Fyfield Focus

April/May 2018

Happy Easter
From
All at the
Fyfield Focus







Can it Really be Spring?

After all that we have had to go through!



Fyfield Focus

April/May 2018

www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk



Mobile Mast Update



It may not look much but the rope tied to the BT Telegraph pole marks the start of the ground work to erect the new mobile phone mast on White Chicks Farm.

A trench to route the cable has been dug across Willingale Road

and will now be continued to the site of the mast at the back of the farmyard. The service should be available sometime in April we are told.

Brush Cutter

Thanks to West Essex Ramblers, Fyfield now has access to a Brush Cutter that, with the help of Cllr. Les Lamb, can keep our Public Rights of Way tidy and passable. A Brush Cutter is a very robust strimmer that requires a qualified person to perate it. Les Lamb has already had a course of instruction and is now ready to go! Thanks from everyone Les.

Fyfield Cinememories Film Club at Zinc Arts



On the 24th April the Parish Council launches a cinema club at the Zinc Arts Centre in Ongar. *See advert inside*. The club is aimed at the more elderly and/or isolated in the neighbourhood who would enjoy a few hours watching a film classic, having a meal and meeting old and new friends. Zinc has already established all of the facilities to mount film shows and provide meals from their



"Catch the Community Spirit"

Village Diary 2018

02 1 22	Coffee Marning	The Church, 10am	
03-Apr	Coffee Morning	<i>'</i>	
08-Apr	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 1pm	
05-Apr	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm	
10-Apr	Fyfield Gardening Club - Guest Speaker - Gardening Hints	Village Hall, 2.30pm	
11-Apr	Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm	
18-Apr	Church Lunch & Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1 pm	
18-Apr	Fyfield Village Hall - AGM	Village Hall, 7.30pm	
21-Apr	Quiz Night	Village Hall, 7pm	
23-Apr	Fyfield Parish Council - Parish Assembly	Village Hall, 7.30pm	
25-Apr	Fyfield Litter Pick - Meet Lay by Opp Birds Green Road	Fyfield, 9.30am	
29-Apr	Scout St. George's Day Parade from HQ to Church	The Church, TBA	
29-Apr	Scout Afternoon Tea	Scout HQ, TBA	
01-May	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am	
07-May	Scout HQ 20th Birthday Party	Scout HQ, TBA	
03-May	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm	
09-May	Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm	
12-May	Fyfield Festival	The Church, 11am	
13-May	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk Village Hall Car Park, 1pn		
14-May	Fyfield Parish Council AGM	Village Hall, 7.30pm	
16-May	Church Lunch & Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1 pm	
05-Jun	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am	
07-Jun	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm	
10-Jun	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 1pm	
11-Jun	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm	
13-Jun	Luncheon Club Village Hall, 12.30pm		
20-Jun	Church Lunch & Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1 pm	
05-Jul	WI Meeting Village Hall, 2pm		
08-Jul	Fyfield Ramblers - Monthly Walk	Village Hall Car Park, 1pm	
09-Jul	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm	
	7	6, r	

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 2018 to 31 March 2019:

Fyfield Parish Council - Annual Sponsorship

Fyfield Post Office & Village Store - April/May 2018 Special Colour

Donors - 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019:

Fyfield Gardening Club, Fyfield & District W.I. & Fyfield Bowls Club

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



We hope, that despite the weather, this special colour Spring and Easter Edition of the Focus brings some pleasure to the start of your Easter break.

This special edition has been sponsored by Nikhil Patel at our Village Store and Post Office and we really appreciate his sponsorship and support of the Fyfield Focus. We also continue to appreciate how much he does in the village and how pleasant he and Gita both are whenever you go into the store - always a smile. We are very fortunate indeed in Fyfield so lets not take it for granted and always remember we must 'use it if we don't want to lose it'. Please see their Easter opening hours inside the Focus.

This special colour edition is full to the brim of interesting and diverse articles; history of Steamboats, a discovery of some initialled bricks uncovered at the church. Re-cycling do's and don'ts, Hearing Dogs for the deaf and much more. We have a very informative Spring update from Dr. Walker's school including a variety of photos illustrating the broad activities that are being provided at the School. The Scouts continue to be very active and the group are behind the Jamboree Four who are working hard to raise over £14K to get them on their World Jamboree adventures. Please see some of the activities and events inside and support them if you can and share with them any fund raising ideas you may have.

There are lots of activities happening across the village so please look at the Village Diary and the adverts and do try to support where you can. The Church is hoping for warmer weather on 12th May for their Annual Fyfield Festival and have been working very hard as usual to provide a day of fun and variety. The Village Hall have been working hard to provide us with a no. of events and already have held a Bingo evening and Magic evening and in April they have a Ouiz and also their AGM. The Parish Council are holding the Parish Assembly in April and this is an event for the residents of Fyfield to enjoy and learn about what is happening across the village and to enjoy some light refreshments - so do go along and find out more about what happens behind the scenes in our lovely village.

The Fyfield Focus needs some volunteers to help with the invoicing, production and distribution of the magazine. We want the Focus to continue to develop but we need help now with the current volume of material we are receiving each publication so if you can spare up to a day every 2 months please have a look at the advert and contact me.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Tony Boyce for all his support of the Fyfield Focus since we took over nearly 6 years ago. We have appreciated his regular letter in the Focus and wish him and his wife Jan a very happy retirement from his council work - you will be sadly missed.

Have a wonderful Easter.

Cheryl.



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Letter from the Reverend Christine Hawkins



"April is the cruellest month" said T S Eliot, in his 'The poem Wasteland'. Our In northern hemisphere. April is classically associated with spring. How then can April be cruel?

Eliot sees the "breeding lilacs" but observes them "coming out of the dead land". The poet sees the same things as everyone else, but there is no joy there but rather a sense of loss and longing, of being rooted in the past, and spring re-awakening memories of things that have passed. Eliot's words are those of someone in a deep depression.

I recently met someone who was depressed after the death of her partner. For that woman, it seemed that spring would never come back into her life, so deep was her grief and sense of loss. She also thought she would not be welcome in church because she was so depressed. I frequently come across people who feel the church would not welcome them and am reminded of a poster I once saw on a church noticeboard. It read:

"We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rake or could afford to lose a few pounds. You're welcome if you are Old Matching, New Matching, Not Matching, or just passing by.

We welcome you if you can sing like Pavarotti or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're 'just brows-

ing,' just woke up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been in church since little Jack's christening.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like 'organised religion.' We've been there too!

If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, 'work too hard,' don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in Old Harlow and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts... and you!"

If you, like Eliot feel that April is indeed the cruellest month, you'll find a community in your local church who understand that and will walk alongside you until the sun shines again and the flowers bloom once more in your life. Come and bathe in the promise of God's Easter love with us at any of our churches – you'll be so very welcome. *Chris*

Fyfield Village Hall



Saturday, 21st April

7 for 7.30pm

£8.00 per head

Tables of 8 -

Book with Wendy - 01277 899367 or Elaine 01277 899306

Light Snack Included

Bar Open

Best Kept Front Garden Contest - On Your Marks Again!



Now that April is here it's time to tidy up your front garden for the judging of the Best Kept Front Garden Contest Last year, was the fifth year of the Best Kept Front Garden Contest and was won by Liz & Ken Bird of Walker Avenue. Who will be the winner this year? That's up to you and the judges.

The judges (Ann Jackson, Cheryl Hadley, Kate Lamb and Jenny Stone) will be around the village during the next six weeks or so taking notes so that the winner and two runners up can be announced at the Fyfield Parish Council AGM on 14th May. The contest is open to all Fyfield residents and involves maintaining your front garden in a neat, tidy and attractive state. You don't have to do anything to enter the Best Kept Front Garden contest as all properties will be judged regardless.

Best of luck to all who make the effort and to those of you who always have an attractive front garden.

The Best Kept Front Garden Contest is closely followed by the Best Kept Village contest so let's hope the April weather will be kind to us and we can still get Fyfield ready for the judging and present Fyfield as a neat and tidy village free of litter.



