FYFIELD



FOCUS



Village Diary

Date	Time	What	Where
Fri 1st Aug	6.00pm	Bangin' Friday BBQ	Village Hall
Sun 3 rd Aug	10.00am	Ramblers	From Village Hall
Tue 5th Aug	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 10th Aug	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Fri 15th Aug	6.00pm	Bangin' Friday BBQ	Village Hall
Sun 17th Aug	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Fri 29th Aug	6.00pm	Bangin' Friday BBQ	Village Hall
Tue 2nd Sep	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas' Church
Sat 6th Sep	11am to 6pm	Fyfield Harvest Festival	Village Hall and Sports Field
Sun 14th Sep	9.40am/ 10am	Fyfield Footpath 10K/5K	From Village Hall
Sun 14th Sep	10.30pm	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
Sun 21st Sep	10.30am	Family Worship	St Nicholas' Church

A good rule to remember for life is that when it comes to plastic surgery and sushi, never be attracted by a bargain. *Graham Norton*

People say you can't live without love - I think Oxygen is more important. Dr. Sheldon Cooper

Forgive your enemy but remember the bastard's name. Lani Lynn Vale

Money cannot buy happiness but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle. *John Wayne*

Thank you to Steve Betteridge for providing the cover photo.

Fyfield Parish Council News

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee are organizing a big Harvest Festival on 6th September. There will be a hog roast and barbecue, live music, lots of stalls and demos, several bouncy castles, games, fun races and tug of war, and the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance will be there. Entry is free and everyone is welcome to enjoy what should be a great day.

We would like to say a special Thank You on behalf of the village to the admins of the Fyfield and Moreton Grapevine. They provide us with a valuable service, administering and moderating the content - which is not always an easy task in our forthright times!

We have been asked to remind residents that if you have a hedge or tree next to a public right of way (PROW) (e.g. a road/footpath/pavement) you have a responsibility to ensure it does not overhang or block the PROW. However, it is recommended that, to protect nesting birds, you don't trim hedges between 1st March and 31st August.

The telephone box by the village sign was purchased by the Council on the understanding that others would change its use and maintain it. The Council is looking for volunteers to put it to good use – otherwise it may have to be sold.

The next Parish Council meetings will be on Monday 4th August and Monday 1st September at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Dan Webster

Chair

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

Councillor Contact Details

Chair - Dan Webster	01277 899405	fpcwebsterd@gmail.com
Vice Chair - Sandra Mead	01277 899519	fpcmead@gmail.com
Cllr. Michael Brawn	07510 377435	fpcbrawn@gmail.com
Cllr. Gaillies Codd	07982 909159	fpccodd@gmail.com
Cllr. Tim Wadey	07778 270362	fpcwadey@gmail.com
Cllr. Lizzie Webster	01277 899405	fpcwebsterl@gmail.com
Kim Hanley, Clerk	fyfieldparishcou	ncil@gmail.com
Burial Ground	fpcburialground	@gmail.com



Thank you to those who continue to support the foodbank

However, since the decline in cash payments in favour of contactless cards, the foodbank donations have declined

So, an appeal to you when you buy something at the Fyfield village shop

TAP, BUY & DONATE



When you buy something using a card, why not find a useful item in the shop to donate in the box in front of the counter?

The foodbank particularly needs

LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE OR MILK, TEA, COFFEE,

TINNED MEAT OR FISH

If you are using cash, the collection tin is still on the counter

'Thought for the day'

There are nearly twice as many foodbanks as McDonalds in the UK

THANK YOU

Village Hall

A busy start to the summer

Fyfield hosted two summer events on 21 June. Following the festival at the church in the day, Band 47 returned to the Village Hall for another fantastic performance in the evening. Hats off (or rather hats and sunscreen on) to everyone who braved the heat and enjoyed both. Band 47 proved a big hit again and the evening was a huge success, helping to raise lots of money to support the hall. Huge thanks goes to our team of volunteers on the day and to Steve McLaren for providing a new cooler to the hall for the drinks!

Bangin' Friday BBQs Going Strong

Our ever-popular Bangin' Friday BBQs have continued throughout the summer, and so far, the weather has been kind to us, making these evenings a perfect opportunity to unwind, catch up with friends, and enjoy some tasty food cooked on the new BBQ. The atmosphere is always warm and welcoming, and we hope to see even more faces at the upcoming dates (1, 15 and 29 August).

Save the date - Fyfield Harvest Festival

Looking ahead, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Fyfield Harvest Festival on Saturday 6th September. This event promises something for everyone, including bouncy castles, a variety of stalls, delicious food, and plenty of activities. We're thrilled that Band 47 will be performing again, adding great live music to the day. Also joining us will be the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance team – a fantastic opportunity to get close up to the helicopter and learn about their vital work.

Autumn/Winter events

We have also been busy finalising our schedule of events for the next few months. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and our website for more information on quiz night, paint and plonk, Halloween and Christmas events.

Thank you for your feedback

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to our recent feedback survey. We've had a good number of replies and thoughtful suggestions. Over the coming weeks, the committee will carefully review all the feedback to help make our village hall an even better place for everyone.

Volunteers needed – join our team!

None of these wonderful events and improvements would be possible without our amazing team of volunteers. However, we're always in need of more helping hands. If you're able to assist at our Bangin' Friday evenings this summer or want to join our WhatsApp group for volunteers supporting all events, please fill out the online form at <u>tinyurl.com/4z7bmpmz</u>.

On Behalf of Fyfield Village Hall Committee

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.

