

December 2025/January 2026

# FYFIELD







# FOCUS



[fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home](https://fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home)

# Village Diary

Date	Time	What	Where
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	6.00pm	Christmas Tree lighting	Village shop
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5.00pm	Carol Service	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	3.00pm	Family Quiz	Village Hall
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30pm	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	Community Worship	St Nicholas' Church

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office						
Opening Times	Village Store	Post Office				
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday					7am to 5pm	10am to 5pm
Thursday					10am to 2pm	
Friday					10am to 5pm	
Saturday	8am to 4pm	10am to 12.30pm				
Sunday	8am to 12.30pm	Closed				
Christmas and New Year Opening Times		<b>The Post Office will be closed on 24 Dec and will not reopen until 12 Jan</b>				
Wednesday 24 Dec	8am to 5pm					
Thursday 25 Dec	Closed					
Friday 26 Dec	8am to 5pm					
Saturday 27 Dec	8am to 4pm					
Sunday 28 Dec	8am to 12.30pm					
Wednesday 31 Dec	8am to 4pm					
Thursday 1 Jan	8am to 4pm					
Tel: 01277 899201						

# Fyfield Parish Council News



If you see this in time we hope you can come to the annual Christmas Tree lighting. There will be carols and mince pies and The Queen's Head will be open for mulled wine etc.

The Parish Council have been advised to change our website and our email addresses;

for example: [cllrndanwebster@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrndanwebster@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk).

We will post the new addresses on the Fyfield and Moreton Grapevine when they are all up and running. It will probably take a while to transition from the current website. In the meantime, you can continue to contact any councillor using the details below.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the village litter pick on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The next Parish Council meetings will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

***Dan Webster***  
*Chair*

All Fyfield Parish Council news and minutes can be found on the Parish website <https://fyfieldpc.wixsite.com/fyfieldparishcouncil> and on the Noticeboard by the shop.

## Councillor Contact Details

Chair - Dan Webster	01277 899405	<a href="mailto:fpcwebsterd@gmail.com">fpcwebsterd@gmail.com</a>
or new email address	<a href="mailto:cllrndanwebster@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllrndanwebster@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
Vice Chair - Sandra Mead	01277 899519	<a href="mailto:fpcmead@gmail.com">fpcmead@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Michael Brawn	07510 377435	<a href="mailto:fpcbrawn@gmail.com">fpcbrawn@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Gaillies Codd	07982 909159	<a href="mailto:fpccodd@gmail.com">fpccodd@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Jeremy Goodson	07980 272555	<a href="mailto:fpcgoodson@gmail.com">fpcgoodson@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Tim Wadey	07778 270362	<a href="mailto:fpcwadey@gmail.com">fpcwadey@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Lizzie Webster	01277 899405	<a href="mailto:fpcwebsterl@gmail.com">fpcwebsterl@gmail.com</a>
Kim Hanley, Clerk		<a href="mailto:fyfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com">fyfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com</a>
or new email address	<a href="mailto:clerk@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	
Burial Ground		<a href="mailto:fpcburalground@gmail.com">fpcburalground@gmail.com</a>



## Change Chiropractic Limited

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Mobile: 07932977418

Website: [www.changechiropractic.co.uk](http://www.changechiropractic.co.uk)

Social Media include: Facebook,  
Instagram & LinkedIn

Hello Fyfield, my name is Chloe and I am your local Chiropractor. A little bit about me, my journey into chiropractic care began in January 2019, and since then, I have had the privilege of caring for a diverse range of people from all walks of life, helping them improve their everyday lives. My passion grows as I am a family focused clinic, specialising in paediatrics and pregnancy,



especially now a new Mum to my son and daughter both under 2 years old.

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## Christmas & New Year Discounts

Call or book online before 02.01.26

New Patient appointment now £20 (was £65) **CODE:** Crackin' Christmas 25

Care package (6 adjustments) now £180 (was £270) **CODE:** Yule feel better 25

# Village Hall

As the year draws to a close, we're delighted to share some wonderful news and recent happenings at Fyfield Village Hall.

First, a big milestone—our heating upgrade was completed at the beginning of October. This improvement included replacing two ageing hot water cylinders with a far more efficient unvented model, giving the hall a reliable supply of hot water. A full power flush was carried out, and an Evohome wireless system has now been installed to help us manage our heating more efficiently throughout the hall. These updates will make a real difference to comfort and running costs, especially during the colder months.

We've also enjoyed two very successful events recently.



Our Halloween Party on 31st October was a sell-out! Families turned up in fantastic spooky style, and the hall was decorated perfectly for the occasion. Children and adults alike enjoyed a Halloween-themed buffet, plenty of games, and lots of dancing at the disco. The atmosphere was buzzing, and we're excited to say we hope to make this an annual tradition.

Just a few days later, on 2nd November, we welcomed the return of *Paint & Plonk*. Sixteen ladies took part this time, each producing a charming painting of an Autumn Hedgehog. Trudy guided everyone step-by-step, providing all the materials needed to create their own masterpiece. The afternoon was relaxed, creative, and full of laughter, ending beautifully with a delicious afternoon tea. Following such a lovely response, we plan to run this event again next year.



Looking ahead, we're already preparing for our next gathering: the **Family Quiz** on **Sunday 21st December at 3 p.m.** Tickets are £15 per team and can be booked via our website: [fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk/events](http://fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk/events). It promises to be a fun, festive afternoon for all ages. The bar will be open, but please bring your own nibbles to enjoy during the quiz.

In the New Year, we're pleased to share that **Epping Forest District Council** will be holding a **Stay Safe and Well** event for older residents at the hall on **Wednesday 18th February**. This is a **free event**, offering information stands, health checks, and informative talks from specialist health advisors and the blue light services. A lunch will also be provided. It promises to be a valuable and enjoyable day—so please keep an eye out for posters nearer the time for full details.

Finally, from everyone at Fyfield Village Hall, we'd like to wish all residents a very **Happy Christmas** and a happy, healthy **New Year**. We look forward to welcoming you to many more events in 2026!

*Penny Ovel*



## Foodbank Christmas Appeal



As a community, we have continued to provide help to those who are struggling feeding their families. It would be lovely to be able to provide some Christmas cheer alongside the essentials. If you can donate items such as Christmas puddings and cake, stuffing mix, Christmas biscuits and any Christmas related food within date, the foodbank will make sure this is distributed.

**Deadline for Christmas is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the Fyfield Village Shop**

Special thanks go to all in the Village Shop for organising the collection ready for us to transport to the foodbank warehouse.