St George's Day Monday 23rd April Scouts Parade from Scout H.Q.

to

St Nicholas' Church.
Sunday 29th April
10.30 am

Roothings Art Group

ART EXHIBITION



Αt

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Services at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

Priest in Charge: Reverend Christine Hawkins 01277 286113 Churchwardens: Marcus Dain 01277 899590

David Bessell 07886 075889

Easter Sunday: United Service at Willingale Apr 1 10:00am

8 Holy Communion 11:00am

Services at Moreton, Bobbingworth & Willingale 15

Family Service 22 11:00am

St George's Day: Parade Service 11:00am 29

May 6 Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Communion 11:00am 13

United Service at Bobbingworth 20 11:00am

Family Service 11:00am 27

St Mary's Church, Moreton

Family Service Apr 15 9.30am Holy Communion May 6 9.30am

St Germain's Church, Bobbingworth

Holy Communion Apr 15 11.00am May 6 Family Service 11.00am

United Service: Family Communion 20 11.00am

St Christopher's Church, Willingale

Apr 1	10.00am	United Service: Family Communion
8	9.30am	Family Service
15	6.oopm	Evening Prayer
22	9.30am	Holy Communion
May 13	9.30am	Family Service
20	6.oopm	Evening Prayer
27	9.30am	Holy Communion

Fyfield Village Hall Registered charity number 301304



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

To be held in Fyfield Village Hall on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 7.30pm.

Residents from Fyfield are eligible to vote and/or be elected to the management committee.

We look forward to welcoming you.

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome by the chair
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Approval of the minutes of the last AGM
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) Chair's Annual Report
- 6) Treasurer's Financial Report
- 7) To consider any resolutions and/or recommendations which have been forwarded in writing to the honorary secretary
 - i) Adoption of Governing Document
- 8) Appointment and election of the management committee of trustees
 - i) M Apperley, D Smith, E Tunnard, D Spanton, A Jackson, P Ovel, W Henshaw, M Ellis, I Hadley are all prepared to be re-elected. P Nicholson has resigned and there are two trustee vacancies.*
- 9) To consider AOB of which due notice has been given in writing to the honorary secretary

*Nomination forms for the vacancies can be obtained from the Secretary, Debbie Spanton (899317)

Posted by: Marie Apperley (Chair), Fyfield Village Hall Management

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School

Dr Walker's Spring Term News



It has been a busy and exciting term at Dr Walker's, the children are progressing well and we have had many lovely events in school.

Valentine's Dinner

We all enjoyed our valentine's dinner on 9th February, we celebrated with heart shaped biscuits with our hot dinner, commenting on what we loved about our school and at the end of the day I presented balloons to children who had shared the most love with everyone during the day.







Visit from Reverend Chris

On Wednesday 21st February, Reverend Chris visited the school to lead an assembly on Ash Wednesday and lent. We all learnt a lot about how we can use

Lent to help others and to have a new beginning. Two children and the staff had an ash cross and a blessing from Reverend Chris.

Book week interrupted by snow!

We enjoyed book week – we were interrupted by snow but we still managed to carry on after the snow had melted! All the classes have decorated their doors with their chosen fairy tale – we also had

a fantastic dress up day which we all enjoyed. On Twitter we posted pictures of our staff selfies – and asked our



followers to guess which member of staff it was. Why not follow us on Twitter to catch all the latest Dr Walker's News - @drwalker_s.





Parliament of Dr Walker's

All of our children have had the opportunity to vote for MPs in our school, the MPs of Happiness, Environment,



Extra-curricular and Learning will meet regularly and be the voice of the school. They had a campaign week, made posters and were given the opportunity to make a speech before Election Day. They will also meet

with Mrs Larkin to discuss how we can make our school better. We will keep



everyone updated with their ideas for the school and how their policies are going!

Mother's Day Lunch

We were delighted to welcome so many Mums and special ladies for lunch on Friday 9th March; they were greeted with a



refreshing drink and then met the children for a hot dinner. We all had a lovely time

and we look forward to the next time we can get together.





Gardeners needed

Do you have 2-3 hours per week to spare? Have you got knowledge of growing vegetables? We are looking for volunteers to help maintain our school gardens and to work with the children learning about gardening. If you are interested please contact Mrs Larkin – Head teacher.

Weekly Prayer

Each week we ask the children to write a prayer for our newsletter, I thought I would share this one with you.

Thank you for all our wonderful things, sorry for all the bad people. Please help people to be themselves. Amen.

Written by Eden in Hedgehogs

Mrs Larkin Dr Walker's C of E Primary School Walker Avenue Fyfield Essex CM5 oRG 01277 899298

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We Need Your Unwanted Chocolate

Easter is coming and any leftover chocolates or donations of chocolate would be gratefully received for the

Chocolate Tombola at the Fyfield Festival On 12th May

Contact Carol Cox on 899245

THE LAVERS AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Meetings are held in Moreton Village Hall -7pm for 7.30pm on Mondays unless otherwise stated

Parking is available in Moreton School Car Park

If you wish to become a member or just enjoy gardening why not give it a go.

Yearly membership is £10 for a single or £18 for a double. Guests/taster visits £3. Light refreshments are served at the end of each meeting plus a Raffle.

April 9th - 'Gardens of Easton Lodge': the Countess and her gardens - Carol Matthews

May 1st - 'The Eden Project' - Maggie Piper (Please note this is a Tuesday Meeting Date) www.lavershorticulturalsociety.co.uk lavershorticultural@gmail.com



I don't think I can be alone in finding myself hovering over which bin to put my rubbish in!! Having listened to an article on recycling on

Radio 4 and learning that one wrong item placed in my recycling bin can contaminate a whole bag, I decided to do a bit of investigation, and with the help of Ian Almond from Epping Forest District Council. I learned the following:

What is Contamination?

Recycling becomes contaminated when items are placed into the clear recycling sacks that cannot be recycled currently by this authority, its Waste Management Contractors and the Materials Recycling Facility that sorts and grades the district's recycling.

Why is contamination such a big issue?

Depending on the level and type of contamination, it could result in a whole vehicle load being rejected and then sent to landfill, something none of us want. This means that perfectly good recycling is going to waste and undermines people's efforts of separating out their waste for recycling. It also means it costs more, due to sending recycling that has been contaminated to the land fill site. Our recycling rate which at present is just under 60% could decrease.

EFDC provide a fairly comprehensive list of do's and don'ts, with their refuse collection schedule, but there were still a few items I had issue with.

Paper

To determine what sort of paper can be recycled, do the scrunch test. If the paper in question scrunches up, it's fine. If it doesn't (*like crisp packets, cellophane and some wrapping paper*) it isn't recyclable.

Black plastic

This is a complete no no. (I can explain why, but do you really want to know)?! Any black plastic, such as that used for ready meal containers is bad.

However brown containers are good.

All plastic bags and jam jar lids are good, cling film and bought sandwich cartons are not.

If you have other concerns, please contact, the most helpful, Ian Almond, but otherwise

If in doubt - leave it out!!

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SPEED WATCH



As the extended speed limit and the speed restriction electronic reminder are not having the desired effect, the Parish Council have supported a local 'speed watch' initiative. Six of your fellow villagers have already attended a

short evening course, but more are needed to spread the responsibility and enable the scheme to be successful.

If you can help, please contact me on

Landline 01277 899772, mobile 07870 20748 or email tobywallden@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you

Toby Wallden



12th May

11am - 4pm

FUN DOG SHOW

(Register between 12 - 1pm)

B.B.Q. - Afternoon teas

Stalls & Games

Flower Display of Royal Wedding





The Good Pub Guide:

Essex Dining Pub of the Year 2018
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Michelin Guide 2018

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St. Nicholas Church -Wall Art - Donations Needed

Our Church Fabric Wall Art which consists of nine illustrations of our Patron Saint St. Nicholas is almost complete.

The next stage is to put all the illustrations together, construct a frame and mount on the wall in the Church.

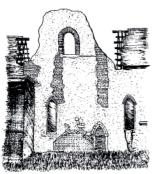
We cannot move on to this final stage as we do not have the finances to purchase the materials.

Can you help us complete this project by making a donation. Please give what you can all donations appreciated whatever the size - we need your help.

Carol Cox, 899245

St Nicholas' Church Fyfield -Refurbishment of the North Porch – January to March 2018

During the dismantling of the benches in the north porch some of the bricks supporting them became displaced revealing their interesting secret. These bricks were hand made in the first half of the sixteenth century and it was clear that they had previously been used somewhere else. Mixed in with them were two pieces of carved limestone, typical of the limestone features elsewhere in the church, and which had obviously been part of a section of the building which has long ago disappeared. A clue as to what this may have been is given in the Archdeaconry Visitation of 1683 which, as well as finding that "the crack in ye steeple seems dangerous, to hire an able workman to view it" and noted "the cracks in ye window in ye chancell" ordered that "The two Church porches to be new paved." We do know that nothing effective was done about the crack in the steeple because within the following century, the top of the tower had collapsed and was in ruins. Here is my sketch of what it looked like at that time.



