

The Rutting Season has Begun



Motorists, dog walkers and visitors are advised to be aware that the deer mating season, also known as the rutting season, has begun.

See inside for more details:

Village Hall is Looking Good!

The highly successful Quiz Night on 30th September marked the first use of the newly refurbished Club Room and Bar.

This is part of a major refurbishment of the Village Hall that has already completed a new Toilet/Disabled Toilet, new Referees Room/Disabled Toilet and new Kitchenette. Soon to follow will be a redecorated Gents Toilet and a resited Kitchen allowing a new dedicated Village Hall entrance to be constructed.

On the 29th October the Club Room and Bar will be officially opened so why not come along, have a drink and a nibble and see the changes for yourself.

See advert inside:



Queen's Head gets TOP Award

Fyfields Queen's Head has been awarded The Good Pub Guide, Essex Dining Pub of the Year 2018.

Well done Dan, Rachael, Shelia and staff.



Village Diary 2017



03-Oct	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
05-Oct	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
09-Oct	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
11-Oct	Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
25-Oct	Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1pm
28-Oct	St. Nicholas Church Sewing Workshop	Member's House, 10am
29-Oct	Opening Celebration - Refurbished Club Room	Village Hall, 12.00 Noon
02-Nov	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
07-Nov	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
08-Nov	Luncheon Club	Village Hall, 12.30pm
13-Nov	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
15-Nov	Afternoon Tea	The Church, 1pm
09-Dec	Fyfield Christmas Lunch	Village Hall, 1pm
07-Dec	WI Meeting	Village Hall, 2pm
11-Dec	Coffee Morning	The Church, 10am
11-Dec	Fyfield Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
24-Mar-18	Magic Night	Village Hall, TBA

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.

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Brian & Kim Carpenter, Carol Cox, Church Coffee Morning, Fyfield Carpet Bowls, Fyfield Parish Council and The Fyfield Village Hall.

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



Another new season has started and what a lovely sight the changing colours of the leaves on the trees provide us with. It also means more feathered visitors to the feeders in

our gardens which is another joyful sight. I never tire of the changing seasons and the opportunities the changes bring; we are very fortunate.

Our Church continues to be very busy both in the continuation of its' building works and internal improvements, the variety of Services the Church provides with new services being introduced by Rev. Christine Hawkins and also opening its doors more and more as a place to meet and socialise. We have just enjoyed another successful concert in the Church and you can read about Oliver Neale's Organ recital in the Art Section and Christine's Letter shares some interesting facts and thoughts about this time of year and provides details about the new services she is introducing. Don't forget the Church Coffee Mornings and the Afternoon Teas. The October Afternoon Teas in the Church has changed from 18 Oct to 25 Oct and don't forget they also serve lunch from 1pm. Please note that the Hand Bell Ringers will be present at the St. Nicholas Church Harvest Festival on the 8th at 11.00am

Our Village Hall is going from strength to strength both from what activities it has to offer and the refurbishment of the facility. This is down to the hard work of the Village Hall Committee and the people who are supporting the

Committee. A Celebration and Opening Ceremony of the newly Refurbished Club Room and Bar is being held on 29th October from 12 noon to 2pm and free drinks and nibbles are being provided so do go along and support this wonderful occasion – see Village Hall News Letter and Advert for more details.

The Fyfield Past and Present Column has been launched this month with an article which has been written by Wendy Henshaw on the History of The Sunshine Club, Luncheon Club and Christmas Dinner. Dr. Walker's School have new pupils and some new staff and the Scouts and Explorer scouts have been very active at their Summer Camps; see their articles.

The Muddy Paws Dog walking and Dog sitting service has closed for the time being but Pet Patrol from Dunmow is offering a Dog Walking service - see their advert.

Now the sun has disappeared and if you have a special occasion to go to why not take advantage of Amanda's Mobile Tanning service or make an appointment with Skinetics for some facial pampering – see adverts.

Finally, I embrace change and have made a living from managing change but one change I do not want to see is the closure of our village store and Post Office so please continue to support this valuable village asset and remember 'Use it or Lose it'.

Cheryl Hadley,
Editor

Letters to the Editor

Well said Paula Lewis (Your letter in the Fyfield Focus - August/September 2017.

I would like to add that not all dogs like each other's energy on meeting. Like humans they choose their friends. Since moving to Fyfield some 30 years ago I have clocked up about 35 miles per week walking from Fyfield, Norton Heath, Willingale and Miller's Green. This has now stopped as I was becoming more annoyed when a dog or two would appear in the distance with no owner in sight; dog not under control and charging excitedly towards me and this of course can cause a fight and in my case has with both my dogs having been attacked.

Both my dogs suffer from epilepsy and are always kept on leads. When dogs have been running free owners have been witnessed not clearing up. As well as the Village green Cannons Lane and outside the Church are also a dumping ground for poo and poo bags. Who do they expect will clear up after them.

Fyfield is a pretty village please don't s(p)oil it.

Janice Woodard

Dog Walkers Of Fyfield

May I endorse everything Paula Lewis said about dog walkers in the August/September Focus – *except*, I'm not sure that it would be alright for dogs to be off the lead in the field beyond the sports field. I don't know what was in this field at the time, but if it was an arable field with growing crops, may I respectfully point out that dogs should still have been kept on a lead. Every year the crops near footpaths are damaged by dogs rampaging through

standing crops. Walkers may argue that compared with a whole field, one dog won't do much damage but this is multiplied many times by all the dog walkers that use the path. Imagine a boisterous labrador running through your herbaceous border! Not only can the flattened crop not be picked up (wheat, oil seed rape etc), but all the seed heads on the ground will then grow and have to be dealt with before the next crop can be put in, or worse still, grow in the next year's crop.

There is no problem with dogs running over the fields after harvest, probably until the spring, but again dogs should not be allowed to roam freely after that time. Farmers are not allowed to trim hedges between March and September so that wild life is not disturbed. Letting your dog run free means they will probably not only disturb hedgerow nesting birds, but ground nesting birds such as skylark and mallard too.

A final request to dog walkers is that they a) stick and flick their dog poo off any footpath, or b) if they put it in a poo bag, please dispose of it in the proper bin or take it home to dispose of. Dog walkers at Elmbridge have a habit of throwing filled poo bags over the hedge onto a field where it either lands up in the crop or hanging on the hedge! I love dogs but I love the wildlife round Fyfield too.

Brenda Walker

(Editor's Comment: Although the stick and flick method of clearing dog waste off a footpath is better than nothing I would not recommend it. All dog waste should be bagged and disposed of appropriately. A number of complaints have been received about the stick and flick method being used on the Sports Field.)

