

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

12th August – Judging of Sunflower Competition

18th Aug - Fun Olympics at WF (see p.5)

24th September – Village Rounders 1pm Cricket Pitch

30th September – Harvest Supper – more details to follow

At Home cricket matches

Check the sports club website for details, refreshments available

All matches start at 1pm. Spectators welcome.

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Deadline for the next issue is 20th August 2023

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IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

Just this time last year I was writing about the unprecedented heat that hit us, temperatures in August hit record-breaking levels and it was incredibly challenging to grow anything. Seeds had to be re-sown after a warm Spring fried initial sowings and many things that germinated were stressed by the bonkers conditions we had. Beans produced much later in the year as the overnight temperatures were too high to enable pollination and it was difficult to keep up with watering.



Cue this year, and what a difference! The growing conditions have been perfect. A warm (not scorching) Summer, and though we've had spells of dry, we have had sufficient rainfall throughout the year to get a good amount into waterbutts and containers. Luckily The Smallholding Farm escaped the hose ban as it is a commercial site, and though everything is on irrigation, there have been times we've been watering. Water harvesting is top of my to-do list there, and looking ahead to the next few months, now is the perfect time to start planning how to implement this into your garden next year.

August is the last month to do any direct sowings (straight into the soil). Many flowers and some vegetables will still have time to grow and produce before the Autumn frosts arrive, so it is worth pushing these through while the soil is still warm. This year I've direct sown more antirrhinum, calendula and another batch of Nasturtium. It's not a usual thing to do as these are usually started in March, but the Chefs in the restaurant use a lot of these edible flowers, so I can't grow them quickly enough! Equally this method will apply to a domestic setting and give a late flush of colour in borders when everything can start to look a bit jaded.

In the Borders

Deadheading is still a major undertaking to encourage summer perennials to stay lovely and it still feed pots and hanging baskets at least every ten days until the end of this month, maybe into September if conditions are favourable and we have a late Summer. I tend to start taking seeds off generic things like Foxgloves, Aqualegia, Verbena Bonariensis and Hollyhocks and throw these to the backs of borders for next year. As I buy some specific varieties, I will get new seed next year rather than saving any, as taking seeds from these will not produce a true-to-type plant. This year Mum and I found some crazy black Petunia for her window boxes, and while I'm saving the seed from these, there is no guarantee this hybrid will produce the same flower next year, sadly!

Lavender can be pruned back, avoiding cutting into old wood. Any opened buds can be dried or made into oils and cuttings can be taken for next year.

Softwood cuttings can be taken from Penstemon and if it's not too hot, I start Pelargonium cuttings off as well.

Dead leaves should be cleared away from borders to discourage pests and diseases. Any diseased leaves shouldn't be composted as this can carry infections into next year's soil.



Speaking of compost, my bins are overflowing, so another thing on my list is to turn them into empty bays! Not the one of the most glamorous elements of gardening (especially in Summer!) but certainly one of the most essential. This will accelerate breakdown by mixing up the layers and aerating. And it gives the worms room to breathe and do their thing!

In the Veg Patch

We have had what can only be described as a glut of cucumbers and courgettes on the Farm, and the onion harvest has been the best yet. The last pea plants we had sown in modular trays didn't take so well to the odd days of heat we had, so have just been able to squeeze the last direct sowing in. We use hazel twigs to support these as they are all natural and twisted, which gives the shoots a great support but also look really amazing!

We've experimented with a lot of vertical planting this year. Cargo netting is not so difficult to do once you get the hang of it (I know terrible pun) so the cucumbers, sweet potato and aubergine have all been grown up. Apart from the fact it's a space-saver, ventilation is increased which decreases disease.

Beetroots and cornichons can be harvested and pickled. You may have found root veg like turnips and swedes have bolted. They can be harvested, and at this time you can do a sneaky sowing of these for a late harvest in October. Oriental salads like Mizuna and Mibuna can be sown, as can the last lot of winter lettuce and beans and peas can continue to be picked. Onions and garlics can be dug up and hung to dry for a couple of weeks which will enable them to be stored for months to come.



Happy gardening !

Congratulations : New Baby



Sam and Sarah Saunderson from Charlton Lane welcomed their second son, Junior Bear, on 20th May. He weighed in at a healthy 6lb 3 oz. A brother for Christian (5), although it will be a while before they are playmates.



