

Oct/Nov 2021

Fyfield



Focus



In colour at fyfieldfocus.wixsite.com/home

Village Diary

Date	Time	What	Where
Sun 3 rd Oct	10.00am	Ramblers	Village Hall
Tue 5 th Oct	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Mon 11 th Oct	7.00pm	Parish Council Mtg	Village Hall
Wed 13 th Oct	12.30pm	Luncheon Club meet	Village Hall
30/31 st Oct		PUMPKIN TRAIL	Fyfield
Sun 7 th Nov	10.00am	Ramblers	Village Hall
Tue 2 nd Nov	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Wed 10 th Nov	12.30pm	Luncheon Club meet	Village Hall
Sat 13 th Nov	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Village Hall
Wed 1 st Dec	1.00pm	Luncheon Club meet	Village Hall
Sat 5 th Dec	tbc	Christmas Fayre	Village Hall

So many highlights!

First, thank you to all who entered the 'Summer Exhibition' and congratulations to our prize winners. The Focus team members were delighted to present them with prizes and certificates for this year's competition (see pg 6), funded with the kind support of Fyfield Farms. More winners can also be seen celebrating on page 12, after completing either the 5K or 10K races at the Fyfield Footpath Run.

Wonderfully, the day prior, traffic was brought to a standstill in the village as many locals turned out to cheer on the beautiful bride as she rode to the church. Our warmest congratulations go to the new Mr & Mrs McConnell (see pg 41).

Future events highlighted include a Quiz Night (pg 17) in November and a Christmas Fayre in December at the Village Hall. The Pumpkin Trail beckons towards the end of October (pg 7), but beware the ghosts and ghouls! And a race night looks to be on track at the Scout Hut before the year is out.

Volunteers are being sought after – our 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scouts needs extra helpers (I have volunteered, will you?), and the very active Scouts troop have spaces – we welcome our younger locals who fancy 'scouting' in their spare time (pg 27), it's tons of fun. Volunteer lifesaving 'blood-runners' are being sought after too (pg 44).

Just a final note to let you know that the Focus in collaboration with local support will have packs of *exclusive* Fyfield Pea notecards for sale as this issue hits your doorsteps – for news on our latest fundraising efforts (pg 24).

Team Focus

p.s. Thank you to Pat Dain for these wonderful cover photos.



Coming up...

Fyfield Ramblers

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

**Sunday 3rd October & 7th November
10:00am at 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 next two Coffee Mornings, which will be held on



**Tues 5th October &
2nd November 10am-12pm**

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

Carol, Trish, Pam and Lesley



Fyfield Luncheon Club

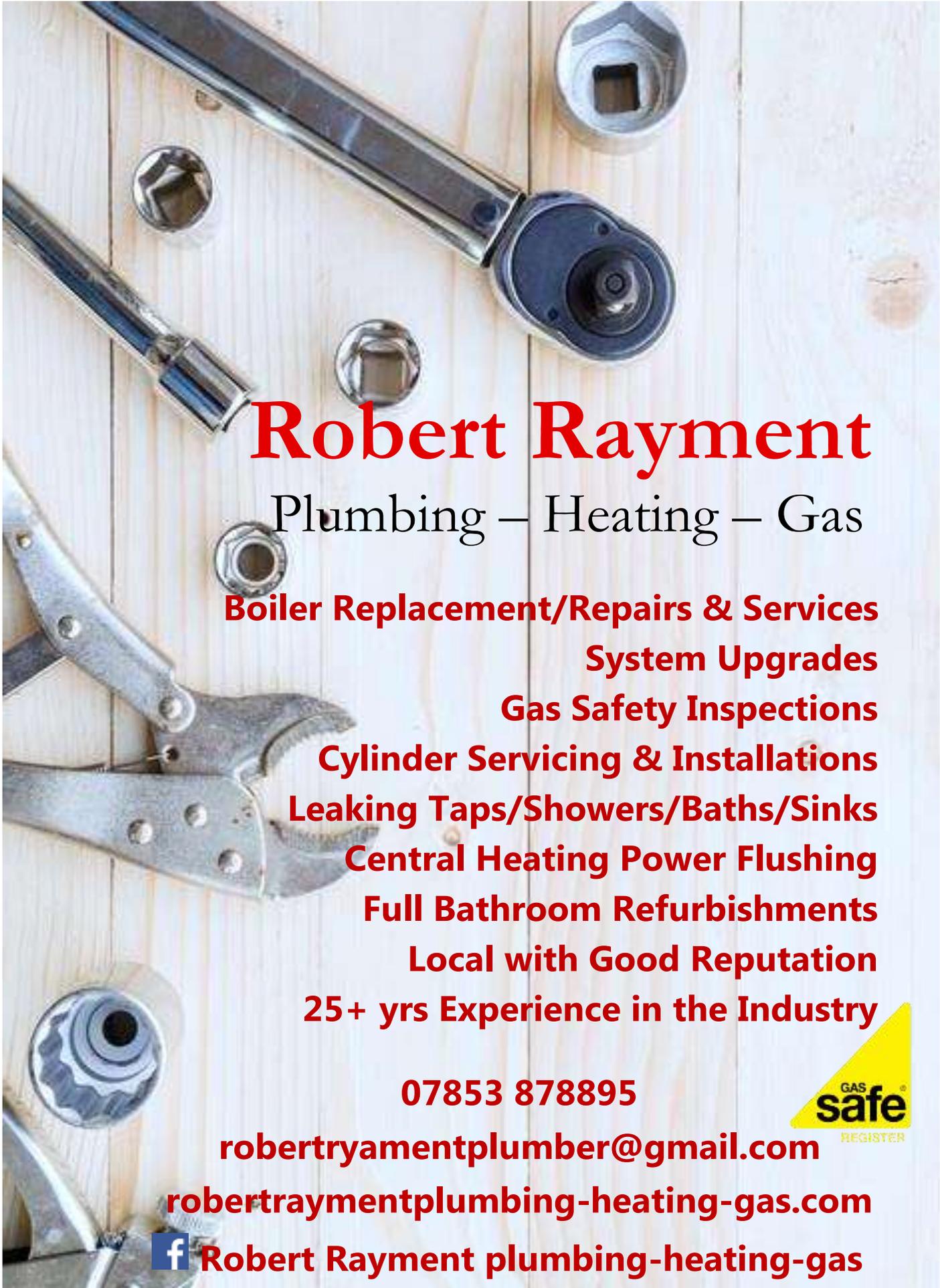
August luncheon club was another success with chicken pie produced by our fabulous Lesley. Helpers were Julie Robinson, Pam Orros, Trish Jones and me. Once the meal was finished, Sandra Mead organised a singer who entertained with some wonderful songs to sing along to that got everybody's feet tapping.

