



Fairfield Village Community Association

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019

Police and Village Hall Need YOUR Assistance

On Sunday 21st April the Village Hall entrance gate was unlocked so that the car park could be used for the Easter Sunday morning service at St. Mark's church. Unfortunately, the padlock was hooked over the open catch post and when the gate was checked later in the day the padlock was found to be missing.

The gate was then locked using the "twin padlock".

Two days later, Tuesday 23rd April, the regular Tuesday evening hirer unlocked the entrance gate and when they went to lock up found the padlock missing. They usually clasp the lock, but on this occasion they did not.

The next day on Wednesday 24th April, the elderly Welcome Club arrived at the Village Hall to find the entrance gate padlocked, someone had replaced the stolen padlock with another padlock lock to prevent Hall users from having access to the car park. Bolt cutters were used to remove the padlock. The elderly ladies are, understandable, worried and anxious (youngest member is 82 yrs, oldest is 93 yrs).

Then on Friday 26th April a new padlock was attached to the gate and later in the day was found tampered with, the combination padlock was superglued.

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These incidents, which are similar to those incidents that occurred at the Hall last August/September have been reported to the police and the Village Hall's solicitor.

After seeking advice from the Police and Solicitor, the Village Hall will be installing CCTV. Cameras will be GDPR & Safeguarding compliant and will only capture images of people on Village Hall land.

If you know who is committing these acts or you have seen suspicious activity please telephone the police 101, crime ref: 289S240419

Use of Village Hall Car Park

The Village Hall car park is for use by Hall users and is not a public car park. This is NOT a new policy; this has been the policy for many, many years.

Last year, gates were installed to address an issue where there were people taking and dealing drugs from the car park, in sight of Hall users. Other anti-social activities were taking place at night time. Since the gates were installed drug dealing/taking and other anti-social activities have reduced.

The Village Hall trustees manage a community asset that needs investment to secure its future. The trustees have operational and maintenance costs to meet. To pay the bills and invest in the Hall we need to hire out the building, our hirers come to Fairfield because of the car park and are not pleased when they find vehicles are parking in the car park and they are unable to manage these vehicles – to reduce risk of injury to Hall users, hirers are responsible for managing vehicle movements.

Unfortunately, there is someone who has no respect for Hall users and their safety.

Vehicles found in contravention to the Village Hall policy may be issued with a Parking Charge Notice. A County Court order will be sought for repeat offenders.



