

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE



## WEST FARLEIGH

### VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY:

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am	All Saints
PARISH COUNCIL AGM	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	Dandelion Time
VILLAGE PLANT & CAKE SALE	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Church
<b>CORONATION CELEBRATION</b>	<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May, 12pm</b> <i>Details on page 9</i>	<b>Cricket ground</b>
CRICKET MATCH & BBQ	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 6pm	Cricket ground

Distributed freely in April 2023 Edition 553

Editors: Stephen Norman, Helen Swan, Sue Birchall, Katie O'Connor

Website: [www.thefarleighs.co.uk](http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk)

Email: [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk)

Deadline for the next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

John's Carpets

WHERE PRICE MEETS VALUE



**CARPETS • VINYL • INSTALLATION**

**FREE FITTING INCLUDED**  
**QUICK TURN AROUND**  
**FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE & MEASURE**

OPEN **MONDAY TO FRIDAY** 9AM - 5PM  
AND **SATURDAY** 9AM - 4PM

**Family Run Business in West Farleigh & Ashford**



**VINYL**



**CARPETS**

FOR A  
COMPETITIVE  
QUOTE FROM  
A COMPANY  
YOU CAN TRUST

**5 STAR REVIEWS**



88 Hunter Avenue, Willesborough, Ashford, TN24 0HG  
[www.johnscarpetskent.co.uk](http://www.johnscarpetskent.co.uk)

**CALL 01233 663 922 or 07951 257 562**



# PEST PURGE

PEST CONTROL

*For all your pest problems*

Rats, Mice, Squirrels, Foxes, Rabbits, Moles,  
Fleas, Bedbugs, Cockroaches, Flies,  
Moths, Wasps and Birds.

No job too small  
Same day support

Call 01622 842481  
Mobile 07758 615101



**ST HELENS MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
East Farleigh

**Ofsted Outstanding Nursery**  
For children aged 2 to 5

**Small Primary**  
Continuing Montessori Education  
Ages 5 to 11

**Beautiful Rural Setting**  
Established 1989

**Contact**  
01622 721731  
[office@sthelensmontessori.co.uk](mailto:office@sthelensmontessori.co.uk)  
[www.sthelensmontessori.co.uk](http://www.sthelensmontessori.co.uk)



## IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

Is it just me, or has this year got off to the slowest start? Last March, we had unseasonable heat which fried all the seedlings I planted. I had to resow and everything was late.

So I started earlier this year. And then we had all the cold! I spent quite a bit of time in the greenhouse last month sowing as it was so wet, so the seedlings, if little else, are on track.



These ones are particularly important, not just because a cucumber cost me 75p this week... but because the West Farleigh Annual Plant Sale is on! This fabulous village event is on Saturday 20th May at the church from 11am to 4pm. Please come along to pick up a bargain, and any extras you have will be gratefully received. All proceeds are to the Farleigh Bloomers and the Church, and I'll be donating some slightly more unusual varieties of plants as well as being on hand to try to answer any of your gardening queries..

April is one of the lovelier months in the garden I think. Though spring displays of daffodils are waning, hyacinths and tulips give an amazing display at this time. I like going for unusual varieties and in particular Parrot tulips, some of which defy all rules when it comes to colour combinations!

### In the borders

With the warmer weather coming and Spring displays out, it's time to look at Summer displays. I try to sow flowers in the first part of April, the days are long enough to ensure the seedlings don't get leggy..and there is a bit more room in the greenhouse as the geraniums are now in the cold frame to harden off.

I found a fabulous sunflower this year in anticipation of the annual Sunflower Growing Competition in the village! 'Ms Mars' is an unusual pink variety, still reaching 6' in height and I'm looking forward to seeing how these turn out. Other summer flowering annuals can be sown now, cosmos, scabious, lobelia and gazania, as well as the flowers I'll be using for companion planting. Calendula 'Needles and Pins' gets to 50cm height and I love the vibrant orange quilled petals.



Many summer flowering annuals should be pinched out to encourage a bushier growth. The topmost part of the stem is removed to encourage growth further down the plant. This applies to antirrhinum, sweet peas, petunia, fuschia among others. Dahlia can be pinched out once the stem reaches 1'.



It is worth keeping an eye on temperatures in the greenhouse, surprisingly ours got to 30°C at the end of March, so opening the doors during the day, and closing at night is a must to ensure temperatures don't get too extreme under glass. I won't be putting anything tender out just yet, the dahlia and canna are still under cover and will go out at the end of the month at the earliest.