Our next meeting in Fyfield village hall will be on Tuesday 5th August when Paul Stevens will give a talk about Sir Richard Rich, Malignant or Maligned Tudor.

And on the 2nd September Stephanie Callister Jarrod will be talking about Owl Rescue.

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

01277 362260 <u>U3asites.org.uk/rodings-ongar/welcome</u> Reg. Charity 1146315

learn, laugh, live







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

Further extracts from the Fyfield WI 1975 archive:

The River



The River Roding is a tributary of the Thames and has its confluence at the creek in Barking. It enters our Parish in the east and flows south before leaving Fyfield in the south-west. Formerly there was a windmill near the river, but there is no trace of it today. A watermill remains, and it a picturesque part of a private residence.

The river is very popular with angling clubs and reaches are booked each season. The fish caught include perch, pike, chub and minnow. Occasionally a swan pays us a visit and sometimes a heron may be seen fishing very early in the morning. Mallards nest each year but many of their young perish in spite of the vigilant attention of parents. Moorhens continually squabble for their territorial rights but are more successful rearing their young. The kingfisher nests in the river bank; this year we have seen three birds fishing together from an overhanging bough as if the parent was giving lessons to the youngsters.



River Pollution Tests

With fishing nets and wellingtons
And dogged resolution,
For weeks we've been examining
Our river for pollution.
From mud beneath the water weeds
We've gained a fleeting glimpse
Of mayfly nymphs and thin sludgeworms
And pale freshwater shrimps.



And was the water oily?
And were the banks quite steep?
And did the river shallow run,
Or slumber still and deep?
These questions answered faithfully
We filled the form with ticks.
The water, tested chemically,
We found was pH6.



When at last we'd finished
Every scientific test,
We packed our jars and filters
And laid our nets to rest.
And thru our minds the question ran
Would our tests prove a thing?
And if our river's clean today,
What would tomorrow bring?





District Matters

This season is often called the Silly Season due to the lack of interesting news worldwide. However, at the moment of course there is a lot of news globally due to the war in the East and tariffs being chucked about like confetti.

Back here in Epping whilst there is a lot going on in the pipeline, no big decisions have been made yet so there is not a lot to tell you at the moment so for us it is almost the silly season!

One positive note is that we are in consultation with the Home Office regarding the Bell and Phoenix Hotels which are currently holding asylum seekers. I am not sure what will come out of that but there is a petition which lots of people have signed and we hope there will be a positive outcome to this. Regarding anything else, there is a Cabinet Meeting next week and a Council meeting (week commencing 21 July). There will be decisions made on various things which I can tell you about in the next edition of the Focus.

In the meantime, we have recently heard that the weather we have been having, which is classed as extreme, is going to be the new normal. So for us in the Southeast that probably means very hot summers with occasional heavy rain – drenching rain. For some people that is great but for me personally anything over 30 degrees is far too hot, but you can't win them all can you?

With that I think I will leave you now. Enjoy the rest of the summer whether it be hot, cold, wet or dry and if you need any news or you want to keep up-to-date with the EFDC please go to the website (eppingforestdc@gov.uk) which will give you a lot of information on breaking news.

Do look after yourselves, keep safe and keep hydrated.

Ian Hadley

Cllr. Ian Hadley — 07765 882001 — <u>Cllr.ihadley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk</u>
Cllr. Ray Balcombe — 07774 973611 <u>Cllr.rbalcombe@eppingforestdc.cov.uk</u>
Cllr. Richard Morgan — 01279 731243 — <u>Cllr.rmorgan@eppingforestdc.gov.uk</u>

The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that deep down inside we ALL believe we are good drivers. *Anon*



The Post Office will be CLOSED on Saturday August 23rd and Bank Holiday Monday August 25th



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.

Dr Walker's School Foundation

Any young person who is resident in the parishes of Fyfield, Willingale or High Ongar may seek financial assistance from the Foundation. Assistance is also open to young people who currently attend Dr Walker's School or have attended Dr Walker's School for not less than two years and who, in the opinion of the Governors, are in need of financial assistance.

Assistance is available towards an education exhibition approved by the Governors, the cost of clothing, tools, instruments or books required to assist their entry into a profession, trade or calling, or otherwise promote their education. Applicants for university and other further education are particularly encouraged.

Applications for assistance should be sent to the Clerk to the Governors: Mr P Gilbert, 11 Roxwell Road Chelmsford CM1 2LY, to arrive no later than the first full week in September. Details of the Foundation may be obtained from the Chairman or any of the Foundation Governors listed below:

Mr R Wallden; Chairman, Mrs M Apperley, Mrs H Gingell, Mrs D Spanton, Mrs L Wallis, Mrs L Webster.

Fyfield Footpath 5k and 10k

This event returns on Sunday 14th September with the 10k starting at 09:40 and the 5k 20 minutes later at 10:00. This always creates a good finish with the runners from both courses coming together over the last couple of kilometres. The event is in aid of our local Scout Group but also is supported by all aspects of the village, the village hall, parish council, ramblers, numerous volunteers and our generous sponsors.

You can run, jog or walk the course, dogs are welcome, as are children if appropriately supervised - we do restrict children and walkers to the 5k to allow the volunteers to get home for lunch. Everyone that finishes can have a Tee shirt (this year's colour is still secret) or plant a tree in the village. Trees from last year and this will soon be smartening up our churchyard hedges.

All the details are on our website www.fyfield5k.com or email info@fyfield5k.com

We look forward to seeing you on the day. Additional volunteers are always needed too if you are able to help on the day.



SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 11AM - 6PM

RACES - STALLS - MUSIC - FOOD - BAR

FYFIELD SPORTS FIELD

11AM - 4PM

ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE HELICOPTER & DEMO STAND BOUNCY CASTLES

FYFIELD VILLAGE HALL

4PM - 6PM
PLAYING LIVE - BAND 47



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL FYFIELDPARISHCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM



raising funds for

FYFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Charity number: 301304

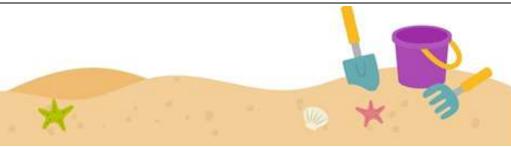


Puzzle Page

The answers to these cryptic clues are all British holiday resorts



	(*	
1. A small hill overlooking a wharf (7)		
2. Sounds like some words of warning (7)		
3. Almost clever university professor (8)		
4. Through which this Wizard of Oz character speaks? At least it sounds like it (10)		
5. Lots of boats next to lots of trees (9)		
6. Plenty of width when moving up to the next floor (11)		
7. Where one might start when digging for gold (8)		
8. A company gets involved with what you get from sheep and an award from the Queen (10)		
9. Before cholesterol lowering drug, by the sound of it (9)		
10. Sounds like you cover a lady in shiny silver metal (6)		
11. A beach at an angle (6, 5)		
12. Pack away black and white cat (10)		
13. Used to be a gob (7)		
14. Defend a trout (9)		
15. Wise bedfellow. (9)		
16. You'll need this when you change the locks. (7)		
17. I came across a bigamist on the way here. (2, 4)		
18. People rock (9)		
19. Large white bird young or old (7)		
20. Take a note on and put away (7)	_	



Answers on Page 44

ACTIVITIES AT FYFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Monday

Adult dance exercise Children's dance Bridge club

Tuesday

Pilates U3A (monthly)

Wednesday

Yoga Adult dance Lunch club (monthly)

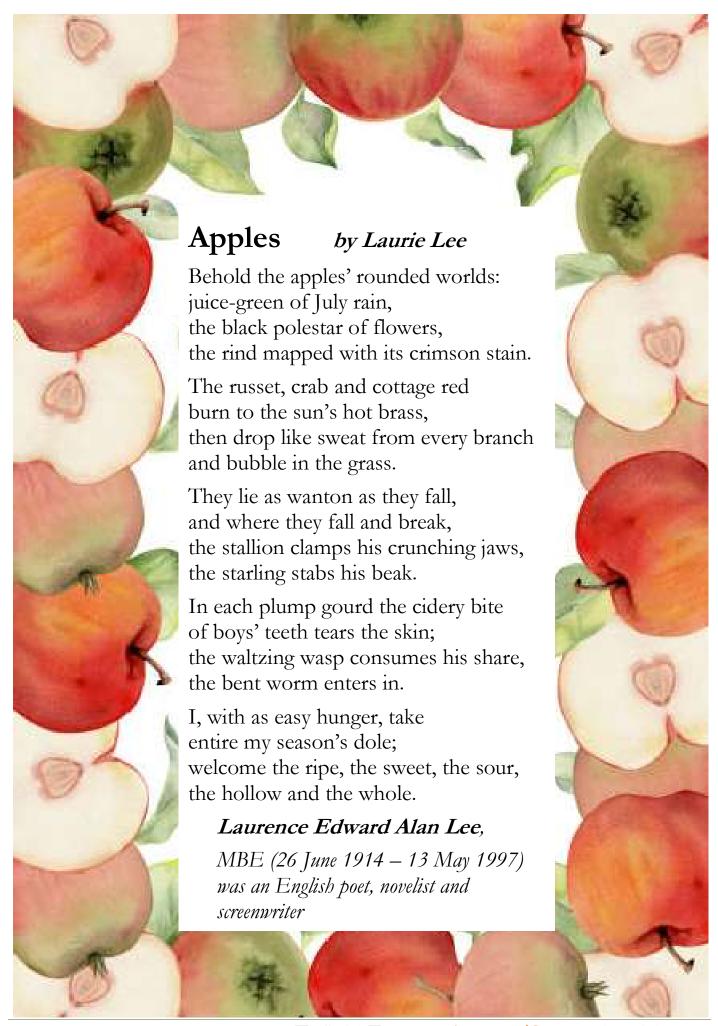
Thursday

Community Hub Children's dance Bridge club

Friday

Pilates WD50+ exercise class

fyfieldvillagehall.org.uk





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

Planters at the Bridge and Bus Stop - Donations Needed





The Summer Plantings were a little late this year with the Bus Stop planters being planted up at least a couple of weeks before the Bridge Baskets. However, with the care from the team (Dawn, Sarah, Frankie Ann, Jenny Linda, Tracy & myself) they are maturing very well and we hope you like the colour and also the planting variety.

Like many people in the village we are very sad about the passing of Patti Nicholson. Patti was part of the very first team when we started the Bridge and Bus Stop planters and she was on the team for many years.

We have again this year received thanks from the Parish Council for the plantings which is really appreciated, as are the compliments from the residents and visitors to the village when we are attending to the planters.

