



Residents Take Back Control

Parish Council take over regular maintenance of the Sports Field

At the last Parish Council meeting it was decided that the maintenance of the Sports Field will be contracted out to a ground maintenance company. This replaces the voluntary maintenance by the Sports & Social Club which has been undertaken since 1982. The selected contractor will be subject to strict conditions and will maintain the grass, surrounding trees and hedges plus the emptying of rubbish bins for the benefit of the residents of Fyfield who own the Sports Field.

The cost of the service will be covered by the Parish Council Precept (the local part of the Council Tax) but will not involve any increase in your monthly bill. *See inside.*

It was also agreed that the Parish Council will issue a licence to the Fyfield Village Hall to administer the activities on the Sports Field so that all activities in the Village Hall and on the Sports Field can be co-ordinated effectively. Subject to the terms of the licence being acceptable to the Fyfield Village Hall, this will commence from March 1st and cover a one year term with an annual review.

STOP PRESS

WHAT A MESS! The Leak on the Hill AGAIN!!!!


Once again residents of Fyfield and motorists who pass through the village are having to put up with road works on the Ongar Road. Affinity Water road works have become a regular sight in Fyfield for some years now as they constantly return to repair the leaking mains water supply that floods the Ongar Road. In this cold weather the flooding turns to a sheet of ice on the gutter and the pavement so that pedestrians are forced to walk in the road to avoid it. Even so, there have been reports of a number of people slipping over on the ice. This situation has been escalated within Affinity Water and is now a major item on the Parish Council radar. By the time you read this edition we hope the repair will have been completed and that it will be no more road works on that spot.

Road Works on the Dunmow Road.

Residents near to the Black Bull on the Dunmow Road have been incensed by work being carried out until 10.30pm to connect a new development of three houses at the chicken shed site to the main sewers. The residents have been told that the work was an 'emergency'. Not true according to Essex County Council who issued a permit to commence work! Who can you believe!!

As I write, the Dunmow Road at Birds Green is flooded from side to side!

Village Diary 2017



07-Feb	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
02-Feb	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
08-Feb	Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
13-Feb	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 8pm
15-Feb	Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1.30pm
18-Feb	Village Hall Quiz	Village Hall, 7pm
28-Feb	WI Pancake Event	Village Hall, 10.30am
02-Mar	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
07-Mar	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
08-Mar	Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
13-Mar	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 8pm
13-Mar	Gardening Club Talk - Plants of Seasonal Interest	Village Hall, 3pm
15-Mar	Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1.30pm
30-Mar	Fyfield Village Hall - Annual General Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
04-Apr	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
06-Apr	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
19-Apr	Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1.30pm
04-May	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
13-May	Fyfield Festival	The Church, 12 noon
17-May	Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1.30pm

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:

Fyfield Parish Council

Queens' Head – July/September 2014 Special Colour Edition

Fyfield Post Office & Village Store – December 2014/January 2015 Special Colour Edition

AGS Limited – April 2015 Special Colour Edition

Fyfield Post Office & Village Store – December 2015/January 2016 Special Colour Edition

The Black Bull – April/May 2016 Special Colour Edition

Donors:

Brian & Kim Carpenter, Carol Cox, Fyfield Carpet Bowls, Fyfield Gardening Club, Fyfield & District W.I., The Church Coffee Morning and WD50+ Exercise Club.

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



When this Focus arrives through your doors it will be February - where did January disappear to? I don't know about you but I am still wishing people a Happy New Year and

would like to wish all the Fyfield Focus readers a Happy New Year and I hope 2017 will be kind to you and be a happy and healthy one.

Inside we have news of a New Year Baby in Fyfield and also some good news about our District Councillor Tony Boyce who is recovering from the Heart Attack he suffered in October. The licensing of The Reverend Christine Hawkins as our new Priest-in-Charge will have taken place and on behalf of everyone in the Village the Fyfield Focus would like to extend a warm welcome to Christine and her husband John to our Parish and their new home in Fyfield.

I hope you enjoy all the news and photos from events which took place in our village in the run up to Christmas and I hope like me it reminds you of what a wonderful community we have in Fyfield as well as it being such a delightful location. Please check the Village Diary and read the various articles about what is planned in our village during February and beyond. Don't forget if you can relate to the sentiments in Jackie Brown's Post Christmas poem why not join one of the clubs that take place at the Village Hall to help you with your well being and fitness - Carpet Bowls, Pilates, WD50+ or the new

Yoga Class which started in January on a Monday evening. All this at our lovely Village Hall which, for most people, is within walking distance of their home. One Fyfield & District Group which is located in Fyfield which needs no encouragement to get active is the Scouts - please read their article on what they have been up to. Due to an error on my part the Bowls Club have two articles in this publication as I published the wrong article in December - apologies again to the Club.

February is normally a month when we tend to stay in doors and don't venture out into the garden due to the weather conditions. However, Mary Ellis, a Fyfield Gardening Club member, has written a very interesting article on Art in the Garden so you can enjoy thoughts of the garden from your arm chair and also look forward to the Fyfield Festival on 13th May. For me the enforcement of being inside the home spurs me on to get on with the jobs I am not keen to do when the better weather arrives. If I am not doing the jobs I am busy planning the work that needs to be done like decorating, cleaning or work in the garden. We are very lucky in Fyfield that we have a good supply of locally based companies to help us with all our decorating, cleaning and gardening work - please see the various adverts for details.

Our next publication for April/May will be our Easter edition and due to the generous sponsorship of Nikil Patel, Fyfield Village Store & Post Office, it will be a special colour edition.

Bye for now.

Cheryl Hadley,
Editor

Services at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

Priest in Charge: Reverend Christine Hawkins
Churchwardens: Marcus Dain telephone: 01277 899590
David Bessell telephone: 07886 075889

We are delighted to welcome the Reverend Christine Hawkins as our new parish minister, together with her husband, John. Christine was licensed as Priest-in-Charge by the Bishop of Chelmsford at a special service on January 29. The following service schedule is based upon the pattern of services we have maintained throughout the interregnum and it may be necessary to change some services. Any changes will be advertised on the notice boards in the church porch and outside the village shop.

Feb	5	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	12	11:00am	Holy Communion
	26	11:00am	Family Service
Mar	5	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	12	11:00am	Holy Communion
	26	Mothering Sunday – Check Notice Board	

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.

St Mary's Church, Moreton

Feb	5	9.30am	Holy Communion
	19	9.30am	Family Service
Mar	5	9.30am	Holy Communion
	19	9.30am	Family Service
	26	Mothering Sunday – Please check parish notice board	

St Germain's Church, Bobbingworth

Feb	5	11.00am	Family Service
	19	11.00am	Family Communion
Mar	5	11.00am	Family Service
	19	11.00am	Family Communion
	26	Mothering Sunday – Please check parish notice board	

St Christopher's Church, Willingale

Feb	12	9.30am	Family Service
	19	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
	26	9.30am	Holy Communion
Mar	12	9.30am	Family Service
	19	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
	26	Mothering Sunday – Please check parish notice board	

The parish churches of Fyfield, Bobbingworth, Moreton and Willingale have been without a minister since the Reverend Vernon Ross left us sixteen months ago to take up another appointment. Throughout the interregnum (that is: vacancy) since Vernon left, the parishes have been ably supported through the dedication of retired Harlow minister, the Reverend Albert Watson and his wife Pam, a Lay Reader. Now, however, that interregnum is coming to an end. By the time you read this edition of the Focus, the Reverend Christine Hawkins will have been licensed as the Priest-in-Charge of the four parishes at a special service held in Fyfield Church, and led by the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell. Christine's most recent assignment has been as a minister in Louth in Lincolnshire, but Essex people may remember her – with great affection – from her earlier role as the kind and understanding Chaplain of Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow. And what, we hear you ask, has become of Vernon? He has now been appointed Archdeacon of Westmoreland and Furness. Please keep Christine and Vernon in your thoughts as they start their new roles.