Herein lie the two clues: The tower was subsequen tly rebuilt but much of the original stone could not be used — it was

mainly pebble-rubble – and bricks – again early sixteenth century – were used to infill part of the south wall. The clue is that the south porch was not rebuilt, but was demolished. It is reasonable to conjecture that the bricks released by demolition of the south porch were used to patch up the tower and also to refurbish the structure of the north porch. This invites the question: how do we know that the bricks recently displaced in the north porch bench supports had not been there originally? Well, one of them had initials carved on a surface which was concealed, suggesting that it had been somewhere else when they were carved on to it. The initials? "AW 1655". This is exciting. Few people could read or write in the mid seventeenth century and the fact of this engraving, as well as its style, point to it being, indeed, from that period. So who was this educated person, AW? A new minister had been appointed to Fyfield in 1651/2 by the Earl of Warwick. He was a staunch royalist at a time when the Commonwealth administration was intolerant of such sentiments and this new young minister would have felt vulnerable in his position here as Rector; particularly as he had played his own prominent part in supporting the recently executed Charles I. We will never know with certainty if it was he who carved his initials on that brick but, in all the circumstances, it seems extremely likely. His name? He was the founder of our village school, the Reverend Anthony Walker.

Marcus Dain

Fyfield Festival Saturday May 12th

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NEW!

Fyfield Cinememories Film Club

Run by Fyfield Parish Council



Tuesday 24th April from 12.30pm to 3pm

Ticket price is £6 to include a two course lunch and a film

AΤ

Zinc Arts Centre*, High Street, Ongar, CM5 0AD,

Fyfield Parish Council have organised an event for the elderly and more isolated residents in Fyfield (and the surrounding villages) to get out of their homes and we hope do something a bit different. Perhaps to meet or make some new friends, or just enjoy an old film in the very comfortable surroundings of the Zinc Arts Centre in their wonderful theatre space.

Tickets will cost £6 and this will include a two course lunch provided by Zinc Arts and followed by a film.

Please RSVP by Friday 20 April at the latest to Liselle on 01277 899 262, to confirm numbers for catering purposes and any allergy requirements.

Any payments not received beforehand can be paid on the day.

* Car parking is available at Zinc Arts Centre.

"Lifewalks" comes to Fyfield



Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) runs a programme called "Lifewalks". Its aim is to encourage and

support people wishing to improve their fitness and wellbeing by walking in the countryside and socialising with others. The walks are designed to accommodate people of different fitness, health and mobility levels and are often attended by 20+ people coming from all over the Epping region.

Your Fyfield Parish Council wants to support this worthwhile initiative and has engaged with Karen Murray who manages the programme. Karen visited Fyfield in February and walked a route

St Nicholas' Church - The story of St. Nicholas wall art

We met at the end of January for our sewing workshop and we have six pictures completed with the last three well on the way to completion. Becky is going to cut out and sew the pillar frames for us and we are meeting on 26th March at Becky's new Craft studio in Harlow. Becky has large tables for us to be able to assemble our work. We think and hope completion is in sight!

We would like to thank those people who have already responded so generously to Carol's appeal for sponsorship to buy materials to mount the finished 'banner'. Wendy Henshaw

we have proposed suitable for people who can manage a mile or two. We have also mapped out a longer route of 5 miles.

Karen really liked our walks and will build them into the Lifewalks programme for 2018.

Thanks so much for the support of the Village Hall and The Black Bull.

If you would like to find out more about Lifewalks please visit the Internet sites below.

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/phocadownload/life%20walks%20diary%202017_-18.pdf

(This document will soon be updated to include the Fyfield walks due to start in September)

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/l/27-lifewalks

Les Lamb



Fyfield **Art Group**

Our meetings for the next two months are April 16th and 30th,

May 14th only one meeting due to Bank Holidays. We meet 10.00a.m. to 12n00n in the club Room at Fyfield Village Hall.

Visitors/new members welcome.

Wendy Henshaw 899367

Fyfield *Litter Pick*

Last month's Litter Pick on 13th February (the first village litter pick organised for some years) saw a number of people litter pick in and around the village. 9 black sacks of rubbish were filled between the Shop and Scout Hut – 1 hour and 15 minutes work! Disposal proved a bit tricky – so many thanks to friends and neighbours who let us put a black sack of rubbish in their bin.

Following on from our Litter Pick the 1st Fyfield & Moreton Scout Group arranged a clear-up of rubbish around the Scout Head Quarters which a number of litter pickers assisted with along with Les Lamb, who in addition with helping with the clear-up, made available a trailer to remove the rubbish that was cleared. The clearance consisted of 3 fly tipped mattresses and a vast quantity of other abandoned items which have now gone to the local tip.

The number to report Fly Tippers on is 01982 564608 – don't hesitate to report them I say!

Although we had planned to sort the rubbish and recycle where possible, it quickly became obvious that this was not viable – we really did find some strange things! Want to know more – then come to the next big sweep which will be the road to Birds Green. Volunteers should meet at the lay by opposite Birds Green Road on Wednesday 25th April at 9.30am with some black sacks, gloves, fluorescent jacket and a pick stick if you have one.

There really is nothing to say that we all have to litter pick on the same day and I would encourage anyone who would like to help but is not available on the chosen day to do it when they can and where ever they see the need. Every bag of rubbish removed really does make a difference.

Fiona Baxter



1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit

World Scout Jamboree 2019 & the Australian Scout Jamboree 2019 Jamboree Update and Future Fundraising Activities & Events

The Jamboree four have been busy over the last two months raising funds towards their £14,200 target to get them on their great adventure.

They have been Bag Packing in Sainsburys and raised £335.00. They have been collecting Scrap metal in their villages which is proving very profitable and they have been gardening. They held a quiz night and raised over £700.00.

Future activites and events are:

During April:

• They have two sessions of bag packing in Sainsburys.

On 29th April:

• The Scout Group have a St Georges Day parade from our HQ to the church and they are holding an afternoon tea Scout Group fund raiser back at the HQ and the Jamboree four will be have some stalls at this event. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children.

On 7th May:

 The Scout Group have an HQ 20th Birthday Party for the opening of their Head Quarters in Fyfield.

Please try to support the Jamboree Four and help them to meet their £14,200 target.

Tickets and further details for these events and activities can be obtained from Sandra Mead - Fundraising Chairman on 01277 899519



WD50+ Club Welcomes Four-Footed 'Hearoe'

On 9th March, 2018, following our exercise session, the Club welcomed Wendy Brandham and her husband, Des, from the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, to tell us about the enormous difference these specially trained dogs make in the lives of people with severe hearing loss. Deafness is an increasing problem - there are over 10,000,000 people in the UK with some degree of hearing loss. People born profoundly deaf, or whose hearing loss is severe, may often experience loneliness and isolation, leading to loss of selfconfidence and depression. A Hearing Dog gives a deaf person confidence, helps them to communicate with others, thus dispelling isolation, and becomes a fulltime loving companion for many years.

Wendy spoke about the work done by the Charity's volunteer fund-raisers like herself, and others who work at The Grange, a centre where the dogs are trained after being bred in the homes of supporters and kept until they are eight weeks old. They then go to live with 'puppy socialisers' for up to 16 months, and with help from an experienced puppy trainer begin their first steps towards becoming a hearing dog for a deaf person. Further training is carried out at The Grange, a centre for specialist training, and then the dogs are matched with a suitable applicant, known as a Recipient. There are many more Applicants than there are Hearing Dogs available, but once an Applicant has been matched with a Dog, they spend a week together at the Centre for further training together.

Providing everything goes well, the lucky Recipient takes their Hearing Dog home to live with them. Recipients do not own their dogs, they belong to the Charity, and if there is any doubt about their treatment or well-being the Charity may take them back.

Ongar resident, Flora Devonald who is deaf, came along with Otto her Hearing Dog. Otto is a beautiful black Cockerpoo and was wearing his Hearing Dogs burgundy coloured working jacket. While his jacket is on, Otto is on duty, but when it is taken off he is free to run around, chase balls and play with other dogs in the fields. Flora described how Otto has changed her life for the better and demonstrated how, even in the unfamiliar surroundings of the village hall, Otto responds to alert her to sounds - the doorbell ringing, the cooker timer pinging, her smoke alarm going off or her alarm clock. It was obvious that there was a huge bond of love between Flora and Otto which was delightful to see.