Margaret Dines and Margaret Cox

*“My New Year resolution is to jog more. Does running late count?”*

## District Matters

Dear reader, as Christmas will soon be on us some of you might be thinking about going down to the new Epping Leisure Centre to lose a few pounds and get fit. The leisure centre was due to be opened in November and in fact it was ready. However, unfortunately there was a problem. An unstable area in the road outside the entrance to the leisure centre is now preventing any access until roadworks have been completed and this problem remedied. That means the leisure centre will now not be open until January 2026. Not long to wait but very frustrating if you're a fitness fan.

EFDC has lost its High Court battle to stop use of the Bell Hotel for asylum seeker accommodation. The Council will reflect on next steps after the High Court refused its application for a final injunction to stop the use of the Bell Hotel in Epping for asylum seeker accommodation.

And the good news! - Three more weeks to go and the days start getting longer. Spring is getting closer.

Stay safe and look after yourself. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you would like more information about EFDC please visit [Eppingforestdc@gov.uk](mailto:Eppingforestdc@gov.uk).

*Ian Hadley*

Cllr. Ian Hadley – 07765 882001 – [Cllr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Cllr. Ray Balcombe – 07774 973611 – [Cllr.rbalcombe@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.rbalcombe@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Cllr. Richard Morgan – 01279731243 – [Cllr.rmorgan@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.rmorgan@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)



## Luncheon Club

Our wonderful Christmas luncheon club will be on Saturday 13th December and we are so looking forward to welcoming everyone. There is still time to let us know if you would like to join us. Please book by ringing Sandra on 01277899519.

It just remains for me and all the volunteers to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



*Jan Hall*

## The Rodings & Ongar u3a

**A world of new experiences is open to you at Rodings and Ongar u3a so what's stopping you?**

The u3a gives you 'Active Retirement' opportunities to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun. There are more than 1,000 local u3as in the UK with members right here in Rodings and Ongar, making the most of life in retirement by continuing their creative, educational and social interest in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere.

Join us at a general meeting, usually the 1st Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm in Fyfield Village Hall. From walking to talking, ukulele to badminton to pool, or start a group to share your interest - with support - the choice is endless - and the decision about what to do is made by the members for the members.

**Meetings start at 2pm**, coffee and biscuits are served before the talk. Come along, you will be given a warm welcome.

Members will be enjoying their Christmas get together on the 2nd December. No meeting in January but we commence our meetings on the 3rd February. 01277 362260

[U3asites.org.uk/rodings-ongar/welcome](http://U3asites.org.uk/rodings-ongar/welcome)

Reg. Charity 1146315



### WD 50+

Exercise club for ladies and gentlemen of all ages, held in Fyfield Village Hall, postcode CM5 0RG on Fridays. Please arrive at 11.30am to start promptly at 11.45am for one hour.

Contact Liz Bird on 01277 899324 for more information.



*"My resolution is to not make any resolutions. So far, so good."*



*Peace on the Earth and  
Goodwill to All Men*



**St Nicholas Church, Fyfield**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**

*You are warmly invited to*

**A Candlelit Carol Service  
of  
Nine Lessons and Carols**



*Featuring*

**The Benefice Choir  
and**

**Mince Pies and Mulled Wine**





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## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

## *Further extracts from the Fyfield WI 1975 archive:*

### Observations

Early in the year, fieldfares and redwings flocked together in Higher Marsh, but in the spring, a fall of snow and high winds finally dislodged one of the many elm trees on the river bank – this along with others, had to be felled because of the elm disease which is now country wide.

However, the house-martins returned on April 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by the swallows and the cuckoo greeted us with his call on April 27<sup>th</sup>.



An increased number of ring-doves has been observed this year and, after a beautiful summer, the abundance of luscious blackberries has fortified the blackbirds for the winter.

After a cold, wet spring which delayed sowing and planting, and late frosts which damaged fruit blossom, the summer of 1975 was one of the hottest and driest on record.

One consequence of this was an unusually large number of ladybirds whose presence was welcomed by the gardeners for their help in controlling the green fly. Sadly, the variety of butterflies was much reduced this year.



**SUBJECT: The Office Party FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director TO: Everyone RE: Christmas Party DATE: December 1**

I'm happy to inform you that the company Christmas Party will take place on December 23, starting at noon in the banquet room at Luigi's Open Pit Barbecue. No-host bar, but plenty of eggnog! We'll have a small band playing traditional carols...feel free to sing along, and don't be surprised if our CEO shows up dressed as Santa Claus!

---

FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director DATE: December 2 RE: Christmas Party

In no way was yesterday's memo intended to exclude our Jewish employees. We recognize that Hanukkah is an important holiday which often coincides with Christmas, though unfortunately not this year. However, from now on we're calling it our 'Holiday Party.' The same policy applies to employees who are celebrating Kwanzaa at this time. Happy now?

---

FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director DATE: December 3 RE: Holiday Party

Regarding the note I received from a member of Alcoholics Anonymous requesting a non-drinking table ... you didn't sign your name. I'm happy to accommodate this request, but if I put a sign on a table that reads 'AA Only' you wouldn't be anonymous anymore. How am I supposed to handle this? Somebody?

---

FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director DATE: December 7 RE: Holiday Party

What a diverse company we are! I had no idea that December 2 begins the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which forbids eating, drinking and sex during daylight hours. There goes the party! Seriously, we can appreciate how a luncheon this time of year does not accommodate our Muslim employees' beliefs. Perhaps Luigi's can hold off on serving your meal until the end of the party – the days are so short this time of year – or else package everything for take-home in little foil swans. Will that work? Meanwhile, I've arranged for members of Overeaters Anonymous to sit farthest from the dessert buffet and pregnant women will get the table closest to the restrooms. Did I miss anything?

---

FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director DATE: December 8 RE: Holiday Party

So, December 22 marks the Winter Solstice...what do you expect me to do, a tap-dance on your heads? Fire regulations at Luigi's prohibit the burning of sage by our 'earth-based Goddess-worshipping' employees, but we'll try to accommodate your shamanic drumming circle during the band's breaks. Okay???

---

FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director Date: December 9 RE: Holiday Party

People, people, nothing sinister was intended by having our CEO dress up like Santa Claus! Even if the anagram of 'Santa' does happen to be 'Satan,' there is no evil connotation to our own 'little man in a red suit.' It's a tradition, folks, like sugar shock at Halloween or family feuds over the Thanksgiving turkey or broken hearts on Valentine's Day. Could we lighten up?

