

April/May 2020

Fyfield



Focus

View the Fyfield Focus in colour at www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk

Village Diary 2020

Date	Time	What	Where
07-Apr	11.40am	Mobile Library 📖	Queen Street
20-Apr	8pm	Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS) <i>(please check – see article for contact details)</i>	Budworth Hall, Ongar
27-Apr	7.30pm	Annual Parish Assembly	Village Hall
28-Apr	11.40am	Mobile Library 📖	Queen Street
11-May	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	To be arranged
19-May	11.40am	Mobile Library 📖	Queen Street
08-Jun	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	To be arranged
07-Apr	11.40am	Mobile Library 📖	Queen Street

Editor's note: Please see **Fyfield and Moreton Grapevine** on **Facebook** for local updates; Council Meetings may be cancelled or postponed currently, any changes will be posted on the noticeboard and website.

Opening times throughout this publication are liable to change, please check before venturing out.



Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

FYFIELD CORONAVIRUS ASSISTANCE

Fyfield Village Store, together with a team of local volunteers, have devised a plan to assist any local residents in isolation during the Covid-19/Coronavirus outbreak.

If you are self isolating, and require items from the village store, please call:

Fyfield Village Store on 01277 899201

Please call before 1pm to place your order. A volunteer will then aim to deliver your items on the same day. This will be a doorstep delivery service and users will need to leave payment on the doorstep for the items to be left.

Volunteers will follow all current hygiene advice.

In addition, if you are in self isolation and require prescription medicines to be collected from **The Ongar Health Centre**, or simply want someone to talk to, please call and leave a message at:

020 3800 0800

The messages will be checked each day between **8am and 10pm**, and a volunteer will aim to respond to you within two hours. This line has kindly been set up by local resident Mark Lennard to assist residents during this time.

Here to help! Please reach out if you need assistance.

For the Community by the Community

We are in unprecedented times and many in the community have asked what they can do to assist. As you will have seen from the flyer (and on the previous page) we are lucky to have good people who are willing to help. While we are being mindful of the NHS guidelines, we know not everyone is on the net. Therefore, we have included some of the key information from the NHS for you at the rear of the Focus and our article order differs currently to assist.

Good news for the future of the Focus

A word from Jenny Jutner – The Fyfield Focus would like to extend a huge thank you to the Parish Council, who unanimously agreed to continue sponsoring our publication. The Fyfield Focus has been in print, in one form or another, for over forty years, benefitting from the financial support of the Parish Council throughout. In addition, the Parish Council have also agreed to support us with further funding so that we can support local charitable organisations and community groups by advertising events in the Focus free of charge. As a community resource, the Fyfield Focus team would like to encourage all community groups to be able to spread the word to our residents about all the wonderful activities and events you have planned, as well as services and support you might offer. We are incredibly grateful to the Parish Council and other local businesses and residents who have expressed willingness to provide financial support to allow us to do this. We will be mentioning some of our sponsors in future editions but for now, please accept our deepest thanks for supporting our team of volunteers, and all volunteers across the village. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Competition time

First of all, our **thanks** goes to **Pat Dain** for providing access to a wonderful collection of images from the area. On the current cover you will see The Forge, Dunmow Road C1925, but the question is – **can you recreate our cover photo** from the same spot (obviously not the same spot if traffic is approaching) or there about? (*keep your distance please*)



Our first issue this year featured Clatterford End and now you have a second image to try to recreate from the cover.

We'd love to see your attempts to recreate the shot in current times. Send them to FyfieldFocus@gmail.com and we'll feature the best match ups. We cannot fund a prize for your efforts but you will get to see your image and name in the next issue!

Look for the rainbows

One lovely idea we heard about, to keep kids connected (thanks Rachel for sharing), is for all of us to draw a rainbow and display it in a window.

Henry Hart

In the last issue of the Focus, Cheryl Hadley wrote a moving tribute to Henry Hart. Unfortunately, the photo, which was sent with the article, was accidentally omitted. So we rectify this by raising a glass to Henry as he raises his glass to us all!

Sending thanks...

I had a lovely request from local farmer, Rosemary, asking if we would be send her thanks to the person/s that have been filling in the potholes and litter picking in the Norwood End area and around the village. We are only too happy to oblige, as it's nice to pass on appreciation of others efforts. Feel free to send in your thanks, news or photos to FyfieldFocus@gmail.com to share with the community.

There have been many reports circulating of nature returning to areas, during the lock down, and even here in our village we can celebrate the return of otters to the local area.

Finally we found a great list of ideas to keep the kids amused, hope it helps!

Jennie

*(*guidelines available in due course)*

p.s. With many of us home and now walking our dogs here are some sensible rules, reproduced with the kind permission of Claire Broomfield of Ongar Dog Training Club.

Golden Rules for Dog Walkers:

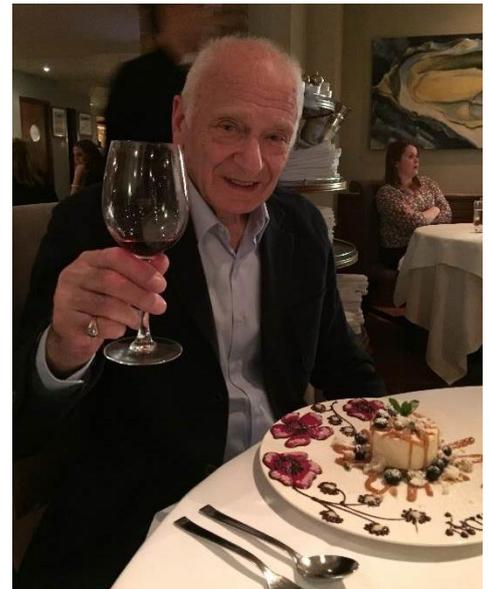
- Do not allow your dog to run up to people at their volition or pursue other dogs as a matter of course; do not allow upset livestock or horse riders;
- Do train your dog a solid recall and stay; Do pick up ALL poo deposited;
- Do NOT feed other people's dog or touch/engage with someone's dog without asking.

Love this idea!!! Anyone else up for it?!?!

The neighborhood kiddos are going on walks but no longer can see their friends or go to playgrounds. Some of us are putting rainbows up in our windows for them to spot as many as they can on a walk. Like a giant neighborhood wide I spy game.

If you are wondering what you can do in this time - put a rainbow in your window to spread some joy!

Thank you!



The Ongar Health Centre PPG



The Ongar Health Centre Patient Participation Group have been busy planning future events and working together with surgery staff to discuss further ways we can support the patients of The Ongar Health Centre. There has been significant development in respect of plans to establish a regular 'Carers and Loved One' activity session at the surgery, and we had planned to hold further Carers Coffee Mornings. In addition, we had been planning to launch a Gardening Club to tend to the atrium of the surgery. As you can understand, these plans have now been placed on hold whilst the surgery and all NHS services prioritise management of the coronavirus outbreak. All members of the PPG, and no doubt all patients of the surgery too, extend our deepest gratitude to all the NHS staff working tirelessly to continue caring for us all in these difficult times. You should have been made aware that the surgery building is currently closed to patients with all contact being dealt with by telephone triage. If you need to contact the surgery please do so by telephone, do not attend the surgery in person. We must all do our part to help by following the latest government guidelines, which as I write is to **STAY HOME** in all but essential circumstances, with extra guidance for those of us in at risk groups. We must all also remember to regularly wash our hands and to follow self-isolation guidelines if we develop any symptoms of coronavirus. We must all strictly observe social distancing guidelines and keep a minimum two meter distance from others. The latest official guidance has been included in this publication.

These are unprecedented times and we will all no doubt be feeling anxious. There will be many of us who require regular access to medical care as part of our usual daily lives. The measures that have been introduced are in place to ensure that care continues throughout this crisis. We are all in control of our own actions, and we can all support each other through this. Be kind, be thoughtful of others, help those in need when it is safe for you to do so, spread only warmth and support. We are a community, we are in this together and we will see each other through these difficult times.

Your PPG remains here, ready to help and we will resume all of our plans as soon as we can.

Jenny Juttner

Epping Forest District Council Matters: Moreton & Fyfield Ward



District Matters

Under normal circumstances I would not be publishing this EFDC report due to the May elections and the rules of Purdah. However, as you may be aware, the elections have been cancelled and will now take place in May 2021. This means that I will continue to be your District Councillor for at least another year and hopefully longer.

EFDC, like most other employers at the moment, is taking steps to reduce the human contact that can spread the coronavirus. To this end, a Contingency Planner & Safety Officer is responsible for obtaining and updating staff on the latest situation re the coronavirus. This includes encouraging staff to work from home and for those who cannot, locate them in different areas so not to have a concentration of workers in close proximity. The paragraph below has been issued for publication to residents who may enquire of our approach.

