

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY:

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
VILLAGE PLANT & CAKE SALE
CORONATION CELEBRATION
CRICKET MATCH & BBQ

Mon 20th March, 7.30pm
Sun 9th April, 9.30am
Sat 20th May
Sun 7th May, 12pm
Fri 23rd June, 6pm

Bramley Barn, Dandelion Time
All Saints
Church carpark
Cricket ground
Cricket ground

NEW ON THE WEBSITE:

Springtime WALKS around West Farleigh
Distributed freely in March 2023 Edition 552

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Website: www.thefarleighs.co.uk Email: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk

Deadline for the next issue is 20th March 2023

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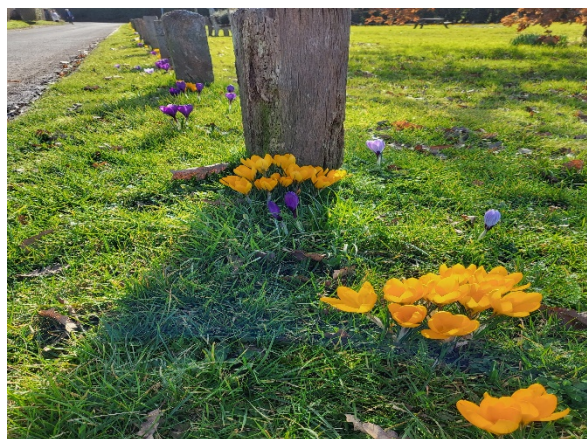




Note from the Editors: Surprised to see Sara's gardening column here? Well, to take advantage of our new, 8 page of colour format, the Rector's letter, church and parish notices have moved to the centre pages.

IN THE GARDEN with Sara Cushing

For me, the proper start of Spring is when I see the crocus coming up around The Green. Always the yellows first, then the purples. And then the daffodils around the trees come to life, and all planted by lovely people in this beautiful village. It really is the most uplifting sight!



We always seems to get a 'False Spring' though.

We go through a warm phase and then a cold snap happens, so I'm not inclined to take protection off the greenhouse, or to unwrap any banana plants just yet! I'm keeping all my seeds warm in the greenhouse with cloches and fleece still. Just in case..and on that note, my Stocks have started coming up!

I love walking into the greenhouse and finding

something has germinated!! Stocks are a very underrated annual, and after planting a whole lot into a customer's border last year, I remembered how fab they are. They are drought tolerant and the scent that comes from these, especially with night varieties is quite powerful. Colours range from whites to deep purples so are perfect to fill in any spaces in summer borders!

No summer border is ever complete without lavender, which is something I've been chatting about with a couple of my customers recently. Lavender is an essential for pollinating insects and there are some fabulous varieties of English now available. Though all lavenders originate from the Mediterranean, the French are more temperamental, only withstanding temperatures to approx -2°C, whereas the English strains can go to as low as -12°C. With the unprecedented temperatures we've had this year I'm not considering anything other than properly hardy. During my research, I also found that French lavender is considered a noxious weed in Australia!



<https://downderry-nursery.co.uk/> are our amazing local lavender nursery who produce strong varieties to suit our space and environment, and they came up trumps with the impact of flower combined with the hardiness we need. Some of my favourite beautiful, alternative English varieties for you all to consider, should you be planting lavenders this year! (see next page).





Rosea



Purity



Blue Ice



Heavenly Night

In the borders

If, like me, you've run out of all available space indoors, then annual seeds can be sown in the borders towards the end of this month. This is where 'Drift Planting' comes in. Obviously a still day is pretty essential, (learnt totally from experience and how not to do it), and a bit of forward thinking helps because

ideally, for example, the taller foxgloves and hollyhocks are to the back of the border, antirrhinum and poppies mid border, and calendula and the lower lying plants to the front to maximise impact. The idea is to create a natural-looking effect with annuals weaving in between perennials. It's one of the things I love doing most, because it creates a bit of random chaos in between structure.

Otherwise, overgrown perennials can be lifted, split and replanted to fill in gaps, cornus (dogwood), cotinus (smokebush) and salix (willow) can be pruned and all half hardy and annual flower seeds can be sown indoors, Geranium, cosmos, nasturtiums, begonia, lobelia, pretty much the summer displays are all good to go now.