VILLAGE PICNIC

Sunday 9th June

2pm - 3.30pm

Fairfield Recreation Ground

BRING A BLANKET & PICNIC

YOU CAN EVEN BRING YOUR SWING BALL

COMPETITIVE FUN - INCLUDING EGG & SPOON RACE AND WIFE CARRYING

Club House Bar will be Open

Limited Parking, Please Walk



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Quarry News

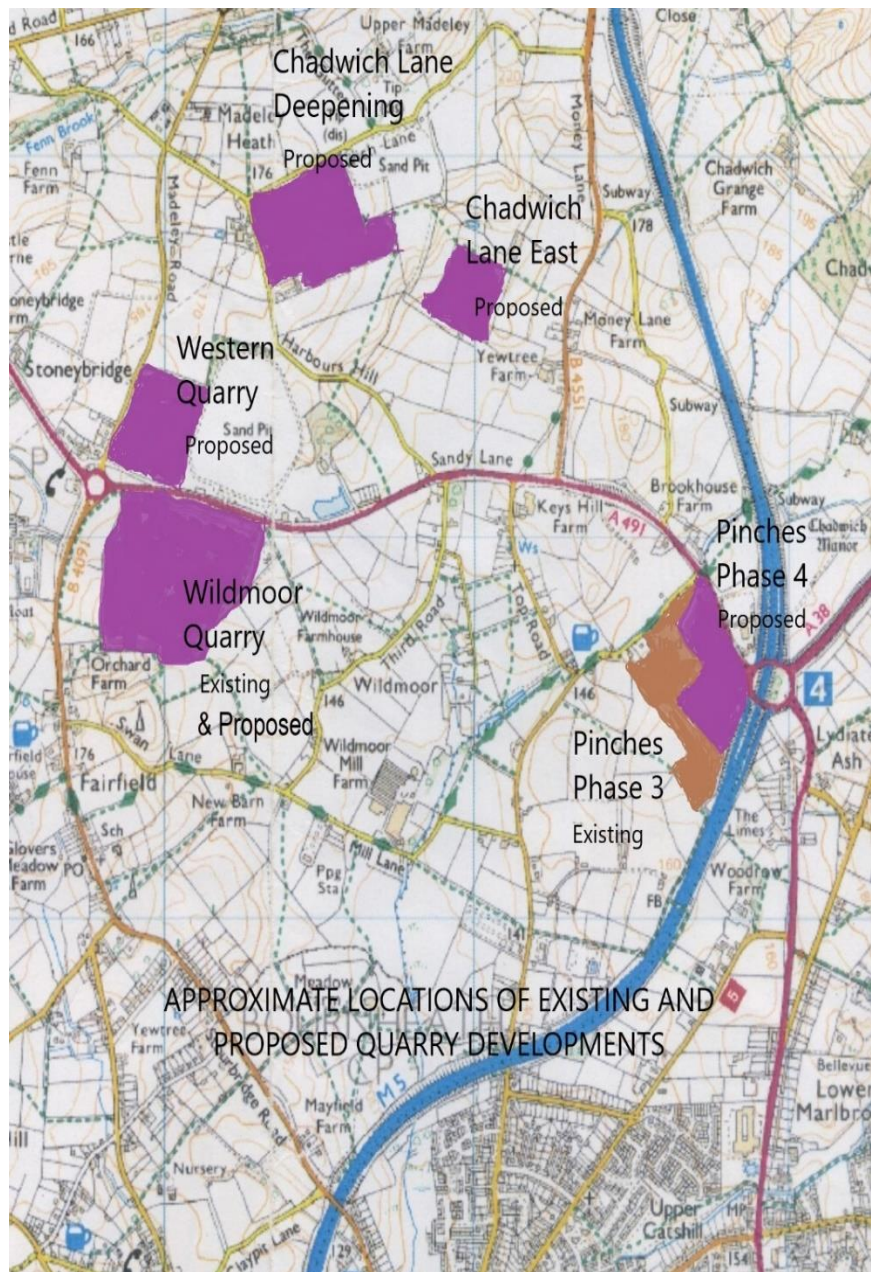
Worcestershire County Council's Minerals Local Plan

The County Council has recently undertaken a fourth stage consultation process on its cross County mineral site selection process and Wildmoor Residents' Association has responded to this document setting out its considered view on the methodology proposed for our area. The next stage in this process will we understand address 'Specific Site' and 'Preferred Area' consultations in a separate Development Plan Document (DPD). Once adopted the DPD will form part of the statutory Development Plan alongside the Minerals Plan and other Local and Neighbourhood Plans in the County. W.R.A. will respond to this DPD draft document in the next stage consultation process when it is published (probably in the autumn). Meanwhile in Wildmoor there are a number of planning applications for quarry developments, either already submitted or in the process of submission, these are : --- Wildmoor Quarry, Chadwich Lane Quarry Deepening & East, Western Quarry and Pinches Quarry Phase 4. All of these sites are spread within a mile radius and are also within the Water Protection Zone 2 serving the Wildmoor Aquifer in Mill Lane which supplies 19,000 homes in Bromsgrove. (Please see map overleaf)

Wildmoor Quarry - There is currently a retrospective planning application (ref: 17/000028/CM) for a mortar production plant already constructed and operating within the quarry. At present W.C.C. Planning Department has requested further information from the applicant which is still outstanding.

There is also a more recent separate application for the relocation of a processing, bagging and stockpiling area in the base of the quarry.

Dolfor House - A lawful development certificate for the aggregate recycling business (ref: 17/0211) operating from this address has been refused by Bromsgrove District Council. W.C.C. have also served an enforcement notice on the site and the applicant has subsequently made an appeal against the refusal and the enforcement notice which will be heard by a Planning Inspector in due course. (<https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk>)



Chadwich Lane Quarry Deepening – A planning application has been submitted (ref: 18/000036/CM) for a new sand quarry at this site. The proposal would involve all excavated sand to be taken by road to Wildmoor Quarry for processing. This would require 40 double lorry movements per day accessing Money Lane via a new proposed haul road from the site to Money Lane and then turning at the junction of Money Lane and the A491, which is already regarded as an accident hazard. Currently the Environment Agency are requiring a more detailed hydrological risk assessment from the developers as part of the planning process.

