



# Fairfield Village Community Association

**NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2020**

## Message from The Lord-Lieutenant

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Lt Col Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE, has asked that the below message is shared with the community, thanking the many volunteers and staff that have respond to the Covid-19 crisis.



The innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting.

As Her Majesty The Queen's representative, I would like to thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to the County during these extraordinary and challenging times.

Lt Col Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE  
Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire

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# Thank you for Helping

Fairfield Village Community Association would like to thank the many people in our community that have helped others over the past few months; whether checking on our elderly residents, making phoning calls, shopping for others, delivering services at the Village Hall and more, you deserve a massive thank you.



## Be Part Of The Pick This September

### The Great British September Clean: 11-27 September 2020

Fairfield Village Community Association is thrilled to support Keep Britain Tidy's launch of the Great British September Clean.

We're calling on you - our #LitterHeroes - to be part of the pick and do your bit to care for the environment on your doorstep, as we join forces to collect and safely dispose of litter from our community's roads and open spaces.

So join us, as we stand together (2 metres apart) and declare that litter – which degrades the beauty of our environment and threatens to harm wildlife – is not acceptable.

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[admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk)

There's three ways you can get involved and show support for the Great British September Clean:

1. Join us on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September and donate an hour of your time to help with our Community Litter Pick. Meet outside the Village Hall at 10.30am. Equipment will be provided, please wear suitable clothes and footwear.
2. Organise a private group clean-up with up to five family & friends.
3. Pledge to do your own individual clean-up, you can give as little as 15 minutes to the campaign.

To pledge your support visit <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

If you need to borrow litter picking equipment email [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk)

## Recycling Reminder

Bromsgrove District Council are reminding residents not to put their recycling in bin bags or carrier bags. Bags and their contents are rejected at the Recycling Processing Centre.

Place items for recycling in the green bin and take any old carrier bags to your local supermarket, where they can be recycled.

Non-black plant pots can be placed in Recycling Bin. Black plant pots can be taken to Webbs Garden Centre.

## Wood Lane

A blocked gully in Wood Lane has been reported to Worcestershire County Council. The reported gully does not appear on their system and we are waiting for a contractor to undertake a site visit.

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## Swan Lane Update

The Community Association has received the following update from Rachel Benson, Highways & Transport Control Centre Manager at Worcestershire County Council regarding the ongoing work to clear gullies along Swan Lane:

"With regard to Swan Lane, this is a typical rural road in Worcestershire. There is a drainage issue in the 'dip' and it appears that the problem lies with the ditch (where the system discharges into). We needed permission from Cadent Gas to do work as there is a pipeline nearby and this resulted in a delay. We are now focussing on drainage schemes and this location is, and always has been, included on the programme as an interim project. As with all drainage/flooding work, our priority is always flooded property (houses) or where principal roads are affected. In the case of Swan Lane, the A491 runs parallel with it and so there is an alternative, suitable route. It is therefore not a high priority but, of course, we continue to monitor for any changes.

It is sometimes the case that gully lids cannot be lifted because of salt, but that does not necessarily mean that there is or will be a problem. Gullies that appear blocked (for example along the Stourbridge Road) can still be working effectively despite evidence of weeds/debris. We are not aware of flooding or ponding water on this carriageway. There was some initial confusion where our contractor advised us that the work on Stourbridge Road had been completed and this was not the case; I can only apologise for this. Where this happens, we always examine lessons learned to minimise such events reoccurring."

Since receiving this update, the Community Association have identified and reported two additional drainage grids that had been hidden by mud and other debris.

At the time of writing, FVCA was unaware when required work will take place.

## Appeal to Dog Walkers

Please do not leave dog waste bags on the side of paths and roads, to be picked up later, whilst you walk your dog.

Some people have the good intention to pick up their dog waste bags when they make the return journey, unfortunately people often forget. This bag was left on the side of Wood Lane, after three hours it was removed by a FVCA volunteer.



## Wood Lane Fly-tipping

Bromsgrove District Council and the Community Association have received several complaints regarding residents dumping garden waste in the hedge along Wood Lane.

Bromsgrove District Council placed “No Tipping” signage along Swan Lane in late July, two days later more grass & hedge cuttings had been dumped in the hedge.

Residents are reminded that dumping garden waste is fly tipping and, apart from being illegal, can be harmful to wildlife and, if blown into neighbouring fields, livestock.

Please use a home composter or the Brown Wheelie Bin service from Bromsgrove District Council.

