

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS



THE CHEQUERS, NOW THE TICKLED TROUT

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

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Deadline for the next issue is 20th February 2023



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Pastoral letter by Sue Elliot

Dear friends, I am beginning to write this letter on New Year's Day. It will be another month before everyone reads it. For some the beginning of a New Year is a time for planning new things, looking forward to new adventures to be had. For others, and especially at the moment, the future is full of worries and fears. Will finances stretch to all that needs to be paid for? Will the mortgage be manageable? Will energy costs go up so much that the choice between heating the home, eating properly or perhaps cancelling a planned holiday, need to be made?



By the time you read this I will have faced the biggest fear I have, one of flying, which I know is the safest form of travel, but fears are often not logical.

As Christians, we believe that, if we turn to Scripture, we can find encouraging words.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

"Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

Fear does not have to control us any longer. With God we can do anything – even overcome all our fears!

"Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Invite one to stay." So said the late Maya Angelou, American poet, writer and civil rights activist.

Let us look with hope into the future and support each other through difficult times.

If you would like to talk to someone or have someone pray with/for you then do get in touch with us. I head up the Pastoral Support Team, a committed group of Christians who are very willing to come alongside folk in our village communities and offer support.

Oh, and by the way, I flew to Edinburgh and back. I faced my fear and overcame! Praise the Lord!

Blessings,

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant and member of the Benefice Ministry Team.

<https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/>

.

Tel. 07437 544229

Church Services

Sunday 12th February 9.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 26th February 9.30 Morning Prayer.

Friday 3rd March 10.00am

World Day of Prayer at Coxheath (please note the time change for this year)

Our Benefice Churches join together with the Linton Road Free Church for this annual service. The service this year will be held at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. The service is entitled 'I have heard about your faith' and has been prepared by Christian women of Taiwan. All are very welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

MONICA HONEYSETT

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Monica Honeysett** from Charlton Lane. It is hoped to include an obituary in the March Lifeline.

HUNTON ALMSHOUSES

Almshouse vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton or nearby villages should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Little Angels

A mother and toddler group in West Farleigh Church 1pm every Friday in term time.

From babies to pre-schoolers. Mums, Dads, Grandmothers, Grandfathers and carers all welcome. Coffee for adults, lots of toys and fun for the youngsters.



Parish Council Report

At the last Parish Council meeting, parishioners asked for the flooding at the bottom of Smiths Hill and the potholes caused, to be rectified. This is an ongoing problem and KCC Highways are aware and have not come up with a long term remedy. Also, the flooding on Lower Road between Charlton Lane and Church Lane. This will be discussed further with KCC Highways.

The budget for 2023/2024 was discussed and agreed.

A donation to the Evergreens of £750 was awarded. (This could go towards an outing.) £500 will be donated to the Church for the upkeep of the churchyard.

It is looking into a commemorative gift for children in the village. The Parish Council is happy to support a BIG LUNCH for the Coronation on 7th May. A meeting of Farleigh Friends has been arranged. See next page.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Struggling with bills, not sure where to turn. Lonely, not coping with the current situation etc There is help out there, but they won't help you unless they know you need help. You must ask and not leave it until you are desperate.

Do contact the pastoral team, who will be able to point you to the right people to get help. Contact details on page 3.

CAN YOU HELP?

The following charities would welcome gifts for their charity shops or money for them to help those in need.

Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter [Home | Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter \(maidstoneshelter.org.uk\)](https://www.maidstoneshelter.org.uk)

Salvation Army ([Maidstone | The Salvation Army](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk))

Samaritans (<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/maidstone/>)

Make a Difference Maidstone (<https://www.madm.org.uk/>)

The Princess Project (<https://www.princessproject.co.uk/>)

British Red Cross (<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/>)



CORONATION BIG LUNCH

It has been suggested nationally that Street Parties and celebrations be held on Sunday 7th May. In the past the Parish Council has arranged similar events. But it would be a great opportunity for **Farleigh Friends** to work together and organise a great celebration so...



**...THERE WILL BE AN
INFORMAL MEETING
7.30 TICKLED TROUT
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS THE BIG
LUNCH AND OTHER IDEAS**

If you would like to help, plan or organise, OR just have some good ideas, come along. It would be good to have some new ideas.