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School



It's the start of a new school year at Dr Walker's CE Primary School and all the children have come back safe and sound from their summer holidays.

This year Dr Walker's are excited to welcome not just new children into the Reception class but the new staff who have joined the school. Everyone is really

delighted to be here and are working hard to ensure the children are given the best education we can provide. As always the autumn term is a very busy one with many activities to look forward to including Harvest Festival, visits linked to topics and of course various Christmas celebrations!

Fiona Reid
Interim Head Teacher



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Letter from the Reverend Christine Hawkins



“Seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness.” These are the opening words of Keats’ ode ‘To Autumn’. They are also words that make my husband groan because I have a habit of

repeating that line of poetry every year as I observe to first autumn mists of the year rising from the earth in the early morning!

By the time the magazine is distributed, we will be firmly ensconced in the season of autumn; a season with its own special beauty. Some of us view autumn as a season of death and decay as nature prepares for the onset of winter, but it is important to remember that even though dead leaves die and fall to the ground, the seeds of new life also fall with them. Around us in our fields, avenues and gardens we see the potential for new life everywhere in the form of acorns, sycamore seeds, conkers, berries and other fruits that have fallen from the trees and lie scattered on the earth which is ready to receive them. Once they have burrowed into the ground, the process of new life begins as the seeds are hidden in the dark womb of the earth and begin months of change and gestation before they are ready to burst into life after a few months when the season turns again into spring time. Death and new life, therefore, are inextricably linked. Without the fall and

apparent death of the seeds and fruit, there will be no new growth in spring time. Jesus tried to teach his followers that when he spoke to them about the grain of wheat:

“Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12.24

It is no mere coincidence then that it is in the season of autumn that we have so many occasions to remember those who have died.

November particularly is the month of remembrance:

- 1st November is All Saints’ Day or ‘All Hallows’ day. We remember all the saints of the church, both known and unknown.
- 2nd November is All Souls Day, when we remember with prayer and thanksgiving all those who have died, particularly the members of our own families who have gone before us into death.

This year, I am introducing a special All Souls Service in the benefice.

It will be held in St. Nicholas, Fyfield at 19.00 on Thursday 2nd November.

Anyone in the benefice who wishes to remember family and friends who have died is welcome to attend. I will also be inviting the relatives of people whose funerals we have taken in the benefice over the last few years. If you would like someone prayed for by name, please send the name to me at:

revcah56@gmail.com or sign up on the list at the back of St Nicholas.

- 12th November is Remembrance Sunday this year. There will be two services in the benefice on that day; one at 9.30 at St Christopher, Willingale which is followed by an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial at 10.55. The second is a Parade Service at St Nicholas Fyfield, which begins with an Act of Remembrance at 10.55. We are delighted that the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be joining us on this occasion. The men and women of the benefice who died in the service of their country will be remembered by name at both services.

There are many other notable and poignant anniversaries in November – among them:

- 5th – Guy Fawkes Night
- 9th – 10th – Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) which occurred in Germany in 1938 as Nazi mobs burned synagogues and vandalised Jewish shops and businesses.
- 11th – Armistice Day

These anniversaries can help to remind us all of the impermanence of life and of how precious life is. Yet how often do we take time to stop and think on these things?

At the end of November, I will be facilitating a Quiet Day to enable you to do just that – stop, take time, wait, meditate and to listen for the ‘still small voice’ inside you which is all too

frequently silenced in the clamour, rush and tear of every-day living. The Quiet Day has been organised with the generous cooperation of colleagues at Greenacres, Epping Forest Burial Park at North Weald. It will begin at 9.30 and will end at 15.00 hrs on **Saturday 25th November 2017**. Tea and coffee will be provided and you must bring your own packed lunch. There will be the option of a guided tour around the park during the lunch break. You don’t have to be super religious or a member of the churches in order to attend the day; it is open to everyone. If you would like to know more, or to sign up, please contact me – revcah56@gmail.com. Meanwhile, enjoy this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness; its colour, smells, and vibrancy. May I suggest that you use this season to focus on the potential for new growth in your own lives and hopefully the new green shoots may begin to peep through in your own springtime.

With all good wishes

Chris

*Reverend Christine Hawkins
Priest In Charge
The United Benefice of Bobbingworth,
Fyfield, Moreton & Willingale
The Rectory
6 Forest Drive
Fyfield
Ongar
CM5 0TP
Tel: 01277 286113*

St. Nicholas Church – Story of St. Nicholas – Wall Art

We met at Joy Green's for our bi-monthly workshop on 9th September and were pleased with the progress made. Becky has now got all the correct measurements needed for the surrounding pillars but will need some more material. So a visit to the Log Cabin will be needed.

Our next workshop will be at Jan Hall's on Saturday 28th October we have set ourselves a target to try and get it finished by next Easter.

Wendy Henshaw.

Harvest Festival is on Sunday 8th October we hope you will come; the Fyfield Hand Bell Ringers will be playing during the service, which is at 11.00a.m.

Wendy Henshaw



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

Rutting Season is Here!



The rutting season starts late September and peaks mid-October, during the season male deer, or bucks become less aware of their surroundings.

They can be highly aggressive as they are full of testosterone as they attempt to fight off rivals to attract as many females as possible. This makes them less aware of dangers around them, such as cars and bikes on the roads.

Be Aware

EFDC Councillor Gary Waller, Portfolio Holder for Safer, Greener and Transport said:

“Throughout the rutting season, drivers should take great care because there are large numbers of deer about, and sadly people have lost their lives not long ago

in our area when cars collided with them at this time of year.”

“Remember that deer may be close at hand even if there aren’t trees on both sides of the road. Deer often move in groups, so if you see one, there are likely to be others following and they may leap out without warning.”

Motorists

Accidents on the roads involving deer increase at this time of year and drivers should be extra vigilant where there are deer warning signs and slow down when driving through the forest.

Dog Walkers

Dogs should be kept on a lead. It is important to keep disturbance of the deer to a minimum and dog owners should be aware that deer can feel threatened by dogs and may also disrupt the deer breeding pattern.

Walkers

Walkers are advised to keep at least 50m away from deer, never get in between 2 deer and avoid feeding or photographing them at close range.

Fyfield Best Kept Front Garden Contest - Correction

Liz & Ken Bird First Prize winners in this year's Front Garden Contest live at 14 Walker Avenue and not 19 Walker Avenue as stated on the Front Page of the August/September Focus. Apologies from the Fyfield Focus to Liz & Ken Bird and Wendy Henshaw & family who live at 19 Walker Avenue.