## Pepperwood Charcoal

Locally produced charcoal from sustainable wood source for sale. contact the Pepperwood volunteers:

Tel: 0787 575 6698 Email [jenkinhp@gmail.com](mailto:jenkinhp@gmail.com)

[www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)  
[admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk)

## Grot Free Fairfield

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (Jan – Nov),  
meet outside Village Hall 10.30am.**



Donate an hour to keep our community tidy, let's banish GROT from our village. Wear suitable clothes & footwear. Litter picking equipment is provided.

### Keep up to date with FVCA community & Neighbourhood Watch news:

Register your email to receive e-circulars to your email box – send your email address to [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk)

Follow Social Media:

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[www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)  
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## Cutting Down Cuts My Risk

Public Health England have launched a major new adult health campaign to seize the opportunity for a national reset moment. Better Health will help capture the imagination of the nation, using this unique moment in time to help kick start our health – to eat better and get active. COVID-19 has affected the whole country; for almost everyone, life has had to fundamentally change. But it has also prompted many people to reflect and think more seriously about their health. What's more, people have been surprised by how able they have been to change their behaviour, with lockdown showing many that they are able to make and sustain changes to their lives.

The Better Health campaign will initially support individuals on their weight loss journey, but, later down the line, will also provide advice and support for quitting smoking, drinking less and looking after your mental health.

Nearly two thirds (63%) of adults in the UK are overweight or living with obesity. Gaining weight is often a gradual process that takes place over a number of years and modern life doesn't always make it easy. But this extra weight causes pressure to build up around vital organs, making it harder for the body to fight against diseases like cancer, heart disease and now COVID-19.

By reducing your weight within a healthy range, you can help cut your risk of being critically ill with COVID19. To improve health and wellbeing, individuals should aim to have a BMI below 25 and above 18.5. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends that Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME) should aim to have a BMI below 23 and above 18.5 to avoid risks to health.

To support people to live healthier lives, the brand-new Better Health webpage will be available at [nhs.uk/BetterHealth](https://nhs.uk/BetterHealth). It provides tools to help people manage their weight loss – from checking their BMI, to getting access to free support tools including the NHS 12-week weight loss plan. The NHS 12-week weight loss plan, available both online and via a new app, promotes

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evidence based safe and sustainable weight loss. It helps users to make healthier choices, by providing the most up to date evidence based healthy eating and physical activity advice in a magazine format that enables them to keep track of their calorie intake, portions of fruit and veg, physical activity level and teaches skills to prevent weight gain. There will also be exclusive offers from other well-known weight management providers to offer further support.

Later down the line, support will also be made available to help people quit smoking and look after their mental health. With the Better Health tools [www.nhs.uk/BetterHealth](http://www.nhs.uk/BetterHealth) people can live well and set goals, see progress and feel a real difference on their weight loss journey.

For help and support to lose weight, visit [nhs.uk/BetterHealth](http://nhs.uk/BetterHealth)

## Fairfield Dining Group

The monthly Lunch Group will not meet (in view of the present Covid restrictions) for the rest of this year but we will look at the situation again in January 2021. We are hoping that the situation will have improved by then (who knows!!).

## There's Safety in Neighbours

As lockdown eases, Neighbourhood Watch & the Home Office are expecting a rise in burglaries across the country.

Life's safer when you know your neighbours. With more people looking out for unusual behaviour on your street, burglaries can be prevented. If you see suspicious activity **REPORT IT**, online via <https://www.westmercia.police.uk> or telephone 101. If safe to do so, share your observations with us [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk) so that we can make others aware.

Get practical tips to burglar-proof your home at <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crimeprevention/crime-prevention-toolkits/burglaries>

[www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)  
[admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk)

# Free Forensic Marking Kits

## Have you got yours?

Nearly all properties in Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge now have a SmartWater Property marking kit.

If you have not yet received your kit, perhaps you are new to the community, email [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk) to arrange a delivery.



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## Are you seeing foreign lottery mailings?

In recent months, Royal Mail have effectively banned scam mail including foreign lottery mailings. The National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team's Investigators are keen to see how these criminals will adapt to the new changes. Scam mail (including fraudulent foreign lottery tickets) has been added to the list of prohibited items. This now allows Royal Mail to manage fraudulent or misleading or "exaggerated" material posted from abroad that seek to solicit payments. This is great news for the many people that are still receiving these fraudulent mailings. The NTS team are assuming that the foreign lottery mailings will start to slow down. However, these criminal individuals/companies will try to find a way into the country through other means. If you are still receiving mailings of this type then please send them into the team, to freepost NTSST, FREEPOST, MAIL MARSHALS for investigation.

