



## **St. Nicholas' Church Seeks Support from the Community**

The Church Congregation attendance and collection has increased since April but not enough to secure the future of our Church. *See Letter from Rev Chris Hawkins for an update on the position of St. Nicholas' Church.*

## **Scouts 5K Run raises over £500**



*See inside for full report*

## **The Fyfield Focus to Continue in 2020**

As from 2020 there will be a new Editor and Production & Design Manager to continue providing the Focus to you free of charge. *See inside for more details.*

## **WD50+**

## **The Big Lottery Fund has awarded them a much-needed grant!**

*Read more inside*

## **Coffee with Cops sessions**

Low attendance numbers may lead to this valuable resource to Cease -

*See Cllr. Barbara Seward's article for details*

# Village Diary 2019

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
12-Oct	Fyfield Village Hall -Bingo Evening	Village Hall , 7pm
13-Oct	Harvest Festival - St. Christopher Church -Willingale	St Christopher Church, 9.30am
13-Oct	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 10am
14-Oct	E.F.D.C. - Life Walk	Village Hall, 9.30am
21-Oct	Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)	Jubilee Park Pavillion Ongar,8pm
26-Oct	Fyfield Litter Pickers	Village Hall, 9.30am
04-Nov	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
05-Nov	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
07-Nov	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
13-Nov	Fyfield Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
17-Nov	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 10am
18-Nov	Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)	Jubilee Park Pavillion Ongar,8pm
29-Nov	Coffee With Cops	Village Hall, 5pm
02-Dec	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
03-Dec	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
05-Dec	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
08-Dec	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 10am
09-Dec	Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)	Jubilee Park Pavillion Ongar,8pm
07-Dec	Fyfield Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch	Village Hall, 1pm
09-May	Fyfield Village Hall - VE Day 75th Anniversary Event	Village Hall,TBA
13-Sep	Fyfield Footpath 5K & Family Fun Run	TBA

**Don't Forget - Clocks Go Back 1 Hour on**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

## 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:

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### 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*

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I am absolutely delighted to announce that Jennie Russell has agreed to step into my shoes as Editor and Ian's shoes as Design & Production Manager. Jennie's official title will

be Editor and Production and Design Manager.

Jennie has lived in Fyfield for 2 years and has 13 years' experience as an Editor of Financial Research at a French Bank and 6 years as Desktop Publishing (DTP) Production Manager at a Management Consultancy – both based in London. Jennie's work experience, technical & editorial skills, desire to keep the Focus going along with Steve, Sally, Margaret and Jenny's experience on the Focus and of life in Fyfield I think you will agree is a perfect combination. Jennie's first Focus will be the February/March 2020 publication. What a relief that the Fyfield Focus will be in such good hands and is able to continue after 40 years of being in existence.

Rev. Chris provides a very clear and comprehensive update on the current position of our village church and also news of a Ministry Congress to be held in November to hear about plans to deal with the shortfall of funding the Chelmsford Diocese is suffering and its implications. Without question St. Nicholas' Church needs financial help to keep its doors open but it also needs more resources to be part of the Church Family (the congregation and PCC) to work with

Rev. Chris on what needs to be done if our church stands any chance of survival; this has to come from the community. Even in better times it would be very difficult to be Priest in charge of 8 Churches across 2 Benefices but these are far from good times and Rev. Chris and the current Church Family need help. Please see Rev. Chris' letter for details and also read Patti Nicholson's thoughts about the position of our Church, our Priest in Charge, Rev. Chris, and the Church meeting held in September. In addition to this, The Friends of St. Nicholas' Church are looking for new members to help with their funds to support the fabric of the building and bring funding ideas to the table – see their advert.

The Village Hall committee continue to work very hard on many fronts for our community as a whole. The maintenance and presentation of the Village Hall facility, bringing the community together at social events and hiring out the Hall for our clubs and organisations to provide us with a broad selection of activities and to provide the revenue to keep the hall open. The idea for having a Defibrillator in our village has been kicking around for at least 3 years and thanks to the Village Hall Committee this is now very close to being installed. They will need on-going support funding and people who are prepared to train on using the equipment. So do support the events the Village Hall organise and consider taking some training to use the equipment. Please see the Village Hall news and adverts for details.

Les Lamb, Chair of the Fyfield Parish Council, provides our local council news which spans a broad and diverse list of activity. The Focus would like to welcome Charlotte Collins to her new role as Parish Clerk. We would also like to thank Derek Farr for his support of the Focus and for being so pleasant and helpful in all our dealings with him.

Our village school is back as is the pre-school and of course the Scouts and Guiding associations – lots of news across all their articles. I am pleased to read that after 18 months preparation the World Scout Jamboree in New York was a great success for our 3 scouts. It is also good to see that the second 5K fun run

was again a huge success – see the village diary for the 2020 date.

Coffee with Cops has not been well supported of late and is at risk of being taken away from us. This would be a great shame as it is a very informative and useful interactive session with our local police. Due to good support in September we have a session confirmed for 29 November so please try to attend – I have been advised there will be homemade cake available.

Thank from the Focus team for all your news and I look forward to writing my final Editorial in the special Christmas Focus.

*Cheryl Hadley - Editor*

## ***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: PcPaulHarrison**

***Call 999 in an emergency situation***





## Update on St Nicholas' Church

Follow-Up to the Public Meeting - St Nicholas' Church 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

On behalf of the PCC of St Nicholas, I would like to thank everyone who attended the follow-up meeting regarding the sustainability of the village church. I was pleasantly surprised to see that people were still keen to find ways of, not only preserving the building, but also to support the church, financially.

I reported that attendances had improved slightly since April and that income had also increased, yet, sadly, not enough to make a huge difference to the long-term outlook for the church.

I shared the latest news that the Bishop of Barking had written recently to invite church leaders to a 'Congress' with him in November. The purpose of this meeting is to hear his plans for dealing with the huge shortfall in funding that the Diocese of Chelmsford is now suffering as a result of a cut in subsidy from the Church Commissioners.

It seems likely that stipendiary clergy numbers will be cut and that ministry will have to be facilitated by a

combination of self-supporting ministers and licensed lay members of the church. I suspect that the rural churches will be particularly affected by these changes.

It seems to me that there is anxiety at every level of national life at the moment; anxiety and division caused by 'Brexit'; the church is anxious about its survival and when this is coupled to worry, stress or anxiety in our personal lives, a perfect storm is created. In such circumstances, the church should, I believe, be a safe harbour and a refuge from the storm. However, we seem to be anything but safe at present. The whole church is in the grip of a negative narrative of loss and decline.

What can we do and to whom can we turn?

Well, of course, we turn to God in prayer and in trust, for God is present in all the mess. He is in the middle of it, in fact and because of that, we can know that all will not be lost and that, in the end, all will be well. We might be shaken by the force of developments, but we should not be stirred, because God is in the stern of our boat, steering us to calmer waters, if we could only trust.

However, this is not a counsel for '*sitting on our hands*'; rather we should be galvanised into action. I am grateful that our new Treasurer will be working with another volunteer to encourage residents to make a regular donation to the church via a Standing Order. There will be no obligation to do so, but we would

appreciate your help. This does not have to be for a huge amount, but if 200 people in our village committed to a Standing Order of £10 per month this would generate upwards of £2,000 per month in income! If donations were to be gift Aided, that would bring in hundreds of pounds of extra income from HMRC - at no pain to the givers!

Money, will not solve all our problems, however. as I said in the last issue of the 'Focus', we need YOU to become part of our worshipping congregation and to be members of the PCC.