We next meet on **13th October** and then on **10th November**, both with a 12.30pm arrival. Our Christmas lunch this year will take place on the **1st December** at 1pm.

Please call Sandra on 01277899519 by the Friday before to book your place.

Jan Hall



A collection of plumbing tools and parts, including wrenches, sockets, and pipe fittings, are scattered on a light-colored wooden surface. The tools are metallic and show signs of use. The background is a vertical-grain wood.

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Fyfield Carpet Bowls Club

The club is still managing to meet on a Tuesday evening and everyone is enjoying the game of carpet bowls and the interaction between our members.



Autumn is upon us and the dark nights are closing in on us, but hopefully our members will still keep coming.

There is no information forthcoming on league fixtures or competitions at Braintree, but the Essex Committee have a zoom meeting arranged for Friday 1st October, after which I should know a little more regarding the future of carpet bowls.

Enjoy this Indian summer while it lasts!

Jacky Brown (Captain/Secretary)



WD50+ Exercise Club

We meet on Fridays, 11.30 – 12.45 in the Monica Couling Room at Fyfield Village Hall. Enquiries and further information from: Liz Bird (01277899324) or Patti Nicholson (01277899504)



Patti Nicholson



Foodbank

We would just like to thank residents for their continued generosity to the foodbank.

At present, the warehouse is well stocked with beans, soup and pasta but there are critical levels of the following items: **long-life fruit juice, hot chocolate, powdered potato, squash, sponge puddings, teabags, deodorants and soap.**

Items can be left in the box in the Village Shop (below the papers) or if you would rather donate money, there is a collection tin on the counter. Thanks as always to Nikhil for accommodating this.

Margaret Cox and Margaret Dines



FYFIELD POSTER COMPETITION

Congratulations to our lovely prize winners,
seen here with their prizes





Pumpkin Trail



30th & 31st October 2021

Following the enjoyment of last year, we will be running a pumpkin trail in the village again this Halloween.

Join us by decorating your houses and leaving a pumpkin out if you have treats for the children!

Keep an eye on the [Fyfield & Moreton grapevine \(Facebook\)](#) for further details / maps nearer the time



Fyfield Parish Council



Coffee with Cops

The first Coffee with Cops since the pandemic began took place on the 18th August and it was hosted by our Community PC Warren Shepherd. This is the first occasion that Warren has hosted this event here in Fyfield and I'm pleased to say that it



was very well attended, even our new County Councillor Jamey McIvor came along for a chat. PC Warren is very friendly and approachable, and he took the time to speak individually to all those who came. Although no date for the next one has been set yet, please come and support this when we do, for as the saying goes 'if we

don't use it we will lose it'!

Sports/Playing Field Maintenance

Having started with a positive I would like to now address the negative. This is the recent issues regarding the playing field – namely the cut wet grass clumping and leaving the field looking very unsightly.

So, I thought it might be helpful to give a bit of background first, to provide some context regarding the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council. The Parish Council, amongst other things, provides a range of local services including provision and maintenance of the following: the children's play area, the sports/playing field, the burial ground, and managing important local assets such as the bus shelter and the village sign. This all needs to be done within our budget, of which our main income is the Precept. For those who are not aware, the Precept is an additional tax payment that each household pays and is raised as part of the Council Tax.

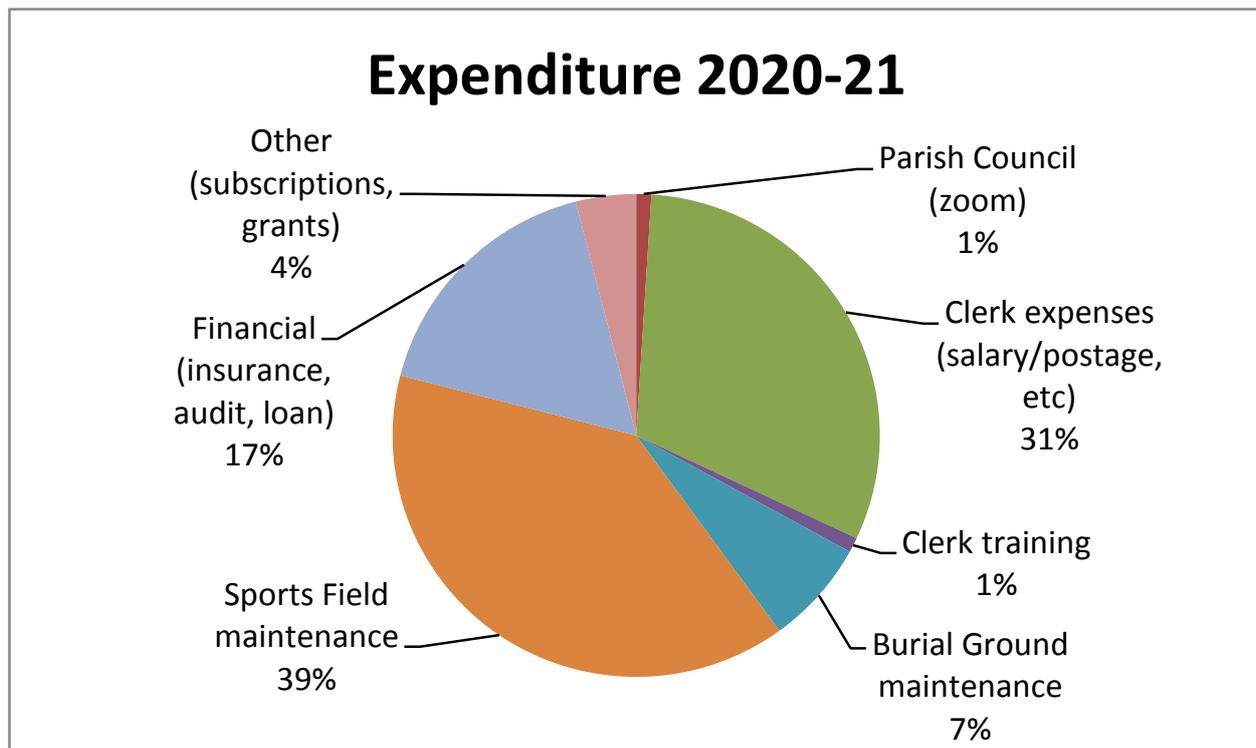
The sports/playing field was bequeathed to the residents of Fyfield and for many, many years they were managed and maintained by the various thriving sports clubs. Maintenance was done purely on a voluntary basis and it included the surrounding hedgerows as well as care of the grass. Sadly, over the years the sports clubs disbanded and, finally, most recently the Parish Council took on



stewardship of the field on behalf of local residents. This means that there is now a significant financial burden for the parish to keep the field well maintained. Currently each grass cut costs £210 and as you can see in the diagram the major expenditure of our budget is spent on this alone.