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THE WEST FARLEIGH SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

by our *Farleigh's in Bloom* team

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

Don't forget to 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

FREE children's activities for the Summer holidays!

Wed 16th August - **Cookery in Coxheath Scout Hut** - have a go at baking some delicious goodies.

Thurs 17 August - **Music at St. Mary's Church, Hunton** - create, decorate & play musical instruments together.

Friday 18th August - **Fun Olympics at West Farleigh Cricket Field (or in the church if it is wet)** - sports and games.

Please note that these activities are open to children aged 8 – 11 years old.

Saturday 19th August - Anyone who has attended any of the above is welcome **with their family** to come along to **St. Nicholas Church, Linton** for a celebration and afternoon tea at Messy Church (3.00pm to 5.00pm) for more activities, storytelling and a BBQ

For more details and an application form please contact Becky Parnham on 07949 646865 or email becky.thecat@btopenworld.com, but be quick as numbers are limited!"

Laddingford and District Bee-Keepers Association

After a slow, cold start to the season, our Kentish bees are now busy producing honey. A particular challenge this year has been preventing the bees from swarming, a natural tendency in the spring when bee numbers rise and cramped bees can decide to generate new queens who then fly off with a good proportion of the bees. You may have seen in the local and national press, that there have been more swarms than usual this year. Apart from causing consternation by congregating in dense balls, everywhere from gardens to high streets, swarming bees are diverting their resources from doing what we want them to do - produce delicious honey.



At our club apiary we gave the queens more space in their hives to lay eggs to deter them from swarming. We can't prevent swarming completely but we can reduce the odds. We've now been rewarded with our first harvest this year of 450lbs of delicious honey.



Have you ever tried local honey? It's a totally different from the supermarket product. While cheaper honeys are often adulterated or from bees fed supplementary sugar, even higher quality brands are blended to provide a consistent product. In contrast, local honey is produced from the nectar bees forage from whatever is in flower in your neighbourhood. It will have a unique character, varying between apiaries and from batch to batch. Some of our members are now eagerly awaiting the sweet chestnut honey, which is particularly rich, dark and distinctive.

We've recently been at the Kent County Show, alongside other Kent bee clubs, encouraging visitors to try our local honeys. We're always gratified when those who claim they 'don't really like honey', try our samples and immediately join the queue to buy a jar! If you buy local honey, you're supporting local beekeeping and the work beekeepers do to maintain the honeybee population. Kentish farmers also welcome our hives among their crops where the bees pollinate crops while collecting nectar.

So please do seek out your local beekeeper and try their honey. You can often buy direct or find their honey in farm shops or farmers markets. Need a beekeeper? Contact chair@laddingfordbeekeepers.co.uk and we can put you in touch with one of our members near you. Treat yourself to an authentic taste of the Kent countryside and show your support for bees and beekeeping.

Caroline Field, Laddingford and District Beekeepers Association

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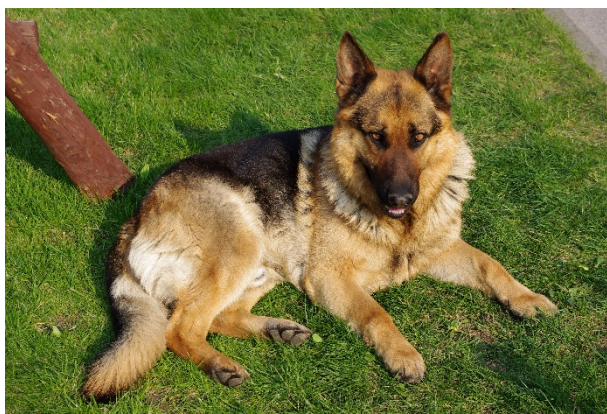
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CANINE CORNER with Rebecca:



The German Shepherd

This magnificent breed dates back to the late 1800's originally bred from herding dogs by Captain Max Von Stephanitz who was a great animal lover. He was fascinated by sheep herding dogs not especially for their looks initially but for their ability to work with very little instruction. His mission was to create an "ideal dog" one that was highly intelligent, that had pricked ears like a wolf, that had a terrific sense of smell but most of all had a great work ethic. Many people in the UK still call these dogs Alsations partly because they were first bred and were very popular in the Alsace region of France which used to be part of Germany. It is said that the name 'Alsation' stuck partly because of the negative connotation to the word 'German' had during the first and Second World War.