I hope you will be thinking and praying about this situation and that you will commit to supporting the church in whatever way you can. God loves you, God loves this world that has been made, but God needs us to be God's hands and feet; eyes and ears here on earth. God needs us to search our hearts to discover how much money we can afford to support the church and then to commit to give it. God needs us to search our hearts to discover how we can serve our brothers and sisters in our community and then commit to do that too.

St Nicholas provides a safe space, a shelter from the storms of life and a place of peace for many people throughout the week. It is also the place where many of your children or grandchildren will want to be married, and it certainly will be the place where many villagers will wish to hold their funeral and then be laid to rest in the church yard. We can only keep the church available to you if you help us.

Please watch out for notices of the new giving scheme and please come to church to join our special festival services over the next quarter of this year.

Thank you for your interest and thank you for your support.

**Chris Hawkins**

*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*



# Services at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

Priest in Charge: Reverend Christine Hawkins 01277 286113

## October

6		No Service
13	18.00	<b>Family Communion</b>
20		No Service
27	11.00	<b>Family Service</b>
	18.00	<b>Monthly MMU Refresh Service*</b>

## November

3		No Service
10	18.00	<b>Family Communion</b>
17		No Service
24	11.00	<b>Family Service</b>
	18.00	<b>MMU Refresh Service*</b>

\*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 and St Germain, Bobbingworth are now holding joint services.**

### Moreton

October 6	10.00	Harvest Festival with Family Communion
November 3	10.00	Family Communion

### Bobbingworth

October 20	10.00	Family Communion
November 17	10.00	Family Communion

## ***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.**

## Our Village Church

As a community Fyfield is extremely lucky to have as Priest in Charge the Rev. Christine Hawkins. Christine combines great warmth, understanding, sympathy and good humour plus common sense and determination. Church attendance is declining nationally and consequently some functions traditionally carried out in churches, namely marriage and christenings, are also declining. Fifty years ago the majority of couples opted to be married by a priest in a church with the wedding celebrations based elsewhere. Increasingly today, couples choose civil ceremonies in specially appointed wedding venues. Moreover, fewer couples are actually getting married at all. A recent article in the national press cited figures from the Office of National Statistics showing that 'fewer than half the adult population under the age of 35 are married'. Funerals are now more frequent than weddings in many rural churches, and St Nicholas is no exception. This fact, together with declining congregations, decreases church income so financial problems arise - particularly for rural churches like St Nicholas.

Trying to stay optimistic in the face of such difficulties was at the heart of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at St Nicholas Church. This was a follow-up from an earlier meeting in May, called by Christine Hawkins in response to difficult financial problems facing *all* the churches in the United Benefices of Bobbingworth, Fyfield, Moreton &

Willingale, and High Laver with Magdalen Laver and Little Laver with Matching. As Priest in Charge of these *eight* churches, Christine has to divide her time between them all which is very difficult, especially without the aid of a Church Warden, as at St Nicholas. A lively discussion took place, ideas were put forward, and lots of hard work lies ahead. Christine did have some good news - a new Treasurer for the PCC had been appointed, and attendance and financial giving at St Nicholas had improved recently, but was still way below the level needed to meet ongoing costs. Therefore the possibility remains that St Nicholas Church may have either to close or become a festival church - one that is not needed for weekly worship but is valued and takes Festivals of the Church (Christmas, Easter, Rogation, and Harvest Festival).

Put bluntly it means that if people in Fyfield really want to keep St Nicholas open as a place of worship, comfort, friendship and where the milestones of life and death can be marked, then actions need to follow good intentions.

*Patti Nicholson*

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[www.queensheadfyfield.co.uk](http://www.queensheadfyfield.co.uk)

# In Praise of the CAA and ATOL

Early on Monday 23rd September Thomas Cook went into liquidation and stopped trading. At the time we were in Santorini and due to fly home the next day via Thomas Cook Airlines. By late that morning the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had updated their website giving clear instructions of the action we should take. It had a drop down list of all destinations, airports and aircraft due to return to the UK and the details of the replacement flights. Our new flight details were exactly the same as the original Thomas Cook flight so we were



Airbus A321

content to continue our holiday without concern despite the media hype and doom & gloom. The aircraft was a MD 83 of Danish Air Transport (DAT). The combination of the short runway at Santorini and the full complement of passengers meant that this aircraft had to take off with a lighter fuel load which in turn meant that we had to land at Preveza to take on more fuel to enable us to reach Gatwick. This added an hour to our journey time but nobody complained. All in all a very smooth and successful experience for us. Well done to the CAA and thank god for ATOL. However, the aircraft that took us to Santorini and was due to pick us up for the return flight was a A321 Airbus which can carry more passengers than the MD 82 that flew us home. We were OK but some passengers for Gatwick were put on one of the two other flights leaving that day, namely the flight that went to Birmingham! Not so good when your car is

parked at Gatwick. So, a practical tip from one who knows. If anything like this happens to you make

sure that you get to your departure airport earlier than normal thereby making sure that you are near the front of the check in queue. That way you should hopefully board the aircraft destined for your home airport. Also make sure that you are covered by ATOL and that you pay via a credit card as the card provider insures you. A debit card will not do.



McDonnell Douglas MD 83

Don't worry though; it will probably never happen to you!

## Footnote:

I found it very sad to hear that Thomas Cook was going into liquidisation after 178 years. It's been there all of my lifetime and seemed to be a part of most foreign holidays even if I did not book with them. I think that most of us have happy feelings about Thomas Cook as it was part of our holidays and our happy memories. It was the provider of those thick holiday brochures that we all looked through after the Christmas break to choose our next holiday. The photos were almost unbelievable with their blue sky's and deep blue seas. Now there is a large hole in our lives. There will be other tour operators who fill the gap and life will go on but we have lost one of the stable brands that we were all familiar with. Let's hope that the likes of John Lewis, Boots, Debenhams, Sainsbury, Tesco etc don't go the same way and rob this country of some of its brand history.

*Ian Hadley*  
*ianhadley@gmx.co.uk*

# Fyfield *Litter Pickers*



The September village litter pick was held on Saturday 21st September, which proved to be a glorious autumnal

day for a walk up Moreton Road.

Welcome to Patti, Debbie and Mark -



and look what they found on their first litter pick! More of our old friend Mateus Rose.....

The next litter pick will be on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am** meeting at the **Village Hall**. We hope to see you there!

*Fiona Baxter and Heather Porter*

## Thank You

I would like to thank the person who has carefully cleared around the stones in the memorial area for loved ones; just inside the church gate.

Thank you so much – it looks lovely.

*Carol Cox*

*Parochial Church Council (PCC)*

*St. Nicholas' Church – Fyfield*



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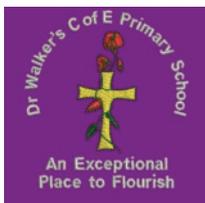
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Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019



Call the school office to book your place on an open morning. If you would like any more information please visit our website, follow us on Twitter - @drwalker\_s or call our school office on 01277 899298.

*Miss N. Willis*  
*Headteacher*

**Bonfire Night**  
**5<sup>th</sup> November**



## 2nd Fyfield Brownie Guides

Brownies is a girl led organisation for girls age 7 – 10. Some of our Brownies go to school and live in Fyfield and the Roding villages, but we also have girls who go to school and live in Ongar and Moreton and as far afield as Great Easton!

Brownies provides opportunities for girls age 7 and over to

- make new friends,
- try new things
- develop their views and
- make their own decisions

The girls work with each other and their leaders and have fun playing games and taking part in special events, camps and holidays.

