

"Some sort of periodical is an essential life-line in a village such as ours"

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WF FIREWORKS	Friday 4th November 6pm HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE! (Pg6 inside)
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	Monday 21st November 7.30pm
FATHER CHRISTMAS GROTTTO	Saturday 10th December 11am start (Pg6 inside)
CAROL SERVICE	Sunday 11th December 5.30pm

ALWAYS CHECK THE WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER, FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR EVENT DETAILS

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Deadline for the next issue is 20th November 2022



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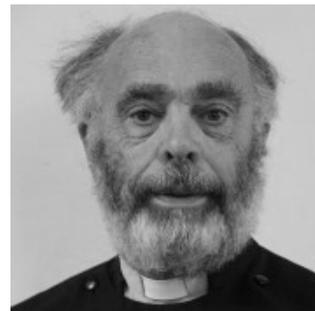
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Pastoral letter by David Jones

The period round the end of October and early November, for me, has always been the month of remembering beginning with All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday and of course Guy Fawkes – ‘remember, remember the 5th of November...’. Not all famous for the right reasons! As an aside, I also met my future wife for the first time on November 6th.



I went to a secondary school in Greenwich founded in 1677 by a man named John Roan. Each year we went to the local church, where his name is inscribed on the list of benefactors to the Borough, to honour our founder in the annual Founders’ Day Service. He gave the funds to education 15 boys in the Borough which today educates 1,115 students. There we sang the school song in memory of the great man and also read the reading from Ecclesiasticus, a book in the Jerusalem Bible, a copy of which was given to me by the Bishop at my Ordination. It reads: ‘Let us praise illustrious men, our ancestors in their successive generations’ and goes on to say: ‘While others left no memory and disappeared as though they had not existed’. It always struck me as I listened to the reading, who were these people who ‘disappeared’? Who were these people who left ‘no memory’? Over the years since, I have come to realise that these are the people we meet every day: our parents, our family, our children, our friends. Those in our neighbourhood and in our community who, by the way they live, encourage and inspire us. Their names aren’t emblazed in lights. These are people known to us personally and not in the public gaze.

When someone dies it is customary to say good things about their lives and rightly so but, in doing so, those people must have had an effect on many on their journey in this world. What will they say about us I often wonder, what will they say about me? Remembrance ought to encourage us to look at our own lives and how we live and interact with others. What do we learn from those ‘silent people’ we knew and loved? Remembrance isn’t simply looking back and having fond or inspired memories. It should be looking forward to take from those memories things that will improve our own lives and the lives of those around us. My school song ends with the question about the future: ‘What can we give her (England) for our Founder’s sake? The answer given in the next line – ourselves we give to England till John Roan shall wake.’ So, this year as we remember, let us reflect on those we have loved, shared our lives with and who encouraged us and say ‘thank you’ and move on to fill our lives with the things and thoughts that motivated them and pray that we will bring to our world what they gave us. - David

Church	6 TH Nov	13 TH Nov Remembrance Sunday	20 TH Nov Christ the King	27 TH Nov 1 ST of Advent
Coxheath 11am	Communion David Jones/Bertie Woodward	Lorna Faulkner	Communion Lorna Faulkner	Morning Worship (Preacher’s Choice) Lorna Faulkner
East Farleigh 9.30am	Morning Worship David Jones	GM	Communion Lorna Faulkner	
West Farleigh 9.30am		Sue Elliot		Morning Worship David Jones
Hunton 9.30am	Communion Lorna Faulkner	David Jones	Morning Worship David Jones	
Linton 9.30am		TBC		Communion Laura Faulkner



Activities Across the Benefice

Weekly



Tiny Tots Toybox – under 5's stay and play
Thursday 1:30 – 3pm
Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Seekers - KS2 after school club
Thursday 3:30 – 5pm
Holy Trinity, Coxheath



Little Angels – under 5's stay and play
Friday 1 – 2:30 pm
All Saints, West Farleigh

Monthly



Bible Babble - youth group
1st Sunday of the month 7:30 – 9pm
Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Bi-Monthly

Messy Church – All age alternative worship
3rd Saturday even months 3 – 5pm
St Nicholas, Linton



Muddy Church – outdoor exploration
3rd Saturday odd months 3 – 4pm
St Nicholas, Linton



www.unitedbenefice.church or Facebook: United Benefice Kids
For more information

Midweek Services – Coxheath, every Thursday 10am, BCP Holy Communion and Linton, 30th November, 12pm, Holy Communion followed by soup.