Since then the breed grew greatly in popularity and is now one of the most popular breeds in the UK as a pet as well as being the favourite working breeds for many forces especially the police.

They are widely used as security dogs because of their strong protective instincts. Outside of work they are incredibly loving dogs that make fabulous companions. Their life span is around 9-13 years depending on the breeding line as these beautiful dogs do tend to suffer from hereditary problems due to over breeding. They can make excellent family dogs with a well-balanced character due to their intelligence who are highly trainable.

However they are large energetic dogs that require at least two hours per day of exercise or mental stimulation which means they are better suited to owners who enjoy outdoor activities and have lots of spare time on their hands. They are better suited to owners who are naturally authoritative, calm but firm and confident in a consistent way. Aggressive GSDs are usually only apparent in situations where poor training and lack of socialisation has occurred. Overall they are one of the smartest and most trainable dogs around who in the right environment thrive and become loyal and loving companions who would literally risk their lives to save you.

Summer Hazards - Grass Seeds. It's very important to check your dog's coat regularly for foreign objects. Some dog's coats act like Velcro and everything sticks to it especially when walking in the countryside. Grass seeds can be a particular menace. If one is left behind it can embed itself into the dog's skin and burrow deep inside and move around inside the body. This can be very uncomfortable for the dog and a costly expense if it is left so long it requires the help of a vet to remove it. Dogs can ingest and inhale grass seeds signs to look out for include coughing or retching. Infections from these pesky things can lead to pneumonia or collapsed lung and if diagnosed late can be fatal.



If you spot a grass seed that had started to burrow in, or you suspect they may have a seed in their ear, nose or eye contact your vet as soon as possible. Treatment will depend on the location of the grass seed but as grass seeds are invisible on X-Ray, they can be difficult to find. Your vet may be able to remove the seed with long tweezers but this can be extremely painful for your dog so chances are he will have to be sedated.

Inspecting your dog's coat regularly after a walk and removing any grass seeds immediately will reduce the risk of them piercing the skin. Key places to check are between the toes, in the dogs' armpits and around the ears, nose and eyes. Look out for red or swollen areas on the skin or check if your dog is constantly licking or biting an area. Keeping hair around the ears and paws short can minimise the risk of them sticking to the fur. If possible, avoid areas with long grass in the summer months when the seeds are loose.

Are you 60+, retired and looking for a place to live?

We are looking for a single person/couple who would like to live in Linton in one of our 5 Almshouses situated on the main bus route. It will be available shortly at an attractive rent, including heating, hot water and other facilities.



The Almshouses are let unfurnished and consist of living room, fitted kitchen (without appliances), bedroom and shower room. There is a small garden for each house, together with a communal garden.

Preference will be given to those having connections with Linton.

Application forms are available from:

The Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs K Cooper,

Linton Park Almshouses, c/o Forge Cottage, Linton Hill, Linton,

Maidstone, Kent ME17 4AW

Tel: 01622 741494 email:cooperkath2@gmail.com

Closing date for applications – 31st August 2023

New Art Club :

Do you enjoy drawing, painting pottery or other arts activities? A new club is open for the village for the last Friday every month mid-morning. The next meeting will be on 25th August.



Materials and workshop are offered for participants use. If you are interested in joining, please contact Brian Cushing on brianc02@hotmail.com or Pauline Mack at paulinemmack@icloud.com.

Pastoral Letter By Sue Elliott



Dear friends,

Ups and downs!

I watched two young children enjoy playing on a seesaw. They chuckled and giggled as they went up and down! Watching them made me start thinking about the ups and downs of life. Do you remember when the late Queen had her Annus horribilis? That was 1992 – how time flies! For those of you too young to know about this, 1992 was a year in which 3 of the late Queen's children either separated or divorced and then Windsor Castle was badly damaged in a fire. A definite 'down'!

My family have had quite a few ups and downs this year. How about you and yours? At the moment many are facing 'downs' with the cost of living and mortgage rate rises. At least in the hot weather we don't have to heat our homes, a decision that for some in the cold months meant heat or eat.

In the early church it says in the Bible that they shared what they had, and nobody was in need. You'll be reading this letter in August. Children are off school, and some families may not be able to go on holiday because finances are too tight. Days out for families are so expensive! If you have neighbours, family or friends who are in this situation perhaps you can help with the children; perhaps go out together for a walk in the countryside or to a park and have a picnic together. Perhaps ask them round for tea: make some cakes, children love doing that, or maybe do some crafts together. All these things might be fun for the children and bring some relief for a mum or dad who is struggling to keep the children amused.

