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Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE



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## WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct Quiz at the Tickled Trout book tables with the TT  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Oct Hallowe'en Party with the WI see page 13  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Oct Remembrance day see page 4  
Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov Fireworks (tickets selling fast) See page 13

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

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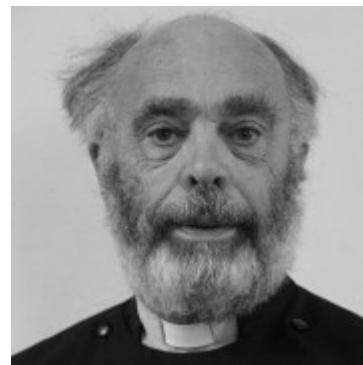
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## PASTORAL LETTER FROM DAVID JONES

Another part of the NHS left Coxheath last month as the Emergency Operation Control left after 36 years in the village. Nearly 400 staff are now located in a purpose-built Control Centre at Gillingham with the new Medway Make Ready Centre on the ground floor, the relocated 111 Operations on the top floor and the 999 Centre on the first floor with a wonderful view over the estuary.



For many staff it marks the end of their connection with the Ambulance service with the travel from home increased as many staff travelling in from all around Kent and East Sussex coastal town. For Coxheath it adds to the long list of NHS facilities which have relocated or closed since I came to the village in the 1967. Nothing lasts for ever but we will miss their contribution to the life of the village and to the shops. When things disappear, we sometimes realise their contribution to us all.

That of course is true of everything. We can't live in the past but we can learn from the past and recognise what we have in the present and perhaps acknowledge the good things whilst they are happening and not moan when they go or regret what replaces them.

As we are reminded, we rightly worry but are surrounded by nature which in one sense accepts what it has, responds to what it experiences and often comes back stronger and more beautiful when circumstances change. I remember a wonderful willow tree at school, severally damaged in the great storm, and looking very sorry for itself for a few years but in a very short time we marvelled once again at its beauty. Life goes on, nothing stands still, but it is how we react to change that makes life challenging and also exciting. Face the challenges ahead, recognise what we have and look for the opportunities that changes bring.

## SUNDAY SERVICES at All Saints West Farleigh

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October **HARVEST FESTIVAL** with Holy Communion 9.30am

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Morning Worship 9.30am

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October **Benefice Communion at Coxheath** 10.30am

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The annual celebration of harvest, will include your favourite Harvest Hymns and the presentation of gifts to those in need. We would welcome non-perishable goods, which will be given to MADM (Make a difference in Maidstone). Bring them along to the service or leave them in Sue O'Donnell's porch. Campana Charlton Lane. A few houses up from the bottom!



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will take place this year on Sunday 29th October at Holy Trinity Coxheath at 2.30pm. This is the service where the bereaved are invited to light a candle and take part in the service of remembrance for loved ones.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Our church is used every weekend by members of the Malankara Orthodox Church.

There has been a Christian community in Southern India since AD52.

Many people from there have come to England to work. Quite a few of them in the Maidstone area. Many of them work for the NHS as doctors, nurses etc.

They were travelling long distances to worship each weekend. One of them plays cricket and had played at West Farleigh. And one thing led to another and now they are regulars. It is great to have the church used for worship. The smell of incense has usually faded away by the time we need to use the church. Their rent helps towards the upkeep of the church.



You too can hire the church. The Samba band, which plays at the Fireworks Display uses it to practise. Contact the editors.



### 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.

## BAPTISM

Pretty Aubrie Louise McAra was baptised in All Saints West Farleigh on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, surrounded by family and friends. They celebrated after the service with afternoon tea in the church.

She was wearing a christening robe, made from her Grandmother's (Clare Oirschot from Park Cottage) wedding dress, with the addition of some trimmings from her mother's wedding dress.



## IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

After the late Summer conditions we encountered in September I felt so sorry for the kids returning to school that first week in 25 degree heat), October really will be much more Autumnal, with chillier nights being the norm. We had a big surprise down on The Smallholding last month, with ducklings being born in the second week! I'd left a patch of nettles for shade for the birds over Summer, so clearly some eggs had



been missed (we collect them for use by the Chefs), and so keeping the little ones warm in the night has been priority and involved a hurried trip to pet stores and farm shops to purchase appropriate food and heaters. Mum and babies are doing well and I'll bring you Duckdates next month!