## In the Veg Patch

I've been looking into companion planting more over the last couple of years in my ongoing quest for the ultimate organic garden. Mint or basil with their strongly scented leaves deters aphids which seek out host plants through scent, and can be used near carrots for carrot root fly or tomatoes for aphids, for example.



My mint always goes in pots, as it can take over everything if planted in the ground. Planting nasturtium near runner beans to deter blackfly is another method. The nasturtiums are sadly a 'sacrificial crop', but attract pollinating insects which should dispose of this pest. Calendula, when planted with courgette, attracts insects which help with pollination and lead to a better production.



If you haven't done so already, carrots and parsnips can be sown outside now, as well as the salad leaves, spring onions, leeks, beetroot and turnips. These are best done as successional sowings to ensure you have produce, all the way through the growing season. Because they need a long growing season, celeriac and swede should be planted at the end of April.

I've actually planted my lettuces, rocket and spinach in modular trays, preferring to bring the leafy crops on a bit more before planting out, because if they are bigger, they are more resistant to terminal damage from pests. Squashes and courgettes can be started indoors, as can beans.

April is the best time to start feeding all of your plants. I'm experimenting with seaweed fertilisers this year, rather than artificial, so I'll be able to give you the results later in the year..

Happy Gardening!

Sara

## **CANINE CORNER**



*Written by Rebecca Hawkins who lives with husband David in the Old Schoolhouse. Rebecca is a new contributor and this is her second piece, she will be writing about a different breed each month and some tips for all of the dog lovers and owners in our lovely village.*

Breed focus - The Golden Retriever Golden : Retrievers were originally bred as gun dogs to retrieve shot waterfowl during hunting and shooting parties – hence the name 'retriever'. The golden retriever breed originated in 1868 when Lord Tweedmouth realised that they wasn't that good at retrieving shot game from both land and water which was a necessity so he mated a yellow Wavy-Coated retriever named "Nous" with a Tweed Water spaniel named "Belle." Guisachan was the home of Dudley Coutts Majoribanks, the first Baron Tweedmouth, from 1854 to 1894.

It was here he famously bred the first golden retriever. Lord Tweedmouth and his Guisachan Retrievers are still remembered today and the Guisachan estate is occasionally used as a location for Golden Retriever shows, and is revered by breed enthusiasts as the home of the breed. Today Golden retrievers are a true family dog.

They're incredibly sociable, so an active family household works well for them. They love companionship and will not do well when left alone for long hours. This breed in particular can suffer from depression if left for long periods. The coat of the Golden is dense and water repellent complete with an undercoat. This coat protects the dog from the heat and the cold and therefore the coat should never be shaved or trimmed. Occasionally, extra length can be trimmed a bit but only to tidy the overall appearance as this coat creates a waterproof jacket for the dog. Weekly brushing is a must to help this clever coat shed and will also help your home and clothes.

Famous facts : One of these amazing dogs holds the world record for holding the most tennis balls in his mouth! A special dog called Finley who can fit an incredible 6 in. This breed also holds the record for the loudest bark! An incredible 113.1 decibels, the loudest barker is Charlie the Australian Golden retriever. Brain Games. What is a brain game? Any activity that provides your dog with mental enrichment and stimulation.



In the wild your dog would have to work as a pack or alone to track down potential prey using his scent, hearing and vision. A sedentary life within the home can result in a dog that feels stressed and/or frustrated. Many dogs who are over excited or displaying behavioural complaints are simply lacking stimulation. Simple brain games can be extremely powerful in eradicating some of these. Different breeds will lean towards different games to suit their abilities passed on through their genes. Please note that if you have several dogs there will often be a degree of competition which is natural however if this causes them to compete to the point of aggression then please be cautious when introducing games involving food or objects which are highly valued by them. Each month I will add a fun game you can try with your dog to help keep them and you happy and amused. Search game - moderate brain tester.

For most dogs 1.Put a treat or toy (while the dog is watching) under a pot or plastic cup. He will probably sniff at the pot first, try to wait for him to paw at the pot before you praise him and turn it over.

2. Add a second empty pot and practice asking your dog to select the one hiding the treat.

Encourage him to use his nose and vary the position of the pots. You can add a cue word like 'find it' but be consistent as they learn from repetition.

3. Add another empty pot and practice before your dog is confident at approaching and touching the pot to get his treat.

4. If your dog chooses the wrong pot don't respond. He'll learn that he only gets the reward when he chooses the correct one.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEST FARLEIGH

A voluntary Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been established for West Farleigh. Initially, this includes the roughly triangular area of Charlton Lane, Lower Road, and Ewell Lane.