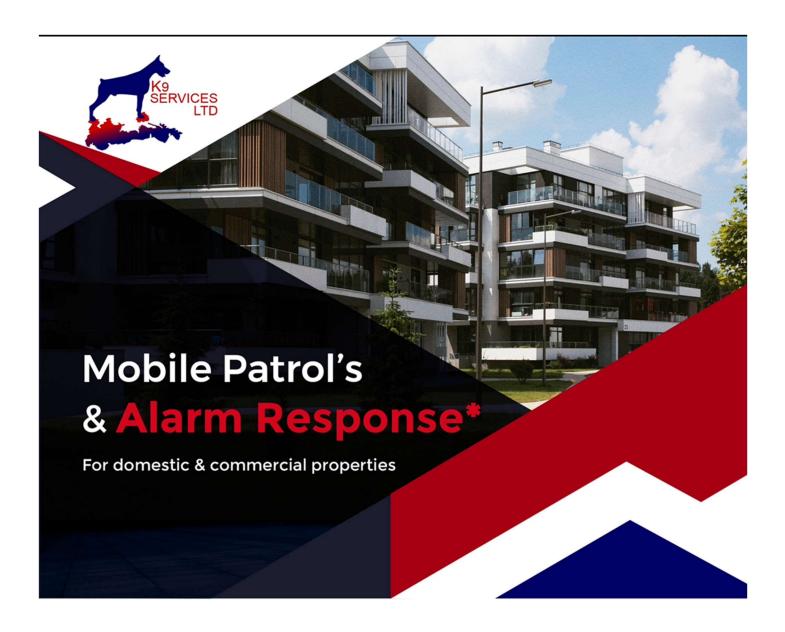
We have now run out of funds and are looking for donations or sponsorship to continue with the winter planting. We hope you agree they add to the attractiveness of our village and make it looked cared for.

If you can help us continue with the planting kindly contact me on 899840 or email cherylhadley@gmx.co.uk

Many thanks,

Cheryl

Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it. *Anon*





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





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 connnected to the mobile patrols is subject to premises having suitable alarm.





Dr Walker's School











With just over a week to go before the end of the academic year, the staff and pupils have been very busy in what must have been one of the hottest half terms we have had for some time. Keeping cool and hydrated has been the order of the day whilst trying to continue with learning and extra-curricular activities.



For Wimbledon week, a special tennis day was organised and every child took part in tennis skills/games, as well as enjoying strawberries, sitting under the shade of the trees. Sports' Day was enjoyed by all with a very competitive parents' race at the end and lots of cheering and encouragement. Other sporting events were Year 5 and 6 having weekly swimming lessons, and doing their Bikeability training.

The 2025 intake of Reception children came in for a Teddy Bear's Picnic. All the children had a 'meet the teacher' morning where they spent time with their new teachers for September.

A delightful service was held at St Nicholas' Church for the Year 6 leavers and despite some technical issues, Rev Julia led a moving service for those who will be moving onto secondary school in September. The whole school sang two of their favourite songs and Rev Julia talked about how moving on can be a little scary, but is also an exciting transition and one to be embraced. The Year 6 children read their memories of their time at Dr Walker's and were presented with a bible from the Dr Walker Trust.

We are immensely proud of our Year 6 pupils who sat their SATs tests in May. The cohort achieved combined SATs results above national average and all worked extremely hard for their successes.

Several children attended a Life Academy Trust celebration at Frances Bardsley Academy where awards were made to pupils who had consistently upheld the school values of Boundless Creativity, Courageous Optimism and Heartfelt Compassion. Well done to Tilly, Paul, John-James, Sidney, Teddy and Harley for their awards.



Four brave Year 5 pupils gave speeches to the whole school about the qualities they believed they needed to become Head Prefects for the next academic year. After a democratic vote involving the whole school, Amelia and Maci were both selected.

The theme for Fyfield

Flower Festival at the church was Giving Thanks and a local resident, Mrs Bird, made a floral display to say, 'Thank you for our village school'. She used a photo from when her own children attended Dr Walkers, together with a photo of the current children. We think it was beautiful.

The whole school had a trip to Southend where beach games, sandcastle building, a walk on the pier and icelollies were the order of the day. Year 6 were able to



go on the rides as their end of year treat and a good time was had by all.

The final Friday of the academic year saw everyone enjoying a Summer Garden Party organised by the friends of Dr Walkers, with a visit from an ice cream van. Finally, the term was rounded off with a music concert, where each class showcased what they had been learning during their music lessons.

Everyone is looking forward to a rest over the summer and to recharge batteries ready for the new academic year in September, as we officially become part of LIFE Education Trust.

With best wishes from staff and pupils at Dr Walker's School.

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.



1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group and Dragonian Explorer Unit



All sections have now finished for the summer holidays.

Squirrels have had great fun doing crafts, playing games and working towards badges. They also visited the fire station. Lots of badges were awarded and four of them achieved the Chief Scout Acorn award. This is the highest award a Squirrel Scout can earn. To get it, they needed to complete all four Challenge Awards and any two Activity Badges of their choice. The Chief Scout's Acorn Award shows that they've had adventures, helped their friends, and learned new things – it's a big achievement, and they should be really proud!





Beavers have also visited the Fire Station in Ongar and been on a hike. They ended the term with water games on the field.

Ten **Cubs** went on their first camp. So many activities were planned including archery, shooting, climbing, go-karting, to name but a few. A great time was had by all.

The Cubs ended the term with their annual hike from Greensted Church to High Ongar Church.





The **Scouts** have enjoyed water activities, a barbeque, and numerous other activities throughout the term, which they ended with canoeing at Screen's Park We have ten Scouts looking forward to summer camp in August.

