

February/March 2026

FYFIELD



FOCUS



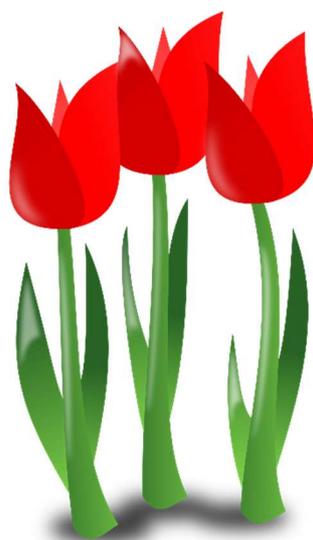
fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home

Village Diary

Date	Time	What	Where
Sun 1 st Feb	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Tue 3 rd Feb	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 8 th Feb	10.30pm	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 15 th Feb	10.30am	Community Worship	St Nicholas' Church
Wed 18 th Feb	11.00am	Stay Safe and Well	Village Hall
Sun 1 st Mar	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Tue 3 rd Mar	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 8 th Mar	10.30pm	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 15 th Mar	10.30am	Community Worship	St Nicholas' Church

We are very sad to include obituaries in this edition for Jim Beard, Audrey Clancy, Pam Harley and sadly learnt of the death of Howard Nicholson. We would like to extend our sympathy and condolences to their families and friends for their loss. They were all long-time residents in our village, who as you will read, loved living here and are a great loss to Fyfield too. Details of Howard's funeral are listed on p 27.

We also publish all obituaries and life stories separately in the online version of the magazine - <https://fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home/lifestories>



Fyfield Parish Council News

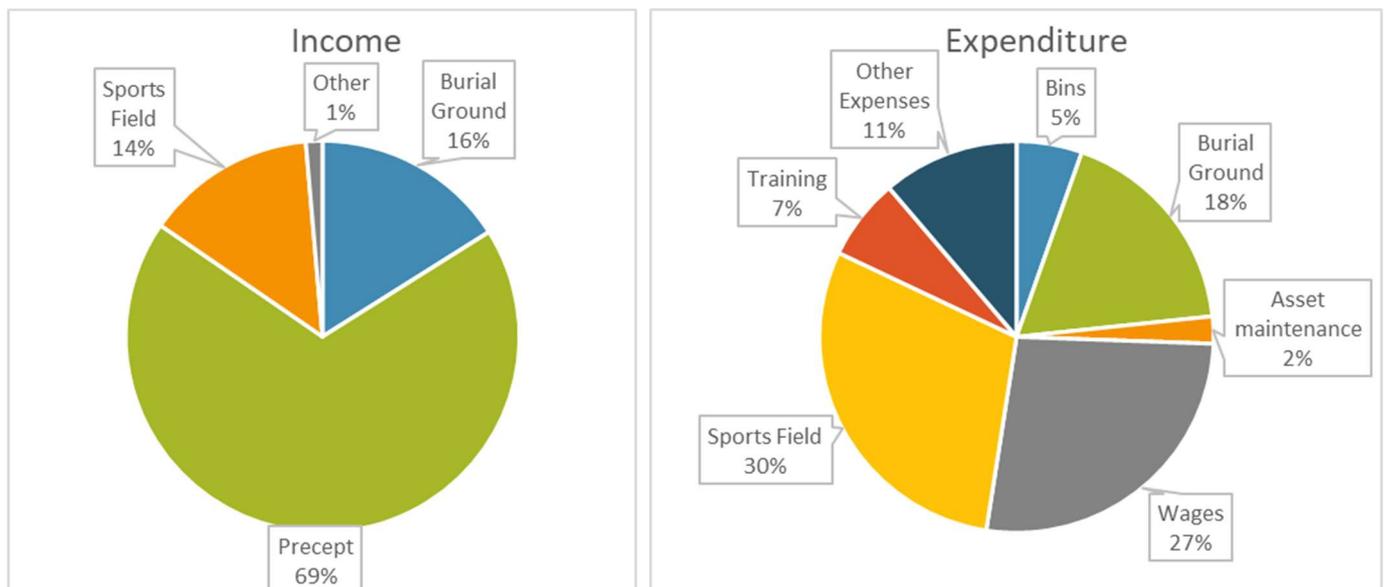
The Council administers Fyfield's 2 major assets, the Sports Field and the church Burial Ground as well as benches, playground equipment, the village sign, notice board and bus stop. The Village Hall is leased long-term by the Council to the Village Hall Committee.

Each year the Parish Council publish our annual accounts and these can be found on our website: <https://fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

However, we thought you may be interested to see the figures more visually, so below you can see charts showing estimated percentage income and expenditure this financial year.

The largest income item is the 'Precept'. This is included in your Council Tax bill, which also pays for the District and County services. Last year each Fyfield household paid an average, depending on their 'Band', of about £28 per year to the Precept.

Parish Councillors do not get paid in any way. We have a clerk who is paid for 36 hours a month. 'Other Expenses' in the chart below includes insurance, subscriptions and audit fees.



The Parish Council have now changed our website and our email addresses as below.

The next Parish Council meetings will be on Mondays 2nd February and 2nd March at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Dan Webster
Chair

Fyfield Parish Council news and minutes can be found on the new Parish website <https://fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and on the Noticeboard by the shop.

Councillor Contact Details

Dan Webster, Chair	01277 899405 cllrdanwebster@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sandra Mead, Vice Chair	01277 899519 cllrsandrimead@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Michael Brawn	07510 377435 cllrmichaelbrawn@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Gaillies Codd	07982 909159 cllrgailliescodd@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Jeremy Goodson	07980 272555 cllrjeremygoodson@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tim Wadey	07778 270362 cllrtimwadey@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Lizzie Webster	01277 899405 cllrlizziewebster@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Kim Hanley, Clerk Burial Ground	clerk@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk burialground@fyfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

WAWMAN SERVICES

Oil fired Boiler & Aga

**Service / Routine Maintenance / Breakdowns /
Landlords Certifications / New Boiler Commissions**

Mob: 07946-759021

Email: wawmanservices@hotmail.com

Fully insured & OFTEC registered.



**Registered
Technician**



"I love you more than Netflix - and that's a serious commitment!"

Village Hall

As we step into 2026, the Village Hall Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and say a big thank you to all who supported the hall during 2025. It has been another positive and encouraging year, with the hall continuing to play an active role in village life.

One of the highlights of last year was the increase in private bookings. We received 61 private bookings in 2025, compared with 30 the previous year, which is a fantastic improvement and shows just how valued the hall is for celebrations, gatherings, and special occasions.

We also made a significant investment in the hall itself. During the year, £14,500 was spent on refurbishment, including redecorating and a heating upgrade. These improvements have already made a noticeable difference and will help keep the hall comfortable and welcoming for years to come.