Services at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

Priest in Charge: Reverend Christine Hawkins: telephone: 01277 286113
 Churchwardens: Marcus Dain telephone: 01277 899590
 David Bessell telephone: 07886 075889

Oct	1	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	5	9:30am	Dr Walkers School Harvest Thanksgiving
	8	11:00am	Harvest Thanksgiving with Communion
	15	Services at Moreton, Bobbingworth & Willingale	
	22	11:00am	Family Service
	29	10:00am	Family Communion - Moreton

Nov **2** **7:00pm** **All Souls Day: Remember Loved Ones**

A special service to allow those who have lost loved ones to remember them. Please tell Reverend Christine if you would like to be a part of this commemoration, at which those we mourn will be remembered individually.

	5	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	12	10:55am	Service of Remembrance with Communion
			Scout & Guide Parade
	19	Services at Moreton, Bobbingworth & Willingale	
	26	11:00am	Family Service and Baptism

Advance Notice:

Dec	10	6:00pm	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
	24	11:30pm	Midnight Communion

Attempted Lead Theft - Update

During the last few years there have been a number of attempts to steal lead from the roof of the church. Three attempts were made while the recent work on the spire and chancel roof was in progress but, thanks to the increasing number of security measures we have put in place in response to previous attempts, none of the latest forays on to the roof were successful. Readers will remember that a year ago, in August 2016, thieves managed to strip much of the lead from the roof of the south aisle but, thanks to the use of anti-climb paint on the roll-joints for the lead sheets, it took them so long to separate the lead sheets from each other that they ran out of time and we were able to put it all back – albeit at a significant cost. In investigating that attempted theft, the alarm engineer and I recovered significant fingerprint evidence for forensic examination and, because we protected the evidence satisfactorily from contamination, the Police were able to match the fingerprints to a suspect already on their files. We already suspected his nationality because he had left behind a cigarette packet bought duty-free in Romania and the Police confirmed that this matched their identification.

Recently, a year after the event, the Police contacted me with an update. The individual they have linked to the crime is associated in Police records with twenty-seven other crimes involving the theft of lead from church roofs, covering an area including Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and across towards the Midlands. Disappointingly, the decision has been taken not to prosecute him. The explanation given is that there is no “hard” evidence against him – that is, firm evidence of identification, such as CCTV showing his face. The decision was taken before the parish was informed and I have contested it without success. However, and for the record, the thief was identified from a host of very clear fingerprints which he left on the parcel tape he had used to mask off the roof alarm sensors. The fingerprints were clearly visible because his hands had been contaminated with bitumen anti-climb paint from the church drainpipe which he had climbed to reach the roof. This was a direct forensic link between the alarm sensors on the roof of the building and the individual identified as the culprit.

I understand that the thief is now the subject of an exclusion order and will be refused entry to the United Kingdom if he attempts to travel here again.

Marcus Dain, Churchwarden

St Mary’s Church, Moreton

Oct	1	9.30am	Holy Communion
	15	9.30am	Family Service
Nov	5	9.30am	Holy Communion
	19	9.30am	Family Service

St Germain’s Church, Bobbingworth

Oct	1	11.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving
	15	11.00am	Holy Communion
Nov	5	11.00am	Family Service
	19	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Christopher’s Church, Willingale

Oct	8	9.30am	Family Service
	15	4.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving
	22	9.30am	Holy Communion
Nov	12	9.30am	Family Service for Remembrance, followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
	19	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
	26	9.30am	Holy Communion

Fyfield Luncheon Club

We had a very enjoyable day out on 14th August firstly stopping at East Hanningfield W.I. They have their own hall and were formed in 1917 so are celebrating a hundred years of W.I. We had a very nice hospitality lunch with them, and then boarded the coach to Maldon where we spent the afternoon. The weather was absolutely perfect. Our September lunch was a delicious chicken roast from The Queen's Head

and Patti Nicholson, Helen Webb, Pam Orris and Jan Hall provided delicious desserts. Many thanks to The Queen's Head and to the team for a lovely lunch. Don't forget to book your lunch each month preferably by the preceding Saturday so we can place our order with The Queen's Head. Also if you are a regular please let me know if you can't come – tel: 899367.

Wendy Henshaw

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Fyfield Past & Present

A History of the Sunshine Club, Fyfield Luncheon Club and Christmas Dinner

Sunshine Club

In the 1962 Deed for the Village hall the Sunshine Club is mentioned as being for Old People's Welfare in the Village of Fyfield. So I guess it was formed before that time. When I came to Fyfield in 1965 the organiser was Mrs Dora Horne and they met on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month and I believe it was well attended. I do remember that the Sunshine Club on occasions were invited to events at Dr. Walker's C. of E. Primary School, and when I was Brown Owl of Fyfield Brownies we took hyacinths round to the Sunshine Club members for a Christmas present. I'm not sure what form the meetings took as Mary Ellis and I were too young to be members and I don't believe anyone who was a member is still alive. After Mrs. Horne died Connie Shreeve took over the organisation and towards the end of the Club's existence they played Bingo. Eventually they got down to about 4-5 members and could not afford to keep going. It must be well over 10 years that they finally met for the last time.

Fyfield Luncheon Club

The formation of this club I believe was the inspiration of the Rev. Peter Turner who was Rector from 1974? until 1986. They had lunches on 2nd Wednesday so that the then Sunshine Club could have a lunch and then carry on with their meeting. Over the years many people have been volunteers to cook each month and it is impossible to name them all. When the Elmbridge Boarding School was flourishing the Cook, Maureen Kent,

cooked the lunch at the Boarding School and then she and her son Mark served it at the Village Hall. Residents paid 50p a lunch then and now it is only £4.00. At some stage, possibly after Rev. Turner left, Jeanne Francis took on organising the teams of cooks. I didn't become involved until after 1999 when I retired and Jeanne asked me to take over the organisation, as her husband was very ill. I have now handed on the task to Jan Hall who organises the teams and has successfully negotiated with the Queen's Head the excellent main course which they provide each month free of charge. Connie Shreeve was the contact to book in for lunch. Now it is me.

Christmas Dinner

This event was certainly happening in the old Village Hall and I understand it was organised by the Fyfield Village Hall Committee. It was free for all residents over 65 and money was earmarked for it from the Harvest Fete each year. I do remember getting involved with that fairly early on when Mrs Vera White organised it possibly early 70's. It was held in the evening and transport was organised by Roy Wilkinson. It is only comparatively recently it has changed to lunchtime. Entertainment after the meal was traditional. On one occasion two lady entertainers came to the meal and partook of the vine rather liberally so the entertainment wasn't quite up to the usual standard!