Sandra Mead

Group Scout Leader

1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group

Tel: 01277 899519 Email: <u>gemkia@aol.com</u>

	1 st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group		
Squirrels	Tuesday	4.45-5.45pm	4 - 6 y
Beaver Scouts	Tuesday	6.00-7.15pm	6 – 8 y
Cub Scouts	Thursday	7 00-8 30nm	2 _ 10

SquirrelsTuesday4.45-5.45pm4 - 6 yearsBeaver ScoutsTuesday6.00-7.15pm6 - 8 yearsCub ScoutsThursday7.00-8.30pm8 - 10½ yearsScoutsFriday7.30-9.30pm10 - 14 yearsExplorer ScoutsTuesday7.30-9.30pm14 - 18 years

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

Help someone in trouble and they will remember you when they are in trouble again. *Darynda Jones*

St Nicholas' Church

At St. Nicholas, we have had the joy of some young families with children joining us in our recent services. We want everyone to know that children are very welcome in church, so we have put together an area especially for them which includes a variety of books, activity, sticker and colouring books, puzzles and building blocks. Did you know that Jesus himself told His followers they must always welcome children, and that His Kingdom is reserved for children and those adults who have the humility and simple faith of a child?

Jesus makes it clear that everyone is welcome to come to Him and as His church we want to extend that welcome too. Whatever your age, whatever your background, whatever you've done or not done in your past, those who regularly come to church, those who used to go to church but haven't been for years and those who've never set foot inside a church – you are all very welcome and we would love to see you.

We have a service at St. Nicholas' at 10:30am on the second and third Sunday of each month.

Ali Burton
Church Warden



Fyfield Flower Festival 2025

The Festival was a great success despite the hot weather!

Thank you so much to all the flower arrangers, the stall holders, the providers of refreshments, the Scouts, but particularly everyone who came to support us despite the heat!

We made £2000 to go to the running of our church.

CHURCH SERVICES

3rd Aug	10.00am	Family Communion	Bobbingworth
10th Aug	10.30am	Holy Communion	Fyfield
17th Aug	10.30am	Holy Communion	Fyfield
24th Aug	10.00am	Family Communion	Moreton
7th Sep	10.00am	Family Communion	Bobbingworth
14th Sep	10.30am	Holy Communion	Fyfield
21st Sep	10.30am	Family Worship	Fyfield
28th Sep	10.00am	Family Communion	Moreton

Refreshments served following each service, do come and join us. You will be made very welcome.



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.



Patricia (Patti) Ann Nicholson 1941-2025

Patti died peacefully in her sleep on the 5th May.



She was a war baby, born in Scotland where her mother was evacuated to, in order to escape the heavy bombing in the London Blitz. They returned in 1945 to be reunited with her father who had been a POW between 1943-1945.

Patti was an only child and very bright showing a passion for music and literature. Her parents always encouraged her with her studies and were immensely proud of her as she progressed through grammar school.

She joined a good youth choir, later enrolling with the Bach Choir and later the

Harlow Chorus with whom she travelled through Europe, North America and South Africa.

She worked at University College London alongside the academics in the area of child psychology before having the children. Once in Fyfield, Patti worked locally for Mr Corley Smith of Greensted Hall, previously Ambassador to Ecuador. Here Patti helped in the production of the Noticias de Galapagos that Mr Smith produced for the Charles Darwin Foundation. After his retirement, Patti was approached by UCL to return and here she was involved with the Association of Child Psychiatry and Psychology where she proof read all their articles before publication. Her love of the English language came in very handy and she worked here until she retired.

Locally she appeared with Ongar's Castle Players, performing various roles in the Christmas pantomimes at the Budworth Hall. Later on Pat took up hand bell ringing and joined the u3a ukulele band.

Her other passion was the local book group enjoying not only the written word but also the generous hospitality in members' houses. Patti also did a lot of support work behind the running of the Ongar Jazz Club of which I was a founder member.



Pat had a deep and genuine love for the family, which brought her much pleasure and rewards. Her easy friendly manner was always a delight.

We were married for 61 years; she has left a huge black hole in all our lives.

Howard Nicholson

As mentioned in the last edition of the Focus, we wish to celebrate the life of Patti Nicholson who gave so much to this village. Known to all as Patti, or Pat, she was often seen attending one of the many local clubs in this area of Essex. If she wasn't getting the over 50's to be more pliable, she was playing music or singing in various choirs. Patti was a 'doer' and she contributed to so many spheres of life within this village. Whatever it was, it was done with a smile on her face.

WD50+

Patti was the initiator and the driving force behind the WD50+ exercise club, which came into existence some 20 years ago. She was very passionate about the running of the club and in maintaining its ongoing success. She was always determined that the club costs should be kept low to ensure that it was as accessible as possible for anyone to attend, be they elderly folk or anyone recovering from illness. As with everything, Patti was always full of ideas and her energy and passion will be greatly missed.

Barbara Saward

Fyfield Handbells

Patti was a long-standing and cherished member of Fyfield Handbells, known for her enthusiasm, dedication, and unwavering reliability. She rarely missed a practice and was always willing to take part in the many events we played—whether in church, at christenings and weddings, during Christmas concerts, or for care homes and local organisations. Her love for music and commitment left a lasting impression on us all. Patti will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

Debbie Spanton

Music

Apart from her family, Patti's greatest passion was her lifelong love of music, particularly choral singing. She sang with the old Ongar Singers under

conductor John Harrop, was a dedicated member of Harlow Choral Society for many years and also until recently the Four Parishes Choir.

Patti decided she would like to try the Ongar Singers and, in true Patti style, on arriving for the first practice evening discovered she knew many of the members already. Being such a friendly soul, she was warmly welcomed, and her many old and new friends she had quickly made, were so sad her time with us was so short.

Jenny Stone



Rodings u3a

Patti was a member of the Rodings u3a from its inception through to its present form as Rodings & Ongar u3a. She was a valued member of the Bridge group. For many years, she belonged to the Creative Writing group and composed short stories, several of which were included in pamphlets produced to showcase the group's work.