Expenditure 2020 – 2021

In addition, this year seems to have been a slightly exceptional year in as much it has been very mild and very wet, which has meant that the grass has just kept on growing and growing, and ideally it should have been cut every week to prevent the clumping and unsightliness. However, in order to remain within our budget this was not possible and the result has been there for all to see! So I apologise to all for the outcome, however it is a fine balancing act of which I acknowledge that we have not been very successful with this year! We are actively doing all we can to find ways to manage the field as well as it has been previously, so please bear with us!



In the meantime, can you help your council and your parish? If anyone has the expertise and/or equipment and would like to volunteer to help with this, then we would be very happy to hear from you!

5K/10K Fun Run

Finally, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the organisers of the Fyfield Scouts 5K/10K Fun Run. This is the first time that I have been able to take part in this event and I must say that it was great fun! It was very well



attended with all age groups taking part, either running or walking, and with many dogs participating too! At the end there were refreshments and bacon butties available, and the bar was open as well, what's not to like! I will definitely be taking part next year and would encourage you all to do so too. Put it in your diary now!

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th October at 7.30pm and details can be found on the Notice Board by the shop or on our website.



Cllr. Barbara Saward, Chair

Fyfield Parish Council contact details

Cllr. B. Saward, <i>Chair</i>	07747 803829	barbara.m.saward@gmail.com
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Cllr. M. Bacon	01277 899052	piggyrasher@sky.com
Cllr. Janette Bell	01277 899253	janettesbell@hotmail.com
Cllr. S. Mead	01277 899519	gemkia@aol.com
Cllr. V. Minihane	07979 218127	vm2@live.co.uk
Cllr. T. Wadey	07778 270362	tim@wadey.info
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Church Services

St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield

We continue to remember our Rev Christine Hawkins in our thoughts and prayers. Do please check the noticeboards at church and by the shop for details as all services are subject to change. Please remember our church is open on Wednesdays 10am - 4pm for quiet prayer. We are so lucky and blessed to have our wonderful church, and the peace and freedom to enjoy it.

Sunday 17 th October	10am	Family Communion
Sunday 24 th October	10am	Family Prayer and Praise
Sunday 14 th November	10.45am	Act of Remembrance
Sunday 21 st November	10am	Family Communion
Sunday 28 th November	10am	Family Prayer and Praise

On Sunday 14th November, Remembrance Sunday, we are hoping to repeat our simple Act of Remembrance in the open air in the churchyard as last year.

Looking ahead to December, we are also hoping to have the Nativity Trail again which was great, and hopefully Carols Round the Tree. More details nearer the time! In the meantime, keep well, keep safe, keep faith.

Fyfield PCC

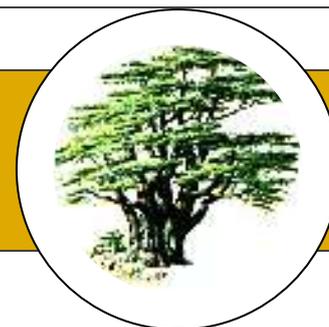


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Fyfield 5/10k 2021

This year we launched the first ever Fyfield 10K, alongside the 5K race, and this couldn't have been done without the support of so many people.



We must thank the local landowners, the Websters, Perrys and Allisons for the use of their land and for supporting us every year. We must also thank Les Lamb, who clears footpaths, organises parking and takes photographs on the day, and our Sponsors at the Queen's Head, John Sears, Ongar Bridge, the Black Bull, Brick Lane Bagels (Ongar), and Casual Tees for their generous support of the event.

All money raised goes to support the Scout Group, who are still recovering from the impacts of Covid19. Events like this help raise some of the funds we need to continue offering amazing opportunities to local young people. This event would not have happened without the support of the Scouts and their parents who helped marshal the event, and a special mention must be made to our Group Scout Leader, Sandra Mead, without whom this event would not have been so easy to organise.

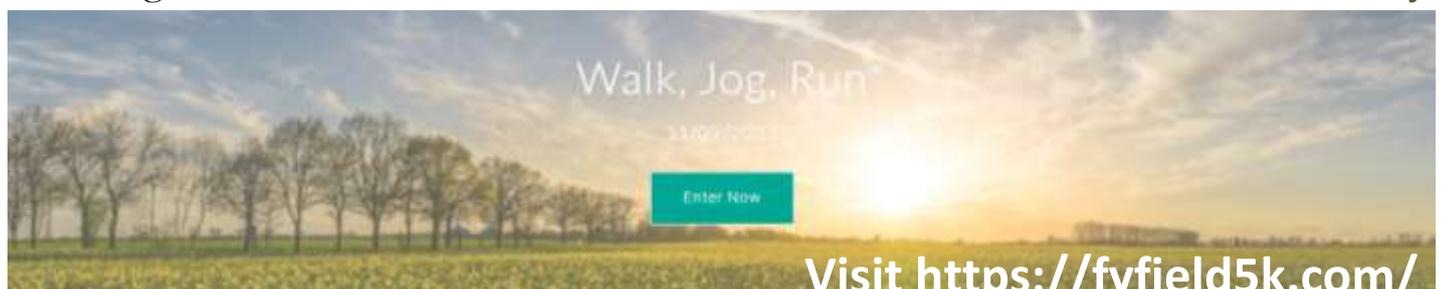
Congratulations to Lee Wood for setting the men's record for the 10k in a time of 38:25.5 and Justine Sheekey who set the women's course record for the 10k in a time of 46:54.1. The 5K event was won by Kirk Crudgington, (20:23.7) and the first woman home was Angela Angela, (22:01.8) only 8 seconds behind the record set last year. Our fastest Under 16 male was Jacob Kearney, (23:46.9) and our fastest female Under 16 was Aoife Hales Green (26:51.7).

This year we teamed up with Trees not Tees to offer the option of planting a tree instead of receiving a t-shirt. We are pleased that around a quarter of the competitors chose to make that step. The trees will be planted over the winter at a project in Scotland.

We look forward to holding the run next year on the 11th September 2022.

Kind regards,

Matthew Wadey



Fyfield 5/10k

The Winners!!

