



Fairfield Village Community Association

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2024/25





Foodie Fairfield

MARKET HALL
IN THE
VILLAGE HALL

Bread

Pastries

Apple Juice

Biscuits

Eggs

Beers

Meat

Pies

Honey

Samosas

Spring Rolls

Cake

Jams

Marmalades

Cheese

Porridge Oats

Vegetables

And more

1st Saturday in the month

9am to 12noon

Fairfield Village Hall

Should Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge be a Parish?

Changes to the makeup of Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council could further disadvantage the residents of our community.

Please read this article and action accordingly by 31st January 2025.

Community Governance Review

**Have your say by
31 January 2025**

Don't Leave It To The Last Minute

Currently we are a Ward within the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield, which currently is made up of 8 councillors elected to represent the Belbroughton Ward and 6 councillors elected to represent the Fairfield [Wildmoor & Stoneybridge] Ward.

But all this will soon change, due to a slight redrawing of our internal Parish boundary, and the forecasted electoral numbers in 5 years' time.

From the Parish Council elections in 2027, the make-up of the Council will be 9 Councillors elected to represent Belbroughton and 5 councillors elected to represent Fairfield [Wildmoor & Stoneybridge].

Some residents feel that the reduction in numbers of elected to represent Fairfield [Wildmoor & Stoneybridge] will further disadvantage our community and have asked if it is possible if we could become a Parish on our own, with local decisions being made by our community; there are other communities with similar or smaller populations to ours that are Parish Councils and operate effectively.

Residents have expressed concern that a future redrawing of the Parish or internal Ward boundaries could further disadvantage us, with the forecast population of Belbroughton increasing with future proposed development, and our community not increasing by the same rate due to no/minimal development.

The option for residents is to request a Community Governance Review, which needs to be requested by at least 200 electors living in the Parish.

If a Community Governance Review is requested, and agreed, Bromsgrove District Council will consider several options:

- Splitting the Parish and creating a new Parish of Fairfield (or whatever name is agreed). Do we have a population that could sustain a Parish of Fairfield? The Census 2021 population dataset at Parish level has yet to be made public by the ONS, so we can only go by 2011 census data; the population for Fairfield was 942, our neighbours in

Bournheath had a population of 465 and Dodford with Grafton 758. The nearby Parish of Frankley had a population of 122

Or

- A revised overall number of Parish Councillors, the overall number proposed could be less than at present (the current number is disproportionately high compared to other Councils). The Ward allocation would be based – as present – on number of electors. If the overall Council was reduced to, for example, 8, the allocation may be 5 for Belbroughton, 3 for Fairfield, the difference of 2 would be far better than the proposed difference of 4, or more.

If you would like Bromsgrove District Council to conduct a Community Governance Review, please complete the request on the next page. **The Community Association has agreed to collate the requests and forward them on to Bromsgrove District Council**, you can hand in your Community Governance Review request at any of our events or pop it in the Village Hall post-box. **NOTE: The Governance Review Request can only be signed by those people on the electoral register.**

If the Association has received 200 signatures by the deadline of 31st January 2025, we will forward all requests for a Community Governance Review to Bromsgrove District Council. If the number of required signatures has not been achieved by the deadline date, request forms received will be shredded.

Community Celebrates Food & Farming

A wonderful village Harvest Festival service was held on Sunday 13th October; our thanks to residents & farmers for attending, to the Clent Bell Ringers for the entertainment & to our guest Jill Jinman Addington Fund. The Harvest displays in the church looked wonderful, and our celebratory service raised £152.50 for the Addington Fund/Forage Aid plus food donated shared between Dodford Children's Farm & The Basement Project.



To: Bromsgrove District Council

We the undersigned electors residing in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield request a Community Governance Review with the purpose of

- considering the creation of a new Parish of Fairfield, the area defined as the current Parish Ward of Fairfield, or
- reducing the overall number of Parish Council members, with a Council & Ward allocation that is proportionate to the population, and in line with other Councils of a similar population.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

PLEASE RETURN TO FAIRFIELD VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Fairfield

MAKERS MARKET



FAIRFIELD VILLAGE HALL (B61 9LZ)

SATURDAY
30TH NOVEMBER
NOON TO 2.30PM

HANDMADE ITEMS
ART • JEWELLERY • POTTERY

PLUS..REFRESHMENTS &
CAKE

WWW.FVCA.ORG.UK



Nashville Visited Fairfield

In late August, performing in front of a sellout audience, WILLOW HILL put on a fantastic performance at the village hall; no wonder Rolling Stone and others hold them in high regard. It was 2 hours of brilliant country music, and from comments left on social media, the audience enjoyed the show.

WILLOW HILL, who are from Nashville USA, enjoyed their brief visit to Fairfield, stopping off at the Swan Inn for a meal, and appreciated the warm welcome they received from our community.



Our thanks to WILLOW HILL for performing here and to you the audience for supporting live music.



Active Wednesdays

Be part of our Active Wednesday every 1st Wednesday in the month, thanks to the support from Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Launched in September, people can play Table Tennis, Boccia & Indoor Curling at the Village Hall, 1.30pm to 3.30pm, or enjoy a free drink & biscuits from the cafe. Another FREE activity for you to enjoy.

Residents Gripped by Birds of Prey

A good turnout at September's Wednesday Social; Dave Sharpe, from RaptorXotics, gave an entertaining and informative talk with the assistance of some birds that he brought with him (African Little Owl, Zeus the Golden Eagle & a Barn Owl), plus there was no screaming when there was an appearance by Mouse the mouse.