She joined the Ukulele group when it was formed a couple of years ago and was much valued for her singing as well as her playing.

Patti was an asset to all the activities she joined. Her kind and compassionate disposition ensured those around her were glad to be in her company.

Pat Dain

Pageturners

Amongst her many interests, Patti was a great reader and lover of books. Patti was a founding member of Fyfield Book Group and brought many suggestions to the table. Her enthusiasm and passion for fiction of all kinds was infectious and she always had considered and thoughtful comments about anything being read. Her memory was laser sharp, always useful for the end of year quiz. With a bottle of Prosecco on hand for any kind of celebration, she will be missed greatly.

Marie Apperley



The Fyfield Flower Festival 2025

The theme for the **Flowers in the Church** this year was Fyfield Folk say 'Thank you'. There were eighteen beautiful arrangements thanking:- our Food Bank, the NHS, our Village Shop, our Village Hall, Dr Walker's School, the Friends of St Nicholas' Church, the 19 miles of Footpaths in Fyfield, our Handbells, the Fyfield Focus, our Church Coffee Mornings, our Men's Shed, the WD50+, the Mobile Library, our Rev Sam, our Tower Bells, the 1st Moreton & Fyfield Scout Group, our Pets and our Farming Community.













Fyfield Focus – August/September 25

Fyfield Pre-School

Children at Fyfield Village Pre-School got hands-on with salt dough to explore letters.



The children rolled, shaped, and moulded their own letters of the alphabet. This activity strengthens fine motor skills while reinforcing letter recognition and early literacy.



Also at pre-school, the children have been trying their hand at tennis to mark the Wimbledon Championships. They even enjoyed the traditional treat of strawberries and cream.





The children also spent time on a walk the plank and obstacle activity as the pre-school garden was transformed into a jungle.

To find out more for places in September visit www.villagepre-schools.com

Fyfield Village Pre-School

Page Turners

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, widely known simply as Scott Fitzgerald, was an American novelist, essayist, and short story writer. He is best known for his novels depicting the flamboyance and excess of the Jazz Age, a term that he popularized in his novel The Great Gatsby which is set on Long Island, near New York City. The novel depicts first-person narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire obsessed with reuniting with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan.

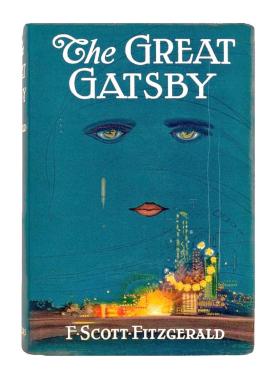
The novel is short. At only 208 pages, Fitzgerald packs a punch into every page, every paragraph, every sentence, and every word. This is a love story inspired by a youthful romance Fitzgerald had with socialite Ginevra King and the riotous parties he attended on Long Island's North Shore in 1922. It takes place over a single summer, yet within this short space of time, Fitzgerald manages to craft a beautiful story with complex characters.

The moral of The Great Gatsby is that the American Dream is ultimately unattainable. Jay Gatsby had attained great wealth and status as a socialite; however, Gatsby's dream was to have a future with his one true love, Daisy.

The Dust Jacket

This dust jacket has been called one of the most iconic book jacket designs in 20th century American literature. Painter Francis Cugat's dust jacket art, named Celestial Eyes, greatly impressed Fitzgerald, and he incorporated its imagery into the novel. This is a unique occurrence, as far as anybody can tell, where the actual design of the dust jacket influenced the writing of the novel.

The book itself after its publication in April 1925, received generally favourable reviews, but compared to his earlier novels, was a commercial disappointment. It sold fewer than 20,000 copies by October, and Fitzgerald's hopes of a monetary



windfall from the novel were unrealized. When the author died in 1940 at the age of forty-six, he believed himself to be a failure and his work forgotten.

Sally Wallden

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)	12pm - 20:30 (Food Served 12pm - 19:30)	
We are <u>closed</u> on Tuesday lunchtimes		
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



Fyfield Ramblers

Sunday 3rd August – none in September

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**:

5th August and 2nd September

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
11th August,

1st and 22nd September



Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then again, neither does milk. John Wayne



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 ORY

Tel: 01277 899231

info@queensheadfyfield.co.uk www.queensheadfyfield.co.uk

@thequeensheadfyfield

Takeaway Available Now!

Check social media for our latest menus!



THE LAVERS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The next meeting is in Moreton Village Hall on Monday the 4th August when Geoff Hodge will give a talk entitled 'Weeds and the Weed-free Garden'.

On the 1st September it is our Mini Show in Moreton Village Hall when members will be exhibiting the flowers and vegetables grown in their own garden or allotment, vying for 1st place!

Refreshments will be served whilst the judging takes place. Silver cups will be awarded for the highest mark in each category. The judge will be John Cullen.

RIDE +STRIDE for Churches

Sunday 13th September 2025

Visit as many places of worship as you can manage on the day.

St Mary the Virgin Church, Moreton will be open all day for registration from cyclists and walkers. The church will be decorated, and refreshments will be served from 2pm-4pm. There will be stalls for you to browse round and donations will be gratefully accepted towards our Restoration Fund. You will have an opportunity to try to ring the bells, and an historical guide will be available of the church for you to take away. Do come and support our church.

We are stuck with technology when what we really want is just stuff that works. *Douglas Adams*

Changes to Royal Mail Deliveries

Last year, Royal Mail delivered 76.5% of first class mail within one working day and delivered 92.2% of second-class mail within three working days.

