



# Fairfield Village Community Association

**NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022**



## Keep Up To Date With The News

For up-to-date Neighbourhood Watch and community bulletins (only some of our news items appear in this magazine):

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**Fairfield Village Community Association, a group of residents working hard for Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge.**

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

## Community Litter Picks

Our next Community Litter Pick will be on Saturdays 12<sup>th</sup> February, then 12<sup>th</sup> March and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, except December. Volunteers are needed to help tidy our roads and open spaces. All we ask is that you donate an hour, the more volunteers the more we can do. Meet outside the Village Hall at 10.30am. Wear suitable clothing, litter picking equipment will be provided.



## Join the Fairfield 200 Club?

The 200 Club helps provide much needed funds to help keep our Village Hall looking magnificent. It is only £1.00 p/mth, with a draw every month, and top prizes range from £25 to £200. Membership is limited to 200, and there are a few available numbers. Interested in joining?

If you wish to join the 200 Club, please contact the 200 Club Administrator, Linda Garvin, 83 Brook Road, Fairfield, 01527 834935, alternatively download an application <http://fvca.org.uk/200-club>



**SATURDAY  
SOCIAL**

Share Your  
Thoughts



Join us for a cuppa, catch up with friends, share your thoughts on community issues and get crime prevention advice

Village Hall

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month: 10am – 11.30am

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

## Festive Fairfield 2021

A huge thank you to everyone that took part in **Festive Fairfield 2021**; joining us for **Carols Around the Christmas Tree**, creating ribbons of colour with **Light Up Fairfield** and helping to create a **Village Advent Calendar**. It was disappointing that our Junior Flicks and NYE event had to be cancelled, however, the need of public safety with rising Covid infection rates must come first.

## The Chief Drops in on Fairfield

At a special coffee afternoon on the 19th January, residents were joined by West Mercia Chief Constable Pippa Mills. Chief Constable Mills received a very warm welcome and joined residents for Coffee and Cake.

## Join us for lunch

On the 3rd Monday of each month, we visit a local pub or other fine eatery for a hearty meal and good conversation. The group includes (and is not exclusive to) residents of Fairfield, Bournheath, Dodford & the surrounding area. We meet from 12noon, for a 12.15pm lunch. Dates and venues for future lunches are:

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 21st February | The Gate at Bournheath       |
| 21st March    | The Dodford Inn              |
| 18th April    | French Hen, Clent            |
| 16th May      | Lord Morton's, Cutnall Green |
| 20th June     | The Swan, Fairfield          |
| 18th July     | The Vine, Clent              |

Further venues will be announced in late spring/early summer.

If you are interested in joining our lunchtime meal, or would like further information, please contact Pat on 01527 832360, or email [patricia@steward7.plus.com](mailto:patricia@steward7.plus.com)

## Village Spring Clean

All hands-on-deck on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April when we will be giving our community a Spring Clean. Volunteers are needed to help clean our road signage, tidy the church yard, as well as litter pick those areas that are often forgotten. Meet up at the Village Hall 10.30am. To help with washing signage, please bring a bucket and sponge. Litter picking equipment will be provided. If we all donate an hour, our community will sparkle.

## Getting extra help with the Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register is a free support service to help people in vulnerable situations. Energy & Water suppliers and network operators offer it. Each keeps their own register. You need to contact your energy supplier or network operator to get on it, i.e. for our area Western Power by filling in their online form or by telephoning 0800 9177953, or for Water contacting Severn Trent Water.

### **What is the Priority Service Register?**

The Priority Services Register (PSR) provides extra help and additional support during a cut in power & water supply for elderly, very ill or disabled people, or those who rely on power for medical equipment.

### **Energy Companies**

All energy companies, including gas and electricity companies, and network suppliers who deliver the power, work together to care for customers who need some extra help and support.

### **Help you can get:**

- Advance notice of planned power cuts. If you rely on your energy supply for medical reasons your network operator can tell you about planned power cuts. For example, when they plan engineering work.
- Priority support in an emergency. Network operators could provide heating and cooking facilities if you are cut off supply.