Local folks are welcome and encouraged to join in using our link from either "The Farleighs" Facebook page, or by searching "Neighbourhood Watch West Farleigh" on Facebook. There is also a WhatsApp group if you wish to be included, for urgent, direct information sharing. Please message via Facebook. Anyone without internet or who doesn't use social media, we will be coming door to door over the next few weeks.



The scheme is for residents, carers or relatives of vulnerable residents and will be kept local and private for safety. Our aim is to provide a network of care for our immediate neighbours, offering comfort, peace of mind and support. A Neighbourhood Watch scheme doesn't stop at people being vigilant and reporting crime or suspicious activity. When a group of people come together, they can achieve great things. If an entire village is looking out for each other, it can make it a much less desirable target for criminals. Statistically, people who live in a NHW Area are much more likely to report suspicious or criminal behaviour.

We're currently in the process of acquiring some "Neighbourhood Watch Area" street signs, which will tentatively be located at each end of Charlton Lane, and at the Ewell Lane/Lower Road junction. We will be arranging some relaxed meetings for anybody who is interested to come along, even if it's just for a cuppa and a chat. It will be great to meet face to face, gain feedback, ideas, inspiration and to hear any concerns that we could address together. Soon, we hope to offer some self-defence classes, which are not only practical and healthy, but fun!

We are happy to assist (as much as we can) with ideas/solutions for lighting/security and we are pursuing discounts for scheme members regarding alarm systems, security lights and cameras.

Join us on our Facebook page for updates and ideas for your home, your family, crime news, scams and more. Primarily, the welfare of our neighbours is in our hearts. It doesn't take much to make a very real difference, either in someone's day or in their life. A little kindness can go such a long way.

Just by being part of this free, friendly, resourceful group you are already making a difference. Sincere thanks to everyone for your support and guidance in helping to create a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for West Farleigh.

Shell Bonner – Scheme Coordinator

**Barrett Roofing** 

Brandenburg Oast, Collier Street  
Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9RH

All types of roofing work undertaken, including:

**Flat Roofing   Tiling**  
**Lead Work   Slating**  
**Gutters   Fascias**

 **Tel:** 01892 730581 • **Mob:** 07850 785381  
**Email:** office@barrettroofing.co.uk

 IPAF Trained

 LOLER Cert.

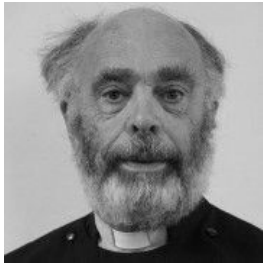
Sunhill  
Charlton Lane  
West Farleigh  
ME15 0PB

01622 720810

 **AngloGlobal**

**Access Platforms** **07730 43 55 65**

www.AngloGlobal.com



## Pastoral letter by David Jones

April is the month that seems to confirm that spring is here and new life is well established. Of course, we may still get cold, wet or dry spells but normally these are short-lived and the blossom opens out in all its glory. For that reason I have always loved April and remember when growing up in the suburbs of London, the joy of seeing primroses and daffodils in the fields when visiting relatives in the country during the Easter holidays. April is indeed a month for looking forward with renewed hope after the long winter months.

This year Easter comes in the first week of the month. The story begins again with the enthusiasm of Palm Sunday and the crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. The events that led up to Good Friday, the last supper with his disciples, his arrest, mock trial and then his crucifixion on good Friday, The darkness returns for a few days, until on Easter Sunday the wonderful news that Jesus had risen! Alleluia ! Sin had been overcome, death defeated and new life established in all its glory. We are no longer controlled by the things of darkness but now the new life expressed in the marvellous light of the risen Jesus,

Yet we know that whilst all this is true, we fail over and over again to grasp this promise and go on doubting the new life promised to us in the events of Easter. It's like not believing that summer is coming. Today it's fashionable to blame governments for the darkness we live in yet, so much of what happens in our lives is down to us. Our relationships with nature, the environment and with people is also something that needs a spring like approach. The baroness of so many things in our lives needs a fresh start and what better way than as we see spring developing and new life appearing so in our lives the same can and should be happening. I came across this prayer the other day and I wondered if applied to each of our lives in a daily approach to each new day what a change would be brought about not only in our lives but in the relationships we have in our world. Read it in that light, ponder how each new day might bring about changes in our outlook if we applied it.