As we all know, sometimes a letter can be weeks late. To fix this, Ofcom has set targets for Royal Mail so that 99% of mail has to be delivered no more than two days late.

In April this year, the Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský's EP Group completed a takeover of Royal Mail. Will that make any difference? Who can tell?

However, back in the real world, there is a big change in the delivery of second-class letters. **These will be delivered alternate weekdays and not at all on the weekend.** The system for delivery is set up with a 2-week rotation:

Week 1, second-class mail is delivered **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**Week 2, deliveries are **Tuesday and Thursday**



Day of posting	Current due delivery day	Future due delivery day	
Monday	Thursday Thursday		
Tuesday	Friday	Friday	
Wednesday	Saturday	Monday	
Thursday	Monday	Tuesday	
Friday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
Saturday	Wednesday	Thursday	
Sunday	Thursday	Thursday	

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

As I sit at the computer to write this, I like many others, are 'melting' their way through the day, due to the unprecedented heatwave that has gripped the UK and Europe, during the end of June into July. How many times have many of us been on holiday in hot climes and said 'How lovely is this weather but I wouldn't want to have to work/go about my daily chores in it'— well now we get to experience the reality of going about our daily chores in it!!!

In the Catholic faith we are in a period of Ordinary Time which refers to the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. It's a time for Christians to deepen their faith and reflect on Jesus's teaching and ministry.

It seems that life is all about change. It's well established that climate change is making heatwaves stronger and more likely. I feel a trip to Costco to get that air conditioning unit if this is going to continue!!! For some Christians reflecting on Jesus's teachings and ministry throughout Ordinary Time has a profound effect on their lives going forward. We in the Catholic faith have had a change in our Pope. Pope Leo XIV has already spoken out on a number of issues, among them he has urged the Church to move 'from words to action' on issues like climate change and social justice - hopefully this will involve positive change.

In St Margaret's and St Helen's we have had our own change. Let me introduce you to Fr Frank, our new priest. Fr Frank is not only new to us but has also just celebrated his one-year anniversary in the priesthood. He was born in Highbury in 1967 (so he's not as young as he looks!!). He's a 'local boy'.

His family moved to Hackney Wick where he grew up with his sister in what he would say was an average catholic family with a basic prayer life at home and regular Sunday Mass attendance. Initially he wasn't keen on Sunday School catechesis and his sister had to drag him there but gradually, with some help from some well-placed spiritual individuals, he began to be fascinated by the liturgical actions of the Priest at Mass. It was during Holy Hour that he felt enveloped by God's presence.

Fr Frank's parents weren't keen on him entering the priesthood as a teenager so he went to City University to study Optometry and Visual Science. Having

qualified, he worked as an Optometrist for over 30 years. Finally, after years of hearing God's call he began studying for the priesthood at St Mary's Oscott and was ordained by Bishop Alan on 22nd June 2024 at his home parish of St Edmund's Loughton.

Lesley Denton.

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

St Margaret of Scotland, Doddinghurst Road, CM15 0QJ

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

Services and Information

St. Helen's 9am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

St. Helens 5.30pm Saturday

St. Helen's 8.45am – Sunday

St. Margaret's 10.30am – Sunday

Activities in the parish

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

New to our parish.

Please pop in after mass and say hello to Fr Frank and fill in a Register/Census Form available in the Church Porch.

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 40th Season commences on September 19th, when **The Temperance 7** will be delighting the audience with their music. The only jazz band to have had a No.1 hit! Tickets for all our concerts are £15.

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





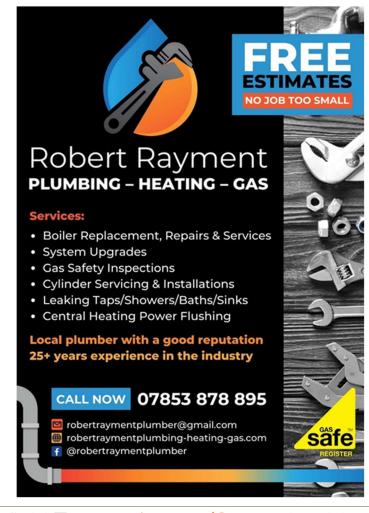


- BOILER REPAIRS / SERVICING & INSTALLATIONS
- POWER FLUSHING
- LANDLORD CERTIFICATION
- PLUMBING WORKS
- PRESSURISED SYSTEMS
- COMPLETE BATHROOM DESIGN & INSTALL
- AIR CON F-GAS REGISTERED

** CALL JAMES ON 07834231177 **







Ongar Nature Watch

Are Blackbirds in your Garden Healthy?



A much-loved garden bird, the blackbird has been a part of UK culture for centuries. Many of us will be familiar with the nursery rhyme *Sing a Song of Sixpence* which features this bird.

However now, a new threat is affecting blackbird numbers. UK records show that blackbirds have become noticeably less abundant in the last few years.

This is due to a virus, which can be fatal to blackbirds. It was first recorded in this country in London in 2020 and is currently spreading throughout southern England.

It was originally identified in South Africa, and has been present in mainland Europe for around 30 years. It is known to be transmitted from one blackbird to another by the bird-biting mosquito, *Culex pipiens*. No human cases of the Usutu virus have been detected in the UK.

Culex pipiens is a small mosquito common throughout Britain with adults often seen resting in houses, especially in the autumn. They have dark legs and distinct white bands on the abdomen. Egg rafts are laid in a variety of habitats in gardens including water butts and ponds. Larvae develop to give adults from May onwards. They produce further egg rafts through to September but this 'summer generation' does not survive beyond late autumn.