Morning Photos

Front Page, the morning sky at 5.45am over our community on Monday 12th August 2024.
Thanks to Joanna for sharing this photo.

Below photo Sunrise on Tuesday 13th August. Thank you Malthouse Produce for this photo.



Litter Picking Equipment

Despite previous calls for the return of borrowed equipment, none has yet been returned.

If you have borrowed litter picking sticks & hoops and are not using them, please return them to us, as we are running short, and they are expensive to replace.

If you are still using them (regularly) could you drop us an email/tell us, so that we know where our equipment is.

Coronation Orchard

To mark the King's Coronation that took place in 2023, the County Council have secured funding to create mini-Orchards across Worcestershire and, with the agreement of the Parish Council, Fairfield will be one of the sites, with an extension to the existing fruit trees on the Recreation Ground, and along the path; 12 semi-dwarfing trees will be planted, including apple, pear & plum. It is hoped that in addition to providing fruit in years to come for residents, the trees will help alleviate the flooding around the Millennium Garden.

This project, which is being delivered by Worcestershire County Council, with the support of County Councillor Shirley Webb & Fairfield Village Community Association, need your assistance. Volunteers are needed to help plant the trees, and thanks to local company ACER TREES who will be providing wood chippings for mulch.

At the time of writing, the planting dates have yet to be set, likely to be late November/early December. Please look out for our post on our village Facebook Page and eNewsletter that will detail planting date, time and calling out for volunteers.



This year's Nativity will, once again, be acted out by the adults of our community, and **we need you to play one of the parts.**

You do not need to be a Judy Dench or Benedict Cumberbatch, you do not even have to remember the words, just where to go. Join us on Monday 9th December 7pm at St. Mark's as we dish out the parts and have a brief readthrough, and fingers crossed, it will all right on the night...our Christmas Eve Crib Service, 4pm.

Our huge thanks to Robert & Linda, who are stepping back from coordinating Foodie Fairfield, for all their hard work establishing this fantastic community initiative, and to Pat for diligently coordinating the monthly lunches, bringing people together.

FORFELD STORE



1st Wednesday: 1.30pm—3.30pm

1st Saturday: 9.00am—12.00pm

2nd Wednesday: 1.30pm—3.30pm (not December)

3rd Wednesday 1.30pm— 3.30pm

4th Wednesday: 1.30pm—3.30pm (from January)

Shop Fresh & Local

AT

Fairfield Village Hall

Fairfield Dining Group

Make new friends at our lunchtime gathering, touring fine eateries in and around Bromsgrove.

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 20th January | Plough & Harrow, Catshill |
| 17th February | The Queen's Head, Stoke Pound |
| 17th March | The Dog at Harvington |
| 21st April | Easter Monday |
| 19th May | The Swan, Wychbold |
| 16th June | Lord Morton's Tea Room, Cutnall Green |
| 21st July | The Swallows Nest, Romsley |
| 18th August | The Fox, Chaddesley Corbet |
| 15th September | The Nailers, Bournheath |
| 20th October | The Vine, Clent |
| 17th November | The Swan, Fairfield |

If you are interested in joining our lunchtime meal, please pop into the FORFELD STORE, or email admin@fvca.org.uk

Do you want more news and interesting articles?

Get the Parish Magazine – news and articles for Fairfield, Belbroughton & Clent – delivered to your home for £8.40 a year, that's 50p a magazine. Interested? Phone the church office tel: 01562 730 777 or email bfcoffice@btconnect.com

Keeping Our Community Tidy

There is no Community Litter Pick in December. Wombles are needed on 11th January 2025 and on every 2nd Saturday of each month to litter pick our community, mainly the roads and open spaces in Fairfield, venturing further afield if there are sufficient volunteers. Please join us, meet outside the village hall 10.30am, wear suitable clothing and footwear, litter picking equipment will be provided.



New Wood Lane Bench

Thanks to the support of County Councillor Shirley Webb & Worcestershire County Council, the Community Association has been able to install a new bench in Wood Lane. Thanks also to volunteers Nick & Paul for their assistance.

New Table Tennis Sessions

NEW Table Tennis Activity coming to
Fairfield Village Hall.

No previous experience needed just come along
and join in.



FREE



1:30pm - 3:30pm



First Wednesday of the month



Fairfield Village Hall, B61 9LZ



Our Community Can is delivered by Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire and is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.



Recycle your ink cartridges and help raise money for your Community Association

The Cartridge Recycle Box can be found at the village hall during Foodie Fairfield and other Community Association run activities.

Growing Better Fruit & Veg

Whether for the table for show, getting growing advice from the experts at Fairfield Village Hall 7.30pm, on the last Thursday in February, May, August, September.

During the quarterly meetings of the National Vegetable Society, there is usually a guest speaker, seed/plant swaps, a competition, as well as advice & refreshments. The next meeting will be on Thursday 28th November.

Quarries Update

Pinches 4 Quarry: In September, Worcestershire County Council approved a Phase 4 extension, a condition for approval is that HGVs are not allowed to turn left, out of the site, and drive along Wildmoor Lane.

Wildmoor Quarry: At the time of writing, it is understood that a revised Scoping Opinion/outline Planning Application is to be submitted

Chadwich Lane Quarry: At the time of writing, the Council's Planning & Regulatory Committee had not sat to determine planning application that will address flooding concerns.

THE Wednesday SOCIAL



Join us on the second Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, 2pm – 3.30pm, for talks and activities.