CANCER RESEARCH CHARITY PUB QUIZ

Has anyone ever had “event anxiety”? Waking up in the middle of the night worrying no-one is going to show up? Well, I needn't have worried thanks to the wonderful folk of West Farleigh (and surrounding areas) that came along to support our inaugural Charity Pub Quiz at The Tickled Trout on the 18th! Not only do I need to thank you for ensuring my nightmares did not become a reality but we raised a whopping £225 for Cancer Research UK from the entrance fee and raffle.

The start of the quiz was delayed by 30 minutes as we had to bring in more tables and chairs. On that note, my overwhelming gratitude to The Tickled Trout team: Charlie (who worked tirelessly to help make this happen), Jake, Joe and Mark for their wonderful service and being my technical support!

A certain neighbour (you know who you are) is still not forgiven for asking me to repeat the question: “What is the term for a group of parrots?” ... he asked me three times and I innocently repeated the question “parrot fashion” much to everyone's amusement.

The winning team (Spainglish) won by one point and for their efforts were each given a voucher for a three-course dinner at the Tickled Trout. A very generous prize indeed! Charlie and I will be confirming the date for our “Christmas Special” so please do come and join us if you can.

By the way, the answer is “pandemonium”.

Helen Kirk-Brown

TERRY AYEARS

31st July 1938 - 21st August 2022



Terry and his family moved into the village when Terry became manager of Courage's local hop farms and they immersed themselves in village life as soon as they arrived in West Farleigh. Soon Terry was well known in the village - a larger than life, warm, friendly and humorous character.

Terry was an only child, he was brought up in Cliffe amongst his extended family. He left Rochester Technical school and completed a 5 year apprenticeship at Burnett and Rolfe. He met Ann, his wife, while working at Wingets in Rochester. During his life he had many jobs, including going back to Burnett and Rolfe, this time as general works manager.

Terry was always busy and he played tennis, sailed, road motorbikes fixed and rallied cars.

Terry and Ann built their own house in High Halstow, where they had their two daughters: Caroline and Joanne. The girls were 13 and 11 they moved to West Farleigh and they still look upon their time growing up in the village as very special.

When Courages sold up the farms and the new buyer chose not to continue growing hops, Terry needed a new job. Using his network of friends and former colleagues, he found that Shepherd Neame breweries in Faversham were looking for an engineer – and so another era began!

We will all remember Terry fondly for his Christmas drinks parties and his Harvest Supper entertainment, his place on the original Fireworks committee, as the parish clerk and treasurer of Evergreens and much, much more!

Heaven look out! You are about to be re-organised!



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FATHER CHRISTMAS GROTTO AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH SAT 10TH DECEMBER

The newly formed Farleigh Friends are introducing a new event which will hopefully become a firm annual family favourite! Bring your little ones to All Saints Church to meet Father Christmas in his grotto and go home with a sack of goodies! Children will be able to meet the elves while they wait their turn, have their faces painted or get a Christmas glitter tattoo, make a Christmas picture or card while the grown-ups enjoy a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine or two! Further details on prices and how to book will follow shortly – watch out on the website, in the newsletter, on Facebook, Instagram and on flyers! But in the meanwhile add that date to your family’s Christmas diary and be part of the inaugural Father Christmas comes to West Farleigh! And if you’d like to help…….see below!

WEST FARLEIGH NEEDS YOU! BECOME A FARLEIGH FRIEND

The purpose of Farleigh Friends is to help to publicise, organise and staff events in our village. There are currently more than 30 members but we’d love to have some more! There need be no commitment to any particular event, just put your name down and volunteer for what suits you. Email Katie O’Connor at katieeth66@gmail.com and include your mobile number for our Whatsapp group then you’ll receive info about upcoming events/meetings. **CAN YOU HELP BEFORE/DURING/AFTER THE FIREWORKS? PLEASE GET IN TOUCH ASAP!**

Welcome to wonderful West Farleigh!