This month, the good news comes in pairs! Just as this note was going off for publication we learned that our application for a grant towards the final major restoration project for your village church has been successful, thanks largely to the efforts of the Chairman of the Friends of St Nicholas' Church, Julie Robinson, to whom we give grateful thanks. The Listed Places of Worship Roof Fund has awarded us a grant of £83,000 towards repairing the church spire, the chancel roof and the roof of the porch. The Friends will also be contributing to the cost – yet another job they have made possible – and, including reclaimable VAT, the total cost will be £107,000. Work is scheduled to start in April, the timing being dictated by the need to protect the bats in our belfry, and is expected to last up to three months. The church will remain open throughout and services will continue as normal. I will report progress in the next edition of the Focus.

*Marcus Dain,
Churchwarden,
St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield.*

Thank You

Huge thanks to Nikhil Patel owner of our Village Store & Post Office for once again organising a Christmas Raffle to raise money for St. Nicholas' Church.

We really appreciate his generosity and also the generosity of all the people who donated raffle prizes. Many thanks too to Gita Patel who was busy selling raffle tickets and managing the tickets for the draw.

*Carol Cox,
St. Nicholas Church PCC.*

Church Coffee Mornings

In December we ended the year with a very festive Coffee Morning which was well supported and everyone seemed to be full of festive cheer. It was lovely to have the Christmas Tree up and decorated and the Church really did look very welcoming. We were very fortunate to have some children from our Local Nursery, Poppets, to sing us a Christmas Carol which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support of the Church Coffee Mornings.

Carol Cox, Marion Adams & Margaret Cox



Church Coffee Morning - Children from Poppets

Carols At The Barn Evening - December 2016

Jude and David Bessell would like to thank all those who came along to the 'Carols at the Barn evening' at their home in Fyfield in order to raise money for our church. A grand total of £350 was donated by everyone, which will go towards badly needed renovation and running costs. It was a fabulous evening starting off with a special performance from the Fyfield Hand Bell Ringers and ending with a rounding chorus of the 12 Days of Christmas that raised the roof and left everyone with a smile on their faces. Jude and David would also like to thank Michael Pether for his musical accompaniment and all those who helped serving the food and drink.

Jude and David Bessell.



Fyfield Festival 2017

This year's Fyfield Festival is being held on Saturday 13th of May. The Festival organisation is underway and the programme for the day will be being announced shortly. It is always a great day out for everyone so do put the 13th May on your calendar so you don't forget to go along and support the event.

Fyfield Christmas Lunch 2016

The Fyfield Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by over 50 people. A full Christmas Lunch was cooked and served by Helen Webb, Julie Robinson, Marion Alcock, Pam Orriss and myself and we also organised a raffle.

As you can see from the photo our diners had a great time and the team also enjoyed working together and making it another successful Fyfield Christmas Lunch.

Thank you to all the team for all your hard work producing and serving such a lovely meal for so many people and creating another enjoyable community event.

*Jan Hall,
Luncheon Club Team Co-ordinator.*



Fyfield Luncheon Club

Thank You To The Queen's Head

The diners of the monthly Fyfield Luncheon Club sent The Queen's Head a gift and a hand-made Christmas card to thank them for the delicious main course they enjoy each month and to show their appreciation for their generosity as the Queen's Head provide this free of charge. The Queen's Head were delighted and surprised when they received the card and gift and Dan Lamprecht was particularly moved when he read the many kind words in the card.

*Jan Hall,
Luncheon Club Team Co-ordinator.*



Phil (Head Chef), Rachel & Dan at the Queen's Head with Christmas Card & Gift from Fyfield Luncheon Club

Update on our Public Rights of Way Improvements

Essex Highways have registered the faults with our footpaths and are of course very appreciative that local volunteers will carry out much of the remediation work. In April they will provide us with the necessary equipment and materials so we can begin the work soon after. We have 18 posts to install and around 35 waymarker signs to replace as well as some light cutting back to make signs more visible.

Our Fyfield PROW Officer from Essex Highways will brief us on health and safety, insurance and legal matters and show us how to install the posts and signage. It would be great to get volunteers and set up working parties. If you would like to help please do contact me.



Accessing footpaths that cross cropped fields can be a problem. If the path is not clear it can result in walkers inadvertently causing unnecessary damage to crops.

So it's great to see that our landowners are already spraying or rolling the paths for us. I hope you can see in the photo this is a good example of a sprayed path across a cereal crop field near Norwood End.

The owner of the cattle often seen in pastures around our village contacted me to say that they are pedigree animals often taken to country shows. So they are very "social and friendly towards people that may wish to walk the footpaths that cross their pastures.

leslamb@hotmail.co.uk

Dangerous Thoughtlessness

To whom ever it was that threw an empty green port bottle in my Cannons Lane back garden from the field, you came within inches of it smashing on concrete and due to the bottle being green, the glass shards would not have been easily seen! Your thoughtlessness could easily have cut my dogs or more importantly scared my grandchild for life!!! Please think before discarding your rubbish.

*Caroline Cuin,
Cannons Lane.*

Ongar District Girlguiding

At the end of last term Ongar Trefoil Guilds organised a carol service for the Ongar District at St. Nicholas Church, Fyfield. This was a lovely occasion with all units taking part - the church was full.

The girls acted the Nativity - Fyfield Brownies provided Mary, Joseph and the Angel Gabriel, Fyfield and Ongar Rainbows provided three small angels each, who all looked very angelic. Marden Ash Brownies sent three Shepherds and Ongar Brownies sent the three kings.



Guides and Senior Section told the story of the Nativity and Rev. Albert Watson gave the talk involving several more children in the story of the poor shoemaker.

After the service Trefoil Guilds served hot chocolate, mince pies and biscuits to the parents and girls. The event was a very happy start to the Christmas season.

Wendy Henshaw

St. Nicholas Church 'Tapestry' Fabric Wall Art

There is not much to report as our next get together is on January 21st.

But I do know that one member has almost completed her panel and it is beautiful.

When she brings it to show the other ladies I'm sure it will inspire them all. We hope that everyone has been sewing away and will benefit from Becky's tuition for the next stage.

Wendy Henshaw

Fyfield Coffee Morning (in the church)

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

*7th February, 7th March - 4th April
10 am to 12 Noon
Marion, Margaret and Carol*



M&M's

Professional Painting and Decorating Services

Dulux Approved

Interior and Exterior

Professional work to a high standard

Reasonable rates and friendly advice

Work undertaken in local areas

Blackmore, Ongar, Fyfield

Call 07866 291795

Or 01277 823285



Fyfield Pre-School

A charity committee pre-school which is located in Houchin Drive, Fyfield.

Opening hours Monday - Friday 9.15 - 2.45. The pre-school is represented by our manager Lisa Carey with six dedicated members of staff. Our committee organise fund raising events to support our pre-school and children and we are currently raising money for a new playhouse.

We would like to welcome our new children Willow, Barney, Daisy, Delilah, Cain, Leo, Cash and Emma who joined us in January.

*Lisa Carey,
Manger.*

Congratulations

Congratulations to Karla, James & Henry Hirst on the birth of their New Year's Day baby - Archie James Hirst. Archie was born at 1.15am on 1st January 2017 weighing in at 9lb 5oz. Henry is delighted to have a little brother he can play with.

Friends and Neighbours in Fyfield.

You are invited by

**Fyfield & District W.I.
to come to**

A PANCAKE PARTY



On

**SHROVE TUESDAY
28th FEBRUARY 2017**

**At
FYFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

From 10.30a.m. until 12.30p.m

**Pancake & coffee or tea - £3.50
Raffle & a £1 Stall**

Jivamukti Yoga Class

Fyfield Village Hall (CM5 0RG) - Mondays 7:30-9:00pm

Beginning Monday 9th January 2017

First class £5.00 – 10 class pass £75.00 – Drop in £9.00

What kind of Yoga is Jivamukti?

Jivamukti yoga is both a physically and intellectually stimulating style.

It combines Vinyasa (flowing asana sequences). Pranayama (breathing exercises). Meditation. Sanskrit chanting. Deep relaxation (savasana). Music (nada). Yoga Teachings and hands-on assists in every class. The practice cultivates strength, stamina, flexibility and concentration.