October is one of my busiest months. Apart from being the last month to be sowing overwintering plants, there is a huge amount of tidying and clearing to be done. Greenhouses should be cleaned thoroughly before any new plantings are stored, and space needs to be made for any tender plants that won't withstand cold temperatures. This is a monumental task for me as the greenhouse was in complete chaos after a mad Summer, but it's a rewarding one when everything is all orderly and the sowings for next year are neatly laid out and labelled!

## IN THE BORDERS

Bulbs can be sown, and this is one of my favourite things to do. I love new varieties, especially of tulips and I have to admit the account took a dink last month when one of my favourite suppliers, Farmer Gracy had 20% off. I particularly like the variety 'Lemon Beauty' and will be pairing this with var. 'Black Parrot' which has been around for a while, but which I got at a very good price at the store with the awesome middle aisles. The other half managed to get round the store while I was still sorting through the selections in the entrance!



Hardy annuals like calendula, hollyhocks and sweet peas can be sown to get a good start on next year, and bedding such as wallflowers can be planted out now. Any tender plants like canna and dahlia should be lifted and stored in a dry, frost-free place. All leaves should be cleared regularly and, if not infected, I put these into a free compost bay to break down for mulch next year.

I always leave fallen apples and the hips on the Rugosa roses for the birds. Roses can be pruned down by half to prevent wind rock as long as it is a dry day and the cuts can heal quickly to prevent infection and if you haven't done so yet, lavenders can be trimmed, as long as frost isn't predicted. Borders can be mulched to insulate roots and any bare roots can be planted, so it's an ideal time to get bare rooted roses and hedging in.

## In the Veg Patch

Is a lovely mixture of harvesting and sowing! Peas and Broad beans can be sown to give an early start. Aquadulce is a reliable variety which I use for overwintering. Onion 'Toughball' and lettuce 'Stonesay' are also two that I recommend for this time of year, these can go out as soon as the seedlings are big enough to handle. Winter cabbage can also be planted, 'Durham Early' is a good one, and I'm also trialling 'Kalibos', a red cabbage as a winter crop. It grew very successfully in the Summer, so we'll see how this works. I'm looking forward to getting Elephant garlics into beds. This very large, mild variety is amazing when roasted! Squashes and pumpkins can be harvested and the last of the runners. Carrots and parsnips can be lifted and trenched in to store until needed. I dig a trench, lift these and literally replant into a sand/soil mix. This means they are there until required, and the parsnips can catch the frost, which gives a sweeter flavour. Main crop potatoes should be lifted and stored in a cool dark place. Rhubarb can be lifted and split and summer fruiting raspberries can be cut back and mulched.

Looking forward to the first baked apples of the season, and wishing you all a Happy Gardening!



## RIDE & STRIDE – SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPT

On the hottest day of the year, Stephen Norman, daughter in law Alex Norman and Larry Johnson cycled around the area “bagging” churches. Larry was joined by his two grandsons for the last leg. All were sponsored and raised £373. The money will be shared equally between All Saints West Farleigh and the Friends of Kent Churches. A big thank you to them all.

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Play Area

The play area was discussed and a repair was approved for the Rota Bounce. Concerns were raised as older youths have been seen trying to wrap the new swings around the top of the frame and there is a noticeable increase in the amount of litter being thrown on the ground, making it a more time-consuming job for the contractor to cut the grass.

Geoff was thanked for all his work, keeping the area looking neat and tidy for the enjoyment of the children in the village.

#### Parish Council Website

Councillors discussed HugoFox’s intent to charge for the website from October 2023. There are three different packages and it was agreed that the Parish Council would sign up for the Silver Package at a cost of £19.99 a month (+vat). This will mean that residents can still use the Planning Tracker, which would be removed with the Bronze package.

#### Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Parish Council is still trying to progress with items on the HIP relating to speeding and drainage issues around the village. The Clerk has offered to meet with a representative from Kent County Council to discuss the content further.

#### Finance & Administration Matters

The External Audit has concluded, with no issues found, the relevant documents have been added to the website and noticeboards. At the meeting, Councillors also approved several policies, which will also be added to the website.