Admittance is FREE. All we ask is a small donation for refreshments.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 8th January | Cadbury - Legend and Myth |
| 12th February | The Magic of Glass |
| 12th March | Orchid cultivation in gardens & meadows |
| 9th April | Quips and Quotes and Anecdotes |
| 14th May | A Policeman's Lot |
| 11th June | Rhyme nor Reason 2 |

Bromsgrove Arts – the home of Fairfield Flicks, Music & Drama



Our wholly voluntary community initiative is 5 years old!

Welcome to **BROMSGROVE ARTS**, a Community Entertainment Initiative that uses cinematic and performing arts to bring people together, and to reduce loneliness & social isolation.

Launched in September 2019 as Fairfield Flicks, **BROMSGROVE ARTS** is delivered by a brilliant team of volunteers.

Our programme continues to be varied, with recent movie releases, quality live music on our stage, touring dramas and event cinema productions.

We aim to keep admission prices affordable, sometimes we control the price, and at other times we do not, and we will try our best to keep prices as low as possible for all of you. Some of our screenings are very popular, so advanced booking to avoid disappointment is advisable. **For further information and to book advance tickets visit www.bromsgrovearts.org.uk, alternatively tickets can be purchased from our community shop or before/during the interval of any of our screenings/events.**

Our licensed bar sells a selection of WINES, CIDERS, WOODCOTE BREWERY BEERS as well as soft drinks, and our volunteer team will offer you a warm welcome.

NEVER MISS WHAT'S GOING ON

For updates on What's Coming to Bromsgrove Arts, why not subscribe to our e-Newsletter?

We will not share your email address, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

To subscribe, email hello@bromsgrovearts.org.uk or fill in the subscription form that can be found on our website.



If you would like to join our flexible volunteer team to help deliver our growing Bromsgrove Arts programme, serving behind the bar, helping with lighting, promoting our events, do get in touch hello@bromsgrovearts.org.uk

Do you know how to operate stage lighting bars and desk? Or can you take High Quality photographs for media publication? We need your assistance, drop us an email.

MOVIES

BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE (12A)

Wednesday 27th November 7.30pm

Beetlejuice is back! After an unexpected family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her rebellious teenage daughter, Astrid, discovers the mysterious model of the town in the attic and the portal to the Afterlife is accidentally opened. With trouble brewing in both realms, it's only a matter of time until someone says Beetlejuice's name three times and the mischievous demon returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem. Admission £5.00.



HAVE A MOVIE NEW YEAR: THE FALL GUY

31st December 9.00pm

To welcome in New Year, we will be having our **MOVIE NEW YEAR PARTY**, with a film screening, followed by a disco to see in 2025, tickets are £6.00 each

In **THE FALL GUY**, A stuntman recovering from an accident agrees to work on a film directed by his ex in this extended version of a tongue-in-cheek US romantic comedy thriller, featuring action packed violence and comic drug references.



TO BE CONFIRMED

Sunday 12th January 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th January 7.30pm

Nearer these screening dates, please check our website for details.

JUNIOR FLIX

Thursday 20th February 11.00am

As it is the half-term break, a film for all the family will be screened. Please check our website in late January/early February for details



DRAMA

THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS

Wednesday 22nd January 7.30pm

Award-winning actor Jonathan Goodwin writes and performs this brand new stage adaptation of the classic Edwardian spy thriller by John Buchan, memorably filmed by Alfred Hitchcock.

First published in 1915, this perennially popular thriller has been adapted by Jonathan Goodwin. He plays man-on-the-run Richard Hannay, falsely accused of a murder he did not commit. He is pursued across the moors of Scotland by the nefarious Black Stone, a clandestine criminal organization hell-bent on plunging the world into a global war. In a race against time, Hannay must evade capture and certain death at the hands of the criminals responsible, and prevent the assassination of a foreign dignitary by anarchist spies. Tickets: £10.00



Coming to our stage 9 February: **“Murder most Wilde”** from the Rain or Shine Theatre Company, a comedy murder extravaganza, based on an Oscar Wilde short story

EVENT CINEMA

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Wednesday 26th February 7.00pm and Sunday 9th March 7.00pm

Three-time Olivier Award-winner Sharon D Clarke is joined by Ncuti Gatwa (Doctor Who; Sex Education) in this joyful reimagining of Oscar Wilde’s most celebrated comedy.

While assuming the role of a dutiful guardian in the country, Jack lets loose in town under a false identity. Meanwhile, his friend Algy adopts a similar facade. Hoping to impress two eligible ladies, the gentlemen find themselves caught in a web of lies they must carefully navigate.

Max Webster (Life of Pi) directs this hilarious story of identity, impersonation and romance, filmed live from the National Theatre in London.



BFC Rating: 12A (TBC) Tickets: £15.50 (Included in the admission price, have a drink on us).

MACBETH: DAVID TENNANT & CUSH JUMBO

Wednesday 19th February & Sunday 23rd February 7.30pm

David Tennant (Dr Who and Broadchurch) and Cush Jumbo (The Good Wife and Criminal Record) lead a stellar cast in Shakespeare's extraordinary psychological drama filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse in London. Directed by Max Webster (Life of Pi, Henry V), unsettling intimacy and brutal action combine at breakneck speed in this tragic tale of love, murder, and nature's power of renewal.

★★★★★ *'An act of risk-taking theatre that also feels darkly, magically, like real-life. It's as if the play is being discovered for the first time.'* Daily Telegraph

★★★★★ *'David Tennant is tremendous and superbly partnered by Cush Jumbo.'* Financial Times

★★★★★ *'David Tennant thrills in a production full of wolfish imagination and alarming surprises. Cool, cocky and utterly arresting.'* Guardian

★★★★★ *'A compellingly ritualistic production. David Tennant is simply hypnotic.'* The Times

★★★★★ *'Thrilling set piece after thrilling set piece, the production blasts out in under two hours.'* Time Out



BBFC Rating: 12A. Tickets: £15.50 (Included in the admission price, have a drink on us).