WI SPECIAL EVENT

Wednesday 29th March

TONY HARRIS will be presenting in the WI Hall

Sherlock Holmes versus Jack the Ripper

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IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

After last year's extreme temperatures, including the snow and deep freeze we encountered in December, I realised that this year would be a good time to review parts of the gardens I manage. Though many plants seem to be completely devastated, including some established Phormiums and Cordylines (which only take a drop to -5°C), I'm hoping that some will come back in the Spring. At the moment I'm leaving many things alone rather than cutting anything back to prevent any further stress to the plants. Though it does look unsightly, I've found they have a better chance of recovery if left. If not, it's an opportunity to redesign that area.



Devastated phormium!

This year I'm taking a slightly different approach and producing most plants from seed. Apart from the fact that it isn't such a financial hit if anything is lost through drought or cold, it is a really great thing to be able to produce a stunning display of flowers or veg that you've produced yourself from start to finish, though it does require some extra time and a bit more space.

For those of us who want to get a good start on the year, it is still too early to sow some things outdoors, but lots can be sown inside. February is one of the busiest times in the Gardener's calendar, but I think also one of the most enjoyable. I love spending hours holed up in the greenhouse when it's all cold outside, starting all the seeds for this year! Though last March we were hit with unseasonal heat, which killed a lot of the seedlings, so it's always worth keeping an eye on temperatures which could go either way.

In the Veg Patch

Broad bean 'The Sutton' can be sown outdoors at a depth of 2" and 6" between plants minimum. Potatoes can start to be chitted in egg boxes on a windowsill or light space, ready to plant out next month. The larger ones can be cut in half or even thirds to give you more! March and April may still give frosts, so these will need protection once outside.

Cloches can be put over ground to warm it up before planting seeds. Horticultural fleece is a must have in my supplies and laying this over areas to be planted warms the soil in advance of carrots, parsnips etc being sown. I've also used floor insulation, whatever works!



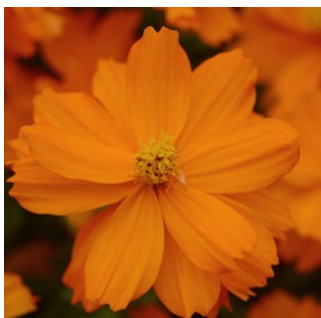
Otherwise there are many things to be sown indoors. Tomatoes, peppers and chillis, cucumber, herbs and salad leaves can be started, as can spinach, ready to be transplanted out when the weather is kinder.

In the borders

From nothing to everything to do! If like me, you are seeding flowers off, there are many amazing things that can be sown now, again indoors or in a heated greenhouse. As last year was so ridiculously dry, I'll be concentrating more on drought-tolerant varieties to create impact and hopefully require little more than deadheading.

Geraniums, gazania, begonia, nasturtiums and marigolds are a staple show in Summer, working both in borders and pots and baskets and will take dry conditions. And there are loads of beautiful annuals and perennials that add a real blaze of colour to borders. Scabious, Echinacea, Verbena Bonariensis and Osteospermum are all favourites of mine, and I love Cosmos, with its dainty feathery leaves! There are so many different varieties of everything now, it's easy to find something that will fit into whatever colour scheme you plant to, and there is a lot more choice with seeds.

Dahlia and Canna tubers and lily bulbs can be potted up, but do still keep these under cover. I bring mine on in the greenhouse until all risk of frost has passed before putting these outside. If you do find yourself running out of space with all the indoor creations, don't worry! In just a month things can be seeded directly outside. Antirrhinum, Aquilegia and poppies scattered through the flower beds look great as random sowings in any spare patches you may have!



THIS PAGE IS FOR VILLAGERS. This means you!

Please send in your articles, poems, photos, moans and gratefulness!



(We had a great article from Peter Hards in December).

Cliff Kirk-Brown has sent in this article. Many of you will be happy for the games to finish more quickly. There is always someone who has to pour more drinks or make the tea, because they have quickly run out of money.

How to win Monopoly in the shortest possible time

Monopoly has a reputation for causing more arguments and cries of “that’s not fair” than any other board game, with the problem of many players having their own “House” rules or amendments to how the official game should be played. In particular the rules governing the collecting of rent while in Jail and the Auctioning of Properties seems to cause the most disagreements. The other reason Monopoly received poor press in some quarters is the length of time the average game takes to find a winner, even in the Time Limited Mode. But what if you could complete the game in as little as eight roles of the dice?



Go to www.thefarleighs.co.uk to find a scenario which promises just that, but the odds of achieving it are on the long side.

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SPORTS REPORT

We would love photos of the village sports. Formal groups, action shots all welcome.

