

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



God save King Charles III



WEST FARLEIGH VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY

CORONATION PARTY	Sat 6 th May 11am	The Tickled Trout
CORONATION CELEBRATION	Sun 7 th May 12pm	** Church/Cricket Ground: SEE P9 **
DANDELION MAY FAIR	Sat 13 th May 11am-3pm	Dandelion Time
PARISH COUNCIL AGM	Mon 15 th May 7.30pm	Dandelion Time
VILLAGE PLANT & CAKE SALE	Sat 20 th May	Church
CHARITY PUB QUIZ	Wed 24 th May 7pm	The Tickled Trout
CRICKET MATCH & BBQ	Fri 23 rd June, 6pm	Cricket ground

Distributed freely in April 2023 Edition 554

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Deadline for the next issue is 20th May 2023

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IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

May is seeing all the things that you've nurtured through the winter properly shoot up. It is always a surprise to see how resilient some things are in spite of the extreme cold and the wettest March for the last forty years! Though much has been damaged, it's a good opportunity to see what will work or not in your garden in the future. Kent has a varied range of soil types and ours in West Farleigh is naturally a neutral heavy clay, which is nutrient-rich but not free-draining and this is something to consider whether you are planting Summer displays in borders or vegetables for maximum production. Digging compost or well-rotted manure into our soil breaks it up and gives the roots a chance to spread and maximise the plant. If you have an acid-lover like blueberries, camellia, rhododendron, pieris or azaleas, dead conifer needles are a great mulch and a natural feed when spread around or into the base of the plant. Now is also a good time to aerate your lawns. This helps with soil compaction and prevents waterlogging, allowing nutrients to get to the roots of your grass more effectively. Overseeding will help rejuvenate any tired patches and I've been leaning towards the drought-tolerant varieties for the last couple of years, bearing in mind the variations in temperature we've encountered.

In the borders

Tender perennials can now be put outside for Summer displays, which clears a huge amount of space in the greenhouse! Creating borders for Summer is one of the things I enjoy most. Though we can still get frost in May, it is currently looking unlikely. This year I'm using as many low maintenance, high impact flowers as possible. Though Petunia are pretty, deadheading can be time-consuming and so my alternative for trailing plants in pots and window boxes will be geranium. The flowers last longer and they tolerate hot, dry conditions better.



Deadheading is essential to keep flowers going and feeds can be applied every other week from now to September to keep everything strong and healthy. Annuals such as scabious and zinnia can be sown directly into any space left to create splashes of colour between perennials.

In the Veg Patch

Beetroot and salad leaves can be sown directly into shallow drills, as can rocket. Protection from slugs is a must, as they will love the new tender leaves coming through. There are many organic methods available now, but an effective barrier is crushed eggshells. I've also been bringing a lot of the salad leaves on inside before planting out as this can make them bigger and more resilient to attacks. The next (successional) sowing of carrots and spinach can be done and beans can be planted out. Potatoes should be earthed up and fed and leeks can be banked up with earth. This gives a longer white stem.

Side shoots of tomatoes can be pinched out and supported with canes as necessary. Tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers are really hungry feeders, so I give them a boost every 7-10 days with seaweed extract.

It's the last chance to sow courgettes, squashes and pumpkins so they can put on enough growth before Autumn, but again they can be sown straight outside.



Strawberry runners should be planted this month and I've started melon seeds off, so it will be interesting to see if anything comes of these!



Whilst on the topic of all things horticultural - Back by popular demand is

THE WEST FARLEIGH SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

This popular competition will take place again this year so get sowing your seeds ready for the judging of 'The Tallest Sunflower' in August!

This year there will be an additional category for children up to 16 years of age to take part independently.

Look out for entry details in Lifeline/Newsletter/on the Farleigh Facebook page coming soon!



If you don't want to enter the competition then why not just grow them for fun to brighten up the village?

The West Farleigh Village in Bloom Team

CANINE CORNER



This month we have a guest writer for our breed focus: Helen Kirk-Brown who, as an owner of four pugs, is surely West Farleigh's resident expert on this very popular breed! Meanwhile, Rebecca Hawkins is sharing her knowledge and advice to those of us whose dogs appear to turn into grazing sheep at certain times of year!

