sandra Mead and Jan Hall

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On Saturday 22nd June, Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS) held its yearly AGM and Garden Party in the attractive grounds of one of its members.

The Chairman, Keith Snow, who is also one of the two Programme Secretaries, introduced the Annual General Meeting and gave his report for the year and there was a further report by the Treasurer, John Turnbull. Meaningful discussions followed with wide participation of those present.

Members spoke of a successful year in which the talks were interesting and informative. Everyone remembered the New Year Party, which was the usual special occasion.

We shall have to wait until later in the year to learn of the programme for 2020, but the Programme Secretary indicated that it contains topics of interest to everyone and continues the expected high standard. A wide range of animals, plants and habitats are included. Talks already booked feature

badgers, polar bears, lemurs and domestic cats. We have not forgotten the birds. There is just one more talk to arrange.

A delicious buffet lunch followed the meeting, and we sat in the garden in the sunshine on one of the best days for a long while and ate, drank and talked until it was time to go home.

OWLS Meetings in 2019: 16th Sept Climate Change Brian Eversham; 21st October Insect Trends: Is it all bad news? Rosie Earwaker; 18th November Wildlife and Landscape Photography Andrew Bailey; 9th December Christmas Corals Brian Rosen.

Having heard a talk you may wish to join OWLS and learn more about other aspects of the natural world. Visitors pay £5, **but why not join - only £20 a year** for nine talks, a garden party and a New Year party. It's great value and an opportunity to learn more about the natural world.

More information can be found at www.ongarwildlifesociety.org.uk

Keith Snow

Special Dates for August/September

August Bank Holiday

- Monday, 26th August

Battle of Britain Day

- Sunday, 15th September

The Fyfield Focus Is Still in Need of an Editor and Design & Production Manager

The Fyfield Focus has served the community of Fyfield for 40 years but this will be no more if we can't get a replacement Editor and Design & Production Manager by the end of the Year.

The Fyfield Focus team is made up of an Editor (Cheryl Hadley), Design & Production Manager (Ian Hadley) 3 Sub-Editors (Sally Wallden, Margaret Dines & Jenny Juttner), Manager of Finance & Delivery (Steve Turner) and 18 residents who make up the delivery team. We all work very well as a team, everyone is community spirited, enjoys being part of producing a quality magazine and is very keen for the Fyfield Focus to continue.

The Editor's role takes approximately 2 working days every 2 months during production plus approximately 2 working days across the year for management & administration. Key Skills & Responsibilities are:

Key Skills:

- Keen eye to detail and good word processing skills using Word and eMail with excellent communication skills both written and verbal. Experience with financial control using excel useful.
- A good team player and leader.

Responsibilities:

- Ownership & management of the magazine's content, design and delivery.
- Manage the Focus eMail box, all editorial & advertising enquiries, queries from team members and obtaining approval from advertisers for paid adverts & notices.
- Manage the Editorial workflow to accommodate workload demands & holiday

cover & assist with the processing of articles in readiness for production.

- Responsible for the Editor Letter, Village Diary, Useful Contacts List, changes to the magazine's static data and undertake a final review of the magazine before it is submitted to the printers.
- Undertake all administration tasks in relation to the running of the magazine.

The Design & Production Manager's role takes approximately 1 working day every 2 months during production. Key Skills & Responsibilities are:

Key Skills:

- Desk Top Publishing, Artistic & computer graphic skills essential.

Responsibilities:

- Amalgamation of all content for the Focus once received from the Editorial Team.
- Placing all content in an attractive and effective layout using Desk Top Publishing software to produce a final publication prior to sending to the printers.
- Creating and or modifying all adverts.
- Management & update of the magazine's website useful but not essential as this may be managed differently going forward.

For more details and further information call Cheryl Hadley on 01277 89980 or eMail me at fyfieldfocus@gmx.co.uk.

Fyfield *Village Hall*



As many of you will know, on 7th June we held an unveiling ceremony for the new plaque at the Village Hall to commemorate the First World War Night Landing Ground that was based here in Fyfield. We had a lovely evening, despite the weather, and I would like to say a big thank you to the 2317 (Harlow) Air Cadets and Flt Lt John Hawkins who made it so very special. The band played some familiar tunes and we all enjoyed the BBQ afterwards. It is important for us to remember that our village has played its part in history, and it is wonderful to see youngsters who are also interested in keeping those memories alive.

We have been luckier with the weather for our other BBQs, which we held on a Friday evening. I would like to say thank you to the Village Hall Committee who ran these evenings, but more importantly, thank you to those residents who came along, had some fun and used the Village Hall just to get together and have a laugh.

We would like to advise you well in advance of an event we will be holding next year on May 9th. The weekend will be a special one across the country as it is the 75th anniversary of VE day. We will be holding a very special evening with entertainment to celebrate, so keep the date free and watch out for more information nearer the time.