When communities pull together those who are weaker become stronger; and everyone has a part to play in this. Let's all try to bring some 'ups' into the lives of those who are burdened by 'downs'.

Enjoy the summer!

Blessings to all,

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant and Ministry Team member.

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Sunday 27th August 9.30am Morning Worship – Lorna Faulkner

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SPORTS REPORT



FOOTBALL : Training is well underway for the forthcoming season which will see our 1st team start in Division 1 in the Sevenoaks League with our 2nd team in the third division. We are always on the lookout for new players, if you are interested please get in touch. The league normally starts at the beginning of September.



NETBALL : Our ladies have just completed their summer season and although without a victory in our last four games, in three of them we achieved a point by scoring over half of our opponent's score. We began against Fusion Flames 42-24, then Hospice Hoopers 47-15, Kent Warriors 32-19 and finally K.G.Wave 36-20. Overall a great effort by everyone and looking forward to the new season which I think starts in September.



CRICKET : It's not often that a match will linger in the memory, but we had not one but two such games last month.

The first was our 1st elevens playing away at Horsmonden. We set a target of 194 and with one ball to go the opposition needed 4 runs to win. They only managed 3, thus a win for us by 1 run! In our remaining games we lost to Betsham but had a fine victory away to Locksbottom. Lastly, an unusual finish in our game versus

Withingham. We found ourselves in a winning position with 8 overs left, we needed three wickets, and they needed a hatful of runs when the pitch was invaded by a swarm of flying ants which eventually meant that we had to abandon the game!

Meanwhile, our 2nd eleven also had a memorable and amazing game. Away to Locksbottom who had scored 188 in their innings, we had one wicket remaining and needed over 50 runs to win. We actually won with 3 balls left! Alan Smith was the hero scoring over a century. Our other fixture was an away win to Luddersdown, what a month that was!

This month's lucky Ton Up winners were:

No.18	Alan Godfrey	£30
No.94	Grant Wells	£20
No.27	Maurice Baggott	£10

Other News : Our first rounders match last year was a great success and despite some dodgy refereeing decisions! It is hoped to hold this again on the cricket field on Sunday 24th September at 1pm. Please get in touch to let us know if you are playing (It is hoped that we will have a ball that is good enough to use at the end of the game!) 07761 355518 (Tel)

West Farleigh / Ringstedt Football Tour : We welcomed our friends from Ringstedt on the weekend of 28th July. Full report to come next month. Prost!

Yours in sport, Tel

THE EVERGREENS

We had our first meeting of the month in West Farleigh Church. Helen Swan told the members about the history of the church. It was built in the 1100's probably on the site of Saxon church. As, we were in the church, members could see the (?) Roman arches and the Norman slit windows. This was followed by afternoon tea with strawberries and cream provided by a member. Members are looking forward to our outing to the seaside. Deal and Walmer. We are able to hire a coach thanks to a grant from the Parish Council.

An illustrated history of the church can be found on the website. www.thefarleighs.co.uk
Go to "Our History" and scroll down to find the church.

THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

THE FARLEIGHS July 2023



Our July Birthday meeting was a chance to get to know members old and new as we moved around a friendship circle, this was followed by a cream tea. It was lovely to meet our 5 new members this month.

Derek Marsh is our speaker in August when he will give a talk on the Secrets of a walled garden.

Other 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 Tickets - £3 for members and £5 for guests to include refreshments.

Macmillan Coffee morning 12 – 2pm on 28th September all welcome – please come for coffee and cake and support this worthwhile charity.

Halloween disco on 28th October – more details to follow.

On 29th November Tony Harris is making a return appearance when he will be presenting 'Hercules 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 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.

FLYING around the FARLEIGHS →

Right, that's it for another year then. Autumns on its way!

Probably not what you want to hear at the start of your summer getaway with the kids, or just as you brush off the barbeque and invite the neighbours round for whatever tasty alternative to hamburgers is doing the rounds on social media.

Like it or not though, many of our summer birds have already left, or will be leaving in August. As I write this (July 21st) one of 'our' cuckoos being tracked by the [BTO's satellite tracking project](#) has already crossed the Sahara on its way to tropical Africa.



