

April/May 24

Fyfield



Focus



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Village Diary

Date	Time	What	Where
Tue 2 nd Apr	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 7 th Apr	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Mon 8 th Apr	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Sun 14 th Apr	10.30am	Community Worship	St Nicholas' Church
Sat 20 th Apr	7.00pm for 7.30	Quiz Night	Village Hall
Sun 21 st Apr	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Thur 2 nd May		Local Elections	Village Hall
Sun 5 th May	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Tue 7 th May	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Fri 10 th May	6.30pm	Banging Friday BBQ	Village Hall
Sun 12 th May	10.30am	Community Worship	St Nicholas' Church
Mon 13 th May	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting and Assembly	Village Hall
Sun 19 th May	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 26 th May	11.00am 1.00pm	RideLondon BBQ Cycling and field games	Village Hall
Sun 2 nd Jun	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Tue 4 th Jun	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church

From the Editors

In this edition we include extracts from eulogies at the funerals of two more prominent and long-term residents of the village - David Llewelyn Jones and the incomparable Mary Ellis.

Their stories led us to thinking of lives well led but also the value of just 'turning up' to contribute to the life of the village.

As spring comes around again, and new life blooms, we see the circle of life.
As the song says:

*From the day we arrive on the planet
And blinking, step into the sun
There's more to be seen than can ever be seen
More to do than can ever be done*

*Some say eat or be eaten
Some say live and let live
But all are agreed as they join the stampede
You should never take more than you give*

*In the circle of life
It's the wheel of fortune
It's the leap of faith
It's the band of hope
Till we find our place
On the path unwinding
In the circle, the circle of life*

*Some of us fall by the wayside
And some of us soar to the stars
And some of us sail through our troubles
And some have to live with the scars*

*There's far too much to take in here
More to find than can ever be found
But the sun rolling high through the sapphire sky
Keeps great and small on the endless round*

*In the circle of life
It's the wheel of fortune
It's the leap of faith
It's the band of hope
Till we find our place
On the path unwinding
In the circle, the circle of life*

(Elton John/Tim Rice)



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Fyfield Parish Council News

Dear Residents

A reminder that Ride London is on Sunday 26 May 2024. Please plan ahead as the B184 will be closed from 05.00 until 13.30 with the cyclists coming through approximately between 07.20 to 12.30. The cyclists have been very appreciative of all the support they have received from us on the previous two events so please let's be out there again to cheer them on; remember this is all to raise money for charity! Essex County Council has now agreed a three-year contract with the organisers, so this event will take place until 2026. More information can be found in the March Parish Council minutes and on the official Ride London website - <https://www.ridelondon.co.uk>

Discussions are taking place about the phone box with consideration now being given for using it as storage for a defibrillator. More information will follow in due course.

Below are the dates of the Coffee with Cops meetings for this year. All are welcome to drop in anytime to speak to Warren about any issues and concerns. He will be available from 11am at the village hall on:-

27th June, 5th September and 5th December.

Barbara Saward
Chair

The next two Parish Council meetings will be held on Monday 8th April and on 13th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting and Assembly is also on the 13th May.

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

Councillor Contact Details

Chair Barbara Saward	07747 803829	fpcsaward@gmail.com
Vice Chair Dan Webster	01277 899405	fpcwebsterd@gmail.com
Cllr. Sandra Mead	01277 899519	fpcmead@gmail.com
Cllr. Tim Wadey	07778 270362	fpcwadey@gmail.com
Cllr. Gaillies Codd	07982 909159	fpccodd@gmail.com
Cllr. Lizzie Webster	01277 899405	fpcwebsterl@gmail.com
Katharine Perry, Clerk	01277 899589	fyfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com
Burial Ground		fpcburialground@gmail.com



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Village Hall

It is the end of an era with the sad passing away of Mary Ellis. No more the click of the walking stick as she turns up for one of her many committee meetings, the pink hair nodding in agreement with Wendy Henshaw or shaking in disagreement with some unworkable plan! That slight lilt in her voice as she thanked all the helpers after a successful event.

You will always be remembered Mary.

At last, GIGACLEAR IS HERE! After 18 months of backwards and forwards we now have reliable super-fast broadband in the Hall.

Events for your diary are:

Saturday April 20th Quiz Night with Emma and Miz. £5 entry or book a table on-line. Bring your own nibbles. The bar will be open.

May 10th Banging Friday BBQ. They are back!

Sunday May 26th Ride London BBQ and Cycling. We will be open from about 9.00am; **BBQ from 11am and games on the field from 1pm.**

June 7th Banging Friday and Saturday 22nd Open Air Music and BBQ with the return of last year's band.

July 5th and 19th Banging Fridays

August 2nd, 16th and 30th Banging Fridays



September 13th possibly last Banging Friday for the year.

September 28th Emma and Miz Return for another Quiz Night.

We have two new yoga classes started at the village hall so look at Facebook or the website for details. There are a number of other classes in the village hall during the week so do have a look at them and the calendar to see when they are on. You will be more than welcome to join.

We have three vacancies on the committee for residents. If you are interested, see a committee member. Watch the website for the upcoming AGM; all are welcome to attend.

Martin Baxter
Chair



Tulips are native to Central Asia but did not really become popular until reaching the Netherlands.



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Elmbridge Gate - Nature Area

Over two mornings last autumn, volunteers from Elmbridge Gate planted 600 daffodil bulbs in the little copse at the front of the site.

Fortunately, deer don't eat daffodil bulbs and so hundreds of them are now in full bloom.

There are beautiful Lime and Horse Chestnut trees in the copse and the daffodils are adding a nice touch of colour to the undergrowth.

We plan now to plant English Bluebells and Crocuses for next Spring. If you would like to donate any bulbs (must be English Bluebells) that you are thinning out in your garden, please let me know.