I've waited ages to do these, having bought the seeds two months ago! And wildflower mixes can be sown outdoors as well now. We're planning a wildflower verge in one particular garden I manage, so I'm very much looking forward to seeing how this will turn out in a couple of months!

Deadheading daffodils and feeding up for next year is essential to ensure nutrients get back into the bulb and ensure a display for the following Spring, and snowdrops can be lifted and split for replanting while they are still green.

Now we can start feeding things! Rhododendron and azaleas benefit from feeding now on with a good ericaceous feed, especially.

In the Veg Patch

So all the potatoes that have been chitted so carefully in egg-boxes are ready to go out! Whether you put them in big pots or trenches they still need to be protected from any late frosts we are still susceptible to for the next month or so.

Carrots and parsnips can go into a well-prepared bed now. This year we've gone for the smaller Chantenay as well as rainbow varieties. My choice of what to plant depends on what will be eaten, and these look amazing on a plate!



Spinach and brassica can be started now indoors, as can the salads. The leafy crops have a good start if planted in March. Do not be too eager to plant the beans just yet! It is still too cold and there is not enough daylight to produce anything other than a leggy seedling which will not be strong enough to give a decent crop.

Keeping an eye on the weather and wishing you all a happy gardening month!

Sara

CANINE CORNER

Anyone walking around the village will soon discover that West Farleigh is a village of dog-lovers. So the Editors are delighted to have a new column on the subject, written by Rebecca Hawkins who lives with husband David in the Old Schoolhouse.



Hello I'm Rebecca. Myself, my husband Dave, my daughters Rowan and Ffion and our Newfoundland Boycie moved to the village in 2016. I have always owned dogs as well as lots of other animals from Border Collies, German Shepherds, Schnauzers and Newfies.

When Boycie passed away in 2020 I needed my dog fix so I started walking dogs for a company. I quickly realised I had a natural ability to lead a pack and so sought a boarding and day care licence to allow me to run a business from my home.

The dogs I look after are all different breeds that have such fun but sometimes challenging personalities and so feed me with a wealth of knowledge and tips on how to entertain them, keep them safe and train them. With my days now full of dog related fun stories and

training tips I thought it would be nice to share some.

Breed focus: The Newfoundland

Is that a bear or a dog?" Newf owners hear this just about every time they head out with their dogs. A quick walk is near impossible because this breed is so immense that people simply have to stop and get to know him.

The Newfoundland is truly special. He's probably the most famously heroic breed of all time, but he simultaneously ranks as one of the gentlest giants in dogdom. What's his story? Of course it starts in Newfoundland, Canada, where the breed was first named in the late 1770s. Because the Newfoundland is such an old breed, we are left to speculate about its earliest origins, but one theory suggests that the Vikings may have played a role. As far back as 1000AD, the Vikings brought large "bear dogs" to the region—this much we know from early writings. There are also reports that First Nations gravesites in Newfoundland circa 500AD have contained skeletons of giant dogs. The dogs the Vikings brought would have mated with the existing local dogs and possibly wolves. The Viking dogs and their offspring continued to mate, over the years, with dogs brought from various corners of the world by explorers. Regardless



of whether the Newfoundland has Viking roots, his giant, bear-like frame is undeniable, as is his toughness. The Newf was a working breed of vital importance in the harsh, eastern-Canadian climate. Each day, he helped fishermen by pulling their full, heavy nets ashore. With his webbed feet, endurance, and water-resistant coat, the Newfoundland has always been a world-class swimmer. Even the icy Atlantic waters off the coast of eastern Canada have never been a match for this tough dog.

Today's Newfoundland is a heavily boned, muscular breed who can easily outweigh his owner. Males stand about 28 inches tall; females closer to 26 inches. Weights range from 130 to 165 pounds for males and 100 to 120 pounds for females. As for the breed's temperament, he has one of the tenderest hearts in the dog world. The sweet nature of the Newf is ingrained in them. Gentle, loving, and protective—he sounds perfect, and some would say he is! But... living with a Newf isn't for everyone. This breed's size is enormous. For this reason alone, he's not an ideal choice for apartment living or small spaces as they literally lay where they want.