The Pug – “multum in parvo”, much in little. We welcomed our first pug into our home six years ago, Pumba. I'll be honest, I wasn't a keen fan of dogs and didn't particularly want a pug. My daughter, Amelia, persisted and “et voila” Pumba arrived. The breeder stated confidently “oh, you'll never stick to just one pug ...” and she was right. We are now home to four crazy, loving, mischievous and strong-willed pugs. We have our “grumble” of pugs. Pugs are thought to be the oldest breed of dog (circa 400 BC); so valued by Chinese Emperors as companionship dogs that they lived in luxury

within the palaces and were guarded. It is alleged that commoners were not allowed to own the breed. The breed were introduced into Europe in the 16th Century; it is believed that they were transported by the Dutch East India Company to the Netherlands. The pug became the official dog of the House of Orange when in 1572, Pompey the pug saved the Prince of Orange by alerting him to assassins. When William III and Mary II left the Netherlands to accept the throne of England, a pug travelled with them and they grew in popularity within royal circles. Queen Victoria was a pug lover and owned several. Pugs did have longer legs and noses, but this changed when a new wave of pugs were imported from China in the 1860s. The pug is a Toy breed and certainly a non-working breed. Margot (our youngest) is, in fact, asleep on my lap as I am writing this ... just to demonstrate the point. Despite their clownlike character, they are highly intelligent dogs. As they were bred as lapdogs for the Emperors, they are companionship dogs and sensitive to human feelings and expressions. They are affectionately called “shadows” – following their owners everywhere, craving affection. Pugs are very strong-willed and stubborn. My grumble have taken a different approach to whistle training. They will sit down (while I continue the walk) and wait to be whistled in order to receive a treat. Infuriating sometimes but not an hour goes by when they don't do something that makes you laugh; they have great charm. Pugs hate having their feet touched (they make the most remarkable noise if you dare), they are reluctant to tread on anything wet or muddy and they could be very lazy, if allowed. They adore playing with toys (pug-of-war being a favourite), they will always cuddle up on the softest thing available – why sleep in a dog bed when you can pull a blanket or cushion onto it to add extra comfort – and they are so funny when they run around in circles with their back legs and tail lowered, so the others chase their tail. There are four recognised colours of pug – fawn, black, apricot fawn and silver fawn. So, I feel it is only fair to comment on the health-issues that pugs can suffer from. I took a lot of time researching the breed and working through the ethics. Pugs are



brachycephalic – short nosed and flat-faced – which can cause health issues. We purposely chose breeders who bred longer-limbed, longer nosed and tested puppies. (We re-homed Bella). We committed to giving them the best diet, a strict exercise regime (they are out walking for several hours in total a day, albeit sometimes reluctantly), and regular grooms to care for their wrinkles. A re-assuring statistic is that pugs are actually a more long-lived breed than you would expect – a life-expectancy of between 12-14 years. We chose the pug breed for its character and, goodness, have they added something very special to our home and our lives. The latin phrase “multum in parvo” meaning either “much in little” or “a lot of dog in a small space” is so true.



Why does my dog do that? Eating Grass

Some people are worried when they see their dog eating grass but it is a common and a natural behaviour in dogs. Dogs eat grass for several reasons but the most likely is that they are just enjoying the taste and texture of it! Eating grass seems to be more common between April and August and it's possible that the weather and season may change the taste or smell to one that dogs simply enjoy. It's not necessarily linked to a health issue or gut imbalance, although, if your dog is eating a lot of grass and not their food, or vomiting after eating grass regularly, or appears unwell then it may be best to contact your vet for advice. Some experts believe the habit may be linked to boredom where dogs are not getting enough mental stimulation so if you think this may be the issue with your dog try to distract him with some other activity. Some dogs may eat grass because they are simply lacking fibre in their diet, so you could discuss this possibility with your vet and if you do decide to change your dog's food make sure this is done gradually as a sudden change in food can upset their tummies . Some research has been done which suggests that dogs eat grass to help flush out any parasites. Undigested grass could help this by wrapping itself around the parasite and removing it as it passes through the digestive tract. Make sure your dog's worming and vaccinations are up to date. Whatever the reason try not to be alarmed, it could just be a tasty snack your dog enjoys!

IGTHAM MOTE – THE NATIONAL TRUST



During a short window of dry, sunny weather the other day, my husband and I visited Igtham Mote (front cover) which is a National Trust property just less than half an hour's drive away from West Farleigh. This beautiful house is a perfectly preserved medieval moated manor house built over 700 years ago and is fascinating to look around. At present, until 29th May, it is hosting a wonderful exhibition of poetry and art entitled Lost Words – the words are each names of wildlife or plants which are becoming 'lost' to our children who spend far too much time indoors, glued to their screens: words like 'broadband' and 'chatroom' are slowly replacing 'bramble' and 'conker' in the Oxford Junior Dictionary! Meanwhile, outside in the extensive grounds, there are streams and lakes fed by natural springs, a cutting garden, an orchard and colourful flower borders as well as signposted walks. Dogs are allowed in the grounds on lead and on the patio of the lovely café! I would thoroughly recommend a visit.