LIVE MUSIC

THE GRONDO PALACE BLUES BAND

Saturday 1st February 8.00pm

Named after a mysterious, mythical hotel and based in Birmingham, UK, The Grondo Palace Blues Band celebrate and play excellent music from a while ago. GPBB was formed in 2023 when a group of 5 (recently?) retired musicians found solace in a shared love of great blues-based music from yesteryear, and an opportunity to spend time away from the demands of daily life to recreate some of the magic that music still holds. If your (preferably vinyl) record collection includes timeless classic albums by the likes of The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Santana, The Eagles, Creedence Clearwater Revival, as well as a sprinkling of the original 50s/60s soul and rock & roll that first inspired them, then we are the band for you !!

Tickets: £8.00 (Advance), £10.00 (On the door)



THE POCKET CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 8th February 8.00pm

“BILL BAILEY MEETS THE ARCHERS!”

A new a cappella touring show combining beautiful close harmony singing and quirky songwriting, with much laughter and even improvised singing sessions, the Pocket Choral Society features four experienced singers blending into one.



Hailing from the hard-to-find village of Pocket comes The Pocket Choral Society, a new a cappella show from an off-the-wall choir of four.

Combining beautiful harmonies, with much laughter, original music with comedy songs on the minutiae of life and even improvised singing sessions, the Pocket Choral Society feature four experienced singers blending into one. Singing unamplified the quartet bring lots of their own songs and new arrangements of some more well known numbers from Lennon & McCartney, Flanders & Swann and Tom Waits in an intimate and relaxed way.

Tickets: £8.00 (Advanced) – £10.00 (On the door)

RED TAILS

Saturday 22nd February 8.00pm

Come feel the noise and rock the night away when Red Tails take to the stage.

Red Tails are a Redditch based covers band that play a range of high energy, rocked up classic songs.

Advanced tickets: £8.00 On the door: £10.00



More Live Music On The Way...

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 8 th March | Jack Goodall |
| 22 nd March | Private Funktion |
| 29 th March | Brass Beatz |

MUSICALS ON THE BIG SCREEN

LES MISÉRABLES – THE STAGED CONCERT (40th Anniversary celebration)

Sunday 2nd February 7.00pm



Seen by over 120 million people worldwide, LES MISÉRABLES is undisputedly one of the world's most popular musicals. In 2019, Cameron Mackintosh produced a spectacular sell-out staged concert version at the Gielgud Theatre featuring an all-star cast including Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Carrie Hope Fletcher, Matt Lucas and John Owen Jones. Now cinema audiences can experience a unique encore of

this incredible show to celebrate Les Misérables 40th Anniversary. Featuring a cast and orchestra of over 65 and including the songs I Dreamed A Dream, Bring Him Home, One Day More and On My Own this sensational staged concert is not to be missed. BBFC Rating: 12A (TBC) Tickets: £15.50 (Included in the admission: Have a drink on us)

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR LIVE

Sunday 2nd March 7.30pm



Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock classic Jesus Christ Superstar returns to its roots with this sensational performance filmed in the UK during the Live Arena Tour. An incredible cast including Tim Minchin as Judas Iscariot, Melanie Chisholm as Mary Magdalene, Chris Moyles as King Herod and Ben Forster as Jesus Christ, perform hit songs including "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane," "Heaven on Their Minds," "Everything's Alright," "King

Herod's Song" and "Superstar" in an exciting and contemporary interpretation.

BBFC Rating: 12A (TBC). Adults £15.50 - U16s £13.50 (Included in the admission, have a drink on us)

STILL TO COME IN 2025...

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 26 th March | A Night With Janis Joplin The Musical |
| 30 th March | Billy Elliot The Musical Live (20th Anniversary) |
| 4 th May | Bonnie & Clyde The Musical |



ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2024 CHRISTMAS CONCERT: GOLD AND SILVER

Sunday 8th December 7.00pm and Wednesday 11th December 2.30pm

Celebrate the holiday season with André Rieu's dazzling Christmas Concert, "Gold and Silver," exclusively in cinemas! This magical event embodies the festive spirit of Christmas, bringing joy, warmth, and sparkle to the big screen.

Get ready to be transported to the wondrous world of enchanting glamour that is André's winter wonderland! Under the sparkle of 150 chandeliers and 50 Venetian candelabras, feel your heart warm with the magical melody of all your favourite Christmas classics.

André Rieu will be joined on stage by his beloved Johann Strauss Orchestra, along with special guest artists and the young and talented Emma Kok.

Don't miss this chance to celebrate music, love, and Christmas sparkle, with André Rieu's new Christmas Concert in cinemas – "Gold and Silver".

Adults: £15.00, U16s: £13.00 (Included in the admission: Have a drink on us)



FESTIVE

FOODIE FAIRFIELD

**Local Food Producers &
Santa's Grotto**

Saturday 7th December 9am - 12pm

Family Advent Service



**Sunday 8th
December**

11.15am

St. Mark's

*Let's Get Ready For
Christmas*



Festive Fairfield Christmas

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our enchanting Community Carol Service. Gather with family and friends to enjoy the timeless melodies that echo the joy, warmth, and love of the season

WITH LUTLEY COMMUNITY VOICES

Joy to the World

Wednesday

18

Dec, 2024

Fairfield Village Hsll (B61 9LZ)

7PM - 7.45 PM

FREE Mulled Wine & Mince Pies



www.fvca.org.uk



FAIRFIELD
Village

Fairfield Nativity Service



Christmas Eve 4pm

St. Mark's, Fairfield

www.fvca.org.uk



Christmas Communion Celebrating the birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

fppl.com

HAVE A MOVIE NEW YEAR

2025
New Year

CELEBRATION

THE FALL GUY & DISCO

DECEMBER 31 | 9:00 PM

WWW.BROMSGROVEARTS.ORG.UK

Santa's Sack Full of Jokes

The festive season is upon us once again, which means a whole lot of time together as a family. If you're hoping to talk about something other than prices and politics this season, keep reading. We've put together some Santa jokes to make you smile. Don't worry—we've kept things clean.