Our Treasurer, Steve, has been busy compiling the end-of-year figures for 2025. The general running costs of the hall (excluding maintenance) came to £16,787.12. The Committee continues to keep a close eye on finances to ensure the hall remains well managed and sustainable.

Some residents may have noticed the ongoing issue with refuse collections at the hall. Missed collections and bins left behind by previous providers unfortunately led to an excessive number of wheelie bins outside the building. We are pleased to say that EFDC has now taken over the contract, and we are confident this will result in a much more reliable service. We hope this situation will be fully resolved very soon.

Stay Safe and Well This Winter

Epping Forest District Council are holding a free *Stay Safe and Well This Winter* event at the hall on Wednesday 18 February, 11am–3pm. Lunch is included but booking is required.

The event includes health and wellbeing talks, a new interactive theatre performance about romance and friendship scams, and blood pressure checks (subject to availability).

To book, call 01992 564226 or visit eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com

Bookings for the coming months are looking healthy, and it's great to see both regular groups and new hirers making good use of the hall. We are always happy to hear from anyone with ideas for new activities or events that could take place in the hall.

We are always grateful for offers of help, whether it's lending a hand occasionally, helping with small tasks, or getting more involved by joining the Committee. Even a little time can make a big difference, so if you think you might be able to help, we would love to hear from you.

We were very saddened to learn of the death of Howard Nicholson. Over many years, Howard played a vital role in the running of the Village Hall through his advice, ideas and fundraising. He was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

Finally, our thanks go to all our volunteers, committee members, and hall users for their continued support. Without you, the Village Hall simply would not be what it is. We look forward to another busy and successful year ahead in 2026.

Penny Ovel
Chair

District Matters

2026 has certainly started with a bang with Trump; Venezuela, Greenland, Syria and at home we have defections, U Turns etc.

In December the Government gave local councils the option of postponing the May elections on the grounds of councils not being ready for the local government boundary reform. However, EFDC, along with Essex County Council, have advised the Government that they do not wish to postpone the upcoming elections in May and they will take place as planned.

The new Epping Leisure Centre is now open after being completed on time and under budget. The Centre comprises of main and learner swimming pools, squash courts, gym with cardio machines and group cycling studios. It is one of the most energy-efficient leisure centres in the region by way of its construction and energy management systems. The old leisure centre will be demolished and developed for housing. For more information go to: eppingforestdc.gov.uk

With all the good and bad press about AI at the moment, I should tell you that this article was not written using AI. I admit to using spell checker though!

See you in the Spring - can't wait.

Ian Hadley

Cllr. Ian Hadley – 07765 882001 – Cllr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Cllr. Ray Balcombe – 07774 973611 – Cllr.rbalcombe@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Cllr. Richard Morgan – 01279731243 – Cllr.rmorgan@eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Change Chiropractic Limited

Landline: 01245 956997

Mobile: 07932977418

Website: www.changechiropractic.co.uk

Social Media include:

Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn

Are you living with pain?

Do you experience headaches, back, neck, or sciatic pain? Or would you simply like to move more freely and function at your best?

You don't have to be in pain to benefit from chiropractic care.

Book a FREE spine check and enjoy a one-to-one consultation with our chiropractor. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, gain a better understanding of your spine health, and explore how chiropractic care may help you.

If you choose to book an initial consultation on the day, you'll receive a discounted initial consultation.

Family Coffee Events

(Book on the website ~ limited spaces)

Monday 23rd February 1pm and Wednesday 25th March 1pm

New Year Discounts

Call or book online before 02.04.26

New Patient appointment now £45 (was £65)

Under 16's New Patient appointment now £20 (was £52)

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.

On February the 3rd the speaker will be Ongar resident Jacqueline Eykelbosch, who will talk about Essex Artists and their stories. On the 3rd March it will be Bobbie Derbyshire, an author, and her talk is called 'A beginning, a muddle and an end'. Do come - you will be made very welcome.

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

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.





YOUR LOCAL PRIVATE HIRE COMPANY OFFERING A
WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Next time you need a car give us a call!

- Local Journeys
- Airport Runs
- Sea Ports
- Shopping Trips
- Deliveries
- Chauffeured S Class & V Class
- Days & Nights Out
- Weddings
- London Commuters
- School Runs and more...



Friendly reliable drivers 01277 532900/07960 633244

www.fyfieldtravel.co.uk email: info@fyfieldtravel.co.uk

   Follow us @fyfieldtravel

Paul's Upholstery

Modern & Traditional Upholstery

Quality & Perfection

Free Estimates

30 Years' Experience

Call or email now to discuss how

I can help you with your next project

07796 077283 paul.norris655@gmail.com



Stay Safe and Well this Winter Fyfield

**FREE
EVENT**

**Includes an
information
bag and
lunch**



About the day

Informative talks from health and wellbeing advisors on how to stay safe and well over the winter months. Plus, a NEW interactive theatre performance about romance and friendship scams. Blood pressure checks subject to availability.

Booking is required

Please call 01992 564226 or book online:
eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com
to confirm your place. Booking lines open in December.



**Wednesday 18
February**

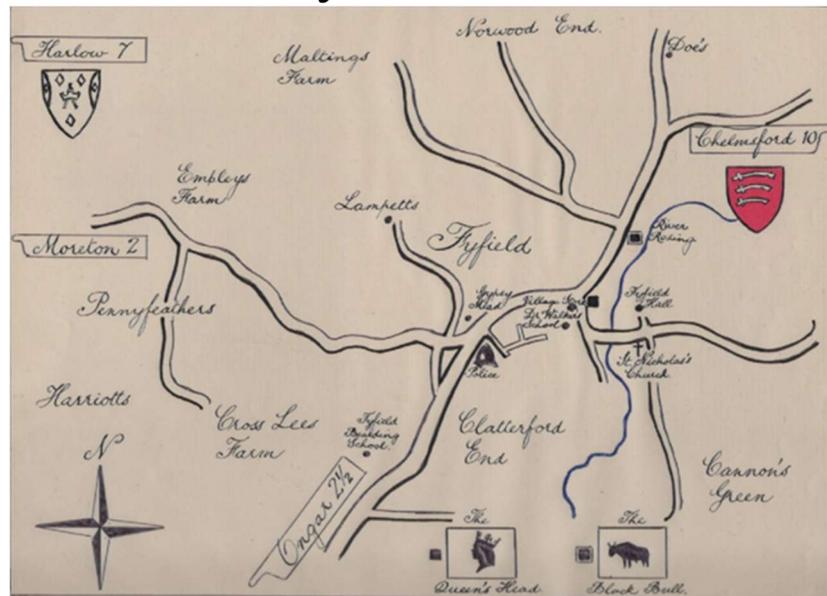
**Arrive 10.45am to start 11am
Event ends: 3.30pm**

**Fyfield Village Hall,
Houchin Drive, Fyfield,
Essex, CM5 0RG.**



For further information please contact Karen Murray, Older Peoples Community Engagement Officer: 01992 564222. Email kmurray@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Further extracts from the Fyfield WI 1975 archive: The Village



FYFIELD today is a busy and thriving village which caters for young and old alike. We have the necessities for living and many activities which give us a social friendliness so often lost today in the larger towns. There is a wealth of talent. Whether it be flower arranging, gardening or toy making, which go on quietly throughout the year.