It's also no surprise, given his origins, that the Newf isn't going to be well-suited for hot climates where he's at risk of over-heating. If you are extremely house proud, this also isn't an ideal breed for you. His thick, double coat has an uncanny ability to attract dirt, mud, burrs... you name it. He requires a good brushing three times a week and bathing fairly regularly. Lots of owners joke that there is always a dog hair on the inside of their boiled eggs. And then, there's the drooling.

Famous newfs? Many of us read or watched Peter Pan and fell in love with Nana, the Darling family's beloved Newfoundland. She wasn't just the family pet; she was the household's official nanny. Given what we know about this breed's history and capabilities, it's almost hard to separate truth from fiction.



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MONICA HONEYSETT

Monica Honeysett passed away on the 12th January aged 90 in a nursing home in Pembury after a short illness. Monica grew up as part of a close family living in West Farleigh where she spent nearly all her life living in St Helens Lane and Charlton Lane. Monica went to school at West Farleigh Primary with her siblings Peggy and Jackie and she kept a bible which she was presented with as a 14 year old pupil of West Farleigh School for the rest of her life.

Monica married her late husband Doug in 1951 and after a short period of living in Coxheath they moved to West Farleigh in 1959 where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Monica and Doug loved tending to their garden, which, thanks to their hard-work and green fingers always looked a beautiful array of colour, whilst they also grew plenty of fresh produce. Doug was also a keen fisherman, a hobby that Monica shared in later years. Initially, she went to make sure Doug didn't fall into the water, but she soon caught the bug and was soon fishing herself, often catching more than Doug.

Throughout her life in Farleigh, Monica worked on the land, hop and fruit picking and over many years was an employee of Days Farm, Goodwins Farm and more latterly, Castle Farm where she worked for Jack and Yvonne Martin.

To everyone who knew her, Monica was a lovely lady. Kind, easy-going, placid and gentle, she was distinctly non-confrontational, and at her happiest when in the company of those she knew well.

Sadly, it was in February 2013 that Doug passed away. He and Monica had shared a very happy marriage lasting over 61 years, and she naturally missed him endlessly when he had gone. Over the past year Monica became frailer, and she was devastated by the passing of her son Mark from cancer last June, an unimaginable loss for her and the whole family.

Having spent time in hospital in July, Monica moved to Hazeldene House Care Home in Pembury where she could receive the additional support she required. She settled well there, especially enjoying getting her hair and nails done, whilst she also appreciated the company of the staff and residents. It was at the home that on the 12th January, she passed away.

Monica was the last Honeysett in Farleigh with Doug's mother Elizabeth living in West Farleigh since 1931 at 2 The Green, 11 Charlton Lane and later 1 Goulston bungalows until her death in the early 80's. Doug's brother also lived in Charlton lane for many years, this meant there were Honeysetts in Charlton Lane for over 90 years.

She will be continually missed and loved by all those she knew, however it is her family's hope that, wherever she is right now, she's been reunited once more with Doug, Mark and all those precious loved ones who passed before. She leaves 5 children, Paul, Julie, Richard, Carl and Matthew.

Pastoral letter by Lorna Faulkner

As I write to you this month, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. This ancient Christian season is often characterised by the question 'What are you giving up for Lent?'



When I was about 12, I gave up sweets. I can still recall the joyful breaking of the fast with a packet of liquorice wheels. I eschewed daytime TV for Lent when my eldest was a baby. What I recall from that time was how much more time I found I had to do both useful and meaningful things, and how much I appreciated the quiet in the house when he was napping – as opposed to filling the quiet space with the noise of the outside world! As a 12 year-old exploring faith, I didn't really think too deeply about my reasons for my fast – it was more a feat of self-control than an exercise in spiritual growth.

As a young 26 year-old mum, I used the time to pray more, and found it enriching and soul-feeding. But I went back to daytime TV noise after Lent. It didn't produce a lasting shift in my way of life. I wonder if, rather than asking 'What are you giving up for Lent?' a better question might be 'WHY are you giving up for Lent?'