Also, we plan to install a number of birdboxes kindly supplied by 'The Shed', who do such excellent work around the village.

Les Lamb





NIGHT!

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Puzzle Page

Can you remember the titles of these Spring-themed songs?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. A S (5 7) | Bing Crosby |
| 2. Y T S (7 4 10) | Various Artists |
| 3. S V (6 8) | The Beach Boys |
| 4. H C t S (4 5 3 3) | The Beatles |
| 5. A C S W (5 4 3 4) | Simon and Garfunkel |
| 6. A I P (5 2 5) | Count Basie |
| 7. T L o S (3 7 2 5) | Donovan |
| 8. I B W Y i A B T (3 2 4 3 2 5 7 4) | The Andrews Sisters |
| 9. W t R R R C B B B A (4 3 4 4 5 5 3 3 7 5) | Doris Day |
| 10. S (5) | Vivaldi |
| 11. E C G (7 7 6) | Jimmie Rogers |
| 12. W Y W a T (4 3 4 1 5) | Judy Garland & Gene Kelly |
| 13. T T t T (6 7 3 6) | Tiny Tim |
| 14. S I H (6 2 4) | Carly Simon |
| 15. F I t R (7 2 3 4) | The Move |
| 16. A L (5 4) | Pat Boone |
| 17. R (6) | Chas and Dave |
| 18. M h a L L (4 3 1 6 4) | Wings |
| 19. F o M (5 2 3) | The Bee Gees |
| 20. S F (5 5) | Elvis Presley |



Answers on Page 37



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St Nicholas Church

It has been a busy start to the year for St. Nicholas Church and has sadly involved saying goodbye to a number of long term and well-loved village residents. There have been services for Malcolm Bretton, Jane Read, Mary Ellis and David Llewelyn Jones. They made huge contributions to our village life over many years and will be greatly missed.

We had a joyful Mothering Sunday service on 10th March, commemorating those mothers who have now passed, mothers who are alive but weren't present and those who were able to celebrate with us. We thanked God for the gift of mothers and the selfless love they so often demonstrate. However, we were also reminded that whatever our personal experience of our mothers, we can all enjoy the constant, perfect and never-ending love of Jesus day by day, who invites us all to be His children and be part of His family. There were also some stunning spring posies handed out to bless those at the service.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to and planning for our Easter Day Service which is sure to be a wonderful celebration at which everyone, of all ages, is welcome. It will be at 10am at the church.

Looking ahead, the PCC enjoyed an inspiring Vision Day at Mulberry House. We were thinking about the focus of our Church moving forward. After much discussion and interesting exercises, we agreed a vision statement that said:

'Because Jesus is at the heart of it all, St Nicholas' Fyfield seeks to be a warm, welcoming, safe haven for the whole community. We are committed to pastoral care and growing faith; through scripture, prayer, worship and building strong relationships.'

It may need a little refining, but we hope you get the gist. We are excited about what lies ahead for our church and see it as a core part of the village community. Do come and join us, you'd be most welcome!

Fyfield PCC

Update on the new Stained Glass Window

The glass for the new window is now complete and we have been to see it displayed on an easel. We were completely satisfied with the work the designer has done, so it just remains for her to put the leading in and arrange installation. There is no ceremony when that takes place, but at a later date there will be a special service to mark the addition of the new window in our lovely church.



Pat Dain

Church Services

Fyfield

April 14th	Community Worship	10.30am
April 21st	Holy Communion	10.30am
May 12th	Community Worship	10.30am
May 19th	Holy Communion	10.30am

Moreton

April 28 th	Family Communion	10.00am
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Bobbingworth

April 7th	Family Communion	10.00am
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Details of the other church services in our Benefice can be found in the church porch or village notice board.



Coffee Mornings at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

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**, but not January:

2nd April, 7th May and 4th June



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



The word tulip is Persian and means turban.

SONGCYCLE CONCERT



We aimed to beat the January Blues, and the talented SongCycle singers didn't disappoint! With a varied programme, these amazing unaccompanied choristers performed pieces we were all familiar with, and if you didn't join us, you missed a treat. The theme tune from 'The Vicar of Dibley', some Beatles numbers, and Billy Joel's 'Longest Time', to name but a few, delighted the audience.

Of course, there are lots of folk to thank in getting this evening to happen. Thank you everyone who did so much, all those who came along, and special thanks to Tina of T&G Event Catering who generously donated the wonderful refreshments in the Interval. Sam who is the leader of SongCycle, started a round of applause for Tina and her team before starting the second half of their programme - need I say more?

After all expenses were taken out, I am delighted to say we made £575. So here's to a third visit to us by SongCycle - a big thank you once again.

Jenny Stone



During Tulip Mania (1634-1637), the price of tulips was as expensive as some homes in the Netherlands.



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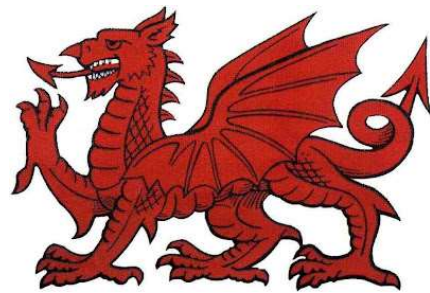


Fyfield Village Pre-School

The children at Fyfield Village Pre-School have been busy learning about the different cultures of Ireland and Wales as they marked each national day.



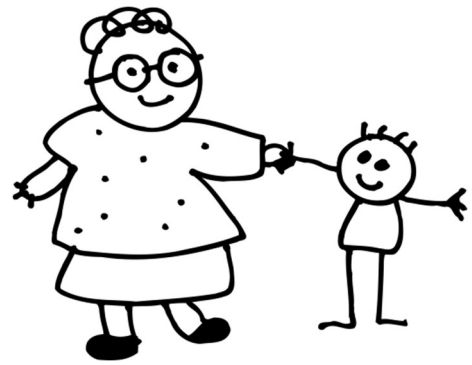
To celebrate St David's Day the children looked at the Welsh flag and symbols of Wales. They also enjoyed making beautiful daffodil pictures.



