

Fifield News

Daffodil Day

On **Sunday 6th April** from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Once again, very generously, the gardens and grounds of Fifield House are being opened to give everyone a chance to see the wonderful display of daffodils in the 700 year old nut orchard and 14th century stew pond. There will be a Treasure Hunt for the children and tea and cakes available for everyone. Entry is £2 a head, under 12s free. Proceeds for the Fifield with Idbury Parochial Church Council. Sensible footwear recommended.

Café Fifi

On Saturday mornings Café Fifi is now the chosen venue, for villagers and visitors from elsewhere, to meet friends and family as well as enjoying very good coffee and toasted teacakes. On the Saturdays when Café Fifi is not open, it is usually because there is something else taking place. Volunteers to run the Café

are always needed. There is a volunteers' list on the noticeboard in the Hall, do put your name down to take a turn. The more we have people keeping the event going by volunteering, the better.

Summer Events

There will not be a Summer Fete, but instead several fund-raising events spread through the summer. Of course, for these to take place, planning is required. There will be informal groups organising each event; so please look out for notices and do offer your help and support. The first proposed date is **7th June** - a fund-raising event for the PCC, the Hall and the recreation ground. Then there will be a Flower Festival with other events in the Church the weekend of **28th/29th June**. There will also be music, and suppers, quizzes and competitions and perhaps, re-enacting a historical event, a summer pageant by the children of the parish.

Catherine Hitchens

What Shall I Be When I Grow Up? Phyllis Starts Work

Back in 1958/60 one of the most popular jobs for girls leaving school was to be trained as a telephonist. The majority of exchanges had manual operators who received telephone requests from the red, public call-boxes and the few businesses or private numbers. The operators would re-route the caller to the number asked for; after three minutes a bell would sound to give you time to say your goodbyes or feed in more money. For many years I only knew of one private phone, apart from the one at Mr Carpenter's the newsagent in St Michaels and Ballards Close. Another popular job

was to become a hairdresser. At the time this was the 'in' job, but apprenticeships took three years before you earned any money. A few girls went into nursing, if their parents could afford to keep them. The rest went to Witney to work in the blanket factories and a few worked at Smiths' engineering works. Most of the rest of us did office or shop work. We all aspired to a boyfriend, marrying and having a family. Most of the lads took up apprenticeships in the building trade or did general labouring in factories or on farms.

Phyllis Clarke