

Fifield News

For the first time for a long time, there will be a **Nativity Play in Fifield Church on Sunday 8th December**. The 4pm. service will start with a Christingle Service, where children are presented with oranges, representing The World, topped with sweets and a candle, as The Light of the World. After this there will be a specially written Nativity Play performed by the children of the parish. Do come and support and enjoy this traditional start to the Christmas Season.

Both Fifield and Idbury are holding **Carols by Candlelight services** this year: Fifield's will be at 7p.m. on **Wednesday 18th December** and Idbury's will be at 6p.m. on **Saturday 21st December**. At an open meeting on Tuesday 22nd October it was agreed that in 2014 the fete will be given a miss and instead there will be three linked events through the summer. These are provisionally agreed as: **7th June** - a Musical Evening; **9th August** - a Dinner with the drawing of a grand raffle; **20th September** - a well-known speaker, in the Church.

Shelagh and Oliver Field report excellent progress with the old photographs, maps and documents, now in albums, collections covering the past 100 years, and a project to put all the documents on disc for posterity. Many of the photographs had been kept by previous trustees of the Hall, and Anne Matthews' generous gift to me of papers from the Matthews Family Archives, which I have been pleased to give on permanent loan to the Hall, have ensured a really good collection which will be of interest for years to come. A further Open Day is planned, more details later.

If Christmas gives you unintended weight gain then join the Cotswold Walkers to stir the blood. **Friday 3rd January 2014**, 10am start at The Merrymouth Inn, to walk about 4.5 miles over 3.5 hours exploring this fairly hidden area of our countryside. There will be an optional lunch at The Merrymouth Inn at the end. More information from www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or telephone Rosemary Wilson on: 01993 831810.

Catherine Hitchens

A Fifield Question from Stanley

From birth in 1946 until I was five years old I lived in a small cottage (Gorse Cottage by name) in a lane in Fifield. The lane has altered much since that time, narrowing to a footpath from the cottage to the one at the end of the lane, which used to have double gates and room for a car. In the left hand part of the 'U' that makes up the main street there are the remains of a building with two windows and a door. There is now a garden behind this facade.

Can anyone tell me what this building used to be as I do not recall it from my childhood? Mrs. Davis had a grocery shop nearby, but later she moved to the bottom of the right hand side of the 'U', later retiring to a new bungalow in the Merrymouth Road. The building next to the ruin has a sign on it saying it was the 'Old Post Office', but I only recall the post office ever being in the other street, where it was then run by a Mrs. Townsend. My brother and I lived in the village until 1955 - he was then 12 and I was 9. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.

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