To celebrate St Patrick's Day they enjoyed an afternoon learning Irish dancing steps and trying on some stunning costumes. They tried soda bread and made a beautiful shamrock using different shades of green.



The festivities continued with a Mother's Day afternoon tea experience in the Love Cafe. The children loved making drinks and offering cakes and biscuits during their role-play.



To find out more about the pre-school based at the Fyfield Scout Hut visit

www.villagepre-schools.com

Fyfield Village Pre-School

Wilson and Talbot Educational Charity

We are a small, local educational charity which is able to provide financial assistance to persons in need, under the age of 25, to help with the cost of higher education. You will need to live in the Parish of Moreton or the adjoining Parishes of Bobbingworth, Fyfield, Shelley and The Lavers.

We are able to help families in need of financial assistance living in the Parish of Moreton or the adjoining Parishes by providing small grants to be used for clothing, instruments, books etc whilst at school.

Please apply in writing by September 16th 2024 to Stacey Pether, Secretary to the Board of Trustees at New Farm House, New House Lane, Bobbingworth, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0DH. If you are a student you will need to provide confirmation from your college of higher education of your attendance for the following academic year. We also require you to provide proof that you are under the age of 25.



If you cut tulips, they will continue to grow in the vase.

Luncheon Club

What a great start to the New Year at Luncheon Club. A huge thank you goes to Lesley for organising the wonderful fish and chips lunch supplied and heavily discounted from the John Barleycorn.



February brought sausage and mash cooked in the new oven at our regular venue of Fyfield Village Hall.

Our next lunch will be on April 10th. If you would like to come along, please contact Sandra Mead on 01277 899519.

Jan Hall

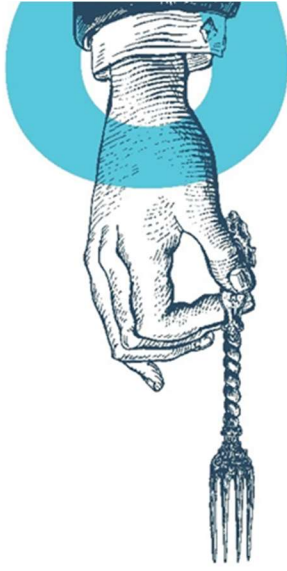
CAN YOU HELP?

Couple in their 30's looking for somewhere to rent locally. We both run our own business, are non-smokers and would consider any small, self-contained flat, cottage, studio, annexe, granny flat, conversion, shed! If you have or know of anything, please contact:

Isabel (07791 906189) or Jack (07490 606041)

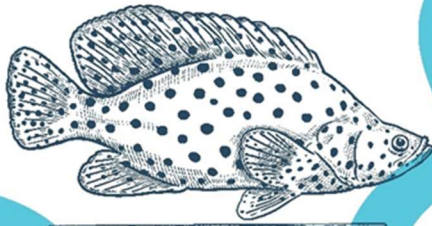


Tulips will bend and twist towards light even in a vase.



T & G

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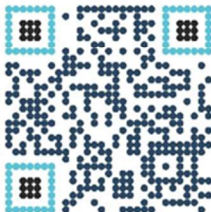


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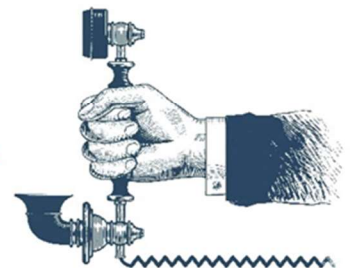
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1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit



Dennis Sweeting had a surprise on the evening of 15th March, when he was presented with his 30-year-long Service Award. So apt that he should receive this on Comic Relief night!

Length of Service awards are just one way the Scouting movement can show gratitude for his service of thirty years.

Chief Scout, Bear Grylls says 'It's so important that we thank and recognise our fellow Scouts for their incredible service. These are the shining lights who make Scouts possible'.



A Report from Finlay Wallbanks

Hey everyone! I'm Fin and, in the summer of 2023, I was lucky to attend the World Scout Jamboree with 50,000 other Scouts from all over the world. The international Scouting community descended upon the South Korean peninsula, with the country seemingly overrun with Scouts from across the globe. I was

one of two young people from our local Scout group who were given this amazing opportunity, experiences, friends and memories I will never forget.

I had been asked to write up a section for you all to read at the beginning of December, however in typical teenage fashion, I dragged my feet. I was worried about what I would say, and how to say it? But, having sat down now, I realised first things first - I owe you all an immense thank you. Amazing, life-altering events such as the Jamboree are not cheap and, with a total of 5 young people from our unit going on international events that summer, the fundraising push was immense. So, I wanted to take this moment to reach out to you all and say thank you. Thank you for running the 5K, thank you for buying Christmas wreaths, thank you for coming to our events, thank you for giving that extra helping hand, thank you all for enabling us to go on these incredible events. I wish I could explain to you all the impact it has on our lives.

But, enough of my gushing over all your help, you want to know the interesting stuff. What was it like? What did you do? And did you all get swept away by the typhoon that hit Korea while you were out there? Some of these I'll attempt to answer. Firstly, Korea was HOT!! Despite our leader's constant attempts to drill it into our heads, I don't think any of us truly understood how quickly you can go from relatively okay, to flat out on the floor. The first few days were spent in the capital city of Seoul, sightseeing, city living and adapting to the heat, the humidity and recovering from jet lag. We saw some amazing sights, from the gigantic North Seoul Tower to the beautiful river Han, where I had my second ever experience of warm rain. It was so warm there that even the rain was hot! We also had an eye-opening tour of the Korean De-Militarized Zone, one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world and yet, interestingly enough, one of the world's biggest nature reserves. It's an odd mix of tranquil idyllic countryside and strict, military-run security checks.

