

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



*How is your
sunflower doing?*



WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

8th July Organ Recital at Linton Church (See p.5)
18th Aug Fun Olympics at WF (see p.5)

At Home cricket matches

1st July 2nd XI vs. Sissinghurst
8th July 1st XI vs. Withyham
15th July 2nd XI vs. Betsham
22nd July 1st XI vs. Knockholt
29th July 2nd XI vs. Bidborough

All matches start at 1pm. Spectators welcome.

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Deadline for the next issue is 20th JULY 2023

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IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

After a month's hiatus, I am so glad to be bringing you our lovely gardening column again! I have been incredibly busy in a new role as a Head Gardener and am really looking forward to sharing so much stuff that I have learned over the last month with you all!



June has been a difficult time, I guess many of you are frustrated with the lack of germination of so many things, as I am. The wet Spring, so different to last year's higher temperatures, meant that again us gardeners were faced with a different, but no less frustrating, issue to deal with. Many plants are either behind a week (which can be problematic when growing edibles) or very ahead. Parsley, coriander and chervil have all bolted, as have the broccoli. Bolting happens when we have wet, and then very hot conditions. So rather than having a lovely head of broccoli, or herb leaves, you get bitter flowers. You can remove these to push more leaves on, allow to get to seed to sow back in, or you may need to resow, for example Spinach.

Rather than composting your bolted produce, you can make a Kimchee, or by dehydrating in an oven on a low heat, some herb flowers can be made into a dry rub for meats and fish dishes, for example. I've learnt that every part of a plant can be used. Even stems in Gins and Vodkas! I figure this is a whole different column...

Watering is a major issue at the moment. Pots and hanging baskets need a daily watering, but do hold off a bit on your established trees and shrubs, and your outside veg and fruit. Outside crops are better with a longer soak every two or three days because the roots go deeper to find water. Everyday watering mean the roots are shallower which gives a less stable plant with fewer natural nutrients.

For those of you who participated in No Mow May, thank you! You have increased the pollinating insects around our space. Which are so important to maintain the fragile balance we have.

We would love to see any pictures you all would like to send in of the gardens you are all working on, and the insects you see! And as the Annual Farleigh 🌻🌻🌻 Competition is now on, it's all exciting times! And so, here is what we are doing this month in the garden!

In the borders



All the summer perennials should be well established now. Deadheading is essential to promote new blooms. Sweet peas love being picked and I keep them in vases around the house. Such a Summer scent! Any pots and baskets should be fed at least every ten days to keep them looking their best. I've switched to an evening watering to minimise evaporation as it's been so hot and dry. Hardy geranium and delphinium can be cut back to encourage new growth and flower, and lavenders can be cut back.

Wisteria can now be pruned, the whippy shoots need to be taken back to 5 leaves from the main branch. Any other climbers need to be tied in now as well. Seeds, for example foxgloves and forget-me-nots can be drift sown around the borders for flowering next year.

In the Veg Patch

You should by now be enjoying the fruits of your labour! Summer is a very busy time for fruit and veg, peas and beans are ready to be harvested and courgettes and squashes are in good supply this year! It seems the conditions have been perfect to produce amazing crops. Regular pickings of beans and courgettes encourage more produce coming through.

Cucumber should be trained up and sideshoots of these and tomatoes should be removed to push energy through to the fruits. In addition to these, peppers and chillis should be regularly fed with a high potash feed once fruits form.

Beetroot, carrots and salad crops can all be harvested as well and this month I take down many herbs to dry and preserve for future use.



Strawberry runners should be taken to give you new plants for next year. Pinning down in a 9cm pot of compost will enable it to root, and then can be cut from the mother plant. Strawberry plants fruit best to 3 years old maximum so by doing this you'll have a good cycle of healthy fruiting plants.

Rhubarb harvesting should be left by the end of this month to allow energy to build up for next year's crop.



Happy gardening!

Sara

THE WEST FARLEIGH SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

by our *Farleighs in Bloom* team

Judging for this year's tallest sunflower competition will take place on **Saturday 12 August**.

Nearer the time, would you please let us know if you would like us to measure your sunflower by e-mailing your name and address to bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk or putting a note through the letterbox of Hoppers Corner or No. 1, The Green, Charlton Lane asking us to 'please measure your sunflower'.

There will be two categories this year, one for Big people and one for smaller ones up to 16 years. Therefore please specify which.

We look forward to seeing lots of (very tall) sunflowers around the village grown in the usual West Farleigh competitive spirit. Because of their association with the sun, sunflowers are well-known for being a happy flower and the perfect bloom for a summer flower delivery to brighten someone's mood.



Good Luck

Gabby and Tina



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 youngster



FUN OLYMPICS

Looking forward to the long school holidays?