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can ho, ho, ho!

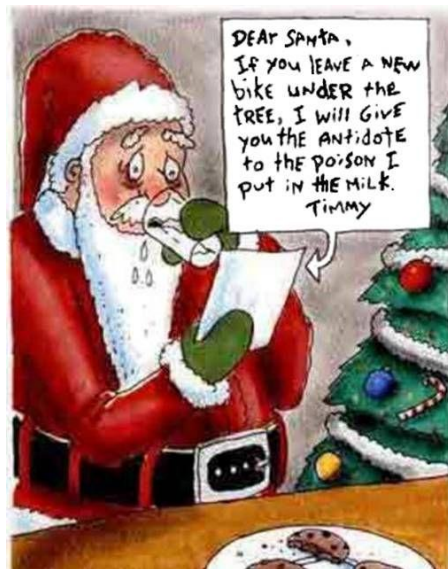
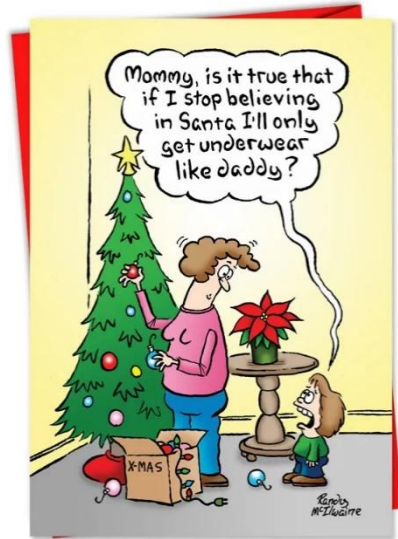
What do you call Santa when he doesn't move?
Santa Pause!

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic!

What does Santa eat for breakfast? Mistle-toast!

What nationality is Santa Claus? North Polish!

Where does Santa go to vote? The North Poll!



How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing, it was on the house!

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!

What's Santa Claus's favorite type of potato chip? Crisp Pringles!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

How did Mrs. Claus tell Santa the weather?
"It looks like rain, dear!"

What type of motorcycle does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson!

Who is Santa's favorite singer? Elf-is Presley!



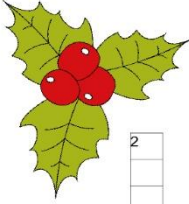
Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

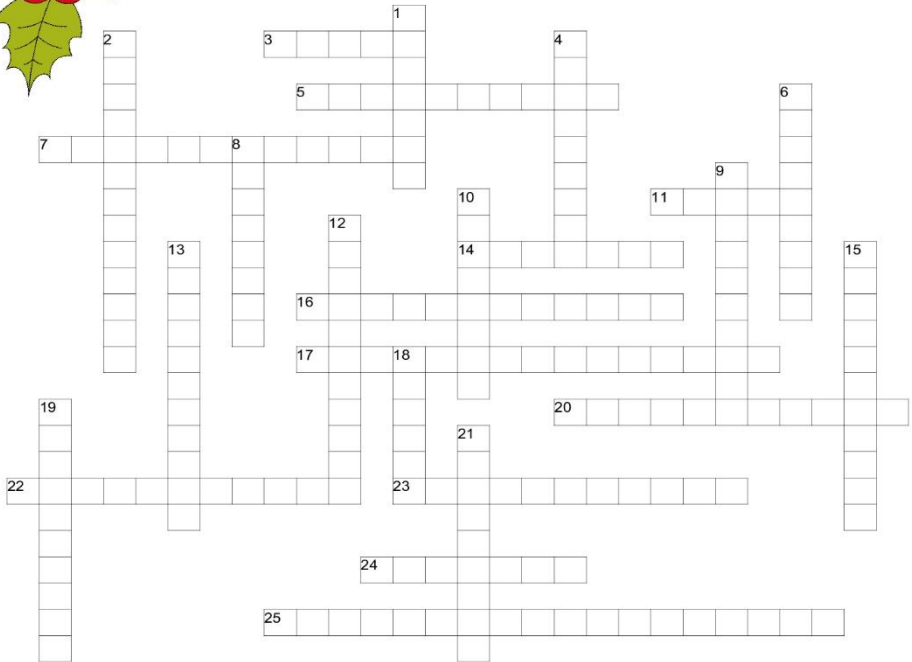


- | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| ADVENT | INFANT | MYRRH |
| ANGEL | JESUS | NATIVITY |
| BETHLEHEM | JOSEPH | REJOICE |
| BIRTH | MAGI | STABLE |
| BLESSINGS | MANGER | STAR |
| CAMELS | MARY | THREE KINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MIRACLE | WISE MEN |

Answers to our Festive Wordsearch & Crossword are near the back of this newsletter



Christmas Crossword



Across

3. On Christmas Eve 1951 which African country gained independence under King Idris?
5. What is a 'Smoking Bishop'?
7. What is the traditional Christmas meal in Japan?
11. Where did Del and Rodney go on holiday in 1991?
14. This word literally means 'coming'?
16. What song was the first to be played in space?
17. What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
20. *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, often used in Christmas floral displays?
22. Shijiao in China has been referred to as "the world capital for recycling" what?
23. What sort of athlete keeps you warm in winter?
24. Which country started the Christmas tree tradition?
25. What were first made by Tom Smith in 1847?