It is wonderful that these organisations are still taking place in Fyfield and I think we are very fortunate to have new volunteers coming forward to keep our traditions going.

Wendy Henshaw



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Helen Simpson

Memorial & Celebration

The Simpson family are having a
memorial and celebration of Helen's
life on

**Friday, 13th October at 1.00pm
in St. Nicholas' Church, Fyfield**

and afterwards at

Fyfield Village Hall and all her friends are welcome to attend.



Fyfield Village Hall

Celebration Invitation

**Opening of Newly Refurbished
Club Room**

Sunday 29 October
mid-day to 2pm



Free Drink and Nibbles

Come and celebrate with us and have a good look round the newly refurbished Club Room and the other newly re-furbished parts of your Fyfield Village Facility.

Enjoy a drink and some nibbles and share your ideas and thoughts with us.

All Souls Day

Thursday, November 2nd at 7pm

St. Nicholas' Church - Fyfield

This year, I am introducing a special All Souls Service in the benefice. It will be held in St. Nicholas, Fyfield at 7p.m on Thursday 2nd November. Anyone in the benefice who wishes to remember family and friends who have died is welcome to attend.

I will also be inviting the relatives of people whose funerals we have taken in the benefice over the last few years. If you would like someone prayed for by name, please send the name to me at revcah56@gmail.com or sign up on the list at the back of St Nicholas.

*Christine Hawkins,
Priest in Charge,
The United Benefice of Bobbingworth, Fyfield, Moreton & Willingale.*



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Fyfield Art Group

We have resumed our fortnightly Monday morning sessions and were delighted to have Carole Bailey join us. We have missed her excellent advice to help us with our artwork.

Our meetings in October 9th and 23rd and November are 6th and 20th, 10.00a.m. until 12 noon in the Monica Couling Room, Fyfield Village Hall.

Wendy Henshaw



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5th November

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Save the Date!

Saturday 25th November 2017

9.30—15.00



Who knows where the time goes?

A Quiet Day for the end of the Church's
year in the beautiful surroundings of
Greenacres Epping Forest Burial Park

Contact Rev Chris Hawkins for further information or
to book a place

✉ revcah56@gmail.com ☎ 01277286113



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Contact Katie Holloway for availability on 01277 365488 or by email

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



As you read this, many of you will have been to our Fun Quiz Evening that was

held on 30th September. Thank you to everyone who attended and who helped make it a very enjoyable evening. It was the first opening of our new bar, and thank you for all the compliments that it received.

It has been a busy year for the Committee, but we are now seeing the fruits of our labours, and as a result we would like to invite everyone to an opening ceremony to celebrate the refurbishment of not only the clubroom, but other parts of the building as well. This will take place on 29th October between midday and 2pm. We are very lucky that the Vice Chair of Essex County Council, John Jowers will be attending, accompanied by his wife. We are also pleased that Sue Sheppard from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) will be there. Sue has been a very long standing supporter of Fyfield Village Hall and her expertise and knowledge has been invaluable.

However, the Committee are very mindful that none of this would have been possible without the hard work and help from many organisations and individuals. The clubroom refurbishment would not have been possible without a generous grant from the Essex County Council Community Initiative Fund, and we have also received a grant from Epping Forest District Council towards the improve-

ments to the gent's toilets. In addition, we have benefitted from new clubs coming to use the hall and the field. The improvements to the disabled toilet in the clubroom was funded by one of the football teams, and the majority of the work done in the clubroom and bar was completed by another football team who will be using the field and hall on a Sunday afternoon.

As usual, members of our community have also helped, Ian and Chery Hadley donated a fridge for the new kitchen, Mitchell Tunnard has worked hard in the bar area putting up shelves, and John Tustin has put in new locks, lights, mended the oil tank and generally done anything else that needed doing. The Committee give a great deal of time, but so do our families and friends, so thank you.

So, please come along on 29th October, have a good look around, let us know what you think, give us some ideas and have a drink and some nibbles on us, and don't forget our Magic Night on 24th March, more details to follow in the next edition.

We look forward to seeing you.

Marie Apperley
Chair

100 Club Winning Numbers

August 43, 74, 28

September 75, 16, 61

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

Opening Times

Village Store

Monday, Weds & Friday	7.00am to 6.00 PM
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Let's We Forget



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01277 899664.

Thank You

I wish to express my sincere thanks to those wonderful people present at the Church Organ Recital on 1st September who came to my aid when I was suddenly unwell.

I am greatly relieved to learn that it did not spoil the evening for the audience and trust Oliver will return again and I will be there to enjoy the full recital.

Janice Barker

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Fyfield & District W.I.

Our speaker Georgette Vale brought a wonderful display of her 3-D designed fabric flowers. She also showed us some full sized quilts she had made by hand, estimating 200 hours of work. We were told the easy way of threading a needle. First make a sharp cut of the thread near the reel, don't lick it as this makes the thread swell, hold the thread and push the needle down onto the thread. Also don't cut off a long piece of thread because that is when it knots. All you need is a cubit i.e. the length from your wrist to your elbow. After an excellent tea Georgette demonstrated how to make a ribbon rose.

We are hoping that our 'Just Desserts' event will be well attended; members were encouraged to bring friends.

Our next meeting sounds to be interesting we are having Tim Whitelock to tell us about Canal Art. In November John Watkins the title of his talk is What a wonderful world. We are always pleased to welcome visitors and our next meetings are at 2pm to 4pm, at the Fyfield Village Hall on October 5th and November 2nd.

Wendy Henshaw

Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch

Saturday 9th December at 1.00pm

Fyfield Village Hall

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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.

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Out of Focus

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

As I am writing part of this column from Turquoise Coast in Turkey I wonder if the location will have any influence on my style (or lack of style). Probably not but you will be better placed to judge that. Sitting in the sunshine I contemplate the months to come in Fyfield and immediately think of miserable weather and cold mornings. However, on second thoughts I could get excited, not a lot, by the prospects that are in store for the start of October. It's this time of year when the TV gets better with the big hitters returning to the small and not so small flat and wide screen. Strictly, X Factor, Apprentice, Jungle, Question Time, Great British Bake Off, MasterChef, Dr Foster, and many more watchable dramas. You get to wear clothes that you like but are too heavy for the summer; that is if they still fit you in the right places! But best of all is the nostalgic anticipation of frosty mornings, snow at Christmas, chestnuts roasting round an open fire with a glass of Sherry in your hand, Slade, Wizard, All I want for Christmas is You, A Christmas Carol with Alastair Sim and Only Fools & Horses of course. Not to mention walking through the snow to midnight mass just like it used to be.