Here is something that your 7 - 11 year olds might like come and join. On Friday 18th August from 9.30am until 12.30pm there will be a "Fun Olympics" held at the cricket field in Church Lane, West Farleigh. This event is **free of charge** and

is being run by the church but the number of places is restricted so you need to **book your child's place in advance** by contacting Becky either by phoning 07949 646865 or email becky.thecat@btopenworld.com.

If the weather is poor that day we shall move the event to the church.

SUMMER ORGAN RECITAL

Celebrated International Organist D'Arcy Trinkwon will be playing at Hunton again this summer. He is giving a recital on the wonderful Willis organ in St Mary's Church on Saturday July 8th at 7.30 pm. Wine and refreshments are included. The event on a balmy summer's evening last year, was extremely popular with those who attended. Tickets at £15 are available from Liz Oliver at liz.oliver25@outlook.com (01622 820200) and Sue Scott at sue@cheveneyfarm.co.uk.

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CANINE CORNER with Rebecca:

The Border Terrier

Named after the border lands of Northumberland, this breed can be traced back further than the Victorian era.



Originally bred from other terriers including Bedlington terriers and Dandie Dinmont terriers they were used to flush out prey and pests, used for hunting and extermination of various animals.



Borders are a wire haired double waterproof coated breed which requires regular maintenance to keep him cool in summer. Small in size but certainly not in personality, The border terrier is always everyone's favourite! With his boundless energy and perseverance.

I have one who regularly comes to me called Hugo! Well he's certainly a character. Rules the roost and loves to be centre of attention. All the dogs know that the balls and other toys belong to Hugo and gets first dibs haha. They love nothing more than to run and will happily tear off after anything that excites them.

They thrive in interaction and easily make friends with dogs and people alike. They are an affectionate breed who love people and affection. They form strong bonds with their family. They are easily bored though, and can become vocal and destructive if left alone. They do grow increasingly relaxed with age and once exercised will happily lounge on the sofa for cuddles all evening.

Why is my dog burying toys?

If you've ever discovered a dog's toy or bone buried in your couch cushions, your flower beds, your bed or your laundry basket, you've probably wondered: why do they do this? As annoying as it can be for dogs to hide their precious toys everywhere, it's actually an ancient instinct.

What your dog is showing you is that they value their toy and want to protect it just like their wild ancestors would.



Burying is totally normal and natural. It's more common in houses with multiple dogs because your dog might be concerned about his or her furry sibling getting their prized toy. If burying is becoming a problem, however, there are things you can do to slow the behavior.

If your dog is hiding and burying toys obsessively, there are a few possible causes.

1. Does your dog have too many toys?
Try keeping them in a lidded box and only giving him access to a few at a time.
2. They could be becoming overwhelmed, leading to compulsive burying. Just like humans, dogs can fixate on things, and if there are too many toys around it can lead to overstimulation and obsession.



3. Is your dog bored?

Like people, dogs can get bored without things to occupy their brains. Make sure they get enough mental stimulation to keep them amused. A nice walk, a grooming session, training and enrichment toys can all help to keep them amused.

Whatever you do, don't shout at your dog because the dog likely won't know why they're in trouble—after all, burying is an instinct for them.

Especially if your dog is taking things that don't belong to him or her, like your keys or your remote control, they probably want to play with you! They know you will have to look for whatever it is they have taken, so chasing them down can actually encourage the burying. While you are working on training your dog not to take these things, it's probably best to keep them out of reach so they don't get into the habit of this fun game.

Toys home.

Have a designated area for toys that are currently in rotation which the dog can see and access themselves.

When you find a hidden toy, place it into the toy area and show your dog. Say 'toys home' and praise them if they put the toy in the right place. Eventually, they will learn that is where their things go.

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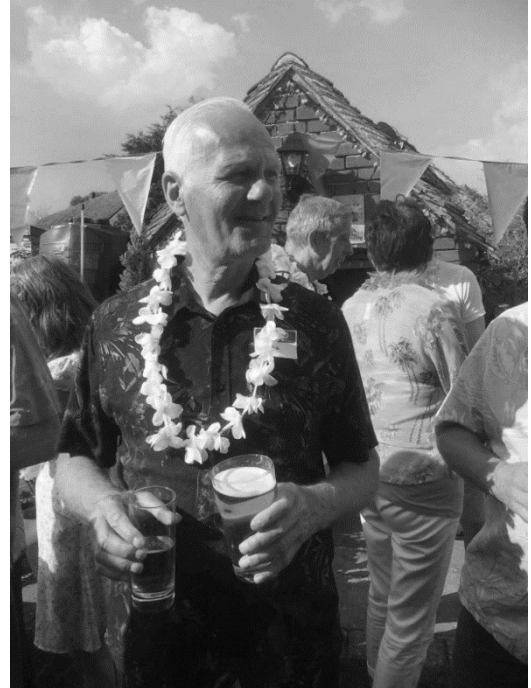
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IN MEMORIAM

Eddie Harrild

We bade a sad farewell to our beloved Eddie Harrild on Friday 23rd June. He was born in Caversham, Reading and moved to Dagenham with his wife Pat when they bought their first house. Before he retired, he worked as a school caretaker in Gravesend. Eddie and Pat moved to West Farleigh 7 years ago. He quickly made friends with others in the village, and was loved by all who met him. He was 75 when he passed and had 2 sons, Mick and David.