In the light of the recent coronavirus outbreak the council have taken precautions to ensure that essential services will continue to be provided. These include extra cleaning regimes at our offices and updated information about hand washing to our staff. Many of our staff can work from home and the council is encouraging this. We are cancelling/deferring all non-essential meetings and we ask that you keep visits to our offices to a minimum and instead to contact us via our website or phone.

In addition certain events and meetings have been cancelled such as the Opening Ceremony at Burton Road, Loughton on Friday 13th March and the annual Civic Awards presentation. The cancellation of other events and meetings may increase depending on government advice.

Construction of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) new airbase has started at North Weald Airfield. The base is scheduled to be finished in spring 2021. It will house two helicopters, rapid response vehicles and have facilities for training, mentoring, patient liaison and fundraising. This new site will also host cross-training sessions with other emergency services, which will benefit the local pre-hospital care community. As part of the new airbase, there will be a dedicated interactive visitor centre which will include a helicopter viewing area and allow more engagement with the local community.

A group of companies called The Qualis Group have been set up by the council.

There are 3 subsidiaries, each with a specific role:

1. Qualis Commercial, a development company – to directly undertake property development activity for the council.
2. Qualis Management, a services company – to initially deliver the repairs and maintenance service to the council housing stock.
3. Qualis Living, an investment company – to hold assets for long term rental

The Qualis company comes under the oversight of EFDC and will provide a valuable source of income which, in turn, will enable EFDC to operate more effectively and provide greater value for money to the residents.

Cllr. Ian Hadley

Epping Forest District Council, Moreton & Fyfield Ward

01277 899840 / 07765882001

cllr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Fyfield Parish Council

Annual Highlights for the Fyfield Focus

Parish Council Budget

The additional relatively recent costs for maintaining the recreation field and church burial grounds is of concern and has depleted the Council's financial reserves over the last few years. In response we increased the charges for the burial grounds to bring us in line with local parishes and also implemented a new contract with our ground maintenance company.

These measures are taking effect and we can already see an improvement in these elements of the budget.

After a careful financial review your Council has proposed a 12% increase in the precept. For the next financial year this represents an overall increase of £1450 from £12,084.00 to £13,534.08, the equivalent of around £4 per household.

The Fyfield Precept is only about 60% of the average for the parishes in the Epping district, but we won't be complacent with your money and will continue to reduce costs wherever we can. Although we are in a better

financial position than we were, the Council will continue to be very careful with your money in the next financial year.

BT Phone Box

Several residents have asked if the red phone box could be retained as a village icon now that we have ended the BT Phone Service (saving £360/year). The Council was concerned about unbudgeted costs and the on-going maintenance charges. However, we have confirmed that there are no extra costs for insurance and no planning permission is required unless there is a change of use. Also, BT will continue to pay for the power.

A 'Friends of the Fyfield Phone Box' Residents Group, coordinated by Ian Hadley, has kindly offered to finance the on-going maintenance and charges associated with any future change of use. With the understanding that the Council will have no future costs, we have agreed to purchase the phone box from BT, for the nominal fee of £1, and will add it to the Parish Council asset register.

This agreement will be reviewed annually.

Parish Council Election

The local elections scheduled for Thursday 7th May have been postponed for a year due to the coronavirus.

Recreation Field Licence

The Fyfield Village Hall had a licence from the Parish Council to manage the booking of events and sports on the field. They have advised us that they do not wish to renew the licence, so as from 1st April management will revert back to the council as it was prior to 2017.

Going forward your council will endeavour to ensure that hire charges for the field are in line with similar local facilities and are not a financial burden to our residents. Also, we will look for ways to promote this fantastic facility to generate more income.

How would you like to see our field used? Your suggestions are very welcome. To book the field for an event please email the Parish Council (fyfieldparishcouncil@gmx.com).

Neighbourhood Watch

Unusually we have had some crime issues in Fyfield over the last few weeks.

Heating oil was stolen from the Village Hall and the Scout's minibus was damaged. Also, an unauthorised party caused disturbance to residents around

Clatterford End and damage to a home. The police were contacted and crime references provided for these incidents.

Thank you to all the residents who continue to make us aware of unusual and suspicious activity in our village and keep others informed.

Fyfield Footpaths

The Council supports the initiative to improve our footpath network and increase their use. The work in Fyfield has been recognised by the Ramblers Association- I was asked to speak about it at the recent Ramblers AGM at the Chelmsford Cricket Ground. The presentation was very well received and I have since been asked to write an article for the Ramblers Magazine as well as speak to other parishes. It's good news for the profile of Fyfield and hopefully will encourage more walkers to come here to enjoy our footpaths and use our local businesses.

Please do continue to report to me any issues you see while out walking.

Fyfield Village Sign

The sign by the bus stop is in very poor condition and has had no maintenance for many years. A temporary repair has been made to the brackets but the paint is peeling and the post is rotting at the base. As discussed in this article the council budget is tight, so we are going to apply for a grant. We would also greatly welcome any offers from local residents or businesses to help fund the maintenance or replacement of the village sign.

Highways Issues

Thanks to Maggie McEwen (County Councillor), Ian Hadley (District Councillor) and Alex Berghart (MP for Brentwood and Ongar) for their help in linking up the various agencies dealing with the flooding on the B184. The pipes in the two worst locations have been cleared for the first time in years and reports are that there has been an improvement but that road flooding is still occurring in both locations.

Also, thanks to Maggie for including our request to reinstatement the village gateways to the Highways Panel Board for their consideration.

Your Council has submitted many requests to Essex Highways to fix issues around our village. We are not alone in that most of these have sadly resulted in no action. In particular residents are concerned about the ever-narrowing footpath opposite Houchin Drive down to Queens Street and also the non-existent white stop lines at the junction of Houchin Drive and Walker

Avenue. Your Council has written to the agencies and our MP about these serious health and safety issues.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Please note that Parish Council meetings may be postponed or cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Any changes to the meeting dates and the venue, as the Village Hall is now closed, will be posted on the website and noticeboard.

Our New Clerk and Councillor

Charlotte Collins joined the team as our new clerk late last year. The Council is so pleased to have on-board a local resident with a keen interest in making Fyfield a better place to live. Charlotte is continuing her training for which we received the vast majority of the costs via a District Council bursary. Her training has already helped us as a Council make better informed and compliant decisions. Well done Charlotte, it's a pleasure to have you on the team.

Sandra Mead joined us as a Councillor last year. Sandra is a wealth of knowledge about the village and in particular the Scouts organisation, which is so important to us.

For the first time in a while we now have a full complement of seven councillors. My thanks to them all for volunteering their time to the council and our village.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council, please email fyfieldparishcouncil@gmx.com

Cllr. Les Lamb

07776178794

leslamb@hotmail.co.uk



Fyfield Parish Council

Cllr. L. Lamb (Chair)	0777 6178794	leslamb@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr. J. Hall (Vice Chair)	01277 899808	janet.hall@btopenworld.com
Cllr. M. Alcock	01277 899432	alcock123@btinternet.com
Cllr. L. Chisenhale-Marsh	01277 899262	lisellecm@icloud.com
Cllr. B. Seward	07747 803829	barbara.m.seward@gmail.com
Cllr. D. Webster	01277 899405	dan@fyfield.uk.com
Cllr. S. Mead	01277 899519	gemkia@aol.com
Charlotte Collins, Clerk	01277 899006	fyfieldparishcouncil@gmx.com

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Email: **bloomers3@ntlworld.com**

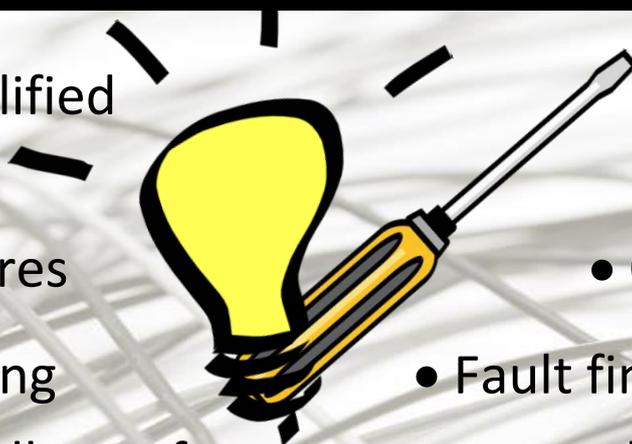
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or bcharalambous1@btinternet.com

Letter from the Reverend Christine Hawkins

Dear Friends

We are facing a challenge that has no precedent in recent history – COVID-19 coronavirus. As you know, it has been declared a ‘global pandemic’.

In the churches of our benefices we are adhering to advice issued by our Archbishops, which incorporates best practice from the NHS and Public Health England. The Archbishops issued a joint letter on 17th March (St Patrick’s Day) stating that they have taken the decision to suspend all public worship throughout the Church of England until further notice.