## Have a Break and Enjoy some Cake

Pop into the Fairfield Cafe and taste the delights:

Fresh cream scones

Chocolate eclairs

Apple Turnover

Custard slice

Rocky road

Gingerbread men

Caramel shortbread

Cherry Bakewell

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## Remembrance Sunday

**It is hoped that the annual act of remembrance will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November.**

The current plan is to hold a short service outside the Village Hall, starting at 10.45am, with family groups maintaining social distancing.

This year's event will be coordinated by the Community Association, liaising with St. Mark's church. We will be following Government guidance that is applicable at the time of the service.

To comply with current guidance; as we are highly likely to have more than 30 people attending this act of remembrance, we are unable to hold an indoors service and provide refreshments after the service, please wear suitable clothing. The Village Hall will be open for the purpose of using the toilets (follow displayed instructions).

Of course, if further lockdown restrictions are imposed, the service may have to be cancelled. Updates will be provided via the FVCA e-Circular, website, Facebook and Twitter.

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# Community Garage Sale!

Sales will take place at participating residents' homes.



## Fairfield Community Garage Sale

in aid of Fairfield Village Community Association

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**10am – 3pm**

A coordinated garage/boot sale taking place from residents' front gardens.

Cost per household £10.00. After covering event promotional costs, money raised will be used to support Fairfield Village Community Association.

A list of addresses participating in the Community Garage Sale will be posted on the FVCA website ([www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)) and, on the day, Café.

Last day to be added to the list of participating addresses, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Households that do not register by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September can still participate; your address will not be included on the list of participating properties.

[www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)  
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If you're doing your essential shop from Friday, don't forget to pick up this week's

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Items for sale **must** be:

- Displayed safely and, where possible,
- Cleaned and disinfected.
- Safe; no safety critical items (e.g. crash helmets, baby products and car seats) and no electrical items unless PAT tested.

Participating households:

- **Must** provide hand sanitiser;
- **Ensure** social distancing;
- **Must confirm** that they have appropriate public liability insurance (check home insurance policies);
- **Should** be mindful of possible criminal activity, especially if displaying high value items or leaving items unattended.

FVCA Insurers (Zurich) have reminded us of our legal responsibilities, members of the FVCA Committee will visit participating properties to ensure that the rules stated on the Household Registration Form are being adhered to.

To register your home, complete the *Community Garage Sale Household Registration Form* that can be picked up from Fairfield Café or can be downloaded from [www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)

### **Parking**

Visitors to our community will be able to park in the Village Hall car park.

Should vehicles be parked elsewhere, we ask that motorists are considerate to residents and not to obstruct pedestrians and traffic flow.



## Village Hall Subsidence

In late Summer 2018 cracks were spotted in the wall (front right hand side) at the Village Hall, and the Hall insurers were notified. They arranged for a Structural Engineer to visit the Hall who confirmed that the cracks were the result of subsidence. After some investigation, which involved soil samples being taken and analysed, the conclusion was reached by the Insurers that the cause was soil shrinkage due to roots of the nearby trees. Over the past 18 months, monthly monitoring of the cracks has taken place by appointed specialists and further movement has been observed.

The Village Hall trustees understand that discussions are now taking place between the Insurers, Bromsgrove District Council and the owner of the adjacent land as to what tree works maybe necessary to prevent further damage to property.

At this point in time, we have been given no indication as to when the repairs to the Hall will commence.

## Broadband To Get Faster

**Full Fibre – Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) – is on its ways to properties that are connected to the Mount Road junction.**

Over the past few months, contractors on behalf of BT Openreach have been unblocking and preparing underground pipes.

Firm dates are unknown, we understand that BT Openreach will be laying the fibre this Autumn. Initially the fibre will be laid from the Mount Road junction, through the underground pipes to telegraph poles near peoples' properties. Eventually, the fibre will continue to properties, so there will be no need for the currently copper wiring. At this stage we do not know what the arrangements will be to get fibre between the telegraph pole and property.



# The Reels Roll at Fairfield Flicks

**Fairfield Flicks will restart in September.** Due to Covid-19, our Booking and Visitor Instructions have changed. For the safety of all and in compliance with Government guidance and good practice:

- **Pre-book to avoid disappointment using the TicketLab box office**, the box office link can be found on the page detailing each film on the Fairfield Flicks website ([www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk](http://www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk)). Door sales will be possible for any unsold tickets. To reduce cash handling, payment by card will be accepted. Audience numbers will be limited to 27 people.
- **You must not enter the Village Hall if you or anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms.**
- **On arrival you will be asked to provide your contact details**, these will be held for 21 days following the film screening and your information will only be used for the purpose of and shared with Test, Track and Trace.
- **If you develop COVID-19 symptoms within 7 days of visiting these premises alert Test, Track and Trace** and contact Fairfield Flicks, [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk).
- **Maintain 2 metres social distancing as far as possible.** Chairs will be spaced 2 metres apart.
- **Use the hand sanitizer provided on entering the premises.** Clean your hands often. Soap and paper towels are provided.
- **Avoid touching your face, nose, or eyes.** Clean your hands if you do.
- **“Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”.** Tissues should be disposed of into one of the rubbish bins.
- **Face coverings are to be worn.** It will be a legal requirement for face coverings to be worn in Community Centres, Cinemas and other buildings from 8<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Wash your clothes** when you get home to reduce risk of transmission.
- **Cushions are permitted**, for personal comfort only.
- **Whilst we establish our Covid-Safe regime**, no refreshments will be on sale.

## Autumn Film Schedule

### Knives Out

16<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm

Rian Johnson writes and directs this American crime drama starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Lakeith Stanfield, Michael Shannon and Ana de Armas. To celebrate his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, best-selling crime writer Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) invites his eccentric family, including his three heirs and their children, to attend a party at his mansion. The following morning, however, the patriarch is found dead in an apparent suicide. Renowned private investigator Benoit Blanc (Craig) is hired to deduce the circumstances of the writer's mysterious demise and quickly surmises there is one guilty party spinning a twisted web of intrigue for him to unravel. The cast also includes Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Johnson, Toni Collette and Katherine Langford.

Running Time: 130 mins

Rating: 12A

Produced (year): 2019

Admission: £5.00

### Mrs Lowry & Son

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2.15pm

#### Barrier Free Film – With Subtitles

Adrian Noble directs this biographical drama centred on renowned English artist L. S. Lowry, following Lowry (Timothy Spall) as he draws inspiration from his industrial surroundings and the difficulties he faces in his personal life as he cares for his ailing mother, Elizabeth (Vanessa Redgrave). As well as being barraged with criticism and negativity from his mother, Lowry struggles to contend with critics from the art world and proving himself as a serious painter.

Running Time: 91 mins

Rating: PG

Produced (year): 2019

Admission: £4.00

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## **Military Wives**

28<sup>th</sup> October 2.15pm

Inspired by real events and from the director of The Full Monty (Peter Cattaneo), Military Wives is the heartfelt story of friendship, love, and support on the home front. When Kate (Kristin Scott Thomas, Darkest Hour) persuades a disparate group of women on the base to form the Military Wives Choir, Lisa (Sharon Horgan, Catastrophe) is initially sceptical and embarrassed by such an amateur bunch. However, she is quickly transformed by the choir's friendship, humour and courage. Finding their voice together, Kate, Lisa and the choir put aside their own personal differences and, by singing their hearts out, bring joy, hope and strength to the world.

Running Time: 113 mins

Rating: 12

Produced (year): 2020

Admission: £4.00

## **Onward**

29<sup>th</sup> October 2.15pm

### **Barrier Free Film – Autism Friendly**

Disney-Pixar animation featuring the voice talents of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Octavia Spencer. On his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday elf Barley (Holland) is given a magical staff capable of bringing his dad back from the dead for one day. However, when the spell goes awry, Barley and his brother Ian (Pratt) set out on a quest to finish the spell and spend one more day with their dad. They seek out the help of manticore Corey (Spencer), a fearless adventurer, who sets them on the right path, but it's not long before the boys find themselves in a whole lot of trouble, with their mum (Louis-Dreyfus) following closely behind, determined to save them.

Running Time: 102 mins

Rating: U

Produced (year): 2020

Admission: £2.00

## **The Personal History Of David Copperfield**

18<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm

Armando Iannucci co-writes and directs this comedy drama starring Dev Patel. Based on Charles Dickens' novel, the film follows the life of David Copperfield (Patel) as he comes of age in Victorian London. Raised by his single mother, David's idyllic childhood comes to an abrupt end with the arrival of his new step-father, who sends the young boy to an unforgiving boarding school. Following the death of his mother, David moves in with his aunt Betsey Trotwood (Tilda Swinton) and her husband Mr Dick (Hugh Laurie) before encountering the scheming Uriah Heep (Ben Whishaw).

Running Time: 119 mins      Rating: PG      Produced (year): 2020

Admission: £5.00

## **The Zookeeper's Wife**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2.15pm

Jessica Chastain and Daniel Brühl star in this historical drama directed by Niki Caro. Set in the Polish capital Warsaw, the story follows Antonina Zabinski (Chastain) and her husband Jan (Johan Heldenbergh) as they attempt to help as many local Jews as they can following the Nazi invasion in 1939. Horrified by the treatment of their fellow citizens in the city's newly formed ghettos, Antonina and Jan begin covertly working with Polish resistance forces by smuggling hundreds of displaced Jews into their zoo and providing them with shelter and a place to hide. However, with the Nazi's new chief zoologist Lutz Heck (Brühl) making daily visits and becoming increasingly suspicious of their behaviour, the Zabinskis are forced to go to extreme lengths to continue to protect their secret.