Wendy related how Hearing Dogs have transformed the lives of children who were born deaf and talked about the immensely strong bonds that develop between dogs and their Recipients. Using a projector, Wendy showed us pictures of a variety of Hearing Dogs in different situations.

Everyone found the talk fascinating and we thanked Wendy and Flora for coming to speak to us. The Club presented Wendy and Flora with flowers as a little thank you, and we gave a donation to the Charity. In addition a collection and the proceeds of a Raffle were given to Wendy

for the Charity making a total of £76 towards this valuable work. Several members of the audience, including myself, decided to Sponsor a hearing dog puppy as a gift for a friend or family members. We also hope to organise a visit in the future to The Grange, where Hearing Dogs are trained. If you want to know more about Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, there is a website.

www.hearingdogs.org.uk where information can be found about the Charity and ways in which you can help.

Patti Nicholson



Thank You – Church Coffee Morning and Friends of St. Nicholas' Church

Every month Carol Cox and friends host a Coffee Morning in Fyfield church to raise funds for improvements to your village church and their latest project was to install splendid new curtains which nobody entering the church can fail to notice. Thank you Carol and friends.

Thanks are due also to the Friends of St Nicholas' Church for refurbishment of the north porch. Chris Hayes (Small Works) has done a fine job in replacing the rotten timber of the benches with seasoned English Oak and generally making good the deterioration of a century or more of neglect. Every job we carry out on the church reveals interesting things we did not know and this was no exception.

During the dismantling of the benches some of the bricks supporting them became displaced revealing their interesting secret. Please see the article under Fyfield Past & Present for details of the findings.

Marcus Dain Churchwarden



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- After school and holiday club every weekday throughout the year, in our purpose built log cabin. Breakfast Club now available for Chipping Ongar Primary School pupils.

Contact Katie Holloway for availability on 01277 365488 or by email

Katieholloway@poppetsnursery.co.uk

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

Fyfield Village Hall



It's been a relatively quiet time for the Village Hall in the last couple of months. For

the first time in ages there have been no builders or work being done. We held an enjoyable Bingo evening in February, our thanks to Roy and Geoff for calling, and also to Christine and Richard who do so much work in making our Bingo evenings run smoothly.

We have our Evening of Magic coming up in March which promises to be a great deal of fun, and then we have our Quiz evening on 21st April and John Jewiss will be the Quiz Master. John always provides an excellent quiz, and so if you want to enter a team, please let either Wendy know on 01277 899367 or Elaine on 01277 899306.

On 18th April we will be holding our AGM at 7.30 at the Village Hall. This is an opportunity for residents to come along, hear what we have been doing and to offer suggestions on what they would like to see in the future. We are always open to ideas of what the village would like to see at the Village Hall, so if you can, come along and talk to us. We run this voluntarily for the benefit of everyone in Fyfield, so if you want us to consider something that you think is missing, come and let us know. We will also have a couple of vacancies on the Committee, so if you want to join our

positive and enthusiastic team, let Marie know on 01277 899386. We meet once a month, and would love new people to come and give a fresh input.

If you can't make the meeting but would like your comments or ideas mentioned you can always let me know via the Village Hall eMail address:

fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com

So now we look forward to the Spring and Summer we will once again be launching our 100 Club. It is such an easy way to support the Village Hall and we will be sending information to every household in the village over the next couple of months. This year we are hoping to raise funds to make a new entrance to the Hall, and also to refurbish the kitchen. This will take a great deal of money, so every penny counts. Even if you only have one number at £12 per year it would really help. Obviously the more numbers you have the better!

So, please come along to the AGM, the Quiz Evening or take part in the 100 Club. We really can't keep the Village Hall going without your support.

Marie Apperley

100 Club Winning Numbers Oct. 1st. 103, 2nd. 130, 3rd. 56 Nov. 65 10 120 Dec. 100 58 25 Jan. 14 12 114 Feb. 8 41 94 Mar. 11 21 84

Village Store and Post Office - Christmas Raffle 2017

Thank you to all our customers who supported the Christmas Raffle.

The money raised for St. Nicholas' Church was £157.02.

We would also like to thank David & Ann Jackson and Chris and Jane Jackson for their donations which we converted into additional prizes.

Nikhil Patel, Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

ıst - Large Hamper

2nd - Small Hamper

3rd - Champagne

4th - £20 Shopping Voucher

5th - £20 Shopping Voucher

6th - £25 Gift Voucher

7th - TUB Celebration

8th - Jar of Quality Street

9th - Bottle of Wine

10th - Bottle of Wine

Karla Hodgson

Henry Hodgson

Bill McKenning

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UK Power Issues at Norwood End

Due to a number of power cuts up Norwood End I was motivated into action to investigate what was causing these frequent power cuts, what was being done about them, could we be helped during the cuts and was Norwood End the only area in Fyfield and surrounding villages to be experiencing these cuts with such frequency.

It has been quite a journey and what follows is a note I put through every door in Norwood end and an update on progress which I thought would be useful to share across the village.

TO RESIDENTS OF NORWOOD END REGARDING UK POWER NETWORKS

As you all are aware of during December we had a number of power cuts in the Lane and is continuing into January.

To this end I have been talking to the Priority Services Team at UK Power to see what they can do to assist us regarding communication and extra support when the power is cut off.

I have attached a form they have sent me a quantity of that you can fill in and return to them detailing the assistance they can offer. Please take time to read.

In addition, you may already do it but if not by sending a message via your mobile to 80876 and texting your postal code regular updates will be communicated back to you. I have used and find it useful for knowing when the power will come back on and reason why it happened.

They have sent me a batch of torches which I enclose one for you each which might help when the lights first go out!!

The problem seems to be occurring out with our village in the Lavers and the Roding's

with fallen trees bringing down power cables and we are the first to suffer!!

I have raised this with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Les Lamb) and it is on the agenda at the Parish Council meeting next week.

My suggestion to them is remedial work needs to be done on cutting back the trees causing this ongoing issue by UK Power. The parish councils will hopefully act as one and deal with UK Power with a strong voice expressing our worries and concerns this brings us all each time. More to follow I guess.

Regards

John Rayner Email john.rayner1@btinternet.com

Phone: 01277 899286 Mobile: 07802 294103

Progress Update on UK Power Networks as follows:

- I have constantly been ringing UK Power to find out when remedial work would be undertaken following constant power cut-off during Dec, Jan and Feb affecting Norwood End and I gather other local areas.
- Today I met a senior surveyor in Norwood End Lane and was given the following update, even though unaware what he had been doing as not told by UK Power in advance, even though I was hopeful!
- Survey now completed in Norwood End, the Lavers and the Rodings looking at defective lines, poles etc.
- Basically the last time any remedial work done was in the 1950's when usage was very light compared to

- what people use in their homes today.
- Therefore, during the months of April/May, work will commence to replace all poles, higher ones to be installed, new improved cable with insulation, boxes updated on the posts, power supply improvement. Also trees leaning on lines will also be cut back.
- Whilst this is going on there will be no turn-off of power as generators will support the work so residents will hopefully not be affected.
- The surveyor mentioned to me that when it was run by EDF investment was very poor on updating areas like where we live but now the new owners are investing in this area, which is good news.

John Rayner.

The Fyfield Focus Needs Volunteers Urgently To Help

Due to the success of the Fyfield Focus we need to expand the Fyfield Focus Team in a number of areas.

- Assistant Editors (2 Assistants required approx. 1 day every 2 months)
 To assist with processing the copy in readiness for production. Keen eye for detail and good word processing skills using Word and eMail.
- Finance Assistant (1 Assistant required approx. ½ a day a month)

 Manage the processing, recording and payment of Annual and Ad Hoc invoices. Experience with Word, eMail and very simple Excel spreadsheet work (no complex and intricate formulas).
- Distribution Co-ordinator (1 Co-ordinator required approx. ½ day every 2 months)

Manage the distribution of the Focus to the team of 18 based in Fyfield.

The Fyfield Focus is a key communication tool in our lovely village and plays an important role across our community. It is fun to be involved with and you get a huge sense of achievement and satisfaction being part of such a valuable community asset. You also meet and deal with some very nice and interesting people you wouldn't meet otherwise.

So if you can spare up to a day of your time every 2 months please give me a call on 01277 899840 or eMail me at fyfieldfocus@gmx.co.uk and I can fill you in on the details.