- Identification and password scheme. This could include arranging a password or agreed on picture cards if callers need to visit or contact you. This way you can feel confident they are genuine.
- Nominee scheme. You can nominate someone to receive communications and bills from your supplier. For example, a family member, carer or someone you trust.
- Help with prepayment meter access. For example, moving a meter if you can't safely get to it to top up.
- Regular meter reading services. For example, if nobody can read your meter.
- Accessible information. For example, account info and bills in large print or braille.

Suppliers can offer free gas safety checks every 12 months. You can request a safety check if you get a means-tested benefit and either:

- live with a child under five years old
- live alone or with others and have reached state pension age
- live alone or with others and are disabled or chronically ill
- live with others who have reached state pension age or are disabled, chronically ill or under 18 years old.

### **You are eligible if you:**

- have reached your state pension age
- are disabled or have a long-term medical condition
- are recovering from an injury
- have a hearing or sight condition
- have a mental health condition
- are pregnant or have children under 5
- have extra communication needs (such as if you don't speak or read English well).

You might still be able to register for other reasons if your situation isn't listed. For example, if you need short-term support after a stay in hospital.

# Fairfield Flicks



## Bromsgrove's Community Cinema

Fairfield Flicks is a voluntary run Community Cinema & Entertainment experience showing top films and great Live Entertainment for you to enjoy. Our goal is to bring our community together.

Please come along, make yourself comfortable and enjoy a cinematic experience at your village hall. **If you have not been to one of our screenings before, you will be pleasantly surprised.**

Refreshments are available, and includes WINE, CIDER & BEER!

Admission for film screenings: £5.00 for evening screenings, £4.00 for morning and afternoons. Admission price to Live Entertainment/Streaming events, see publicity notice or our website. For further information and to book advance tickets visit [www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk](http://www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk)

### A new string to the Fairfield Flicks bow is Live Streaming.

We are now able to offer Event Cinema, enabling us to stream concerts, theatre, & more.



Event Cinema  
Coming to Fairfield Flicks

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

### **The Courier (12A) - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm**



Released last year (2021), this film is the story of an unassuming British businessman Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch) who is recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history.

### **Beautiful Thing - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm**

Jamie is a shy teenager, often bullied at school. His neighbour Ste has a rough time at home, being beaten by his father and brother. This issues bring them together and they find that what they feel for each other is more than friendship.



### **The Last Bus (12) - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2.15pm**

A heart-warming tale of Tom (Timothy Spall), a pensioner whose wife, Mary (Phyllis Logan), has just passed away, who travels from Britain's most northerly point, John O'Groats, to his original home town at its most southerly point, Land's End, using his free bus pass. He carries with him only a small suitcase, travelling the length of the country with it. Along the way, his adventures are recorded by the people he meets and helps, and by the end of his trip he has unwittingly become a social media celebrity.





## **Stardog and Turbo Cat (U) - Thursday 24th February 11am**

A madcap animated adventure featuring the voices of Luke Evans, Nick Frost and Bill Nighy; new friends Buddy and Felix set out to find Buddy's lost owner... and discover their inner superpowers along the way!



## **Beautiful Boy (15) - Sunday 13th March 7.30pm**



Based on the best-selling pair of memoirs from father and son David and Nic Sheff, *Beautiful Boy* chronicles the heartbreaking and inspiring experience of survival, relapse, and recovery in a family coping with addiction over many years.

## **9 to 5 (15) - Wednesday 16th March 7.30pm**

Meet Franklin Hart (Dabney Coleman). The biggest "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot" boss on the planet. He thrills in taking advantage of his head female office staff; humiliating, downplaying, and condescending against them whenever conveniently possible, particularly his top assistant Violet (Lily Tomlin). Long-exhausted over



his gruesome bullishness, Violet, alongside co-workers Doralee (Dolly Parton) and Judy (Jane Fonda) comprise comical methods of "doing him in", when a



freak incident occurs. They then manage to kidnap Hart and trap him in his own house, while assuming control of his department, and productivity leaps. But just how long can they keep him tied up?

### **Dream Horse (12A) - Wednesday 23rd March 2.15 pm**



The film tells the inspiring true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely race horse bred by small town Welsh bartender, Jan Vokes (Academy Award nominee Toni Collette). With very little money and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbors to chip in their meager earnings to help raise

Dream in the hopes he can compete with the racing elites. The group's investment pays off as Dream rises through the ranks with grit and determination and goes on to race in the Welsh Grand National showing the heart of a true champion.