Often, Lent is used to kick-start some self-improvement that needs to be done, or to break a habit that has a hold on us. While these are valid reasons in many ways – and helpful and positive too - at its heart, the Lenten fast is not about improving 'us' at all. In the Church, we believe it is about focussing our lives on the life of Jesus as we mirror – albeit in a tiny way - the 40 days of fasting that Jesus undertook as he prepared to begin his world-changing ministry on Earth; a ministry that would lead him through the suffering of the cross to the magnificent glory of the resurrection.

It is part of the on-going journey that brings us to the joy of Easter – a reminder and a recognition that our pilgrimage as people here on earth will not always be easy, joyful and abundant; there are hard times to walk through, times where we experience want and frustration. But it's a reminder and an encouragement too – that trying times won't last forever – change is possible... And that hope is at the heart of the message of Jesus.

Psalms 30:5 says 'Sorrow lasts for a night, but joy comes in the morning...'
I pray for us all that we will know true hope in our hearts and lives as we journey through Lent towards the celebration of Easter.

Lorna

Church services

Sunday 12th March 9.30am **Holy Communion (Lorna Faulkner)**
Sunday 25th March 9.30am **Morning Prayer (David Jones)**
Sunday 9th April 9.30am **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**



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.

HAVE YOU JOINED WEST FARLEIGH FRIENDS?

We are volunteers who help publicise, organise and staff events in our village. There are currently 31 members of Farleigh Friends but we'd love some more. No commitment to any particular event, just put your name down. Email Katie O'Connor at katieeth66@gmail.com including your email and (if available) whatsapp number.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council will be supporting the Coronation Big Lunch (see below), which it hopes will be a Big Success and something to remember.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 20th March 7.30 in Bramley Barn, on Dandelion Time premises on Charlton Lane. Please park in Sports Club carpark. Everyone is welcome. Villagers may speak at the beginning of the meeting.

CORONATION CELEBRATION



Following the coronation of King Charles on Saturday, there will be a BIG Village celebration on Sunday 7th May with food, fun, music and games down at the cricket ground. The draft program looks like this:

12 noon	Children's games and races
1pm	Sit down Big BBQ lunch
3pm	The Big Tug of War

Tickets in advance please. Your ticket includes a delicious lunch with BBQ, salads, vegan options, a generous ration of beer and wine and childrens' drinks.

Adults and teens:	£17.50 (£12.50 *Early Bird)
Children 1 – 12:	£7.50 (£ 5 *Early Bird)

(*) Early bird tickets are on sale until 5pm Easter Sunday, 9th

April. Book early to avoid disappointment! Tickets either on-line from Eventbrite (search WEST FARLEIGH) or in person phone/text Alex on 07843 112665. Thanks to the WF Parish Council for subsidising this event, which is open to ALL village residents and friends. Save plastic, please bring your own glasses if you can! Tables and chairs provided.



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SPORTS REPORT

We would love photos of the village sports. Formal groups, action shots all welcome – like this dramatic aerial moment caught by the camera of Steve Birchall.



FOOTBALL

Our 1st XI started the month with a 9-1 defeat away to Sandwich. Sadly since then we have not played again and we have made the difficult decision to withdraw from the Kent League for the rest of the season. We hope to start afresh entering the Sevenoaks League next season. Let's hope it's a new beginning for our 1st XI.



Meanwhile our 2nd XI started last month with more defeats versus Wilder Park 3-2, Five Oak Green 2-0 and Cudham 5-1. Gladly some good news to end on: we finally got our first point of the season drawing 0-0 at home to Ide Hill and if that wasn't enough, we followed that up with our first victory this season, 3-0 over Weald Wolves. Let's hope our unbeaten run continues!



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NETBALL

Our girls have again battled hard last month and although without a victory have made our opponents work for their win. We started with a loss to Kent Warriors 35-21, then Lynx 32-28 and finally Dragon Flies 34-23. With only two games left of our winter season, let's hope we can finish on a high with a victory!



CRICKET

Our new season is fast approaching at the end of April. If you would like to get involved in whatever way, please get in touch with me, Terry, on 01622 815267 to discuss.