I imagine that this news will disappoint and upset many of you. The church has been directed to close as of 23rd March (*editor note: Government guidelines have changed and will continue to – please check local notices for updates*). Should this change and you intend to visit your local church, we ask that you comply with social distancing requirements and hand hygiene (facilities will be provided in each church).

Furthermore, I will be publishing regular bulletins with reflections on the Sunday readings as well as suggestions for prayer and meditation. I will also be available on the telephone (01277 286113) and by e-mail (revcah56@gmail.com) if you want any help or advice or just a chat.

In these difficult times, we see examples of the best and worst human behaviours. Today, the shelves in my local supermarket had been completely stripped bare. There is no need for this type of panic – there is more than enough to go around if only we will share and be generous.

On the other hand, it has been good to hear of and join in the local support groups, which have sprung up to support the most vulnerable people in our communities – testimony to the truth that love and compassion are manifested alongside more self-centred behaviours.

I believe the following Biblical principles will guide us in these difficult times and I am grateful to The Reverend Caroline Becket for giving me permission to share them:

1. Cain, the Bible's first killer, challenged God: 'Am I my brother's keeper?' YES. Yes, we are all each other's keeper and God will hold us accountable for how we care for others through this crisis.
2. The Bible tells landowners not to harvest to the very edges of their fields, (Leviticus 9:9-10)
Do likewise: don't buy up all the supplies in the shops just because you can. There are others who need them far more.
3. The early church shared resources. (Acts 2:44-45)
Who is in need in the community? How can the church help? How do we even find out? Let's build communication networks while we still can.

What else can we do as a community?

- Check on your vulnerable friends and neighbours. Would you know if they were self-isolating? Do you have each other's phone numbers? A good time (and good excuse) to swap contact details with your neighbours.
- Some people will lose their jobs in this crisis and many will suffer financial hardship. Consider giving to charities like Foodbank that will support them.
- Challenge racism: it is ugly and unnecessary. This virus does not target and is not caused by a particular race. It is hurtful to minorities if they are unfairly treated with suspicion.
- Make a plan for if you have to self-isolate. Think about the support you might need. Help vulnerable people you know to do the same
- Stay calm and help keep others calm.
- Pray for all of those affected by the virus and for our colleagues in the health services.

This crisis will pass. We believe and trust that joy comes out of suffering; that Easter Day dawns after Good Friday. Throughout history, in times of epidemic, God's people have offered care, sanctuary and stability when other things crumble. It is time to dig deep into God's resources and do it again.

I offer this poem for your thoughts and reflections. It is from the San Francisco Bay area poet and pastor, Lynn Ungar:

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

<http://www.lynnungar.com/poems/pandemic/>

Chris

Reverend Christine Hawkins

Priest In Charge

The United Benefice of Bobbingworth,

Fyfield, Moreton & Willingale

The Rectory

6 Forest Drive

Fyfield, Ongar. CM5 0TP

Tel: 01277 286113

Fyfield Coffee Morning

(in the church)

PLEASE CHECK WITH CAROL (details at rear)



10

Mo

CANCELLED

Please come and join us for coffee & cakes

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

Opening Times (liable to change)

Village Store

Monday - Friday	6.00am 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

Easter Opening Hours

	Village Shop	Post Office
Good Friday	8am-12.30pm	Closed
Easter Saturday	8am-12.30pm	Closed
Easter Sunday	8am-12.30pm	Closed
Easter Monday	8am-12.30pm	Closed



(as we go to press)
Post Office times
Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm
Sat: tbc (see door for info)

Tel: 01277 899201

Friends of St. Nicholas Church

Our Church Clock

Many of you will have noticed that the church clock stopped a while ago!

The good news is that I have spoken to the company who do the repairs and they are coming back to me this week to arrange a date to come and repair it. The problem is that the fixings behind the clock have moved, so the clock hands are stuck. The fixings will be replaced and, at a later date, we are looking to have the clock face restored.



Julie Robinson

Chair, Friends of St Nicholas Church

The Saint Nicholas Wall Art

At last our wonderful Wall Art is home! Accompanied now by a book detailing its journey from inception to completion.

Thank you so much to everyone involved. Now all we need is a beautiful stand to hold it!



Mary Ellis

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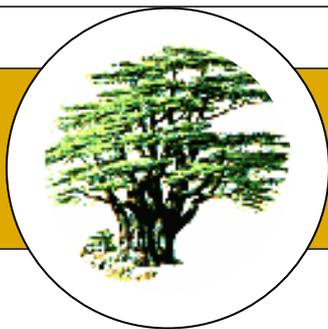
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Fyfield Past & Present

Some memories of dwelling in Fyfield

- I remember the PTA Bonfire parties and recall making a large amount of soup from packets in my kitchen one year. This was poured into two Baby Burco boilers (one for tomato and the other for oxtail), loaned from the school kitchen, and I and a friend from Elmbridge School loaded them into the boot of my Ford Marina, which I then drove very slowly to the field and an awaiting trestle table.
- I am pleased Dr Walker's school is thriving as a few decades ago, with only 44 pupils, it was in danger of being closed. With the exception of several pupils from Beauchamp Roding, local children could be seen walking to school and, in the summer months, the mums on collecting them at the gate would walk across the field by the church to the Mill Pond, where the water was shallow. The mums would be sat on the grassy banks while the children paddled or fished for 'tiddlers' for their jam-jars.
- Around the same time the Fyfield WI started and maintained, for several years, a crèche, as several members had young children. There were usually around six small children looked after in the club room during meeting time.
- When I first moved to the village, 40 plus years ago, an elderly neighbour I met had never travelled further than Epping and that was by foot when he took cows to be sold at the cattle market there.
- The Rev. Peter Turner used to keep free range chickens in the front of the Rectory. At dusk they roosted in the trees in the garden. He also kept two Jacob sheep at the rear of the property. His wife spun and knitted garments from the wool.
- One year, in the late 1970's, Fyfield was cut off by snow drifts for three days. Unable to get out of the village, the men organised themselves into teams for snowball fights!

Pam Harley

The Black Bull Inn, Fyfield



Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday
11.00 – 15.00; 18.00 – 23.00
Sunday 12.00 – 23.00

The Black Bull, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, CM5 0NN Tel: 01277 899225

www.blackbullfyfield.co.uk

The Black Bull in Fyfield is a family run pub set in the beautiful West Essex countryside. It is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 1400's. We serve good food + drink and we are very pleased to be able to offer accommodation in our hotel adjacent to the pub.

For those who prefer to dine at home, we offer a take away service.

Yoga Kid



Join our Kids Yoga classes in Fyfield & surrounding areas

class details available at

yogakid.co.uk

Contact Ginta on 07983614156

or yogakidyoga@gmail.com

f Yoga Kid  yogakidyoga

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Hods & Sods

of Fyfield

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Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)

January Meeting

At the first meeting of the New Year Brian Eversham, Chief Executive Officer for the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, gave an expert account of the effects of Climate Change on the wildlife of this country.



Afterwards he answered countless questions from an enthusiastic audience.

With climate change featuring in the news daily, the timing was perfect. It was especially valuable to hear the subject from a scientific rather than a political viewpoint.

Brian explained that climate change is the biggest threat to humanity and to the biodiversity of the planet, and thus the biggest threat to local wildlife. He explored the lessons we can learn from previous global climate changes, and the ways species responded from the series of glaciations in the past three million years. He then considered how animals, plants and habitats are likely to respond to current climate warming.

Some potential 'winners and losers' were identified and several of the species likely to colonise Britain in the next century were highlighted. He argued that in addition to addressing climate change, there is a need to tackle other major threats to wildlife, namely invasive species, pollution, urbanisation and development, and agricultural intensification.

His solution can be summarised as *bigger - better - joined up*: bigger nature reserves, better managed with climate change in mind, and joined up in the sense of being physically linked together, and reconnecting local communities.

Although all political parties support the Lawton review, *Making Space for Nature*, governments have failed to implement the recommended changes. Led by Professor Sir John Lawton, the review was set up to look at our wildlife sites and whether they are capable of responding and adapting to the growing challenges of climate change and other demands on our land. With global climate change at the top of many agendas, the government may now implement the changes suggested in the report published nearly a decade ago.

February Meeting

At the February meeting, Badgers were the subject of Bob Reed's talk to our wildlife group. We are all familiar with these black and white striped mammals which are our largest land predators. The painting shown here is taken from the children's book *I am a Badger* by Keith Snow and Ferelith Eccles Williams.

In this area they are frequently seen in woodlands, farmlands, grasslands and gardens. Badgers are protected in the UK under the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.



Bob told us that they are members of the Mustelid family, so are related to stoats, weasels and otters.

They are as common as foxes, but more nocturnal and elusive in their habits. Badgers live in large family groups in an underground system known as a sett. Mother badgers are called sows and father badgers are known as boars. An occupied sett can be recognised by the tidy entrances, marked with piles of used bedding (bracken, grass and leaves), and by nearby latrine pits where the occupants leave their droppings.