Wildmoor Residents' Association, Fairfield Community Association and Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council have all objected to each of the above applications during the public consultation period after they were submitted. The sand quarry applications are still currently under action and consideration by W.C.C. (www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

Western Quarry – This is the old quarry adjacent to Stoneybridge traffic island and the now completed Veolia Land Fill site. The mineral excavation rights to this site have been sold by the site owners Veolia Ltd., to N.R.S. West Midlands Ltd., who propose to excavate sand over a six year period and backfill the quarry with inert waste to restoration. W.C.C. Planning Department has issued an adopted Scoping Opinion document to the developers prior to them submitting a formal planning application for this proposed development.

Pinches Quarry – Phase 3 – This is the current operating sand quarry site adjacent to Junction 4 of the M5 which has been undergoing land fill for some years. There is still an amount of material required to complete the restoration of this site. It is estimated that this may take a further 6 months or more before it can be covered with top soil for restoration. There is a constant mess on the 'T' junction of Wildmoor Lane with the A491 resulting from the lorry traffic to and from this site and W.R.A. has repeatedly had to ask for this to be swept.

Pinches Quarry Phase 4 - An initial Scoping Opinion document has been submitted to W.C.C. by the applicant with a view to a later planning application for sand excavation and land fill of this area. This proposed last phase of the Pinches site would see the complete removal of the hillside adjacent to

Junction 4 of the M5 to be replaced by landfill and restoration over a 15 year period.

Sandy Lane - A491 - For many years the A491 between Junction 4 and the Stoneybridge traffic island at Fairfield has seen a continual build-up of sand and debris covering up the roadside kerbs and spreading outward onto the highway. Councillor Shirley Webb has been working with officers at W.C.C. to get the Sandy Lane roadway cleansed and the banks recut and tidied up. This work will be done very soon. Once the cleansing operation has been completed the white lining of the roads will follow.

Proposed Expansion of Fairfield First School

Worcestershire County Council is proposing to expand the school buildings at Fairfield First School to provide sufficient accommodation for an increase in the Published Admission Number of the school from 23 to 30. The current capacity of the school is 115 and the proposed capacity will be 150.

Cllr. Marcus Hart, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education and Skills, has made the decision to support the proposed increase in the Pupil Admission Number for our school.

The proposed building plans will have to be submitted to the District Council for their approval. The District Council will be seeking comments during a period of public consultation.

If plans are approved, the Local Authority expect the building work to be completed and ready for occupancy by September 2020.

At the time of producing this newsletter the planning applications had not been made public.

Wildmoor Residents' Association – Annual General Meeting

Wildmoor Residents' Association will be holding their next A.G.M. on the 5th of June at Fairfield Village Hall. It is a good opportunity for all residents to raise and discuss local issues and we very much hope that you will be able to attend for the short time the meeting takes place starting at 7.30 p.m. on the evening.

Very Low Turnout for Village Hall AGM

Numbers attending this year's Village Hall AGM were disappointingly very low, with a handful of volunteers to form the committee for the year ahead.

The Village Hall is in need of at least 3 residents of Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge to join the committee and help manage this amazing community asset.

Meetings are monthly (no meetings in August & December) and are held on the first Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm.

If committee numbers do not pick up, the sustainability of the Hall will be in question. Please support your Village Hall.

Grot Free Fairfield

**2nd 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.



**Come and Celebrate our 25th
Annual Produce Show**

At

Fairfield Village Hall

on

Saturday 10th August 2019

**Entries welcomed from everyone
Open to the public from 2.30 pm**

**Teas, Raffle, Tombola, Competitions
W.I. Cake Stall**

Auction of Produce at 4pm

Admission at the Door: - FREE

Show Secretary:- Ilse Stride – il.stride@gmail.com

Schedules can be downloaded from www.fvca.org.uk or can be picked up
from Fairfield Cafe

www.fvca.org.uk
admin@fvca.org.uk

You could be a 200 Club Winner

Only £1.00 a month, with jackpot prizes up to £200.00. All profits support Fairfield Village Hall. For an application form contact the Village Hall, fvca.org.uk/200-club or Linda Garvin, 83 Brook Road, Fairfield.