Badges are awarded within 6 themes. This term we will be exploring the '**Take Action**' theme and discovering what the girls feel about some of the important issues that affect their lives. How can they make a difference in their community and the wider world? How can we be a positive influence and role model for others?

So..... if you know a girl who would enjoy Brownies, we would be delighted to meet her and guarantee a warm welcome!

For more information please contact **Jane Davenport** on 01277 899389 or [janedavenpo@gmail.com](mailto:janedavenpo@gmail.com)



**Fyfield Rainbow Guides**, for girls age 5-7, would like to hear from anyone wishing to join and also anyone who is interested in helping with the unit.

For more information please contact **Veronica Riches**.01277 364604.



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Contact our Nursery Manager, Michelle Pateman on 01277 365488 or by email [Michellepateman@poppetsnursery.co.uk](mailto:Michellepateman@poppetsnursery.co.uk)

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# PRAYING MORNING PRAYER TOGETHER

Rota of Services 9.00 – 9.30 am

October

<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> (Sept)</b> St Christophers, Willingale	<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup></b> St Nicholas, Fyfield	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> St Marys, Moreton	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b> St Germain, Bobbingworth
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup></b> St Marys, Matching	<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></b> All Saints, High Laver	<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b> St Mary the Virgin Little Laver	<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b> St Mary Magdalen Magdalen Laver
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b> St Christophers, Willingale	<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b> St Nicholas, Fyfield	<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b> St Mary's, Moreton	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b> St Germain, Bobbingworth
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup></b> St Marys Matching	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b> All Saints High Laver	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> St Mary the Virgin Little Laver	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup></b> St Mary Magdalen Magdalen Laver
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup></b> St Christophers, Willingale	<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup></b> St Nicholas, Fyfield	<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup></b> St Marys, Moreton	<b>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup></b> St Germain, Bobbingworth

## Suzanne Millar

It is with much sadness to report the passing away of Suzanne on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Suzanne was a well liked and loved resident of Fyfield who always had a lovely smile on her face, was fun to be with and was a very nice person who would help anyone who needed a hand.

Suzanne will be sadly missed by many from across our village.

*Cheryl Hadley.*



# Ringling the Bells for Peace



The **Fyfield Handbell Ringers** felt privileged to join with bells across Europe to ring simultaneously on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September at 6pm, for the United Nations Day of Peace. We carefully selected to play some of our beautiful, slower pieces to fit in with the theme.

Bells are a symbol of peace. On the International Day for Peace, the United Nations Secretary-General rings the Japanese Peace Bell to pray for World Peace, in the presence of Representatives of Permanent Missions and officials of the UN Secretariat.

Mr. Chiyoji Nakagawa, the former counsellor of the United Nations Association of Japan, proposed the building of a Peace Bell as a symbol of hope for peace. The bell was cast from coins and medals donated by the

representatives of Member States, the Pope, and people, including children from over 60 different nations who supported this idea. The bell tower was modelled after the Hanamido (*a small temple decorated with flowers*) that symbolises the place where Buddha was born.



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Email: [donna@bluebellforestschool.com](mailto:donna@bluebellforestschool.com)  
Telephone: 07878 555 294



## **‘Coffee with Cops’ At Fyfield Village Hall**



Sadly there has been very little or no attendance from residents at the recent Fyfield Coffee with Cops events, and as a result the August date was cancelled. It

is likely that going forward the events will now be held quarterly or even stopped if attendance continues to be so poor. Please do consider attending your local Coffee with Cops event, this is a valuable resource providing direct access to our local policing team in order to discuss concerns, raise issues



PC Paul Harrison & PCSO Laura Ashcroft

and learn about practical crime prevention methods.

Later..... I am pleased to report the Coffee with Cops attendance on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of September was good (11 attendees) and we had an informative meeting with PC Paul Harrison (Police Constable) and PCSO Laura Ashcroft (Police Community Support Officer) covering the following topics:

- General safety
- Burglary prevention advice
- Speeding through the village
- Fly tipping
- Keeping an inventory of valuable personal possessions

Thank you to the Focus (Jenny Juttner & Cheryl Hadley) for spreading the word again about the session.

The next Coffee with Cops date has now been confirmed as **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm -6 pm**; please put this in your diary and help us ensure we don't lose this very valuable resource in our village.

For further details please contact:

*Cllr Barbara Saward – email:  
barbara128@gmail.com or Tel:  
07747803829*

# Your Friends Need



# YOU

The Friends of St Nicholas is a registered charity, dedicated to caring for the **fabric** of our beautiful village Church.

Although the Church is in a very good state of repair after the major works carried out, as you can imagine in a building of such great age, this is an ongoing task. We plan to continue applying for grants for the larger projects and use the membership money for the constant smaller repair and servicing jobs.

Sadly, the number of Friends has declined over the last 2 years and we would welcome new members to join us bringing with them much needed fresh ideas and energy, so we can continue protecting our Church for future generations.

Thank you.

**Julie Robinson**

*Chair of the Friends of St Nicholas*

01277899557

*julie.m.robinson@btinternet.com*



# Application for Membership

I/We wish to join the Friends of Saint Nicholas's Church

I enclose my/our annual subscription of £10 per person

Name: .....

Joint Names: .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Joint Signature: .....

Please hand this form into the village shop with your membership fee.

If you are a taxpayer, completion of a Gift Aid Authority form will enable the Friends to obtain a refund of tax on the amount of your subscription.

Please tick the box if you need one

---

## Foodbank

### Keep Supporting the Foodbank – Every Little Helps

Thank you to all those of you that have generously donated to the Michael Roberts Charitable Trust (MRCT) foodbank. All donations have been regularly taken to the foodbank warehouse where items are distributed to people in need.

Between April 2018 and March 2019, the foodbank fed 5616 people (2004 of whom were children). Foodbank referrals have increased by 37% compared with the same period last year. According to the Office of National Statistics, 24.4% of children in Harlow are living below the poverty line. Growing up in poverty can affect every aspect of a child's life, their home, health, education, family relationships and friendships.

The mission statement for the MRCT states that the organisation 'promotes the value and significance of every person, empowering them to develop their potential and self-confidence.'

Village collection points for your donations are at the church and in the village shop where the most useful foods are listed.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Margaret Dines and Margaret Cox*  
*St. Nicholas' Church, Fyfield*



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# Congratulations

Meet Laura and Matthew, the new Mr and Mrs Harwood, who were married in our church on 16th August. We were delighted to see them marry in St Nicholas Church and to welcome their friends and family who have roots in Fyfield (Laura's maiden name is Sage).

We wish them both every happiness and blessing in their new life together.

*Jenny Stone*

*Parochial Church Council (PCC) - St. Nicholas' Church, Fyfield*



# A Big Thank You

With great gusto, a working party of determined ladies met to "deep clean" our beautiful church - and how it sparkled once we had finished.

So, it's a big thank you to Lesley, Lynda, Pam, Rosie, Trish and not forgetting Michael (Lesley's husband) who worked so hard with his excellent steam cleaner and polisher. I've never seen such a long handled duster which extended to over 10 ft. Ken Dodd would have been so impressed.

Watch this space for the date of our next session - you would be very welcome to join us!