For more information contact pennycluff@me.com

Penny Cluff – 300 Hour Certified Jivamukti Yoga Teacher

A path to enlightenment through compassion for all beings

Gillian Bell-Jones



Gillian Bell-Jones, who lived in Fyfield at Riverside, on the banks of the Roding, for almost 50 years, sadly passed away in the first week of January 2017. Happily, Gillian spent some of her last days over Christmas in Fyfield in the company of the families of her son and daughter, Robin and Nicole, who grew up in Fyfield during the 1970s and '80s.

Gillian was born in Surrey in 1938, spent time living and working in Vancouver in her 20s, before returning to England and putting down roots in Fyfield. As a physiotherapist specialising in accident recovery, she devoted her life to helping others across Essex and received an honorary award for 25 years service with the NHS, having worked at Princess Alexander Hospital for many years. Gillian was an inspiration to many of us insofar as she never let her own significant health challenges hold her back, even in her later years, being an active member of local bridge, French, theatre, U3A and wine groups, as well as managing trips to Ecuador, Guatemala, China and even Mongolia over the last couple of years. She will be sorely missed.

Robin and Nicole.



PW KEEN LTD - HELPING TO BUILD YOUR FUTURE SINCE 1949

For All Your Sand and Aggregate Requirements!

All Sand Aggregates delivered or you can collect
FULLY Licensed waste transfer station for trade & public

On site Cafe - Snooksy's!

Other Services We Offer:

Grab Lorry - much cheaper than skips!

Landscaping Service

All tree work undertaken

All types of Fence work undertaken

We will NOT be beaten on price & up to a 25 year Guarantee on our work

PW Keen Ltd. Unit 9, Hallsford Bridge Ind Estate, Stondon Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 9RB

Tel: 01277 362 739

Christmas is Over (Thank Goodness!)

Christmas is over, the New Year is in
And now we are all desperately trying to get thin!
We've eaten too much of that great Christmas fare
And are now finding out we have nothing to wear!
With grunting and groaning and quite a few sighs
We try to pull jeans over those expanded thighs.
Our new resolution is to definitely eat less
Or we'll never fit into that favourite dress.
So the diet is on, but there's always the fear
That we'll be doing it again, the same time next year!!

Jacky Brown



“If you can’t be there, we can”

- Official OFSTED rating ‘GOOD’
- Open Monday to Friday 7am – 7pm (excluding Bank Holidays) 52 weeks a year caring for ages from 0 to 5 years.
- Flexibility of childcare with full days, morning and afternoon sessions available or ‘school days’, with the understanding that your days need to be flexible too.
- All forms of childcare funding accepted.
- Educational toys, interactive technology complete with 55” LED screen specifically for Early Years English & Maths and facilities to promote better learning experiences.
- A secure environment to ensure quality of care and safety for your child.
- Extensive outdoor facilities including a large garden, an outdoor ‘classroom’ and access to a substantial all weather outside area.
- A sensory room and library/story telling area for stimulating educational progress.
- Home cooked food prepared on site with our in-house chef. We cater for individual children’s dietary needs ie vegetarian, allergies, gluten-free etc.
- Poppets own vegetable patch in the garden, mud kitchen & sand pit.
- After school 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

You Could Ring The Bells To commemorate one hundred years since the ending of WW1

It is planned that across the nation the bells in as many towers as possible will be rung to commemorate one hundred years since the ending of World War 1. But people like you are needed to ring those bells. The Willingale, Bobbingworth, Fyfield and Moreton ringers will strive to ensure that the bells in all four towers, and more, are rung on the morning of 11th November 2018. By planning for that event now there is time for people who have not rung before to learn. If you wish to have a try and then learn to ring so as to be a part of this national commemoration and enjoy a new recreation then please contact Ian, details below. We welcome new ringers and offer teaching, the step by step method and pace of learning is to suit the individual, meaning that ringing should be within the capability of almost everybody - "if you can learn to ride a bike

you can learn to ring a bell". Our tutors are DBS checked and trained to teach. Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit [... it also makes a glorious sound](#). Additionally, we are a very friendly and sociable group of people.

Ian Kerwin : 07837 170816 / 01245 248382



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 costs £2.50 Members, £3.50 Non-Members, Annual Club Membership £12

Free 'Taster' Session – just turn up!

The Club also holds social events and outings

Further information from Patti Nicholson (899504) or June Phipps on (899942)

aGlandscapes

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

Allan G Lamb 07952 418586

For all your gardening needs
Competitive prices

All garden maintenance including:

- Mowing
- Hedge cutting
- Pond cleaning
- Patio cleaning
- Weed killing
- Upkeep of flower beds

And any other maintenance you can
think of!

- Renovations
- Complete hard& soft landscaping
- Fencing

Planning & building gardens how you
want them

Bluebell Forest School

Pre School (2-5 years) & Holiday Club (3-10 years)

Matching Tye Village Hall & a
private and secure 56 acre wood.
CM17 0QS

Contact: Mrs Donna Pike, M.A.,
EYPS., B.A.,
Forest School Leader.

www.bluebellforestschool.com
Facebook: [Bluebell Forest School](#)
donna.pike@btinternet.com
[07878 555 294](tel:07878555294)

ABADDON



PEST CONTROL EXPERTS
WASPS, RATS, MICE
ANTS, COCKROACHES,
BIRD PROOFING ETC



UNMARKED VEHICLES, QUALIFIED STAFF

FREEPHONE
0800 975 7477
01277 899898

www.abaddonpestcontrol.co.uk

York House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, Essex, CM5 0NN



MAIN PLUMBER



PHONE KERIM

01277 899367 / 07752 765917

Kerim5@btinternet.com

Free estimates
No job too small
Reliable service
Reasonable rates

Fyfield Village Hall

We can now confirm that the date for our annual quiz is Saturday 18th February with our very popular quiz master John Jewiss. The time is 7.00p.m. for a 7.30p.m. prompt start. Cost £8.50 per head (money collected on the evening). Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. Book your table in with Wendy Henshaw 899367 preferably by the previous Saturday.

Our next event is BINGO on Saturday 18th March again 7.00 for 7.30p.m. start. Tickets £2.50 are available from Patti Nicholson 899504 or Wendy Henshaw 899367. A

Ploughman's type refreshment will be provided but please bring your own drinks.

Finally our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday March 30th at 7.30p.m. This is an open meeting for any residents to attend and we hope you will come along to air your views and ideas. If any Fyfield residents would like to be involved with the running of our lovely Village Hall, don't be shy do offer your services.

Wendy Henshaw

Fyfield Art Group

We started back this term on Monday 9th January as planned.

Our next meetings are Monday 6th and 20th February and also March 6th and 20th.

We meet from 10.00a.m. until 12 noon in the Monica Couling room, Fyfield Village hall. New members are very welcome to join us.

Wendy Henshaw

Fyfield Luncheon Club

Thank you from all the Luncheon Club diners (over 50 people) to the Luncheon Club team who cooked and served a wonderful Christmas Lunch on 3rd of December.

In January despite the Queen's Head staff being on holiday they provided a cooked Ham, pickle and potatoes for the Trefoil Guild to cook and serve with the other vegetables and desserts (sticky toffee

pudding and apple pies) they cooked. Members of the Trefoil team were Wendy Henshaw, Mary Ellis, Sandra Mead, Joan Wager and Wendy Stone. Sandra's husband David also came and was a great help. Thank you team. Our next lunch is on Wednesday February 8th and in March Wednesday 8th at 12.30 in the Fyfield Village Hall. Please phone Wendy 899367 before Sunday 5th to book in for your lunch which still only costs £4.

Wendy Henshaw

BEVEJ

for Building

Houses – Extensions - Conversions

All building works carried out by a team of skilled professionals
with many years of experience

Tel: 01371 830947 Mob: 07766 351515

Bevej.bb@gmail.com



Star Fishmongers

Star Fishmongers Celebrates 10 Years in Ongar

Well it's been ten years since we first opened the doors at Star Fishmongers and new things are happening!