A daily bus will take us to Chelmsford, the County town of Essex, or to Harlow with its supermarkets, but our village store supplies our groceries, Post Office and stationery. There are two antique shops to remind us of bygone days and Doe's with its agricultural and gardening implements is also famous for tennis courts. The Forge sells eggs, chickens and vegetables and opposite at Ponders Lodge, sacks of potatoes are for sale. The Queen's Head and the Black Bull are popular meeting places.

We have, of course, our Church, Mission, two schools, a village hall and a restaurant – Mario's – originally called the Gypsy Mead, as in years gone by gypsies with a dancing bear would camp on that field. Mr. Mario Menaldo and his family greet you warmly and are able to offer you a comprehensive menu.

In Fyfield there are Police Constable Woolnough, our resident policeman and Mr. Blatch, the undertaker. Mr. Adlam, a member of the British Flower Industry, has plants for all occasions.

At Alders Farm, Mrs. Pond and her family fulfil another of Fyfield's needs by providing comfortable, well-run boarding kennels for cats and dogs, also stabling for horses.

This year, the Community Council of Essex have awarded Fyfield a Certificate of Merit for a well-kept village.

Puzzle Page

1. These random phrases hide the names of eight capital cities around the world. Each phrase contains the name of two cities. Can you unscramble them and figure out what they are?

LION JOB ENDING
TOOK MY ORE
CRIMSON ELBOW
RAPID DISARM



2. What word of four letters can be placed at the front of these six words to create six other words?

BALL
HOLD
PATH
SORE
STEP
WORK

3. Two words which are anagrams of each other can be used to replace the dots in this sentence, which will then make sense. Each dot is one letter. What are the words?

**AFTER THE DOUBLE WEDDING, THE TWO
WALKED THROUGH THE HALL, WHICH WAS
LITTERED WITH THE FROM THE PARTY HELD
THE PREVIOUS NIGHT.**

Answers on Page 41



*“Roses are red, violets are blue, I’m just here for the chocolate,
how about you?”*

Written in March

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun;
The oldest and youngest
Are at work with the strongest;
The cattle are grazing,
Their heads never raising;
There are forty feeding like one!

Like an army defeated
The snow hath retreated,
And now doth fare ill
On the top of the bare hill;
The Ploughboy is whooping—anon—anon:
There's joy in the mountains;
There's life in the fountains;
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing;
The rain is over and gone!

William Wordsworth 1770 - 1850



Wordsworth was Poet Laureate from 1843 until his death from pleurisy on 23 April 1850. He remains one of the most recognizable names in English poetry and was a key figure of the Romantic poets. In this short lyrical poem, which has an almost song-like quality, Wordsworth expresses pure joy and delight at the arrival of spring and the rejuvenation of nature.



Mobile Patrol's & Alarm Response*

For domestic & commercial properties



K9 Services Ltd provide a 24 hour mobile patrol and alarm response* service for domestic & commercial properties.



Please contact
K9 Services Ltd today
020 3835 6529

K9 Services Ltd operate



UK



Spain



South Africa

Subscribers Service Includes

- 8 visits per 24hrs
- Alarm response*
- Key holding
- Connected to a live GPS security app, receiving daily reports on visits to properties
- Uniformed guards
- Sign written vehicles
- Signage for each property

Alarm response* - to have your premises alarm connected to the mobile patrols is subject to premises having suitable alarm.

✉ info@k9servicesltd.co.uk 🌐 www.k9servicesltd.co.uk 📷 [@k9serviceslimited](https://www.instagram.com/k9serviceslimited)

Dr Walker's School



The autumn term ended in a flurry of activity with two performances in which every child in the school took part. Willow Class performed 'The Little Blue Star' and Sycamore and Maple Classes performed 'The Match Girl's Christmas'. We have never seen so many supporting family members attend the productions with standing

room only for both events! The children were amazing and blew us all away with their acting, singing and instrumental skills! A Christmas movie afternoon and Christmas disco rounded off a very busy few weeks before everyone headed off for a well-earned break.

As we start a new year and new term, it has been wonderful to see the eagerness of the children returning after the holiday and a delight to hear the stories that they have shared and to see their enthusiasm for returning to school.



We had an exciting filming opportunity at the beginning of term when a film crew came in to create a short promotional video to celebrate Dr Walker's CE School. The children were impeccably behaved and enjoyed being part of a different morning, showing off what they do best and their learning



environment. This will be shared on our website and will highlight the many aspects that make Dr Walker's special – including our welcoming atmosphere, beautiful site, dedicated staff team, well- resourced learning spaces, resources, the wide range of

enrichment opportunities and of course our prime asset – our lovely children! Our aim is to showcase the school to encourage more families to consider joining our school community.

A shorter article this time as we have only just returned and are not yet in full swing, but we are looking forward to many events in the spring and the run up to Easter!

With very best wishes form the staff and pupils of Dr Walker’s School

Iyengar
YOGA
CLASSES

Find Your Balance
With Kitty

Small group classes

- Improve Strength
- Increase Flexibility
- Boost Mobility
- Support Mental health
- Beginners welcome

TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
09.15-1030

CONTACT
KITTY
07847 301255

Join us in Fyfield



“Valentine’s Day: the one day a year I remember to say ‘ I love you’ instead of ‘What’s for dinner?’”

Pre-School

Children at Fyfield Village Pre-School wowed their parents and families with their Christmas show. Dressed as snowflakes, Santas, elves, Christmas trees and puddings the children bravely took to the stage to end the term on a high.



Since returning, the children have been focussing on wellbeing and how to look after themselves. They all took part in a calming yoga session using different poses and practising mindful breathing.



For more about the pre-school visit www.folpre-schools.com

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit



The 1st Moreton and Fyfield Scout Group would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year.

As the term has only just started there is not a lot to report at the moment.

The Scouts have a Brass Monkey Night planned in March. This is when they sleep in tents and cook on an open fire and it can be very, very cold – hence the name! They will also be making their annual trip to a pantomime, and a visit is planned to Milestones Museum, Basingstoke as part of a history project, plus many other activities over the next couple of months.