FOOTBALL



Our difficult season continued into the New Year with both teams desperate to bring our run of bad results to an end. Our 1st XI ended the year with defeats by Greenways 8-2, Sturry 7-0, Ashford 4-0 and we started after Christmas losing 5-1 away to Cuxton. (At least our goalie doesn't get cold!) Meanwhile our 2nd XI, although losing every game, have been a lot closer, our defeats came at the hands of Westerham 3-2, Ide Hill 2-1 and finally Kings Hill 3-1. (It's a shame Cristiano Ronaldo has just gone to Saudi Arabia, we could do with him!)

NETBALL



As if in solidarity with our footballers, our girls are also finding victories hard to come by but in every game have competed well and hopefully a victory is not far off. We lost to Dragon Flies 48-19, Kittens 31-21 and Sensations 25-18.

CRICKET



Nothing to report, only to say we start at the end of April with net practice sessions beforehand. If you would like to get involved, you will be made most welcome, a friendly bunch!

Ring Terry on 01622 815267 for more information.

SPORTS CLUB NEWS

December ton up winners:

67 Lance Boseley	£30
8 Terry Baines	£20
148 Tina Woodhams	£10

Christmas Jackpot ton up winners:

143 Alan Godfrey	85 Ted French	£30
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THE EVERGREENS



The Evergreens Christmas tea was delayed by a week because of the snow. But we had a fun afternoon. John Pimm, one of the members, played the piano and we sang some favourite carols. We then had a splendid tea accompanied with Prosecco (non-alcoholic of course!) In January, we had a talk about some interesting but little known facts about London. Did you know Marble Arch was supposed to have been the entrance to Buckingham Palace but it was too narrow for State carriages to pass through. We had Haggis, champit tatties and bashed neeps for lunch as it was the day before Burns Night. Nips of Whisky were also taken round (alcoholic this time). **New members always welcome.** Call Helen 01622 814445 for more information. Transport can be arranged.

THE FARLEIGHS W.I



Our delayed Christmas Party due to the weather was a great success – plenty of games and laughter and a buffet washed down with bubbly. This followed our Christmas lunch at the Walnut Tree – East Farleigh where the team delivered a delicious meal for 28 – enjoyed by all.

January and February Meetings will be on Zoom to avoid dark nights and bad weather driving. We will be holding catch up lunch meetings on Tuesday January 17th and Tuesday 7th February - Bring your lunch and join us for Coffee and a natter.

If you are interested in meeting others, like craft or art, darts, walking or just talking- come along and 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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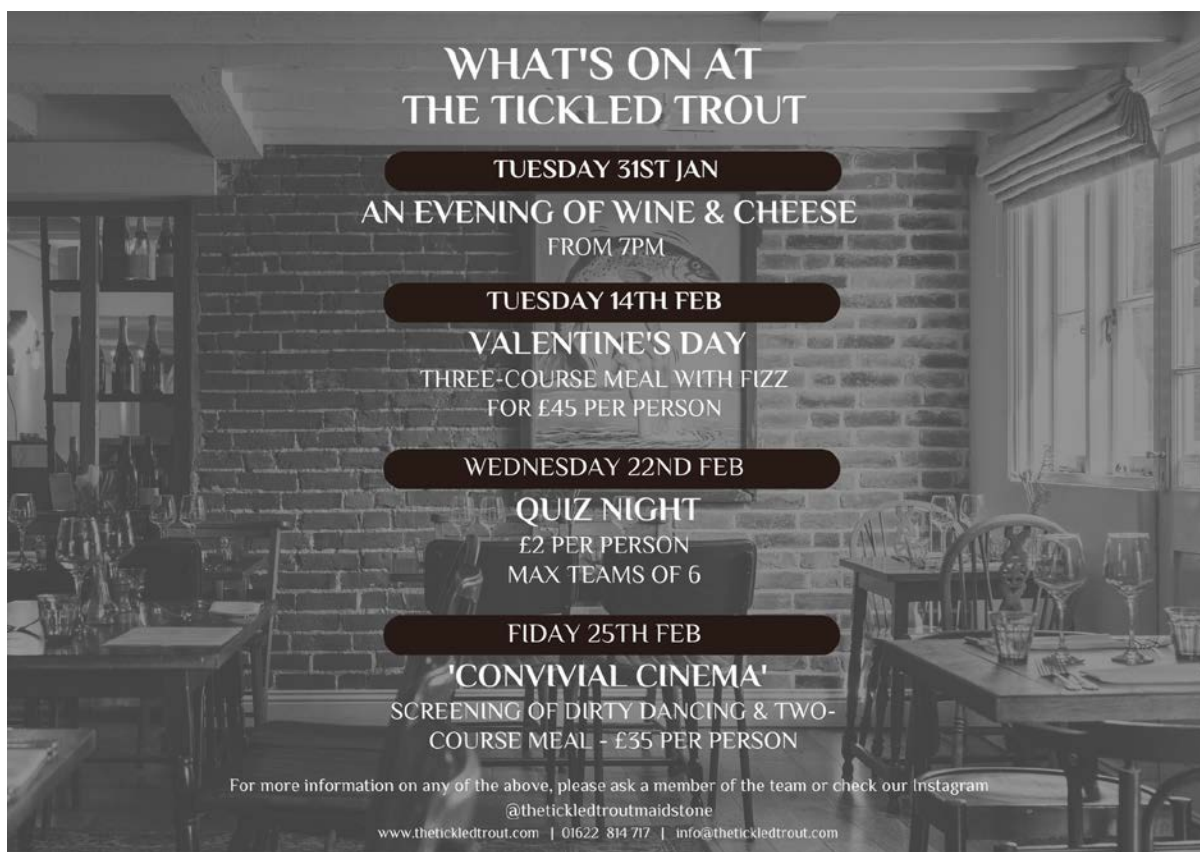
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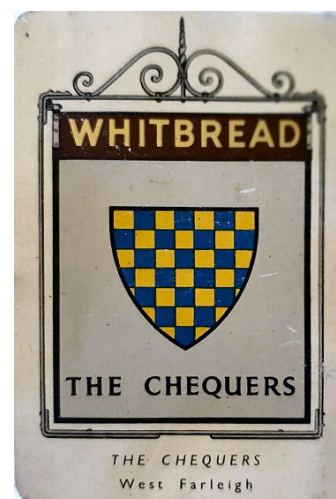
ABOUT THE CHEQUERS as shown on front cover (now the Tickled Trout).