W.R.A. Summer Garden Party and BBQ

Date for your diary - For the last few years Wildmoor Residents' Association has held this successful summer get together for residents and friends and our date for this year's event is Saturday the 20th of July. This year it will be held at Rose Cottage, Middle Road, Wildmoor, starting at 3.00 p.m. Mike and Elspeth have once again kindly agreed to provide the music and singing to add to our festivities. You are cordially invited to come along and bring your meats and burgers for cooking and to enjoy a glass or two with lively conversation among friends and neighbours. So keep the date in your diary and come along for a relaxing afternoon we hope with some sunshine!

Our Volunteer Footpath Warden Needs Your Help

Could you help maintain the footpaths in the Fairfield Ward or the Belbroughton Ward?

Full training will be provided. Flexible volunteering.

Interested? Contact the Parish Clerk, tel. 01299 270722 email belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk

Fishy Friday

Join other members of our community at Fairfield Café every Friday at 12noon for Fishy Friday.

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A Plea to an Unknown Dog Walker

In February, we reported that the brambles on Stourbridge Road, near the junction of Yew Tree Lane, had been cleared of dog waste bags. All bags were of the same kind, semi-opaque blue.

In April, volunteers were at work again in the same brambles clearing over 15 dog waste bags, all were semi-opaque clear.



Across the road from the brambles is a dog waste bin. Could the person that is throwing their dog waste bags in to the brambles please use this facility?

The bags that are being thrown into the brambles are not decomposing and are ripping in the wind, blowing in to nearby fields that could be fatal to livestock should they eat the plastic when chomping on some grass.

If you know who this anti-social person is please contact the Community Association, we would like to pop a courtesy note through their letter box.

Village Hall Keyholder

The Village Hall have recruited a Caretaker and are now able to take on additional bookings.

Bus Shelter Bench

In response to a community request, the Parish Council are approaching the County Council to see if a seat can be installed at the bus shelter that is adjacent to St. Mark's.

Early Stage Proposal for development at Yew Tree Lane / Stourbridge Road

Fortis Living Housing Association, a Housing Association charity in Worcester, have recently advised the Parish Council they have been approached by landowners to develop two pieces of land. Mr. Eamon Thompson, Fortis Living Development Manager, gave a presentation at March's Parish Council meeting. The Community Association has extended an invitation to Mr. Thompson to attend an FVCA meeting, he has replied:

"The proposals are very much in their infancy and it is too premature for me to consider attending a meeting as suggested."

"When developing rural exception sites Fortis is obliged to consult, involve and seek the support the local Parish Council. Accordingly I made a presentation to the PC last night and await their comments on whether they are able to provide in principal support before progressing any further."

What is known

Fortis Living Housing Association are acting for landowners, two pieces of land, which they will not identify. They are at the early stage of drafting a planning application to build affordable housing. As the sites are in the Green Belt there would be a restrictions on building unless they were able to be designated as 'Rural Exception Sites' – such exception being assessed on a proven need in the area for affordable housing. Occupation would be limited to local residents or those working in the vicinity and would be a mix of renting and shared ownership. A local housing needs survey would be required to determine need. The two sites under consideration could accommodate up to 20 properties.

Bromsgrove Plan Review Update

The Community Association have been informed that the next consultation stage of the Bromsgrove Plan review is scheduled to be taking place in Autumn 2019.

It is envisaged that the autumn consultation will consist of the call for potential development sites, alongside a further issues document which builds on the issues and options consultation from 2018.

Prior to the autumn consultation, in the spring/summer of 2019 in order to help inform submissions as part of the call for sites process, District Council officers will also publish revised draft methodologies for the Green Belt Purposes Assessment, and the Site Selection Process.

A more detailed timetable (Local Development Scheme) which outlines all the phases for plan production will also be published in due course.

Volunteers Needed for Community Car Scheme

Community Car Scheme that covers Bromsgrove and Redditch District and are looking to attract local volunteer drivers for Fairfield and surrounding area residents. if you can assist telephone 01527 759650
<https://www.bluwave.org.uk/>

Pepperwood Charcoal

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

Tel: 0787 575 6698

Email jenkinhp@gmail.com

www.fvca.org.uk
admin@fvca.org.uk

Pooper Snooper

Pooper Snooper, a free smartphone application and website aims to build public awareness and in turn increase social pressure on dog fouling, and to identify problem hotspots to allow for better targeted enforcement activities.