Fyfield Footpath 5K & 10K

Lee Wood



Justine Sheekey



Angela Angela



Kirk Crudginton



Aoife Hales Green



Jacob Kearney



We also ran!



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Fyfield Village Hall

A very good hello to you all, we are pleased to say that all our pre-Covid19 clubs and classes are now back and in some cases bigger than before. Private hires have returned catering for meetings, birthday parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, a gender reveal party, and unfortunately, some wakes.

The Village Hall is still run under government Covid19 guidelines and thanks to Lyn, the hall is cleaned virtually every day before anybody arrives. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to maintain standards and keep the halls a safe and welcoming building.

We are pleased to announce our popular

Quiz Night on 13th November

and if you have not attended one yet, you have been missing out. Try to get a group together and book a table. The bar will be open and a ploughman's plate of food awaits – you will not be disappointed.

Further ahead we plan to hold a

Christmas Fete on Sunday 5th December,

anyone wishing to have a stall please contact our booking secretary, either on 07956 440894 or email fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com.

Even further ahead we are looking at the weekend of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee from **Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June**. The official plans are for beacons to be lit on the Thursday and on the Sunday – the Big Jubilee Lunch. If anyone has a beacon we could use we would be very grateful. There was one we used for the original Jubilee that has now vanished. Plans for the Big Lunch do not just involve food, bring and buy stalls, plant swaps etc. - anything neighbourly is what it is all about.

For all of the above and to keep in touch watch the website or social media. If you would like to get involved in helping at events have any ideas you would like following up, please come and talk to one of the committee, we are all volunteers and help is always appreciated.

Martin Baxter, Chair

01277-899342 fyfield.villagehall@gmail.com

<http://fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk>



Q: When is
QUIZ NIGHT?

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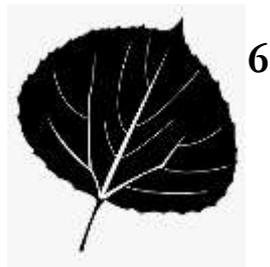
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Puzzle Page

Can you identify the trees from which these leaves are just about to fall!?



The following are anagrams of plants which hopefully will continue to bloom in the autumn. Can you work them out?

- 1) FUELS WORN
- 2) TEARS
- 3) HAD AIL
- 4) MUCUS UNTO CAR
- 5) ERE INN
- 6) MY CANCEL
- 7) IMMEDIACIES LASH AS
- 8) BOG LUMP
- 9) MUSED
- 10) STARCHY MUM HEN

Answers on page 47



Epping Forest District Council Matters: Moreton & Fyfield Ward



Now that the 19th July has passed and we are not Covid-restricted in the main, it has been interesting to see what has really happened. The West End on a Saturday night seems to be back to normal, with those theatres that are open full up again. However, the wearing of face masks on the tube seems, from my experience, to be disregarded, certainly on a Saturday night. The theatre that I visited was no better, with only about half of the tightly packed audience wearing masks with no attempt by the theatre management to even advise the audience to wear them. The latest government route plan for dealing with Covid19 over the winter months is welcome but raises cause for concern when a 'Plan B' is mentioned, as this is the first time to my knowledge, and recognises that Covid19 is not over yet and could spring many surprises.

The Civic Office in Epping has been totally revamped and is now referred to as a 'Community Hub', which has been designed to provide a central point of service to residents. Space has been vacated by EFDC staff to allow these changes by adopting the 'Agile Working' principle, where more staff are working from home, assisted by technology that shares information, making visits to the office not always necessary.

I thought that it would be useful to include the EFDC press release on the subject for your information. In the meantime, best regards and keep safe in your own way.

Cllr. Ian Hadley

Epping Forest District Council, Moreton & Fyfield Ward

01277 899840 / 07765882001

cldr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Epping Community Hub

The new Civic Offices are much more than just a place to access district council services.

The Epping Community Hub, opened on 13th September, is a one-stop shop for residents to access a whole range of services for help and advice.



How it works

Each organisation has a set time for being at the Epping Community Hub. This ensures a range of available services, space for private interviews and social distancing.

Residents are able to drop-in for a number of services, however some services require residents to book an appointment.

Organisations offering advice and support are:

Citizens Advice Epping Forest District – advice on a range of issues such as housing, immigration, work, benefits, debt and money, family and consumer

Changing Pathways – provides advocacy and support to survivors of domestic abuse

CHESS Homeless – ensures homeless people in Essex are helped to move forward purposefully and in good health

The Department for Work and Pensions – advice on welfare, pensions and child maintenance

EDFC Services – Community, Culture and Wellbeing services: including community grant support, homelessness triage and support officer, Revenue and Benefits.

Epping Forest Food Bank – provides emergency food parcels to people referred by frontline care professionals

Epping Forest Reuse – provides good quality furniture and household appliances for people in need

Essex County Council – Adult Social Care

Essex County Council – Family Solutions: helping disadvantaged families with multiple difficulties, make significant changes and improvements to their lives

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) – community mental health services and Rough Sleeper programme

Nacro – the national social justice charity

Peabody Outreach Support – offers short-term support to over 16s in Essex experiencing a range of problems

Phoenix Futures – a signposting/advocacy service for offenders with complex and additional needs

Voluntary Action Epping Forest – independent charity helping other local charities and community groups achieve their full potential.



Catholic Parish of St Helen's, Ongar and St Margaret's, Doddinghurst

On 4th October, we celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Born towards the end of the 12th century to a wealthy family, he was a soldier. While being held a prisoner a year and suffered a period of illness, as he was about to go to war again, he received a vision that stopped him in his tracks! He returned to Assisi, dedicating himself to solitude and prayer in order to discern God's will for him.

For the rest of his life, he prayed, preached and always followed what he believed God was asking of him. He founded several religious orders that still thrive today. His relevance in today's world is immeasurable. To begin to understand Francis is to recognise that he dedicated his life to imitate the life of Christ in all its aspects and to continue His work. This is central to his character, the spirit with which he lived and the principles by which he inspired and encouraged others.

Francis considered all nature as the mirror of God. He believed that the natural world was a direct reflection of the goodness of God. He maintained that humans were not to dominate and control nature but to live with it in harmony. Each creature has a place and all are equally valuable. He committed himself to a life of poverty: material poverty and spiritual poverty where he sought to accept God's will. These aspects of his life can inspire us today, when so many people are disrespected, hungry, homeless and suffering.

As we look towards the COP26 meeting and consider global warming and the changes in our climate, Francis gives a clear message as to how to treat nature.