Pastoral letter by Lorna Faulkner

The Coronation of King Charles III. The thing that May 2023 will be remembered for. A significant event in the life of our country and of the Church of England. And a huge responsibility for the Archbishop of Canterbury! I am sure this may be counted as one of the most extraordinary events in Justin Welby's time as Archbishop and I am sure he has found himself feeling more than a little daunted as the day approaches. I am sure that King Charles doesn't come to this day without some anxiety either!

And it is this that I have decided to write to you about this month. Facing the enormous things of life- the opportunities and responsibilities that are a part of our human experience? We are not all going to be anointing and crowning a king this month (thank goodness!) but many of us face things that feel huge to us: GCSE and A-level exams; starting a new job perhaps; a family event – getting married or having to plan and process a funeral having lost a loved one.

In all these things, we have the same resource available to us that Archbishop Justin has available to him: the presence and strength of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he urges them not be anxious about anything – but to bring all their concerns to God and try and focus on what is good and uplifting. And in trusting God with the difficult circumstances of life, he writes that they will know God's peace with them.

If you are facing difficult circumstances at this time, or have something daunting on the horizon, may you also come to know God's presence and God's peace with you.

We'd be happy to pray for you – just get in touch via our website.

God bless you,

Lorna

Church Services

Sunday 14th May

9.30am Communion – David Jones

Sunday 28th May

9.30am Morning Worship – Lorna Faulkner



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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council would like to remind people that **ID is now required**, when you go to vote in the local elections on May 4th in All Saints Church West Farleigh.

A passport is an obvious choice but a driving licence or a bus pass will do equally well.

As mentioned in last month's Lifeline, 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. If you have not yet done so, you are still able to email the Parish Clerk at clerk@westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk with your contact details and your child's name and age. Use the subject title "Coronation Coin" please.

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting and is on Monday 22nd May in Bramley Barn, Dandelion Time. Everyone is welcome. There will be reports from the Council and other Village organisations.



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More details on WF's Upcoming Events

THE TICKLED TROUT CORONATION PARTY – Saturday 6th May

The party kicks off at 11am with the coronation TV coverage live in the marquee. Between 12 noon and 3pm there will be live music and a BBQ. Meanwhile, there will be garden games between 2pm and 4pm. Come along and enjoy the celebration!

VILLAGE CORONATION CELEBRATION (SOLD OUT) 12pm on Sunday 7th May.



First, the good news: this is going to be a terrific event with a capacity crowd of 150 plus tiny tots, lots of fun, good food and plenty to drink.

Now the bad news: the cricket pitch is waterlogged and the weather forecast is COLD. Unless there is a heatwave, the sit-down lunch WILL BE IN THE CHURCH. The games, Tug of War etc will be at the lower end of the cricket ground. It will be cosy but you will be warm and in good company.

If you were one of the 150 lucky enough to get a ticket, you can help us:

- **Don't drive! Or share a ride. Parking is limited due to soggy conditions.**
- **Bring your own glasses, ready to be filled**
- **And arrive on time, ready to celebrate!**

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

PPS. 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

TICKLED TROUT CHARITY QUIZ – Wednesday 24th May 7pm

Thank you to the kind people of West Farleigh (and some surrounding villages!) that have supported the Charity Quiz at the Tickled Trout. The first one in October was a "tester" to see how it went and if we may be able to gather the support to make them a regular occurrence. I was so nervous before the inaugural quiz, worried that I may be asking general knowledge questions to an empty pub! Luckily, that was not the case and to date we have raised over £900 for Cancer Research UK over six monthly quizzes! The nerves are still palpable every time I arrive at the pub to host the quiz, but it now feels like a very homely, sociable and community event!

We charge £2 per head with teams numbering from 2 – 6 players all welcome.

We run a small raffle each time which contributes significantly towards the fund-raising. Thank you to Lisa and Katie who always help by selling the raffle tickets, to everyone who generously buys tickets and donates prizes. Finally of course I must thank the Tickled Trout

for hosting and donating the winning prize every month! Please contact the pub directly on 01622 814717 to book your team a table. Helen Kirk-Brown.

ANNUAL VILLAGE CRICKET MATCH AND BBQ - 5.30pm on Friday 23rd 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 President's 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.

SPORTS REPORT

FOOTBALL



There were just three games last month for our second XI and goals were in short supply! We began by unluckily losing 1-0 to a strong Cudham side. Then there was a "double header" versus high-flying Kemsing with both games surprisingly finishing with 0-0 draws!



NETBALL

Our final game in the winter season was played against Hospice Hoppers. In an entertaining and close encounter we were just on the wrong side of a 34-29 scoreline. We are already looking forward to the summer season which is starting very soon.