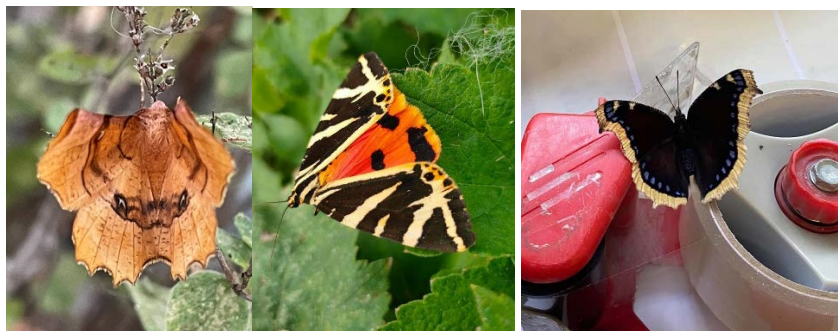
By the time you read this, many of The Farleigh's' swifts will already be winging their way south again, remaining airborne 24/7 until they touch down to nest in a local building in a year's time; an opportune moment for a reminder of the need for



erecting nest boxes for these birds as, every year, suitable cavities in buildings become fewer and fewer.

It's not surprising either that birds like green sandpipers, having bred in the high Arctic, are also coming through, resting as they do to refuel on the edge of a local lake, or even in a wet field. Keep an eye open for this long-legged bird with a dark green back strutting along mud banks on the edge of the Medway when the water level is low.

The seasonal transition can also be tracked with insects. Thorn moths appear in late summer, beautifully camouflaged as dead leaves. Even if a predator manages to see one, the moth has evolved a second line of defence, with a pair of fierce-looking eyes to deter it.



Photos: Karen Latchford and Jeremy Straker and Alan Pavey

Another late-summer-into-autumn denizen of the garden is the Jersey Tiger. This moth's anti-predation strategy takes the opposite approach. A striking pattern that turns into a bright warning red as soon as it opens its wings. Once confined to the Channel Islands and the West Country, this moth is now a regular Kent resident and even has a sizeable population in London.

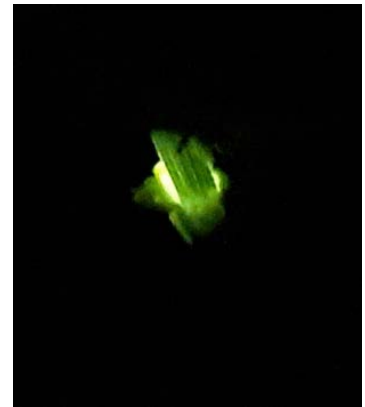
Those of you condemned to work through August in an office or factory can take solace in a recent chance encounter on a Marden industrial estate where alert lepidopterist Alan Pavey chanced on a rare Camberwell Beauty butterfly on his desk.

So named because the first UK record was in 1748 in Camberwell, it is relatively common in the USA (where it is known as the Mourning Cloak) and the rest of Europe. But few records exist of it the UK.

But as the nights draw in, The Farleighs' flying fauna could include tiny (male) beetles. They are looking for the equally diminutive but flightless females who advertise their presence with their equivalent of a seductive smile – or, rather, a glowing one. These are glow worms. Look for them in roadside verges and under untidy hedges or patches of bramble. Another bonus of no-mow May (extended to Autumn).



Female Glow Worms. Photos: *Alan Golding*



Enjoy your August – autumnal or otherwise.

Ray Morris

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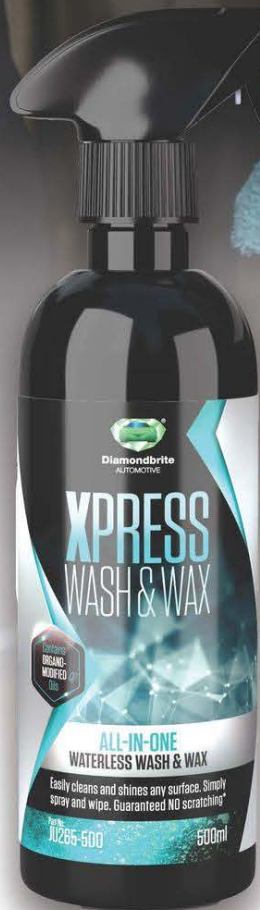
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