Females emerging after August feed on plant juices and lay down fat bodies. Although fertilised, they do not feed on blood and their ovaries do not develop until the following spring. Instead, they seek suitable hibernation sites, which are cool, damp places such as cellars, and outbuildings where they remain until they emerge from hibernation in spring when egg rafts are soon laid.

There are several ways that you can help reduce the spread of the Usutu blackbird virus:-

- Minimise unnecessary standing water in your garden where mosquitoes could breed
- stand wheelbarrows up to avoid rainwater collecting
- put away any containers when not in use
- ensure gutters are kept clear of blockages, and ensure lids are fitted to water butts

Look out for unusual behaviour or deceased blackbirds – symptoms include lethargy, weakness, loss of coordination, droopiness and breathlessness. You can report signs of disease, or finding a dead blackbird, to Garden Wildlife Health (http://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/

If you need to move or handle a dead blackbird, or nearby feathers or droppings, wear disposable gloves or a plastic bag over your hand; dispose of this and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water afterwards.

Take part in the BTO's **blackbird survey** between May and October to report how blackbirds are doing in your garden and help scientists keep track of population numbers.

Careful observation over the last several months indicates that the blackbirds visiting our garden are virus-free.

Keith Snow

Puzzle Page Answers

- 1. Torquay, 2. Watchet, 3. Clevedon, 4. Teignmouth, 5. Fleetwood,
- 6. Broadstairs, 7. Minehead, 8. Woolacombe, 9. Prestatyn, 10. Cromer
- 11. Camber Sands, 12. Felixstowe, 13. Exmouth, 14. Fishguard
- 15. Morecambe, 16. Newquay, 17. St Ives, 18. Folkestone, 19. Swanage
- 20. Padstow.



Be happy. It really annoys negative people. Ricky Gervais

St Clare Hospice Charity Shop in Ongar

At last, we have a charity shop back in Ongar! This is a good one, too, and makes money for a very good cause – St Clare Hospice.

I've always loved poking around in a charity shop and last month I was able to spend an hour with "Charlie", manager of the new shop. The process from donation to sale is highly organised and efficient, especially when you remember it is done almost all by volunteers doing a few hours a week.

The shop is open 7 days a week. Monday to Saturday 9am-5:30pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. Their phone number is 01277 287799.

Nuts and Bolts

- The price range of the shop is up to £30 or so, items worth more than that are sent over to the eBay shop.
- "Pre-loved" stuffed toys can be sold in the shop, but must have the safety label still attached. Sadly, handmade knitted toys cannot be sold.
- Clothes donated out of season are stored until they are in season again.
- There is a dressing room to use, but if you realise when you get home that the item isn't quite right you can exchange it. Keep your receipt and keep the label on the item until you are sure you want to keep it.
- If you buy something from a St Clare shop in a different location it can be exchanged in the Ongar shop as long as the label is still attached and you have the receipt. In either case, refunds are not available.
- Clothes are steamed before being put out for sale. Clothing that is no longer wearable is sold to the "rag man" and so still earns money.
- You will not find vinyl (records) sold at any of the St Clare shops they are all sent to the Bishop Stortford record and bookshop. However, the shop will happily take books and records as donations and send them onwards.
- Electrical items are PAT tested.

Collections and Clearance

The Ongar shop is obviously way too small for furniture. If you are able to transport large items, they should be taken to Harlow. Alternatively, you can arrange for a free collection by calling them at 01279 639 752. The wait for a collection is usually about 2 weeks.

For larger jobs, contact Clearance by St. Clare at 07950 980856. Michelle leads a team who do house clearances of houses, lofts, sheds, garages, garden waste, and so forth. Additionally, they can provide deep cleans. Michelle will come to see what work you need done and give you a free quote for the work. There is a charge for this service and all items removed will either be sold by the St Clare charity shops or recycled.

Again, all the money raised by these services goes to the Hospice, which needs £8million each year to provide care at no cost to the users.

A special opportunity to help others

This particular shop provides income for St Clare Hospice and Joseph King Trust. By buying from or donating to the Ongar shop, you are helping St Clare Hospice to care for people facing end of life or bereavement. You are also, through the Joseph King Trust, providing grants to local young people (under 25) to help with the costs of going to university or college, into apprenticeships, or taking part in special educational events.

Joseph King's legacy is a row of five cottages on Ongar High Street left in trust. The charity receives the rental income from the shops and flats those cottages became and that income is used to fund the grants. The Ongar St Clare shop is one of these. There is more information online about the Trust and grant application process.

What is a Hospice?

Hospices specialise in palliative and end of life care for people who are facing a terminal or life-limiting illness, or who are coming to the end of their lives.

Hospice care at St Clare is varied, and ranges from specialist medical care; therapeutic support; emotional and social support; bereavement support for children as well as adults.

One last thing. Even if you have nothing to donate or want to buy, there are single play St Clare Lottery tickets, which can be purchased in the shop for £1. Why not pop in and get some? You never know – somebody is going to win, why not you?

Charlette Mills

Fyfield Focus – Advertising and Editorial Details

Advertising in the Fyfield Focus

The Focus is published bi-monthly, on the lst 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. Saward	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, Chair	899405
- Kim Hanley, Clerk	07415 407915
Email - fyfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com	07 113 107713
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	899519
& Explorer Scouts – Sandra Mead	3,,01,
VILLAGE HALL	
Chair – Penny Ovel	07884 007865
Bookings – Lizzie Webster	07956 440894
Secretary – Chris Collins	07920 520469