To achieve these aims, the mobile app, designed by Natural Aptitude, enables you to quickly and accurately record the locations of dog fouling on an interactive map, providing an overview of dog fouling hotspots. Any dog fouling incidents that are cleaned up can be marked as resolved, and bin locations can be recorded within the app, with a “find nearest bin” function helping you locate bins in unfamiliar areas. To help raise public awareness you can share your records along with an overview of dog fouling in the local area, on Twitter and Facebook. The app also has a gamification element to encourage sustained public engagement via the inclusion of leader boards and personal profile pages on which a user’s stats appear.

The supporting website enables local authorities and other interested parties to see dog fouling incidents on an interactive map based on local authority boundaries. This is designed to further raise public awareness and promote engagement on the issue. Anyone can export the data to enable enforcement effort to be targeted where most required.

Police Respond to Inconsiderate Parking

Bromsgrove Police were in the village on Sunday 29th April and issued a ticket to car that was inconsiderately parked, blocking the footpath.

It does not matter what day of the week it is, please be considerate when parking vehicles in Fairfield.

Let's create a safe and accessible community for all.



Talk, Tea and Tech

Starting Wednesday 12th June 2pm

Whether you want to send an email or text, buy from an online shop, upload images from your camera or Facetime a relative on the other side of world, Talk, Tea & Tech will be a relaxed, social activity that will help residents aged 50 yrs plus to understand technology and to improve digital inclusion.

It is never too old to be a Silver Surfer

Sessions will take place in the Village Hall Committee Room on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are £1.00 per person.



Bring your device, or if you do not have one turn up. Log in to the Village Hall WiFi and get connected.

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Floral Fairfield 2019

July is Floral Fairfield, the annual competition that encourages households & businesses in Fairfield & Stoneybridge to create ribbons of colour throughout the community.



Certificates are awarded to the best floral displays and gardens that can be seen and enjoyed by people passing by.

The categories are: Front garden & Tub(s)/Basket

Rules:

1) Competition is open to residents that live in Fairfield & Stoneybridge;

2) Judging will take place along the following roads

- Bournheath Road
- Brook Road
- Dordale Road (Between Parish Hill and Brook Road)
- Fairfield Court
- Mount Road (properties in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield)
- Orchard Villas
- Parish Hill (properties in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield)
- Pepperwood Close
- School Drive
- Stoneybridge Island
- Stourbridge Road
- Swan Lane
- Wood Lane
- Yew Tree Lane

3) To enter the competition, make sure your floral displays can be seen and enjoyed by the 1st July;

4) Judging will take place during July;

5) Displays must be sited on resident's property and not on public paths and highway;

- 6) Floral displays must be seen and can be enjoyed by people passing by;
- 7) Gold & Silver Star Certificates will be award to deserving properties for each category;
- 8) Judges' decision is final;
- 9) The rules can change without notice;
- 10) Even though this is a competition, it is a bit of fun.

Floral Art Competition – A New Challenge

This year sees a new competition, open to residents, no-residents and groups.

Your challenge is to create a work of art using flowers, the theme is Super Heroes.



CLASSES

1. Children: Under 9 yrs
2. Children: 9yrs – 13 yrs
3. Children: 13 yrs – 16 yrs
4. Adults
5. Community Groups

RULES

1. Entry fee per work art of art, £1.00 for Adults & Community Groups classes and Free for Children's classes.
2. The maximum size of the work of art is 1 sq. metres. The maximum height should not exceed 1 metre.
3. Entries must be placed on display at St. Mark's church by 11.00am on Saturday 20th July, the church will be open from 9.30am.
4. All exhibits must be the unaided work of the competitor.
5. An exhibit is composed of natural plant material with or without accessories.
6. Natural plant material to predominate in all classes.
7. The use of aerosols, paint and other sprays, glue guns and other electrical equipment in the Church is prohibited,
8. Exhibits cannot be removed before the close of the show.