---

FROM: Pat Lewis, Human Resources Director DATE: December 10 RE: Holiday Party

Vegetarians!?!?! I've had it with you people!!! We're going to keep this party at Luigi's Open Pit Barbecue whether you like it or not, so you can sit quietly at the table furthest from the 'grill of death,' as you so quaintly put it, and you'll get your freaking salad bar, including hydroponic tomatoes. But you know, they have feelings too. Tomatoes scream when you slice them. I've heard them scream. I'm hearing them scream right now!

---

FROM: Teri Bishops, Acting Human Resources Director DATE: December 14 RE: Pat Lewis and Holiday Party

I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing Pat Lewis a speedy recovery from her stress-related illness and I'll continue to forward your cards to her at the sanatorium.

In the meantime, management has decided to cancel our Holiday Party and give everyone the afternoon of the 23rd off with full pay.

We hope that this change does not offend anyone.

Merry Christmas everyone.



# Puzzle Page

## Christmas Wordsearch

### Words to include:

Santa, presents, Joseph, ivy, family, cards, snowman, garland, tree, stable, turkey, donkey, holly, wisemen, Rudolph, baby Jesus, baubles, stocking, tinsel, pudding, Mary, star, carols, lights, bread sauce, shepherds, mince pies, poinsettia



K S C P R J D V N C S R X B S H O L L Y  
Z H E U V C W K G A I T T E S N I O P S  
W O S T N E S E R P D W O I S H Q Y P L  
Z E O R N A M W O N S N Y C X L P S P C  
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R A F S Y S P V N L D U L L C I J R H C  
M X P U A Z D S E L B U A B R L N S A Y  
I S B H P U E R G R V W K O V A P G G C  
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C S Z V Q F T M J C L P L O U Z U E S I  
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P J B S G A J E E L T P Z F M C B N S U  
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E B L T S B N E C C W A R I T B F T L O  
S A A E O L Z S L V W J T K B A S Z Q L  
R B P R C H I I M P K L L S E Y R L F P  
R H Y Q Q A L W H R T M T V C Y K A E H  
A O G J P M S H E P H E R D S X I E K W  
M E G Y V G N I D D U P Y V T Y R A M N  
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## Dr Walker's School

It is hard to believe that we are already in the run up to Christmas with so much to report and much still to happen before the Christmas break.



So far this term the whole school has taken part in a Diwali Day with workshops to perform dance, create a Diwali lantern and a tree of wishes; we celebrated Black History Month with the theme of *Standing Firm in Power and Pride*; for Anti-bullying week everyone wore odd socks and Early Years and Year 1 travelled to Margaretting school for a 'People who Help Us' day. They met firefighters, a vet and police officers and had a chance to try on some of the equipment (including handcuffs!) and stroke a guinea pig.

In September there were fund raising days to support Air Ambulance where the children decorated heart shaped biscuits and took part in the daily mile; closely followed by Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning, with a cupcake decorating competition. £70 was raised for the Air Ambulance and £55.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

In October, we joined thousands of individuals, schools and communities across the country on World Mental Health Day to raise money and show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. The school was turned yellow for "Hello Yellow" Day in order to raise awareness of the issues.

Harvest Festival in St Nicholas' Church saw children and families/carers joining together to give thanks through their Harvest songs, poems and prayers. An impressive Harvest table of donated food items was sent to Harlow Food Bank.

A Remembrance Collective Worship was held on 11/11 and each class held a 2-minute silence at 11am in honour of those who fell in the two world wars. The children were all, without exception, respectful of the meaning of the silence and why the day is marked.



Each child also made a poppy out of old plastic bottle bottoms and these were incorporated into a wreath to display on the front gate. On the same day, a very successful open morning was held with a large number of prospective parents for the September 2026 intake visiting the school to see us in action.

Year 5 children were presented with a wonderful opportunity to apply for the position of a LIFE

Ambassador. They will focus on the principle of 'Ubuntu' - 'I am what I am, because of who we all are' and will represent Dr Walker's along with Ambassadors from the other LIFE Primary Schools. Well done to Eva and Hugo for their successful applications.

Year 5 and 6 had a very exciting and hands-on Viking Day at Cressing Temple Barns where they took part in archery, making a never-ending beast design and putting their own design onto a lozenge, handling Viking artefacts and learning how they were made and finally taking part in a Viking Thing. Viking societies were governed by local assemblies called Things where laws were made and punishments decided on if laws were broken. The children were able to act out scenarios and ultimately banish wrongdoers if their crime warranted it!

Year 1 and 2 have been learning about The Great Fire of London and had a Fire of London Day where they re-told and acted out the story, based on Pepys diary, made art installations using stand-up wooden landmarks of London, made code wheels to crack secret writing and had a science session which involved burning and fire experiments to understand what three elements are needed to create a fire and to extinguish it. Rest assured that the fire was very controlled and was in a wok-sized fireproof pan!

As you can see, it has been a very busy couple of months! And, there is still more to come in the run-up to Christmas; Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, Carols in the church, whole school visit to the pantomime, nativity performance and KS2 Christmas production – we will be ready for a break by the end of the term!

The staff and pupils would like to take this opportunity to wish our friends and neighbours in the community a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

*The staff and pupils at Dr Walker's School*

*"I decided to take up running... mostly from my responsibilities!"*

## Pre-School

Children at Fyfield Village Pre-School have been busy decorating and baking to mark special occasions.



For Remembrance Day, they learned about Poppy Day in a gentle, age-appropriate way, talking about how poppies help us remember and say thank you to the brave people who help keep us safe.

The children enjoyed making rice tea biscuits with red icing and chocolate buttons to look like poppies.

Halloween was marked with pumpkin exploding experiments, stencilling, and drawing.



While for Bonfire Night, the children were excited to make fire-themed cupcakes! Using red, yellow, and orange icing, they carefully piped bright “flames” to create a fiery effect, then added matchstick chocolates for the logs.

To find out more about the pre-school based in the scout hut visit [www.folpre-schools.com](http://www.folpre-schools.com)

# Remembrance Service at St Nicholas' Church

## 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton and Fyfield Scouts

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 1917, Private Henry Blowes died of his injuries sustained in Ypres at Leicestershire Hospital. This year, 7<sup>th</sup> November fell on a Friday and to honour the brave servicemen of World War One, 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton and Fyfield Scouts decided to research in to the life of Henry Blowes.

We learned that he lived at Clatterford End, his brother, James and his cousin Bertie also fought in the war and both lost their lives too. We found out the regiment he served with and some of the battles he was involved in. The Scouts decorated stones to commemorate the lives of the brave men from Fyfield who gave their lives during the Great War and laid them at the grave of Henry at the Remembrance Service at St Nicholas Church on Sunday.