December ton up winners:

144 Jack Martin	£30
155 Tony Walsh	£20
58 Sophie Payne	£10

Yours in Sport, Tel.

THE EVERGREENS



The Evergreens were entertained by Kettle Bridge Concertinas. They came with song books and the members enjoyed singing along to well-known songs. They also played some tunes for us, demonstrating the different pitches of the Concertinas. Some are quite large! Surprisingly, for some, the blend of different pitches makes a great sound.

Our meeting on the 28th will be lunch. Jacket potatoes with a choice of toppings. Tea on 14th March will be preceded by a talk by Paul Warren "Phrases and Sayings", which sounds interesting.

New Evergreens members always welcome. Ring Helen 01622 814445 for more information.



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THE FARLEIGHS W.I

We have at our March Meeting on 8th March the Pilot Eddie Asquith giving a talk on “Up in Full Flight”. April’s Meeting is a taste testing experience – who knows which supermarket will have the best tasting products?



Tickets for our open meeting on 29th March with Tony Harris have SOLD OUT. Stalls for the Table top sale in the hall are available (£10) on Saturday 22nd April – just email me.

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@wkwfwi.org.uk.

Diane Scott- President
The Farleighs W.I Hall – Forge Lane East Farleigh.

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~~FLYING~~ *around the* ~~FARLEIGHS~~ →

ARE BULLFINCHES BOOZY BIRDS?

No, but the question is a tenuous link to last month's Lifeline article on The Chequers (now The Tickled Trout), ale and beer, and the Wild Service, aka Chequer, Tree.



The Weald of Kent Preservation Society (WKPS) is researching the whereabouts of this unusual and relatively scarce tree in the area, so the Farleighs' residents may be able to help.

The pubs' name is usually connected with the chequer board shown on their signs, but it seems there was a more logical connection to beer via the fruits of the chequer tree, as these were used to flavour the ale – which was brewed from barley, but without hops. Pubs were commonly referred to as alehouses, before hops were introduced into the country to flavour it, after which ale became known as beer.

As can be seen from this photo by Anne Boswell, the fruits – chequers - are quite distinctive and change from bright orange to brown as they ripen. But their taste is not particularly pleasant as they only become edible when half-rotten and are acid-tasting. In Victorian times these apparent

delicacies were sold in markets (principally as a children's sweet) in large quantities.

So where do bullfinches come in? As the chunky shape of this beautiful bird's bill suggests, bullfinches are adept at cracking open seeds to eat the kernel.

Other autumn fruits like hawthorn berries are consumed whole by many birds, and in huge numbers - just watch your garden blackbirds stripping the berries from your pyracantha! The birds digest the pulp and discard the seeds in their droppings some distance away, thus helping to disperse the tree from whence they came over a wider area. But, perhaps due to its acidity, the ripe chequer isn't very popular with birds that consume the whole fruit.

Its seeds are a different matter though, and despite its reputation for destroying apple blossom in the spring, the bullfinch is a seed predator – its bill specially adapted to open tough seed cases.

Add to this the fact that the fruits of Wild Service tree carry only one seed, not two like closely related species, and you can understand why the bullfinch's love of its seeds could be an explanation for it not spreading easily to different locations.

Furthermore, unlike most other birds, both the male, and no less formidable-looking female, as seen in these photos by Alex Nicholls, are happy to forage for food at the exposed bare ends of the trees' leafless branches in November when the fruit ripens.



Whether or not this splendid bird is the villain in the piece, we don't know. What we do know, though, is that the Wild Service or Chequer Tree, although not under threat of extinction, is becoming more and more restricted in its range. Hence WKPS' plan to track them down in our area and record them.

Do you know of any in the area? Was there once one near The Tickled Trout or over the road in Smith's Hall? As they are long-lived trees perhaps it's still there? They are particularly conspicuous in autumn when their bright golden leaves stand out, but only briefly, and perhaps it's a tree where you always seem to spot bullfinches, so maybe you have one near you after all.



If you think you do, please let me know (lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk). The Weald of Kent is a special place. Let's try and keep it that way.

Ray Morris

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