We have opened our kitchen and our range of ready prepared meals are designed especially for you to take the pressure away from mealtimes.

Already on the menu are our firm favourites:

Fish Pie , Fish Cakes (made with 75% fresh cod), Coquilles St Jacques, Fish Lasagne and Seafood Tagliatelle. We still have a wide range of the freshest wet fish available and a large selection of shellfish.

We are offering discounts with our new loyalty card. With spring and summer just around the corner we are busy developing our barbeque offers so follow us on Face book to find out more - you can also find out what we have to offer on the day.

Star Fishmongers, 195 High Street , Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JG. Tel: 01277 363131

Fyfield Gardening Club

Thanks to Mary Ellis for this month's contribution: Art in The Garden

The art of the garden reveals the way in which gardens have been celebrated in art since the Garden of Eden, bringing together paintings, botanical studies, drawing, books, costume, manuscripts and decorative art.

To explore the changing character of the garden from early times to the 21st century would take several books.

Whenever anyone mentions art and gardens together, the first names that come to mind are Monet and the Impressionists. His contribution to the history of modern art is widely acknowledged and the relationship between painting and his lifelong passion for gardening is obvious. Perhaps the effect of this on other artists can be seen in his letters to Sargent, Bonnard, Klee, Kandinsky and Matisse; mind you Monet didn't like bare soil or dead flowers in his garden and it takes eight full time gardeners to achieve this look these days!

In the 16th and early 17th century western Europe experienced an explosion of plant material thanks to plant hunters like the Tradescant father and son. Within this period twenty times more plants came under cultivation in Europe than in the two previous millennia, vastly enriching garden culture and transforming not only the appearance of the garden, but also the way artists portrayed plants. Scholars and plant collectors developed a fervent interest in the cultivation of these non-native species.

This led to the foundation of botanical gardens, the development of the science, botany etc. This is when tulip fever hit the

garden world when single bulbs cost a fortune.

The next major gardening change came in the 18th century. The landscape garden was the greatest culture export, thanks to Capability Brown. He swept away the grand formal style and ushered in an era of man-made landscapes that looked very natural, inspiring Reynolds, Gainsborough, Constable and Stubbs, as well as Fragonard in France and Versailles for Marie Antoinette.

The Victorian period was the age of flowers in gardens, conservatories and potting sheds and plants moved indoors. Then we have the language of flowers; which found expression in luxury objects particularly jewellery.

With the development of mass market garden journals for the middle classes, gardening became a pastime for everyone and England became a nation of gardeners. For the first time gardens of all types began to appear in art, including the rural country garden. This style inspired a number of artists in the late 19th and 20th century to paint and thereby preserve an enduring vision of the English garden. Examples are William Morris and art of crafts, Sanderson in his wallpapers and material, and Mackintosh in chairs, tapestries and china. The garden continues to be one of the great inspirations and can be seen at Chelsea and Hampton Court and even today, here in Fyfield, we continue to look at gardens through the lens of Art.

Sadly, due to a minimal response to the Open Gardens and scarecrow trail weekend initiative the proposal has been shelved.

Tickets will be available shortly for the talk "Plants of Seasonal Interest" and plant sale by Tim Carter of Long House Plants on Monday, March 13 at 3pm in the Village Hall.

Allotments: Spare plots are available immediately. For enquiries about these or tickets for the above talk, please contact Pat on 899590.

www.fyfieldgardeningclub.co.uk

Hods & Sods of Fyfield

Landscaping Ideas & Plans

Fairest Prices for:

**Patios, Drives, Fences
Brickwork, Ponds
Automatic Gates/Iron Railings
Turfing & Decking
Plants & Planting
Lighting, Water features
Garden Maintenance**

Ask for John

07961 875100

01277 899963

Surfbods@aol.com

The Black Bull Inn, Fyfield



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

The Black Bull 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



ARBTEC
Tree Services

Office: 01277 362 605

Mobile: 07710 515536

Email: rodhunt@btinternet.com

FREE
Estimates

All aspects of tree work undertaken

- Crown reductions
- Crown thinning and lifting
- Felling
- Sectional dismantling
- Stump grinding
- Site Clearance
- 20 years experience
- 5 Million public liability insurance
- TPO work undertaken
- Work carried out in confined spaces
- We cover Essex and London
- Local Authority approved

www.arbtectreeservices.co.uk



SMALL WORKS

Building & Maintenance

All building and maintenance work
undertaken to domestic & commercial premises.

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Full Public Liability Insurance- Enhanced CRB

01277 899 311 | 07983 030 698

chris@smallworksbuilding.co.uk

Fyfield & District W.I.

On 12 January, a dreary, cold afternoon, members of Fyfield WI met to hear Kay Ball speak on Skin Care, and this lively speaker rewarded us with an entertaining and informative afternoon. Kay told us she was 55, mother of four children, and a trained beautician who is now with a company called Tropic as a demonstrator and advisor on their products. Tropic began in the kitchen of Susan Ma, who started making her own skin care products, free from anything harmful (eg parabens, petrochemicals, toxic chemicals, alcohol etc) and could be used with confidence on even the most sensitive skin. Susan Ma reached the finals stage of The Apprentice, but although she did not win, coming 5th, Alan Sugar took samples of her products for his wife to try and she advised Sir Alan to back Susan Ma without delay – which he did, investing a 50% stake in Susan's business. Tropic has grown steadily, and Kay now manages a team of consultants around the UK.

Kay circulated samples of the main products for good skin care – Cleanser, Toner, and Moisturiser – for us to try, and then demonstrated these on a very willing volunteer – our President, Wendy Henshaw - who laid back and obviously relished having a lovely facial massage. An item that raised a lot of interest was the bamboo facecloth Kay used when cleansing the skin instead of cotton wool pads. This flannel is very soft, white, machine washable, very strong, and long lasting. I know that bamboo is very versatile, strong, and used extensively in the building industry, but I was astonished at the soft, strong feel of the flannel. And it, in common with Tropic

products generally, is eco-friendly – no waste for landfill!

Kay had a very confident and likeable manner and answered questions clearly. As a former aromatherapist, I found her knowledgeable and credible. Many members ordered products and we hope Kay will come back in the future to talk to us about Makeup so that we can benefit from her advice on how to make the most of our better-nourished skin! Kay was thanked for her presentation by Helen Abbey, and we all enjoyed a pleasant tea.

Our popular Pancake Event is on Shrove Tuesday, 28 February, from 10.30am - 12.30pm at the Village Hall.

All welcome to come and enjoy two pancakes with tea and coffee for only £3.50, and there will be a bargain Pound Stall and a Raffle.

We meet on 2nd February when the speaker will be Margaret Mills and the subject 'Skeletons in their cupboards' most intriguing and the on 2nd March for a Members Meeting.

Visitors and new members are always welcome at Fyfield WI, we would like to encourage more ladies to join as this is the centenary year for the Essex Federation.

Our meetings are on the first Thursday each month; phone Jo Balcombe on 01277 899141 to say you are coming or just come along and arrive at Fyfield Village Hall by 2.0pm

Patti Nicholson

Christmas Raffle - Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

In December we held a Christmas Raffle to raise money for our Village Church and our customers were very generous and keen to buy raffle tickets to support this raffle. I am pleased to tell you that the raffle raised £278.12 for St. Nicholas' Church.

We have sponsored a raffle every year since I took over the Village Store & Post Office and this year the raffle attracted additional donations so there were even more prizes to win. The additional donors were:

Ernest Doe (Agriculture, Construction and Ground Work Suppliers)

Tony Walker (Black Bull Pub & Hotel)

Richard Walden

Mrs. Frost

David Jackson

Chris Jackson

Thank you to Elliott Brace (in the Photo) who drew the winning tickets and you can see photos of some of the winners with their prizes online at www.fyfieldfocus.org.uk.

Nikhil Patel.

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office.



Elliott Brace - Draws The Winning Tickets - Christmas 2016

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

Welcome to 2017. This is the time of year when I usually do a bit of crystal ball gazing regarding the future of the village. This year it may be a little different as President Trump seems to be infiltrating everywhere. So let's start with Trump.