This year **Beavers** will commemorate 40 years since the group was started. This will be celebrated at a district event called Beavers in Tents at Skreens Park later in the year.

Squirrels have now been going for 5 years, as a Squirrel Dray at Fyfield we are now in our 3rd year. We do have space, so if you have a four or five year old who would like to take part in some fun activities, please get in touch. We meet on a Tuesday in term time from 4.45pm for 1 hour.

Cubs are also celebrating a big birthday this year, as it is fifty years since they were formed. This will also be celebrated with a District Camp later in the year.

Sandra Mead

Group Scout Leader volunteer

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

Tel: 01277899519 Email: gemkia@aol.com

 1st 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

St Nicholas' Church

Over the new year, we were chatting with family and friends about one new thing we would each like to try in 2026. For a number of us, the answer was to get a bit more in touch with our creative sides and begin to do something a little more artistic in our spare time. However, for one person the answer was skydiving. I will quickly point out that this was not my answer as I am not a fan of heights. When you look at it logically, (though phobias are usually not very logical), I suppose it depends on what you are putting your trust in. If you have complete confidence in the instructors and equipment, then there should be absolutely no reason why jumping out of a plane at 15,000 feet should be at all terrifying!

It made me wonder who or what is safe to put our trust in these days, as there is so much in our world that is not trustworthy. My faith means that I am putting my trust in Jesus day by day, and living my life with Him as my guide and constant companion. I have found Him to be always faithful, always true and never changing – a very firm foundation. I wonder who or what you are putting your trust in during 2026? If you'd like to explore a little more about the Christian faith, do join us at St Nicholas for our services on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10:30am, you'd be very welcome.

For now, I'm planning to keep my feet firmly on the ground, but I hope that whatever new endeavours you have planned for 2026, they will bring you great joy.

Ali Burton
Church Warden

Fyfield United Benefice

Bobbingworth, Moreton and Fyfield Services

February 2026

1st	Bobbingworth	10am
8th	Fyfield	10:30am
15th	Fyfield	10:30am
22nd	Moreton	10am

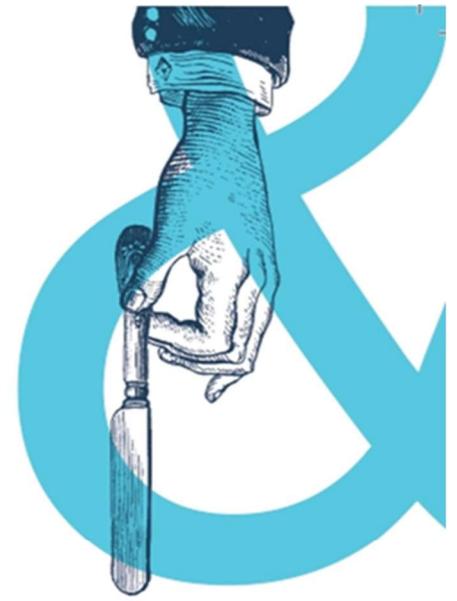
March 2026

1st	Bobbingworth	10am
8th	Fyfield	10:30am
15th	Fyfield	10:30am
22nd	Moreton	10am





T & G
EVENT
CATERING



Canapes & cocktails... cheese & wine...
burgers & buns... great food & best friends

Uniting mouth-watering flavours, great
food & people, we believe in providing both
quality & quantity, crafting delicious foodie
spreads in a unique & inventive way whatever
your event

**Weddings • Private dining • Gourmet BBQ's
• Parties • Funerals**

GIVE US A CALL: 07970 788986
OR VISIT: www.tgeventcatering.co.uk



@tandgeventcatering



Fyfield Village Vets

We invited Fyfield Village Vets to write a regular article for the Focus and happily they agreed.



A little update from us at Fyfield Village Vets...

Since we opened in June 2025, we have loved meeting so many of your furry companions and being part of your village. Every pet owner tells us their pet is the best and not one of you is wrong! We are all very lucky to have so many wonderful pets in Fyfield. Whether we live with that pet or just see them when out and about, they enrich our lives. It is lovely seeing so many dogs enjoying their walks in the fields, park and sports field locally, and we have spotted a few cats out and about too (and we know many more are very busy napping their way through winter tucked up warm inside)! We have enjoyed seeing contestants and prize winners of the Fyfield Dog Show (held on the Sports Field in the summer) popping into the surgery or bumping into you when out and about walking your dogs.

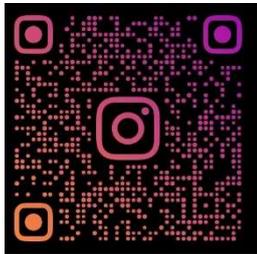
Fyfield is definitely a village filled with people who love their animals and where your furry friends adore you, their owners! The unconditional love of a pet can do more than just keep us company. There is evidence to show pets in our lives can decrease stress, improve heart health and decrease blood pressure!

Antifreeze - A seasonal poison to avoid your pet ingesting....

Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol which is sadly highly poisonous. Small spills can be highly poisonous to cats and dogs and cause devastating outcomes. It has the bad combination of a sweet taste and being very concentrated so animals only need a small amount to cause kidney failure. Symptoms to watch out for are vomiting, lethargy, a wobbly gait (appearing drunk), increased drinking, changes in urination, seizures and neurological signs. If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze this is an emergency requiring prompt action. Sadly, the prognosis can be poor but various treatment protocols can be successful if caught early and depending on the amount ingested. Some treatment protocols at the veterinary practice involve vodka (for the patient not the staff!).

So, watch out for any antifreeze leaks from your car, and get cars checked at the mechanics as required. Let's keep our precious pets in Fyfield safe this winter.

Did you see our 'Christmas toxins to avoid' video we made to raise awareness of poisons and keep our pets safe? We can see our video had over 12,000 views!...if you have not had a laugh at our Christmas antics you can find our video pinned on the top of our Instagram and Facebook pages or scan the QR code below on your phone!



Cat joke What song does a cat like best?
Three Blind Mice!!

Dog joke Why don't dogs make good dancers?
They have two left feet!!

Happy New Year from all of us at Fyfield Village Vets and we look forward to sharing some 'tails' of what we have been up to in the next Fyfield Focus!



Looking For Friendly, Local, Reliable and Trustworthy Gardener?

Then look no further. Services Provided:

- All year round continuous garden maintenance
- One off garden clearance
- Waste clearance

Duties range from lawns mowed, hedge cutting, weeding beds, edging lawns, tidying overgrown gardens to clearing waste from gardens.

07555 420544 pabservices@yahoo.com

David James Beard - Jim

This is a shortened version of the eulogy Jim's daughter Jenny read at his funeral service on 3rd December 2025. The service was held at Greenacres in North Weald and was well attended by both family and friends.