Well tough! The anticipation is good but in reality it never quite turns out that way. Except for the inevitable Slade and Wizard of course, old recordings of the Morecombe and Wise Xmas Show and longing for your next holiday in the sun.

It's a frightening time in the world at present. We have to contend with a deranged lunatic with his ambitions centred around a button that could spell the end for humanity in the very near future. And if that wasn't enough we have North Korea's President Kim Jong-un to contend with too! Even worse, my dog has informed me that the low cost airline operator Ryanair has cancelled thousands of flights over the next few months due to a shortage of pilots. This is the sort of thing that you expect to hear from South West Trains regarding strikes by drivers but not Europe's largest airline and a very profitable one at that. Maybe Mr O'Leary should fund the development of fully automated aircraft which can be operated remotely as Drones are. After all, if we can manage to land a device on an asteroid hurtling through space then taking off and landing a passenger carrying drone at Stansted shouldn't be too hard. Alternatively, he could resurrect the Airspeed Horsa gliders that carried troops over to France in WW2. They were towed by a conventional aircraft and un-hooked near their destination where they glided down and landed as normal. Now there is a saving to be made! One Boeing 747 towing four gliders hooked up in order of release. For example: take off from Stansted, the glider at the end of the line released over Paris, the next released over Venice, the next over Corfu and the last one over Rhodes. The 747 then carries on to its destination Dalaman. That's about 1000 passengers delivered for the cost of the running one (rather powerful) 747.

After reading all the shock/horror headlines in the press, the NHS is actually not all that bad! A few days ago I slipped on the door step and fell into the house head first. I broke my fall with my hands and both shins. The following night my wrist and hand had swollen up and was very painful making me think that a break was not out of the question. Going to the GP would result in organising an X Ray so I decided to go directly to A&E but in looking on the NHS website found out that there was a Minor Injuries Unit at the Herts & Essex Hospital at Bishops Stortford. Now, how's this for service. Arrived at reception at 10.15am, seen by a nurse at 10.30am, had an X Ray at 10.45am and returned to the nurse for appraisal who decided that there was no break but a bad sprain. Left the Hospital at 11.00am. I could not have wished for more. Well done NHS.

The BBC is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Radio 1. Great, but let's not forget that the BBC were forced into re-vamping their radio services by the success of the Pirate radio stations in the previous three years. The government of the time invoked the Marine Broad-

casting Offences Act to prevent UK businesses advertising or providing supplies to the off shore commercial radio stations that operated from converted ships in international water three miles off our coast. As a result most of the stations closed down in August 1967. A month later BBC Radio 1 came on air. The most successful and slickest pirate station was Radio London (Big L) which was moored off Walton on the Naze in Essex. When it closed most of the DJ's went on to Radio 1 which was modelled on Radio London which, in turn, was modelled on Radio Luxembourg and American radio stations.

So when you hear that Radio 1 changed the face of music radio in the UK, no it didn't. It was the pirates who were the catalysts and the 15 million listeners who tuned in regularly to the likes of Radios London, Caroline, Atlanta, Invicta and many more. I know, I was there.

*Ian Hadley
ianhadley@gmx.co.uk*



Archie's Column

(Tails from the Riverside)

Hi, Archie here!

It's that time of the year when I have to visit my country club for a bit of choir practise. Last time I was there I came out with a sore throat due to singing too hard. This time I went in with some medicine to treat an itch that I had. The best thing about coming home from the country club is checking up on my property to make sure it hasn't been taken over by ducks or cats. I also like a good run on the sports field especially if there is another fast running dog to chase. When I have done both of these things I like to go and find a warm cosy corner so that I can catch up on the sleep I lost due to spending too much time singing with my friends. Mind you, while I spend a lot of time singing, I can't dance (very well).

The other day I saw a video of a man called Fred Astaire who could dance like no one I have ever seen before. I could not believe how graceful and classy this man was. But I did notice that he only had two legs! I've got four legs so it seems logical to a Jack Russell that I could be a better dancer than him if I really tried. So, I have made my mind up! I am going to suggest to the nice people at the



Village Hall that they run some ball-room dancing classes so that I can learn some basic steps maybe with a partner dog called Ginger or something.

I'm also going to ask my dad if I can join his Yacht Club (Fyfield Yacht Club). I heard somewhere that there were sea dogs around so there is no reason why I shouldn't be the first Jack Russell sea dog; or even river dog. I could guard the boats from wild ducks, water rats and pirate cats.



I hear that there's a new dog on the block! Drake has a new friend called Gus.
Hi Gus, later.

Anyway, I'm off to see my travel agent. I've heard that Ryanair are selling off their cancelled flights for nothing! They just charge a booking fee and for in-flight biscuits.

Bye for now.
Archie

Letter from the Chairman



First, let me welcome Liselle Chisenhale-Marsh as a new councillor on the Parish Council. Liselle was appointed as a replacement for Ken Webb who resigned recently.

As you will have read elsewhere in the Focus, there has been a healthy discussion on the topic of dogs fouling on the Sports Field and also running loose. Regarding fouling, it's not the fault of the dogs of course but the owners not clearing up after their pets. At the last meeting the council decided to re-enforce the message that there should be no dog fouling on the sports field by ordering new signs that will be very visible to all. We will review the situation in a few months' time to see if this has made any difference. If not, further actions will be taken.

This is especially important when the childrens play area is being used more

than ever before thanks to the new play equipment and the planned new picnic benches.

I would also like to congratulate Marie Apperley and the Fyfield Village Hall Trustees on the wonderful transformation the Village Hall is undergoing. With what has already taken place and the planned improvements, we now have a Village Hall to be proud of and one that will only get better over the next year.

Ian Hadley
Chair, Fyfield Parish Council



Fyfield Parish Council

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Cllr. B Saward	07747803829	barbara@saward.uk.net
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Cllr. J. Hall	01277 899808	janet.hall@bopenworld.com
Cllr. L. Chisenhale-Marsh		lisellecm@icloud.com
Derek Farr, Clerk	07783 505906	caliban@gmx.co.uk

Dogs on the Sports Field

At an FPC meeting on 11th September, 2017 your council discussed the issue of irresponsible dog owners using the the Fyfield Sports Field.

Having out of control dogs, that may be aggressive to other dogs and people, is clearly not acceptable and owners leaving their dog's excrement on the field, children's play area, cricket and football pitches is disgusting and horrible for those that have to pick it up. A councillor told the meeting that dog excrement on the cricket pitch is a common occurrence and another advised that it may contain the Toxocariasis roundworms which can infect humans, especially children, leading to blindness; how truly awful that must be. There are dog waste bins all around the field so there is really no excuse for not picking it up, bagging it and putting it in the bins.