Bob explained that badgers feed on small mammals, ground-nesting birds eggs, slugs, snails and fruit together with earthworms, roots and bulbs which they unearth using their sharp claws. Badgers can eat several hundred earthworms a night! They are also one of the only predators of Hedgehogs - their thick skin and long claws help them to get past the vicious spines. If food is in short supply, Badgers will forage during the day, as well as at night. If there are Badgers nearby, you can tempt them into your garden with peanuts, which they consider a tasty snack.

Two or three cubs are born in early spring; spend the first two or three months underground, emerging to stay with their parents for a further year.

The topic of the suggested transmission of tuberculosis to cattle by badgers was touched upon. The Wildlife Trusts believe that the scientific evidence available does not support a cull as it would not decrease the incidences of bovine TB transmission from badgers to cattle, but would simply disperse badger populations to the detriment of the countryside. Instead, a vaccination programme against bTB is advocated.

On **Monday** 20th April, Tim Sparks will discuss climate change in a talk entitled *Spring Forwards, Fall Backwards; Are the Seasons Changing?* The meeting will be held at 8pm at Budworth Hall, High Street, Chipping Ongar CM5 9JG.

You may wish to join OWLS and learn more about other aspects of the natural world. Visitors pay £5, **but why not join - only £25 a year** for nine talks, a garden party and a New Year party. It's great value and an opportunity to learn about wildlife and the environment. More information can be found at

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Fyfield Luncheon Club

Since the last edition of the Focus, we have had two lovely dinners provided by the Queens Head. The delicious desserts were made and served by Jan and her lovely team of helpers. We also welcomed our new and regular members.

Sadly, due to coronavirus, Luncheon Club has had to be cancelled for, at least, the next couple months. We hope you all manage to stay well and we will be in touch if there are any changes.

Sandra Mead and Jan Hall



Fyfield Festival 2020



The date for this event is

Sunday 7th June at 12noon ~ 4pm

We are planning all the usual attractions, including:
Refreshment stalls, a Flower Festival, Handbell Ringing



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For a Flower Arrangement, please contact Jenny Stone on 899 727

For offers of Raffle Prizes please contact Jan Hall on 899 808

This year, the theme for the flowers in the Church is 'A Favourite Song'
We would really welcome any new ideas, suggestions and offers of help.

Thank you

Carol Cox

Fyfield Village Hall

Just a short update this month. Due to the government and Public Health England's advice, we have decided to close the Village Hall until further notice. The safety and wellbeing of everyone that uses the hall is our main priority and we feel this is the correct course of action.

Sadly, this also means that we have had to postpone the VE Anniversary celebrations. As older people are being encouraged to cut down on social interaction for 12 weeks, we felt it would be inappropriate to continue with the events.

Although it will not be the same, we are still hoping maybe to run the event later in the year when we will be more in the mood to celebrate.

The Life Walks that are run by Epping Forest District Council are also cancelled until further notice.

We now have the CCTV up and running. It covers the oil tank, the car park and the place where the defibrillator will be situated. The cameras do not cover any houses that back onto the car park.

We are also going to install the defibrillator despite not running any training. We feel that it may be useful to have one in the village, and there are instructions with it that are completely self-explanatory. We will be holding CPR training once the current crisis is over.

I wish everyone good luck in these uncertain times, stay well, and we hope to see everyone back later in the year in good health.

Marie Apperley, Chair

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- Poppets own vegetable patch in the garden, mud kitchen and 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.

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A Tribute to Dick Perry 1929 – 2019

David and I were privileged to know Dick Perry when he was Headmaster of, what was then known as, Fyfield Boarding School. David was chairman of the Board of Governors, so was very involved on a day-to-day basis.

The following was one of the tributes at the Celebration of Dick's Life, given by Patrick Bell an old pupil. I thought readers of the Focus would be interested as it provided a fascinating insight into life at the school during the twelve years when Dick was Headmaster, before it became Elmbridge School in 1980.

Helen Llewelyn-Jones

A Tribute by Patrick Bell

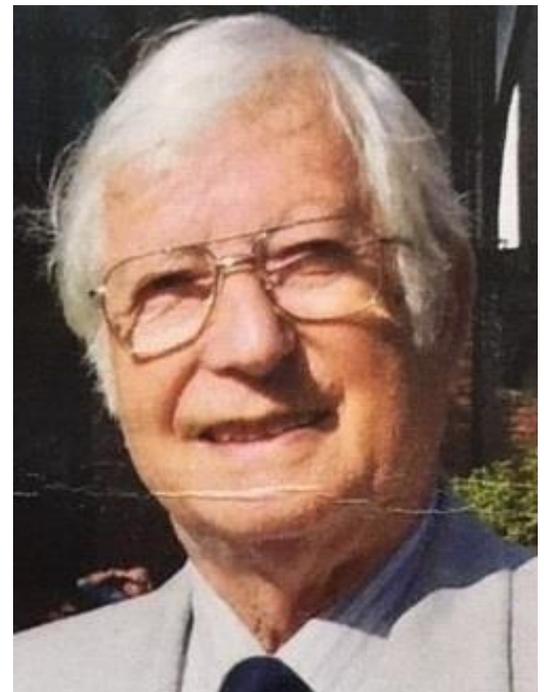
Today, I have the honour of reflecting on Dick's role as the Head of Fyfield Boarding School, where he served from 1968 – 1980.

As a pupil from 74 to 79, I don't claim to speak on behalf of everyone involved – partly because this is based on my five years there, and partly because I know that this unconventional, mixed-gender boarding school, did not suit everyone who attended. What I can say, is that social media has put many of us back in touch again, from right across the school's 21 year life – and it is clear that we retain a great deal in common.

Given Dick's many and diverse accomplishments as celebrated today, I have just a few minutes to tell you about those days. So, I have chosen a couple of short montages that I hope will resonate with pupils and staff here today, and provide a sense of our adventure for everyone else.

Of course, we all attended lessons – and some pupils exceeded academically: but for many, classes were little more than a distraction. For us, school was all about the football, cricket, hockey and netball teams; sports days, swimming galas, school records, sporting colours, etc. We were always on the huge school field that doubled as our back yard, practising 'keepy-uppies' in the winter and cricket skills in the summer, often using the 'cradle'. We would stand in a small group at opposite ends of the cradle and throw a cricket ball in, causing it to 'ping' out of the other end at great speed and at unpredictable angles.

Players were awarded a point for catching the ball and 3 for injuring a friend! Apparently, cradles are banned now – something to do with Health and Safety.



In the winter months, we had lessons in the morning and sport in the afternoon daylight, resuming classes from dusk. Genius! As well as the field, we enjoyed flawless grass tennis courts and an indoor swimming pool! In the strike-hit 1970's when most schools smelt of disinfectant and disappointment, ours was like a holiday camp!

The least popular sport was cross-country. Our course looped around half the Roding valley and the senior boys' version was 7 miles long. Participants, regularly became lost and teachers had to mount rescue missions by car! About one mile in, the course followed an irrigation ditch, designed to leech excessive rainwater, thickly infused with cows' excrement off the field and into the river. It was called 'bog alley' – and we would literally, and I mean literally, squelch through this, up to our knees in stinking rancid mud, for about 200 metres, before it reached the river, where we would turn right and splash along before emerging on the opposite bank. The smell of that bog will never leave me ... nor would I want it to.

As well as all the sports; music, performances, film and dance played a big part. We organised dances, every other Saturday, using *'the double deck'*. Built by metal and woodwork teacher, Alan Collier, it looked like a 1970's Ercol sideboard, but worked like a dream, enabling the DJ to seamlessly blend 7" singles together and to imagine that they were Bruno Brooks. Dances always ended with a slow masterpiece by Genesis, called 'Ripple', which, eerily, as we all gather 40 years on, is about growing old. With boys and girls banned from any physical contact at all other times, this dance was the one permissible opportunity to awkwardly canoodle in couples, bathed in the intoxicating sense, of Charlie, Wrigleys and lip- gloss!

What must have been a very early video recorder was used to tape 'Top of the Pops' on Thursday evening when we were in Prep, then played back to us on Sundays – which we loved. This may explain why, when I left school, I was disappointed to discover that not all women in the real world, looked like Olivia Newton-John, Agnetha from Abba, or Debbie Harry!

Bob Ainsley, delivered the gift of film. On Saturdays, between dance weekends, a film show was provided – and there was no holding back on the content. In my first week, age 11, and having recently waved goodbye to the Nuns at my Convent Prep, the school film was Clint Eastwood's 'Dirty Harry'! Many films remained banned from public exhibition in those days, but that didn't stop us! We were treated to: The War Game, Witchfinder General, The Wicker Man, Midnight Express, Clockwork Orange, Rosemary's Baby, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre – you name it, we saw it and loved it! We were also regular visitors to

the National Film Theatre and other amazing venues – bundling into the school mini bus, to have our minds broadened by London’s globally unparalleled high culture and counter culture, laid out on a plate for us in our teens.