There will be other fund raising events in the near future, although no firm dates have yet been set. Please see the Village Updates that are produced and displayed.

The next Epping Life Walk is on August 5th and everyone is welcome to join the walk. It starts at 10am from the Village Hall car park. We continue to supply tea, coffee and cake afterwards, so why not give it a go.

We still have a vacancy on our Committee so if you want to come and join us and help keep the hall open and accessible for everyone, then just let me know and I can answer any questions that you might have.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Marie Apperley

Chair 01277 899386

fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com

100 Club Winning Numbers are:

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June	72	73	37
July	21	27	22



The 2317 (Harlow) Air Cadets Squadron Band at the WW1 Fyfield Night Landing Ground Plaque unveiling ceremony



Coffee Mornings

At our monthly Coffee Mornings in the Church, we charge a small fee for the coffee and delicious cakes and hold a raffle. With the support of everyone who attends, over the last two years, we have been able to renew the curtains in the Church at a cost of £2000. So thank you all so much.

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Fyfield & District **W.I.**



At the recent National Federation of W.I.'s Annual Meeting, two Resolutions were passed by overwhelming majorities. The

first was a call to Government and Local Authorities about the decline in local bus services. This was supported for many reasons, including public transport being a key factor in cutting carbon emissions, reducing social isolation and ensuring access to employment, education, local facilities and health services.

The second was 'Don't Fear the Smear'. It is estimated that smear tests currently

prevent 70% of cervical cancer deaths but attendance for the test is lower amongst women between 25 and 29 years old. Yet this form of cancer is the most common cancer in women under 35. The W.I. will be campaigning to raise awareness in women of all ages of the need to go for the test.

We are planning a fundraising event on Wednesday 25th September, 12.00 ~ 2.00 pm in the Village Hall. "Just Desserts" will tempt you with a mouth-watering array of desserts served with tea or coffees and there will be various stalls. So make a note of the date, you will be very welcome.

Pat Turnpenny, Secretary.

Fyfield Coffee Morning (in the church)

*Please come and join us for
coffee and homemade cakes.*

6th August, 3rd September & 1st October
10 am to 12 Noon
Marion, Carol & Tricia



Out of Focus

(It can't get any worse, or can it!)

Ghosts at Heathrow



A strange thing happened at Heathrow a few weeks ago. Lee of Fyfield Taxis had dropped us off for our flight to Calgary for the Stampede. The automatic security machines in Terminal 2 were down and chaos reigned. Anyway, we finally threaded our way through and, after a 15 minute walk to our boarding gate, took our seats on the Air Canada Dream Liner which was on time. As we were preparing to take off, I thought I had been transported back in time when I saw a ghost from the past. On one of the stands was a Boeing 747 branded in BOAC livery. Any of you less than 50 will probably want to stop reading now so can I suggest you go straight to the Arts Section or Rev. Christine's bit about the church. BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) along with BEA (British European Airlines) were the forerunners of BA (British Airways) prior to amalgamation in 1973. Seeing this at Heathrow for me was akin to seeing John Lennon in the next row of seats! I always thought that the BOAC livery was far more attractive than the BA livery and seeing it recently confirmed

this. It seems that BA has repainted a number of their current aircraft to celebrate 100 years of commercial aircraft operations in the UK by BA and its predecessors. Expect to see Dan Air, Court Lines and Laker Airways any time now at Luton airport possibly bookable via Clarkson's or the Travel Club of Upminster and find yourself sitting next to Lorraine Chase.

Anyway, back to the present. On the flight to Calgary I couldn't help notice how vast Greenland and Canada are having flown over both. I really hope that the ice in Greenland doesn't melt any time soon as Fyfield would disappear under water to be rediscovered in about 100,000 years' time by whoever's left. Canada is a land of Lakes, Trees, Mountains, Glaciers, Sea Planes, Bears, Elks and cyclists who are known as 'meals on wheels' to the Bears. The Calgary Stampede is massive and the whole place dresses up as cowboys and cowgirls for a week. I think so anyway although it could be their normal outfit as it used to be known as Cowntown on account of the livestock about and the number of cowboys needed to deal with them. I like Canada, there is something comfortable about the place and the weather is familiar although not as hot as here. It's also a good place to be if you want to improve your French. Most signs have the French translation below! Can't think why?

Ian Hadley

ianhadley@gmx.co.uk

Letter to the Editor re the WW2 Airfield known as Willingale to Local Residents during the war

6 Walker Avenue
Fyfield
Ongar
Essex
CM5 0RG

July 14th 2019

Dear Sirs,

It was with great interest that I read the article in the June/July Focus about the airfield that we senior citizens knew as Willingale.