*Dennis Sweeting*



# 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit



All sections of Guiding and Scouting joined together to march with their flags from the Scout HQ to the church. A big thank you to all who attended, including our Squirrel who attended at Willingale church.



The Beavers will pay their annual visit to the church with food parcels for the Food Bank.

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs will be visiting Skreens park for an Elf hunt.

Scouts have taken part in a district swimming gala, and will be going on a night hike, with a sleepover at the Scout HQ.

**Sandra Mead**

*Group Scout Leader volunteer*

*1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group*

*Tel: 01277899519 Email: [gemkia@aol.com](mailto:gemkia@aol.com)*



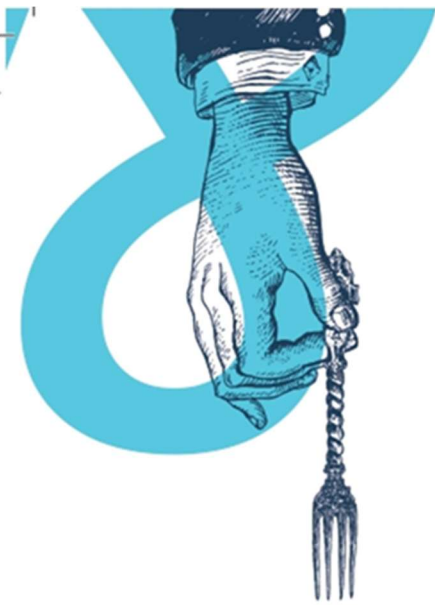
## 1<sup>st</sup> Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group



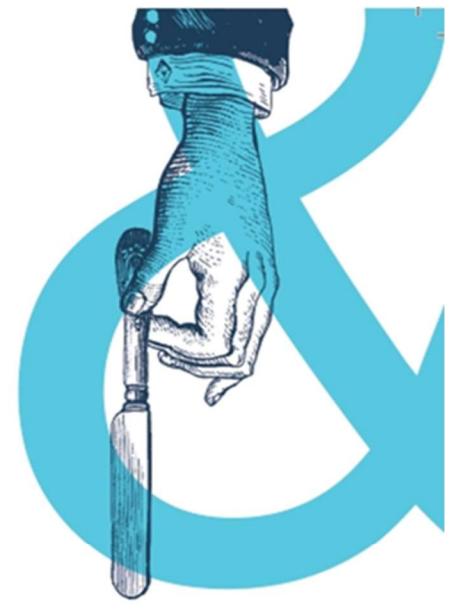
Squirrels	Tuesday	4.45-5.45pm	4 - 6 years
Beaver Scouts	Tuesday	6.00-7.15pm	6 – 8 years
Cub Scouts	Thursday	7.00-8.30pm	8 – 10½ years
Scouts	Friday	7.30-9.30pm	10 – 14 years
Explorer Scouts	Tuesday	7.30-9.30pm	14 – 18 years

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

For details contact Sandra Mead on 01277 899519 [gemkia@aol.com](mailto:gemkia@aol.com)



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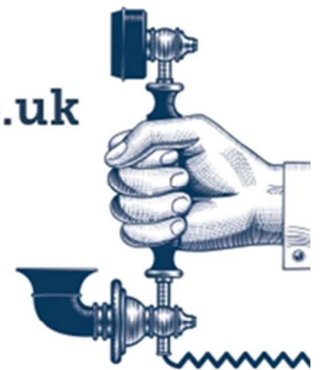
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# St Nicholas' Church

Once again, our thoughts turn to all things Christmas and if you're anything like me you're thinking 'surely it can't be a whole year since it was last Christmas' and 'how can I manage to stay calmer throughout this season than I seem to have managed last year?'

For me, a focus on the reason why Christmas exists significantly helps.....

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah talks about the coming of the baby Jesus and who he really is. He is called the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. It strikes me as amazing that we can have a personal relationship with the Wonderful Counsellor, who can guide, encourage and comfort us each day. With Mighty God who has the power to strengthen us and change us. With the Everlasting Father who is always there, no matter what or when to support us and be a refuge for us. With the Prince of Peace who can enable us to know peace, joy and hope amidst all of life's struggles.

We're looking forward to our Carol Service in Fyfield Church at 5pm on Sunday 14th December. Do come and join us with all of the family to take a moment to focus on the reason for the season and to enjoy some carols and refreshments together and I pray that you will know Jesus; the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace not only throughout this Christmas time, but on into all that next year holds.