It was recognised that there has been strongly opposing views from residents about creating a "dogs on leads" policy, so the council concluded that the best

course of action at this time is to install more signage reminding dog owners of their responsibilities. It was recognised that there may be irresponsible dog owners who will take no notice at all of more signs. However, the council thought this was worth trying before considering further action that could risk impacting the enjoyment of responsible owners and their dogs, as for most owners the reason they are off their leads is so the dogs can run, play and enjoy themselves.

Please do report irresponsible dog owners using the Epping Forest Council web page -

www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/report-a-dog.

Also please inform a member of your parish council so they can build up a picture of the effectiveness, or not, of the extra signage.

The situation will be reviewed again by your council in 6 months.

Councillor Les Lamb.



Fyfield, Ongar & District Bridge Club

We didn't write an article for the magazine last month as our member Diana Diamond was away but we are now back.

Where does the year go to as I write it is now Mid-September and when you read this we will be coming up to our second Annual General Meeting. It is good to see that our club is growing, we have had a number of new members over the year and our Monday sessions are proving to be very successful. We are now looking forward to our annual Children in Need nationwide ECATs tournament. This is good fun where we play on nationally set hands and we can see how our individual players fare against others from across the UK and even further. It will be an enjoyable night and the added benefit is that we raise money for a good cause. The recent good news for the club is that we have been awarded a grant from Epping Forest District Council to assist us in the

purchase of an electronic scoring system so that we can load up the results of each hand onto the computer as we play. If you haven't used this system before it sounds quite complicated, which it isn't, and it will greatly assist on our playing nights. We are always looking for new members with a variety of skills starting from the beginner upwards. Don't worry if your skills are rusty we are a very friendly club and we can assist in any training that is needed.

All players of any standard are invited to come along to either our Monday afternoon, 2.00pm start or Thursday evening, 7.15pm start, sessions. We meet at Fyfield Village Hall off Houchin Drive and the hall has plenty of Car Parking. Our details for contact are on our website or you are invited to call either Barbara 07751 485514 or John 07847 521170.

Catherine Club

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WD50+ AGM and *Hypo Hounds Charity Walk*

At the WD50+ Club AGM on 28 July, Chair Patti Nicholson welcomed our Honorary President, Doug Kelly, who had managed to get along with help from member Caroline Stranack. In her Report, Patti stressed that the Club was in overall good health – membership was up and it had been a good year, and she thanked all those who helped regularly with getting the hall ready for sessions. Clare Smith was praised for the way she looks after everyone and rings changes in our exercise sessions to maintain interest and challenge us to improve our fitness. Ron Barker, the Hon Treasurer, gave a financial report noting that we were in a good position financially for the next year, but might need to consider applying for grant aid again in 2018-19. The meeting agreed to raise Membership Subscription to £15 per annum and session fees to £3 (member) and £4 (non-member). Due to the resignation of June Phipps, our Secretary, during June we are currently without a Membership or Minutes Secretary. It is hoped that someone from the Club will step forward to fill these roles very soon as no nominations had been received. Patti said that she would continue as Chair until 31 July 2018, but would then step down, so it was important during the coming year for plans to be made as the Club cannot function or apply for grants without a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary. Patti concluded by thanking all the Committee for their support for the Club, especially Liz Bird who organises the weekly refreshments and has recently taken over collecting weekly session fees. The meeting concluded at 3.30pm and the cream tea, prepared by Liz Bird, was served.

We sat out on the patio, enjoying our tea and Liz Bird mentioned her preparations for a Charity Walk she was going to do on the following day, 29th July. This was for the

charity, *Hypo Hounds*, and was organised by her nephew, Graham Law, father of Millie, she has a *Hypo Hound*, called Coco, who looks after her in a very special way and is trained to 'warn' Millie of changes in her sugar levels. *Hypo Hounds* supports the specialised training of dogs who can monitor their owners and alert them if they need to take action. The 35 Mile Walk was planned to follow canals and rivers, starting in Bishop's Stortford and ending 35 miles away at Tower Bridge, London! This was certainly no afternoon stroll – longer than a marathon by 9 miles! Liz had decided on walking 10 miles for Coco, Millie's *Hypo Hound*, and many WD50+ Club members signed up to sponsor the event. In fact, despite torrential rain, Liz walked the whole 35 miles in 13 and a half hours! It was, she said, "a wonderful day", she enjoyed every minute, and said that the stretching exercises Clare teaches at our Friday sessions helped her enormously to avoid cramps. Well done, Liz, and well done Graham Law and his team for organising the event so well, and well done Clare and the WD50+ Club for helpful training! (If anyone reading this wants to make a donation, it is still possible – just get in touch with Liz on 01277 899324.)

Patti Nicholson



Liz, centre of picture, hood up against the rain, with her fellow walkers, near Tower Bridge at the end of the 35 miles

Arts Section

Oliver Neale, Organ Recital

*1st September,
Fyfield Church*

Fyfield Church was well filled on September 1 for the recital given by organist Oliver Neale. A screen provided a close-up view of the organ's two manuals allowing the audience to observe Oliver's impressive technique, and this added an extra interest to the enjoyment of a dazzling performance. Oliver was ably assisted by his neighbour and Chelmsford Chorister, Matthew Wadey who turned the pages and whose hands could occasionally be seen operating the stops when things got really complicated!

A varied program provided works to suit every taste, from Bach's mighty D Minor Toccata to the moving and thought-provoking Joie et Clarté from Messiaen's Les Corps Glorieux. The recital finished on a lighter note with Noel Rawsthorne's Hornpipe Humoresque; a romp through many well-known works including Rule Britannia, the Widor Toccata and the foot-tapping Sailor's Hornpipe.

The happy combination of Oliver's gifted performance and Fyfield's special Eustace Ingram organ was enhanced by the excellent acoustics of the church. The enthusiastic applause for Oliver at the close of the program was clear evidence of how much everybody had enjoyed the evening.

That enjoyment was made complete by the refreshments provided afterwards by Carol Cox and her friends, to whom grateful thanks are extended. It all added up to a truly memorable occasion.

Oliver left Fyfield at 6am the following morning, heading for Truro where he will broaden his experience during a twelve-month Choral Scholarship, before continuing his organ studies at the Birmingham Conservatoire under the tuition of Henry Fairs. All his friends in Fyfield wish Oliver success in his musical career. He gave this recital because, in his own words, he "wanted to raise money for the Church in return for the freedom he has always been given to use the organ for practice." He will be delighted to know, as will everybody, that through his generosity the princely sum of £870 was raised. Thank you, Oliver.