Down

1. A circular arrangement of flowers?
2. First manufactured in 1936, what got its name from a J. M. Barrie play?
4. Which type of sweet bread is associated with Christmas?
6. December 25th star sign?
8. Word for the last day of the year?
9. Arizona, Georgia and Indiana all have towns with this festive name?
10. What's the first name of George Bailey's guardian angel in *It's A Wonderful Life*?
12. They produce a distinctive 'jingle' sound?
13. Who is the lead character in *Miracle on 34th Street*?
15. What is Kevin's last name in *Home Alone*?
18. A type of decorative material?
19. Visions of which food danced in children's heads?
21. What has its roots in 'Commedia dell'Arte'?

Neighbourhood Watch

Help Keep Our Community Safe

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

If you see suspicious activity REPORT IT, online via <https://www.westmercia.police.uk> or telephone 101. If it is safe to do so, share your observations with us 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.

Crime Data

Recorded crime in the Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge (Fairfield Ward) for the first eight months of 2024. Please remain vigilant, report suspicious activity, let's work together for a safer community.

| | Burglary | Violence & Sexual | Criminal Damage & Arson | Public Order | Other Theft | Drugs | Vehicle Crime | Anti-social Behavior | Possession of a weapon | Other Crime |
|--------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Jan | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Feb | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Mar | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Apr | | | 1 | | 4 | | | 2 | | |
| May | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| June | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| July | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| August | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Total | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 |

Dog Attack Kills Six Sheep

Early morning on Tuesday 10th September, a Fairfield farmer lost 6 sheep due to them being attacked by a dog, the police have been informed. This incident has created unnecessary stress on the farmer, as well as financial loss. The injuries to the sheep are so graphic that we are unable to share the images.

PLEASE keep dogs on a lead when walking through fields with livestock. If your dog is found to have attacked or worried livestock you will be prosecuted. If a farmer sees your dog worrying sheep, they can shoot your dog.

There's Safety in Numbers

Be part of our Neighbourhood Watch Group, to join (it's FREE) sign up to West Mercia Police's Neighbourhood Matter and opt in to join our Neighbourhood Watch Group, www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk Also, subscribe to our Community E-circular, fill in the Newsletter box on our website's Home Page, www.fvca.org.uk

Volunteers are needed to be part of **Street Watch**, only 2hours a month, walking around the community with another volunteer, and supported by the police; you can even walk the dog. For further information, email admin@fvca.org.uk

Pension Fraud

Action Fraud is warning savers to stay vigilant and protect their pensions and investments from fraudsters trying to trick people out of their lifetime savings, as new data reveals £17.7 million lost to pension fraud last year.

How can you protect yourself?

Unsolicited communication about your pension: If you get a call out of the blue (a cold call) about your pension, the safest thing to do is hang up. It's illegal and probably a fraudster. If you get offers via email or text, you should simply ignore them.

Seek advice first: if you're thinking about changing your pension arrangements, you should get financial advice beforehand. If you want to find an adviser, make sure they're authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. Never take advice from the company that contacted you, this may be part of the scam.

Investment opportunities: do not be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into investing on the spot.

You should treat investment opportunities with extreme caution if there is:

- pressure to invest (e.g. time-limited offers).
- downplayed risk of losing your money
- promised returns that sound too good to be true.

Be mindful of tax implications: you'll pay up to 55% tax on payments from your pension provider if they make an 'unauthorised payment'.

If you have been a victim then report it: if you're worried about a potential scam, or you think you may have been contacted by a fraudster, report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040

Source: Action Fraud

SimpliSafe



Christmas Home Security Tips

Protect your home this Christmas with tips from SimpliSafe and Neighbourhood Watch.



Join a local Neighbourhood Watch group to feel connected with your community during the festive season and beyond.



Keep presents out of sight of the windows and away from doors.



Install visible and audible outdoor security deterrents (e.g. outdoor camera, video doorbells and outdoor sirens).



Be careful if leaving your Christmas lights on and test them before decorating your tree.



Dispose of Christmas wrapping and boxes carefully. Try not to advertise what you've been buying to any possible onlookers and remove your address from postal labels.



Travelling for the festive period? Let your Neighbours know so they can keep an eye on your property.



Be mindful of posting your festive plans on social media, such as showing you're travelling over the Christmas period.



Using smart plugs for Christmas lights is a great way to control how long your lights are on, even letting you turn them on and off whilst you're out.



Having an outdoor camera or video doorbell is a great way to help deter any porch pirates, as well as provide crucial evidence should the worst happen.



Hosting and cooking for the family over Christmas? Test your smoke detectors to ensure they are working in case of an emergency.



If you know you're not going to be home for some deliveries, you could divert them to a 'safe place' on your property or ask a neighbour if they would be happy to receive the parcel.



For those who have a real Christmas tree which needs to be watered, it could be wise to place a water sensor near the base to alert you of any spillage.



For those who have nosy family members looking for Christmas presents, add an entry sensor to the door so you'll be alerted if anyone is snooping around.



Using an indoor camera as a Santa Cam is a great way to get the family involved in some festive fun.

Residents Receives Scam Telephone Call

In October, a resident reported receiving a telephone call from 01527 895296, the automated message claiming that there had been suspicious activity on their bank account and detailed the questionable payments, the message then asked that the resident presses 1 to authorise payment, 2 to decline the payment, the resident did not press and number & hung up.