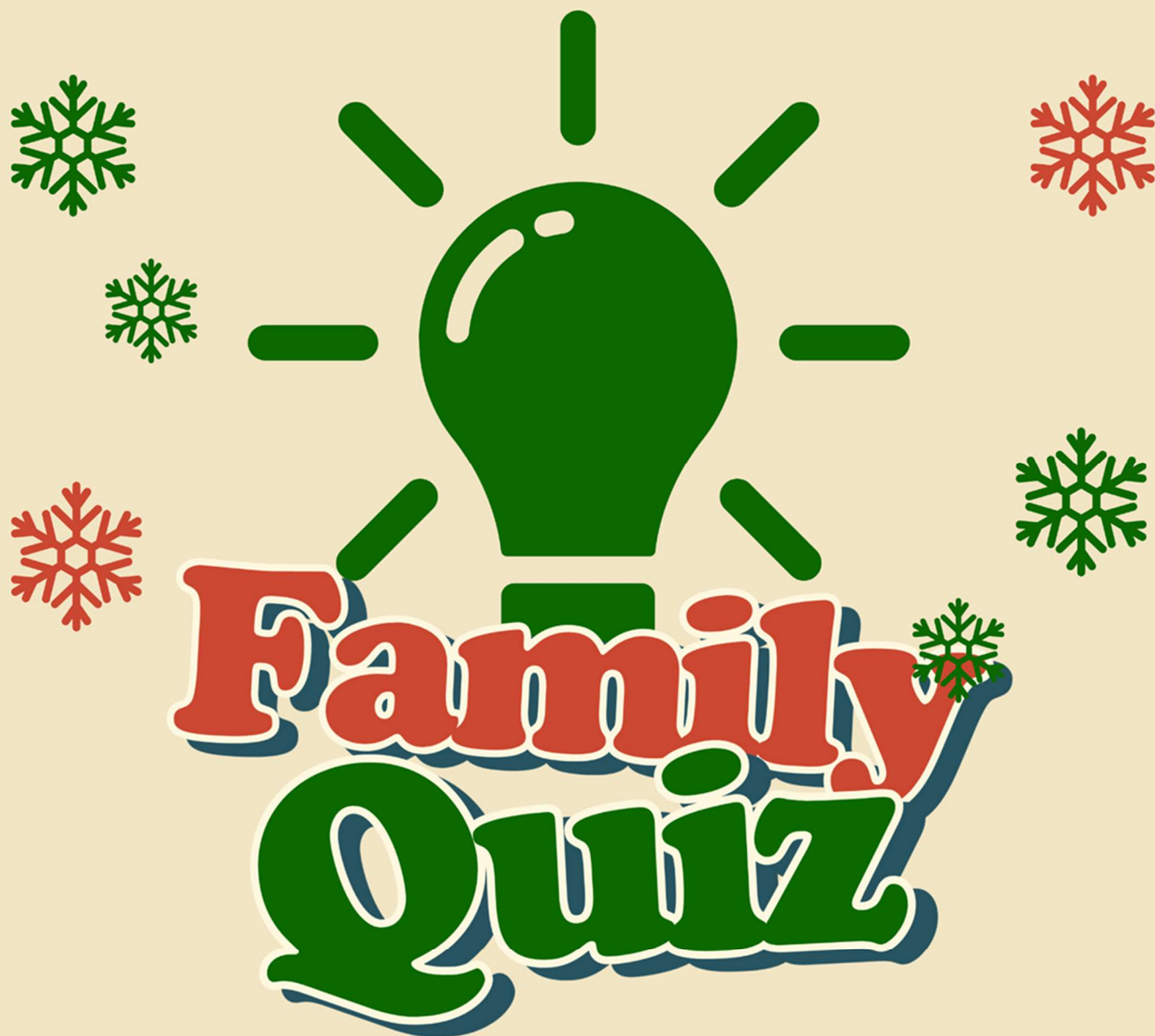


***Ali Burton***  
Church Warden

## Church services :

7 <sup>th</sup>	December	10am	Family Communion	Bobbingworth
14 <sup>th</sup>	December	5pm	Carol Service	St Nicolas Fyfield
21 <sup>st</sup>	December	10am	Holy Communion	Fyfield
21 <sup>st</sup>	December	5pm	Carol Service (collection to CRISIS)	Moreton
24 <sup>th</sup>	December	4pm	Crib Service	Bobbingworth
28 <sup>th</sup>	December	10am	Family Communion	Moreton
4 <sup>th</sup>	January	10am	Family Communion	Bobbingworth
11 <sup>th</sup>	January	10.30am	Holy Communion	Fyfield
18 <sup>th</sup>	January	10.30am	Community Worship	Fyfield
25 <sup>th</sup>	January	10am	Family Communion	Moreton

Light refreshments are served following these services, do come, you will be made very welcome.



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## Hello from the Rock!

After 44 years in Fyfield, it was a wrench to say goodbye to many friends and acquaintances in the village to begin life in Alderney.



I would like to thank Sally and Margaret for organising an event in the church that enabled me to see a good number of people in a lovely setting, with entertainment from the handbell team too.

My move happened in record time (according to the estate agents they hadn't made a sale so quickly for many years), but that meant I didn't get to say goodbye to everyone I would have liked to. I expect to be back in Essex from time to time, so hopefully I'll see you again.

I hope you will welcome Penny, the new owner of Wheel Cottage, to Fyfield and show her what a great community it is.

I have a spare double bedroom and bathroom which will be up to scratch by the warm weather, so free accommodation for anyone venturing this far.

With thanks to you all for your friendship and kindness over the years.

*Pat and Sven*

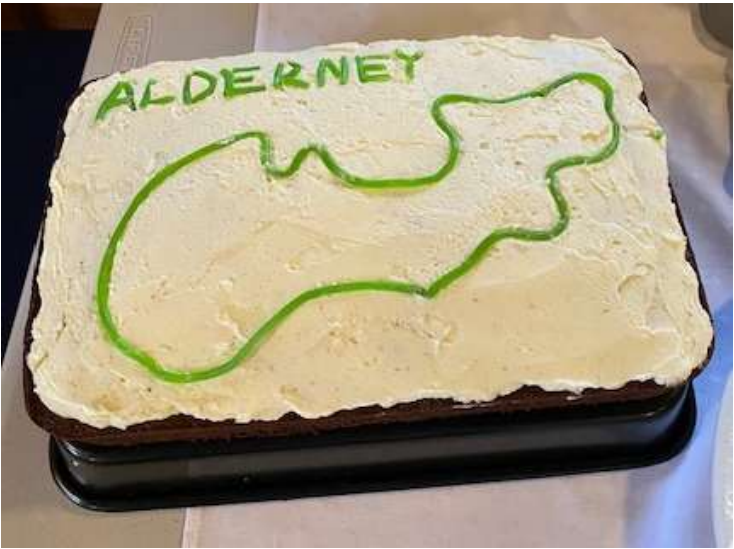
## Au Revoir Pat and Sven

We are sad yet happy for Pat in equal measure that our dear friend alongside her trusty dog Sven have departed these shores to live on Alderney. (How many of you had to check where it was in relation to Jersey?) With sons in Rhode Island and Alderney, it makes perfect sense for her to embark on this new adventure.

Pat was a handbell ringer, a ukulele player, a u3a member, a bookclub member and a generally good egg. Therefore, we are sure that she will soon integrate quickly into her new community.

We'll miss her but here are some happy memories.





# Mary Wilkinson

*6<sup>th</sup> March 1933 – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

*It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of dear Mary and our thoughts are with Roy and her friends and family. Below are extracts from the tribute read at her funeral by David Fowler, the Funeral Minister, who conducted the service.*



Mary was born on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1933 in Fyfield to parents Jessie and Robert Brittain, and was the eldest of seven children. She lived in the Fyfield area all her life but had to relocate with the family during the Second World War as the runway of the newly built Willingale Airfield took up their garden!

Mary left school a few weeks early to help her mother look after the family after the birth of the youngest child. Subsequently, she worked as a housekeeper for a few years before going on to work in the village shop where she stayed for over fifty years, joined by her sister Dod. It was then a general store, selling everything from shotgun cartridges to wellington boots, and clothing to food and general household items. Many people have fond memories of Mary serving them, especially those who as young children would call in on their way home from school.

As a young woman, Mary used to help provide teas for Fyfield football team. One day, Roy Wilkinson, a recently signed player who had previously played for Abbess Roding, met Mary after the game. Love blossomed and the happy



couple married in February 1963 at St Nicholas Church. They moved into Westholm, a bungalow at Norwood End and have been there ever since.