As our time in Seoul drew to a close, we prepared ourselves for finally going to the Jamboree proper, packing up our bags and leaving the hotel complex which 4000 UK scouts had called home for a week. Our whole 40 Scout unit snoozed, sang, and talked the time away, and after the 4 hour journey, we finally arrived on camp - the 5 mile long peninsula that 50,000 Scouts would be calling home for the next two weeks.

To be continued!

Sandra Mead

Group Scout Leader

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

Tel: 01277 899519 Email: gemkia@aol.com

Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

The Spring term has been full of exciting things. We started 2024 with the launch of our new school website. We also have a new Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DrWalkerCofE/>), which celebrates our successes at and in school.

Pupils had an NSPCC safeguarding assembly and took part in the Speak Out, Stay Safe initiative. Years 5 and 6 had a workshop addressing sensitive issues such as healthy relationships and internet misuse. This was delivered by ARC Theatre for Change Group. The whole school also participated in the National Safer Internet Day.



For National Story Telling Week, pupils dressed up as their favourite book character. For World Book Day, pupils designed posters and T-shirts of their favourite books.

We had a visit from an author, Cathryn Barry, who spoke about her book “The Bubble of Love” and pupils listened to virtual authors in class..

Pupils enjoyed a Pancake Breakfast as part of Shrove Tuesday. Pupils had the opportunity to buy Mother’s Day biscuits, specially baked by our fabulous cook, Miss Anne Charles.

On the sporting front, we participated in athletics at Ongar Academy and the KS2 District Cross Country.



The whole school also had additional rugby sessions provided by an external provider. Pupils commented:

- *'I like the 3 v 3 mini match that we did.'* - Paul
- *'I liked the warm up games that we played.'* - Max
- *'I liked the way he showed us to pass the ball.'*- Sid



We had a visit from a local counsellor, Jaymey McIvor, who spoke to pupils in assembly about his work and role within the community focusing on a career in politics and local government.

Pupils are also developing their leadership skills as members of the School Council, Eco Council,

Collective Worship Council, Class Ambassadors and Library Prefects.

We also had our Ofsted this term and the school is really pleased with the many positive comments highlighted in the report.

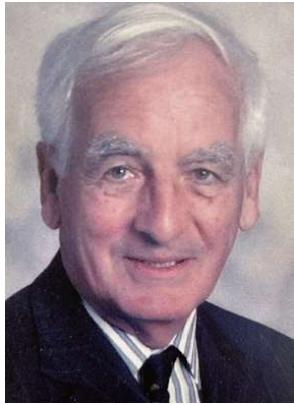
- *Pupils feel happy, safe and cared for.*
- *Pupils are proud to attend Dr Walker's School.*
- *Pupils attend and behave very well.*
- *The school has a strong sense of togetherness; everyone looks after each other.*
- *Pupils act in line with the Christian ethos of the school.*
- *Children in Reception become increasingly confident and independent.*
- *Pupils are respectful, courteous and kind.*
- *In and out of lessons, disruptive and unkind behaviour is rare.*
- *Pupils are keen to learn and are ambitious to do well.*
- *Teachers adapt tasks to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.*
- *There are many opportunities for pupils to develop their confidence and can take on leadership roles.*

The whole school will be visiting St Nicholas' Church at the end of the term for an Easter service. The Student Council is also arranging a "Bake Off" competition.

Dr Llewellyn Lawson
Headteacher

Obituary

David Llewelyn Jones: 6 November 1931 – 28 January 2024



A shortened version of a tribute given by his son, Piers, at a memorial service on 8th March in St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

My father always said that you get out of life what you put into it. He was a Lawyer, soldier, politician and public servant. He wanted to serve society.

He was born in Cranbrook Road, Ilford. By his own admission he could be lazy; school reports tend to bear this out. As a child his mother would often have to bribe him with dolly mixture sweets to do as he was told. But in 1942 he obtained a scholarship to Chigwell School. On leaving school in 1949, a career as an actuary appealed but instead he was articled to my grandfather and commenced his legal career.

Apart from his time in the Army, my father spent some 45 years with Llewelyn Jones and Co in Ilford, a typical high street solicitor's practice, during which he moved from articled clerk to senior partner. In later years, he was also to take on deputy district judge duties, sitting regularly at County Courts across the South East.

From his 20s my father had taken an interest in local politics. Through the 1960's to the 1980's he represented, variously: Theydon Bois, Fyfield, Doddinghurst and the Brentwood and Ongar constituency at parish, rural district and county council levels. He was Chairman of the old Epping and Ongar Rural District Council in 1968. He harboured an interest in standing for parliament too, but didn't quite get the selection. As a county councillor, his secondary responsibilities included the fire brigade and waste disposal in Essex.

Elected office also drew him into other public roles. He was on the Harlow Development Corporation and the Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health Authority. From the latter he moved to other responsibilities in the health sector, including chairing medical complaints panels. He was also Chairman of the Income Tax Commissioners for Dunmow and Ongar and a film censor. In the education sector, my father served as a governor at Fyfield Primary School and was Chairman at Fyfield Boarding School and the Coopers' Company and Coborn School in Upminster.

In the early 1950s my father had joined Churchill's reformed Home Guard. It provided him with an opportunity to take up rifle shooting again, something he

had done at school. From the Home Guard he was called-up for National Service. After officer training, he was commissioned into the Royal Welch Fusiliers and served as a 2nd Lieutenant in Malaya during the Emergency.