*Marcus Dain
Churchwarden*

A Note from Oliver Neale

It was my absolute pleasure to take part in such a fantastic event and to see that you have raised £870 is a fantastic outcome for the church. I will be more than happy to come back next year and to play another one!

I am now settled in Truro, we had our first two services yesterday which were both beautiful, But I must say Fyfield's Eustace Ingram Organ has a lot to stand up to when compared with the mighty Willis at the cathedral with its 4 manuals and 45 stops! Please pass on my thanks and best wishes to all involved in the recital at St Nicholas as it definitely could not have gone as well as it did without their support. I will miss Fyfield enormously and the fantastic community at the church.

Thanks again and I look forward to seeing you soon!

*With Best Wishes.
Ollie.*

Gardening Club

There is no better time to take on a new allotment and anybody interested will be given a wide choice of plots. You may have as large or small a plot as suits you. Please contact Marcus Dain, 01277 899590 if this appeals to you.

Autumn Barbeque: Our traditional barbeque will be held on Saturday, October 7, immediately following Marion's talk about the mysteries of pruning. Please contact our new secretary, Ken Webb, 01277 899477 for more details.

Jobs in the Garden in Autumn: After the heady days of summer, the cooler overnight temperatures of autumn have crept up on us almost unnoticed. As temperatures continue to fall, think about which plants may be vulnerable. Obviously at risk are the autumn salad plants and it is sensible also to bring in potted citrus trees – they should be kept in the light, not too warm and barely damp. Lily stems should be cut back and this is the best time to repot them in an equal mix of multipurpose and John Innes No 3. Cut back the raspberry canes which fruited this year. The first application of a copper fungicide can start the protection from peach leaf curl of peaches and nectarines. Finally, don't forget that aphids may be hiding in over-wintering brassicas and should be sprayed now.

Of course autumn is not all about battenning down for winter! Onions, garlic and shallots can soon be planted and providing this is done before the soil cools, they will have a strong root system to give better yields next season. Late autumn is an ideal time to plant fruit bushes and trees. Choose a sunny, sheltered spot. Most fruits are tolerant of a range of soils, but ensure the site is well cultivated and weed-free.

Recent months have seen the sudden emergence of ragwort throughout the countryside in general. A local authority has the power under the Weeds Act 1959 to require a land owner to prevent the spread of scheduled injurious weeds, including ragwort, which is poisonous to livestock. It is prudent to ensure that ragwort is not spreading in our own gardens.



Ragwort

Marcus Dain
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Coffee is just not my
cup of tea.

Look at life through the
wind-shield; not
through the rear view
mirror.

Oh I'm sorry, did the middle of my
sentence interrupt the beginning of yours?

We cut down trees. Make paper with them
and then write "Save the Trees!"

Have you ever listened to somebody for a
while and wondered....."who ties
your shoelaces for you?"

Volunteer to do a task and you own it
forever.

A truly great man never puts away the
simplicity of a child.

Are Pastry cooks in it for the dough?
Birthdays are nature's way of feeding us
cake.

How can you pull the wool over the eyes of
a sheep?

Turkish delight please - asked a Chocolate
maker wanting illumination in the
afternoon gloom to a novice cook from
Ankara!

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be
wise. Won't affect me then.

The early bird catches the worm but it's the
early worm that gets caught!

How did they ensure correct spelling when
publishing the first dictionary?

If I won the award for laziness I would
send someone to collect it for me.

If Cinderella's shoe was a perfect fit why
did it fall off?

Dear humans, in case you forgot, I used to
be your Internet. Sincerely, The Library.

Why must I prove I am me when I pay bills
over the phone? Did some else call to pay
my bills, and if they did, why don't you let
them?

A man with one watch knows what time it
is; A man with two watches is never quite
sure.

The surest sign that there's intelligent life
elsewhere in the universe is - that it has
never contacted us.

All my life I thought air was free, until I
bought a bag of crisps.

I changed my password everywhere to
'incorrect.' That way when I forget it, it
always reminds me, 'Your password is
incorrect.'

He who laughs.....lasts. Time you
enjoyed wasting was not wasted.

Yesterday I did nothing and today I'm
finishing what I did yesterday.

Nero fiddled but the bugle is easier to play!

Man who waits for roast duck to fly into
mouth must wait very, very long time -
Chinese proverb.

If we have descended from apes, why then
are there still apes around today? Will a
new species evolve soon?

We used to write a diary and get annoyed if
anyone read it. Now we put everything
online and get mad if nobody does.

BarryBetteridge

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

The Scout Leader, Rolph Bassnett and the Explorer Scout Leader, Simon Mountney, have provided articles on their group's Summer Camps which took place in North Wales and Snowdonia.

Scouts - Summer Camp 2017

Criccieth, North Wales This year's Summer Camp was held from 12th August to 19th August at Criccieth North Wales 500 metres from the beach. We set up camp in a field beside a headquarters building. Our daily routine consisted of breakfast in the dining hall/great hall, make your own packed lunch before leaving the site, evening meal in the dining hall/great hall; hang out kit & boots in the drying room.

The camp was structured around the theme of Harry Potter with 4 house patrols - Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw & Slytherin - in a week long mystery game to find clues by earning points for tasks, games & achievements to achieve a total of 4000 points the mystery of which Professor, caught which culprit, using which spell on which magical victim. The Harry Potter camp started by using the sorting hat & stool to sort the house patrols, all set to Harry Potter music, decorations & candles set high up in the great hall.

Events included: Coastal hike from the camp site to Criccieth Castle & onto Black Rock Sands, 4.5 mile hike & completing a coastal activity sheet to be completed by visiting such places as the castle & life boat station & interpreting words in the Welsh language. On the beach we went swimming & played beach games and was enjoyed by all.

Team Treasure Trail expedition to Portmadoc, Criccieth, Llanystumdwy & Pwllheli, 15 miles by mini buses & 3.5 mile walk around villages following a historical quiz, was enjoyed despite heavy rain in the afternoon. Crab fishing at Pwllheli inner harbour & despite numerous line tangles sorted out by the leaders Hufflepuff managed to win the Crabbing Cup in this highly competitive contest despite Shannon from Slytherin scoring the highest number of catches. One morning we had a very early start and the entire troop climbed Snowdon - the circular route of approximately 5.5 miles ably lead & supported by the leaders on an ascent from Pen-y-pass up the rocky Pyg track to 2000 feet & descending by the picturesque Miners track across the causeway of Llyn Lldaw reservoir - and was completed in 6 hours.