His family would like to thank their friends and neighbours for their ongoing support throughout his illness and for attending the celebration of his life.



Keith Bates

Keith was born in Croydon on 19 August 1954 and lived there with his parents, Tom & Grace, and sister, Pauline, until September 1978 when he married Jill and they moved to Epsom Downs. They moved another 3 times in the first 10 years of married life finally spending over 25 years in Kingswood, Surrey, before retiring to West Farleigh in December 2013.

Keith was very proud of his two children, Lauren and Chris, and loved nothing more than spending time with them and his grandchildren Nancy, Harry, William & Oliver. Keith enjoyed his retirement after selling a very successful IT business and was pleased to make so many new friends and neighbours.

He loved to travel and he and Jill were fortunate to visit most of the world although Australia escaped them and Jill has vowed to make this trip for him in the future! He will be missed by many especially his family and also the amazing friends he made at The Good Intent who continue to be a great support to Jill. Keith lived life to the full and would not have had it any other way.



PASTORAL LETTER from Lorna Faulkner

What is July for?

I found myself sitting down to write to you this month and this was the question that faced me...

The first half of the year provides us with all kinds of possibilities to think about, New Year and Valentines, Lent, new shoots and the changing of the clocks as Spring arrives, Easter, then the oncoming hope of Summer on the horizon.



Fast-forward to August and we can think about school holidays, then the slow shift towards Autumn, through September into harvest-time and the chill of the nights drawing in, into October – there go the clocks again - then Remembrance and into Advent and Christmas.

But what is July for? It's not leading us anywhere or coming from somewhere. It's a bit of a nothing month in some ways.

Or, maybe, it's an everything month... A singular moment in time when the peak of the seasonal cycle is upon us; Nature in full splendence is holding the stage, we the audience enthralled by her beauty.

It puts me in mind of the story of creation in the book of Genesis. By the end of chapter 1, God has made it all: Heavens and earth, light and darkness, day and night, sea and sky, sun, moon and stars, plants, fish, birds, animals, people. As God sits back and looks at the fullness of creation at the end of the sixth day, he doesn't think about what to do next – the story tells us that 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.'

And perhaps that's the answer to my question – perhaps that's what July is for. To remind us that we don't always have to be doing and preparing and shifting and changing. That sometimes we can just let life be and let ourselves live it for a while without worrying about the next thing to do...

A pause in the proceedings. A semi-colon in time. So, this July, whatever is coming up on the horizon of your life... take a moment if you can, let it be, look around; breathe in the beauty.

God bless you.

Lorna

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 9th July	9.30am Communion — Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 23rd July	9.30am Morning Worship – Becky Parnham
Sunday 30th July	10.30am Benefice Service – Archdeacon Sharon

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PRESIDENT'S XI VS. VILLAGE XI (Friday 23rd June)

This annual contest – watched by an enthusiastic crowd of 140 folks of all generations – took place last Friday. It was a baking hot, sunny evening and the players were grateful for the cold beers and Pimms served up by willing bar staff. The match was closely fought. The President's men, captained by William Norman, comprised a selection of local talent buttressed by ringers, all said to have been star players in the years gone by. However the Village bowlers, were equal to the challenge. The wickets and the scoreboard ticked over at a good pace. Dom Moger was the top scorer on 47, and the innings finished on 143.

In reply, the Village captain Matt Davis (and captain of WFC 1st XI this year) and co-star George Taylor both reached 30 with ease, and under the rules of fixed over cricket, were required to retire. But before the end of the match the team ran out of other batsmen and both came back out and drove the ball all over the pitch. It was a thrilling run chase. The winning run was scored in the last over, with Matt Davis on 60 and George Taylor on 47.



Stephen Norman congratulated the winning team and presented Matt Davis with the inaugural **President's Cup**, which he gave to the Club this year. It is engraved (see below) with a scene from our cricket ground, taken from a photo by Steve Birchall. It is intended that the captain of the winning team will have their name inscribed each year on the base, with a *V* or *P* to indicate which side won.

So congratulations M Davis (V)!



Engraving on President's Cup (can you see the ball halfway down the pitch?)

PS. There was an encouraging number of very young cricketers, boys and girls, playing in the new Nets.

SPORTS REPORT



FOOTBALL

Although the season seems as though it has just ended we are already looking to the next season and training is not far away. We are actively looking for new players and we would welcome anyone who is interested in playing.