Do look at the Parish Council Website. Minutes and agendas. Reports and planning, policies and finance.  
[westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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## FARLEIGH IN BLOOM

The West Farleigh in Bloom team have a new project! The area surrounding the bench by The Tickled Trout pub on Lower Road has a beautiful outlook over the fields towards Teston as well as the bench and a village information board. It also had an overgrown area of brambles to the left of the bench which we felt we could enhance with new planting. Maidstone Borough Council had funds available for community groups who wished to add biodiversity and horticultural interest in their local area, so we applied as this fitted our cause perfectly. They agreed and awarded us some money through their 'Love where you live' initiative. Jon Fenlon, the head gardener at Smiths Hall kindly drew up a planting plan and the team set to work to realise the ambition. We have already cleared the brambles and started to dig over the soil. Next up we will be purchasing the new plants and planting them out. We hope to see the fruits of our labours thrive in the spring.



We always welcome new members to help us as well as suggestions for new projects. These can include areas to plant with bulbs or entire community projects for renovation like the above.

Contact:- [Bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:Bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk)



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## CANINE CORNER with Rebecca –

Spinone Italiano also known as Italian Spinone, Spinone, Italian Griffon, Italian Wire-Haired Pointer, and Italian Coarsehaired Pointer.



Spinone means “thorn,” which is a reference to the wiry coat that can withstand brambles and twigs etc when flushing out game. The Spinone Italiano is one of the oldest hunting dog breeds in existence. This ancient breed is believed to have been developed as far back as 1000 BC from crosses between indigenous breeds and

those brought into Italy by Celtic tribes in the Piedmont region of Italy. They were originally bred for hunting water fowl. This dog is classified as a rare breed but gaining huge popularity as a healthy, loving, loyal family companion dog. Spinoni Italiani are considered the least problematic dog of their kind when it comes to overall health. They're friendly toward everyone, but due to their prey drive may still chase small animals and cats! While working this dog is a tireless tracker, but at home, they're laid back, patient and love nothing more than being in the company of their family laying on the sofa. I have a wonderful girl called Willow who comes to me 3 days a week. She is one of the most loving dogs I look after. She's very sociable with other dogs but due to her size and clumsiness she can accidentally stand on the smaller dogs and so then they sometimes try to avoid her.

She loves nothing more than a cuddle, but better than that, a cuddle and a sausage. Her appetite is huge.

The Spinone has a considerable beard, and also loves water so you can be assured that after her nose hits the bottom of the drinking bowl blowing bubbles from her nose her beard is suitably soaked and promptly trots over to show me by resting her head on my shoulder. But despite her tsunami beard she makes an excellent companion and brings a smile to everyone who meets her.

### Common summer ailments in dogs.

I recently had a Cocker Spaniel to stay and noticed that she had a bit of a whiff about her. I recognised the smell as a 'Hot Spot'. What is a hot spot? Hot spots also known as wet eczema or moist dermatitis, are a painful condition where the skin becomes reddened, moist, itchy and swollen. Usually a result of allergies, an infection, parasites or just moisture trapped within the coat. It's not always easy to spot under the coat but other symptoms may include licking, scratching, biting and a smelly discharge of pus and fluid.

Luckily they can be treated easily by clipping the fur around the affected area, cleaning with an antibacterial solution such as 'Hibiscrub' and keeping the area dry. If the area is really sore and large you may need to consult your vet for some oral antibiotics or steroids/antihistamines.

## YOUNG PEOPLES CORNER

We would love some input from the young people in the village. (Young meaning, under 25). You could be at school, college, university or at work.

Do you have something to say?  
Do you like living in West Farleigh?

What have you been up to?  
Could you put a quiz together?  
Do you take photos?  
Do you know any corny jokes?



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



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# SPORTS REPORT

## FOOTBALL



Our footballers have hit the ground running, winning all four of this seasons games. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI started their new campaign in the Sevenoaks league with a convincing 5-2 victory over Green Court, it was followed by a hard fought victory coming out on top 3-2 against Tonbridge Juniors. While our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI also started well beating Tunbridge Wells 3<sup>rd</sup>s 5-1 and lastly a brilliant 1-0 away win against Leigh. Let's hope our fine start continues.

## NETBALL



Our netballers started the winter season off, with, unfortunately, a 62-39 defeat against the Hurricanes. Pleased to say their second match was a terrific win over the Foxy Wotsits 34-28. Let's hope for some more good news next month.

## CRICKET :



Our first XI ended the season mid table despite losing our last two remaining games. We lost to Shipbourne by 9 wickets and Horsmenden, doing slightly better, losing by 4 wickets. However great news for our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI after losing to Locksbottom we had to win our last game against Sissinghurst, which we did. All other results were in our favour, which meant we just secured promotion. Well done everybody. We now move on to our friendlies. What a game we had against Linton Park, chasing nearly 300 runs we won on the last ball of the game!