First, the Great Wall of Mexico is proving a great success to the Trump Foundation as the constructors have been told to build a watch tower every 5 miles along the 2,000 mile border. Each tower will be 10 storeys high with 250 five star bedrooms and speciality restaurants. All named Trump and paid for by Mexico. One of the unintended consequences of the Wall is that tens of thousands of Americans have been swarming the wall hoping to get to Mexico before the border is completely closed. To date, no Mexicans have tried to get to America in the fear of being waterboarded. To prove that waterboarding is OK Trump waterboards the first lady in public enthusiastically assisted by Hilary Clinton who suggests that he should try it too.

The exit of USA from NATO has led to Russia and China joining the newly named NAATO (North Atlantic and Asia Treaty Organisation). As a result Trump feels threatened and extends the Great Wall to encircle the USA. At the same time Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and Spain leave the EU and form a common trading market suggested by the UK. It will be called the BCTM (British Commonwealth Trading Market) and the currency will be the pound sterling. One of the first actions of the new organisation will be for the UK parliament to be appointed as the highest level of legislature in the BCTM. The Great Wall of Trump is proving so successful that President

May has decreed that the BCTM will also build a wall between member countries and the rest of the world (including Scotland). Fyfield Parish Council requests that, as the Tour de France once passed through Fyfield, the new wall should also pass through Fyfield especially the border with Willingale. Meanwhile in the deep south of the USA, Hilary Clinton forms a confederate party based on women and all of the areas who did not vote for Trump plus those who did but have gone off him especially in the Republican Party.



In Scotland Wee Jimmy Crankie and Nicola Sturgeon do a job swap and nobody notices the difference.

It's now 2018 and Trumpageddon has not occurred yet except for his hair which has all fallen out as has the first lady!

What a year and I haven't even mentioned the Fyfield Marina yet!

Ian Hadley
ianhadley@gmx.co.uk



Hi, Archie here!

Jack Russell Rules

I downloaded this on my new tablet. Owners please take note!

Of course, some points are negotiable.

Anyway I'm off to buy an electric blanket. I'm 5 years old now and have to look after myself in the winter. None of this walking in minus temperature nonsense for me. When you see a dog being walked in bad weather and the owner says 'he or she loves it' don't be fooled. We don't like it anymore than the owner does.

*Bye for now.
Archie*



1. The Jack Russell is not allowed in the house.
2. Okay, the Jack Russell is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
3. The Jack Russell is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The Jack Russell is only allowed on the old furniture.
5. Fine, the Jack Russell is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
6. All right, the Jack Russell is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
7. The Jack Russell can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
8. The Jack Russell can sleep under the covers every night.
9. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the Jack Russell!
10. In all cases of dispute....
the Jack Russell rules!

Letter from the Chairman



In December we had two further resignations from the Council, (Cllr. Ray Balcombe and Cllr. Nancy Bridge). We now have three vacancies on the council and to date have received five applications for the three posts. The successful candidates will be announced at the February 13th meeting.

As you will see from the front page of the Focus, the council are contracting out the maintenance of the Sports Field to a professional ground maintenance company who are experienced in maintaining public facilities such as ours. Whilst the Sports & Social Club have undertaken this task on a voluntary basis it is now time for this to be carried out by a commercial organisation that will be held accountable for the standard of the sports field and surrounding trees and hedges. They will also be responsible for the clearance of the rubbish bins on the field. The financing of this service will be paid for by the council tax payers in Fyfield which is usual under these circumstances as the Sports Field is a facility for all residents, not just a few clubs who may not even reside in Fyfield. However, the good news is the cost of this will not be passed directly to the residents as the Parish Council has healthy finances which will allow surplus funds to be used to pay for the maintenance service plus additional income from the hire of the Sports Field.

In addition, the Parish Council Precept for 2017/18 will not rise for the first time in many years. This may not be the case for the Epping Forest District Council so your

Council Tax may well rise but that is out of our control.

In conjunction with the plans for the Sports Field mentioned above, for the first time the Council is issuing a Licence to the Fyfield Village Hall to administer the use of the Sports Field. This will ensure that there will no longer be any conflict between sports field bookings and bookings for the Village Hall facilities as one organisation will be in total control rather than two.

The Parish Council will also support the Fyfield Village Hall in their drive to utilise all of the facilities at the Hall for the benefit of all residents and any sports clubs that wish to use the field and the hall

Anyone who uses the Sports Field or passes over it will know how some Moles are currently making a mess of the area near the children's play equipment. By the time that you read this a specialist company will have started a three week treatment to eradicate the Moles from the area before they invade the lower football pitch and cricket square.

Plans for 2017 include:

- Assistance to the Village Store & Post Office
- Mobile Phone Mast installation
- Volunteer group to repair and replace public rights of way signs
- Freshly painted Phone Box
- Defibrillator located in a public area
- A medical First responder group set up
- Best Kept Front Garden prize
- Village Champion prize
- New Play equipment for children
- Clearance of the overgrown end of the Dole Path

Ian Hadley

Chair, Fyfield Parish Council

ianhadley@gmx.co.uk

T: 01277 899840 M: 07765882001

Update on Tony Boyce



We thought you would appreciate an update on Tony Boyce after hearing the news in the December Focus of his heart attack on Saturday, 23rd October.

Tony left St. Margaret's Hospital on Thursday, 19th January 2017 and is now at home continuing his recovery and improvement programme awaiting heart by-pass surgery.

Tony is looking very well, has not lost his good humour or charming personality despite all what he has been through since late October. Neither has it changed his wife Jan who continues to be the positive, happy and caring person she is.

As you know Tony Boyce is our Epping Forest District Councillor for Fyfield and Moreton and he has always provided Fyfield with a tremendous amount of support, particularly through some challenging times in our village. He and Jan have often been seen supporting and enjoying events in our village and we hope to see them both soon.

We continue to send Tony, Jan and the rest of their family our warmest wishes and wishing Tony continued success in his recovery.

*Cheryl Hadley,
Fyfield Focus.*

Thank You – From Tony & Jan Boyce

Jan and I would like to acknowledge and send our thanks for all the wonderful messages we have received since October. Knowing that we have been in your thoughts has been of tremendous support to us both and our family. I know this has played a big part in my recovery so far and for that we are very grateful.

Tony and Jan Boyce.

Fyfield Parish Council

Cllr. I Hadley (Chairman)	01277 899840	ianhadley@gmx.co.uk
Cllr. K Webb (Vice Chairman)	01277 899477	ken_awebb@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr. Ms C Apperley	01277 899386	charlotte_apperley@hotmail.com
Cllr. Ms B Saward	07747803829	barbara@saward.uk.net
Derek Farr, Clerk	07783 505906	caliban@gmx.co.uk



We have exciting news for you!
Gigaclear's pure fibre ultrafast broadband is coming soon!

Essex County Council, Epping Forest District Council and Gigaclear are about to transform communications, entertainment, education and online experiences for rural residents and businesses in the Epping Forest District.

Delivering the UK's fastest* broadband to more than 4,500 properties in some of the most isolated communities in the county, Gigaclear is delighted to announce that we will be starting our network build from October this year. Delivering a new, purely fibre, broadband connection to every property passed, we will be bringing ultrafast speeds of 50Mbps up to 1000Mbps.

To see if you could soon enjoy a different pace of life, please visit:
www.gigaclear.com/superfastessex

Find out more:

If you have a question about Gigaclear services, email info@gigaclear.com

To find out more about the Superfast Essex Rural Challenge Project visit
www.superfastessex/ruralchallenge



*Delivering up to 40x faster broadband than the average UK broadband speed.
(Source: Ofcom's overview of fixed broadband speeds published 26th February 2015).