Following their marriage in 1960, my parents settled here in Fyfield. When not doing all the professional things in his life my father was never happier than sitting in the garden, in his armchair, or on the beach reading The Times newspaper. He would also spend much time gardening; mostly cutting and clearing, rather than planting, and having bonfires. Sport played a significant part in his life too, particularly when younger. He was a member of the Roding Rifle Club. He played football and Eton Fives for the Old Chigwellians. He also played tennis occasionally. But cricket was his passion. He played cricket regularly for this village and was a member of the Essex County Cricket Club. When Essex played at Valentines Park each summer, across the road from his office, he would spend lunchtimes and afternoons in the park watching his team play.

Holidays were mostly spent at the family cottages in West Wales - maintaining a link with his Welsh heritage, which remained important to him throughout his life. This heritage meant that he would always support Wales in the rugby internationals.

In later life my father devoted much time to the Worshipful Company of Coopers, a City livery company. He was to serve as its Master in 1997. And from the Cooper's, he went on to serve as President of the Bishopsgate Ward Club (covering the area around Liverpool Street Station).

His was a busy, active and very fulfilled life during which he managed to balance his wide-ranging career interests with those of being a husband and father. But he was always very modest about these achievements. It is undoubtedly through the fortitude and encouragement of my mother, Helen, that he was able to do much of what he did, supported by his strong Christian faith.



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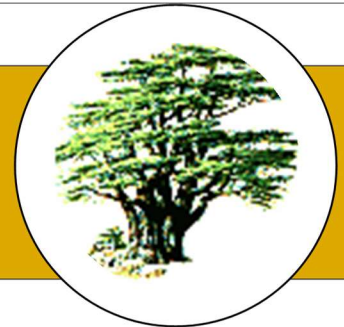
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Mary Ellis

Lucinda's Tribute

My mother would have been so touched to see so many of you here today paying your respects. Furthermore, we are grateful for all the lovely cards and messages received which have conveyed how much she mattered to so many people.

Mrs. Ellis, Mary, Mummy, Grandma and Great Grandmama wore a great number of hats both literally and metaphorically during her life. She was born in Baglan, a small village in Wales, adjoining Port Talbot which might for many of us, conjure up an image of the Steel Works but for my mother, it was the beach at Aberavon, the woods on the hills behind and Margam Castle. Here, she saw only the beauty of her surroundings and the adventures to be had and in essence, this is how she approached life.

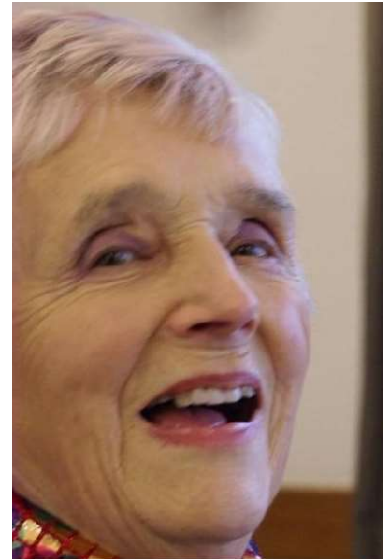
She was an only child. Her father was filled with utopian ideals of a Socialist Revolution and a fairer society and her mother, with all her style, dignity and grace was holding onto the vestiges of a former life now gone. My mother was the perfect synthesis of them both.

My grandparents epitomised 'the spirit of their age' – with their love of outdoor pursuits – both keen swimmers and cyclists and the arrival of my mother did not deter either of them from this life choice.

My grandfather had been instrumental in establishing the Port Talbot Wheelers Cycling Club in 1926 and my mother was quickly enrolled as its youngest member. Her childhood memories were entirely based on where they went on their bikes, which was often considerable distances, and which Youth Hostel they stayed in. For my mother the club and its community of members was her family.

During the second World War, my grandfather was exempt from active service, as he worked on the railways and so, even during the war years, the cycling continued. For my mother, her only abiding memory of the war was returning home from a weekend away on the bikes, to see Swansea ablaze in the distance.

Teaching, she liked to remind us was not a vocation chosen by her. It was her mother's choice. This did not mean necessarily that she disliked her profession but that she would have liked to have had the opportunity to pursue other



options, especially in art. However, her destiny had been decided, and she left home for teaching college in Worcester and, with the odd exception of an important cycle meet or two, hung up her bike and never rode one again!

At some point, she had received good advice that when arriving somewhere new, the best place to head for in search of a new community of friends, was your local church. So, throughout her college years she involved herself in the local church and in her later years delighted in telling us how she would meet at the vicarage with her fellow student friends to play poker! A devoted Christian, the community of fellowship she so enjoyed remained strong throughout her life and guided and supported her during some very sad and difficult times.

Her first teaching post was at Chadwell St Mary near Tilbury. This was very much the beginning of a new chapter in her adult life, as it was here she met my father, and first became involved with the Girl Guide movement, running the 1st West Thurrock Guides and she remained a stalwart of the guiding movement, as a member of the Trefoil Guild, throughout her life.

My parents married in June 1955 and settled quickly into family life, with their first child, Milfid, arriving the following year. The family then continued to grow steadily with my arrival in 1959, followed by Richard and then Johnathan.

The early years of the family were in Great Baddow where my parents moved in 1965, but then, in 1969 my father accepted the position of Head Teacher at Dr. Walker's and we moved into School House.

For my mother, this was a dream come true. She had a house with a beautiful garden in the country and worked at the local school with my father where, shortly after arriving, they oversaw the building of the new school. In the village, my mother immediately involved herself in the running of the church and at one point even managed to recruit all her children to sing in the choir!