In the summer Mary became part of the team providing cricket teas for Fyfield's home matches – she made wonderful cakes and apple pies - and it was here that she first met Penny and Paul Ovel who became good friends to Mary and Roy and have been a great support in recent times.

In addition to working in the village shop, Mary also helped out on the farm – planting potatoes, feeding Roy as he drove the tractor and providing refreshments to those attending shooting parties on

the farm. She was kind and helpful and a good organiser, with her in charge, everything fell into place.

Mary and Roy enjoyed their holidays which were always in the UK. Pontins at Hemsby on the Norfolk coast being the favourite destination.

In later years the Village Hall became the centre of her social life. Mary helped with the refreshments for Bingo and played carpet bowls. She enjoyed all the events here and she loved a dance. We will hear her favourite dance track (*The Birdie Song by the Tweets*) at the end of this service. When it played, she would jump up out of her seat insisting that everyone joined her on the dance floor!

Mary had enjoyed her life and had been active until quite recently when she suffered a fall and damaged her hip which affected her mobility, but she did her best to carry on with life until she had an accident when she hit her head and was taken to the Princess Alexandra Hospital where she stayed until she passed away.

So we are here today to celebrate her long life. We are shortly going to say our farewells to Mary and entrust her into God's keeping; but as we do so, please hold on to your good memories of Mary and think of the special and precious times you shared with her.

## **A Tribute to Mary Wilkinson**

I first met Mary in 1976, when Paul, my boyfriend at the time, began playing cricket for Fyfield. I was shy back then and would sit in the car while the game went on. It was Mary who came over and gently persuaded me to join her and the other ladies. That simple kindness set the course for a long and treasured friendship.

Mary was at the heart of those cricket afternoons, always busy with the teas, and as time went on, I joined her in helping. Paul became close friends with her husband Roy, and soon the four of us shared many happy times together. Paul would often help Roy on the farm, and I would spend those hours with Mary, who always welcomed us with warmth and delicious dinners.

Mary played an important role in my life. When Paul and I were offered the chance to rent Tannerwhites in Norwood End, she was by my side with advice and encouragement. She even helped with the plans for our wedding in the village hall. I'll never forget arriving from the church to see flowers beautifully arranged on the tables - something I had forgotten completely - but, of course, Mary had quietly taken care of it. That was who she was: thoughtful, reliable, and always thinking of others.

There are so many memories, but one in particular makes me smile even now. One Saturday, while Paul and Roy had gone to Lords to watch cricket, I picked Mary up to go and prepare the cricket teas. As we were chatting away, I misjudged a gateway while turning the car, and suddenly we were looking at the sky, the car teetering on a bank with a pond below. Mary, with her typical directness, shouted, 'You're in the ditch!' We both managed to climb out safely, and with the help of a kind neighbour and a tractor, the car was rescued. In true Mary fashion, she stayed calm and good-humoured throughout - a steady presence even in unexpected moments.

Mary was more than a friend - she was family in every way that mattered. She gave so much of herself to others with kindness, generosity, and quiet strength. I will always treasure the laughter, the meals shared, the gentle guidance, and the countless small gestures of love she gave so freely.

Mary will be deeply missed, but the memories of her warmth and friendship will live in my heart forever

*Penny Ovel*



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# My friend Dennis Bird

Many of you would have met Dennis Bird, a distinctive man with his white hair and always accompanied by his beautiful white Samoyed dog called Seb. He was always up for a chat and had so many stories to tell.

Dennis was born and bred in Fyfield, he was 89 years old when he passed away on 19th July.

Dennis went to Fyfield Primary School and then Ongar Secondary.



He learnt to swim in the river! He had four brothers including Ken who some of you may know.

After his beloved dog, Seb, passed away we continued to walk together only now accompanied by my dog Lenny. I'd call him and we'd meet up somewhere and off we would go.

He loved his garden and would often bring me some tomatoes or other vegetables that he had grown.

Sometimes he would bring his wife Mary down to my house in her wheelchair and we would have some tea and they would both enjoy fussing Lenny. Dennis met Mary when doing his paper round!

He used to tell stories (lots of them), he told me about being given his first ever banana by an American at the Willingale airfield during the war. He had never seen one before! He would cycle to the airbase with some mates trying to scrounge chocolate off his American friends and it sounded like they succeeded most of the time.

He would always point out where he lived when we went on one particular walk in Norwood End.

Unfortunately, our walks ceased about 3 years ago when he started to get ill. We tried to go and see him as often as possible, I'm sure both Dennis and Mary enjoyed fussing Lenny and feeding him treats!

Dennis was a humble, lovely man. He had time for everybody, was gentle, loved his wife, his daughter and son. He was just a great Fyfield man, a gentleman and one that will be missed by many.

RIP Dennis

*Barry Nevill*

## Fyfield Ramblers

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> January**

10:00am from the Village Hall

Our walks are usually 4 – 5 miles through our beautiful countryside. Everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs.



## Coffee Mornings at St Nicholas' Church

We are delighted to be able to invite everyone to our Coffee Mornings, which take place on the **first Tuesday** of each month from **10am** till **12pm**:

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** – none in January

Do please join us for delicious cake and coffee, and the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones!



*Carol, Trish and Pam*

## Mobile Library

The Essex library visits Fyfield every three weeks on a **Monday** morning from the new time of 9.30 to 10:00am in Queen Street. It parks just down from the back entrance to the school/playground. Did you know you can order books, magazines and more? And you can access lots digitally too.

See <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk> for updates

**Next Dates -**

**15<sup>th</sup> December,  
5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January**

Come along to the Santa Bus on 12<sup>th</sup> December between midday and 4pm

in Victoria Road, Ongar

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/the-santa-bus-is-back/>



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11:30 - 14:30 (Food Served 12-2pm) We are <b>closed</b> on Tuesday lunchtimes	12pm - 20:30 (Food Served 12pm - 19:30)
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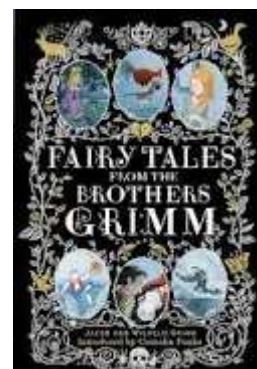
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## Page Turners

### **Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm** by Philip Pullman.

Reading this month's book gave me quite a few surprises. Number one, the Brothers Grimm didn't actually write the stories at all - they were actually part of a rich oral tradition passed down the generations. Number two, they originally included sex, violence and incest. Number three, the brothers weren't the rosy-cheeked favourite grandad figures I had always imagined, but serious scholars who felt compelled to write down and publish these tales, lest they disappeared.