*Jenny Stone*

*Parochial Church Council (PCC) -  
St. Nicholas' Church, Fyfield*

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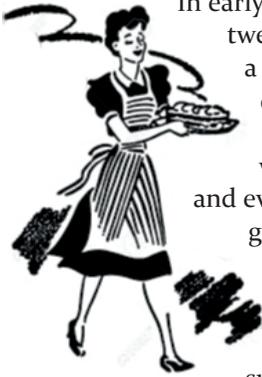
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# Fyfield *Luncheon Club*

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In early September, twenty of us enjoyed a boat trip with a cream tea on the River Lee, the weather was lovely and everybody had a great time.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September, after a break for the summer, we enjoyed another lovely meal cooked by The Queen's Head, and served by our volunteers. We remember our dear

friend, Suzanne Millar, who was one of our volunteers before her illness.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. Our next two lunches are on **Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October & 13<sup>th</sup> of November.**

Our Christmas Lunch will be on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm at The Village Hall.**

Please contact Sandra on 01277 899519 if you would like to attend any of the future dates.

*Sandra Mead and Jan Hall*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** *& Afternoon Tea*

To Ron Barker who will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.  
Warmest wishes and love.

*Friends and Neighbours in Fyfield*

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---

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On **Monday 21st October** Rosie Earwaker will give an illustrated talk entitled *Insect Trends: Is it all bad news?* Her talk is timely as a recent global review

states that many of the world's insects are hurtling down the path to extinction, threatening a "catastrophic collapse of nature's ecosystems".

The report states that more than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered. The rate of extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles. The total mass of insects is falling by 2.5% a year, according to the best data available.

Recent figures indicate that there are more than 200 million insects for each human on the planet, many of which are essential for the proper functioning of all ecosystems, as

food for other creatures, pollinators and recyclers of nutrients.

The remaining topics for the year are: 18<sup>th</sup> November - *Wildlife and Landscape Photography* with Andrew Bailey; 9<sup>th</sup> December - *Christmas Corals* with Brian Rosen.

All meetings are held at 8pm at Jubilee Park Pavilion, Love Lane (off High Street), Ongar CM5 9BL. 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 about wildlife and the environment. More information can be found at [www.ongarwildlifesociety.org.uk](http://www.ongarwildlifesociety.org.uk)

*Keith Snow*

## **Farewell Fyfield**

By the time you read this we shall have moved to Dunmow. Many of you will have known of this intention for a while.

It has been such a privilege to have lived in this beautiful spot for the last 30 years. We have been so lucky to have had such good friends and neighbours. The village has been such a great place to live – the church, the village hall, the shop and the pubs have all played a part in our lives over the years and through them we came to know so many people. Fyfield is such a friendly place and everyone says hello or stops to chat.

However the time came that we must downsize and move away. Dunmow is not that far away and we hope to remain involved, albeit to a much lesser extent, in Fyfield.

Thank you for all your friendship in the past and your good wishes for the future.

*Allan and Rita Cook*

# Fyfield *Village Hall*

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I hope this update finds you all well after what has been a pretty good summer. Now we look forward to the

autumn and shorter days.

We held the last of our BBQs for this summer on 20<sup>th</sup> September, and we would like to thank everyone that came along and made them thoroughly enjoyable. We will be having some more next year, so look out for the dates.

As previously mentioned, we now have the defibrillator and are waiting for the delivery of the cabinet. Once that has arrived, we will install it so that it is ready for use.

However, as part of the grant funding that we received from The British Heart Foundation, we are also required to train people in CPR. A huge amount of resources, including 10 dummies, have been given for us to complete the training. We would like to arrange a date, probably in November for anyone that would like to attend. We would particularly encourage anyone that uses the hall regularly, including all the clubs, to send at least one or two people to this training session.

Therefore, if anyone is interested in putting their name down, could you e-mail me at [Fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:Fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com) and we will be in touch. Also, please look out for posters and the grapevine that will display more information nearer the time.

The defibrillator will be housed outside the Village Hall in an unlocked cabinet so that it is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for everyone. However, that also means that it is vulnerable to being vandalised. As we have also experienced some anti-social behaviour at the village hall in the car park, we are thinking of installing a CCTV camera on the defibrillator and the car park. Unfortunately, this comes at a cost and so we are appealing for anyone that would like to help with funding or advice on what to install.

The defibrillator, cabinet and installation are costing the Village Hall in the region of £1700, which is a big outlay for us. We believe that it is the right thing to spend money on, and something that will benefit the whole village. We will also have the ongoing maintenance costs and so any support you can give us, which includes coming to any of our fund raising events would be most appreciated.

We would like to say a big thank you to the WD50+ Club who has kindly given us a cheque towards the installation of the defibrillator. Their help is really appreciated.

As for up and coming events, we are holding a Bingo Evening on 12<sup>th</sup> October. We are not going to charge an entrance fee this time; you just pay for the books you want to play. We shall not be supplying a ploughman's, but the bar will be open. So bring your own snacks, and come and enjoy a fun evening. Once again, Richard, Christine, Roy and Geoff will make sure it is a good event. If you would like to book

a table, let us know on 07956 440894 or by e-mail.

We are still making plans for the VE celebrations next year; more details will be revealed next time.

The last Life Walks this year will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, and these will then resume in March 2020.

As ever, if there are any events/fundraising ideas that you have or would like to see at the Village Hall, please do let us know. We are always looking for new ideas.

Take care,

*Marie Apperley*

*Chair*

01277 899386

[fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com)

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# AUTUMN PUZZLE PAGE

## WORDSEARCH



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I L Q Z W I R B I Z Y Z T P V  
N E E W O L L A H I V H B X S

BERRIES CHILLY COLOURS CONKERS COOL DEW FIREWORKS  
FRUITFULNESS HALLOWEEN HARVEST LEAVES MELLOW MIST  
PUMPKINS RUSSET SEASON

### AN AUTUMN QUIZ (answers on next page)

1. Which continent do British swallows migrate to?
2. What is another name for a Mountain Ash?
3. What do short eared owls eat?
4. Which hedgerow plant has catkins in the spring and nuts in the autumn?
5. What is the date of the autumn equinox?
6. Male roe deer lose their antlers each autumn. What is the name of the covering on the new antlers?
7. What is the name of the plant that blackberries grow on?
8. Which autumnal farming practice has been banned in England and Wales since 1993?
9. Which poet composed 'To Autumn', the 1819 poem which begins 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'?
10. Squirrels are starting to bury acorns. Which bird does the same?



# Fyfield Village Pre-School

Fyfield Village Pre-School has had a busy start to the new school year.

The children have been busy talking and thinking about their family with a special project planned to create a book of pre-school families for the children to refer to, use in games and look at if they miss their parents.

Also planned this term is a collection of items for harvest, which will be taken to the village Harvest Service at St Nicholas Church.

The term time pre-school based in the Scout Hut is now operating a waiting list. Please visit [www.fyfieldvillagepre-school.com](http://www.fyfieldvillagepre-school.com) or call 01277 899678.

*Michelle Breavington*

## Answers to **An Autumn Quiz**

1. Africa
2. Rowan Tree
3. Mice and voles
4. Hazel
5. 23rd September
6. Velvet
7. Bramble
8. Stubble Burning
9. John Keats
10. Jay

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# Fyfield **WD50+ Exercise Club**



Relief and thanks were the main emotions felt by members of the WD50+ Club when they got the good news that

the Big Lottery Fund had awarded them a much-needed grant! It was smiles all round, and we are now busy replacing some equipment and buying a few extra items, which is wonderful. We are very grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for their continued support.