Jim was born on 18th May 1933 at Prows Farm Cottages in White Roding, one of eight siblings. He went to White Roding School and then Ongar Secondary, the sort of schools where you learned as much from the people as from the books. In the early 1950s he did his National Service, training as a gunner with the Army in the Royal Artillery at Oswestry, was posted to Rhyl, and for a time in Germany.

He married Doreen in St Mary's Church, Moreton, on 28th March 1959. Together they raised a family that became his proudest creation: three children (Jenny, Lionel, then Melvin), 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Family mattered to Jim.

Work for Jim was never about status. He grafted; he kept going. He spent over twenty years with Jack Gevertz, the scrap metal merchants in Hallingbury, and stayed with them when they moved to a yard in Aythorpe Roding. When that business closed, after a period of unemployment, he returned to the same yard at Aythorpe to work for Page and Company, the paper merchants, until he retired in 1998.

Jim was, at heart, a keen amateur inventor. Our garage - his domain - was a universe of tools, wires, odd bits of metal and wood he was certain would be useful 'one day'. If you asked what he was making, he'd wave a hand and say, 'You'll see - I've had this idea....'

He had other passions too. He loved his westerns and war films – naturally - and he enjoyed listening to André Rieu and his orchestra. He liked the comfort of a familiar story, a tune you could whistle, a hero who did the right thing in the end. I think he recognised something of himself in that: a straightforward man who kept going.

A husband to Doreen for more than sixty years, they lived almost their entire married life in the same house in Walker Avenue, Fyfield since January 1962 when it was new.



Audrey Clancy 1935 - 2025

This was read during the Celebration of Audrey's life

Since Audrey passed away on Bonfire Night, which Paula likes to think was because she wanted to go out with a bang and a bit of a sparkle, many words have been used by people to describe Audrey. Lovely, kind, generous, quirky and a bit of a character to name a few. Paula agrees with all of the above but feels she could add a couple of her own including strong, capable, independent and, dare we say it, even a little stubborn. But all of these qualities made Audrey who she was. The Audrey that we all loved, and she lived life her way until the end.



She was born on the 24th May 1935, the second child of Elsie and Edgar Harris. She had a childhood that could be described as both happy and at the same time quite difficult. She was at primary school during the Second World War and used to recall how she, at the age of five, walked to and from school but due to the bombing never knew when she left school in the afternoon whether it would still be standing the next morning.

Audrey was a bright child who worked hard at school and was very proud, as were her parents, when she passed the entrance exams to grammar school. She and Brian first met on the train ride to their respective schools and their courtship began in earnest at a dance at the Manor Hall, Chigwell in 1953, when they were just 18 years of age, even surviving Brian's RAF days.

They had a fun time together and were both very sporty. Audrey played netball at quite a high level and Brian enjoyed football but a shared love they had was tennis which they continued to play for many years.

Brian popped the question on Audrey's 21st birthday and a wedding date was set for the 8th March 1958. Their first home was in Chadwell Heath. After two years they moved to Barkingside and Audrey switched to working part time for the National Westminster Bank in Loughton where she counted, in her words, 'the ever so charming' Kray Twins amongst her most regular customers!

When Paula was born, Audrey became a very happy stay-at-home mum which also meant they were finally able to get a much-wanted four-legged companion, and Sandy the gentle golden Labrador arrived, the first of many dogs they shared their home with.

They always dreamed of living in the country and in 1976 moved into their bungalow in Fyfield. They loved the village from the moment they arrived and

threw themselves into village life, joining groups such as the tennis club at the boarding school, indoor bowls, the WI, WD50 fitness club to name a few. Audrey was still enjoying the luncheon club right up to a few weeks before she died.

They both loved their roles as hands-on grandparents and doted on their two granddaughters Chloe and Kiera. Audrey loved to pick them up from school and take them to their various clubs and hobbies. The girls used to rush home from school and straight over to Nanny's house where they would all play dogs, horses, shops or whatever game was flavour of the moment. Audrey was game for anything where her beloved granddaughters were concerned.

By the time Audrey and Brian retired, they were both working in the finance sector for the NHS at Goodmayes Hospital in Redbridge. They enjoyed many happy years of retirement at home in their beloved Fyfield and also enjoyed time with their dogs on the Suffolk coast at their holiday home, which really was their happy place.

Sadly, Brian passed away just before Christmas 2015. Audrey was devastated by the loss of her soulmate but she picked herself up and made the most out of life. She never ever moaned about age-related aches and pains and still walked her dog Bobby every day and remained independent until the end.

She still loved family celebrations and gatherings and threw herself into her role as Nan of the Bride when Chloe and I married in September last year, even having some twirls around the dancefloor! (Strictly was her favourite programme). This year she was able to enjoy her 90th birthday surprise family party.

Audrey made many good friends over the years. She loved to chat and was genuinely interested in other people and their lives. Brian used to say she was a little bit nosy to which she would always reply that it was healthy curiosity! During the last couple of years when Audrey was living life at a slower pace, she still liked nothing better than a little stroll to the village shop to get her favourite treats and see who she might meet on the way!

Paula has asked me to finish by thanking Audrey for everything she did for her and all the family. She was the best Mum and Nan, and the most giving person you could meet, especially with her time, and will be remembered for that always. We will all miss you Audrey but you will always hold a special place in all our hearts and we hope you are back with Brian, in a new happy place and you will always 'keep dancing'.

Tribute to Pam Harley 1943 - 2025

This eulogy was read by the priest at Pam's funeral

Pamela Mary Harley was an Essex Girl and was born in Grays, Thurrock on the 8th December 1943 to Reginald and Dorothy Cook. She was elder sister to Christine, who is with us today. Her first job was a secretarial post at the Local Authority where she met her husband to be 63 years ago when they were both 19. They were married in St Andrews Church, Hornchurch in 1966 and purchased a bungalow in the town. In 1971 Pam gave birth to Christopher, and in 1974 Richard was born.



In 1979 Pam and Keith built a house in Fyfield, where they have lived for over 46 years. Chris and Richard went to the local primary school, and Pam was involved in the community, where she was Secretary to the Women's Institute and the PTA. She also helped with the local Scout Group to which the boys belonged, including outings to Skreens Park where the Group went camping. When the boy's friends came round after school, to join them in the swimming pool, Pam was always looking for towels and warm clothes for them. Both the boys were keen on football, and Pam and Keith were often found themselves travelling in different directions on Sundays to away matches. On a wet and muddy Sunday, Pam would say, 'I'm glad it's not my turn for the kit this week'!!

When the boys were older, Pam returned to work as a medical secretary at Epping hospital. She joined a local dance group, and several members of the group are still great friends and regularly went to lunch together and, prior to Covid, met annually to play softball with their families and friends on the beach in North Norfolk.