According to Pope Francis, "Francis of Assisi shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace". (*Laudato Si'* 10)

Anne Robertson

Parish Priest Fr. Emile Nkumu ((01277 362645)

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87 High Street, Ongar,
CM5 9DX

ongar@dioceseofbrentwood.org

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road,
CM15 0QJ

www.catholic-parish-ongar.org.uk

Service times

St Helen's, Ongar:

Sat. 5:30pm; Sun. 8:45am

St Margaret's Doddinghurst:

Sun 10:30am



Fyfield Village Pre-School



Opening Times: Term Time

Monday to Friday: 9am to 3pm

Fyfield Village Pre-School is a rural setting offering indoor and outdoor play and learning to all children aged 2 to 5 years old. We provide a happy and fun learning environment, that allows children to thrive in all areas of development, using a wide variety of resources & activities.

At Fyfield Village Pre-School we have a great team of experienced practitioners and we are all keen to make a real difference to each of your child's lives by providing them with the utmost care and attention and helping to lay the foundations for their all-round development in these crucial early years.



For more information on the pre-school based in the Scout Hut



contact Lisa or Charlotte 01277 899678

email: fyfield_manager@hotmail.com

<https://www.fyfieldvillagepre-school.com>

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WD50+ EXERCISE CLUB



Every Friday

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arrive from 11:35am to start promptly at noon

For information about the WD50+ Club please contact either

**Liz Bird (01277 899324) or
Patti Nicholson (01277 899504)**

<http://fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk/clubs-and-activities/>

Fyfield Village Store & Post Office

Opening Times

	Village Store	Post Office
Monday	7am to 5pm	10am to 5pm
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		10am to 2pm
Friday		10am to 5pm
Saturday	8am to 2pm	10am to 12:30pm
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Fyfield Pea (*Lathyrus tuberosus*)

During the summer I received a call and invite to photograph a flower native to our area from a lovely local lady. She had been thinking of ways to help with our funding and asked if these photos could help with that. “You could print them as cards” was the start of an excellent idea.

We are very grateful for the donations from our sponsors and support of a great selection of good, helpful and useful businesses advertising within. But we are also aware that the accounts are always delicately balanced. We hope some ‘self-funding’ efforts might assist – fingers crossed that by the next issue an online shop, where you can buy mugs, tea towels and more, might have been achieved. If you have any ideas of things local you’d like to see for sale via our shop, or you’d like to see one of your photos added to future ‘exclusive’s’ then please drop us a line at fyfieldfocus@gmail.com.

Available now – from ‘our’ local store – thanks to Nik

Nik has kindly agreed to let us hold space on his card rack, so please do pop in and purchase your ‘Limited Edition’ card packs before they are all gone!

Blank inside, the photos are housed in a framed card. To use as you wish for a simply ‘hello’ or a special birthday or as a thank you card – the choice is yours.



1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit



By the time you read this a new term of Scouting activities will be well underway.

Beavers

On our first night back we met up with all our Beaver friends, who we hadn't seen over the summer holidays. We invested the 11 new beavers who started last term, and they received the badges that were earned. We welcomed some new friends, Sally and Jennie from the Fyfield Focus, who came to beavers to present Otis with his certificate and prize for coming 3rd in the Fyfield Summer Exhibition with his Anti-Litter Poster Competition. *(Well done Otis!)*

We sent home letters that we have all addressed ourselves, and we took them to the post box. Hopefully, they will all arrive home.

We are looking forward to getting outside and doing more activities this term.

Cubs

The Cubs are looking forward to spending time doing stuff outside this term. It was good to catch up with our friends and we got to play the Shoe Game, which is one of our favourites! We also received the badges that we earned last term.

We are going to be working towards our Science Badge this term and are also hoping to go on a hike.

Scouts

We welcomed some older Cubs to join us at our first Scout meeting of the term, where we enjoyed a games night.

Grace was presented with her Chief Scout Gold Award. *(Well done Grace!)*

We will be working towards our First Aid badge, hopefully doing some cooking and later in the term we will be celebrating Halloween.

The Scouts currently have vacancies for youngsters between the age of 10 ³/₄ to 14 years old to join them on a Friday evening at the Scout HQ from 7.30 – 9.30 pm



Explorers

The Explorers are working towards their D of E awards, and looking forward to playing plenty of games inside and out. They might do a night hike this term.

Sandra Mead
Group Scout Leader
1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group



1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group



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

All sections are co-educational and meet at Fyfield Scout Headquarters.
 For details contact Sandra Mead on 01277 899519 gemkia@aol.com



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Ongar Juniors Football Club



Well in the blink of an eye summer is gone, the highs and lows of the Euro 2021 finals a long and distant memory. If you are in search of some quality live football then the mighty Ongar Juniors will have resumed weekend fixtures at Fyfield Village Hall on 17th & 18th of September. Under 7 & 8 boys and Under 9 girls will play on Saturdays and Under 9 up to Under 15 boys and Under 10 & Under 11 Girls will play on Sundays. Yes, you did read correctly, ALL GIRL teams playing league football here in the village for the first time in Ongar Juniors history.

We are hugely proud to finally have girls' football off the ground and we are very excited for the future. In order to achieve this OJFC have teamed up with the Fyfield Sports Academy to enable us to offer FA Wildcat sessions at the FSA and without these people, it would never have happened. FA Wildcats is a fun introduction to football session for girls and run at the FSA in Fyfield Business Park, Fyfield Rd, CM5 0GN. (Session times below).

The people at FSA have recently announced a partnership with the West Ham Foundation and, once the venue is complete, West Ham will be moving part of its boys and girls academy training and college programmes over to the site. We expect this to have a huge impact on the number of children looking to play football in the area. With a working partnership and clear pathway for both boys and girls football from starting points of Soccer School and Wildcats onto OJFC teams to FSA and West Ham Academy Football, the future is very bright indeed.

The club is currently growing beyond expectations and whilst that is amazing and incredibly exciting it also brings increased pressure on costs, facilities and volunteers. We are currently looking for local businesses to help sponsor our Under 10's and Under 16's [all other teams are currently sponsored]. Your company logo would be printed on the back of all players' rain jackets worn to and from games and most likely on dog walks etc. for the next 2 seasons at the one off cost of £750 per team.

We are also looking for a local accountant to help advise the club on some financial matters in particular VAT payments. If this is your area of expertise, or you're interested in potential sponsorship and feel you may be in a position to help us move forward then we would love to hear from you. Also, if you are



interested in joining any of our teams or joint OJFC/FSA sessions then please get in contact with me and I will be more than happy to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fyfield Parish Council, Fyfield Village Hall, Fyfield Scouts and all of our wonderfully supportive residents for enabling us to play in the village for another season; it means a huge amount to these local children. So on their behalf THANK YOU and we look forward to sharing a successful season with you all.