This is a SCAM, using a masked local number.

If you receive similar, put the phone down, do not follow the instructions within the message.

If you have concerns regarding your bank account, please check with your bank using an independent, verified, telephone number. You can report the phone number to Action Fraud.

Distraction burglary: Warning and advice

We have some simple tips to follow which can minimise risk to a distraction burglary and how to deal with 'cold callers' at the doorstep:

- If someone knocks on your door, check who it is by looking through a window or peephole.
- If it's not someone you know and trust, or a business caller who has made a pre-arranged appointment – do not open the door! This advice applies regardless of whatever uniform the caller appears to be wearing, the ID card they are carrying or however urgent their business claims to be.
- Tell unexpected business callers to leave and come back later at an agreed time when you have someone else with you.
- In the meantime, check their credentials by calling the organisation they claim to represent. Do so by searching the company name and number online, or in your telephone book. As any number they might have given you could be for an accomplice of a potential offender.
- Report suspicious activity to the police, telephone 101. No matter how small it may seem, your information may help with investigations and prevent legitimate scammers from committing a crime.



If you aren't comfortable contacting the police directly, you can pass on information anonymously to the independent charity, Crimestoppers, by calling 0800 555 111 or by visiting their website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

If you ever feel at risk, or a crime is in progress, please always dial 999.

QR Code Scams

QR Codes have been around for several decades now but have become more prominent in the last few years. So once again criminals are seizing the opportunity to use malicious QR Codes to steal money, and personal information.

People may sometimes worry about trusting these codes which are now common in public places, such as pubs and restaurants, and these are generally safe to scan.

The majority of QR code scams so far have been in open spaces such as stations and car park machines, so always check the QR code sign to see if appears to have been tampered with or has another label stuck on top of it.

However, QR codes are now appearing in greater numbers in phishing emails, often now called “Quishing”. Criminals realise that the public are now more aware of the dangers on clicking on links in unsolicited emails, so are using QR codes instead to direct the recipient to a malicious website.

How can you avoid being scammed by fake QR codes?

- Preview the QR code link. The URL should appear on your phone when you scan a QR code. Make sure the URL seems legitimate and that it isn’t a misspelling of a real URL
- Check for tampering. If you’re scanning a QR code that’s in a public place, like a restaurant or a car park ticket machine, make sure the QR code doesn’t have a sticker on top of the original
- Check the website. If you follow the QR code link, does the website seem professional. Low-quality images and typos are always signs of fake websites. Look for a lock symbol next to the URL or `https://` in the URL to show these are genuine
- When in doubt, contact the company. If you receive an unusual email or letter in the mail from a business with a QR code, contact the business to determine if the message is legitimate.
- Never scan or open QR codes from unknown sources. Whether you’re approached online or in the street, don’t scan QR codes from people that you don’t know. And always lookout for “too good to be true” messages, such as gifts or free products if you scan their QR code.

Also, security software created to detect phishing emails does not always scan images so a QR code image can get through. Many users also use their mobile phone to scan a QR code and such devices may not always have the same levels of security protection. It is always advisable to use the QR Code scanner that is already installed on your phone, rather than one downloaded from an App store.

As ever, be vigilant, especially with QR codes received in emails.

Gone Fishing/Phishing?

The Internet has generated a language of its own in many areas and within Online Fraud we see new words and terms which sometimes may be bewildering. Phishing, Whaling, Cat fishing, Gaslighting, the list of new terms increases.

In this article we look at **Phishing**, but specifically **Spear-Phishing**. So, what is the difference?

Basically, *Phishing* is the all-embracing term that covers all those emails and texts sent out by Scammers in mass mailouts in the hope of catching unsuspecting victims who click on the links within and end up being defrauded.

Whereas *Spear-Phishing* is targeted at individuals using specific personal information to make you think it is genuine, in an attempt to seize your personal details such as passwords or bank account details. They may even attempt to install malware on your devices, if you click on the links embedded in the message.

So how does it work?

- The emails look genuine and safe as they appear to come from a known contact or organisation, but very often contain harmful links which can install malware or ransomware on your device
- They may try and move you to a false website which appears to look like the genuine one for that organisation, thus getting you to enter sensitive personal data such as PIN's and Passwords
- They may attempt to request access to your social media to glean even more personal information which they can then use to access other sources
- Because the content of the Spear-Phishing emails/texts look so genuine and personal, it may well make potential victims lower their guard and trust that message

How can you avoid being Spear-Phished?

- Take care in how you handle your social media accounts – be wary about how you share your social media and if the account is public, remember all that personal information can be seen by anyone and criminals can use that to personalise the messages they send to you
- Be wary about any data you may be asked to provide on unfamiliar websites, as it can be used to scam you
- Always use strong Antivirus software to protect you from scam emails and malware
- Take care not to reveal any personal information to cold callers on the phone
- And never be rushed into making any decisions or signing up to any offers – just take your time

Take Five to Stop Fraud

STOP: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- Avoid disclosing security details
- Emails, Phone Calls and Texts may not be authentic
- Always make direct contact with any organisation by using a genuine phone number
- Stop and Challenge any unexpected requests
- Protect others by reporting Fraud and Scams

How You Can Help Stop Fraud

If you've fallen for a scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks.

You can also report Scam mobile calls by texting 7726 with the word "Call" followed by the scam caller's phone number.

Forward Fake Emails received to report@phishing.gov.uk

If you think your bank account or personal banking details have been used fraudulently, then use the short phone number - 159 - to contact the Fraud Prevention Department of most major UK banks.