Running Time: 124 mins      Rating: 12      Produced (year): 2017

Admission: £4.00

## TV Streaming Scams

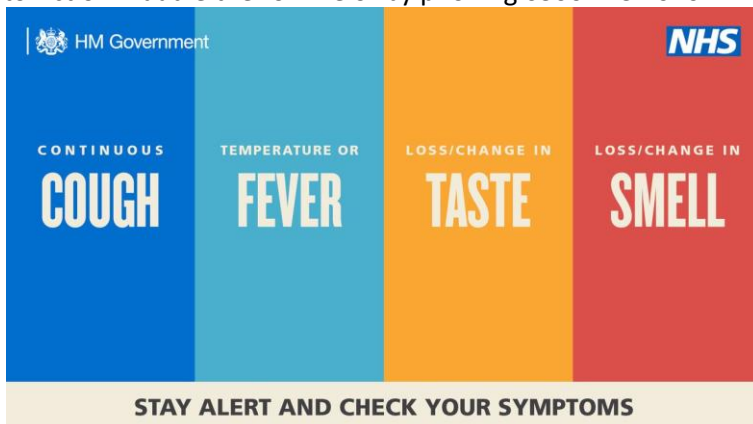
There continues to be a large number of reports regarding scams that aim to defraud people out of their money by phoning consumers and telling them that their TV subscription is coming to an end and that they would have to pay in order to keep this service.

The usual method is that you will receive an automated phone call stating that your subscription is about to expire and that you need to make payment of £39.99. It will then ask you to press a number on your telephone keypad in order to be put through to an operator to make payment. We have also had reports of being contacted directly (no automated message) by quite convincing operators. This is a scam.

Amazon will never ask for your personal information, or ask you to make a payment outside of its website (e.g. payments over the phone, emailing card details, via bank transfer etc..)

Netflix will never ask for your personal information over email. This includes: credit card number, bank account details and your password. They will never request payments via a third party vendor or website.

If you have a TV subscription, then please check the company's website for advice on how to deal with any suspicious contact that you receive and always report to Action Fraud either online or by phoning 0300 123 2040.



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**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
**10am – 3pm**

A list of addresses participating in the Community Garage Sale can be downloaded from [www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk) and, on the day, Fairfield Café. Parking available at the Village Hall.

## 200 Club

It is hoped, later in the Autumn, that the 200 Club draws will recommence.

The Village Hall committee will be considering resuming the 200 Club at their September trustees' meeting.

A decision will be based on several factors, including whether it is safe for volunteers to visit properties to collect subscriptions; some people pay monthly, some quarterly, some annually.

Any subscriptions that have been paid in advance of the last draw will be carried forward. Our Collectors will be calling to other subscribers, to enable them to pay their subscriptions for future draws.

## Not a Member

### **Why not join?**

There is a monthly draw with top prizes ranging from £25.00 to £200.00.

It's only £1.00 a month, maximum 200 members and you will be helping the Village Hall.

Interested? Download an application form from <http://fvca.org.uk/200-club/> or contact Linda Garvin (200 Club Coordinator), 83 Brook Road.

## Could you knock on your neighbours doors?

### **Volunteers are needed to help collect 200 Club subscriptions.**

We are short of volunteers and urgently need helpers to visit 200 Club subscribers.

This is a flexible opportunity, get to know your neighbours and visit them once a month, quarter or annually.

For further information, please contact Linda Garvin (200 Club Administrator), 83 Brook Road, or email [secretary.fvh@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.fvh@outlook.com)

[www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)  
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# FairfieldFlicks

Fairfield Village Hall, Stourbridge Road,  
Fairfield, B61 9LZ

[www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk](http://www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk)

Daytime £4.00—Evenings £5.00

Advanced Booking Advisable to Avoid Disappointment



16th Sep	7.30pm	Knives Out (12A)
23rd Sep	2.15pm	Mrs Lowry & Son (PG) - (With Subtitles)
28th Oct	2.15pm	Military Wives (12)
29th Oct	2.15pm	Onward (U) - (Autism Friendly)
18th Nov	7.30pm	The Personal History Of David Copperfield (PG)
25th Nov	2.15pm	The Zookeeper's Wife (12)



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