Session times mentioned:

Wildcats all girls:

Monday's 4-5pm & Thursday 6-7pm

£,5 per session

West Ham all girl *technical sessions:* Thursday 6-7pm

£,10 per session (£,8 for OJFC members)

OJFC Soccer School:

Friday 5-6.15pm

£,3 per session (4-6yr old boys and girls)

Many thanks

Nick Housden

OJFC Club Secretary

07769735036

www.ongarjuniorsfootballclub.co.uk www.fyfieldsportsacademy.co.uk

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Ongar Wildlife Society (OWLS)

Starting Again

Meanwhile Ragwort and Cinnabar Moths

Ongar Wildlife Society is meeting once again this time, at a new venue, Toot Hill Village Hall. The talks planned for the remainder of the year are:

18 October – *Autumn*;

15 November – *Lemurs of Madagascar*;

13 December – *The Wonderful World of Fungi*.



Recently, conversations about natural history have taken place among members, prompted by an item on BBC *Countryfile* about Ragwort and the caterpillars that feed on them. Ragwort is one of the most controversial plants in the countryside. It contains chemicals that are toxic to livestock and is particularly lethal to horses. However, it is the food plant for numerous insects including caterpillars of the colourful Cinnabar moth. Cinnabar moth caterpillars are often seen in their hundreds feeding on the yellow-flowered ragwort and are

conspicuous with their black and gold stripes. Not only are they not affected by the poisonous chemicals in their food plant but they incorporate the toxins, called pyrrolizidine alkaloids, into their bodies to give them protection from being attacked and eaten. Their colourful stripes are a warning to birds and other predators that they are poisonous and unpalatable. Any animal that ignores this will be repulsed by their foul taste.

Adult moths are a vibrant scarlet and black and named after the red mineral cinnabar – a toxic mercury ore once widely used as an artist's pigment. They are brightly coloured to deter attack as the toxins from the ragwort remain in their bodies. Although ragwort is poisonous, it is usually avoided by livestock in the field as the taste is off-putting but the main danger comes from cut and dried plants mixed with hay used as animal feed as the drying masks the taste.

Ragwort is also poisonous to humans but it is unlikely that



anyone would eat enough to cause an ill effect. However, it should, of course, be avoided.

For those who wish to know about the life cycle of the moth, females lay up to 300 eggs on the underside of ragwort leaves. When the caterpillars hatch they feed close by but soon explore the whole plant and are obvious during daytime from July to early September. When fully grown they develop into pupae encased in a cocoon under the ground. The moths emerge the following May and remain on the wing until August.

You are invited to join us. Visitors pay just £5 but you can join for an annual fee of only £25. October 18th – *Autumn*; November 15th – *Lemurs of Madagascar*; December 13th – *The Wonderful World of Fungi*. More next year.

To help you locate Toot Hill Village Hall, the post code is CM5 9LR.

Keith Snow, Ongar Wildlife Society



He knows nothing; he thinks he knows everything – that clearly points to a political career. *George Bernard Shaw*



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Ongar Nature Watch

The blackbird is one of our best known garden birds and it is instantly recognisable not only because of its appearance but by its swift movements as it runs across lawns, pausing briefly to feed before scuttling back to cover. But this month and next, many of us will be asking *'Where have all the blackbirds gone?'*



For a bird that has been so obvious in gardens in the summer months, the sudden absence comes as a surprise. So where have they gone? The answer is two-fold. Your blackbirds may have been looking a bit tatty towards the end of the summer because they have been frantically bringing up their young, squeezing in-and-out of bushes. At the end of a busy breeding season they moult to renew their feathers, which leaves them more vulnerable, and they stay away from open spaces. Blackbirds in Britain are mostly resident, although some migrate to southern Europe for the winter, leaving at about this time, while others may move south and west in Britain, in pursuit of milder weather. This will soon be more than offset by large numbers of birds arriving from Scandinavia and other parts of northern Europe to avoid the harsh winter. You may be able to spot the immigrants as their beaks are generally duller than those of resident birds.

The name *blackbird* accurately describes the males, but females and young birds are brown, often with paler spots and streaks on their breasts which allows them to merge with their surroundings. Other features of adult males are the yellow ring around the eye and the bright orange-yellow beak, which contrast with the all-black feathers to make a most striking bird.

Although muted throughout much of the autumn and winter, the familiar song of the blackbird can be heard next spring with its melodic phrases with warbled endings. You will also once more hear the repetitive alarm calls made to warn off unwanted visitors to their territory.

Please remember to keep making food available for when they return. Currents and fat will help them survive the cold weather. House sparrows, dunnocks, starlings and chaffinches will share this food but, interestingly, when a blackbird arrives it is invariably more concerned with chasing the other birds away rather than feeding. This reluctance to dine with other kinds of birds is nothing compared with their unwillingness to share with other blackbirds. As the



weather improves in the spring and natural food becomes available once again, they enjoy a diet varying from berries to insects, to earthworms and apples.

The nesting season begins in early March, although warm or cold spells can bring the breeding season forward or delay it. Surprisingly it starts up to two weeks earlier in gardens than in woodlands. Breeding ends in late July, although chicks are often found in nests well into August. Each season, blackbirds rear two or three broods and, in a good year, a fourth may be raised. Built by the female, the nest is an untidy cup of grass, small twigs and other vegetation, plastered with mud and lined with fine grass. It is usually located low down in trees, shrubs and climbers, but may be found inside buildings and even amongst vegetation on the ground. In the nest the female lays her clutch of 3-5 greenish-blue, brown spotted eggs which she alone incubates, although the chicks are fed by both parents. The young become independent three weeks after leaving the nest, and leave the immediate area shortly after.

Keith Snow, Ongar Wildlife Society



The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.

Albert Einstein



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Local Policing



New Officer Contact Details

PC Warren Shepherd has taken over as our local police officer. PC Shepherd has been added to the Fyfield and Moreton Grapevine Facebook group, so he will be able to see posts relating to local issues. PC Shepherd has asked not to be contacted directly through Facebook, however, and he will not be monitoring the posts 24/7. If there is something that you feel he should see, then please tag him in the post or thread so he can see it when he next logs on. If you need to contact PC Shepherd, the best method is to send an email to 42078002@essex.police.uk with a message and telephone number that he can call you back on.