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9. Exhibits and competitors' property will be at the entire risk of the competitor.
 10. The decision of the Judge is final.
 11. Gold & Silver Star Certificates will be award to deserving works of art for each category
 12. If it is deemed necessary by the Judge, these rules can change without notice;
 13. Even though this is a competition, it is a bit of fun.
- Public viewing of entries will be from 1pm, winners will be announced at 3pm.

Fairfield Walkers

Get to know other members of your community and exercise at the same time, whilst enjoying our local countryside. Walks are usually 3 to 4 miles, with occasional longer walks.



Wear suitable clothes & foot wear, dogs on lead are welcome.

2019 Walks: 3rd Thursday of Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, 10am and

Evening Walks – 4th Wednesday May, Jun, Jul, Aug, 7pm

Fairfield Café

The Cafe is doing well, now stocking local sourced apple juice (apples grown, pressed and juice bottled in Barnt Green), Homemade Cakes (some are made on the premises), Ice Creams and freshly baked sausage rolls. There is a new greeting cards display and gifts section and the Café offers a Dry Cleaning service, just drop off your clothes. Due to distributor's delivery costs, the Café is unable to stock newspapers as profits made on paper sale will not cover these costs.

Have Your Say – It's YOUR Community

Join other residents to help shape where you live.

Relaxed, social, meetings are held at the:

Village Hall

1st Saturday of Jan, Mar, May, July,
Sept, Nov 10am

Fairfield Villa Club House

1st Monday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec 7.30pm (bar open from 7pm)

The Community Association works for a better and sustainable community; building and maintaining pride in where we all live. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.



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

Follow Social Media:

Twitter @Fairfield_Info

Facebook facebook.com/fairfieldinformation

Visit www.fvca.org.uk

WILDMOOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 5th June 2019 at
7.30pm

Venue

Fairfield Village hall

**All residents and friends of the area are warmly invited to the Annual
General Meeting of Wildmoor Residents' Association**

There will be a focus and review of the past year's events and current information
on a number of proposed Quarry developments in Wildmoor.

**Our Guest Speaker for the evening will be the West Mercia
Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr. John Paul Campion who
will explain his remit and focus on the causes and prevention
of crime in our area. He will also be able to take questions
from our audience.**

As always refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting with ample
opportunity for everyone to meet, talk and enjoy the remainder of the evening.

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National Vegetable Society at Fairfield

QUIZ NIGHT and PLANT SALE

It is SPRING again and time to get our plants on the vegetable plot and flowers in the borders growing away for another season. The West Midlands District Association (DA) of the National Vegetable Society (NVS) are pleased to advise the SPRING meeting to be held at Fairfield Village Hall on **Thursday 30th May**.

The hall will be open 7.00 pm. for FREE Tea and Coffee and everyone is welcome.

We are pleased to welcome Derek Walker of Little Larford, Stourport on Severn, who has compiled and will be conducting the Quiz on our behalf. The Quiz will be in 4 sections: Horticulture and Gardening; Flowering Plants; Fruit and Vegetables; General Questions.

It will be a Fun Quiz and not too technical.

Derek has a vast amount of knowledge of Vegetables, Flowers, Plants and Gardening will explain the answers if any one requests, so it is a good opportunity to learn something new. Derek is an RHS Judge and takes on this role at all the Malvern Shows, he also judges at many shows in the wider Midlands Area during the Year.

There will be small teams and there will be lots of Prizes.
The QUIZ will commence at 8.00 pm.

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After the Quiz there will be a Bring and Buy Plant Sale, to help fund the DA Events.

Members will be bringing some quality Vegetable Plants, Bedding Plants, Pot Plants, including herbs (especially Parsley for garnish at the August Show). There will also be some seeds and other sundry items for Sale.

Anyone who is short of plants to Bring, can still come and Buy for their garden / plot.

This will be a good opportunity to obtain some quality plants at a reasonable price.

Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE Meeting.

If anyone requires a map, directions or other information please contact: Roy James on Tel: 01527 831508 or email [roy_james2 @sky.com](mailto:roy_james2@sky.com) (preferred).

Fairfield Diners – Getting to know your community

Social gathering of residents and friends of Fairfield & the surrounding area; get to know your community over a lunchtime meal.