There was definitely method in this progressive madness. The films, our plays and performances, and the enthralling books we read in class, captivated us as we explored language ranging from Shakespeare to Vodka advertising. I have noticed that the power of words and stories, remains common among former pupils, and has been carried forward to our children and grandchildren. That, alone, is priceless legacy.

So, we were 124 teenage boys and 125 teenage girls, bodies bursting into life, neurones giving way to hormones, living as one in a small rural commune. Summer evenings, we’d congregate on the field. We boys sought to impress the girls by kicking the old heavy leather footballs as high as we could and then, carefully tracking their flightpaths as they re-entered the atmosphere, we positioned ourselves ready to header them. It is little wonder that these days I stumble from room to room, unable to remember what it is that I am looking for!

Sensibly, the girls ignored us ... reclined in relaxed huddles, they swooned over pictures of Brian Ferry and lazily twisted daisies into one another’s hair.

I make no apologies for seldom mentioning Dick, or more to the point, Mr Perry, or ‘Sir’ in these little vignettes. The reason is concisely captured here in Dick’s own words, written for the final paragraph of the school’s valedictory booklet, called ‘Fyfield Boarding School: Reflections on a Short Life’

‘In the final analysis, what makes a school? Surely it is the people; the pupils, the staff, the parents, those who ‘manage’, those who befriend. Fyfield enjoyed a rich heritage in all of these and 1200 boys and girls, lived to speak of the care and encouragement they received. Their happy and successful lives, reflect the purpose and success of this school.’

When choosing these words, Dick would have had no intention of implying any credit for this success, but the self-evident truth is that he was the leader who led this school to its success. It was not that he was an omni-present father figure, but, like all who understand leadership, he ensured that everyone else had everything they needed to flourish. Key to this was curating an exceptional and diverse team, all, *with one or two exceptions*, inspiring role models for us pupils. He formed a family, and as many of us have come to recognise, sometimes logical families are more important than biological families.

Now, 'Baby Boomers' in our 50's, 60's and more, lucky members of a lucky generation, I for one still dream of that time – and, certain now that youth really is wasted on the young, I sometimes ache to return. Many who have gone on to build productive lives, successful careers, and loving families, know, without any doubt, how much we owe to those five short years, when we loved and learned so much, and laughed and laughed until it hurt.

We left, aged only sixteen, but somehow, fully formed, and ready for whatever life threw at us. And *importantly* this was not the kind of exclusive entitlement associated a 'Private Education; our confidence is softer, is more compassionate, more humble, more inclusive, and ultimately, more 'RGH Perry'.

So, in conclusion, it is no surprise that many pupils have gone on to serve society in professional and voluntary capacities; often with a quiet but steely conviction to stand up against either deprivation or excess, or both. Even I felt compelled to found a school. Today, it educates 700 children each year and ranks in the Government's top 9% of Secondary Schools. So, I think it is fitting to conclude that Dick's legacy, values and wisdom stretch, alive and kicking, into building bright futures for many generations to come.

Thank you Sir. RIP

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Fyfield & District W.I.

Our Pancakes and Coffee morning was well supported and most enjoyable. The cooks worked non-stop in the kitchen and all our members were kept busy. We were pleased to have made a healthy profit, which will go towards speakers for this current year.

Our speaker in February told us about her short visit to Belfast a couple of years ago. She didn't dwell on the Titanic or the Troubles but focussed on the human side of Belfast. She showed us photos of the many beautiful public gardens, packed with charming flower beds, and she admired the striking wall paintings depicting scenes of recent and historical events - also the poignant street sculptures in memory of the mass migrations of Irish people that have taken place over many centuries. Finally, her eye was caught by this sign over a pub's door advising its customers to:

COME IN SOBERLY, DRINK MODERATELY and DEPART QUIETLY

At the March meeting our own talented flower arranger Marion Law demonstrated how to make a simple buttonhole and a more complicated corsage. She provided all the materials for us to have a go at a buttonhole ourselves.

Not as simple as it looked! Some turned out quite professional, others a bit lacking, but we spent a happy afternoon trying to manage the leaves and wires to make one like hers. So many thanks to Marion and Liz who assisted her. The minutes passed all too quickly until we reluctantly stopped for tea. It was great fun and a busy afternoon.

Pat Turnpenny, Secretary, 01277 899223



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	<i>E</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>R</i>	
		<i>V</i>		<i>B</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>R</i>		
		<i>E</i>	<i>B</i>	

Solution
on pg 50



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Light Hearted Monologues from a Local

Had Harry Langton held a record for the 50-yard dash, it is certain that he would have broken it that day. He took his last desperate leaps then, aided by a bull, subsequently took off. Silent munching cows witnessed this, as did hikers watching from the longer and safer route. Sitting carefully on soft cushions, Harry lamented that his reckless dare resulted in bull-trodden broken glasses and an understanding of why warning signs from farmers should always be heeded.

Local council depot workers use a wonderful sofa for recreation during tea breaks. Originally, new, it was delivered resting openly and then unwrapped outside the buyer's house, whilst the inept husband and interfering advice-giving family members struggled to dismantle and remove an old sofa from the living room. It was difficult to manoeuvre out, necessitating removal of the room door and lifting the carpet.

Meanwhile, earlier than scheduled, the Council's Household Unwanted Furniture Collection Service with good intentions, for a fee of £13, hoisted the new sofa onto the back of their lorry, and drove to the next house detailed on their rota. Finally, after much disagreement, family occupants emerged into daylight and placed the old sofa in position for collection.

Police investigated this apparent opportunist robbery before the realisation of a mix-up hit home. Meanwhile workers rested on the case, whilst the family rested outside.

After a company reunion, Robert travelled back home to Essex by train. Alcohol, plus food and warmth created perfect soporific conditions and slumber ensued. His destination station appeared and disappeared. Knowing that he might well be late, his wife retired and slept soundly.

At daylight, realising that she was alone in the house, she panicked and reported him as missing to the authorities. Enquiries drew a blank. Embarrassed, she called the police back explaining that he had appeared in late afternoon from the spare bedroom. She had checked quickly that morning- her sleeping husband obscured by heaped needlework piled on the bed.

"After my extended journey I did not want to disturb you," was his politically corrected explanation. Thoughtful consideration from her husband overtook annoyance. The local investigating policeman understood and proudly entered this occurrence as the "Mystery of the Month" in the police magazine.

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Fyfield Village Pre-School

The children at Fyfield Village Pre-School dressed as superheroes, princesses and other book characters to celebrate World Book Day.

The event was held over three days and funds raised will go towards a new outdoor all weather sand play area for the children to enjoy.



For more information about the pre-school based in the Scout Hut please call 01277 899678 during term time or email fyfield_manager@hotmail.com

Michelle Breavington

Local Policing



FROM THE EDITOR - There have been multiple reports of scams occurring during this time. Here are some of the scams being reported:

- Cold calls from fraudsters telling people to self-isolate, then pretending to be doing them a favour by offering to take their bank card to get supplies.
- Fraudsters pretending to sell personal protective equipment such as facemasks, but never sending anything.
- Emails containing links supposedly with more information about coronavirus but which actually lead to a malicious website or demands for payment.
- Fake emails supposedly from organisations such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization, which claim to be able to provide a list of coronavirus-infected people in their area. In fact they contain links to malicious websites.
- Attempts to trick people into revealing personal, financial or other sensitive information.

People should remember not to click on links or attachments in suspicious emails, never respond to unsolicited messages asking for personal or financial details, and do research into any company you are considering making purchases from if you don't know and trust them.

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
or call 101***

Call 999 in an emergency situation.

2nd Fyfield Brownie Guides

This term the girls have been considering what they can do to ***‘Feel Good’*** and have explored a wide range of activities designed to support healthy physical and mental wellbeing. We have talked about the benefits of sometimes asking for help, the routines that can lead to a good night’s sleep as well as the importance of drinking at least 1 to 1.5 litres of water a day, dependent on age. The girls had great fun designing their own fitness circuits and reflected on when they feel most confident and how they can develop confidence in new situations.

Girl Power!



A highlight for some of our girls was taking part, during the February half term holiday, with Brownies from Dodinghurst and Chelmsford in an ***‘Out of this World Space Camp’***, at Skreens Park in Roxwell.

The girls were very busy during their 4 days, they made astronauts took part in a pyjama run, and working in a team, explored the ‘Low’ and ‘High’ ropes. They found out about star constellations, went star gazing and even had time to welcome a very special visitor, when the Duke of Kent made a surprise visit!



The girls were awarded their Space and Aviation badges and the Anglia Space Badge. Well done to everyone!

If you know a girl aged 7 – 10, who would enjoy making new friends as part of Brownies, we would be delighted to meet her and guarantee a warm welcome.