Pam and Keith travelled widely over the years, including visiting their eldest son Christopher in Hong Kong twice most years since 1994. They spent their 50th wedding anniversary in the Italian lakes and enjoyed that part of Italy so much that they have been back to the Italian lakes and the Dolomites every year since.

They also enjoyed sailing together. In the early years, it was dinghy sailing in a GP14. Then they had a sailing cruiser and, after a break in the early 2000s, they bought a new Devon Lugger day boat which they sailed on the river Blackwater until a few years ago when Pam declared that boarding a moored vessel in

choppy water was becoming increasingly difficult. Pam loved the coast which they visited regularly, and were still members of the Blackwater sailing club.

She loved reading, particularly historical novels and music, including classical music, her favourite tenor being Luciano Pavarotti. Pam had attended Spanish classes for several years and met up with the group in Shenfield on a regular basis and online. She went to keep fit classes twice a week, including the local elderly keep fit group at the village hall on Fridays where she met friends from the village, and was a member of the u3a and Ongar Jazz Club.

She was very keen on gardening and knowledgeable on plants and flowers. Pam and Keith rarely went to Chelmsford at the weekend without Pam bringing a new plant home! She was also very keen on rugby union and was over the moon when England recently won in the Autumn Series against Australia, New Zealand and Argentina.

Above all else, Pam was a very kind and generous person and a caring wife and mother who would always help others. She was devoted to her family and loved Christmas in particular. In past years (1987-1997) the entire extended family would meet at Keith's sister Jackie's house in Suffolk, where often as many as 25 family members and friends would gather for the festive Season. More recently, Pam and Keith have joined Richard's partner, Jenny's family for Christmas together in Surrey, enjoying their company and heartily laughing over after dinner games.

Pam will be missed so dreadfully by her loving husband, family and friends.



Howard Nicholson

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our dear friend Howard Nicholson on Sunday January 4th. Howard was a man who contributed so much to this village alongside his wife Patti and Fyfield is the poorer for the loss of them both within the last 8 months.

An obituary will be published in our next issue of the Focus.



Howard's funeral is to be held on Thursday 5th February at 2.30pm at Bentley Crematorium and afterwards at the Bentley Golf Club.

If you wish to make a donation in his memory the preferred charities are the British Heart Foundation or the RNLI.

Fyfield Ramblers

Sunday 1st February and 1st March

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**:

3rd February and 3rd March

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 -

**16th February,
9th and 30th March**



“You must be made of copper and tellurium because you’re Cu-Te but also a little unstable!”

The Black Bull Inn, Fyfield



The Black Bull in Fyfield is a family run pub set in the beautiful west Essex countryside. It is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 1400's. We serve good food and drink and we are very pleased to be able to offer accommodation in our hotel adjacent to the pub.

For those who prefer to **dine at home**, we offer a **take away service**.

Opening Hours:

Monday - Saturday	Sunday
11:30 - 14:30 (Food Served 12-2pm) We are closed on Tuesday lunchtimes	12pm - 20:30 (Food Served 12pm - 19:30)
18:00 - 23:00 (Food Served 6:30-8:30pm)	

The Black Bull, Dunmow Road, Fyfield CM5 0NN Tel: 01277 899225

www.blackbullfyfield.co.uk

JACKSON ENGINEERING

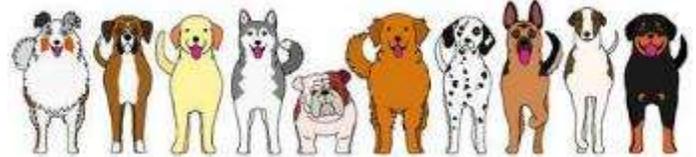
STATION GARAGE
HIGH STREET, ONGAR
Telephone 01277 363707

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

MOT TESTING OF PETROL & DIESEL VEHICLES

JAPANESE & 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES SERVICED & REPAIRED

FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERY



Dog Walker

Pet Sitter

Susan Williams BSc

**Dog walker, Pet Sitter,
Retired Veterinary Nurse**

07702 529 506

bogart.williams@hotmail.co.uk





The Good Pub Guide:
Essex Dining Pub of the Year 2018
Open Table Diners Choice 2019
Michelin Guide 2019

Family run 15th Century Country Pub.
Good Food, Fine Wines, Real Ales,
Friendly Service, Open Fires,
Private Dining Room, River Garden.

The Queen's Head
Queen Street, Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RY
Tel: 01277 899231

info@queensheadfyfield.co.uk
www.queensheadfyfield.co.uk
 [@thequeensheadfyfield](https://www.instagram.com/thequeensheadfyfield)

Takeaway Available Now!

Check social media for our latest menus!

D. Webb's Plumbing

Qualified & experienced Plumber
All plumbing & heating requirements covered

- **Emergency 24 hour Callout**
- **Bathroom Specialist**
- From Blockages to Taps, Floating Valves and more.
- All aspects of plumbing and property maintenance

No job too small

Call Danny on 07599 561441

www.dwebbsplumbing.com



[dwebbsplumbing](https://www.instagram.com/dwebbsplumbing)



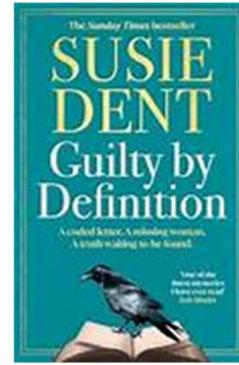
[d.webbsplumbing](https://www.facebook.com/d.webbsplumbing)



Page Turners

Guilty by Definition by Susie Dent

Susie Dent, longstanding Queen of Countdown's Dictionary Corner and author of many non-fiction books on linguistics has turned her hand to her first novel.



Guilty by Definition is a crime novel that revolves around the decade old, mysterious and unresolved disappearance of Martha Thornhill's sister Charlie. Martha, now a senior editor at the Clarendon English Dictionary in Oxford, and her small team start to receive anonymous cryptic messages that ultimately relate to this puzzling disappearance. As a group, they start to decipher the complex clues but someone is desperate to keep the truth buried.

Fast paced it is not, but by the last page not only has the mystery been solved but readers have had a dip into the rich tapestry that is the English language.

Margaret Dines

The Ongar Art Society

invites you to the

Spring Art Sale

at

The Room in the Rodings

Beauchamp Roding, CM5 0PF

on Saturday 14th March

from 10.00am to 4.00pm

A variety of original art and crafts,
all handmade by members,
for you to browse and buy.

Free parking, Raffle,
Delicious refreshments.

We would love to see you there!

There's never a wrong age to start wood carving; Introducing Essex Wood Carvers.



Want to be supported in a new and highly rewarding pastime? Or maybe develop skills you already have? Wood carving can transport you to an absorbing new world unleashing creativity (*that you may not think is within you*) and satisfaction, producing works of beauty and wonder.