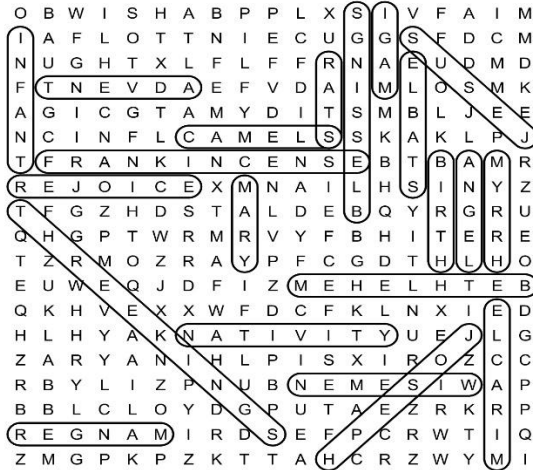
From all of us at Fairfield Village Community Association, wishing you & your families all the very best this Christmastime and for the year ahead.

A massive thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers, without you, we could not exist, and our activities would not take place.

Joy to the World

Word Search

SOLUTION

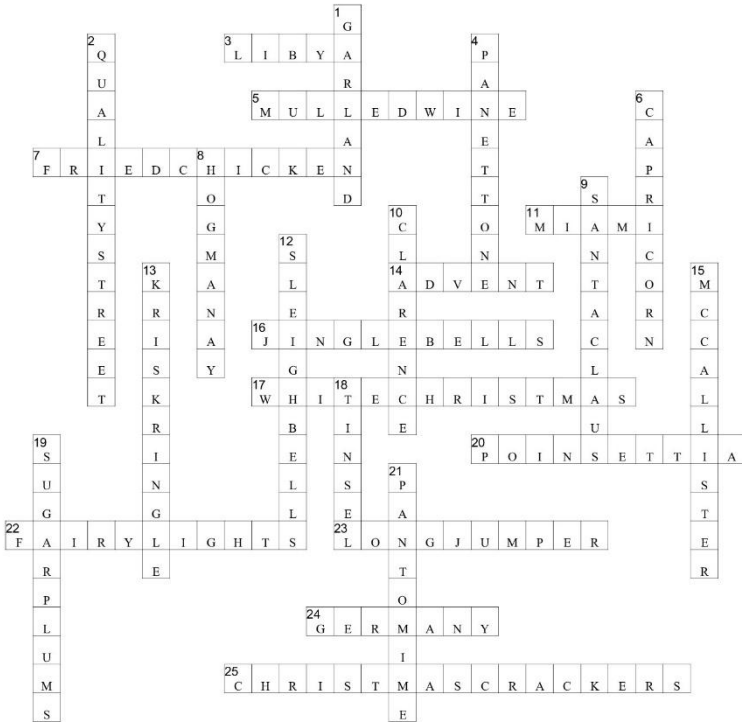


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Christmas Crossword



Church Services at St. Mark's

2nd Sunday 11.15 am Worship4ll - Family Service

4th Sunday 11.15 am Holy Communion

Weekly Activities at Fairfield Village Hall

Monday:

Line Dancing 7.30pm

Tuesday:

Sequence Dancing 7.30pm

Wednesday

Social Activities & Shop 1.30pm

Thursday:

Zumba 7pm – 8pm

Friday:

Taekwondo 6pm/7pm/8pm

Sunday

Pilates 10.00am

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

Bournheath Village Community Centre

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month



10.30am – Noon

Meet & Catchup with other residents from the Fairfield-Bournheath Community



7.30pm – 9.00pm
Social Table Tennis

November

- 16th Live & Local - WATSON: The Final Problem 7.30pm
18th Friends for Lunch 12.30pm
Coffee Morning 10.30am; Wreath Making Workshop 2.00pm Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
20th
23rd Live Music: Ricky Cool and the In Crowd 8.00pm
24th Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
27th Fairfield Flicks 2.30pm & 7.30pm
30th Makers Market 12noon - 2.30pm

December

- 4th Coffee Morning 10.30am; Shop & Table Tennis 1.30pm
7th Festive Foodie Fairfield 9am - 12pm
8th Adent Service 11.15am; Andre Rieu: Christmas Concert 7.00pm
11th Andre Rieu: Christmas Concert 2.30pm; Fairfield W.I. 7.00pm
18th Carols Around The Christmas Tree, 7.00pm
24th Crib Service 4.00pm; Holy Communion 11.30pm
31st NYE Film & Disco 9pm

2025

January

- 4th Foodie Fairfield
8th Shop & The Wednesday Social 2.00pm; Fairfield W.I. 7.00pm
12th Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
15th Coffee Morning 10.30am; Shop & Social 1.30pm; Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
22nd Shop & Social 1.30pm; Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm

February

- 1st Foodie Fairfield; Live Music: The Grondo Palace Blues Band 8pm
2nd Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
5th Coffee Morning 10.30am; Shop & Table Tennis 1.30pm
8th Live Music: The Pocket Choral Society 8pm
9th Fairfield Flicks 6.30pm
12th Shop & The Wednesday Social 2.00pm; Fairfield W.I. 7.00pm
19th Coffee Morning 10.30am; Shop & Social 1.30pm; Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
20th Junior Flix: 11.00am
22nd Live Music: Red Tails 8pm
26th Shop & Social 1.30pm; Fairfield Flicks 7.00pm

March

- 1st Foodie Fairfield 9.00am
2nd Fairfield Flicks 7.30pm
5th Coffee Morning 10.30am; Shop & Table Tennis 1.30pm

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

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Subscribe to the e-Newsletter: www.fvca.org.uk