HASKETT

Landscaping and Countryside Services

Creators of bespoke landscapes in Fyfield and beyond. Specialists in countryside management and the ancient craft of hedgelaying

- Garden Design and Construction
- Planting
- Turf Laying
- Ponds, Streams
- Irrigation and Garden Lighting
- Hedgelaying
- Woodland Design
- Woodland Planting
- Pond and Moat Restoration
- Tree and Hedge Planting



www.haskett.co.uk

T: 01277 899325

M: 07850 761865

WAWMAN SERVICES

Oil fired Boiler & Aga

Service / Routine Maintenance / Breakdowns /

Landlords Certifications / New Boiler Commissions.

Tel: 01277-896767

Mob: 07946-759021

Email: wawmanservices@hotmail.com

Fully insured & OFTEC registered.



**Registered
Technician**

Qualified Tree Surgeon

City & Guilds NPTC



Kevin Spencer

**All aspects of tree surgery, thinning, reduction and raising,
fruit tree pruning, hedge maintenance, Logs for Sale**

Kevin Spencer 07798 823 118 - 01277 899977

Professional Service / Full Insurance Cover

Easy Life Home Cleaning Services

We want to make your life a
little easier



Spring Cleaning

Welcome to **Easy Life Home Cleaning Services.**

We are a family run business based in Ongar, providing a reliable, high quality cleaning service. We will take care of the cleaning and you can free up your time for the things you'd rather be doing. The rate for cleaning is £11 per hour and we provide a full range of cleaning services designed specifically for your needs. Our cleaners provide I.D. eligibility to work in the UK and two references.

Please telephone: 07983 894143/01277 896106
or e-mail: easylife1411@gmail.com for more information or to
discuss your requirements, we look forward to hearing from
you.

Light Hearted Monologues from a Local

Topsy Turvey – Print Inverted Reading

A skill developed by teachers when working with students, useful for interviewers and printers especially is the ability to read writing or print when viewed upside down which appears backwards. Chinese is written from top to bottom, right to left, so their books would look like they are being read backwards and vertically to us ‘Blits’.

Leonardo da Vinci preserved some of his findings with notes written in ‘mirror’ writing. His words would appear normal when reflected in a mirror as we see ‘AMBULANCE’ in our rear view mirror when being followed by one on the road. Being left handed, writing in reverse would have avoided smudging the ink that he had just written down as his hand moved over it. Some deliberate uses of reverse writing include Trebor, famous for mints, read in reverse reads Robert. Famous race horse Red Rum read in reverse reads Murder. Engineering product trademarks include Enots which reads Stone and Niloc which reads Colin. Other logos use Ambigrams – words which read the same either way up. Then of course there are Palindromes – words which can be read the same from either direction ie. Level and Racecar.

Apprentice Printers have caused confusion with incorrect inverted reading e.g.: Baffled police received lots of old furniture parts at a Northern Police Station when a poster offered £50 for a Drawer until it was realised that the printer had set Reward the wrong way round! A young Australian printer hurriedly set his moveable type when reading the label upside-down and for a short time a renowned beer was almost renamed Regal but corrected to Lager. Buy the Liam on Sunday should have been printed as Mail on Sunday. An early top London hotel would ask if patrons wanted Stressed – the printer



should have printed Desserts on the dinner menu. Keen gardeners were confused to see signs indicating Pots at road junctions but these were quickly corrected as they should have indicated motorists to Stop.

A famous and much visited tourist attraction in Piccadilly Circus, London is the Shaftesbury Memorial with the Statue of Eros

erected in 1892-1893. The winged nude statue by Alfred Gilbert was controversial when constructed; being the first in the World to be cast in aluminium and set on a bronze fountain. Called the Shaftesbury Monument as a memorial to the philanthropist Lord Shaftesbury. There were numerous complaints after completion as some felt that it was sited in a vulgar part of town, the theatre district, while others felt that it was too sensual as a memorial for a famously sober and respectable Earl. An eager trainee engraver spent considerable time preparing and fashioning the brass plate that was to be attached to the monument. Following drawings he finished and polished the sign and positioned it where instructed. Days later it was noticed that he had called the statue Sore! Those who opposed the construction and position possibly coined the phrase ‘eye sore’!

Gustave Verbeck (1867-1937) used his incredible topsy turvey skills to create upside-down comics. His images of Old Man Muffaloo were featured in New York Herald (see the drawings). Different images from the same drawing when viewed right way up and upside down.

Barry Betteridge

Arts Section

Page Turners

All The Light We Cannot See

Anthony Doerr

Anthony Doerr is an American author born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, who now lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife and two sons. He has written two story collections, *The Shell Collector*, and *Cannot See*, which was awarded the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the Carnegie 2015 Medal for Excellence in Fiction.

The book is long, ten years in the writing, but once started, it is difficult to put it down. Doerr is a consummate story teller. In this beautiful, expansive tale, woven with philosophical reflections on the meaning of life, the universe and everything, and heart stopping moments of tension and drama, he rewards the reader with stunningly beautiful prose, his descriptions of light, the sea, and how he brings the people and events that inhabit this story to life. The narrative twists and turns through the years before the outbreak of WWII through the occupation of France to 1945. Telling the individual stories of Marie-Laure, a sixteen year old blind girl living with her father in St Malo, Brittany, in 1944, and of Werner, a young German soldier, an orphan, drawn into the death and destruction of war and his perceptive younger sister, Jutta. All Doerr's characters are skilfully drawn and he takes us into their hearts and minds. It is only in the final part where we leap forward to 1974 that we learn of the fate of Marie-Laure, Etienne, Werner and Volkheimer; all by this point in the book have become very real people to the reader. Doerr captures the barbarity, waste and pity of

war without sentimentality. I was really sad to come to the end of this wonderful novel and intend to read more of Anthony Doerr's work.

Patti Nicholson

Bookworms

Exposure

By Helen Dunmore

A spy thriller set in 1960's London, post World War II. There is Cold War paranoia, demonstrations and a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This is a time of uncertainty and fear. Decaying 19th century Establishments such as the Admiralty run by over titled men who have secrets, spies and double agents. The Title says it all. The five main players all have secrets which motivates the reasons they act as they do. Simon Callington a civil servant with a job at the Admiralty, his wife Lily (Lili Brant a German Jew), the heroine. Lily keeps the family together when they are forced out of their home to live in a distant seaside location, poverty stricken whilst Simon is held in prison. Giles Holloway, a seedy lush who has been stealing top secret intelligence documents and Julian Clowde a double agent and slick manipulator. The period is well described and evokes a domestic sense of that time. This is a compelling read, a good page turner and not only a spy thriller but a great love storey.

Dolores Ledwidge

Chris Pearce & Andy Leggett's Sopranos

9th December 2016

Ongar Jazz Club



First of all I have to say that this band got off to a start faster than any band I have seen at Ongar Jazz. They went straight in and played as if they were playing a number from the second half of the evening. This band is top class with a unique front line with no trumpet player but two reed men and one trombone. The Reed players, Chris Pearce and Andy Leggett, played combinations of clarinet, soprano sax, alto sax, tenor sax and penny whistle. Yes! penny whistle. Andy Leggett has a background that includes folk music and his penny whistle playing is the best I have ever heard - ever... He also plays a wonderful clarinet although the instrument is odd in that it has a custom made metal mouthpiece based on a soprano sax mouthpiece with a plastic soprano sax reed. All that combined with a very inexpensive plastic clarinet. By inexpensive I mean cheap! But does that matter? Not a bit - a good musician will always shine regardless of the instrument. Gold plated keys don't make you sound better! The repertoire was right up my street with Humph, Sidney Bechet and Alex Welsh numbers to the fore and a strong em-

phasis on clarinet and sax. Can't wait to see this band again. Well done Howard for booking them.

The Basin Street Brawlers

6th January 2017

Ongar Jazz Club

I have seen the basin Street Brawlers once before and liked their style and especially their You Tube footage that shows them playing swing for young dancers. Their usual trumpet player and leader, Peter Horsfall, was not in attendance due to illness and was replaced by Enrico Tomasso, one of the UK's top rated trumpet players who is very influenced by Louis Armstrong. As such, Rico's style was different to that of Peter so made the band not what it usually sounds like especially the vocals which usually features Peter's very high singing voice. Ewan Bleach on clarinet is just outstanding and must be classed as one of the very best around - all that and he is young as well. The rhythm section is still a bit clunky but is adequate for the job at hand. All in all, a very good band but not at its best on the night. But please don't let me put you off.