Essex Wood carvers is a friendly, active and established group, dedicated to maintaining and expanding both traditional and modern wood carving skills. Whether you are an absolute beginner or more advanced wood carver we have skilled artisans who can support you as you embark on this wonderful pastime starting with basic projects up to masterpieces. There are a huge range of projects to try, from traditional to the more contemporary, each supported by expert inspiring mentorship. This is a great way to immerse yourself in an absorbing world for a few hours a month. We meet in Margaretting village hall on the first Sunday of the month and or Bridgewater Drive Church, Westcliffe on Sea (2nd and 4th Mondays of the month). Rest assured tools, materials and tea are all readily available. Please see our website for more information www.essexwoodcarvers.org and if you have additional questions please email on essexwoodcarvers@gmail.com or use the contact form on our website.

Ken Veal



THE LAVERS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Meetings are on the first Monday of the month (except bank holidays) in the Moreton Village Hall, Church Road, CM5 0JD at 7:30pm.

Our first meeting of 2026 is on **February 2nd** with a presentation by Frances Banham of Stock Gardens. Francesca will be talking about garden design and showing us before and after photos of some of their projects. Delicious cakes with coffee or tea are served at the end of every meeting with an opportunity to socialise with the other members.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on the **2nd March** at 7.30pm when the existing committee are re-elected and the 2025 Accounts agreed. Do come, we need a quorum to continue functioning as a Society.

Membership is just £15 for 2026 which includes all monthly meetings, a group trip to the Hyde Hall Flower show in August and a 'Picnic & Pimms' afternoon in one of our member's beautiful garden. No gardening experience necessary! We are not all experts, but a friendly group of people interested in learning more about gardens, vegetable growing, wildlife in our gardens and all aspects of gardening. You will be warmly welcomed!

Contact Christine Davis on 01277-890283 or Kimberley on 07809616847 if you would like more information. You can follow us on Facebook at 'The Lavers & District Horticultural Society'.

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

<i>Opening Times</i>	<i>Village Store</i>	<i>Post Office</i>	
Monday	} 7am to 5pm	} 10am to 5pm	
Tuesday			
Wednesday		} 10am to 2pm	
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday	8am to 4pm	10am to 5pm	
Sunday	8am to 12.30pm	10am to 12.30pm	
		Closed	

Tel: 01277 899201

Essex Window Repair Services



We specialise in **repairing all double glazing products** both aluminium and uPVC, these include:

- Windows
- Broken Glass
- Misted Sealed Units
- Broken Hinges
- Handles
- Locking Mechanisms
- Draughty Opening Windows
- Plus Any Other Problems

Doors

- ✓ Damaged Glass
- ✓ Door Locks
- ✓ Hinges
- ✓ Gaskets
- ✓ Not Closing Correctly



Patio Doors

- ✓ New Safety Glass Sealed Units
- ✓ New Handles
- ✓ Replacement Wheels
- ✓ Tracks
- ✓ Plus Many More



For all quotations, contact us:

01279 413 706

essexwindowrepairservices@gmail.com

www.essexwindowrepairservices.co.uk

All quotations are free of charge
No Deposit Required
You only pay on work completion

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

February is the last month of winter and it may bring cold and frosty weather but it also brings hope - hope for the spring and new life evident in snowdrops, daffodils and buds on the trees.

Hope too, as on 2nd February, we celebrate the Feast of The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. This feast commemorates Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple to be presented to the Lord in accordance with the Law. At the heart of this feast is the encounter with two elderly people, Simeon and Anna, who foresaw Jesus' death and resurrection and proclaimed that he had come for the salvation of all. Simeon's words are prayed every evening during Compline or Night Prayer of the Church in the canticle we call 'The Nunc Dimittis'. As we pray, his words become our words, our hope – God has spoken, his Word will be fulfilled.

'At last all powerful master
You give leave to your servant
To go in peace, according to your promise.
My eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all nations
The light to enlighten the Gentiles
And give glory to Israel, your people. (*Luke 2:29-32*)

This short canticle speaks of God's providence. Simeon's wisdom reminds us to marvel at what God is doing in our lives and to remain faithful in the hope that His promises will be fulfilled. It symbolises for us that Jesus is the Light of the world and we are invited to share in his mission by being a light for others on the journey. The hope is that the people we meet on our journey through life will experience the love of Jesus as we work, relax and interact with them.

Anne Robertson

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 email: ongar@brcdt.org

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.

Lenten Lunches



Lent is the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday when, traditionally, people ate more simply and tried to help others less fortunate. During this time, you can enjoy a simple lunch and get together at St. Margaret's Hall, Doddinghurst Road. All proceeds to charity.

Saturday 21st, 28th February and 7th March from 12 midday.



“Before you marry a person you should first make them use a computer with slow internet to see who they really are.”



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.

The proceeds from the raffle held during these evenings will be going to St Clare Hospice. Tickets and further information at www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk

We welcome back **The Djangoliers**, a band that hails from our native Essex. They'll be bringing us 'An Evening of Gypsy Jazz' based on the oeuvre of the Hot Club de France. Taking their cue from Django Reinhardt's war-year's line-up, in which Hubert Rostaing's clarinet replaced Stephane Grapelli's violin. **The Djangoliers** specialise in performing music written and inspired by the late, great French guitarist Django. As well as performing many of his classic arrangements and compositions such as 'Nuages', 'Swing 42', and 'Manoir Des Mes Rêves', they also perform tunes from the more contemporary canon of the style known as 'Gypsy Jazz'.

On March 20th **Pete Rudeforth's Jazz Band** will be coming to entertain us. This is a London-based band formed from the finest Dixieland, New Orleans and Swing musicians on the UK jazz scene today.

Pete Rudeforth has been playing trumpet from a very young age. Trained classically at Cardiff University and The Royal Academy of Music he has a passion for British traditional jazz and formed a jazz band whilst still at school, to play the music of Barber, Ball and Bilk. He has since gone on to be a mainstay of the London jazz scene, playing with the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Palm Court Theatre Orchestra, Temperance Seven, Charleston Chasers and the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra at London's Savoy Hotel. He was a member of The Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen Band, and played many times with Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band. In July 2008, he succeeded the legendary trumpeter Pat Halcox and played over a thousand concerts, all over Europe and beyond, with The Chris Barber Band

Pete has used his inside knowledge to unearth and transcribe over a hundred great arrangements by bands such as Chris Barber, Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk, John Kirby, Harry Gold, Chick Webb, Henry 'Red' Allen, Bob Wallis, Duke Ellington, Bix Beiderbecke and Louis Armstrong. As a result, the band's repertoire is hot, uplifting, beautiful, and rhythmically infectious. At times, due to the skilful arrangements, it seems as if the band might be bigger than it is. The programme is entertaining, humorous and original, whilst being directly connected to the great British jazz bands.