However, there was always more to do and immersing herself fully in all village activities became her way of life. She loved to work with other members of the village willing to volunteer their time and expertise and we should, of course, mention Wendy here (as for many years they were partners in crime or a very dynamic duo). They worked collaboratively, organising and supporting the PTA, the young mothers, the Church, the Village Hall and creating a programme of events for the village – the Flower Festivals, the Fyfield Festivals, the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees, Open Gardens and the Scarecrow Trail. For the rest of her life in the village, she played an active role and was always on the look-out for new recruits willing to join the team.

She was prepared also to take on more official roles: Church Warden here for several years as well as Chair of the Parish Council. Giving back to the community, bringing people together and working toward a single cause was what she enjoyed most. Well, that is, besides her beloved garden where she spent many happy hours of her time, always excited to show you the extraordinary achievements of her succession planting!!



The first snowdrop, the wild garden, the roses, the peony blooms – at both School House and Houchin Drive she created her own beautiful Arcadia.

In her later years, it is unlikely that she would have continued to manage to live independently for as long as she did without the help and support of her friends and her ever watchful neighbour, dear Richard. For my mother and so many others, the pandemic brought an abrupt end to the life she had enjoyed living. Her social/support network had been removed and she was for the first time in her life alone without her community of friends and even, much to her disbelief, without her Church.

Fortunately, her rich legacy does not permit us to dwell for too long on her final two years. For the community gathered here today I hope she can remain an example as to how best to live a good life or to quote the Brownie/Guide promise:

I promise that I will do my best: To be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to service the King and my community, to help other people and to keep the Brownie (Guide) Law’.



Milfid’s Tribute

It feels very strange standing here in front of you all without seeing our mother as Church Warden, at the entrance handing out the Order of Service and Hymn books or trying to prepare the tea without making too much noise rattling about in the vestry.

It's always such a shame on a loved one's passing; we hear so many moving and profound tributes and see so many people coming to pay their respects, and can't help but think if only they were around to enjoy them.

Roald Dahl famously said: 'Those who don't believe in magic will never find it' Well, I think we can all agree that Mary found it everywhere. She imagined fairies in the garden and painted them in murals on our bedroom walls and in the dining room. She loved dragons who made Welsh cakes, read us stories, drew us pictures, made costumes and encouraged us whenever possible to 'make-believe'.

Mary loved life, and how does one sum up such a rich life in a moment - for her, many things were enchanted, and in no especial order, she really loved: art, adventure, teaching, travel, parties, paintings, children, puppies, kittens, ducklings, catkins, gardens - her own and other people's, historical novels, scarecrows, hats, purple hair, clotted cream, magazines and Fry's Chocolate Cream, Turkish Delight, fireworks, cycling, Wales - the country and the mammals, the ballet, theatre, the mountains and the sea, clothes and shoes, and as we know, shoes are just shoes, but hers seemed magical as soon as she put them on.

In a very special category were her friends, and of course, she loved Fyfield, and this Church.

A few weeks ago, she handed me a piece of paper on which she'd written out two poems, both by E.E. Cummings; I was surprised at first, as she'd never mentioned her particular fondness for his work before. I thought today would have been me reading Dylan Thomas!

In the first poem, the poet, EE Cummings is exploring the concept of unity and harmony and interconnectedness. Of course, Mumma loved unity and harmony and believed strongly in the interconnectedness of all things. The second poem is a loving embrace to you all. The final lines of which are

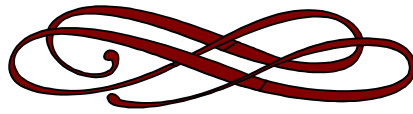
'Beyond sorrows own joys and hoping's very fears
Yours is the light by which my spirits born:
Yours is the darkness of my Soul's return.
You are my sun, my moon, and all my stars.'

So, here goes without fuss. I'll just try and lean into the white brightness of today and let her say what I know she would like to say to us all:

'Do not live half a life, Do not dream half a dream, Let your dreams devour your life. Not your life devour your dream'.

Mumma, you leave big shoes for us to fill, and of course, you'll always be alive in us. All we have to do is look at the palm of our hands or feel the breeze on our faces and see the magic in the world to know that you are available at any time and always with us all.

Thank you.



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Fyfield Ramblers

Rambling continues, meeting on the **first Sunday** of the month:

Sunday 7th April, 5th May and 2nd June

10:00am from the Village Hall

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



Mobile Library

The library visits Fyfield every three weeks and, on a Tuesday morning from 11:40am – 12:10pm 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 -

16th Apr, 7th May, 28th May



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THE LAVERS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Our next meeting is in Moreton Village Hall on Monday the 8th April at 7.30pm when John Cullen of the Essex Dahlia Society will give a talk on Preparing Dahlias for the Season.

On Monday the 13th Jacqueline Aviolet's talk is entitled 'In the Garden – What goes in and out of a traditional nursery'.

Doors open at 7pm. Raffle. Refreshments follow the talks. All welcome.
£5 for a taster visit.

MORETON & DISTRICT WI



We will meet in Madalen Laver village hall on Thursday 11th April at 2pm when Mark Ratcliffe will give a talk entitled 'POW Camp at Hatfield Heath'.

Gentlemen are welcome, do come and support Mark. Delicious tea will follow. Raffle. £5 for non-members.

May the 9th will be the AGM with a speaker from the WI Centre.

Puzzle Page Answers

1. April Showers
2. Younger than Springtime
3. Spring Vacation
4. Here Comes the Sun
5. April Come She Will
6. April in Paris
7. The Lullaby of Spring
8. I'll be with you in Apple Blossom Time
9. When the Red Red Robin Comes Bob Bob Bobbin' Along
10. Spring
11. English Country Garden
12. When You Wore a Tulip
13. Tiptoe Through the Tulips
14. Spring is Here
15. Flowers in the Rain
16. April Love
17. Rabbit
18. Mary had a Little Lamb
19. First of May
20. Spring Fever



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Monday 6th May 10am - 4pm

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

As I write this, on a wet and grey March day I, along with many other Christians, will be on the way to complete our Lenten season of spiritual discipline and repentance that comes before Easter. It's a period of 40 days, from Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday, when observers will pray, give alms and practice self-control and fasting to commemorate the forty days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the wilderness.