Meals are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (Jan – Nov) at local pubs, restaurants and tea rooms, 12.30pm:

Dates & Venues for lunches in 2019:

June 17th	The Swan, Fairfield
July 15th	The Navigation Inn, Hanbury Road
August 19th	The Gate, Bournheath
September 16th	The Ewe and Lamb, Hanbury
October 21th	The French Hen, Clent DY9 9PY
November 18th	The Swan, Fairfield

Please contact Pat Steward (01527 832360) if you wish to attend or require further information.

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New to Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge?

Claim your FREE SmartWater property marking kit. Email admin@fvca.org.uk

Are You SmartWatered?

57% of dwellings in the **Fairfield Ward** have now received their FREE property marking kits (SmartWater), which is fantastic.

If you have not yet received your FREE property marking kit, they can be collected at any FVCA meeting, or you can arrange a home delivery by emailing admin@fvca.org.uk tel. 01527 833583.

Kits cannot be put through the letterbox and will need to be signed for, so please arrange a time when you will be in.



Confusion: Postal address and Fairfield Ward

There are a number of properties that have the postal address of Bournheath, Chadwich or Dodford that are in the Fairfield Ward (Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish).

How to tell which Parish & Ward you are in:

Check your Council Tax bill, this will tell you which Parish you are in. Which Polling Station do you go to, to vote? If Fairfield Village Hall, you live in the Fairfield Ward.

Fairfield ward includes properties in:

Barnes Close
Chadwich Manor Estate
Dordale Road
Harbours Hill
Madeley Road
Malthouse Lane
Middle Road
Mill Lane

Money Lane
Sandy Lane
Stoneybridge
Top Road
Third Road
Warbage Lane
Yarnold Lane

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Neighbourhood Watch News



Garden and Pond Security

Tips to nip garden crime in the bud....

Now the good weather is beginning to shine, many people will have already started to get their garden ready for summer. With the enjoyment, expense and hard work of keeping a garden also comes the opportunity for garden thieves. To help keep your garden secure and your property safe, follow a few simple tips.....

- Gates, fences and walls should be in good repair to stop intruders getting in.
- Try to make sure rear fences are high enough to make climbing over difficult - a trellis can be used to add additional height.
- Where able, side gates should be as close to the front of the property as possible - thieves will be put off by being in full view of the neighbours and passers-by.
- Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes.
- Don't leave expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers and bikes lying around your garden unattended and insecure. If you are unable to or it is impractical to store items inside your home - such as a garage -take measures to store them in a secured shed.
- Keep your shed in good condition - fit a closed shackle padlock to the door, fittings should be bolted through the door and screws concealed, fit grills or mesh to the windows and invest in an alarm.
- Large items such as bikes should be chained together to make it more difficult for a thief to carry away.
- Mark your garden tools and equipment with your postcode.
- Well positioned external lighting is a great way of keeping intruders at bay and can be purchased from most large DIY stores.
- Don't leave ladders and tools lying around your garden - these can be used to break into your home. Try to secure your ladder with fixtures to the inside of your shed or garage.

Defensive planting is nature's way of helping beat the burglar. The term is used to describe the way you can use certain prickly plants, bushes and shrubs to deter burglars. A few examples are....

Berberis - a vibrant shrub with vivid red leaves, has sharp spine-like prickles, reaches 6ft, good for hedging and growing by walls.

Rosa Rugosa "Rubra" - a flowering shrub with densely prickled stems, can reach 6ft, excellent as an impenetrable hedge.

Pyracantha - a vigorous evergreen shrub with white flowers in May, followed by orange or red berries, great for hedging, growing under windows or around doorways.

Holly - usually grown as a small tree or large bush, can reach up to 50ft, spiny glossy dark green leaves all year round, excellent hedging plant.

This list is by no means exhaustive - Hawthorn, Japonica and Acanthus are just a few other examples. Ask at your local garden centre for more advice.

This green-leaved security measure is not meant to replace but to compliment other security measures such as lighting, locks and alarms.

It's not just tools and equipment in the garden that need protecting, for those with garden ponds, fish also need keeping safe and the theft of Koi Carp can cost the owner hundreds of pounds as well as upset at the loss of a family pet. Every pond is different but there are a few things that can help keep your Koi safe.....