Jane Davenport (Brown Owl)

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The Arts Section

Bookworms

The Madonna of the Mountains by Elise Valmorbida

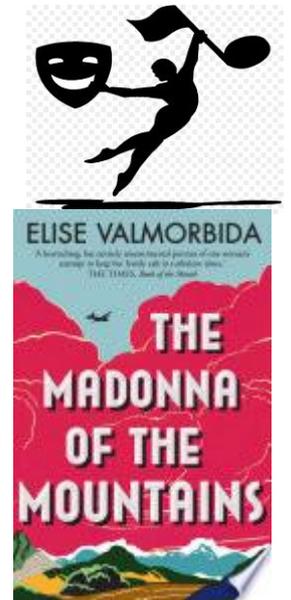
'A bewitching, but entirely unsentimental portrait of one woman's attempt to keep her family safe in turbulent times.'

A beautifully written historical fiction, set in Italy before, during and after the Second World War, which transports one to Italy and evokes a very real sense of the Italian landscape.

Elise Valmorbida draws one into the story of Maria Villoria's struggle. At 25 years of age, when she is already considered old, her father secures a suitable groom for her. She marries Achille, a World War 1 veteran, and starts her family. They settle into the village of Fosso and run a thriving grocery business. However, as Fascism blooms in the country and Mussolini's propaganda promotes fertility and hard work, Maria faces a stony path.

The narrative raises many thought-provoking moral issues. Life is harsh under the Fascist regime, but Maria is stoic and protects her family, even though the cruel privations of the time threaten to destroy them. Maria prays for guidance to the Madonna of the Mountains and carries a statue of the Virgin Mary throughout her life. Post-war, Maria comes to terms with all the difficult decisions she has made.

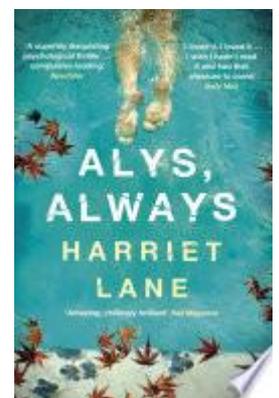
I would thoroughly recommend this book as a good read.



Dolores Ledwidge

Alys, Always by Harriet Lane

Alys, Always was Harriet Lane's first novel and was originally published in 2012. It is a psychological thriller. The main character in the book is Frances who is a thirty something sub-editor on the books pages of the Questioner. Her routine, which is very mundane, is disrupted when she stumbles upon the aftermath of a car crash and witnesses the last words of Alys Kyte.



Due to the nature of her death Alys' family contact Frances in an attempt to find closure. Frances is given an insight to a totally different world of privilege and possibilities.

Frances embarks on a relationship with the Kyte family and finds that the eventual impact on her own life, from a personal and professional perspective, leaves her wondering if she might become a player in her own right.

I enjoyed reading this book; the writing was very intuitive, and I found I could not put it down. My only gripe was that there were no chapters, which is a minor complaint but I found it to be very irritating!

Mary Simons

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library visits Fyfield every 3 weeks. Located on **Queen Street**, just down from the back entrance to the school, on a **Tuesday** morning from **11.40am – 12.10pm** You are able to take books out for 6 weeks!

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Fyfield Carpet Bowls Club



I hope everyone is keeping healthy and staying away from the coronavirus.

Fyfield has entered two competitions since my last report. On Sunday 9th February at Braintree, Hannah and Sharon Birch, Mary Wilkinson and Dot Letchfield played in the Essex Fours competition and did very well, but did not get to the final rounds. Again, Beryl Shuttleworth and I played in a four, but for High Easter, and we did not get through to the finals round either!

On Sunday 8th March, the Inter-Area competition was held at Braintree. I was not able to attend as League Secretary for Chelmsford West as I was cruising in Norway. Colin Day took over for me and led a team of six rinks from different clubs in the area. This included a four from Fyfield, again Hannah, Sharon, Mary and Dot. All six teams played extremely well and they won the day and the trophy with 21 points. I could say, 'Who needs Jacky Brown!' Well done to the whole team, I wish I could have been there.

On the County Squad front, on Sunday 19th January we travelled to Barton-le-Clay for a match against Bedfordshire. It was a close fought match, with Bedfordshire winning 19 points to 17. This was a bit disappointing, but a good match.

On Sunday 16th February, Essex travelled to Wortwell for a match against Norfolk. Essex played well and kept their cool, winning the match 20 points to 16. A much better result!

Our next match is at home, against Hertfordshire on Sunday 15th March. This will be a hard match against a good county side and Essex will need to pull out all the stops. I will report on this in the next edition of the Focus.

That is all I can report on this time. Keep well and catch you later.

Jacky Brown

Allotments & Planters

The editing team were alerted to the allotments by Pat Dain (thanks Pat), so we dropped a line to Martin who was able to update us on the current situation.

It is with regret that the Fyfield Gardening & Allotment Club was disbanded on 17 February 2020 after many enjoyable years of activities, hard graft, bottles of wine and above all friendship. The club was founded by popular demand when the results of the village appraisal were analysed and, from an initial meeting attended by just three, it grew to nearly 30 members at its peak.

Marcus Dain was instrumental in developing the allotments at Cannon's Green, which grew to 11 plots, however over the years numbers have dwindled with people not finding the time to dig, sow and grow their vegetables.

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

If anyone is interested in taking up an allotment I would be happy to talk to them, contact me on martin.ongar@gmail.com, or 877342.

Now is the time to act as we are nearing the -sowing and planting time. I am sure that allotment holders who have given up will be more than happy to pass their plot on to someone who is keen to cultivate and harvest produce.

Planters at the Bridge & Bus Stop – DONATIONS NEEDED

To help continue provide floral displays at the bridge and Bus Stop we now need donations to help fund the planting.

The planters at the bridge were first installed in 2009, with summer and winter planting for 2009 supported by donations from residents in Fyfield. The Fyfield Bridge Club sponsored the bridge planters from summer 2010 until winter 2015. Subsequently the Fyfield Bridge Club kindly took over the sponsorship of the planters at the Bus Stop (originally sponsored by the FPC). Since then I personally sponsored the planting for two years with the Fyfield Focus covering costs for a further two years; the last planting being winter 2019.



If you would like the planting to continue kindly send donations to myself.

Cheryl Hadley Tel: 01277 899840 email: cherylhadley@gmx.co.uk

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Explorer Unit



Beaver Colony – age 5 ¾ - 8 years old

Wow!! What an amazing few months we've had. We started by celebrating the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Rat. We made Chinese lanterns and played splat the rat along with some ping pong ball games.

We've been making bookmarks and a book cover, with the Beavers being given the task of reading six books at home to gain their Reading Badge and as part of their arts badge. They have also all made some amazing models and spoke to everyone about how they worked. Someone made a time machine and there were some fantastic Lego models.

We've been playing lots of trust and team games too.

Last but not least, there was the Beaver's favourite – Pancake Day – where the Beavers cooked and flipped pancakes, and ate them with plenty of lovely toppings. We have lots planned for the rest of the term including an Easter Egg Hunt, Archery and of course Mothers Day

We've welcomed a few new Beavers this term, and if your child would like to come along and give it a try the first few sessions are free, so please feel free to contact the number at the end of this article.

*Samantha Bird
Beaver Scout Leader*

Cub Scout Pack – age 7 ½ - 11 years

The Cub pack has been working on their Environmental Conservation badge. Our Young Leader, George Franklin, gave a talk on this subject together with a short video, followed by questions and answers. The Cubs celebrated Pancake Day by making pancakes from raw ingredients, before cooking and adding toppings. The Cubs had a games night which included Mensa Noughts & Crosses, metal puzzles and Jenga. They have also designed a one course meal, which their Six will cook at a future meeting. In April we hope to do bat watching with bat detectors, which is always popular. We are also planning more outdoor activities as the evenings are drawing out.

We invested new Cubs Ava, Finlay and Dylan. James, Noah & Austin will be invested shortly. We said goodbye to Sam Spillings who has now moved up to the Scout Troop.

Mary Bacon

Scout Troop – age 10 ½ - 14 years

Firstly, I am so pleased to announce that Jacob Franklin, Jessica Lee and Saffy Long were all awarded with their Chief Scout GOLD award on Friday 13th March.

Nineteen members of the troop attended the annual 'Lavers Entertainers' Panto, Alice in Wonderland at Magdelane Laver village hall, with one of our Explorer Scouts, Jack Quinlan, on stage acting in several parts. The production was pronounced as extremely funny and was enjoyed by all.

The Scouts spent an evening carrying out useful home tasks. They were taught how to iron their scarves, and fold and wear them correctly, and to sew badges onto Scout shirts. Thank you to Young Leaders, Caitlin and Chloe for leading this encouraging the Scouts to help at home with these tasks.

They had a really good evening, organized and supervised by Dennis and Victoria, making, cooking, tossing, and filling pancakes and then, of course, finally eating them!!