What was even more amazing, was, that it was the same outcome in last season's game against Linton Park. Could it happen three times in a row. Teston was beaten by 6 wickets. The last remaining games are home fixtures versus Roehampton and Benenden.

### This month's lucky Ton Up winners were:

138 Bev Hards	£30
64 Kevin Shilling	£20
122 Linda Body	£10

Yours in sport, Tel



## THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens played Beetle at the last meeting. Good fun was had, before we enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea. We celebrated Eileen Sterns 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake and roman candle and the singing of Happy

Birthday. Before September is out, we will have enjoyed a Bangers and Mash lunch.

If you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. We meet at the WI Hall Forge Lane East Farleigh. We are able to arrange transport from East and West Farleigh. Contact Helen on 01622 814445 or [helenappledore@gmail.com](mailto:helenappledore@gmail.com)



## THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

September 2023

Trish Wood gave us lovely talk on how her art and spiritual side combined to make memorial jewellery at the September meeting.

Our Competition 11<sup>th</sup> October meeting is very much a social gathering where members compete (if they wish) for the coveted trophy. Categories this year are – Photo of a bird, Xmas tree decoration, An Autumnal button hole, 3 Rock

cakes on a plate and a poem – The best day ever.

Tickets for the Halloween disco on 28<sup>th</sup> October are available – BYO drinks and enjoy the music dancing dressing up optional and a delicious 2 course meal included in the price £15 – contact Ann 01622 814561, On 29<sup>th</sup> November Tony Harris is making a return appearance when he will be presenting ‘Hercules Poirot ‘in solving a mystery disappearance with audience participation -Doors open 6:30pm. WI members £5 Guests £7.50 includes refreshments. 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 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.

## THE FARLEIGHS WI WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO THEIR

### Halloween Party

### WI Hall- East Farleigh

28<sup>th</sup> October 7pm – 11pm

Ticket includes a traditional Halloween feast and Music, dance plus much more!

B Y O Drinks.

Wearing something to celebrate Halloween, however small, would be lovely but not compulsory!

Tickets £15 please - Contact Ann – 01622 814561



## Welcome from West Farleigh Fireworks!

### We've got a fantastic line up for 2023!

We take great pleasure in inviting you to this year's event. This is a quick note to let you know that tickets are now available. Please be aware that tickets can only be purchased online, there will be **NO TICKETS ON THE GATE** so please, do book early to avoid disappointment as this event does sell out quickly! Please don't presume there will be tickets available in the last week, as that will be probably not be the case.



Gates open from 6pm for you to soak up the atmosphere of a great village event with friends and family. Enjoy our musical entertainment whilst sampling some of our delicious local food and drink stalls, then, get ready for a magnificent bonfire and spectacular fireworks display.

<https://www2.ticketebo.co.uk/wfsc/west-farleigh-village-firework-display>

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



## **You'll be late for school if you don't hurry up!!**

How often is that heard in households around the villages? Having just one child is sometimes a challenge before they reach the age (do some of them ever) of getting themselves sorted out in the morning and ready for the day ahead.

Spare a thought, then, for birds with large broods. Although their young don't need to be dressed every morning, they can appear just as disorganised as their human counterparts and certainly just as frustrating for their parents. This family of Bum Barrels – an old country name for Long-tailed Tits - had been parked in a shrub in my garden by their parents who were frantically trying to feed them.

Naturally they wouldn't line up in orderly fashion, or even stay on branch. They regularly jostled, pushed, and shoved for position, hoping to be first in line for the next helping of insects being brought by the adults. In the natural world a single parent wouldn't cope with rearing such a large family, even though these birds have only to do it for a couple of months.



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But this species has evolved its own Social Support system that will be familiar to some hard-pressed human families; older siblings, uncles, and aunts all help with rearing the young. So, these youngsters couldn't be sure which direction their next mouthful was going to come from!



By the time you read this, these young birds will have progressed to the next stage of growing up, akin to the human 'teenager'. They will have joined up with other families of Long-tailed Tits, with newly

forged friends of other species like larger Blue and Great Tits and diminutive Goldcrests, to roam the neighbourhood in noisy flocks.

Their equivalent of a McDonalds or Pizza Hut where they gather to hang out and strew scraps of food over the ground will be your garden feeders. But don't expect them to tidy up after themselves – there is as much chance of that as a teenage human tidying their bedroom!

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