Games included Quidditch 'not on broom sticks', 6 matches that Slytherin won narrowly by catching the golden snitch more often than Hufflepuff & won the Quidditch Cup.

The Card game Spoons was played inside & was keenly played & Gryffindor came 1st with Jessica winning the Spoons Cup, 2nd & 3rd places. Also, a Potion hunt on the beach & adding the ingredients into the cauldron which Mick Bacon set off to a huge applause. Potion tasting & blind fold tasting was entered by all teams, with Ravenclaw giving the biggest laugh over their team performance. The Harry Potter day long Quiz was won by Ravenclaw. Numerous board & card games were played during the evenings in the great hall.

Three leaders went to 'Go Below' & 2 specialist cavers kitted everyone with wellingtons & harnesses & karabiner's & took the entire troop & leaders underground in a slate mine to encounter the following tasks: A 650 metre wade along a flooded railway tunnel, paddling an assault boat across an underground lake, a zip wire over a river, a tunnel trek examining historical artefacts, a 30 metre waterfall rope climb, a 30 metre abseil, enjoying a packed lunch in a large cavern, a rock scramble, and ascend & climb through a 50 metre disused airshaft through a cascade of water. We had been 100 feet below ground & trekked down the mountain to the car park & changed into our dry kit, handing back our wet wellingtons. Everyone one was wet but the smiles on the faces told a story that every scout & leader had achieved a great deal.

On the final day the points were totted up & Ravenclaw won the House Cup by solving the mystery set at the beginning of the camp. At the end of the week we took down our tents loaded the vehicles & drove back to Fyfield.

Rolf Bassnett – Scout Leader

Explorer Scouts - Summer Camp 2017 – Snowdonia It all started at 4:30 am on Saturday morning, kit packed onto the Group's chucklebus, all bleary eyed, and ready to go. But, not so bleary eyed at 5:30 am when the last Explorer Scout arrived! However, everyone was in good spirits as we pulled out of the Scout Hall car park and at last on our way to summer camp. But, alas... this was short lived. We arrived back in the car park at 6:00 am and phoned parents to ask them to return to collect their children... The chucklebus had

developed a mechanical fault which prevented us from leaving. I wasn't popular with parents at this point as they had returned to their beds!

We eventually left on Sunday morning at a more civilised hour in a newer, borrowed minibuss from a neighbouring Scout Group. The journey was good and we arrived at the campsite in Criccieth, set up camp, had a good meal prepared by Duncan, the Scout's campsite cook, and hunkered down for the night.

Our main aim for the week was to 'climb' Snowdon and spend a night wild camping, but as the weather forecast was generally poor for the week, and unusually, accurate, we changed our plans. (Apart from that, I've been up Snowdon 5 times and never been able to see my hand in front of my face, and selfishly, didn't want to repeat the experience...)

So we decided that our first venture into the hills was to conquer Devils Kitchen. On arrival at the car park at the base, signs were good. It wasn't raining which was a relief as I was wearing shorts. The Explorers on the other hand were more suitably attired.....

The walk starts at Llyn Ogwen, along a path around Llyn Idwal followed by a steep climb through the boulder field to the gorge of Devils



On the way up to Devils Kitchen

Kitchen. The walk was challenging in places, with spectacular scenery and waterfalls along the way. As we ascended, the weather became worse with the drizzle turning into horizontal rain at the summit. As the visibility was poor and conditions were deteriorating, I decided to turn back and descend along the same route. The Explorers displayed great teamwork as we came down; the conditions were very different from the climb. The waterfall that we had to cross had double the volume of water coming through it than on the way up, and they negotiated the crossing perfectly with the more confident ones helping the others. At arrival back at the minibus, I realised that the shorts were not the best idea....dripping from places that I hadn't dripped from since I was an infant.

Our other aim was a wild camp out in the hills. This was a two day expedition carrying full kit, setting up camp and surviving without any luxuries....

This started at Gelli-Lago and followed a path up to Bwlch Y Battel heading towards Cricht and then north eastwards to Llyn Biswail, the shores of which would be home for the night. The walk was steep in places, culminating in going over the ridge of Craig Llyn-Llagi. The views down the valley, looking across to Llynnau and Llyn Yr Arddu were spectacular in the evening sunset.

The Explorers pitched their tents and tucked into meatballs and rice cooked over lightweight stoves before an early night. Everyone slept well but the morning was very misty and windy, so



Views to remember

we decided to strike camp and move to lower ground for breakfast. This we did, and a light breakfast was enjoyed in a more sheltered position before returning to Gelli-Lago.

Happy to have reached home for the night at Llyn Biswail

For the Explorers, this was their first experience of wild camping. Having completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition, carrying full kit wasn't too much of an issue, although the terrain was vastly different. They enjoyed the experience of being entirely self sufficient in a remote, beautiful place without the distraction of modern day life. Having said that, they had the best mobile phone signal of the whole week....one even commenting that they had 4G...whatever that is.

As well as the hillwalking, the Explorers also enjoyed relaxing times; an afternoon in town at Criccieth and at Betws-Y-Coed, tobogganing at Conwy, Swimming near Aberystwyth and watching us cook a full English breakfast every morning.....

All in all, a great experience for them and for us as leaders. We watched and enjoyed their interaction with each other, their eagerness to learn and embrace new experiences, put into practice everything that they had learned for their Duke of Edinburgh Award, and above all, the way in which they looked out for each other on the hills in testing circumstances. They kept the accommodation and campsite neat and tidy at all times, and rarely grumbled at having to do chores. A real team at work.

As for the poor old chucklebus, it seems that its days are numbered.....so, we have decided that we will do a number of sponsored events, starting with the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge towards the middle of October. So when a leader, parent, Explorer or any other unbalanced individual approaches you with a sponsorship form, please give generously.

Simon & Denise



Happy to have reached home for the night at Llyn Biswail

<div>  1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group  </div>			
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 (16) 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:

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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	Janet Brindley	362037	Rainbows	Sophie Kelly	TBA
Carpet Bowls	Jacky Brown	899076	Brownies	Jane Davenport	899389
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Fyfield Art Group	Wendy Henshaw	899367	Explorer Scouts	Simon Mountly	07939 158980
Fyfield Focus	Cheryl Hadley	899840	St Nicholas' Church	Rev. Christine Hawkins	286113
Funtime Friday	TBA	TBA	Warden/Allotments	Marcus Dain	899590
Ongar & Villages			Warden	David Bessell	07886075889
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Pre-School	General No.	899678			
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