Philip Pullman is one of the leading authors of our time, famous for his fantasy world style of writing, his book *His Dark Materials* being so well known and loved by so many. He decided to take 50 of the Grimm Fairytales and tweak them with his own touch. The tales are, of course, fairy tales, set in a fantasy setting but always with a strong message, very much Pullman's world. For me personally, his tweaking of the tales didn't enrich the original writing, but there you are!

Researching Philip Pullman was very interesting - learning about an author's background really enhances the enjoyment of their books. And on a lighter note to end on, I discovered that back in 2017, his shed/study made it to the shortlist for Cuprinol Shed of the Year. Just imagine all those fantastic stories being created within those four walls!

*Jenny Stone*

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# Catholic Parish of St Helen, Ongar & St Margaret of Scotland, Doddinghurst

The leaves have fallen from the trees, the nights have drawn in and the clocks have gone back. We're now in the countdown to Santa suiting up and preparing to squeeze down chimneys across the country. We have chosen who will get our Christmas food order and moaned about the reduced size of our favourite Christmas chocolates - the same size box for increased money but less volume. Nothing quite says the festive season is upon us like the John Lewis Christmas Advert or the adventures of Aldi's Kevin the Carrot and the dates are out for the iconic Coca-Cola Trucks. Ninety seven percent of the world has heard of Coca-Cola. Seventy two percent of the world has seen a can of Coca-Cola. Fifty one percent has tasted a can of Coca-Cola. Their stated purpose is: 'To 'Refresh the World and Make a Positive Difference'.

For us in the Christian Church this period leading up to Christmas, which begins from the Sunday nearest the 30th November, is called Advent. Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas and celebrating Jesus's arrival. It involves spiritual reflection, to make one's heart ready for Christ, prayer and penance with two main purposes: preparing for Christ's First Coming (birth) and looking forward to His Second Coming at the end of time. The season uses themes of hope, peace, joy and love and is symbolized by traditions like the Advent Wreath, which progressively lights candles to represent the growing light of Christ, and nativity scenes to reflect that God sent his only Son to the world in the form of a baby born in a stable. So, Advent reminds Christians of the sacred meaning of Christmas.

However, next time you drink a can of Coca-Cola remember their stated purpose is to refresh the world and make a positive difference. Have they done that? Well, they certainly have had an impact. Reflect on the fact that if God had given the task of world evangelization to the Coke company it would probably be done by now!!!!!!

Wishing you all hope, peace and joy throughout this Christmas period and beyond.

*Lesley Denton*

**St Helen's**, 87 High Street, Ongar CM5 9DX

**St Margaret of Scotland**, Doddinghurst Road, CM15 0QJ

**Parochial Administrator:** Fr Frank Westcott.

Please contact the Parish office 01277 362645 for Information on Baptism, Funerals and Wedding Services. All information can be found on our website, [www.catholic-parish-ongar.org.uk](http://www.catholic-parish-ongar.org.uk) email: [ongar@brcdt.or](mailto:ongar@brcdt.or)

### Services and Information

St. Helen's 9am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
St. Helen's 9am Friday followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
St Helen's 4.30 – 5.15pm Saturday, Sacrament of reconciliation (Confession)  
St. Helens 5.30pm Saturday  
St. Helen's 8.45am – Sunday (tea and coffee served after Mass)  
St. Margaret's 10.30am – Sunday (tea and coffee served after Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on request after this mass)

### Activities in the parish

Doddy Drop-in, 2-4pm on the second Tuesday of each month at St Margaret's Hall. All are welcome for a cup of tea, coffee, chat, cards, scrabble.

**New to our parish.** Please pop in and say hello to Fr Frank and fill in a Register/Census Form available in the Church Porch.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

### WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC – Christmas Eve

5.30pm	Children of the Parish	St. Margaret's
9.30pm	Carols	St. Margaret's
10pm	Christmas Midnight Mass	St. Margaret's

### THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Feast of the Nativity

8.45am	St. Helen's
10.30am	St. Margaret's

### FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Feast of St. Stephen

9.am	St. Helen's
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### SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5.30pm	Vigil Mass, St. Helen's

### SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

8.45am	St. Helen's
10.30am	St. Margaret's



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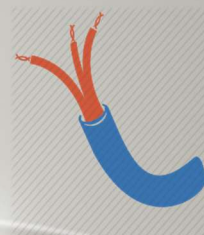


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# Ongar Nature Watch

## Fungi

This is the time of year when our larger fungi can be seen in fields, woodlands and gardens. Some, like mushrooms, toadstools and puff balls grow on the ground while others, such as bracket fungi, are found on trees.



There are many different kinds of fungi, from toadstools to microscopic yeasts, but all have one thing in common – they lack the green pigment found in other plants and so cannot use sunlight energy to make food from carbon dioxide in the air. Instead, they absorb nutrients from the items on which they grow.

The parts of the toadstools that we see are only a small part of the organism. They are the fruiting bodies, roughly equivalent to the flowers of green plants. The top of the fungus is called the cap and inside are gills, producing millions of tiny spores which are blown about by the wind. If a spore lands in a suitable place it grows and sends out minute tubes, which form a mass of fine threads, called the mycelium. Only when it is well established will it grow the familiar fruiting bodies and produce more spores.

There are many interesting and attractive fungi living in our countryside. The Sulphur Tuft is named for its bright sulphur-yellow caps and gills. It grows on tree stumps and the dead wood of trees and, unlike most fungi, can be seen all year round. Although pretty, the Sulphur Tuft fungus is poisonous, so beware.

Puffballs also grow on rotting wood and the globular fruiting bodies are borne at the ends of long stems. The spores develop inside the fruiting bodies and every time a raindrop strikes them, a puff of spores is released into the air, which explains the name “puffball”.

It looks so beautiful and attractive in children’s stories with a fairy using it as a stool, but the red and white Fly Agaric, pictured above, is extremely poisonous and, although seldom fatal, if eaten it may cause sickness, diarrhoea, hallucinations, convulsions and coma.

Fungi play an important role in our environment, as recyclers, decomposing dead organisms and returning the resulting nutrients to the soil for plants to reuse. They also provide us with many other benefits in the form of food, anti-

biotic drugs, and in the making of bread, cheese, yoghurt and alcohol. However, they are not always beneficial as fungal infections can lead to a wide variety of diseases in people, animals, and crop plants, and fungal attacks can destroy timber in buildings. Remember that many fungi are poisonous and, unless you are absolutely certain that it is harmless and edible, just look and admire.