Cheryl Hadley

FOOD BANK

Thank you to everybody who continues to support this important charity. In addition to the box for food donations in the church, you can also leave food donations in a Food Bank collection box in Fyfield Stores.

Food Bank provides food to families and individuals in desperate need who have nowhere else to turn. Food Bank works in conjunction with organisations such as Citizens Advice who arrange for food to be provided to people who, without it, would have, literally, nothing with which to feed their families.

Partner charities, such as Citizens Advice use the limited time for which food aid is provided to help the recipient back on to their feet. Your kindness in donating to Food Bank is essential to helping people to become self-sufficient once again.

Thank you again.

Marcus Dain

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Fyfield Village Store & Post Office Opening Times

Village Store

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

Post Office

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

Tel: 01277 899201



Easter Opening Times

Good Friday - March 30th Post Office - Closed Village Shop - 8.00am to 2.00pm

Easter Saturday - March 3st Post Office - Closed Village Shop - 8.00am to 2.00pm Easter Sunday - April 1st Post Office - Closed Village Shop- 9.00am-12.30pm

Easter Monday - April 2nd Post Office - Closed

Village Shop - 8.00am-12.30pm

Fyfield Coffee Morning

(in the church)

Please come and join us for coffee and homemade cakes.



3rd April, 1st May & 5th June 10 am to 12 Noon Marion, Margaret and Carol

Fyfield *Luncheon Club*

We have enjoyed two lovely lunches since my last report. In February we were treated to Fish Pie from the Oueen's Head. and in March we enjoyed a delicious chicken roast.

Our grateful thanks to the Queen's Head for providing such

a variety of meals.

We also thank the volunteers who made the mouthwatering desserts. We thank Ian Hall,

Helen Web, Pam Orros, Patti Nicholson, Katherine Perry, Ann Jackson and Lisa Doyle

Two of our long-standing members celebrated their Diamond Wedding this month Jean and Derek Beavis from Willingale. Luncheon Club members gave them a signed card and sang 'For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" with congratulations being given from all around.

The Luncheon Club would like to congratulate the Fyfield Parish Council on their initiative regarding the lunch and film show at The Zinc.



We are becoming very popular having had 36 attending this time, we will have to cap numbers to 40 so please do ring in early for your booking to Wendy Henshaw 899367.

Wendy Henshaw



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The Black Bull Inn, Fyfield



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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.

The Black Bull, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, CM5 0NN Tel: 01277 899225 www.blackbullfyfield.co.uk

Fyfield & District W.I.



Our annual Pancake Party was well supported and thank you to all who came and partook of the pancakes. At our meeting earlier in

February our speaker Carol Allen came and described her love of fabrics. She showed us a lot of machine embroidery exquisitely done. She enjoyed manipulating fabric and had made articles from jumpers that had been felted. She is a member of the Essex Craftsman's Guild and to belong to it you have to have your work assessed. Members found her talk fascinating and admired her work.

Unfortunately the 1st March meeting had to be cancelled because of snow. This decision was not taken lightly as Fyfield W.I. has very rarely closed.

Our meeting in April will be busy as we are preparing to host the Spring group meeting on 19th April invited are Epping, Moreton and Ongar W.I.'s We have been lucky in obtaining as our speaker a well -known Raconteur and floral demonstrator Nick Grounds. We will have 90 members coming. Our theme is the celebration of 100 years since women got the vote. Members are

busy knitting hats, scarves and gloves to give to the Mission to Seamen, our chosen charity.

Our speakers on April 5th are Pat and Barbara Elliott on the subject of Make do and Mend. Having written to some 20 ladies inviting them to join us in March I am pleased that some of them will be coming in April.

The May meeting is our Annual and Resolution meeting, we are waiting to hear which resolution has been chosen for this year. Over the years the W.I. has been instrumental in focusing the Government's attention on issues, such as collection of waste, Avoid food waste, address food poverty (incidentally Fyfield W.I. are no longer cutting off the crusts on sandwiches as a gesture to avoid food waste), Price of milk for farmers, Lack of Bees, Alleviating loneliness, Plastic soup etc.

We are very pleased to welcome visitors and hope that they will eventually become W.I. members.

Wendy Henshaw 899367

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

Out of Focus

The new roundabout, Chicane, pot holes, Mud everywhere, wrong kind of Snow, Speed cameras in Fyfield, Ice Fair in Fyfield planned, Dog Poo and those who bag but then chuck!

Art Exhibition, mobile phone size, mobile phones whilst driving.

Much more of this weather and it might be time to consider mounting a Frost Fair in Fyfield probably on the wide part of the Roding near the bridge. Frost Fairs were very popular a few hundred years ago on the Thames and may have



even taken place in Fyfield. The Roding would have made an excellent place for the locals to try skating or just sliding around on the ice.

I love my smart phone and the advances made in this area since 1994 when the first smart phone was marketed is amazing. However, (and there is always one!) the larger and slimmer they get the more uncomfortable they are to hold. The mobile phones from the '90s such as the Nokia were so much more comfortable to hold with a profile similar to current day cordless phones. The police use this style of phone today.

Whilst on the subject of mobile phones, I am still seeing drivers blatantly using mobile phones in cars. I saw a Range Rover last week in Fyfield and the driver was driving looking down to the phone that he had in his hands. This was despite the Range Rover having hands free facilities as standard. One good thing about the new roundabout on the Ongar Road at the new housing estate site, is that such inconsiderate and law breaking drivers may have to concentrate on the road whist they negotiate this Chicane at, no doubt, high speed.

Ian Hadley ianhadley@gmx.co.uk

Archie's Column



Hi, Archie here!

There is an advert on TV at the moment that drives me crazy. As soon as I hear the music I get mad. It's about a

Bank and includes this stupid black horse running all over the place clearly out of control. Now, we all know that the only animal that is allowed to run around out of control is a Jack Russell. That's what we do! that's why you like us so much. So let's have no more of this 'Sign of the Black Horse' and change it to 'Sign of the Jack Russell'. Or failing that, they could hire the Meercats especially the teenage one who reminds me of myself when I was a pup.



They could even use the Muntjaq that lives over the river from me. I never see a Muntjaq on TV and think that they need a break. Since all the cold weather recently, I have managed to get myself

an outdoor coat. It's very good and keeps me warm and dry. It also means that I can roll in Fox Poo without getting dirty thereby avoiding getting bathed!

Anyway, I'm off to find some Fox Poo to roll in so that I can test out the new coat.

Bye for now. Archie





Letter from the Chairman



Tony Boyce, our EFDC District Councillor for Moreton & Fyfield has decided to resign after 12 years serving the area. Tony has been a great asset to Fyfield and has been deeply involved with local and district

issues over the years. Tony also served as Chairman of Epping Forest District Council in 2014 and was a great supporter and promoter of the Tour de France which passed through our district in July that year. We all wish Tony the very best and hope that he fully enjoys his future plans. As a result of Tony's resignation, there will be an election on 3rd May 2018. Details on the Parish Council Notice Board & Website.

Since I last wrote in this column a few very good things have happened in Fyfield. Our Speed Camera initiative has now started and six volunteers will be taking turns to identify vehicles breaking the speed limit through Fyfield. Anything that helps reduce speed is welcome and the speed camera approach is a proven deterrent. On April 24th, Zinc Arts Centre hosts the first Fyfield Cinememories Film Club which includes a two course lunch as well as a classic film. This will be hosted by Councillors Liselle

Chisenhale-Marsh and Jan Hall and is targeted at the more elderly and isolated residents who may enjoy changing their environment and meeting new people in a friendly location. EFDC Lifewalks, a scheme to promote walking to maintain health, is coming to Fyfield in September as part of a calendar of local, escorted walking parties. The Litter Pick held last month was very successful and has made a marked difference to our village. A big thank you to all those who turned up to help. The next one is **on Wednesday 25th April at 9.30am at the lay by opposite Birds Green Road**

Congratulations to Norwood End resident, John Raynor, whose perseverance has resulted in planned improvements to the electricity supply in the area.

And finally, the Magic Night at the Village Hall tuned out to be a big success and as Cllr. Toby Wallden said 'A wonderful evening at the Village Hall for magic night! Thank you to all the organisers and all the helpers and Ashlyns for cooking! Also to the Ilford Magic Society. Great fun!'