Fire Safety has been an important subject taught this term, in aid of the Australian Scout Fund which supports those who recently suffered in the bush fires in Australia. Each scout brought in £2.70 to pay for an Australia Bush Fire badge with all the money raised going to the areas worst affected. Carrying on with this theme, lectures took place to identify fire hazards in our own homes – identifying escape routes, viewing the areas affected by over a thousand Australian bush fires and carrying out a small table top fire-related incident exercise. There was a demonstration of how to safely put out a car engine fire using a Co2 extinguisher. The following week we welcomed Station 88 Leaden Roding On-Call fire brigade with their fire engine and equipment. They gave a demonstration using the hose and every Scout had a go controlling the high-pressure jet in the car park. An in-depth fire safety talk was given, explaining the use of equipment, uniforms and personal equipment. A big thank you was extended to Mark and his crew for their display and hard work for our community.

The scout troop learnt back to basics cooking by living off local game. They had six dead pheasants to prepare and cook. After a demonstration showing the quickest and most effective way of preparing the birds, the Scouts, in their patrol teams and supervised by an adult leader, set about skinning and removing all the feathers, limbs and the head. They then gutted each bird and identified the entrails. Next they deboned each bird and carefully carved the breast meat off the birds using sharp knives, and diced the meat ready for cooking. A stew was produced by browning the meat with onions, carrots, mushrooms and adding stock. Some Scouts assisted by making herb dumplings to add later in the cooking process. The longest part of the exercise was cleaning up, scrubbing down tables and cutting boards, and carefully disposing of the offal and pheasant residue. At the end of the evening the Scouts enjoyed a bowl of stew and, for the vegetarian Scouts, a bowl of vegetable stew with herb dumplings. The cooking was ably supervised by Victoria.



Later this term the Scouts will be learning about the importance of personal equipment for a coastal hike, which will include care for the feet, boots, socks and how to pack haversacks for expeditions and the first aid equipment needed. All this is in preparation for an expedition along the banks of the River Crouch – a sponsored event to raise funds for the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance charity.

*R. B. Bassnett
Scout Leader*

Dragonian Explorer Scout Unit – age 14 - 18 years

This term we have welcomed some new Explorers, from Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group and further afield. This has brought our numbers to 15 on a weekly basis. We have had to bid farewell to 3 of our older members, who have turned 18, although we are delighted to welcome one of our Explorers back as a leader within the Scout troop. Since completing her Young Leader training, she has both the skills and attributes required as a leader, as well as an understanding of the training and role in which she is to embark. The majority of our Explorers continue with their role as Young Leaders within all sections of the group. They too are working on their Young Leader award, many with aspirations to follow on to adult leadership going forward.

As a group, we have enjoyed weekly meetings at the Scout headquarters. Most of our programme is designed and led by the young people. This term has been very much food orientated, with an evening making pizzas, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and a science-based evening transferring energy to make ice cream using salt and ice cubes. In addition, we have had a film night - with snacks!

The Explorer Scouts spent two evenings working on (and earning) various stages of their Digital Citizen badge. This demonstrated a range of computer skills and resulted in photograph collages, podcasts and a stop motion short film.

As the term continues, the Explorer Scouts are planning an evening of board games as well as a night navigation exercise and a social evening out. They continue to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards at bronze and silver level. In addition, we have some members who are working towards their Queen's Scout award - the highest award for participants within the Scout Association.

We look forward to becoming more active as the evenings become lighter and warmer.

Vicki Wood

Please note that the Scout Hut will be closed following government guidelines at this time.

Mary Bacon

Chairman 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

01277899052: 07554933563 marychristinebacon@aol.com



WD50+ EXERCISE CLUB

Work out with a friendly group of Over 50s
on Fridays, **11.30am** (for 11.45am start) till **12.45pm**

Monica Couling Room – Fyfield Village Hall

Enjoy a social cuppa afterwards

Instruction from qualified Physical Fitness Trainer; All equipment supplied

Sessions cost £3 Members, £4 Non-Members;

Club Membership £15 per annum Free 'Taster' Session – just turn up!

The Club also holds social events and outings

**Further information from Patti Nicholson (01277 899504) or
Liz Bird (01277 899324)**

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to Cheryl Hadley for forwarding on this to us. We wish Carole and her family well, from the Fyfield Focus team.



From Carole Bailey, ex Banff Springs, Queen Street

7th December 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your Goodbye Wishes, which were printed in the last 'Focus'. I had been ill with various infections for most of 2019 and the 'Family' wanted to be able to keep a closer watch over me so I have moved to be nearer my son, Andy, who lives in Constable Country. It has been a great wrench moving from Fyfield, my first home after marrying, having lived there for 55yrs; but I have a little house with lovely views over a valley filled with fruit trees. I have set up my bird feeders and the birds didn't take long to find them and I have been inspired to take photos of mist in the valley one frosty morning and also a beautiful sunset a couple of days away.

Luckily I have Colin's, my late husband, and my many photos plus my paintings done in the area to help remind me of the good times bringing up my family in Fyfield. Now I am watching with interest how my 7 grandchildren will develop fully from the artists, mathematicians, musicians, historians and scientists that they currently are, with one already giving television interviews regarding Brexit!!

A big thank you to all who have helped me cope during the last 20yrs without Colin – I will miss you all. May I also say how much taking part in local clubs and societies has helped, including Fyfield W.I., various art groups, Ongar Wildlife, music societies and even a brief try at pottery.

Much love to all,

Carole and Family

A bit of fun (and to help the parents)

With schools closed for many, and parents juggling work and childcare we thought a few ideas may help and stumbled on this. Hope you enjoy a few.

At home activities for kids

- Create paper planes
- Sponge stamps
- Make bookmarks
- Paint pet rocks
- Create paper boats
- Finger paint
- Friendship bracelets
- Make a bird-feeder
- Create sock puppets
- Hand-print / footprint art
- Create a scrapbook
- Decorate T-shirts
- Paint leaves & flowers
- Make a time capsule
- Button art
- Colouring in book
- Make birthday cards
- Build a cardboard castle
- Draw a self portrait
- Paint a jar
- Make masks
- Build a fort
- Marble painting
- Mark play-dough
- Make slime
- Make coloured rice
- Write a story
- Have a movie day
- Have a fashion show
- Make dinner together
- Bake a cake
- Do yoga / stretches
- Have a treasure hunt
- Build something with Lego
- Puppet show
- Learn to draw
- Card games
- Dance party
- Put on a play
- Play doctors
- Indoor hopscotch
- Have a tea party
- Create a vision board
- Play I spy
- Decorate cupcakes
- Make a marble run
- Play Simon says
- Board games
- Hide & seek
- Play bingo
- Puzzles
- Create a new game
- Read books
- Draw a maze
- Dominoes
- Freeze dance game
- Noughts & crosses
- Dots & boxes
- Hangman
- Keep the balloon up
- Science experiments
- Origami
- Learn to knit/sew
- Make musical instruments
- Write letters to family/friends
- Start a garden
- Make superhero costumes
- Create a touch & feel box
- Matching / sorting games
- Memory Games
- Bubbles
- Obstacle course
- Hot potato / hacky sack
- Animal charades
- Indoor bowling
- Floor is lava
- Paper, scissors, rock
- Alphabet game
- Jump rope
- DIY ice-creams
- Camp in the backyard
- Have a water fight
- Chalk footpath drawings
- Watch the clouds
- Have a backyard picnic
- Learn a new game
- Try a new food
- Wash the car
- Face painting
- Brain puzzles
- Make paper flowers
- Find printables on-line
- Make smoothies
- Play Pictionary
- Create a thank-you jar
- Run in the sprinklers/rain
- Make a fairy garden
- Play-dough
- Water play/pouring
- Make salt dough
- Paper mache
- Create a puzzle
- Build a house of cards
- Play school
- Write / sing a new song
- Make a poster
- Play trains
- Play grocery store
- Create / write a book
- Decorate boxes
- Ring / ball toss game
- Make fruit loop necklace
- Cut up magazines
- Catch bugs
- Make an ant/worm farm
- Make finger puppets
- Play dress ups
- Draw a object
- Wash the dog
- Make paper hats
- Pasta/bead necklaces
- Re-arrange your room
- Make paper decorations
- Learn to juggle
- Create/learn a dance
- Make shadow puppets
- Build toothpick / popsicle bridge
- Blind taste testing
- Give each other crazy hair dos
- Make each other laugh
- Play 20 questions
- Use water to "paint" the house / footpath
- Tell silly stories / jokes
- Leaf & flower rubbings
- Wash dirty toys
- Make / decorate a photo frame
- Create signs for around the house
- Make a photo book