Lent is a period, practiced by Christians all over the globe as a way to prepare them for Easter, which is considered by them to be the holiest day of the year as it commemorates Jesus's resurrection. The last week of Lent is Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday and ending on Holy Saturday. As Lent concludes, Easter Sunday begins, to commemorate Christian's belief in the resurrection of Jesus and is the start of huge celebrations.

This year Spring officially starts on March 20th and the dismal wet weather means, I think, that we are all ready to kiss winter good bye. The welcome burst of yellow daffodils, budding trees, sporadic rays of sunshine and longer days herald the arrival of spring in the UK.

This most welcome of seasons marks the end of winter and kick-starts a new cycle of life from lively lambs and chirping chicks to hope-filled green shoots and warm sunshine. It is for many, simply the finest season of all, laden with promise and potential. In much the same way it reflects, for Christians, the promise and potential of the risen Christ who died on the cross and faced death, so that we may live in eternal life.

Lesley Denton

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

St Margaret of Scotland, Doddinghurst Road, CM15 0QJ

Please contact the Parish office 01277 362645 for Information on Baptism, Funerals and Wedding Services and other information, or visit our website www.catholic-parish-ongar.org.uk

Doddy drop-in. 2-4pm 2nd Tuesday of each month at St Margaret's Hall. All welcome for a cup of tea and a chat or a game of Scrabble.

Fr Emile would like to welcome any parishioners for tea/coffee and a chat in the presbytery after the 11am mass each week at St Helens Ongar.

Mass Times

Saturday:	5.30pm	St. Helen's
Sunday:	8.45am	St. Helen's
Sunday:	10.30am	St. Margaret's
Tues, Wed, Friday:	9am	St. Helen's
Thursday	11am	St Helen's

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



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Ongar Nature Watch

Cuckoos



Now that spring is approaching, we shall once again welcome these long-distance migrants to our shores.

Much has been discovered regarding cuckoo migration recently with the cuckoo-tracking project run by the

British Trust for Ornithology. They have tagged more than a hundred birds over the last several years as they travel between this country and central Africa (some via Spain and others via Italy) - coming to this country to breed. So, the cuckoo is truly an African bird that leaves its native lands to breed. As cuckoo tags become smaller and cheaper, the research programme will expand.

The cuckoo is about the same size as a dove and its head, breast and wings are blue-grey, while its under-parts are white marked with dark bars. Its eyes and legs are yellow, and its grey beak is downwardly curved. In flight, it can easily be mistaken for a kestrel or sparrow hawk with its sleek body, long tail and swept-back wings. The male and female are alike but differ from juvenile birds, which are reddish-brown in colour.

The female has a rich bubbling chuckle, but the male's call is the very familiar "cuckoo". Generally, if you hear a cuckoo singing you will not see it until it ends its song and flies away. Traditionally, it is said that the first cuckoo call of the year announces the beginning of spring.

They are spring/summer visitors to this country, arriving in late March or April, with adults returning to central Africa from mid-July to August, and juveniles following a little later, in August or September. They may take several months to complete their long journey over the North Sea, Mediterranean and the Sahara Desert.

The breeding habits of cuckoos are well known. Females rely on other species of birds especially meadow pipits, dunnocks (hedge sparrows) and reed warblers to tend their young after laying an egg in its nest. Each female cuckoo selects a particular bird species to care for its young, and lays an egg with similar markings to those of its host. Females lay between 12 and 22 eggs in a breeding

season, each one in a different nest. When the young Cuckoo hatches, it instinctively pushes the other eggs and birds out of the nest and imitates the begging call of the host's chicks.

Caterpillars and other insects, such as beetles and ants, form the major part of the adult cuckoo's diet. Many of the caterpillars are hairy or brightly coloured and poisonous and so are avoided by most birds, but the digestive system of the cuckoo is adapted to cope with the hairs and toxins. The young cuckoos of course are fed on whatever the surrogate mother brings to the nest.

Migration takes advantage of the northern summer when breeding birds have more hours of daylight in which to gather food for their young or, in the case of the cuckoo, for other birds to collect for them. As the days shorten in autumn and food supplies become less plentiful, the birds return to warmer regions where the day length varies less, the climate is more agreeable and there is a guaranteed food supply.

The downside of migration is that it is expensive as far as energy is concerned, and is hazardous, especially when deserts and seas are crossed, and when weather conditions, especially winds, are unfavourable.

Since the early 1980s, the numbers of cuckoos visiting Britain has been in decline, which may be because the populations of some key host species, such as dunnocks and meadow pipits, have also reduced. Another view is that their caterpillar food has become less plentiful as a result of climate change.

Keith Snow

Ring-necked parakeet

Over recent times, many animals and plants have become resident in Britain, some by accident and others by design. These introduced species are also known as exotics, non-natives and invasives. The definition assumes that it has survived for at least two generations in the wild in Britain following its initial introduction.

One of the most colourful animals new to this country is the ring-necked parakeet, which is native to Africa and southern Asia. Despite its name, it is only the male that possesses the dark ring around its neck. Although there are now colour variants, most ring-necked



parakeets are green with red beaks. The original UK birds were escaped cage birds and these were first recorded breeding here by the 1930s. The parakeet has thrived since that date aided by relatively mild winters and a lack of predators, and a number of colonies have become established in England. The habitat of the Indian sub-species in the foothills of the Himalayas makes them preadapted to the cold weather of British winters.