The philosophy behind the WD50+ Club is to make exercising easy and affordable for people over 50 (many of our members are in the 70+ age range). Our 'Pay As You Attend' policy means that people are *not* paying for sessions they cannot attend, whatever the reason. Current session costs are £3.00 (members) £4.00 (non-members), and annual membership is £15 but joining

the WD50+ Club is *not* a requirement to attend sessions. A range of equipment is provided and our instructor, Clare, makes sure Club sessions are enjoyable and safe, adapting exercises for all abilities and to suit individuals with specific problems. Just as the product, WD40, works on locks and joints, loosening and lubricating them so that they work better, physical exercise oils the joints in our bodies. It helps maintain mobility and balance - all increasingly necessary to keeping our independence and well-being as the years mount up.

We work hard, laugh a lot, and enjoy each other's company and a friendly chat over a cuppa at the end of each Club session. We meet every Friday, 1.45 – 2.45pm at the village hall so if *you* feel you could do with a 'tonic', come along and try some WD50+ 'medicine'. Your first session is free, so there's nothing to lose. For more information, please contact Patti (899504) or Liz (899324).

*Patti Nicholson*





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# Fyfield & District *W.I.*

---



Margaret Mills paid us a return visit in September and made our flesh creep with stories of two infamous murder cases with an Essex connection.

The first was about a woman nicknamed 'arsenic Sal' who was tried twice for allegedly poisoning two of her sons, another child and later her own husband.

Finally, despite the lack of real evidence, she was found guilty and sent to the gallows. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this was a public spectacle and huge crowds gathered to see her grisly death throes.

The second was the notorious case of the Jack the Ripper murders. Rumour linked the name of an eminent Royal surgeon, among many others, but there was no real evidence and no one was ever brought to trial so it remains a mystery to this day.

Serious matters of current concern are the need to take action to protect the environment.

We are all being urged to grow more bee friendly flowers in our gardens as bees are under threat through lack of the right type of flowers.

There are also nationwide projects to plant millions more trees. It is ironic that 30-40 years ago farmers were paid subsidies to rip out hedges! This was intended to make larger fields to accommodate modern machinery, with unforeseen consequences it seems.

At our next meeting in October we are looking forward to Ray Spiller taxing our memories with theme tunes of TV and Radio programs. In November Anne Marie Sackett will be evoking the Victorian Christmas in poetry and prose.

Visitors and new members very welcome, meeting details are in the Village Diary.

*Pat Turnpenny, Secretary 01277 899223*

## **Fyfield Coffee Morning** (in the church)

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

**5<sup>th</sup> November & 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**10 am to 12 Noon**  
**Marion, Carol & Tricia**



# Out of Focus

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

---

Whenever I drive north I notice that the number of wind turbines increase rapidly. In the past, one could always know when you were approaching Daventry on the M1 as the radio masts of the Daventry Transmitting Station dominated the landscape as did the masts at the Ongar Radio Station at North Weald. Now the area is dominated by Wind Turbines as far as the eye can see. Fortunately, the same cannot be said of North Weald and our own area at the present. I wonder how much longer we will have a Turbine free landscape? Of course, we still have the monstrous communications mast at Stondon Massey towering over us all but at least it indicates that you are nearly home and at Christmas time the red lights make it look like a rather large Christmas tree.



Wind turbines are everywhere now and nowhere seems to escape them. I remember recently returning to one of my favourite Greek islands to find that the wonderful view that I have loved was now mounted by a cluster of Wind Turbines. It felt a bit like seeking out a far remote Pacific island for some peace and quiet and finding a 'full English breakfast' sign next to your grass hut.

But, looking on the bright side, with the explosion of electric vehicles (not literally) we will need many more charging points and even more electricity to service them. The answer, I hear you say, is of course Wind Turbines and solar panels. Let's hope that they don't get too popular in this part of the UK and that the current technology gets replaced by a network of reflective satellites around the Earth that beams concentrated solar power down to specific sites for redistribution. This could keep us all going until the Sun burns out in about 4 billion years' time, give or take a billion years or so. With any luck the human race plus our dogs will have moved on to some other Earth like home well out of the way of the Sun. No doubt to get there we will have to go through a Brexit type process and a referendum on whether to remain on Earth or leave, with the options being remain, and having to be under the control of a dying Sun which will eventually gobble us up or leave, and forever after having to put up being told that 'I didn't vote for this hot/cold/wet/dry/low gravity/high gravity etc etc place'. Ring any bells?

*Ian Hadley*

*Ianhadley@gmx.co.uk*

# Planters at the Bus Stop and on the Bridge at Queen Street/Willingale Road

Following my advert in the Focus for volunteers to help with the watering of the above I am pleased to report that 4 people came forward so we are currently a group of 5 and I will be putting a watering rota together so that this task can be shared out.

Sally Wallden has also agreed to help me with the summer and winter planting

which I am so pleased about and we will be looking to undertake the winter planting during October; we already have some ideas of a planting scheme.

A huge thank you to Sally, Jane, Patti, Jenny, Linda & Pam for volunteering to be part of the team.

If you live close to the above planters and would like to help kindly let me know – we would welcome you to the team and as we know ‘more hands make less work’.

*Cheryl Hadley*  
Tel: 899840 or eMail  
[cherylhadley@gmx.co.uk](mailto:cherylhadley@gmx.co.uk)



Don't forget

**The UK leaves the European Community**

**On**

**31<sup>st</sup> October**

# Archie's Column

(Tails from the Riverside)



Hi, Archie here.

Not only have I had to put up with a royal baby being named Archie but now Boris' new dog, Dilyn, is a Jack Russell! I'm

not sure how he will get on with Larry the No. 10 cat. Any self-respecting Jack Russell would sort out the pecking order straight away. I suspect that Dilyn will try to eat Larry's food especially if it is a full English Brexit. That would leave Larry with a very clear choice, meal or



no meal. After all, no meal is better than a bad meal. On the other hand Larry could decide to crash out without a meal and leave rather than remain however uncertain his future might be. Or he could even lock the doors so nobody could throw him out.

I've just come back from my late summer stay at my country club. As usual I joined the choir and ended up with a sore throat and no bark. Funny but my parents don't seem to worry about me not being able to bark. Can't think why?



Anyway, I'm off to start my diet so that I can fully enjoy my full English Brexit on 1<sup>st</sup> November after we Brexit whatever that means!

Bye for now,

Archie.





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## Light Hearted Monologues from a Local

Maurice Plimsoll and his brother Marco, Italian painters, were suspended on cradles painting bitumen onto the hull of the huge freighter ITILLADI-ITY.



Completely engrossed and forgotten by the captain who, oblivious to their shouts, raised the anchor and headed for high seas. Gathering speed, the very choppy water at that time of year, covered the bitumen up to the top. This level became universally known as The Plimsoll Line- further defined by the brothers' feet and facial dents as they swung chaotically back and forth, side to side, trying to repel the immense steel hull with their old footwear.

Upon reaching port, the Plimsolls were found to be laced with bitumen and the sole aim was to heal their injuries. Everyone was in step. Their old rubber shoes were examined. Bandages were applied from head to toe, as they were de-bituminised with tar remover.

Speech slowly returned after dental ex-



amination for tongue injuries. Metallic oscillation noises, heard by some of the crew on the voyage, were explained.

“As a goodwill gesture, on this occasion, their trip is free” a spokesman for the Italian ship owners commented. “We have strict rules concerning stowaways

and sneakers. In the future, they must toe the line, “he added.

Nakithas, an Italian shoe making company bought out soft shoes and called them ‘Plimsolls’ based on Maurice’s old shoes with added bitumen. The Liverpool Rubber Company had already developed the ‘Plimsoll’.