Meet Andy and Jeannett Bellamy who moved to Smiths Hill Farm in August. They previously lived in Ditton for over 20 years with their family. Now all their kids and grandkids have left they plan to make the Farm their forever home! They hope to build their own house on the farm, one which is totally self-sustaining. They run their own companies in Steel Framing and Construction www.steelframesolutions.co.uk. They are really looking forward to joining in with village life. This was the whole family pictured after a long moving in day!



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Sports Club Report



Cricket: Not much to report other than - as always we are looking for players (hopefully local) for our next season, please let us know if you or anyone you know would enjoy a game.



Netball: Following last month's heavy defeat in our first game, our girls have rallied and competed well in every game this month, including our first victory! Last month's defeats were against Sensations 33-27, Hospice Hoopers 37-22 and a very narrow loss against Kittens 29-27. As mentioned, we have now happily recorded our first win which came against Headcorn 30-20.



Football: This season is proving difficult for our footballers, especially for our first XI. So far, we have yet to secure a single point but hopefully, if we all stick together, we will eventually turn the corner! In order, our defeats came against Rusthall 5-0, Cuxton 4-1, Punjab 3-1 and then Long Lane 2-1 (notice – we are getting better!) Meanwhile our second eleven are refiring slightly better, recording their second victory so far this season beating Harkenbury 4-1 in the cup. However, our other two fixtures last month saw a defeat versus Dartford Celtic 2-1 and Leigh 5-1. Hopefully next month's report will be more positive.

Ton-up: Our lucky ton-up winners last month were :

129 Brian Aiston £30 165 Stephen Norman £20 74 Mick Sands £10

Yours in sport – Tel



EVERGREENS

The Evergreens were expecting "Chair Exercises" this month but, unfortunately, Catherine who was coming along to lead us, was unwell. We will rebook Catherine though, as we were all looking forwards to it. We had a little notice, so Sue O'Donnell was able to find a quiz that her father had put together. We had a good laugh, mostly at our own ignorance, and one table in particular got a real fit of the giggles. The winners kindly shared their spoils (Heroes and Quality Street) with everyone at tea-time.

On 8th November at 2.30pm we have Brian Cushing coming along to talk about Roman Industry in the Medway Valley, especially in the Farleighs. So much history in such a small sleepy village, who knew? On 22nd November at 12.30pm we will be enjoying a hot lunch of lasagne and garlic bread.

New members are always welcome. We are jolly bunch with quite a wide age range amongst our retirees! We meet at the WI Hall in East Farleigh. Ring Helen on 01622 814445 for more info.



The Farleighs W.I.

Our October Competition meeting was a great success, with over 20 members entering various categories for judging by our colleagues from Barming W.I. The overall winner this year was Helen Swan who was presented with the trophy by the President - Well Done Helen! The Macmillan Coffee Morning raised a fantastic £195.45 – many thanks to all the bakers and those that supported and donated to this very worthy cause.

At the 9th November meeting we have author James Lee coming to give us a talk on his recent book entitled 'Licking the Taliban's Flip-Flop'. James is an amusing speaker so this should prove to make a very enjoyable evening. Our Open meeting, when everyone is welcome to join us, is on Wednesday 30th November at 7pm and Tony Harris, the speaker and comedian, will be giving his view of the sinking of the Titanic. W.I members -£6. Guests £7 to include refreshments – to reserve tickets please email thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk.

Our December Christmas Party plans are underway! Please note the December meeting is a MEMBERS ONLY affair. However, if you are interested in meeting others, if you like craft or art, darts, walking or just talking, come and join us for a free taster session in November. You have nothing to lose and who knows you may find you would like to join the other 200,000 women who are the W.I.! If you would like more information on the W.I. or any of our events please e-mail thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk.

Diane Scott- President.

The Farleighs W.I Hall – Forge Lane East Farleigh.

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FARLEIGH FEATHERS by Ray Morris

'Bird Brain!'