***Keith Snow***

## **Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)**

With climate change, wildlife is being affected significantly. In order to follow the effects this has on animals and plants we rely on scientists with in-depth knowledge of our fauna and flora to keep us informed of the changing situation. A way to keep updated is to converse with local experts.



Ongar Wildlife Society has access to such experts and invites them to talk to members where questions can be asked and discussions held. Sessions take the form of afternoon illustrated talks. In December OWLS is holding the annual Christmas party for members so the next talk will be after the Christmas break and will be announced in due course. Visitors pay just £5 to hear a talk but you can become a member for an annual fee of only £25, covering all of the monthly meetings.

To help you locate our venue, Toot Hill Village Hall, the address is 2 Toot Hill Road and the postcode is CM5 9LR

OWLS has a website and future talks and the latest news will appear there. Please visit *ongarwildlifesociety.com*

***Keith Snow***

## **Probus Club**



Probus meets at lunchtime on the third Wednesday of the month at the Hunters Meet Hotel and Restaurant in Hatfield Heath (CM20 7BQ). Members gather for a three-course meal from a wide choice together with drinks from the bar. They enjoy conversation with like-minded friends and the opportunity to listen to an entertaining speaker. Recent speakers have given talks on *Marconi and Radio*, *Owl Rescue* and *Natural Selection*.

We have recently become a ladies' and a men's club and the ladies are thoroughly enjoying the meetings, especially the lunches. So ladies, if you would like a lovely lunch once a month, meet new friends and hear a short talk by a speaker, then please join us. That goes for men too, of course.

The next meeting is on 12th December when we are having Christmas lunch for members and their guests.

If you are interested in joining Probus, please contact me for further details.

**Keith Snow**  
Secretary 366791

**Budworth Hall Ongar** Doors open at 7.00pm  
Concert starts at 8.00pm. £15 per person.

Refreshments are available from 7pm plus hot drinks, and the bar will also be open for drinks.



**Come along, you will have a great time**

Tickets and further information at [www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk](http://www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk)

**Our next concert will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. TJ Johnson** is one of the UK's most highly most charismatic and acclaimed Jazz and Blues entertainers. Backed by his group of top London-based musicians, **TJ** plays an extraordinary blend of music that transcends the boundaries of jazz, blues, soul, country and gospel and is influenced by some of the greats such as Ray Charles, Dr John, Louis Armstrong, Johnny Cash, BB King, Nina Simone, Alberta Hunter, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Witherspoon and many more. His distinctive voice and unique personal stage manner always bring both the band and the audience together to create an intimate yet exciting atmosphere that is rarely equalled.

## THE LAVERS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Lavers & District Horticultural Society members will be enjoying their Christmas dinner at the White Hart Moreton on the 1st December.

There is no meeting in January but we commence again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February in Moreton Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Delicious refreshments are served following the speaker. Further information from Christine Davis email: [davis.christine.d@gmail.com](mailto:davis.christine.d@gmail.com)

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# Fyfield Focus – Advertising and Editorial Details

## Advertising in the Fyfield Focus

The Focus is published bi-monthly, on the 1st of the month, with six issues a year covering Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov and Dec/Jan delivered to +390 homes.

## Contributing Articles to the Fyfield Focus

We welcome contributions to the Fyfield Focus. Our deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication date (i.e. January, March, May, July, September and November). Articles will be published subject to available space. No anonymous submissions will be included. The Editorial team's decision is final regarding suitability for inclusion and all material will receive joint editorial review.

## Advertising Rates

Adverts can be as text, picture or PDF. We can help you design yours, if required. All adverts will be placed in the Fyfield Focus Magazine and via the PDF on our website [fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home](http://fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home). All requests for advertising should be directed to Steve Turner, with requests to be received by email no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication (i.e. January, March, May, July, September and November). Payment for all adverts is to be received in advance of publication (full advertising terms and conditions are sent out with all invoices).

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

## The Fyfield Focus Team:

Production team: Margaret Dines, Sally Wallden, Dan Webster – [fyfieldfocus@gmail.com](mailto:fyfieldfocus@gmail.com)

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***Thank you to our advertisers, supporters and donors for your support, including: St Nicholas' Church Coffee Mornings, Fyfield Village Hall, WD50+, K Carpenter, D & L Webster.***

# Fyfield Useful Contacts

## GENERAL

Allotments – <a href="#">Karla Hirst</a>	07540 168958
Bell Ringers – Hand – <a href="#">Sally Wallden</a>	07809 693131
Bell Ringers – Tower – <a href="#">Julie Robinson</a>	899557
Pageturners – <a href="#">D. Spanton</a>	899317
Bridge Club – <a href="#">E. Heaphy</a>	07814 880228
Coffee with Cops – <a href="#">Sandra Mead</a>	899519
Friends of St Nicholas – <a href="#">Julie Robinson</a>	899557
Ongar Wildlife Soc(OWLS) – <a href="#">K. Snow</a>	366791
Pilates – <a href="#">C. Smith</a>	07903 121003
Fyfield Ramblers – <a href="#">Les Lamb</a>	07776 178794
Neighbourhood Watch– <a href="#">Les Lamb</a>	07776 178794
Ongar & Villages WD50+ Exercise Club – <a href="#">B. Seward</a>	07747 803829
Church Coffee Morning – <a href="#">Carol Cox</a>	899245
Fyfield Luncheon Club – Bookings – <a href="#">Sandra Mead</a>	899519
Ongar Villages Voluntary Care Group – <a href="#">General No.</a>	365363

## COUNCIL

District Council Rural East – <a href="#">Ian Hadley</a>	899840
– <a href="#">Ray Balcombe</a>	07774 973611
Fyfield Parish Council – <a href="#">Dan Webster</a> , <i>Chair</i>	899405
– <a href="#">Kim Hanley</a> , <i>Clerk</i>	07415 407915
Email – <a href="mailto:clerk@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	

## CHURCH

Church Warden – <a href="#">Lesley Wallis</a>	899214
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## EDUCATION

Fyfield Village Pre-School – <a href="#">Lisa Carey</a>	899678
Dr Walker's School - <a href="#">Mrs Jenny Dean</a>	899298

## SCOUTS & GUIDES

Rainbows, Brownies & Rangers – <a href="#">Veronica Riches</a>	07789 781281
Guides – <a href="#">Deborah Mopett</a>	07889 653421
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorer Scouts – <a href="#">Sandra Mead</a>	899519

## VILLAGE HALL

Chair – <a href="#">Penny Ovel</a>	07884 007865
Bookings – <a href="#">Lizzie Webster</a>	07956 440894
Secretary – <a href="#">Chris Collins</a>	07920 520469