Blessed are you, creator of all,  
To you be praise and glory forever.  
As your dawn renews the face of the earth  
Bringing light and life to all creation,  
May we rejoice in this day you have made;  
As we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,  
Open our eyes to behold your presence  
And strengthen our hands to do your will,  
That the world may rejoice and give you praise. Amen.

Have a wonderful Easter but above all enjoy the new opportunities that life offers us on a daily basis.

David

## Church Services

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**                      **9.30am EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**                    **9.30am Morning Worship**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING :

The Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March and attended by some local villagers. On the agenda was the discussion for the support of the Coronation event (see below) and the PC were happy to offer their support to the value of £500. This will go some way to making the event affordable for all and thanks were offered by those present. The PC advised that the PCSO system is to change and will be run through task forces and not individual PCSOs for each area. The current speed check survey was also discussed, more details will follow when the analysis is known.

West Farleigh Parish Council would like to present each child in the village (under the age of 18) with a commemorative coin to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Please email the Parish Clerk - [clerk@westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk) with your contact details and your child's name and age. Use the subject title "Coronation Coin" please.

The next Parish Council meeting is the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> May when all villagers are welcome.



**Computer Problems?**  
Quality Home and Business  
support

Any computer related  
issues please do not  
hesitate to contact Dean:

**Mobile**  
07722 293187

**Email**  
[info@warford-computers.co.uk](mailto:info@warford-computers.co.uk)

**Facebook:**  
Warford computers

**No call out charge, NO FIX NO  
FEE, £30 Per Hour**



## Upcoming Events :

### THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN – THE KING’S MACHINE

**Yes, our intrepid film maker is back!**

Rounding off his extraordinary series of films about life in WWII, and especially the war here in Kent, you can see Phillip Day’s latest investigation into the lives of two young pilots during the Battle of Britain. Lots of flying and wartime footage. Doors open **7pm on Saturday 29th April at All Saints Church**. Entry is free to all, donations bar. This film is the shortest of the series so far at 1 hr 20 mins so no interval.–The bar will be open for half an hour before the film, and after the show, so you can enjoy drinks and a chance to have a chat with Phillip about his amazing work.

### Annual Village Cricket match and BBQ starts 5.30pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Enjoy the BBQ and refreshments down at the cricket pavilion while the sun goes down over Teston and the two teams slog it out.

The captains of the Presidents XI and the Village XI are now out scouting for talent. Men and women, young and old, are all welcome to throw their bat in the ring, message Matt (07807 488426) or William (07943 208619) to sign up.

### CORONATION CELEBRATION : West Farleigh Coronation Celebration (12 noon on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May)



Following the coronation of King Charles on Saturday, there will be a BIG Village celebration on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May with food, fun, music and games down at the cricket ground. Don't miss out on EARLY BIRD TICKETS for this event, **sale ends 5pm on Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April**. Tickets either on-line from Eventbrite (search **WEST FARLEIGH CORONATION CELEBRATION**) or in person phone/text Alex on 07843 112665.

<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Children’s games and races</b>
<b>1pm</b>	<b>Sit down Big BBQ lunch</b>
<b>3pm</b>	<b>The Big Tug of War</b>

There will be a sit-down lunch, tables provided, down at the pavilion. BBQ provided by the Flying Pig Kitchen with a choice of lamb, chicken, burgers and sausages, plus vegan options. Ticket price includes a ration of beer, wine and children’s drinks. Children’s menu features burgers and sausage. Ice creams will be available in the pavilion.

**Tickets in advance please.**

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

This event is open to ALL village residents and their friends.

**PS. Save plastic, please bring your own glasses if you can!**

**PLEA FROM THE EVENTS TEAM – IF YOU HAVE ANY GARDEN GAMES, OLD TIES AND WELLIES THAT YOU ARE HAPPY TO LEND US PLEASE COULD YOU CONTACT SUE BIRCHALL ON 07921 903830 BY TEXT OR PHONE – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

## **SPORTS REPORT**

### **FOOTBALL**



Our second eleven continued their recent fine run of results last month beating Leigh 2-1 following that with an exciting 2-2 draw versus Wilder Park. Finally came a hard fought encounter with Dartford Celtic which resulted in a 4-2 loss.



### **NETBALL**

Our girls have had quite a month with an enforced two week rest and then the game against Headcorn in which we were trailing being abandoned due to one of our players being injured which took us to below the approved number of players for the game and therefore unable to continue. Our final game against second place Popi in which we trailed for most of the match except for one point where we were 30-29 up was lost 35-33. Overall a terrific performance – well done!