I am sure the old folk of Willingale will tell you about the mud in the construction of the airfield but it was never called Chipping Ongar.

I lived in White Roding beside the runway approach to Matching Green airfield as a 10 year old. At the top of the meadow was a wooden frame, like an easel, with the letters MG on it – this was part of the lighting circuit for the airfield.

The Martin Marauder or B26 was a heavy aeroplane of which we had a birds-eye view. They would circle around overhead in groups of three on their return from France. Then one would break away and lower its wheels after levelling out for the runway. The planes would sometimes shoot out coloured flares, indicating to the ground crew which services were needed on landing. At the end of the runway a jeep, coloured in black and white squares, would be waiting. It had a board on the back with the words 'follow me' and it would guide the landed planes away to the service area.

During their leisure time the airmen would often frequent the local pubs. We (me and my mates) would go around collecting up all their empty bottles so that we could claim the refund on them. This gave us some pocket money to spend and we would often have enough for a bus fare and visit to the cinema, sometimes we even had enough for the chippy too!

After the Americans left Willingale the RAF came and when I went to the senior school at Ongar the RAF were flying twin engine Anson planes. As they flew overhead on their approach to land they would turn left towards Fyfield and on to Willingale.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D J Beard.

(It is always a pleasure to receive letters from our readers expressing interest in one of our articles. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and memories with the Focus, we know our readers and the author will read your letter with fascination. Thank you for taking the time to write to us we really appreciate it. Editor)

Archie's Column

(Tails from the Riverside)



Hi, Archie here.

You all know, because I have told you so, that Jack Russells are everywhere. We are on TV ads, in dog shows, in the street;

even as far as Willingale. Now here's a thing, The Mary Rose was a ship that sunk at Portsmouth before I was born and was dug up and put in a museum at Portsmouth. They found the ship's dog near the Carpenters cabin below deck. The people who found him nicknamed him Hatch and he was thought to be used to catch rats. Guess what? He was a Jack Russell. Now we are very good at catching rats, definitely better than cats are but we can also catch cats if they irritate us.

My mum and dad have just come back from Canadalaska or somewhere near Chelmsford. They told me about bears and bulls and the stock market. They also saw Eagles, Humpback Whales, Seals, Elks, Moose and a Jack Rabbit. I think they mean Jack Russell as I wouldn't want to be associated with a rabbit. They also saw a load of cowboys stampeding in Calgary! Must have been chased by Bears or Bulls. Now that the Harvest has happened, I can see where I am going when I go for a walk. If I was a tall dog like Martha I would be OK as I would be taller than the crops but at my

height I have to walk on my hind legs to check things out. I see that my Meer cat friend Oleg is back on the TV. He lives in San Francisco which is also near Chelmsford so maybe I will meet him soon.



Anyway, I'm off to buy a cowboy outfit just incase I ever find myself in Chelmsford.

Bye for now,

Archie.





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Light Hearted Monologues from a Local



Richard Hearne aka 'Mr Pastry,' was a Chaplinesque children's entertainer featured on BBC television in the 1950's and 60's. His drooping moustache, white hair hidden often by a

black bowler hat and National Health round shaped glasses worn forward on his nose, made him not world famous, but well liked as a harmless bumbling figure who created mayhem in every situation. Such heady harmless days!

I am reminded of him when recalling one of my first job interviews in the early 1960's. As I neared the allotted employment venue, the property adjoining had a high wooden fence surround. From behind this was a chanting of voices, "THIRTEEN!" "THIRTEEN!" Over and over again.

As I peeped through a knothole in the fence, I dislodged a loose piece of fencing on the inside. It disclosed a hole big enough for me to fit my face through - like one of those used as a photographer's cartoon picture.

I caught a glimpse inside of cans on the grass when a deluge of cold white paint

hit me full in the face. Recoiling, my shirt became whiter. My tie lost all of its pattern as the paint travelled downwards towards my shoes causing them to become a mixed colour of black and white, looking like what I believe were called, 'spats' in the twenties.

White kneepads appeared on my trousers. Maybe the paint was Carson's or Woolworths, but without a doubt, the brand certainly adhered well!

"FOURTEEN", "FOURTEEN" suddenly became the chant.

Mr Pastry featured in a sketch where he became covered in white paint. Hence my recollection.

This property was a special school for children and this exercise would have helped their counting and decorating prowess. To be fair, I was not forced to investigate and this has taught me to always try to be 'whiter than white.'

I never did make the interview. The laughter I endured on the bus ride home convinced me that the legal profession, decorating and investigative employment were not for me.

I sometimes wonder- was it all a dream?

Barry Betteridge

Fyfield Village

Pre-School

FYFIELD Village Pre-School held their sports day on the village sports field. Children aged three and four took part in running, egg and spoon and car races. A fun day for the whole pre-school was held afterwards with the youngsters enjoying toys and bouncy castles in the sunshine.