Ian Hadley Chair, Fyfield Parish Council <u>ianhadley@gmx.co.uk</u> T: 01277 899840

Fyfield Parish Council

Cllr. I. Hadley (Chairman) 01277 899840 Cllr. L. Lamb (Vice Chair) 0777 6178794 Cllr. L. Chisenhale-Marsh 01277 899262 Cllr. J. Hall 01277 899808 Cllr. B Saward 07747 803829 Cllr. T. Wallden 01277 899772 Cllr. D. Webster 01277 899405 Derek Farr, Clerk 07783 505906

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dan@fyfield.uk.com caliban@gmx.co.uk

Annual Parish Assembly

Monday 23rd April

7.30pm

Fyfield Village Hall

Come along and hear updates from local groups and plans for the future



WD50+ EXERCISE CLUB

Work out with a friendly group of Over 50s on Fridays, 1.45pm – 2.45pm 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)

Arts Section

The Brownfield Byrne Hot 6 Ongar Jazz Club 9th March 2018



Rolling back the years again! Well not the music which was the usual mix of jazz from the 20's, 30's & 40's but the age of the musicians who looked and sounded exactly like those jazzmen in the 50's and 60's. Great to see that jazz is still alive with some younger musicians and all the better for it. The rhythm section, Piano, Bass, Drum and Guitar was superb and floated along providing the lift that the front line rode on. (if that makes any sense). The front line was without a trombone and possibly suffered from the lack of the depth and swing that the trombone gives. However, this was countered by the inclusion of a tenor sax for most of the evening which fitted in very well and rocked along nicely. Years ago a tenor sax in such a band would have raised more than a few eyebrows but now it's all OK. The tenor player did switch to clarinet occasionally but as he was a better sax player than clarinettist. did not need to bother. Now the acid test: Did I enjoy the evening? YES

Ian Hadley - ianhadley@gmx.co.uk

Pageturners Waterlog

Roger Deakin

This is our second encounter with the naturalist, writer, documentary-maker and environmentalist, who was Roger Deakin. The first of his books, which we read some years ago, was Wildwood: A Journey through Trees, and I think then that we all fell a bit in love with him!!

We read Waterlog, the only book which was published in his lifetime, hoping to recapture that feeling, and we were not disappointed.

This is an outwardly simple account of one man's aim to swim across as much of Britain as possible, and blends
Deakin's love of nature, a wealth of historical and geographical titbits and a very contemplative view of our country's waterways.

He begins his quest, as he comes to think of it, in the moat of his own old house in Suffolk, breaststroking through a thunderstorm, experiencing a "frog's eye view of rain on the moat" and watching each raindrop as it "exploded in a momentary, bouncing fountain that turned into a bubble and burst". His journey takes him to icy riverine pools in Devon and Wales, to village lidos and the lodes of Norfolk, via London's Hampstead ponds and the bays of the Isles of Scilly. He maps Britain through its capillary network of streams and rivers, and encounters it in a new

way: immersing himself in a rich aquatic life of fish, amphibians, birds and mammals. The book is also an account of those he meets along the way, from the unfriendly school officials who despatch him, dripping, from the river Itchen at Winchester College, to an extraordinary vignette of a fenland eel-man.

The book is full of intriguing details scattered with poetic flights of fancy and Deakin's reflections on his experiences which make it such an elegant, immersive read.

"When you swim you feel your body for what it mostly is – water – and it begins to move with the water around it."

Sally Wallden

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Fyfield Gardening Club

Guest Speaker - Ian Feast - Gardening Hints



Tuesday, April 10th at 2.30pm

Fyfield Village Hall

The Fyfield Gardening Club invite you to a talk on Gardening Hints being given by guest speaker Ian Feast. Tickets are £5 (to include tea/coffee and home-made cake.

There will be a plant stall and a raffle.

Tickets are available from:

Ken Webb - Tel: 899477 & Marcus & Pat Dain - Tel: 899590

FYFIELD Ongar & District Bridge Club

Fyfield, Ongar & District Bridge Club I have never been an energy junkie but there was a time when I would meet up with girl friends at the gym for an hour of aerobics followed by a two-hour lunch. As time went on and the odd twinge became a pain, I started to look at the more sedentary leisure activities available. Such activities often come at a price, for example, London theatre tickets average £42.50, local cinemas at £5.00 without the popcorn and do not get me started on the price of a cappuccino let alone the cost of a meal. Following some persuasion, I enrolled to a Beginners Bridge class and this has proved to be not only one of my favourite pastimes but also the cheapest. I subsequently joined my local Bridge Club in Fyfield and can play for a very sociable three or so hours for a mere £2.50 or £3.50 including a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake.

Bridge has its origins in Whist and in its simplistic form is a trick taking game played by two opposing pairs who, through a system of standardised shorthand, bid to the level of tricks each think they can make and the highest bid wins the contract. The players have an arsenal of manoeuvres and ploys at their disposal and the battle begins. The shorthand and techniques do require a knowledge that is best learnt from taking a Beginners course on the subject and The English Bridge Education and Development website www.ebedcio.org.uk provides a wealth of information about classes, local clubs and on- line practice for beginners.

I recall how nervous I felt about the first time I crossed the door of my local Fyfield Bridge Club. I was on nodding acquaintance with a few of the members so that bode well but on the first hand my confident 1 No trump bid was doubled, my mind went blank, I lost the contract and became a nervous wreck. Not the start I had hoped for but between the hands those seemingly fierce opponents soon became all smiles and were quick to offer friendly advice and words of encouragement.

Some 8 years on I have, on the odd occasion, climbed the dizzying heights of the winners rostrum and brought up the rear more times than I care to remember but most of the time I am amongst the also rans. I do not aspire to ever mastering the game completely but my foolish quest for this Holy Grail keeps my brain active and curiosity alive, which I hope will keep me in good stead for many years to come. We are not running a Beginners course this year but at Fyfield Bridge Club www.fyfieldbridge.club we would give you a warm welcome and a friendly arena when you are ready to make your debut.

Marion Alcock fbcmarion4@gmail.com

Fyfield Carpet Bowls Club



I can't believe it is Easter already. It seems only yesterday we were celebrating Christmas. Our club

is still going strong, with members enjoying their club nights. On Sunday 11th February, Hannah & Sharon Birch, Mary Wilkinson and Dot Letchfield travelled to Braintree to play in the Essex Fours competition. It was Hanna & Sharon's first competition and they were looking forward to it. They all played well, but were not fortunate enough to get into the final However, Hanna and Sharon rounds. thoroughly enjoyed the day. Beryl Shuttleworth and I, together with two players from High Easter, also entered and managed to get through to the semi-finals, so a good day for us. On Sunday 11th March, the Inter-League competition was held at Braintree. This is where all the different leagues compete against each other. As Chelmsford West Area League Secretary, I had the pleasure in selecting a team of 24 players to represent our league. Falling on Mothering Sunday, it was a hard challenge to find enough players, but I got there eventually! Because the team of Hannah, Sharon, Mary and Dot did so well at the Fours competition, I invited them to participate in the Inter-League competition. They were happy to do so and again journied to Braintree. It is with great delight that my League won the day, gaining 31 points overall, so the Trophy was ours! Never having been in a winning situation before, Hannah and Sharon were thoroughly delighted, having won a

small trophy to remember the day by. In Sharon's words "It was the best Mother's Day present ever!" This almost completes the competitons to be held at Braintree, the next and last one being the Ladies v Gents competition in August.

On the County Squad front, on Sunday 21st February the squad travelled to Needham Market for a match against Suffolk. We knew it would be a hard match, Suffolk being at the top of the League. Essex fought a good fight, with the match ending 16 points to us with Suffolk taking 20 points. This was a close match, with close games, and Essex could so easily have won through on the day. Our next match was against Hertfordshire at home. This was the match that was postponed due to the snow in December. We were hoping for a good victory, but Hertfordshire out-bowled us, winning the day with 22 points to Essex's A disappointing result for us all! However, our fortunes greatly improved as we met Cambridgeshire, again at home at Great Saling, on Sunday 18th February. We thought that this was going to be a lot tougher than it turned out, with Essex winning the day 21 points to Cambrideshire's 15. A great result for us! Our last match is away against Bedfordshire and we must get a good result here if we want to stay near the top. Suffolk is in an unbeatable position, but we could get 2nd or 3rd. I will let you know how we got on next time.