*Email PC Shepherd on 42078002@essex.police.uk
Otherwise residents can call 101 to report any concerns
Always call 999 in an emergency situation.*

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Probus Club of Fyfield



The August meeting was a social occasion with members bringing their wives, partners or friends to a splendid barbecue lunch at the Hunters Meet, which is our normal venue.



In September we are resuming our usual monthly meetings when we shall have an after-lunch speaker. Our speaker's secretary has been busy and booked speakers for the year ahead, including the Ladies Lunches in December and April when the emphasis is on entertainment.

If you are a retired gentleman and interested in meeting like-minded people over lunch, and listening to speakers on a wide range of topics, then you are invited to join us.

Please contact the Secretary for details.

Keith Snow
Secretary, Probus Club of Fyfield
01277 366791

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The Arts Section



Pageturners

After many, many months of not being able to hold our regular meetings, Pageturners will finally be re-convening next month.

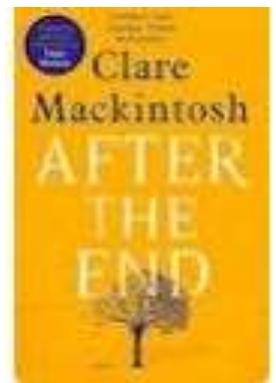
Meanwhile, here are a few reviews of books members have read over the last couple of months.

Debbie Spanton

After The End – Clare Mackintosh

A big departure for this thriller writer, it explores the dilemma when parents want different outcomes for their critically ill son. It looks at both sides of a heart-breaking situation and draws on the author's real-life experience.

Max and Pip must make a decision that will change both their lives. When they cannot agree, the future for their son Dylan is put to the courts to decide. Despite the two having different viewpoints regarding their son's treatment and future, readers can see that both are good parents.

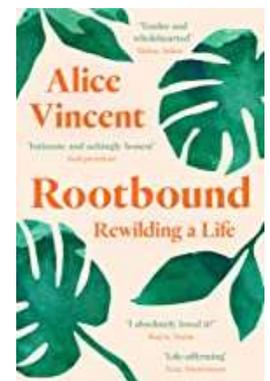


The book then has the 'sliding doors' approach to the dilemma detailing what would happen in both scenarios and the effect this has on the parents' relationship.

It is an emotional read and is beautifully written.

Rootbound: Rewilding a Life – Alice Vincent

As a child Alice Vincent spent many happy hours in her grandfather's garden; an oasis of peace and beauty. As an adult she has a high-powered, fast paced media job, lives in the city, travels extensively to music gigs, works hard and plays hard and then her world collapses leaving her heartbroken and grief-stricken.



The breakdown of her relationship and losing her home uproot her from all she has known. Rootbound follows a year where plants and the natural world help her to rebuild her life and find herself again with gardening as a healing activity.

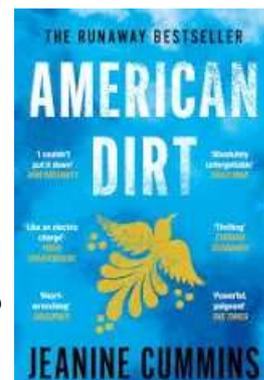


She doesn't escape to the countryside but finds joy in greenery in an urban landscape, on a balcony, in parks, courtyards and squares. It is part auto-biographical, part botanical history covering many aspects of horticulture; interspersed with interesting historical gardening facts. Beautifully written, honest and descriptive, it will strike a chord with anyone who loves growing things, no matter on what scale. It shows how, when all else is falling apart, bringing a little of the outside inside can help to heal and soothe.

American Dirt – Jeannie Cummins

The story follows Lydia, a book seller, who lives in Acapulco with her husband and son Luca. She lives a happy middle-class life until one terrible day she is forced to flee with her son.

The book follows Lydia and Luca as they try and escape the violence of the drug cartels of Mexico. They are instantly transformed into migrants and the book tells of their journey to try and make it to the United States, or el norte.



The novel had me gripped from the very first page. It is powerfully written, shocking and emotional, it gets under your skin, and I read it very quickly. Cummins brings the characters and the landscapes to life beautifully, and the tension is always there.

Everyone should read this, it certainly changed my perception of what a migrant is, their history and circumstances, and how they are treated. However, this novel does not preach in any way at all. It is a heart breaking and beautiful novel.

Cummins is herself married to an undocumented alien in the US, and I think this is how she manages to treat the subject with such care. Well worth a read.



Mobile Library

The library visits Fyfield every 3 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.

Dates: 5 & 26 October, 16 November, 7 & 28 December

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





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Light Hearted Monologues from a Local

Chief Standing Bear, the tribe's leader, had a beautiful daughter, Nalin who had stolen Mayumba's heart. As 21 seasons of the sun had passed, a customary coming-of-age test was arranged for Mayumba to confirm his status and, indeed, his suitability as a son-in-law. His challenge was to collect the best Eagle's feather he could to add to Chief Standing Bear's magnificent headdress (war bonnet), which was greatly admired among the tribes.



Several evenings later, while seated in a circle, the tribe elders, their faces lit up by a large open fire, gathered to listen to Standing Bear recount Mayumba's travels.

“Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible” he began. All the elders nodded. “This young brave had first to cross the fast-flowing river, the waters of the melting snow, which stands in the direction of the land of the Eagles”. Pausing, Standing Bear ceremonially continued “those who have one foot in the canoe and one foot in the boat are going to fall into the river.” As an afterthought he added “always drink upstream from the herd”. More nodding in unison from the assembled followed. “By the time he had cleared a path through the undergrowth of the tiger, darkness had descended and he chose a fork in a tree to settle for the night. The darker the night, the brighter the stars”, boasted Standing Bear, adding “those that lie down with dogs, get up with fleas”. More nodding ensued. “Mayumba soon reached a forest of tall trees, near a lake and observed a very large nest in the tree tops”. At this juncture, Standing Bear advised that “It is very difficult to soar like an Eagle when you are surrounded by turkeys and remember that a bird in the soup is better than Eagle's nest in the desert”. Murmurings of understanding rippled round, “He climbed and collected not one, but four Bald Eagle feathers from the empty nest after waiting patiently” concluded the Chief. Talented squaws appeared with an extra band on the Chief's headdress to accommodate the long colourful Eagle's remnants. Ceremoniously and proudly, Chief Standing Bear stood gracefully as the altered headdress was placed on his head. Being heavier the headpiece caused the proud Indian to fall over backwards. From then on, he was known as Chief Sitting Eagle's Head. “Don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs, but by how high he bounces when he hits bottom” was his last wise observation of that evening.