The next event is an end of year party

and the graduation for the oldest pupils who are heading off to primary school. For more information about the pre-school call 01277 899678 or email fyfield_manager@hotmail.com

Michelle Breavington





When I first became the EFDC District Councillor for Moreton & Fyfield Ward I part expected that it would be a similar role to that of Parish

Councillor. Whilst the contact with residents remains much the same everything else seems to have shifted as I now spend most of my time dealing with Epping District wide issues & initiatives which may have little immediate relevance to the Ward I cover. So much is happening at EFDC at the moment that it was hard to choose which item(s) to share with you but I would like to report on two that are very worthwhile.

The first is the new Digital Inclusion initiative. It is estimated that there are around 21,000 adult residents in our District who have never used the Internet. There are many harsh things said about the Internet but the benefits easily outweigh the drawbacks and this will only increase in the near future. When you consider that on-line shopping has gone from zero to a way of life for many in the last 20 years and will become a lifeline in the future for many people who find it difficult to visit shops. Unfortunately, not everyone understands these benefits and are being cut off from making life a lot easier for themselves and may become left behind. An independent report for EFDC produced by Citizens Online has made recommendations for our area and these

will be discussed during September with the aim to implement projects across the District which will identify and engage with residents who, for whatever reason, have not or cannot access the Internet.

The second item is the provision of shipping containers referred to as 'Pods' to be used as emergency temporary homes for the homeless. The containers



are studio or one-bedroom homes and are insulated, fitted with windows, doors, kitchen units, radiators, electricity and running water. They not only provide an independent living solution – preferable to bed and breakfast accommodation – for homeless people, but also a cost-effective solution for the Council. With over 1,500 people on the Housing Register, it is a quick and innovative way of providing temporary accommodation for people facing homelessness, while more permanent places can be found for them. Four of the Pods have been installed, as a trial project at the Council's homeless hostel at Norway House, North Weald providing temporary homes, and storage, for single people.

It's that time of year again! Don't ignore the form dropping through your letterbox soon! The 2019 annual canvass of electors starts in Epping Forest District with letters going out on 26th July. It is essential you are registered to vote as it can have an effect on your ability to get a mortgage, loan or even a mobile phone contract! Also, there might be another Parliamentary election/EU Referendum soon so make sure you can vote by responding NOW.

If you have any questions relating to anything that affects you in the Ward or District please contact me anytime.

Cllr. Ian Hadley
Epping Forest District Council,
Moreton & Fyfield Ward
01277 89984
07765882001

cllr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Cookery Section



I am sure you will enjoy these two very tasty and light starters which are perfect for Summer; the cheese & cucumber mousse is particularly refreshing. Both starters can be enjoyed at any time of the year and can also be used as part of a light lunch, part of a mezza or served on their own with drinks - just delicious.

Vancouver Mezza

Hummus
Green Olives (stoned)
Black Olives (stoned)
Cherry Tomatoes (halved)
Capers (chopped)
Dill (chopped)
Olive Oil (very small amount)
Feta Cheese (crumbled)
Parsley (chopped)
Black Pepper
Naan Bread to serve

Mix the feta and chopped parsley together and put 1 1/2 tbl spns to one side to use as a garnish. Mix the feta and parsley with the rest of the ingredients except the hummus. Place the mixture in a mound on a serving plate and cover with the hummus (keeping it in a mound shape) & sprinkle the feta & parsley over

as a garnish. Warm the Naan Bread and cut into triangles and serve with the hummus.

Cheryl Hadley

(A simple idea which Ian & I enjoyed on our recent trip to Vancouver. I am not sure if the recipe should have a small amount of white wine vinegar so bear this in mind. Also I can't remember if the feta & parsley was also inside the hummus mound so bear this in mind that you may need to do this and save some for the garnish. Amounts depend on how many people you are serving; I can't advise as I haven't yet re-created but it is delicious.)

Cheese & Cucumber Mousse

1 lge. cucumber
salt & pepper
6oz Philadelphia cream cheese
1 small white onion finely chopped
1/2 oz gelatine
3 tbl spns cold water
1/4 pt boiling water
2 tbl spns white wine vinegar
1 tbl spn castor sugar
1 pinch mace
1/4 pt double cream
Medium Slices of White or Brown Bread
Butter (to go with the melba toast)

Dice the unpeeled cucumber & place on a plate & cover with another plate and weight to extract excess water then drain – leave for approx. 30 mins.

Beat cheese & onion and add salt & pepper. Soak gelatine in cold water until

dissolved & add boiling water; leave to cool then add to cheese mixture. Add to the mixture cucumber, vinegar, sugar, mace & cream & mix well.