**(Note to history students** Plimsolls were:

- worn for sports, especially in schools
- not considered to be fashionable, even considered embarrassing
- always black and flat.

Some of the world’s trendiest footwear, ‘trainers’ have become the modern name for the plimsoll.)

For sure, the Plimsoll brothers’ faces rang bells and helped to launch a thousand ships safely. Who knows, maybe started a billion-dollar shoe industry –worldwide.

*Barry Betteridge*

## Moreton & Fyfield Ward



I thought that you may be interested at the temporary plans for North Weald Airfield as part of the preparatory work for BREXIT.

Scheduled works are due to take place at North Weald, Airfield, Epping as part of the Government's preparations for a no-deal EU exit.

The works are required to prepare the site for temporary customs use. North Weald Airfield will provide additional customs capacity and help to facilitate the flow of trade in the Dover Straits area.

The works will begin the week commencing 23 September 2019 and could last for a number of weeks. The work will include:

- Widening of Gate E to enable lorries to exit airfield,
- Removal of some vegetation and bund,
- Demarcation of spaces and,
- Provision of modular buildings and security cabins

Earlier this month planning permission for the proposed use of the site was granted under the Town and Country Planning 1990 Act. This allows us to use the site temporarily for customs clearance until 31 December 2020. The site will only be used in the event of a no-deal EU exit, and this usage will remain under constant review.

### How much space will be used?

The site will be used by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). In total there will be approximately 60 HGV spaces. Full details of the permission can be viewed at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/1228/contents/made>

### What is the planned use of the site?

The site will act as an Office of Departure and Destination for lorries transporting goods under the Common Transit Convention. The site will also facilitate the wet stamping of ATA Carnets which allows goods to be moved in and out of the EU on a temporary basis. The facilities will be managed by an external contractor and will be staffed by officials from HMRC and Border Force.

### Why this site?

The site is considered an appropriate location given its proximity to the Strategic Road (M11/25).

*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**

## **Letter from the Chairman**

### **Our new Clerk**

We are pleased to announce that Charlotte Collins has been employed as the new Clerk to the Fyfield Parish Council. She was chosen from several applicants because of her skills and experience in activities required in the running of a Parish Council. Charlotte will attend some training courses to better understand the very specific controls that are required in the running of councils.

Charlotte is already keeping busy getting up to speed managing the finances and assisting with the updating of the burial ground's records. We are delighted to have recruited someone that lives in Fyfield who, like us, had a strong desire to make Fyfield an even better place to live. Good luck Charlotte.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

Our grounds maintenance contract expired earlier this year. It's been a while in coming but finally we are in a position to agree a 2 year contract. The cost of grounds maintenance is by far the biggest outlay for the Council, so we have designed a contract with improved controls of when maintenance is conducted which will help to reduce costs. We will now meet with the contractors with a view to going live on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Ongoing, it will mean more work for Councillors to monitor and request work but we feel it will be well worth the effort to ensure we get good value for money while maintaining standards required for the general use of the burial grounds and recreations field and for the football team.

### **Crime Prevention**

Our crime rate is extremely low, however we do have issues at times and your council is always here to help and ensure we maintain effective links with our local police and Neighbourhood Watch resources.

Barbara Saward co-ordinates the Coffee with Cops sessions in the village hall and I am the local liaison for Neighbour Hood Watch. As well as us Councillors you can also contact our local policeman, Paul Harrison on 07815 491392 directly, or of course call the police on 101 or 999.

We have received complaints from residents concerning cars screeching around the village hall car park in the early hours. These incidents have been reported to the police and the village hall committee are considering the installation of CCTV. The Scouts had the same issue a few weeks ago and the culprit was identified and dealt with by our local policeman.

Fly tipping continues to be a concern and you may have noticed a huge fly tip on the Moreton Road recently. Please do stay vigilant as fly tipping on private land, such as our car parks, would have to be cleared up at our costs. If it was asbestos for example, it would be very expensive indeed with potential closure required of the areas.

### **BT Phone Box**

Ever since I've been on the Council we have been debating the use and ongoing costs of the BT payphone service. Now we all have landlines and mobiles, the service is hardly used and we cannot justify another £360 for a year's lease from BT. So we have finally reached a decision to terminate the lease.

BT offer communities the option to purchase the phone box (£1) for alternate uses, but we have not come up with any clear ideas on how it could be used here. The most common use in other parishes is for defibrillator heart units, but after taking advice, ours will be installed at the village hall and if we ever got a second unit it could go in the bus shelter. In any case we anticipate there would be costs involved in any conversion work and then of course the ongoing maintenance costs.

As there have been no offers of local sponsorship the notice to BT will be issued towards the end of September and BT will remove their equipment next year and, at some point, remove the box.

### **EFDC Lifewalks**

Lifewalks promotes health and wellbeing by supporting walks around the Epping district. The Fyfield Council and village hall volunteers have been actively involved in supporting this worthwhile service. This year we offered tea and cakes in the village hall after the walks and it's been a real success. So far it has raised over £300 for the village hall charity.

The "special" longer walk in September was so well subscribed that walkers had to use the excellent services of both the Queens Head and Black Bull pubs for lunch.

I just wanted to say thanks to all those from the village hall who gave up their time and made cakes in support of this.

### **Fyfield Footpaths**

It's taken a couple of years, but with huge help from the Ramblers all the work identified by Essex Highways has been completed and our footpaths are now in good shape. 17 old bridges have been replaced and lots of paths cut back.

If you would like to come for a walk please join us every second Sunday of the month at 10:00 at the Village Hall.

### **Parish Council Web Site**

EssexInfo notified us that they will stop providing their web services from April 2020. Along with many other organisations across Essex the council must find a new provider. We have created a development version of a web site with a new provider which we propose to make live later this year. It's free of charge but we may decide later that we need more advanced features and storage which come with a small charge.

We would welcome feedback on the look and content. You can see the development web site by following this link....<https://leslamb.wixsite.com/fyfiel dpc>

*Cllr. Les Lamb*

[leslamb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leslamb@hotmail.co.uk)

07776178794

## **Fyfield Parish Council**

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Cllr. M. Alcock	01277 899432	<a href="mailto:alcock123@btinternet.com">alcock123@btinternet.com</a>
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Cllr. D. Webster	01277 899405	<a href="mailto:dan@fyfield.uk.com">dan@fyfield.uk.com</a>
Charlotte Collins, Clerk	01277 899006	<a href="mailto:Fyfieldparishcouncil@gmx.com">Fyfieldparishcouncil@gmx.com</a>

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# **Thursday 31 October Halloween**



## **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
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Sunday	Closed



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## **WD50+ EXERCISE CLUB**

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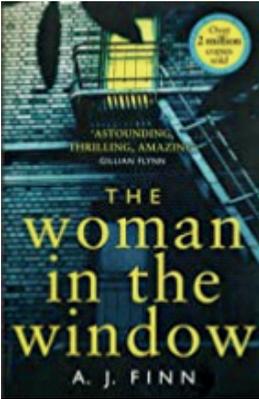
Sessions cost £3 Members, £4 Non-Members, Club Membership £15 per annum

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)**

## Fyfield Bookworms



### The Woman in the Window by AJ Finn

This book is a great read which I couldn't put down! I was even devouring it in the back of the car whilst my poor husband was driving up the M1

I wouldn't usually choose a thriller and didn't really know it was before I read it! However, this book was so exciting, at one point in the narrative I actually gasped out loud as the turn in events was so unexpected! For me the writing was so much better than *'Girl on a Train'* which is a similar genre.