CRICKET

Our new season is almost upon us and will kick off with us playing away to Bearsted in the National Cup (23rd May). Our second match is a friendly away to Southboro on the 29th before our league matches start on 6th May. There will be a full report on all our results in next month's issue.

This month's lucky Ton Up winners were:

132	Brian Tillott	£30
68	John Day	£20
78	Mick Back	£10

If anyone would like to help the sports club by joining our Ton Up club, we have just started a 'new year'. It's £10 per year with monthly prizes and a Christmas jackpot. Please give me a ring if you're interested – 07761 355518.

Yours in Sport, Tel.

THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens enjoyed a lunch of Cottage pie and vegetables, with lots of chatter and laughter, on the 28th March. At our first tea meeting in April, the members made crowns by folding squares of paper and joining them together. No glue, no Sellotape or staples. Simple but very effective. Some very neat work from a retired engineer and some who were all fingers and thumbs! Many thanks to the WI ladies who came to instruct us

We will be having a Coronation Tea on the 9th of May. We could wear our crowns! Do come and join us, we would welcome some more members. Ring Helen 814445 for more info.



THE FARLEIGHS W.I. APRIL 2023

April's Meeting which was a taste testing experience produced some surprising results with Tesco ultimately coming out favourite for taste and value.

We are now busy baking for the Coronation Fete on 7th May at the Recreation Ground, East Farleigh from 12 to 3pm. The Mayor and Mayoress will be present and judging the children's Crown competition whilst enjoying tea and cake with us all. In addition to the BBQ and beer tent, there will be live music, Falconry, the school choir, an assault course and bouncy castle, plenty of stalls to browse and games of chance to play if you're feeling lucky! It should be a fun event for all the family. The fete is a joint venture between EFPC and the School.

Our AGM at the May meeting will also be our Coronation celebration with cheese, wine, games and of course cake! As it's a special occasion the ladies will sing Jerusalem.



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

We always look forward to meeting new like-minded members who would like to be part of our Farleigh group. 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. In the meantime, 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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FLYING *around the* FARLEIGHS →

A Brylcreemed Bullfinch?

Male readers of a certain age will have fond memories of Brylcreem. This was a hairstyling product they plastered on to tame their wayward locks to make themselves more attractive to the opposite sex, before setting out for the Saturday night Hop - an ancient form of the disco!



This young male bullfinch was hatched only last year, so this will be his first experience of finding a mate. Watching him reminded me of my own long-passed weekend ritual as he prompted admiring comments from the human ladies present at a recent ringing session. He happily sat in my hand enjoying the oohs and aahs before flying off. Unlike my young self though, he hadn't dipped into his father's pot of Brylcreem. He just had a wet head!

At this time of year, all male songbirds are singing their hearts out to impress upon females what good mates they will be to raise a family with and to warn other males to keep away from their territory – and their mate. But the bullfinch is an exception. Unlike musical thrushes, robins and blackcaps, and definitely unlike raucous wrens, its song is little more than a few quiet piping calls, inaudible in the dawn chorus and barely less-so even at quieter times of the day.

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Most songbirds stay in a mated pair (at least for the breeding season) to produce and care for chicks until they fledge and the young can take care of themselves. However, DNA studies have shown that it is usual in most species for a few young in most broods to be the result of the female having mated with a second male. You may have noticed at this time of year (the breeding season) that female birds in your garden often have a male in tow when they visit your feeders. This is known as 'mate guarding'. The male blackbirds in my garden, for example, are rarely on their own as they are either closely guarding their female or closely watching any other males in the vicinity.

But bullfinches are an exception. Once paired they tend to stay with the same mate. Extra-pair relationships are rare, so they don't need to vigorously defend a territory or bother to show-off to attract a female. Hence, males don't rely on loud song to advertise their presence – their good looks (Brylcreemed or otherwise) are sufficient to attract a lifelong partner.

Sadly, a note of caution is needed to accompany this photo. After the bird flew off, my hands were thoroughly cleansed with an alcohol gel to eliminate the risk of any infection being passed on to the next bird I handled. There is currently great concern about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) across the world. It is not just a problem in the UK and for free-range poultry. It is carried by wild birds and the UK's populations of seabirds (some of the most important in the world) have suffered drastic declines from the disease during the last year. So far, there have been no cases of HPAI in our songbirds but as our summer migrants return there is a possibility that they could bring with them a more virulent strain emerging in West Africa. Please search online to report any dead water birds, gulls, or birds of prey you come across, and to find out what to do with them. They should not be touched with bare hands.

Ray Morris
(lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk)



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.



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Jake Hill
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