Pour mixture into a bowl or 6-8 individual ramekins. Put in the fridge and serve when set adding a garnish of cucumber & lemon (optional) Make the Melba toast and serve with the Mousse. (The melba toast can be made a few days in advance if kept in a sealed container.)

but as it has done the rounds I have reluctantly decided to share with the Focus readers!)



Cheryl Hadley

(This recipe has been in my hands for many years and came from Angela Reece a friend from Yorkshire. It has been a firm favourite amongst my family and friends and particularly my no. 3 stepson Stuart



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Further information from Patti Nicholson 01277 899504) or

Liz Bird (01277 899324)

Fyfield Parish Council - Council Focus

As well as day to day matters your councillors have been volunteering their time working on several important initiatives. These concern grounds maintenance, council vacancies and the parish budget.

Grounds Maintenance

For many years the recreation field and Church grounds were maintained by volunteers. However, this ended and your council now pays a grounds maintenance company to do the work. This is funded from a portion of our council tax (*the Precept*) along with some variable income from the burial grounds.

Councillors Jan Hall and Les Lamb have been working to better understand the charges and maintenance schedule. How it all fits together with the Church and the Fyfield Village Hall and their license to run the recreation field and associated sporting activities, such as football.

We have had constructive meetings with all concerned which will enable us to make informed decisions going forward.

Parish Clerk

Mr. Derek Farr has resigned as clerk and will leave us at the end of August. Derek has served the council admirably and his wealth of experience was crucial during some recent difficult times.

Many thanks to Derek and very best wishes with his continuing quest to fully retire!

To find a replacement, Councillors Barbara Saward and Dan Webster have worked with Derek to write a Job Description and advertise the position. If you would like to

apply please look at the FPC website for details.

Parish Budget

Councillors Marion Alcock and Liselle Chisenhale-Marsh have been analysing the budget in fine detail.

Although the precept we all pay in Fyfield is well below the average for the EFDC region you would expect your council to have justifiable reasons for any proposed increase in 2020.

This analysis will help us be better informed and prepared for the next budget.

A New Councillor!

Welcome to Councillor Marion Alcock who joined the council last month. Marion's financial background is already proving valuable.

We still have one vacancy so please contact any councillor if you are interested in joining the team and volunteering some of your time to help further improve our lovely village and it's community.

Your council meets each month and welcomes residents coming along to air their views. The meeting schedule, agendas, minutes and other useful information is published on the FPC website.

Les Lamb

Chairman, Fyfield Parish Council

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Les Lamb

Chairman Fyfield Parish Council

Fyfield Parish Council

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Cllr. B Seward	07747 803829	barbara@seward.uk.net
Cllr. D. Webster	01277 899405	dan@fyfield.uk.com
Derek Farr, Clerk	07783 505906	caliban@gmx.co.uk

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Pageturners

Hag-Seed by Margaret Attwood



Hag-Seed is Margaret Attwood's contribution to the Hogarth Shakespeare series where authors reinterpret some of Shakespeare's classic plays.

In Hag-Seed, Attwood

reinterprets *The Tempest*, widely thought to be Shakespeare's last play. Instead of it being set on an island, Attwood chooses a prison in Canada for the location. This supplies the necessary seclusion that would be difficult to find in today's modern world.

Felix is the character who is a would be Prospero. He is the wronged artistic director who is cast aside just as he is about to unleash his greatest achievement, a production of *The Tempest*. He then goes into seclusion for 12 years until he takes a job as a tutor in a correctional facility. He persuades the inmates to put on a rendition of *The Tempest*, in which he will finally get his revenge.

Added to this story is the poignant loss of Miranda, the young daughter of Felix, and the wonderful characters that are to be found within the walls of the prison. Attwood's lightness of touch when

describing events are believable and yet a little fantastical. Take this excerpt where Felix is shopping for a bathing cap as part of the costume for one the inmates;

"For your wife?" says the woman, smiling. 'Going on a cruise?' Felix is tempted to tell her it's for a convicted criminal inside a prison who's playing the part of a magic flying blue alien, but he thinks better of it."

The title itself is an amusing example of her playfulness. All regular swearing is banned during rehearsals in the prison. They may only use the curse words Shakespeare has used in *The Tempest*, and Felix asks them to compile a list.

"Toads, beetles, bats light on you. Filth as thou art. Abhorr'ed slave. The red plague rid you. Hag-seed. All the infections that the sun sucks up..." The inmates love it and it is very funny to read them hurling these insults at each other.

You don't have to know *The Tempest* to enjoy this book, but if you do, the themes are wonderfully explored by Attwood. It is magical, funny, and thoroughly engaging and we couldn't put it down. As one reviewer put it;

"It's riotous, insanely readable and just the best fun"

Marie Apperley

Fyfield *Carpet Bowls Club*



Another two months have passed already! The club is still enjoying their carpet bowls, but some of us will be off for

our summer holidays soon.