Ian Hadley

ianhadley@gmx.co.uk



APPLES

JOINERY

Bespoke Cabinet Maker

Paul Speller

Mob: 07930316821 Home: 01277 899577

Email: paul@applesjoinery.com

www.applesjoinery.com

JACKSON ENGINEERING

STATION GARAGE
HIGH STREET, ONGAR
Telephone 01277 363707

- **SERVICING & REPAIRS**
- **EXHAUSTS**
- **AIR CON SERVICING & RE-GAS**
- **4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

MOT TESTING OF PETROL &
DIESEL VEHICLES

**'WE NOW TEST MOTOR BIKES
& THREE WHEELERS'**

JAPANESE & 4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES
SERVICED & REPAIRED

FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERY



**Good Food,
Fine Wine,
Real Ales,
Private Dining Room
&
River Garden**

**Book now
Valentine's Day
14th February**



The Queen's Head

**Queen Street, Fyfield, Essex
CM5 0RY**

<http://www.thequeensheadfyfield.co.uk>

Telephone: 01277 899231

Cookery Section



I hope you enjoy this soup recipe which is one of my favourite soups to serve at a winter dinner party; I think it tastes quite special. As Easter is just around the corner the next cookery section will be all about Chocolate! Don't forget if you come across a recipe which you have used and you would like to share with other like minded cooks please do send them to me to feature.

Tomato, Apple and Celery Soup

Serves 4

4oz onions, finely chopped
5-6oz tomatoes, quartered – using the stalks as well
5-6 oz apples, quartered - using the cores as well
5-6 oz celery, cut into 2 inch lengths, plus leaves
2oz butter
2 ½ fl oz dry sherry
Freshly grated nutmeg
1 small pinch ground ginger
1 pint chicken (or turkey) stock
¼ tspn salt
Freshly milled black pepper
To garnish: apple slices & snipped fresh chives
Optional: serve with croutons

Melt the butter in a large heavy pan, then add the onions and cook gently until golden (about 10 mins), taking care that they don't burn or catch on the bottom. Add the sherry, vegetables, fruit, spices & seasoning to the pan, place a double thickness of greaseproof paper (well dampened with cold water) over the ingredients, and cover the pan with a lid. Simmer very gently for 1 hour, checking that nothing is sticking. After that, add the stock to the contents of the pan (first removing the paper), and stir everything. Transfer the soup to a food processor/blender/liquidiser and blend, then press through a sieve (to remove pips & stalks) and return to a clean pan. Ladle into warmed soup bowls and garnish with an apple slice and some snipped chives.

Cheryl Hadley

(This is a great soup for serving at a dinner party and also results with your guests trying to identify the ingredients you have used as you experience the different flavours that come through; sweating the vegetables plays a key part in this. If you make your own chicken stock whatever you do not use the chicken liver as this kills all the delicate flavours.)

Fyfield Carpet Bowls



December 2016 Report

I hope that everyone has had a good summer, as we now look forward to the

cold, dark nights of winter! Christmas will soon be upon us!!

The Carpet Bowls Club has had a quiet summer, but we have recruited a new member and welcome Sharon to the fold. We have also had the privilege of her two daughters attending on two separate weeks, who hope to attend when they can.

On Saturday 15th October the Fyfield Carpet Bowls Club (FCBC) was host to the Essex Squad for a friendly match against a team from West Sussex. It was a most enjoyable day, with Essex winning 14 points to 2. The day went smoothly due to the efforts of the Fyfield members, so many thanks go to them.

On Sunday 16th October Dot Letchfield and Mary Wilkinson, together with Beryl Shuttleworth and I, attended the Top Ten Team Bowl at Braintree. This is where ten players from different clubs play together in four different disciplines (singles, pairs, triples and fours). Dot did exceptionally well, being in the winning fours' team and the winning team of ten and she received two trophies!! Well done Dot. The next competition is the Pairs, run by Essex, at Braintree on Sunday 20th November. Dot and Mary will be trying to win another trophy!

In November, two of our members, Roy Wilkinson and me, celebrated special birthdays (I won't say which special ones!!) but happy birthday Roy! Geoff Letchfield, a once long-time member of the club also

celebrated his birthday on 4th November and Ron Barker a few weeks later, so best wishes also go to them!

On the County Squad front, on Sunday 28th September we travelled to Littleport in Cambridgeshire to take part in the Eastern Counties Charity Team Bowl. Essex did not do very well and ended up in 5th place (out of six!). Not a good day for the squad. However, on Friday 11th November to Monday 14th November, the squad went to Potters Resort in Norfolk to take part in the National Championships run by the English Carpet Bowls Association. Nine counties took part - Essex, Northumberland, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Durham, Sunderland, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Essex had a good weekend, finishing 3rd overall with 60 points. Suffolk were in first place with 72 points and Sunderland second with 63 points. Norfolk, in 4th place were a long way behind with 49 points, with the other five counties bringing up the rear. The Eastern Counties league starts on Sunday 27th November, with Essex at home to Bedfordshire, so we are hoping for a good result to start the season off. I will let you know how they got on in my next report. Have a great Christmas and New Year and catch you in 2017!!

Jacky Brown

January 2017 Report

Happy New Year to you all. As I sit writing this, the sun has come out after a snow storm! Let's hope that is the last of the snow! The bowls club have had their Christmas season break and returned on the 10th January, so nothing to report this time. There are some competitions coming up,

however, so will have more in my next report.

On the County Squad scene, Essex have played two Eastern County matches. On Sunday 27th November, 2016 we had a home match against Bedfordshire. It was a tight game, with Bedfordshire playing well against us. It was our first match in our new home venue at Great Saling, so the Essex team were, I think, a bit nervous. However, we triumphed in the end, winning 19 points to 17. A very close match, but a win.

On Sunday 11th December, 2016, we had another home match, this time against Norfolk. This has always been our 'bogey'

team for some reason, but the squad were determined to break this. Well, Essex played extremely well and beat Norfolk 24 points to their 12. Needless to say our Captain, Peter Orrin, was highly delighted. Our next match is against Hertfordshire, away, on Sunday 15th January, and they are also playing at a new venue, so it might bode well for Essex. I will report on this next time.

That's all for now. Catch you later!

Jacky Brown



**Experienced DJs & Equipment
Hire for Private Events**

Top 40 Chart/Commercial,
Motown, Soul, 70s 80s & 90s,
Classic House Anthems,
Old School RnB, Indie, Rock
Disco and House.

Fresh & Fun | Competitive Rates |
Fully Insured

Contact Jaynee 07596720124
www.jayneewilkins.com



Hair by
Helen

Fully qualified with many years experience
Salon owner and tutor in Hairdressing
Advanced cutting/blow drying and colouring
01277 899477
or 07909 897581

The New Fyfield Bridge Club



The King of Acorns and the Jack of Bells?

Card playing originated in China and spread to Europe via Egypt in the middle ages. German publishers boosted the popularity of card games

when they started to print packs of cards in huge quantities from 1418 onwards. Their most usual suit combinations followed rustic designs.

- Hearts
- Bells
- Leaves
- Acorns

Playing cards with Spades, Clubs, Diamonds and Hearts first appeared in France over sixty years later.

The story is that a famous knight, Etienne Vignoles redesigned them to accompany his

newly invented card game of Piquet, which is a game of knights, battle and chivalry.

- Hearts remained Hearts, denoting the Church
- Bells became Diamonds, denoting arrowheads
- Leaves became Spades, denoting the points of lances and as symbols for the Knights themselves
- Acorns became Clover or Clubs signifying the husbandmen.

Duplicate Bridge is a game requiring tactics and perhaps some chivalry; probably more suited to arrowheads and lances than leaves and bells.

The Fyfield Bridge Club meet every Thursday at Fyfield Village Hall at 7 for a 7.15 pm start. If you are interested in joining our friendly Club then please contact John 362276. Partner hosting is available and homemade cake and tea are served during the midevening break.