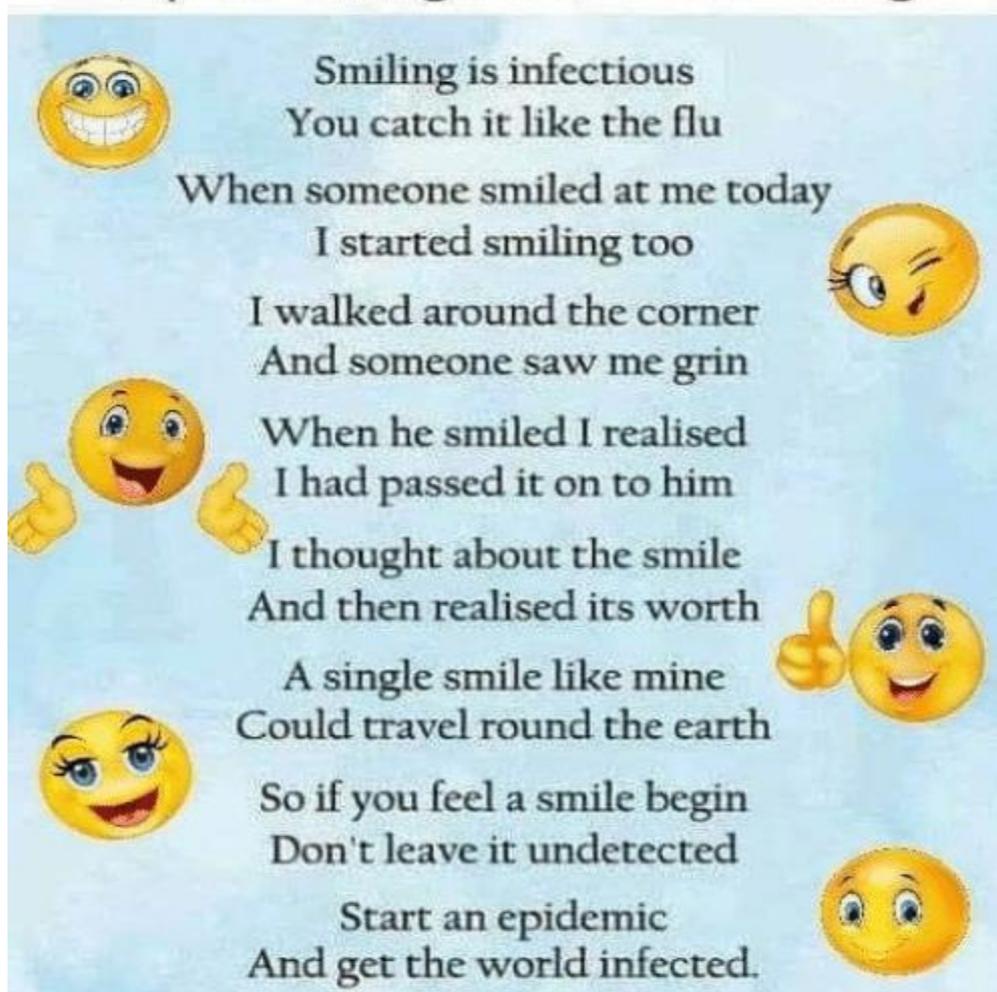
Solution to the BRAVE Puzzle

B	R	A	V	E
V	E	B	R	A
R	A	V	E	B
E	B	R	A	V
A	V	E	B	R



Sent in by Jenny Stone

What a great poem by the late
Spike Milligan about smiling





Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



Children may respond to stress in different ways such as being more clingy, anxious, withdrawing, angry or agitated, bedwetting etc.

Respond to your child's reactions in a supportive way, listen to their concerns and give them extra love and attention.

Children need adults' love and attention during difficult times. Give them extra time and attention.

Remember to listen to your children, speak kindly and reassure them.

If possible, make opportunities for the child to play and relax.



Try and keep children close to their parents and family and avoid separating children and their caregivers to the extent possible. If separation occurs (e.g. hospitalization) ensure regular contact (e.g. via phone) and re-assurance.

Keep to regular routines and schedules as much as possible, or help create new ones in a new environment, including school/learning as well as time for safely playing and relaxing.



Provide facts about what has happened, explain what is going on now and give them clear information about how to reduce their risk of being infected by the disease in words that they can understand depending on their age.

This also includes providing information about what could happen in a re-assuring way (e.g. a family member and/or the child may start not feeling well and may have to go to the hospital for some time so doctors can help them feel better).

Coronavirus

Dear resident,

I have never written to anyone on a more important subject. I would ask that you please take a moment to read this message.

We are facing the biggest challenge of our times. Coronavirus is a killer. If we do nothing, 500,000 people across our great country will die.

But that horrendous outcome will not happen, provided we act.

The Government has issued good advice. But not all of us are following it.

This is not good enough. We **MUST** heed the advice from Government.

It is simple. And it is in our hands.

STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.

Across Essex this weekend, we have seen people behaving in a way which was very much like going about their usual business.

I will be blunt. This is not acceptable.

We **MUST** socially distance.

Even though some schools across Essex will stay open, you should **ONLY** take your children to them, if you have been notified that you are a critical worker **AND** if you absolutely have **NO** other option.

The NHS

If the epidemic peaks, as it has in Italy, which has a world-class health system, the NHS will be overwhelmed.

We must not allow the 'peak' of the epidemic to outstrip the NHS's capacity to care.

Every single one of us can ensure that this nightmare scenario does not happen.

In China, and South Korea, the spread of the virus has been kept in check because Governments have acted quickly enough, and people have followed advice. We must follow suit. Our great County of Essex has always risen to the challenges over the decades. This is the greatest one of our times.

Please, follow the advice. Stay Home. Save Lives. #StayHomeSaveLives

Cllr David Finch, Leader, Essex County Council

Dr Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health, Essex County Council

What should I do to prevent catching and spreading the virus?



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel



Catch coughs and sneezes with **disposable tissues**



Throw away used tissues (then wash hands)



If you don't have a tissue **use your sleeve**



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

How to stick together, by staying apart



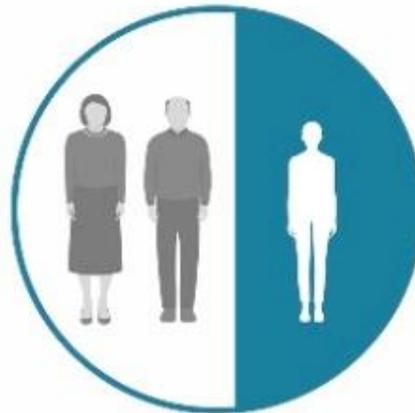
No handshakes, hugs or kisses
unless you live together



Don't go to **restaurants,**
bars, parties



Stay two metres apart where
possible (**trains, in meetings etc.**)



Children may have to avoid
grandparents for a while



Keep in touch with
one another



If unwell, isolate yourself and
your family

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

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 website www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk. All requests for advertising should be directed to Steve Turner and adverts must be received by eMail no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date (ie. 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 Steve Turner 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.

The Fyfield Focus Team:

Editor/Production:

Jennie Russell – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com

Sub Editors:

Margaret Dines – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com

Jenny Juttner – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com

Sally Wallden – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com

Finance, Advertising & Delivery:

Steve Turner – steve.turner31@gmail.com

Delivery Team: Dennis Bird, Liz Bird, Carol Cox, Eddie Fancourt, Elaine Griffiths, Jackie Hart, Fran Homersham, Ann Jackson, Les Lamb, Katharine Perry, Mary Simons, Jenny Stone, Steve Turner, Mike Walker, Roy Wilkinson and Mary Woodrow.

Printing:

Onpoint Design+ Print

Fyfield Useful Contacts

Bell Ringers - Hand	Pat Turnpenny	899223	Voluntary Care General No.	365363
Bell Ringers - Tower	Julie Robinson	899557	Ongar Wildlife Soc(OWLS)	Keith Snow 366791
Pageturners	Debbie Spanton	899317	Pilates	Claire Smith 07903-121003
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District Council Moreton & Fyfield	Ian Hadley	899840	Rainbows	Veronica Riches 364604
Dr Walker's Sch	Miss N. Willis	899298	Brownies	Jane Davenport 899389
Friends of St Nicholas	Julie Robinson	899557	Guides	Alison Lavender 365842
Fyfield Focus	fyfieldfocus@gmail.com		Rangers	Veronica Riches 364604
FYFIELD LUNCHEON CLUB			Beavers	Mary Bacon 899052
Club Co-ordinator	Jan Hall	899808	Cubs	David Gordon 896321
Lunch Bookings	Sandra Mead	899519	Scouts	Mary Bacon 899052
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Fyfield Village Pre-School	General No.	899678	St Nicholas' Church	Rev. Christine Hawkins 01277 286113
Neighbourhood Watch	Les Lamb	07776-178794	Warden	TBA TBA
Ongar & Villages WD50+ Exercise Club	Patti Nicholson	899504	VILLAGE HALL	
			Chair	Marie Apperley 899386
			Bookings	General No. 07956-440894
			Womens Institute	Pat Turnpenny 899223