Jacky Brown

Light Hearted Monologues from a Local

Steamboats

Surprisingly the first functional Steamboat driven by a Paddle Wheel at the stern was accredited to William Symington, a Scottish engineer, built for towing on the Forth and Clyde Canal which crosses central Scotland. Powered by an adaptation of the Watt engine which was developed by another engineer from Scotland, James Watt in the previous century, the "Charlotte Dundas was named after Lord Dundas' 'daughter. As governor of the canal he had requested a vessel for use on the canal that could replace horses as pulling power. Classed as a Tug she pulled two 70-ton barges, for just over 19 miles, taking 6 hours in 1802. This Paddle Steamer idea was not adapted for regular service as erosion of the river banks was feared due to wash from the paddles in motion.

Robert Fulton, an American engineer, was on board that maiden voyage. Born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1765 where his father from Kilkenny Ireland had settled, young Fulton later moved to London and then France where he developed a submarine," The Nautilus". After folding its mast and sails flat to the deck it submerged to a depth of 25 feet. Gaining little interest by the French or the British in the submarine he concentrated on vessels that sailed on the sea. Having met Robert R. Livingston, U.S minister to France, another scientifically inquisitive minded American they became partners in steam boat power development

sharing the expense of building a steam boat with side paddles in Paris. Not really a success but the signs were encouraging so their thoughts were for construction of a steam boat in New York for Travel on the Hudson River as Livingston had obtained a monopoly for steamship operation there conditional on constructing a vessel that would travel at 4 miles an hour.

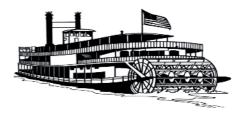
Returning to America with his designs in 1806 he designed and built the first commercially successful steamship the "Clermont", which travelled on the Hudson from New York City to Albany-150 miles in 32 hours-average speed 4.7 m.p.h. This had two side paddles. Expanding commercial steamboat navigation on the Western waters of the U.S.A. the partners in business with Nicholas Roosevelt built the "New **Orleans**" for navigating the Mississippi river starting in Pittsburgh on the Ohio River down to New Orleans on the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico coast. On 20th of October 1811 the "New Orleans" set sail on her maiden voyage to its namesake's city. She had two side paddles and cabins below the deck for up to 60 passengers, appearing to be easy to steer and had a uniformly quick speed. Completing the journey proved the ability of the boat to reverse and traverse back upstream and changed the future of transportation in Middle America.

A British-born actor William Chapman built the first floating theatre in 1831,

henceforth a *Showboat*, which floated with the current down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers presenting plays, music and dance displays as they reached audiences along the river providing welcome entertainment in faraway places. Soon paddle steamers caught on to this *Showboat* idea with some even producing circus attractions with animal acts. In 1861 the American Civil War caused these vessels to disappear from these disputed territories of the crowded waterways.

Jump forward to Easter 1878. Showboats had been revived and one notable boat the **Mississippi Queen** was due to leave port on her maiden voyage. Calamity struck. Perhaps too much extra weight from the crowds of passengers caused too shallow a draught making the rear paddles disengage from their mounting. On standby, jack of all trades, Elias "Rusty" Bell climbed over the safety rail with his set of tools ready to reinstate normal operation of the boat's driving force. Perched astride a paddle "Rusty" consulted the maintenance manual for advice on re-centring the unit. After some time and having dropped several of his spanners into the water below "Rusty" shouted up to the chief steward. He and several on-lookers are confident that "Rusty" motioned to them "O.K." Perhaps it was the rousing Jazz band playing Stephen Fosters "Oh Susanna", especially the catchy chorus, combined with excited blasts from the steam whistle, the steam calliope (steam organ) interspersed with black smoke from the chimneys mixed with columns of white steam, that the signal to commence

forward motion was given prematurely. Shouts of "We're off!" rang out as the paddles slowly started to revolve with the vibration of the engine being felt throughout the boat which started to steer away from the shore following disengagement of the mooring ropes. "Rusty" managed to throw the rest of his tools and the manual onto the deck before clutching the paddle blade as he revolved helplessly with his body wedged between the struts and centre spokes of the paddles. Appearing regularly but more frequently from the water as speed progressed his cries of help somehow faded quickly interspersed with his splutters as he cleared his mouth of spray and river vegetation. Recovering later "Rusty", enjoying a shot of bourbon, commented that his faithful, now drying, khaki overalls had somehow never been cleaner. Two years earlier Margaret Colvin, perhaps had experienced a premonition of such an occurrence when she invented the Triumph Rotary Washing machine. Who knows how trade names are devised but 72 years later "Whirlpool" washing machines and driers became forerunners of the modern American domestic laundry items.



Barry Betteridge

Guiding News

Thinking Day is on 22nd February and is celebrated world-wide, a day when Girl guiding think of their Guiding friends all over the world.

Fyfield and Ongar Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers met at Scout H.Q. in Fyfield to celebrate Thinking Day a day early on Wednesday 21st February. Rainbows and Brownies met first and played a game where they learnt about the meaning of Thinking Day, then they learnt about Brownies in Romania and made a floral headdress in the colours of the Romanian flag, They also thought about Holland and made windmills. Then Guides and Rangers arrived and they all renewed their Promise. Brownies and Rainbows went home and Guides and Rangers decided to learn about China to tie in with Chinse New Year. They learnt how to write their names in Chinese and play various other games.

Thank you to all their leaders for their input to this very successful Thinking Day Party.

We are always looking for more leaders unfortunately we have had to suspend the Marden Ash Brownies through lack of leaders and we have managed to incorporate some of the Brownies into the other two units but have a waiting list of those wanting to join.

Fyfield Brownies are off to Woodbridge, Suffolk on a Pack holiday for a weekend soon, this will be a new fun experience for some of them we look forward to hearing of their adventures.

Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild are 75 years old this year and have been issued a challenge and the Ongar Guild are taking up the challenge. Also, we are supporting the Guides, Rangers, Scouts and Explorers who have been selected to represent the U.K at various Guiding and Scouting events abroad. We will be selling Quiz sheets for £1 to help them raise the money needed for their trips.

Wendy Henshaw 899367

Fyfield Festival 12th May -Young Peoples' Concert 5.00p.m. in the Church

We have had a good response from Rainbows, Brownies, Rangers, Guides and Scouts to perform at the concert after the Fyfield Festival. We could do with a few more children/young people to come and perform. So if you play an instrument, or sing or enjoy reciting a poem do get in touch with me.

Do we hope parents and visitors to the Festival will come along to support the youngsters at their performance so they have a good audience. Tickets will be £1

Wendy Henshaw 899367

Wendy Henshaw 899367

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Explorer Unit

The Beaver Scout Colony - $5\frac{3}{4}$ to 8 years - Tuesday 6.00pm to 7.15pm The Beavers have been celebrating Australia day and Chrissie Brock one of our ex Beaver leaders came in to take this session. They talked about the difference in the size of the country of Australia and Great Britain Chrissie also did a variation on a Bush Tucker trial. The Beavers that managed the most trials were Nathan and Jacob two of the older Beavers. In February the Beavers that had not brought in their machines they had made. So, another six came in and the Beavers discussed how the machines worked and how they had made them. Beavers also planted bulbs for Easter time. On 20th February we celebrated Founders day. This is on the 22nd February and it is Robert Baden Powell and his wife Olave BP birthdays. The leaders light some candles and all the Beavers sang happy birthday to BP and then blew the candles out and then had a cake. That night they all played a storyboard game based on Robert Baden Powell and how the scout association started At the end of February, the Beavers celebrated St David's day Susi the Beaver leader read them all a story about St David,

then they made Welsh cakes and played a welsh game of chase the Dragon. The following week was the Beaver Café night for their mums for Mother's Day. The Beavers asked their mums to come back to pick them up half an hour earlier. The first part of the evening they made a card and then wrapped up a tulip and then decorated their own muffin. They then placed their muffins on the cake trays. The Mums all arrived, and the Beavers rushed to their Mums and took them to a table where their cake was. They then took their order for tea and coffee and served them at their table. All the Beavers had their mums there and some grandmothers too. It was a very special meeting enjoyed by the Beavers and their mums Another celebration of St Patricks day was great fun. The Beavers painted lots of Shamrock pictures and rainbows to put on the Beaver board. The last week of term is Easter Hat parade which they are looking forward to. That will be end of an exciting term.