Mary Wilkinson and Dot Letchfield will be taking part in the Ladies v Gents Charity Competition on Sunday 4th August at Braintree Leisure Centre. This event is organised by Essex County Carpet Bowls Association and is a yearly competition. All monies raised will go to a local Essex charity chosen each year by their committee.

I have included some photos with this report and you can see that we do enjoy our Tuesdays, but are very sparse on the ground! We still need a few more members, so please, if you are interested, come along on a Tuesday evening where you will be warmly welcomed. Your first two visits will be free, and if you decide to keep coming the weekly fee is just £3 with an annual fee of £5 (pro rata subject to date joined). I look forward to seeing you!

Catch you next time!

Jacky Brown





Did you know that card playing has introduced a number of well-known phrases and sayings into everyday language? Here is

a small selection of some of the more common of these idioms:

Above board - honest, not secret (originally players showed their honesty by keeping their hands above the board/table when playing a game of cards).

Come up trumps - to complete something well or successfully, to have a better performance or outcome than is expected (trumps are playing cards that are chosen to be ranked higher than the other cards).

Deal (someone) in - to include someone.

Follow suit - to play a card of the same suit, to follow the example or actions of someone else.

Force (someone's) hand - to make someone play a card that they would prefer not to (to make someone do something that they do not want to do at that time).

Hold all the aces/cards - to have all the advantages (the ace is the most valuable card in many card games).

House of cards - a poorly thought about plan, something that is badly put together and can be easily knocked over.

In spades - as much or more than you could want (spades are the highest-ranking cards in the game of bridge).

Joker in the pack - someone or something that is likely to change a situation in an unexpected way (the joker is one of the cards in a pack of cards that can be used as any card that you want in some games).

Lay one's cards on the table/Show one's hand - to reveal your hand, to be open and honest about one's intentions or resources.

Miss a trick - fail to notice or take advantage of a good opportunity.

One's strong suit - something that one is good at or knows a lot about (in cards your strong suit is the suit that you have the best and most of in your hand).

Overplay one's hand - to overestimate the value or strength of one's position.

Play one's cards right - to make the best use of one's opportunities in order to be successful, to behave in the right way in order to be successful.

Shuffle the cards/pack - to change policy/personnel.

Turn up trumps - to complete something well or successfully, to have a better performance or outcome than is expected.

So if Bridge is your strong suit then please join us at Fyfield on a Monday afternoon or Thursday evening where you will be sure of a welcome - in spades!

Website: www.bridgewebs.com/fyfield

Martin Collier
Chairman

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Explorer Unit

1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group

The Beaver Scout Colony - 5 and three quarters to 8 years old- Tuesday 6.00pm to 7.15pm

This half term the Beaver Scouts have been completing lots of badges and this has resulted in 85 badges being awarded. Some of them are the Challenge Awards which the Beavers work on over the two years they are in the Colony. They have taken part in several staged badges which included Nights Away, Hike and Navigation Stage 1 and Time on the Water 1.

The Beavers have managed to be outside for most of their meetings since June. They have looked for various insects and small animals, butterflies and dragon flies. They all made their own Bug Hotel to take home. They completed their Health and Fitness badge this half-term as well.

The culmination of this half-term was their **Dragon** sleepover at the beginning of July. They went on a "*find the **Dragon***" hike as their first activity which gained them a Stage Hike, an Explorer and Navigation badge. Once back from their hike they all helped pitch four hike tents and strike and put them away. This is part of their Outdoor Challenge Award. It was then time for their dinner. This was **Dragon** Roasted Sausages, Cheesy Mash and **Dragons** Fire Baked Beans and for pudding **Dragons** Blood Chocolate Brownie and **Dragon** Venom Custard.

After dinner they all washed up their plates and cutlery then went to wash and brush their teeth and get ready for bed. The Girls were one end of the hall and the boys the other end. Once in their sleeping bags the film **Dragon 3** was shown on the screen. Most of the Beavers were asleep very quickly. This also meant that they were awake nice and early too. There were lots to do for those early risers. Word Searches, dot to dot puzzles and decorating **dragons'** eggs to take home.

Before breakfast they all tidied up their sleeping area washed and got dressed. After breakfast of **Dragon** Back Bacon Rolls, **Dragon** Bogey Crispies and **Dragons** Blood, they helped sweep the hall and pick up any rubbish. At 10.00am the Parents turned up to collect them. All the Beavers were presented with a Beaver Sleepover Fun badge to wear on their Beaver jumpers. They were all very tired as were the leaders that had run the sleepover! So thank you to Sam Bird and Ed Collop for organising the camp; Jo Collop for a very memorable menu; Sandra Mead our Group Scout Leader for supporting the leaders, and a huge thank you to Rolf Bassnett, the Scout leader, for attending the sleepover as he had the Nights Away Permit to take the Beavers on the sleepover. They had their end of term party the last week of term which was the theme of Alice in Wonderland. There were four Beavers swimming up to Cub Scouts that evening as well.