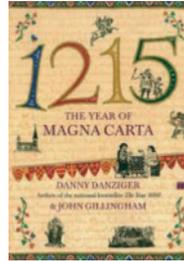
The main character is Dr Anna Fox, a child psychologist who has become severely agoraphobic after a traumatic experience and never leaves her home. She lives alone, spending her time taking surreptitious photos of the neighbours, talking to her estranged husband and daughter on the phone and playing chess and chatting online. Anna has a serious drink problem and mixes abundant amounts of red wine with the heavy dosage medication that she's taking. She is particularly fascinated with *'the Russells'* the family who live across the park from her. When she hears a bloodcurdling scream from their house

and then sees what she believes to be a murder, things become very difficult as the Police, understandably, don't believe her to be a credible witness. The unravelling of the plot is very clever and as I said, had me hooked!

*Jane Davenport*

## Pageturners

### 1215: The Year of Magna Carter by Danny Danziger and John Gillingham



What was it like to be alive on 15 June 1215 when King John was forced by his rebel barons to meet them at Runnymede? He was not allowed to leave until his seal was attached to the single sheet of parchment on

which scribes had written the sixty-three clauses of The Great Charter. For King John it was a practical solution to the political crisis he faced in 1215, but the Magna Carta established for the first time the principle that everybody, including the King, was subject to the law.

It was a time of global upheaval (parallels maybe in the current situation with the UK and Europe). In 1225, Henry III (who succeeded after John's death in October 1216) issued the final revision of the Magna Carta in return for a tax granted to him by the whole kingdom; this paved the way for the first summons of Parliament in 1265, to approve the granting of taxation. Three clauses of the 1225 Magna

Carta remain on the statute book today, the most famous being as follows -

'No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice'.

The introduction and first five chapters of the book give the social history of mediaeval England. The authors describe vividly everyday life in 1215, from castle to countryside, from school to church, and from hunting in the forest to trial by ordeal. We learn that women wore no underwear (though men did), that the average temperatures were actually higher than they are now, and that the austere kitchen at Westminster Abbey allowed each monk two pounds of meat and a gallon of ale per day. 1215 was a time of innovation and change - spectacles were invented, windmills were erected, dozens of new towns were founded and cathedrals built.

Insights on food, fashion, education, medicine, religion and sex are found in the writing of contemporary author, Daniel of Beccles, in his guide 'The Book of the Civilised Man'. He gives advice to aspiring gentlemen of 1215 on how to behave in an enormous variety of social situations: in church, as a page in a noble household, at the dinner table, as a guest, in the street (don't eat in the street and don't peer into other people's windows), and when in the Big Hall (don't scratch yourself or look for fleas in your breeches or on your chest, don't snap your fingers, don't comb your hair, clean your nails, or take your shoes off in the presence of Lords and Ladies.....urinating in the hall was particularly bad manners, unless you were the head of the household, then it was permissible). All fascinating stuff!

Danziger and Gillingham transport the reader brilliantly into the mediaeval world and life as we lived it a thousand years ago and the journey is very worthwhile. A must for anyone with an interest in history. We all enjoyed it.

*Patti Nicholson*

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# Fyfield *Carpet Bowls Club*

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Some of our members have entered a few competitions since my last report.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, the Ladies v Gents competition was held at Braintree. I particularly like this competition as it is played 'for fun' (haha) and is a charity event. This year's charity was The Teenage Cancer Trust. Unfortunately, I could not be there this year as I was on the high seas (cruising!), but Dot Letchfield, Mary Wilkinson and Beryl Shuttleworth did go. Overall, the ladies team, so I am told, were completely trounced by the Gents. That is about 3 years running this has happened. Oh well, there is always next year!

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Essex Open Fours was held at Braintree. Dot Letchfield and Mary Wilkinson, Beryl Shuttleworth and I attended. As this was an open event, different factions of players can make up a team.

Dot and Mary were joined by Tony Barham from Chelmer Village and Stephen (sorry, cannot remember his

surname) from another Essex Club. They did very well and won their group. Unfortunately, they met a very strong team in the next round and were knocked out, but they played very well as a mixed team.

Beryl and I played alongside Peter Marchant and Colin Day from High Easter. We also did well and won our group, but again, were knocked out in the next round by a team who reached the final. A team from Suffolk eventually won the competition.

The next competition Fyfield has entered is the Essex Triples on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October and I will report on this in the next issue of the Focus.

On the County Squad front, the season will open on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September with the 6 Counties Team Bowl. This event will be held at Littleport, Cambridgeshire and is hosted by Essex this year. Again, I will report on this in the next issue.

That's all for now. Enjoy the few days left of summer!

*Jacky Brown*



# Fyfield, Ongar & District *Bridge Club*

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## Over a thousand years of history in your hand

How often do we Bridge players consider the origins of the humble playing card, without which the wide variety of card-based games we play today would not have come about?

To start with, we know that a form of printing technology originated in China around the 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD, so it is no surprise that reference has been found to printed paper-based games from around that time. Some of these took the form of drinking games, with the 'cards' containing instructions or forfeits for the participant who drew them.

The earliest report of a game involving cards with 'suits' and numerals was also in China - in 1294. It has been suggested that the first cards may have actually been paper currency, which doubled as both the tools of gaming and the stakes being played for. Play money or 'money cards' were later substituted for real currency, divided into four 'suits' or denominations of increasing value and illustrated with characters to denote rank and suit.

Cards evolved and spread throughout Asia and eventually arrived in Egypt, from where the oldest surviving card fragments, dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> centuries are to be found. Four-suited playing cards were first recorded in Southern Europe in 1365 and the wide use of such cards throughout Europe can be traced from 1377 onwards. Cards were very popular with soldiers, for example, as they were easy to carry and enabled universal rules for gambling to be applied.

In 1939, a near-complete pack of cards was discovered in the Topkapi Palace, Istanbul. The so-called 'Topkapi pack' (dating from c.1500) originally contained 52 cards

comprising four suits: polo-sticks, coins, swords, and cups. Each suit contained ten 'pip' cards and three 'court' cards, called king, viceroy or deputy king, and second or under-deputy.

As cards spread from Italy to the Germanic countries, the suits evolved to become 'leaves' (or shields), 'hearts' (or roses), 'bells' and 'acorns'. By the time they arrived in France, these had become 'pikes', 'hearts', 'tiles' and 'clovers', respectively. Eventually, when used in England, 'pikes' became 'spades', 'tiles' changed to 'diamonds', and 'clovers' transformed into 'clubs'.

In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, Europeans changed the early court (or picture) cards to represent European royalty and attendants. In England, the lowest court card was called the 'knave', which originally meant *male child*, so in this context the character could represent the 'prince', son to the king and queen. Packs of 56 cards containing in each suit a king, queen, knight, and knave were once common in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Packs were later developed with the value of the card printed at the corner(s), enabling players to hold their cards close together in a fan with one hand, instead of the two hands previously used. In addition, sharp corners wear out more quickly, and could possibly reveal the card's value, so they were replaced with rounded corners. Before the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, British, American, and French players preferred blank backs. However, the need to hide wear and tear and to discourage writing on the back led cards to have designs, pictures, photos, or advertising on the reverse, as we have today.

So why not join us and hold a little bit of history in your hands?