### **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.

#### **This month's ton up winners:**

104 Farleigh Forge	£30
16 Sue O'Donnell	£20
110 Lesley Cushing	£10

Yours in Sport, Tel.

## THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had a very interesting talk, by Paul Warren.

He spoke about the origins of some words and sayings.

Raining cats and dogs: farm cottages only had thatched rooves of straw or heather, so when it rained heavily, the rain came through the thatch bringing with it any animals living in it, such as rats, bats, squirrels etc. Kicked the bucket: Pigs are slaughtered by slitting their throats and the blood is collected into a bucket. They obviously objected to being killed and would kick the bucket! New members were welcomed and a great tea enjoyed.



We will be having an Easter tea on the 11<sup>th</sup> April and Fish and Chips on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Do come and join us, we would welcome some more members. Ring Helen 814445 for more info.

## THE FARLEIGHS W.I MARCH 2023

Eddie Asquith gave us an interesting insight on his journey to become a pilot at our March Meeting. April's Meeting is a taste testing experience – who knows which supermarket will have the best tasting products?



In addition to our monthly evening meeting we have catch up lunch time meetings planned for the last Monday of each month.

Our Ladies have been busy knitting chicks for the local school and 210 have been delivered.

The coach has been booked for our annual trip to the Broadstairs Dickens Festival.

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](mailto:Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk)

Diane Scott- President.

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



KIRK-BROWN LTD  
Chartered Surveyors

Planning and Building Regulation Applications  
Homebuyer Survey Reports  
Building Surveys  
Party Wall and Neighbourly Matters  
Defect Analysis  
Professional Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
Contact Cliff on 01622 817769 or 07908 641668  
Email [Cliff@Kirk-Brown-Ltd.co.uk](mailto:Cliff@Kirk-Brown-Ltd.co.uk)

## LOCAL TRADES LISTING

Business	Service	Website	Contact	Phone	email
Firefly Payroll Services	Payroll	<a href="http://www.fireflypayroll.com">www.fireflypayroll.com</a>	Jason Hart	01622 934110	<a href="mailto:enquiries@fireflypayroll.com">enquiries@fireflypayroll.com</a>
No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	<a href="mailto:nomuckinabout@outlook.com">nomuckinabout@outlook.com</a>
Heathside Electrical	Electrical	<a href="http://www.heathsideelectrical.co.uk">www.heathsideelectrical.co.uk</a>	Sam Sephton	07976 895001	<a href="mailto:heathsideelectrical@gmail.com">heathsideelectrical@gmail.com</a>
D. Ward	Plumbing & Heating services		Darren Ward	07973 314266	<a href="mailto:darren@dward.biz">darren@dward.biz</a>
Pest Purge	Pest Control	<a href="http://www.pestpurge.co.uk">www.pestpurge.co.uk</a>	Richard Lee	07758 615101	<a href="mailto:richard@pestpurge.co.uk">richard@pestpurge.co.uk</a>
Top Dog fencing	Fencing and Gates		Sam Morton	07709 530166	<a href="mailto:Topdogmaintenance@icloud.com">Topdogmaintenance@icloud.com</a>
Castle Portable Loo Hire Ltd	Events	<a href="http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/">http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/</a>	Steve Millsom	07990 606067	<a href="mailto:castleph@gmail.com">castleph@gmail.com</a>
Hair Traditional	Hairdressing & beauty	Facebook/Instagram @hairtraditional.maidstone		01622 817800	



The Coxheath Chiropractic & Natural Therapy Centre

43, Stockett Lane, Coxheath, ME17 4PT  
established 1993

Telephone number 01622 745178

*Promoting Natural Healing & Health*

McTimoney Chiropractic: A safe, gentle manipulative technique to help to ease your aches and pains and soothe away the stress and strain of life:

Neck, shoulder or back pain. Headaches & Migraines. Carpal Tunnel. Sciatica. Arthritis. Pins & Needles. PMS or Pregnancy. Sport's Injuries

For full details please visit: [www.coxheathchiropractic.co.uk](http://www.coxheathchiropractic.co.uk)

**Commercial and domestic Property Specialists**

MJ Garden and Property Maintenance

22 Pembroke Road, Coxheath  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME17 4QJ

[mjgarden.maintenance@gmail.com](mailto:mjgarden.maintenance@gmail.com)  
01622 745406  
07988608424



**COXHEATH VETERINARY PRACTICE**  
6 Westerhill Road, Coxheath

Professional Pet Healthcare in a bright, caring friendly atmosphere  
Modern Diagnostic & Operating Facilities  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 8.30 am – 7pm; Sat: 9am – 12 noon

**PATRICK TIBBITS BVSc (Massey) MRCVS**  
For Appointments or 24 emergency cover, phone 01622 734888

# ~~FLYING~~ *around the* FARLEIGHS

This month, the lengthening days and rising temperature increase the air traffic above our villages. In addition to the cheap (but high environmental cost) flights to far-flung, warm holiday destinations, the natural world is on the move again.