In 1827 Sir Henry Fitzherbert, of Smiths Hall, gave a dinner in the pub for all his Cottage tenants. Probably a slightly different menu to what is served in the Tickled Trout today!

A John Philpot was listed as landlord in 1828. Philpots have lived in the village until very recently. Roly was the last Philpot in the village.

Len and Joan Platt were the last landlords before it became the Tickled Trout and part of a larger group. Many of us can remember Len, a larger than life character, sitting by the bar. Woe betide anyone who innocently sat in his chair. The pub itself was very characterful with the traditional nicotine brown ceilings, with notes of many different currencies pinned to them. A shove ha'penny board was well used as the pub was very welcoming and well supported.

Especially as Hop picking time!
(But that's another story!)



LOCAL BUSINESSES

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No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	nomuckinabout@outlook.com
Heathside Electrical	Electrical	www.heathsideelectrical.co.uk	Sam Sephton	07976 895001	heathsideelectrical@gmail.com
D. Ward	Plumbing & Heating services		Darren Ward	07973 314266	darren@dward.biz
Pest Purge	Pest Control	www.pestpurge.co.uk	Richard Lee	07758 615101	richard@pestpurge.co.uk
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~~FLYING~~ *around the* FARLEIGHS



The New Year sees a new direction for this column to cover the wider area around our villages where interest in our local wildlife is increasing. Coxheath & Farleigh and Marden have their own Facebook pages for enthusiasts; both are worth a look if you 'do' Facebook. The editors are looking for more involvement from readers too. If there's anything you'd like to know about the local wildlife (flying, walking, crawling or just quietly growing) email me at mardenwildlife@gmail.com with your queries or suggestions and I'll do my best to respond.

So, let's kick off 2023 with Kate (no, not HRH) who lucky villagers may have seen feeding alongside chaffinches in their gardens this winter. Kate is an old Kentish name for the Brambling, a close relative of the Chaffinch that breeds way up north in Scandinavia, migrating south in the winter to snow-free areas where it can find food, preferably beech mast but seeds in general will do.

A Lifeline reader recently contacted me to ask where they could be seen after a previous mention on this page. But therein lies a problem. When bramblings migrate, they have the whole of Europe to choose from. This means one year the UK will have tens of thousands, if not millions. In another we may only have a handful because other parts of Europe have had a better crop of beechmast. Winter



21-22 was a good year, but this winter we've had only a few.

In Marden, many farmers put out additional seed for birds in winter, and trailcams monitor what comes to feed. These two pictures are typical of those we've captured containing bramblings and provide a good comparison of their numbers for last winter (top) and this. The bottom picture also shows a good comparison between brambling (closest to the camera) and the chaffinch behind it.

Any questions? Please contact Ray Morris on mardenwildlife@gmail.com.

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