Website: [www.bridgewebs.com/fyfield](http://www.bridgewebs.com/fyfield)

*Martin Collier*  
Chairman

# 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Explorer Unit

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On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, a hundred runners took to the footpaths of Fyfield in the annual Fyfield Footpath 5K, organised by 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group and sponsored by the Queen's Head. The weather was beautiful and the footpaths were in perfect condition. The winner was Colin Sharp who finished in a time of 19 minutes and 37 seconds, but many chose to walk, taking in the scenery. The participants really appreciated the varied route and we are pleased that so many enjoyed it.

We are really grateful for the support of the local landowners, the Perry's and Webster's, and of course Les Lamb who keep the footpaths in a brilliant condition as well as helping with parking and taking some excellent photographs.

The event would not have taken place without the support of Sandra and all the scouts, leaders and parents who helped out on the day.

The Fyfield 5K is returning on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

## ***Matthew Wadey***

1<sup>st</sup> Moreton and Fyfield Scouts - Charity  
No. 1081501



# 1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Camp 2019

Butcher Coppice, Bournemouth



Another fantastic, fun-fuelled camp was held this summer in Bournemouth from 10 – 17 August.

The camp was attended by 17 scouts and 7 leaders.

We had some brilliant activities, great food and made some marvellous memories.

We began the camp, pitching our tents and then having an Axe throwing competition, which entailed throwing axes at a target, all under close supervision of course!

Day 2 was an early start. We rose at 6.30am to endure a 10-mile hike along the Jurassic coastline, between Weymouth and Durdle Door. We had a number of stops on-route and had great fun searching for and collecting fossils. On our return, Duncan (*our gourmet chef*) had prepared a delicious Spaghetti Bolognese for us.

Monday was spent on-site, completing a breath-taking number of activities, such as zip-wiring across the campsite, fan descending, trampolining, where a certain

talented scout enjoyed showing us his skills, working our way through the cave bus, practising our shooting skills with air rifles and bows and arrows in archery, and keeping the leaders up late playing games of skittles in the games hut.

On day 4, we were given our *Ticket to Ryde* and boarded the Hovercraft across to the Isle of Wight for the day. Fortunately, the weather was kind and we enjoyed spending time on the beach building sandcastles and burying each other, crabbing, kite flying and eating lollies. On our return journey back to site, we thoroughly enjoyed a fish and chip supper in a Portsmouth restaurant, courtesy of Rolf who picked up the bill.

On day 5, we experienced the typical British weather, however this did not stop us enjoying ourselves! We headed to Portsmouth for the day, where we enjoyed a visit to the Royal Armouries Museum. The fun continued when we returned to site, with another visit to the games room and finding out how many things we could do with toilet paper (*other than the obvious, of course!*)

Thursday was spent on-site completing yet more fantastic activities Butchers Coppice Campsite had on offer. The scouts enjoyed a crate stacking competition, (*which is not as easy as it sounds!*) and continued their height activities by climbing up and abseiling down the camp tower. The day concluded with a Barbeque and campfire.

We experienced another day of inclement weather on Friday and gave the Scouts the option to either visit the UK's biggest Tank Museum or Monkey World. We re-grouped later in the afternoon for a superb

curry, cooked from scratch, by our chef, Duncan.

Our final day began with an early start. We enjoyed a powered boat ride around Poole and across to Brownsea Island – the birthplace of Scout camping. Walking back to the minibus, we randomly came upon a bronze statue of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, which provided us with a great photo opportunity of our group. As a mark of respect, we left Baden-Powell wearing a 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton and Fyfield Scout's coloured neckerchief.



**Mary Bacon** – Chairman 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

01277899052: 07554933563

Email: [marychristinebacon@aol.com](mailto:marychristinebacon@aol.com)

## Report from World Scout Jamboree 2019 Explorer Scouts

**Matthew Wadey, Caitlin Clark and Chloe Bellsham**

After 18 months of preparing, we set off for Heathrow, bound for New York. Alongside Matthew and Caitlin, there were 118 other British Scouts almost filling economy class – except for 6 other passengers!

**New York:** It was the hottest day of the year in New York and the locals had been advised to stay inside. We made the most of the quiet streets and everywhere you turned, there were British Scouts. We experienced the subway and saw the sights including the Statue of Liberty, Central Park and Staten Island Ferry.

**World Scout Jamboree:** When we arrived at WSJ, there was a dramatic change in weather – it was pouring with rain. We set up the remaining part of our

camps in the rain, and it didn't dampen our spirits. The following evening, we had the opening ceremony with 54 thousand people in attendance from 152 countries. Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, gave a speech. The drone show was really well organised with 250 synchronised drones as part of a light show. It was amazing and all three of us picked this as a highlight.

**Food:** Every morning (around 05:30) two people from each unit had to go with their trolley and shopping list to the food tent. There were usually arguments as there was often items which had run out – salad and bananas. In the first 8 days, 20 thousand people ate enough food for 50 thousand people. So we were rationed!

**Activities:** There were lots of activities on offer during the camp, although due to the high population of participants, most involved queuing. Chloe's favourite activity was the 'Big Zip' a high zip wire. Matthew enjoyed an opportunity to try scuba diving. Caitlin enjoyed

participating in white water rafting with a range of rapids and straights where the participants were able to swim and play.

**Trading:** All three of us did some trading with others whilst we were away. Under the suspension bridge was a popular place for trading as it was in the shade – it was like the black market! Our UK emblem of the teddy bear was very popular. Our favourite trades include: a hat from Hong Kong Hat, a Swiss knecker (*scarf*) and a Mexican hat. We have also come home with lots of badges which we intend to sew onto camp blankets as a memento of our trip.

**Cultural Day:** For cultural day, each unit had to do an activity for other units to try which represented their country. We served tea in personalised tea cups and offered marmite and steamed puddings. In return, we experienced wedding ceremonies, dancing, henna painting, games and food from different cultures.

**Closing Ceremony:** Before we knew it, WSJ had come to an end. At the closing ceremony, we had an empowering talk from the former head of the UN, Ban Ki-moon. The show then concluded with a

laser light show and a huge fireworks display which was phenomenal. The overall show reduced most of our unit to tears as the WSJ was coming to a close.

**Washington:** The highlight of our stay in Washington was attending a base-ball game, the Bolton Oreios against the Toronto Blue Jays. At this game, the three of us sat together and caught up with each other. This was exciting as we had been in two different units whilst at WSJ.

**Canada:** Before we headed home, we visited Canada. Unit 13 (Chloe) spent the day hiking and exploring the countryside. Unit 12 (Caitlin and Matthew) spent the day touring and stopped off at Niagara Falls for an hour to end our jamboree experience.

*We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us along the way: our families, friends, Scouting community and the local community. Thank you for the general and financial support, without you we would never have made it to Jamboree.*

**Matthew, Caitlin and Chloe**

 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group</b> 			
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 website [www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk](http://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 **10<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **15<sup>th</sup> 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:

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Printing:

Chelmsford Diocesan Print Unit

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Bell Ringers - Tower	Allan Cook	899240	Chair	Les Lamb	07776178794
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Fyfield Village Pre-School	General No.	899678	Bookings	Elaine Tunnard	07956440894
Neighbourhood Watch	Les Lamb	07776178794	Womens Institute	Pat Turnpenny	899223
Ongar & Villages			WD50+ Exercise Club	Patti Nicholson	899504
Voluntary Care	General No.	365363			
Pilates	Claire Smith	07903121003			

**Websites:** [www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk](http://www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk)    [www.essexinfo.net/fyfield-parish-council/](http://www.essexinfo.net/fyfield-parish-council/)    [www.fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk)



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