We have already witnessed an unprecedented number of Alpine Swifts in the UK, including along the Medway valley. These birds dwarf our native swifts and have provided a wonderful reminder of the influx to come. How many Farleighs' residents have been lucky enough to see one of these impressive birds, miles from its natural alpine home?

As well as birds, the insect world is stirring. Early bumble bees are on the wing, making the most of nectar in dandelions and other plants in wildlife-friendly gardens to fuel themselves for the task of breeding. Inconspicuous solitary bees are already mating. The sharp-eyed among us may spot their nuptial activity near a tiny, inconspicuous nest burrow in the flower bed.

Butterflies like Brimstones are emerging from winter hibernation – ever wondered why yellow is a dominant spring colour, and why your yellow crocuses get eaten? But I digress.

It's worth remembering that many butterfly species (and myriad other insects) over-winter in dead vegetation. An over-tidy gardener can destroy countless creatures by removing this perceived mess before the animals get to emerge and breed again. So why not just enjoy a cuppa in the welcome sunshine and leave the tidying a bit longer?



yellow adult slurping from honeysuckle.

Along with butterflies come their far less appreciated, but very important for pollination, cousins, the moths. Later in the year we can look forward to species that are equally as spectacular as butterflies, but being mainly nocturnal fewer of them are noticed drinking from wild and garden flowers. Although if you have willowherb in a wild corner of your garden, you may come across the caterpillar of an elephant hawk moth – so named because it resembles a trunk – or the beautiful pink and

So important are moths that local farmers are beginning to show interest in them. **Thanks to a £750 KCC grant facilitated by local Ward Councillor Simon Webb, Marden Wildlife Group now has three portable moth traps for use on farms in Hunton and the ubiquitous Clock House Farm in Coxheath, West Farleigh and beyond.** In May there will be a public moth trapping session at Clock House to which local people will be invited. Anyone in The Farleighs already interested enough to have their own moth trap would be very welcome to join in and further their own interest while encouraging farmers to increase biodiversity that can then spill over into our gardens. Watch out for the date next month. Meanwhile, if you'd like more information about how to become involved email [mardenwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:mardenwildlife@gmail.com) or visit the Marden Wildlife Facebook page.

Ray Morris

## 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 a small group of 31 volunteers who help to publicise and staff events in our village. There is no firm commitment, just the opportunity to help out where you can. If you are interested please e-mail [katieeth66@gmail.com](mailto:katieeth66@gmail.com) with your details and we will be in touch.

Thank you for your support.



# YALDING TAXIS

**Competitive - Personal - Professional - Reliable**

- **Friendly, local, experienced family-run business since 2006**
- **Excellent local knowledge & throughout Kent**
- **No journey too short or too far**
- **Whole of Kent covered for long distance runs (airports, seaports, stadiums, London etc.)**
- **24/7 service, 365 days a year** (when booked in advance)
- **Competitive rates**
- **No extra charge after midnight** (when booked in advance)
- **All major credit & debit cards accepted**
- **Vehicles with up to 8 passenger seats**
- **Modern, clean, comfortable fleet - fully licensed and insured**
- **All drivers DBS checked and fully licensed (badged) by local taxi licensing authority**

 **078 777 777 44** 

# Diamondbrite®

PROTECT | CLEAN | CARE

**EXPERTLY FORMULATED PRODUCTS**  
**TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLE CLEAN**  
**INSIDE & OUT**

USE CODE  
**LL10**  
FOR 10% OFF!

At checkout on our website



Diamondbrite is a proud sponsor of LIFELINE & the community of West Farleigh Jewellutra Ltd, Diamondbrite House, Ewell Ln, West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NG  
For these and 100s of other products, visit [DIAMONDBRITE.CO.UK](http://DIAMONDBRITE.CO.UK)

#TimeToShine

**SUITABLE FOR: CARS / MOTOR-HOMES / CARAVANS / MOTORBIKES / BICYCLES / AIRCRAFT / BOATS**