Barry Betteridge



News from you, the locals

Please send in your news and images to fyfieldfocus@gmail.com.



Thank You

We would like to give a huge thank you to all the ladies who kindly supplied the wonderful flower arrangements in our lovely St Nicholas' Church for Bobbie & Calum's wedding. I think you would all agree what wonderful displays they were. It was also lovely to see so many locals come out to watch Bobbie ride down to the church on her horse.

Fyfield and the wedding were mentioned on Radio 2 as the presenter was talking to his mum



on the show who

was having lunch in The Queen's Head and said about our lovely village and that a bride had just gone past on her horse!

The wonderful team of St Nicholas are led by Carol Cox & Jenny Stone, Joy Green, Val Donahue, Helen Llewelyn-Jones and Liz Bird. Not forgetting, Linda Seels, Pam Orros & Trish Jones and a special shout out to Lesley Wallis who went above and beyond in cleaning the church for the occasion.

*Jan & Leslie Hall,
Calum & Bobbie McConnell*





Photos provided with thanks to Bobbie & Calum McConnell, and Jenny Stone



Sending our congratulation to



Mr & Mrs McConnell



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We operate every weekday night, and day and night shifts at weekends and Bank Holidays. Our enhanced support to hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic has also introduced a weekday daytime shift. We now need more members. You choose in advance the days and shifts you work.

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However, rather like being a First Aider or Blood Donor, this is one of the very few ways that an ordinary member of the public can help **save a life**.

Most of you reading this piece will think "*sounds good, but not for me*", which we quite understand, but just one of you may wish to enquire further. If so, see our website at:

EssexVoluntaryBloodService.com

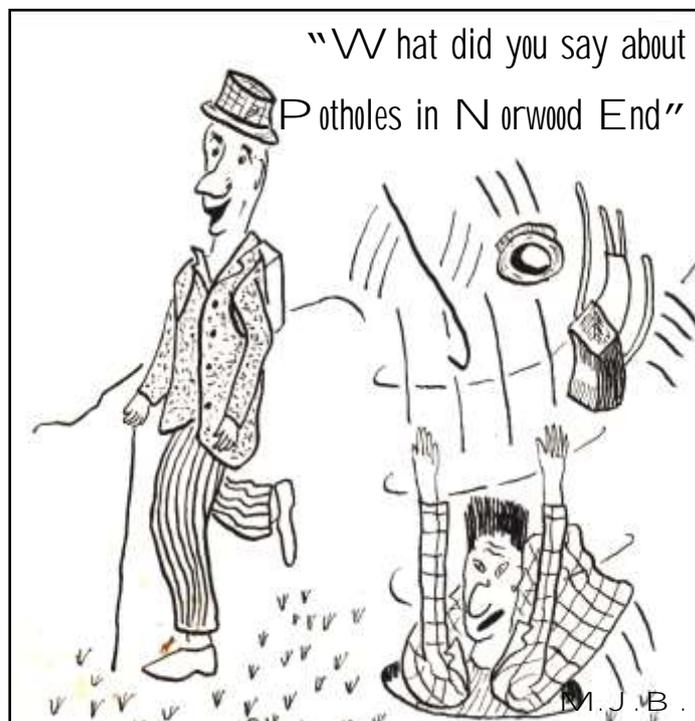
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The Ongar Health Centre PPG



**The Patient Participation Group,
Partners & Management Team at
Ongar Health Centre**

Website:

www.ongarhealthcentre.co.uk

Telephone: 01277367200

Email: weccg.ongarhc@nhs.net

Practice Manager: Chris Duguid

Patient Participation Group

Email: ongarppg@gmail.com

PPG Committee Members:

Jenny Juttner (Chair),

Roberta Abbott (Secretary),

Liz Barber, David Jackman,

Dawn Roche

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If you are experiencing chest pains or shortness of breath, or if you have a medical emergency, please call 999.

*The Patient Participation Group, Partners & Management Team at the
Ongar Health Centre*



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 +385 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. The Editorial team's decision is final regarding suitability for inclusion and all material will be edited as required.

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 (ie, 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: Jennie Russell – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com
Editors: Margaret Dines, Jenny Juttner, Sally Wallden – fyfieldfocus@gmail.com
Finance, Advertising & Delivery: Steve Turner – steve.turner31@gmail.com
Delivery with thanks to: Dennis Bird, Liz Bird, Carol Cox, Eddie Fancourt, Elaine Griffiths, Jackie Hart, Fran Homersham, Ann Jackson, Les Lamb, Katharine Perry, Mary Simons, Jenny Stone, Steve Turner, Mike Walker, Roy Wilkinson and Mary Woodrow.
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Puzzle Page Answers



The leaves are from the following trees:-

1. Oak
2. Ash
3. Beech
4. Sycamore
5. Horse Chestnut
6. Aspen
7. Willow
- and 8. Rowan

The anagrams of the Autumn flowering plants are in order:-

Sunflower, Aster, Dahlia, Autumn Crocus, Nerine, Cyclamen, Michaelmas daisies, Plumbago, Sedum, and Chrysanthemum.



Fyfield Useful Contacts

GENERAL

Allotments – M. Baxter	899342
Bell Ringers - Hand – P. Turnpenny	899223
Bell Ringers - Tower – J. Robinson	899557
Pageturners – D. Spanton	899317
Bookworms – J. Davenport	899389
Bridge Club – E. Heaphy	07814-880228
Carpet Bowls – J. Brown	899076
Church Coffee Morning – C. Cox	899245
Coffee with Cops – B. Saward	07747-803829
Friends of St Nicholas – J. Robinson	899557
Ongar Wildlife Soc(OWLS) – K. Snow	366791
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
Fyfield Luncheon Club - Co-ordinator – J. Hall	–
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. Saward, <i>Chair</i>	07747-803829
Fyfield Parish Council clerk – K. Perry	07872-603871

CHURCH

St Nicholas' Church – Rev. Christine Hawkins	01277 286113
Church Warden	–

EDUCATION

Fyfield Village Pre-School – M. Breavington	899678
Dr Walker's Sch – Dr. Llewellyn Lawson	899298

SCOUTS & GUIDES

Rainbows Brownies Rangers – V. Riches	364604
Guides – A. Lavender	365842
Beavers & Scouts – S. Mead	899519
Cubs – D. Gordon	896321
Explorer Scouts – V. Wood	07977-111894

VILLAGE HALL

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

For the Fyfield Focus & links to the above – just **point'n'click**