- Along with the defensive planting and keeping gates and fences secure, adding CCTV can act as a great deterrent and also allows you to look at the wildlife activity in your garden.
- Taking a good quality photograph of your Koi may help identify them if thieves try to sell them on as distinguishing features, patterns and markings will often still be visible despite efforts that may be made to conceal them.
- If your pond is fairly small and it is practical to do so, it may be worth thinking about fitting a grille and locking it down to cover the pond. Some pond covers are also suitable for preventing natural predators, such as heron, from feasting on your Koi and also can help keep your child safe around the water - check with the individual manufacturers for child safety information and never leave your child unattended near water.

For more information about helping to keep your Koi Carp safe from thieves, speak to your local aquatic centre for advice.

For further information about helping keep your home and property safe and secure, click on the CRIME AND SAFETY tab on West Mercia Police's website.

Do not give thieves an easy ride!

Bicycles are one of the most targeted items by thieves.

Always lock your bike when you leave it, even if it's only for a few minutes. Look to spend about 10% of what your bike is worth on the lock. For better security use two or more locks of a different type - a D lock plus a robust chain and padlock.

All bike frames are given a unique serial number. This is normally located underneath the bike and should be written down or photographed and kept somewhere safe. Security mark the frame. You can use a UV Pen or a property marking solution such as Smartwater. When marking your bicycle use your initials, postcode or another mark that is unique to you.

Lock your bike at recognised secure cycle parking that's well covered by good lighting and CCTV, with both the wheel and the frame secured to an immovable object.

If your bike is kept in a shed, keep the shed secure with good quality locks and ensure the windows are covered and an alarm is fitted.

Remember to Insure your bike either on your homes contents insurance or on a separate insurance policy.

Evening Activities at the Village Hall

Monday:

Line Dancing, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday:

Zumba, Village Hall, 7pm – 8pm

Tuesday:

Dancing, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Friday:

Taekwondo, Village Hall,
6pm/7pm/8pm

Coming to Fairfield – Saturday 21st September

7pm for 7.30pm start, Fairfield Villa Cub House

Eye's down for Disco, Rock n Roll, Swinging 60s and more



Diary

June

- 3rd **FVCA Residents' Meeting**, Fairfield Villa Club House, 7.30pm
- 5th **Wildmoor Residents' Association AGM**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8th **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 9th **Picnic in the Park**, Fairfield Rec, 2pm – 3.30pm
- 12th **Talk, Tea & Tech**, Village Hall, 2pm
- 12th **Fairfield W.I.**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16th **Simply Strictly Social Dance**, Village Hall, 8pm
- 17th **Fairfield Dining Group**, Swan Inn, Fairfield, 12.30pm
- 20th **Fairfield Walkers**, Meet Fairfield Rec, 10.00am
- 26th **Evening Walk**, Meet Fairfield Rec, 7.00pm
- 26th **Bingo**, Village Hall, 7.30pm

July

- 6th **FVCA Residents' Meeting**, Village Hall, 10am
- 10th **Talk, Tea & Tech**, Village Hall, 2pm
- 10th **Fairfield W.I.**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13th **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 15th **Fairfield Dining Group**, Navigation Inn, Hanbury Road, 12.30pm
- 18th **Fairfield Walkers**, Meet Fairfield Rec, 10.00am
- 24th **Evening Walk**, Meet Fairfield Rec, 7.00pm
- 24th **Bingo**, Village Hall, 7.30pm

August

- 5th **FVCA Residents Meeting**, Fairfield Villa Club House, 7.30pm
- 10th **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 10th **Produce & Flower Show**, Village Hall, 3pm
- 14th **Talk, Tea & Tech**, Village Hall, 2pm
- 15th **Fairfield Walkers**, Meet Fairfield Rec, 10.00am
- 19th **Fairfield Dining Group**, The Gate, Bournheath, 12.30pm
- 28th **Evening Walk**, Meet Fairfield Rec, 7.00pm
- 28th **Bingo**, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Church Services at St. Mark's (subject to change)

First Sunday	Holy Communion	6.30pm
Second Sunday	Worship4All – Family Service	11.15am
Third Sunday	Holy Communion	11.15am
Fourth Sunday	Evening Praise	6.30pm
Fifth Sunday	Group Service	