Cub Scouts – 8 to 10 and a half years – Thursday 7.00pm to 8.30pm

The Cub Scouts have also spent most of this half term outside. They all took part



in a Litter Pick with Les Lamb and the Cub leaders. They have been working on the

Athletics badge, and they celebrated the start of Wimbledon fortnight with tennis games and agility competitions. On another evening they all met at High Ongar church and walked along the Essex way to Greensted Church where they were met by their parents. The following week all the Cubs brought in their bicycles and they started on the Cyclist Activity badge. They learnt how to look after their bikes and how to mend a puncture and how to maintain their bikes. After that they had to show how to mount and dismount off their bikes. They had to bring in their safety equipment that they wore whilst riding their bikes. This included bike helmets and any other protective clothing that they had. They could then show the leaders how safely they could ride their bikes. The following week the Cubs met at Hylands Park and enjoyed a Treasure Hunt in the grounds and visited the Scout One World Garden and then finished with a game of Sticky Toffee. The last week of term the cubs cooked their own BBQ food. Then it was games to finish the evening. We had four Beavers swim up to Cubs on the last week of term which will give us 19 cubs in the pack.

We have also welcomed Toby Trew back to the Cub pack. Toby was a leader with us before going to University. He is now back in Ongar and has come to work in the pack as an assistant Cub Scout Leader.

The first event the Cubs have next term will be a day trip on a canal barge with Canalability in Harlow, where they will learn how to work the barge along the river and learn how people used to live on the barges. Ken Templey will come in before they go to show them videos on what they will be doing, so an exciting start for the Cubs next term.

Scouts - 10 to 14 years of age - Friday 7.30pm to 9.30pm

The Scouts have been out and about this half-term. They all helped Les Lamb with clearing the footpaths from the village hall to Queen Street. They worked really hard and enjoyed the opportunity of using the tools that Les had brought along for them.

The following week Jack Riggs, our Assistant Scout leader, talked to the Scouts about his two-week hike in Sweden which he has written a report about, to be published in the next issue. They also had a meal of Swedish meat balls cooked on a Swedish log block.



During the last three weeks of term they spent two weeks at Skreens

Park Activity Centre. The first week building rafts sailing and sinking in the lake!

The next week they enjoyed climbing the wobbly ladder – Grace managed to do this blindfolded! Archery was the other activity and Jack Pailthorpe managed to win a five-pound note when his arrow went into the gold through the middle of the note! Well done to Jack. The last week of term they are having a fun night and a BBQ. The following day the troop is visiting Duxford for the day, then Summer camp to Dorset in August.



Explorer Scouts – 14 to 18 years old – Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30pm

The summer term has been busy for the Explorers.

We have just returned from Gilwell 24, which is a national Explorer event. A huge range of activities are put on for the young people to partake in, including: High Ropes, Scuba Diving, 4x4 Experience and everything in between. Activities started at 9am on Saturday morning and ran for 24 hours. Our challenge was taking part in activities for the whole 24 hours without any sleep! Nine of us attended the event at Gilwell Park and almost all of us saw the sun rise over London. We have been working on our Young Leader Awards. As well as volunteering with the younger sections within the group, we have completed two training modules on leadership skills and how to explain a task to youngsters. The Explorer Scouts were

challenged to apply their skills and complete a mission by organising and running a range of games within the sections they had volunteered. One of our explorers organised an evening Geocaching, which involves searching for hidden treasure in the countryside, using GPS. In May, we took part in the Waltham Walk, which is a long-established hiking challenge. The participants are tasked with reaching various check points, hidden across Essex. Map reading and practical skills are challenged along the way.

The Scout Group News

The Scout group have run some fundraising activities as we have to replace the Boiler in the Scout HQ this summer. We have run stalls at fetes, held a raffle, enjoyed a summer BBQ to draw the raffle, and helped at an event in Moreton. We then ran a Pit Stop for the Dunwich Dynamo, an overnight cycle event, and held a Boot Sale in the HQ the next day.

We also have three Scouts who are also raising money to attend the Eurojam in Poland next year July 2020.

On July 20th, three of our Explorer Scouts are heading to America for the 24th World Scout Jamboree for three weeks. The camp is based in West Virginia on a huge purpose-built site. They will be meeting 40,000 scouts from across the globe in a campsite offering state of the art adventure facilities. The Jamboree is being hosted by Canada, the USA, and Mexico. They will be travelling up the East coast and visiting New York, Washington and taking part in home-hospitality in Canada, with many opportunities to see the sights. We are looking forward to seeing their

photos and hearing their stories when we return after the summer break.