GUARANTEED PART WORN & NEW TYRES



PART WORN TYRES



NEW TYRES



TRACKING



CAR TYRES



CROSSOVER TYRES



4x4 TYRES



VAN TYRES



**PUNCTURE AND DAMAGE
TYRES REPAIR SPECIALIST**

For details of our **LIFETIME
GUARANTEE** on part-worn tyres visit:

www.tyresaversukltd.co.uk

Unit 4 Navigation Road, Chelmsford CM2 6HE
Call: 01245 252 626

143 London Rd, Stanford Rivers, Ongar CM5 9PP
Call: 01277 365 420



Visit us on Facebook



With over 30 years of experience

**Full/part rewires
Garden lighting**



Barry



**New led lighting
Fault finding and more**

is your 'local' qualified Electrician

Call outs for emergency works

Domestic and commercial work undertaken

contact Barry Charalambous on 07956432310

bcharalambous1@btinternet.com



- BOILER REPAIRS / SERVICING & INSTALLATIONS
- POWER FLUSHING
- LANDLORD CERTIFICATION
- PLUMBING WORKS
- PRESSURISED SYSTEMS
- COMPLETE BATHROOM DESIGN & INSTALL
- AIR CON – F-GAS REGISTERED

**** CALL JAMES ON 07834231177 ****



Mely Harrison
House Cleaner
 Monday-Friday
 Competitive rates

07528680964
 melyharrison330@gmail.com

FREE ESTIMATES
 NO JOB TOO SMALL

Robert Rayment
PLUMBING – HEATING – GAS

Services:

- Boiler Replacement, Repairs & Services
- System Upgrades
- Gas Safety Inspections
- Cylinder Servicing & Installations
- Leaking Taps/Showers/Baths/Sinks
- Central Heating Power Flushing

Local plumber with a good reputation
25+ years experience in the industry

CALL NOW 07853 878 895

robertraymentplumber@gmail.com
 robertraymentplumbing-heating-gas.com
 @robertraymentplumber

GAS safe REGISTER

Ongar Nature Watch

Red Kites

Red Kites were once on the brink of extinction in this country but, thanks to the RSPB and others, this magnificent bird can now be seen in many places in these isles. In fact, the UK is now home to nearly one fifth of the entire world population. Red Kites circling in the skies of Ongar and surrounding areas are now a common sight.



They are one of Britain's largest birds of prey, known for their reddish-brown body, long patterned wings, forked tail and distinctive "mewing" calls. Once considered a threat to game birds and domestic animals, like cats and dogs, the red kite was hunted close to extinction in the UK and at one time, there were just a few breeding pairs in central Wales. However, despite what was thought at the time, Red Kites are largely scavengers, feeding on carrion and small prey such as rabbits. The birds breed exclusively in Europe and are still endangered due to illegal persecution through shooting, poisoning and trapping.

Now, there are around four and a half thousand breeding pairs, a remarkable achievement. Although they were common in the Middle Ages, even in cities, attitudes changed and Red Kites found themselves branded as vermin. They were relentlessly killed and targeted by egg collectors.

Soon their numbers were diminishing and by the 1870s, they were extinct in Scotland, England and Ireland. In the early 1900s, only about five breeding pairs were found in Wales in the remote hills. Genetic fingerprinting later showed that these birds could all be traced to a single female – bad news for the genetic diversity of the population.

Thanks to conservation efforts involving the RSPB, volunteers and local farmers – including nest protection schemes, the Welsh population began to partially recover. However, numbers remained low and by the early 1980s, there were still only around 50 breeding pairs, confined to west Wales. With the remaining population so fragile and natural population growth looking unlikely, it was clear more action was required.

In 1989, the RSPB joined forces with the Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage) to begin the first Red Kite re-introduction programme. Between 1989 and 1994, young birds were taken from nests in Sweden, Spain and Wales, reared and then released near

Inverness in Scotland and in the Chiltern Hills, between London and Oxford in England. Breeding was recorded at both sites in 1992, and just two years later Red Kites that hatched in the wild raised their own chicks for the first time. The successes paved the way for more releases in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, all with great results. Red Kites were back.

Red Kites still face many challenges in the UK, with illegal persecution stopping them from thriving in some areas. However, their spectacular recovery from just a few birds is clear and inspiring proof that with targeted action the fortunes of struggling species can be addressed.

Now it is time to repay the debt as Spain needs help to increase its Red Kite population. Chicks from Britain are flown to Madrid and then transported south to the wildlife hospital in Villafranca de los Barros.

Each chick is weighed, measured and tagged before being fitted with a GPS backpack, which allows it to be tracked.

The birds are then moved to holding aviaries near the Portuguese border for two weeks to acclimatise them to their new surroundings. It takes several hours before one by one they leave the safety of the aviary and fly off into the wild. Only about a quarter of the red kites released during the project have survived. A significant threat is from predators such as Eagle Owls while many die from poisoning and illegal shooting.

Keith Snow

Puzzle Page Answers

1. BEIJING LONDON
ROME TOKYO
MOSCOW BERLIN
MADRID PARIS
2. FOOT
3. BRIDES DEBRIS



 *“Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?”*

**WE STOCK
COAL AND
KINDLING**

WARM UP THIS WINTER WITH ERNEST DOE POWER



**FYFIELD
Ongar CM5 0NS
Tel: 01277 899464**

 **ernestDOEpower**
where you buy with confidence

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 (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. 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:

Production team: Margaret Dines, Sally Wallden, Dan Webster – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com

Finance, Advertising & Delivery: Steve Turner – steve.turner31@gmail.com

Delivery with thanks to: Liz Bird, Carol Cox, Eddie Fancourt, Elaine Griffiths, Fran Homersham, Ann Jackson, Les Lamb, David Mead, Katharine Perry, Heather Porter, Mary Simons, Jenny Stone, Steve Turner, Sue Veal, Mike Walker and Mary Woodrow.

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, WD50+, K Carpenter, D & L Webster.

Fyfield Useful Contacts

GENERAL

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

COUNCIL

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

CHURCH

Church Warden – Lesley Wallis	899214
---	--------

EDUCATION

Fyfield Village Pre-School – Lisa Carey	899678
Dr Walker's School - Mrs Jenny Dean	899298

SCOUTS & GUIDES

Rainbows, Brownies & Rangers – Veronica Riches	07789 781281
Guides – Deborah Mopett	07889 653421
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorer Scouts – Sandra Mead	899519

VILLAGE HALL

Chair – Penny Ovel	07884 007865
Bookings – Lizzie Webster	07956 440894
Secretary – Chris Collins	07920 520469