There are populations in many southern areas including some London parks, in central and west Midlands, East Anglia, Lincolnshire and Lancashire and progressively further north. It is a frequent garden visitor in many cities and towns, and has recently been seen and heard in Fyfield.

The ring-necked parakeet is highly gregarious, forming large roosts, which attract attention owing to their loud squawking. In some areas, they have reached pest status. They select nest holes in trees and lay 2-4 eggs per clutch. Incubation takes three weeks and a high proportion fledge in seven weeks. They may raise a second or even a third brood in a year while young are ready to breed themselves at the age of three. So, numbers can grow quickly.

The parrots eat most grains, buds, leaves, berries and nuts and readily use bird tables and feeders in gardens, so compete with garden birds.

The current UK population is growing steadily and is estimated in excess of 30,000.

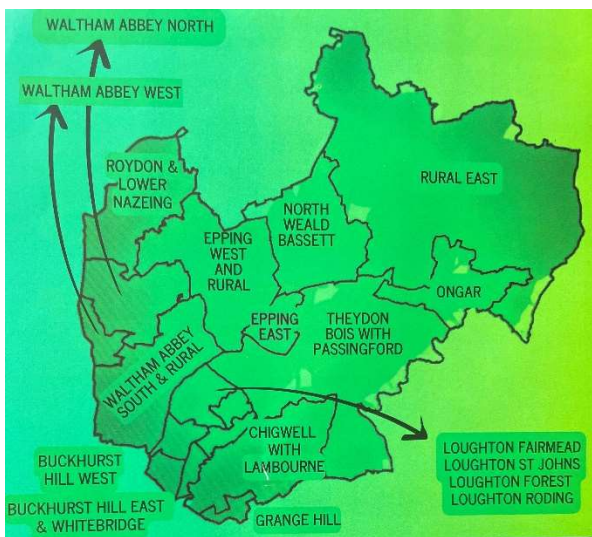
Keith Snow

Parakeets – Remember pretty but ...

- The birds like all kinds of seeds, nuts, fruits and berries. They are very wasteful eaters pecking one piece from a fruit and then going on to the next. Therefore, gardeners beware.
- The mere presence of the birds, which are loud and aggressive, seems to have an intimidating effect on smaller species at feeding stations.
- The ring-necked parakeet are cavity hole nesters so may compete with our native birds like woodpeckers for these sites. Parakeets nest earlier than most native species and have long incubation periods, so they monopolise nesting sites longer.
- VERY noisy.
- The parakeets have been a particular problem for churches, which have roofs or spires of “shingles” as they chew holes through the wooden tiles to nest inside.

Local Elections

On 2nd May 2024 there will be elections for Epping Forest District Councillors. This year the boundaries of wards are changing and there will be 3 councillors for each ward. Fyfield is in the new ward of Rural East.



There will also be an election for the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. This year he or she will be elected on a first past the post basis.

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Think pharmacy first

Going to your local pharmacy offers an easy and convenient way to get clinical advice on minor health concerns, and now community pharmacies can offer treatment for seven common conditions without patients needing to see a GP, as part of a major transformation in the way the NHS delivers care.

Highly trained pharmacists at more than nine in ten pharmacies can now assess and treat patients for **earache, impetigo, infected insect bites, shingles, sinusitis, sore throat, urinary tract infections (UTIs) for women aged 16-64** — without the need for a GP appointment or prescription.

Community pharmacy teams are highly-skilled, qualified health professionals who have the right clinical training to give people the health advice they need. Patients don't need an appointment and private consultation rooms are available. Pharmacy teams can also signpost to other relevant local services where necessary.

Pharmacists have always helped patients, families and carers in their communities stay healthy and are well placed to offer treatment for health conditions. By expanding the services community pharmacies offer, the NHS is aiming to free up GP appointments and give people more choice in how and where they access care.

Don't wait for minor health concerns to get worse – think pharmacy first and get seen by your local pharmacy team.

For more information, visit [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst)



Tulips are part of the lily family.

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

Opening Times

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Tuesday		
Wednesday		
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Friday		10am to 5pm
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Sunday	8am to 12:30pm	Closed



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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 15th of the month prior to the publication date (ie, 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. All requests for advertising should be directed to Steve Turner, with requests to be received by email no later than the 10th 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:

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Printing: Chelmsford Diocesan Print Unit

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

Fyfield Useful Contacts

GENERAL

Allotments – M. Baxter	899342
Bell Ringers – Hand – P. Turnpenny	899223
Bell Ringers – Tower – J. Robinson	899557
Pageturners – D. Spanton	899317
Bridge Club – E. Heaphy	07814-880228
Coffee with Cops – B. Seward	07747-803829
Friends of St Nicholas – J. Robinson	899557
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Pilates – C. Smith	07903-121003
Fyfield Ramblers – L. Lamb	07776-178794
Neighbourhood Watch– L. Lamb	07776-178794
Ongar & Villages WD50+ Exercise Club – P. Nicholson	899504
Church Coffee Morning – C. Cox	899245
Fyfield Luncheon Club – Bookings – S. Mead	899519
Ongar Villages Voluntary Care Group – General No.	365363

COUNCIL

District Council Moreton & Fyfield – Ian Hadley	899840
Fyfield Parish Council – B. Seward , <i>Chair</i>	07747-803829
Fyfield Parish Council clerk – K. Perry	899589

CHURCH

St Nicholas' Church	286113
Rev. Sam Brazier-Gibbs	821464
Church Warden – Lesley Wallis	899214

EDUCATION

Fyfield Village Pre-School – Lisa Carey	899678
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Rainbows Brownies Rangers – V. Riches	364604
Guides – A. Lavender	365842
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorer Scouts – S. Mead	899519

VILLAGE HALL

Chair – M. Baxter	899342
Bookings – General No.	07956-440894