Future Fundraising Events

We have two fundraising events in September the first is the 5K run on Sunday the 15th September at 10am starting from the Village Hall. Register for a place on the run at www.fyfield5k.com We also have a Table Top and Craft Sale on Sunday 29th September at Scout HQ in Fyfield from 10am to 4pm . Please help us raise the funds towards our new boiler.

Mary Bacon

Chairman 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group
Telephone - 01277 899052 Mobile - 07554933563
e-mail marychristinebacon@aol.com

-



1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group



Beaver Scouts	Tuesday	6.00 – 7.15pm	6 - 8 years
Cub Scouts	Thursday	7.00 – 8.30pm	8-10½ years
Scouts	Friday	7.30 – 9.30pm	10-14 years
Explorer Scouts	Tuesday	7.30 – 9.30pm	14 -18 years

All sections are co-educational and meet at Fyfield Scout Headquarters.

For details phone Mary Bacon 01277 899052. Or pop in and see us.

Fyfield Focus - Advertising and Editorial Details

Advertising in the Fyfield Focus

The Fyfield Focus is published bi-monthly on the 1st of the month. The publications are: February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September, October/ November and December/January. Three publications are special colour editions (subject to receiving the necessary sponsorship) and focus on Spring (April/May), Summer (August/September) and Christmas (December/January).

Adverts will be accepted in Text format (word etc), Picture format (JPG, GIF, BMP) and PDF file. All accepted adverts will be placed in the Fyfield Focus Magazine and the Fyfield Focus Online web-site www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk. All requests for advertising should be directed to the Editor and adverts must be received by eMail no later than the **10th of the month** prior to the publication date (i.e. January, March, May, July, September and November). Payment for all adverts is to be received in advance of publication (full advertising terms and conditions are sent out with all invoices). The Fyfield Focus also provides a 'Leaflet Stuffing Service' – contact Cheryl Hadley for details.

Distribution of the Fyfield Focus (**385 copies**) is done by a team of volunteers (**17**) who deliver a copy to every home in Fyfield and to a no. of key community points in Fyfield and surrounding areas. It is the aim of the Focus production and delivery teams to deliver the Fyfield Focus Magazine by the 1st of the month.

Advertising Rates

Size	Per Issue	Per Year
Quarter Page	£8	£36
Third Page	£10	£48
Half Page	£14	£72
Full Page	£26	£144

Contributing Articles to the Fyfield Focus

Contributions to the Fyfield Focus are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor normally no later than **mid-day** on the **15th of the month** prior to the publication date (i.e. January, March, May, July, September and November). Articles will be published subject to space being available. The Editor's decision is final regarding suitability for inclusion and material may be edited for grammatical accuracy and length.

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Printing:

Chelmsford Diocesan Print Unit

Fyfield *Useful Contacts*

Bell Ringers - Hand	Pat Turnpenny	899223	Parish Council		
Bell Ringers - Tower	Allan Cook	899240	Chair	Les Lamb	07776178794
Pageturners	Debbie Spanton	899317	Clerk	Derek Farr	07783505906
Bookworms	Jane Davenport	899389	Poppets Day Nursery	Michelle Pateman	365488
Bridge Club	Marion Alcock	899432	Scouts & Guides		
Carpet Bowls	Jacky Brown	899076	Rainbows	Veronica Riches	364604
Church Coffee Morning	Carol Cox	899245	Brownies	Jane Davenport	899389
District Council			Guides	Alison Lavender	365842
Moreton & Fyfield	Ian Hadley	899840	Rangers	Veronica Riches	364604
Dr Walker's School	Miss N. Willis	899298	Beavers	Mary Bacon	899052
Friends of St Nicholas	Allan Cook	899240	Cubs	David Gordon	896321
Fyfield Focus	Cheryl Hadley	899840	Scouts	Mary Bacon	899052
Fyfield Litterpickers	Fiona Baxter	899342	Explorer Scouts	Vicki Wood	07977111894
Fyfield Luncheon Club			St Nicholas' Church	Rev. Christine Hawkins	286113
Club Co-ordinator	Jan Hall	899808	Warden	TBA	TBA
Lunch Bookings	Sandra Mead	899519	Village Hall		
Fyfield Village Pre-School	General No.	899678	Chair	Marie Apperley	899386
Neighbourhood Watch	Les Lamb	07776178794	Bookings	Elaine Tunnard	07956440894
Ongar & Villages			Womens Institute	Pat Turnpenny	899223
Voluntary Care	General No.	365363	WD50+ Exercise Club	Patti Nicholson	899504
Pilates	Claire Smith	07903121003			

Websites: www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk www.essexinfo.net/fyfield-parish-council/ www.fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk



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