## **Be a Volunteer Superstar**



If you would like to help Fairfield Flicks, and see a film/show for free, why not volunteer? <https://fairfieldflicks.org.uk/volunteer>

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

# The Smile (Screening) – Live Broadcast – Streaming to Fairfield Flicks

The Smile, the new group comprising Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood and Sons Of Kemet's Tom Skinner, play three consecutive live shows in twenty four hours at Magazine London, in the heart of London's Docklands, on January 29 and 30.

Performing to a seated audience in the round, each show brings together a live show and a cinematic livestream captured by award-winning director, Paul Dugdale, produced by Driift, and broadcast in real time.

**The Smile's livestream will be broadcasted to Fairfield Flicks on Saturday 29th January 8pm;** not the actual live show itself, The Smile are not actually performing in person at Fairfield Flicks.

Livestream tickets are now on general sale: [www.rippa.tv/the-smile-venue-screenings](http://www.rippa.tv/the-smile-venue-screenings) Tickets for the live stream at Fairfield Flicks visit: [www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk/events/the-smile-live-stream](http://www.fairfieldflicks.org.uk/events/the-smile-live-stream)



# Neighbourhood Watch



## Help Keep Our Community Safe

Life's safer when you know your neighbours and the community pulls together.

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.

### What is Suspicious Activity?

If a vehicle/person feels out of place please report to the Police as suspicious activity, tel. 101. Even if something seems trivial to you, it's worth reporting as it could be important/vital information. Please remain vigilant at all times, and not just during anyone incident.

## Motoring Advice

The sun is really low at this time of year, particularly during morning & afternoon school runs & commutes. West Mercia Police Road Safety Team advise the following:

To reduce glare when driving:

- Keep your windscreen clear
- Drive at a safe & appropriate speed
- Use visor or sunglasses

And at all times - Be aware of pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders & motorcyclists.

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

## Is Your Property Security Marked?

Over the past few years, residents of Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge have taken up the offer of receiving a FREE SmartWater kit, marking their property with this unique solution.

Please remember it is crucial that you put your SmartWater stickers in your doors & windows advertising that your property is security marked.

If you have moved into our community and would like a FREE SmartWater Security Marking Kit, email [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk)

## Cold Mornings

Although vehicle crime is low across West Mercia, every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their cars stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait in the warmth of their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.

Some vehicle owners nip inside for just a few seconds to collect a bag or finish the last mouthful of their breakfast coffee - but that's all the time an opportunist thief needs. To 'freeze out' the thieves, West Mercia Police advises motorists to:

- Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper
- Sit in vehicles while the heater de-mists the windscreen

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks. Thieves will drive around residential areas looking for likely targets - when they spot a vehicle with its engine left running on a drive or outside a home, it's there for the taking.

One person will be dropped off, gets into the target vehicle and simply drives away.

Many of the vehicles are never recovered, and some - especially high value models such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi - may be shipped overseas.

It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

So, this winter, don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended.

## Be Scam Alert

### **IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED OR DO NOT RECOGNISE THE CONTACT**

- Stop – Taking a moment to stop and think can keep you and your money safe.
- Challenge - Keep your money and information safe from criminals by only purchasing items from authorised sellers and doing your research fully before making a purchase.
- Protect – if you think you've fallen for a scam contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

## Omicron Variant Scam

Wasting no time at all, criminals are already sending fake emails about the new Omicron variant of Covid, to steal personal data and bank details.

Another new fake email attempting to cash in on the confusion and anxiety surrounding the pandemic is doing the rounds, impersonating the NHS and offering 'a free Omicron PCR today to avoid restrictions'.

Which? has reported this website to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) but other scam texts, emails and calls related to Omicron are likely to follow suit.

Criminals have used similar tactics throughout the global pandemic, for example, when the vaccine first became available and when the Covid Pass was launched.

Report suspicious emails by forwarding the email to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

## Some other scams doing the rounds...

1 - **Subscription trap**; This scam offers a gift or trial offer. If you pay postage and packaging to receive the 'gift' you may, without realising it, set up a Continuous Payment Authority (CPA) allowing the company to take any amount out of your bank account at any time. You should report these to Citizens Advice.