An expression commonly used as a sneering insult. Incorrectly however, because, despite knowing the answers to everything, we 'highly intelligent' humans are only just beginning to scratch the surface when it comes to what animals instinctively know and can do.



This is a time of year when ornithologists are most reminded of this. What prompted me to reflect on it was the sighting locally of a Ring Ouzel this last week in October. No, it isn't an imaginary creature from Winnie the Pooh it's a bird also called the Mountain Blackbird because it looks pretty much like our garden visitor and is very closely related to it, it being one of the six thrush species native to the UK. It was seen within a few hundred metres of the other five species: blackbird, song thrush and mistle thrush, plus redwing and fieldfare. The latter two species are only here in the

winter (they breed across Scandinavia) and the ring ouzel is only here in the summer, spending its winter months in North Africa's Atlas Mountains.

The puzzle is not so much why birds migrate around the globe twice a year: they do it because their summer location provides a better chance of having young that will survive and pass on their genes i.e. they reproduce where there is enough food available and enough daylight for them to catch it and feed it to their offspring. But how do they know when, where and how to get there? Length of day tells them when. How are the positions of the sun and stars in the sky and the earth's magnetic field? Simple. Or perhaps not quite so simple, as birds are now thought to use quantum particles, which the Robin, for example, does with its right eye (not, note, with its left). I'll stop here because much of this science is beyond most of the human population's understanding – certainly mine!

But for the next few months you will certainly see the impact of this when you're walking around the local farmland and orchards, and even in your garden if you are lucky. The fieldfares and redwings have all managed to fly here from northern Europe – usually at night, using senses that we don't possess or even understand!

Just enjoy them while you can, but bear in mind that, although we share the same planet, we live in different worlds.

Ray Morris

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IN THE GARDEN with Sara CUSHING

October proved to be another milder-than-average month which, combined with the damp conditions, ensured that everything kept on growing! I was able to scarify and overseed the lawn and it germinated within the week! Because of the hot summer, there was a large amount of thatch to get out and I've gone for a shade and drought seed as a precaution against future dry conditions, this one containing Kentucky Blue, fescue and ryegrass. November and December are the quieter times in the garden, clearing the tree leaves off the lawn to break down into leaf mould is an essential for me. Leaf mould can be spread onto borders as a mulch or dug into the veg patch to enrich the soil. And leaf piles are a great place for our wildlife to hibernate over the cold months!



In the borders there is still lots to be getting on with! Some perennials will need to be cut down and borderline hardy varieties such as agapanthus or semi-tropicals should be protected if this hasn't been done already. Dahlias should be lifted after the first frost and stored in dry earth in a frost-free environment. Now is the best time to be planting bare roots: roses, shrubs and trees need to go in before the soil gets too cold. There are plenty of things to give a lovely winter colour at this time of year in borders. Pansies and viola are a staple classic and I love cyclamen! Primroses also give a lovely edge of border display until Spring as long as they're deadheaded regularly. Hellebores are one of my favourites. There are amazing varieties and colour ranges; from the green helleborus viridis to the darkest purple blacks. It's important to deadhead these before they seed off or they go everywhere and cross pollinate resulting in unappealing murky brown/purple flowers. There are some amazing winter-flowering shrubs to consider too. Daphne adds an evergreen structure to a border and an incredible, heady scent! Cornus gives vivid winter colour with vibrant stems. Some deciduous shrubs give winter flowers that smell delicious, witch hazel and wintersweet are two of the lovelier ones but do require a lot of space.



In the veg patch Autumn fruiting raspberries can be cut down hard and compost heaped over approx 5cm deep. Clear strawberries' dead stems and leaves and take cuttings from currant bushes and gooseberries. Brussels sprouts and broad beans should be supported and outside crops benefit from a protection such as fleece over the colder months. November is really the last month in which to plant out garlic and onions! Luckily this is something I managed to do in between all the rain we had at the end of October. A smart little thing I did (which is pretty rare) was to wrap twine at 10cm points along a bamboo cane. When laid on the plot, it's an awesome time saver when you have a couple of hundred onion sets to get in!

Sara Cushing

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