NETBALL

Our girls continue to compete in every game and are improving all the time despite playing in a tough division. We started off by losing to Sensations 40-26 and Dragonflies 32-26. But finally, great news! We had our second win of the season, a tremendous 35-25 scoreline versus Lynx.



CRICKET

Our cricketers are well underway in their season but unfortunately - it's fair to say - not hitting their top form yet. Last month our 1st XI started with a good victory away to Knockholt. However since then we have had defeats versus Cudham, Locksbottom and Betsham. Meanwhile after a poor result, losing away to Lenham, our 2nd XI have beaten Plaxtol and Leigh. Finally we had a friendly against Hormonden and had a convincing victory.

This month's lucky Ton Up winners were:

157 John Boseley	£30
69 Ian Prideaux	£20
16 Sue O'Donnell	£10

Yours in sport, Tel

TAKING YOUR PHONE TO THE MATCH? WHY NOT SEND PICTURES OF OUR SPORTSMEN IN ACTION TO editor@thefarleighs.co.uk. We can use them.



THE EVERGREENS

We were taught some exercises that could be done sitting on our chairs. We all had fun trying to do them. The idea was to learn something that could be done easily at home to keep us fit. This was followed by a highly calorific afternoon tea. We celebrated the 99th birthday of Bill Horn. With a rousing Happy Birthday to you and a splendid chocolate cake(Bills favourite) complete with a festive candle.

We meet on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. If you are interested ring Helen on 01622 814445



THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

The speaker for our 14th June meeting was Michael Smith who gave a fantastic talk on Tom Crean, unsung hero of Antarctic Exploration. We were all in awe of the courage and determination of this man. Wow, can't wait to read Michael's book on the subject. The Broadstairs day trip on 16th June- was such a lovely day – good weather, good food, good company and lovely ice cream -great.

Our July meeting will be a Birthday Cream Tea celebrating 104 years of the Farleighs W.I. started by a group of ladies from both East and West Farleigh who had the foresight to raise funds for a hall- The hall has provided a meeting place for ladies ever since and hosts a huge number of community event throughout the week.

Our future plans include

- August Kinky Boots Theatre trip.
- Open evening (everyone welcome) on 30th August when Kim White OBE will give an entertaining insight to her life in Metropolitan Police.
- Macmillan Coffee morning 12 – 2pm on 28th September all welcome – please come for coffee and cake and support this worthwhile charity.
- On 29th November Tony Harris is making a return appearance when he will be presenting 'Hercule Poirot ' and solving a mystery disappearance. This popular Open evening fills quickly so please book.

We look forward to meeting new likeminded 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. For 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.

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



A bird resembling a raven was spotted in the woods by Smiths Hall recently. Is it possible? Yes, it is.

Ravens – popularised by the myth of England’s destiny being secured all the time they are living in the Tower of London and Edgar Allan Poe’s poem but vilified by Victorian gamekeepers – are the top bods in the crow family (Corvids) in terms of size and, it’s suggested, intelligence.

As corvids though it’s fair to say they may have more enemies than friends. This is partly because of their generalist diet – everything from carrion, worms, bread-crusts and other garden bird table fayre, to nestlings and even, sickly lambs and (shock horror) commercial gamebird eggs and young. Their intelligence, furthermore, enables them to capitalize on human behaviour when we create these opportunities.



As a result, they’ve not been a common bird in Kent since Henry VIII’s decree that churchwardens should pay parishioners a bounty for every vermin head they claimed. In Tenterden, for example, no fewer than fifty-three ravens were presented for payment in 1688.^(*) The species retreated to less populated and more inaccessible areas of the country and, until recently, in Kent were most likely to be seen only in winter in coastal areas.

But this is changing with a more informed attitude to birds of prey and corvids, and more rigorous enforcement of the law which protects all wild birds. Since the turn of the century ravens have nested in Kent again, mainly in coastal areas, but with incursions into the Weald and

Greensand Ridge areas. The picture shown here, taken in Marden two years ago, is of a juvenile bird - its wing feathers are still brown and won’t become fully, crow-black until it’s eighteen months old. Watching adults carrying off carrion from Marden towards the Greensand Ridge at Boughton Park suggests that may be an area where they are nesting.

Their call is a hoarse ‘cough’, not unlike a crow’s, and easily missed. A new free App – Merlin Bird ID by Cornell – is a wizard (pun intended) for identifying common birds by their calls and comes highly recommended. Like any App of this kind, it is not 100% accurate, but is certainly good enough to help beginner and more experienced birders alike. I frequently make use of it.

So, see if you can pick up the Smiths Hall Raven around the village. Who knows what else you may find?

Ray Morris (lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk)

(*) Lovegrove, R., (2007) *Silent Fields*. Oxford University Press.

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