2 – **Bogus charities**; Fake charities prey on the victim's sense of good will at this time of the year, and their marketing techniques can be very convincing. Make sure that the marketing you have received is genuine. If you aren't sure – don't take the risk. You can check if a charity is genuine by visiting the gov.uk website.

3 – **Fake online shops**; Criminals create fake websites which look reliable and offer all kinds of products from jewellery to clothes, technology and more at cheap prices. Don't be attracted by these low prices as after sending the payment, you may not receive the product! Check if the website you order your Christmas presents from is legitimate by visiting scamadvisor.com.

4 – **HM Revenue & Customs**; Criminals phone unsuspecting members of the public and claim they have over/under paid their tax. Beware - never give out your bank details, hang up the phone immediately and report to Action Fraud

5 – **Bank scams**; Criminals may phone you and claim to be calling from your bank to report 'suspicious activity' on your account. If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately and phone your bank on a number you know to be legitimate (e.g. from the bank's website)

6 - **Purchase scams**; you may be tricked into sending money via bank transfer to buy goods or services, often advertised online, which do not actually exist. When you shop online this Christmas, the best ways to keep safe are to buy from a trusted retailer whenever possible, and always pay by card for the greatest protection.



7 - **E-greeting (online) cards**; Be careful when sending/receiving online greeting cards as they can contain malware which can find address books and bank details stored on your computer.

8 – **Bogus gift cards**; Gift cards are ideal for that ‘hard to buy for’ person, but be aware if you are buying these online, as gift cards are easy to illegitimately replicate and could cause embarrassment to your friends and family when they try and use your gift... and they are fake.

9 – **Delivery scams**; Deliveries will inevitably increase this time of year as presents are bought so it’s hard to keep track. Criminals use this as an opportunity to target consumers. If you get a text saying that your package requires payment for it to be delivered, it’s probably a scam! Report it by forwarding the message for free to 7726 (spells ‘SPAM’ on your telephone keypad).

10 – **‘Brushing’ scams**; the sellers on Amazon Marketplace may send you unsolicited parcels to create fake increases in their sales numbers. Amazon sellers are banned from sending such parcels by the company so if you have received one, make sure you report it to the Amazon customer service team.

11 – **NHS Covid Pass scams**; Messages saying you’re eligible to apply for a Covid Pass are sent via texts and emails claiming to be from the NHS. They include a link that appears to be to the genuine website but is in fact a scam website set up to steal your personal details. Vaccine passes are completely free via the NHS app or by asking a physical pass to be posted to you.

12 – **Extortion scams**; Criminals contact you claiming they have embarrassing or incriminating information about you and threaten to release that information if you don’t send them payment. If the criminal shows you they have a password you’re currently using, change that password immediately. Remember, these scam messages are designed to scare you, don’t fall for it!

# Diary

## January

- 19<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
26<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 2.15pm  
29<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks – The Smile**, Village Hall, 8.00pm

## February

- 5<sup>th</sup> **Social Saturday**, Village Hall, 10am – 11.30am  
9<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield W.I.**, meet Village Hall, 7pm  
12<sup>th</sup> **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am  
13<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
16<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> **Fairfield Dining Group**, The Gate at Bournheath, noon  
23<sup>rd</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 2.15pm  
24<sup>th</sup> **Vegetable Society**, Village Hall, 7pm

## March

- 5<sup>th</sup> **Social Saturday**, Village Hall, 10am – 11.30am  
9<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield W.I.**, meet Village Hall, 7pm  
12<sup>th</sup> **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am  
13<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
16<sup>th</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> **Fairfield Dining Group**, The Dodford Inn, noon  
23<sup>rd</sup> **Fairfield Flicks**, Village Hall, 2.15pm

## April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Social Saturday**, Village Hall, 10am – 11.30am  
9<sup>th</sup> **Village Spring Clean**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am

## Weekly Activities at Fairfield Village Hall

### Monday:

Line Dancing 7.30pm

### Thursday:

Zumba 7pm – 8pm

### Tuesday:

Sequence Dancing 7.30pm

### Friday:

Taekwondo 6pm/7pm/8pm

**Preschool:** Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am – 3pm, Wed 9am – 12noon

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