Bell Diamond

KAREN'S BUS SERVICE

- FULLY LICENCED, INSURED & CRB CHECKED
- LADY DRIVER
- VEHICLE UP TO 16 PASSENGERS
- WEDDINGS, PARTIES, AIRPORTS, DAYS OUT, NIGHTS OUT
- COMPETITIVE RATES

Tel: 07733407208



karensbus@gmail.com
www.karensbus-service.co.uk

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

A Thank You

To all our scouters and sectional assistants, occasional helpers, and parents on the parent rota in all sections. May I say a big thank you for the time you give to the young people in the local area and the opportunities that you therefore give to them to take part in exciting activities.

German Themed Evening

On Saturday November 26th, all the young members of the group were involved in presenting a German themed evening for their parents and friends. All the sections were involved in the preparation of the evening. The Scouts made a montage for the walls and boards and designed the placemats and the Menus. The Beavers decorated the gingerbread houses to go on each table. The Cubs made all the Apple Strudels. The Scouts helped Julie Read in the kitchen and helped make the Black Forest Gateaux. There were German cheese's, German Salami, Bratwurst Sausages, and Rolf Bassnett made the German breads and Nick Bruce cooked the Bratwurst. All the parents had a lovely time and the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts either helped by transforming the hall with German flags and pictures and

Red, yellow and Black Balloons or serving the food, clearing the tables between the courses and at the end of the evening helping to clear tables and put the hall back to normal. Den Sweeting, our Assistant Scout Leader, oversaw making the Gluhwein which all the adults enjoyed. A happy successful evening and a huge well done to all the leaders who helped as well. During the evening, Peter, and Andy two of our leaders ran a Reverse Curling competition for everyone to take part in. This involved a long sheet of tarpaulin down one side of the hall with various targets painted on it. Then the scouts had all brought along ice blocks. The idea of the competition was to slide the blocks down the course and gain the most points. Everyone was in a team of two and a knockout competition took place and two parents, Jason Lee and Paul Speller came first.

Beaver Scouts - age 5 and three quarters to 8 years old - Tuesday 6.00 to 7.15pm

The later part of the winter term after preparing for the German night was spent on Christmas craft, the Beavers made holly wreaths, Cards and a Christmas Tree and a fairy and took them all home on the last meeting

of the term after their party. The lodge with the most points for the winter term was Yellow Lodge. So well done to all the Beavers for always wearing their uniform and being very good attenders and of course being kind and helpful. Alfie Grimmette won the best Beaver prize for keeping his promise throughout the term.

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

The Cubs had a great time making the Apple Strudel for the German night. They made the flaky pastry and peeled all the apples and cut them up and then had help from Julie Read to assemble the Strudel's.

The Cubs also decorated glass baubles that Alan Howell one of our leaders had made for the Cubs, he had also made little snowmen for the leaders. The following week they made Christmas Table decorations which looked really good.

The Cubs had their Christmas party on the last week of term which they all enjoyed. The winners of the best Cub of the month woggle for November was Grace Woollard and for December was Daniel Spence. Well done to both of them.

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

Prior to the German night, the Scouts had been cooking sausage rolls under the guidance of Nick Bruce one of our new Scout leaders as part of their badge work and making marzipan fruits with Dennis. The best Sausage rolls went to Nathan Mack and Shannon Watkins and the best Marzipan fruits went to Saffy Long. They have also had lessons on how to juggle and simple knot tying. On the 3rd and 4th December the Scouts went on a "Back to Basics camp" At Edward V11 Scout site near Danbury. They had a great camp and learnt many new skills ready for Brass Monkey camp in February. All those attending passed their Knife and Axe training. They also had a photographic competition which was on the troop face book page. The following week they went to Chelmsford Ice Rink for the Disco night and on the last week of term they had lots of games including leadership skill games. So, everyone had a great winter term.

Explorer Scouts - age 14 to 18 years - Tuesday - 7.30 to 9.30 pm

The Explorer Scouts were a big help at the German night. They were very useful in setting up the BBQ area and putting up the big mess tent and generally being extremely useful and

helping the leaders. They have also been helping in drying tents used on Back to Basics camp and keeping the main stores in good order. For the last night of term, they invited three of the older Scouts to a chicken & Chip supper and film night. They all enjoyed the evening. On the Bank holiday Monday, the 2nd January, 6 of the Explorer Scouts took part in a one day long distance timed hike. this had been organised by the Hertfordshire and Essex Long Distance walking association. It was a circular route of 26 miles starting at a village hall in Stanstead. There was a check point half way round where they all had lunch. The three girls finished exactly on time and the boys finished ten minutes later. This was a great

achievement for them all and a good practice for their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition.

Mary Bacon

Chairman

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

marychristinebacon@aol.com

01277 899052

07554933563



1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group



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

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

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

Fyfield Focus - Advertising and Editorial Details

Advertising in the Fyfield Focus

The Fyfield Focus is published bi-monthly on the 1st of the month. The publications are: February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September, October/ November and December/January. 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 by the 10th of the month and 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 (370 copies) is done by a team of volunteers (17) who deliver a copy to every home in Fyfield and to a no. of key community points in Fyfield and surrounding areas. It is the aim of the Focus production and delivery teams to deliver the Fyfield Focus Magazine by the 1st of the month.

Advertising Rates

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

Contributing Articles to the Fyfield Focus

Contributions to the Fyfield Focus are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor normally no later than mid-day on the 17th of the month and 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:
Production & Website:
Printing:
Distribution:

Cheryl Hadley – fyfieldfocus@gmx.co.uk
Ian Hadley – ianhadley@gmx.co.uk
Chelmsford Diocesan Print Unit

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

Fyfield Useful Contacts

Bell Ringers - Hand	Pat Turmpenny	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	Janet Brindley	362037	Rainbows	Tarnya Sharp	07712206514
Carpet Bowls	Jacky Brown	899076	Brownies	Jane Davenport	899389
Church Coffee Morning	Carol Cox	899245	Guides	Alison Lavender	01277 365842
Cricket Club	Nancy Bridge	899503	Beavers	Mary Bacon	899052
Dr Walkers School	Mrs Myers	899298	Cubs	David Gordon	896321
Friends of St Nicholas	Allan Cook	899240	Scouts	Mary Bacon	899052
Fyfield Art Group	Wendy Henshaw	899367	Explorer Scouts	Simon Mountly	07939 158980
Fyfield Focus	Cheryl Hadley	899840	St Nicholas' Church	Rev. Christine Hawkins	TBA
Funtime Friday	TBA	TBA	Wardens/Allotments	Marcus Dain	899590
Ongar & Villages				David Bessell	07886075889
Community Care	Mary & Roger Rolls	365363	Village Hall		
Luncheon Club			Chair	Marie Apperley	899386
Bookings	Wendy Henshaw	899367	Bookings	Elaine Turnard	899306
Team Co-ordinator	Jan Hall	899808	Box Office-Events	Patti Nicholson	899504
Pilates	Claire	07903121003	Sports & Social Club	Nancy Bridge	899503
Poppets Day Nursery	Katie Holloway	365488	Womens Institute	Jo Balcombe	899141
Pre-School	General No.	899678	WD50+ Exercise Club	Patti Nicholson	899504
	Lisa Carey	07917763369			

CALL PAUL - 07960 633244

For ALL your Taxi needs - Airports/Weddings/Parties/Small Deliveries/Local trips/London etc



Passengers up to:	4	5/6	7/8
Gatwick (each way)	£78	£102	£156
Heathrow (each way)	£82	£109	£164
Luton (each way)	£72	£100	£144
Stansted (each way)	£32	£46	£64
City Airport (each way)	£42	£60	£84
Southend (each way)	£57	£80	£114

+ 15% Unsociable Hours (12 midnight - 6 am)

All cars are fully licensed & insured & maintained to the highest standard

Next time you need a **TAXI** why not **CALL PAUL**

07960 633244 callpaulove1@gmail.com www.fyfieldtaxi.com