Cub Scouts - 8 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ years - Thursday 7.00pm to 8.30pm
The Cubs also celebrated Australia
Day and brought in various
information to share amongst
themselves. We had maps, pictures,
books, Boomerang's, didgery doo's

they ended the evening playing some typical aborigine games and learnt some cat's cradle games that is popular with the aborigines. The following week we asked the cubs to talk in their sixes regarding what entertainment talents they had so they could may be next term do an entertainment for their Mums and Dads Near Pancake Day the cubs made pancakes cooking them and then enjoying them. Then they had pancake races which they all enjoyed. On Founders day the cubs all light a candle which for some of the cubs it was the first time of doing this activity. They then sang happy birthday to BP blew out their candle and ate their cake. The next week was cancelled due to the snowfall As we have cubs coming in from the rural areas we decided to cancel that night. The week before Mother's Day they made chocolate truffles for their mums. They displayed these in little muffin cups and made a card for their mums and took them home for Mother's Day. This term we have been trying to bring new games into the Cubs programme to teach them different teamwork or leadership roles.

The Cubs are now excited as 14 of them are going off to Duxford for an adventure camp. They will be taking part of their Air Activity badge stage 1 & 2. They are staying in the Scout HQ in Rayne and then the next day hiking to Great Notley Park for

activities including the Sky Rope centre. This will be our first visit using our new minibus. More news about the cub pack in the next issue.

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

After the weekend at Thriftwood Pedal Kart Olympics the Scout Troop turned to survival techniques as it was time for the annual brass monkey camp. Unfortunately, the Troop could not attend the District camp at the beginning of February as the Leaders were either away or working. So instead they went to Danbury Edward the V11 site in the woods on 24th/25th February. Leading up to this camp they trained on Axe and Saw skills and fire lighting, First Aid, Bivouac building and fire lighting. They choose teams and planned their menu and decided on their programme for the 24 hours. 16 scouts and 3 leaders went off to Danbury. They stopped off at Tesco in Chelmsford and bought their food for the weekend. Once at camp each team choose a site and then for the next 24 hours built their bivouac made a fire place collected wood and made a wood pile. Cooked their meals over an open fire, Kept the fire burning all night and cleared away in the morning not leaving a trace that they had been there. The weather went below freezing and they all survived. Well done Scouts. A big thanks to Dennis, Peter, and Jack for giving up another weekend.

During the term the Scouts had an evening based on the Cube tv game show. With lots of different challenges to complete. One of which was to get each patrol through a spider web of ropes. They had to work out codes and use emergency signalling. Fun but also useful. Toward the end of March, the troop had a crystal Maze evening with six different things to do. They had to build a rope-less bridge out of broom handles and stand on it. Another event was to float a tennis ball to the top of a tube which was full of holes, each patrol had three attempts and the fastest patrol was 4 seconds. Another game was 60 ping pong balls into 5 buckets in a set time. The next was to get a tennis ball from one end of the hall to the other through an obstacle course but only using pipes or cardboard tubes. If the ball dropped, they had to start again. The next base was throwing articles over their shoulder into a paddling pool following directions from a patrol leader. The last base was match stick puzzles. The next week was spent on learning preparation for hiking. This involved foot care and first aid and rucksack packing and using Trangia stoves and food ration packs. Well a full term for everyone.

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

The Explorer Unit have been working on repairing camping equipment and helping Simon with the role of Quartermaster for the group equipment. They are also planning some evening hikes before the big exam period starts. Most of the members have exams after Easter so they will have some meetings for Archery or rifle shooting as relaxing activity. They are all working on their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They hope to complete their bronze award by the summer term. They also plan to have a summer camp to the Yorkshire Dales in August. The Scout leaders and Explorer Scout leaders all hope to do the three Yorkshire Peaks challenge at the beginning of May.

World Scout Jamboree 2019 & the Australian Scout Jamboree 2019 Jamboree news and fundraising events.

In the last edition of the Fyfield Focus we were delighted to announce that the 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit have three members of the Group and Unit selected to be part of the 117 Essex contingent representing the United Kingdom at the next World Scout Jamboree in July and August in 2019. This is to be held in the USA and in Canada and Mexico as well. These members who have achieved this are:

- Chloe Bellsham a member of the Scout Troop
- Caitlin Clark a member of the Explorer Unit and a young leader with the Scout Troop.
- Matthew Wadey a member of the Explorer Unit.

In addition to these three we have:

Daniel Woollard who has been offered a place on the Australian Scout Jamboree in January 2019.

The Jamboree four have been busy over the last two months raising money to enable them to go on their adventure and an update on their fund raising and future fund raising events are detailed in a separate article.

Scout Group News

Leader Training: This Spring term we have had various leaders train for the adventurous activities permit. These have included three leaders who can now teach young members to use Blow Karts or Land Yachts. Eight leaders

from all sections have now gained their Archery permits. This will now give all sections the opportunity to take part in Archery sessions. Another three leaders have been trained in running sessions on the Climbing and Abseiling Tower and Wall

Once they have been assessed then they can train all the members in the Scout group.

We also have four leaders in the process of gaining a night away permit. They attend training sessions and then run a camp under supervision before applying for their permit. With all the leaders being so keen and enthusiastic it just shows that our Scout Group loves to be "OUT" in Scouting.

Mary Bacon - Chairman 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group Telephone - 01277 899052 Mobile -07554933563 Fmail: marychristinebacon@aol.com

1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group Beaver Scouts Tuesday 6.00 - 7.15pm 6 - 8 years **Cub Scouts** Thursday 8-10½ years 7.00 - 8.30pm 10-14 years Scouts Friday 7.30 - 9.30pm 7.30 - 9.30pm 14 - 18 years **Explorer Scouts** Tuesday 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 lst of the month. The publications are: February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September, October/ November and December/January. Two publications are special colour editions (subject to receiving the necessary sponsorship) and focus on Spring (April/May) 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. All requests for advertising should be directed to the Editor and adverts must be received by eMail no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date (i.e. January, March, May, July, September and November). Payment for all adverts is to be received in advance of publication (full advertising terms and conditions are sent out with all invoices). The Fyfield Focus also provides a 'Leaflet Stuffing Service' – contact Cheryl Hadley for details.

Distribution of the Fyfield Focus (**387 copies**) is done by a team of volunteers (**18**) 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 **17**th **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 & Advertising: Cheryl Hadley – <u>fyfieldfocus@gmx.co.uk</u>
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Printing: Chelmsford Diocesan Print Unit

Distribution:

Dennis Bird, Liz Bird, Carol Cox, Eddie Fancourt, Elaine Griffiths, Cheryl Hadley, Jackie Hart, Fran Homersham, Ann Jackson, Les Lamb, Helen Llewelyn Jones, Mary Simons, Jenny Stone, Mike Walker, Roy Wilkinson and Mary Woodrow.

Fyfield Useful Contacts

Bell Ringers - Hand	Pat Turnpenny	899223	Parish Council		
Bell Ringers - Tower	Allan Cook	899240	Chair	Ian Hadley	899840
Pageturners	Debbie Spanton	899317	Clerk	Derek Farr	07783505906
Bookworms	Jane Davenport	899389	Scouts & Guides		
Bridge Club	Marion Alcock	899432	Rainbows	Sophie Kelly	TBA
Carpet Bowls	Jacky Brown	899076	Brownies	Jane Davenport	899389
Church Coffee Morning	; Carol Cox	899245	Guides	Alison Lavender	365842
Dr Walker's School	Mrs. N. Larkin	899298	Beavers	Mary Bacon	899052
Friends of St Nicholas	Allan Cook	899240	Cubs	David Gordon	896321
Fyfield Art Group	Wendy Henshaw	899367	Scouts	Mary Bacon	899052
Fyfield Focus	Cheryl Hadley	899840	Explorer Scouts	Simon Mountly	07939 158980
Ongar & Villages			St Nicholas' Church	Rev. Christine Hawkins	286113
Voluntary Care	General No.	365363	Warden/Allotments	Marcus Dain	899590
Luncheon Club			Warden	David Bessell	07886075889
Bookings	Wendy Henshaw	899367	Village Hall		
Team Co-ordinator	Jan Hall	899808	Chair	Marie Apperley	899386
Pilates	Claire Smith	07903121003	Bookings	Elaine Tunnard	899306
Poppets Day Nursery	Katie Holloway	365488	Womens Institute	Wendy Henshaw	899367
Pre-School	General No.	899678	WD50+ Exercise Club	Patti Nicholson	899504
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Websites: www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk www.essexinfo.net/fyfield-parish-council/ www.fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk

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From This to This!

Many thanks to Howard Nicholson for taking the initiative to clear the edge of the footpath on the Willingale Road between the Bridge and the Church.



Happy Easter

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

