

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

Welcome to West Farleigh’s very own Christmas edition of

LIFELINE



5pm	Sun 10 th Dec	Carol Service at All Saints
6.00pm	Fri 22 nd Dec	Carols on the Green – page 6
10.30am	Sun 24 th Dec	Advent 4 service at All Saints
9.30pm	Sun 24 th Dec	‘Midnight mass’ at All Saints
Lunchtime	26 th Dec & 1 st Jan	Morris dancing at the Good Intent

Distributed freely in December 2023 Edition 561

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

Website: www.thefarleighs.co.uk

Email: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk

Deadline for the next issue is 20th January 2024

John's Carpets 
WHERE PRICE MEETS VALUE



CARPETS • VINYL • INSTALLATION

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

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

Family Run Business in West Farleigh & Ashford




FOR A
COMPETITIVE
QUOTE FROM
A COMPANY
YOU CAN TRUST

5 STAR REVIEWS
★★★★★

VINYL **CARPETS**

88 Hunter Avenue, Willesborough, Ashford, TN24 0HG
www.johnscarpetskent.co.uk

CALL 01233 663 922 or 07951 257 562



PEST PURGE
PEST CONTROL

For All You Pest Problems

Pest Purge offer a same day, cost-effective, accredited pest control service that you can trust and rely upon. We are fully-trained pest and vermin controllers with experience of solving domestic, commercial and rural pest problems.

No Job Too Small!
Same Day Support.

Call Now
01622 842481 / 07546 236919









ST HELENS MONTESSORI SCHOOL
East Farleigh

Ofsted Outstanding Nursery
For children aged 2 to 5

Small Primary
Continuing Montessori Education
Ages 5 to 11

Beautiful Rural Setting
Established 1989

Contact
01622 721731
office@sthelensmontessori.co.uk
www.sthelensmontessori.co.uk





PASTORAL LETTER FROM LORNA FAULKNER

Years ago, when we were particularly strapped for Christmas cash, we received an envelope through the door 2 days before Christmas. It had £300 in it, and a note suggesting we fill the kids' stockings. £100 extra for each child! There were more than a few happy tears. And then the most extraordinary thing happened. I began to feel uncomfortable and explained to my husband that seeing as we had already bought the children's presents and spent what we could afford, we ought not to keep the money.

We ought to give it away. It would be wrong to buy 'too much'.

We had been miraculously given the opportunity to bless our kids with unexpected abundance, and I passed it up. I am ashamed to say I didn't stop to think about what it would have meant to my children to have experienced that blessing.

So, all at my behest, we put some of the money back in an envelope and posted it through what I now realise was the door of the very people that gave it to us! The rest would go to another friend and then to charity.

We had Christmas and the boys were delighted with the presents they had.

And I felt utterly dreadful.

A couple of years later I was cleaning the house on Christmas Eve and remembering the incident – still feeling the pinch of regret. As I cleaned, I prayed, asking God for another chance. And as I prayed, there was a knock on the door! I was so excited. Could it be??

I ran downstairs and opened the front door, and there stood a lady I didn't know, holding a... huge tray of...

Mushrooms!!!

Well, what could I do? I had to laugh. And I accepted the mushrooms. God was winking at me, I am sure.

The truth is, we might get ourselves all het up about what we do or don't buy; what we can or can't afford; we might even have hoped for £300 and got mushrooms instead... but nothing we could imagine could compare with the gift of the child whose birth is at the heart of this celebration.

In Jesus, God has given us the most precious gift. The gift of himself.

All we need to do is open the door of our hearts to receive him.

'For to us a child is born. To us a son is given...'

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

It's not new when you think about it – the old proverb 'Count your blessings' comes to mind – and the science of gratitude is well researched and documented. It is proven that taking time to recognise what we have to be thankful for is good for us! But it's good to be reminded to look for the things that bring us peace or joy or a sense of calm or connection. I'll be making a point of doing so this winter. And, if this time of year is a struggle for you, maybe you'd like to join in too.

Lorna



CHRISTMAS SERVICES at All Saints

Sunday 10th December at 5pm

Sunday 24th December at 10.30am

Sunday 24th December 9.30pm

CAROL SERVICE followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Children welcome
Advent 4 Benefice Service
"Midnight Mass"



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.

West Farleigh Sports Club now has a defibrillator

It is located in the cricket pavilion where the pedestrian gate is left unlocked at all times, and the code to access is C159X which is printed on the defibrillator itself or can be obtained by ringing 999.





The Coxheath Chiropractic
& Natural Therapy Centre

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

Telephone number 01622 745178

Promoting Natural Healing & Health

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

Neck, shoulder or back pain. Headaches & Migraines. Carpal Tunnel.

Sciatica. Arthritis. Pins & Needles. PMS or Pregnancy. Sport's Injuries

For full details please visit: www.coxheathchiropractic.co.uk



COXHEATH VETERINARY PRACTICE
6 Westerhill Road, Coxheath

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

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

IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone! The growing season has not been a bad one at all, and though the Summer (after some lovely July weather) was a bit disappointing, with temperatures not getting much beyond mid-20's, it did mean that there has been some bumper produce early on. However, some main crop Potato harvests have been affected with late blight with the storms of November which gave some very wet conditions and will no doubt lead to price hikes in the coming months. All the more reason to consider growing your own next year!



December and January can be seen by some as a dormant period for gardeners. Actually it is one of the busiest times, with all for the coming year to organise. Flower and vegetable seeds can be ordered and some sown this month for a good start on next year. Compost bays can be turned and any useable can be put straight onto beds and borders for the worms to turn in. Make sure any outside taps are insulated, and hoses put away to prevent them being compromised in the cold weather, and greenhouses are checked for broken panes and unsealed cracks. Because I don't heat mine, and have tender plants in over winter, I bubble wrap the whole of the inside and use horticultural fleece over the top of anything I don't want to lose!

In the Borders

Borders do not need to look drab at this time of year! Though pansies and cyclamen are favourites, there are many new and interesting varieties on the market, and when paired with the white ping of snowdrops, or the black Ophiopogon can make for an interesting display. Sweet peas, antirrhinum and pelargonium can all be sown under glass this month. Pelargonium and antirrhinum germination benefit from a heated mat or propagator to warm the soil, out of direct sunlight, while sweet peas do not need this, and will germinate happily in these temperatures. I pinch the growing tips out of my sweet peas and antirrhinum once they reach a couple of inches high to prevent them becoming spindly and create a bushier growth. If we have a fairly mild day, perennials can still be lifted and split and any last-minute bulbs can still be planted. Which is lucky as I'm a bit behind on the tulips this year!



In the Veg Patch



Harvesting winter veg is a lovely thing to do when everything else is not so prolific. Brussels sprouts can be picked when approx. an inch in diameter, leeks and winter cabbages can be left in the soil until needed, as can parsnips, the frosts should have sweetened these beautifully. And if you've been forward thinking enough to plant a late potato crop, these should be ready this month. Any beds that have been used can now be mulched over ready for Spring plantings. Rhubarb can still be lifted and divided, apples and

currants should now be pruned to create an open-centred goblet shape, and no more than a third should be taken out at one time. Winter varieties of Broad bean and lettuce can be sown in an unheated greenhouse, and chillis and aubergine can be started in a heated propagator or mat.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2024!

Carol Singing on the village green – Friday 22nd December at 6pm.



Following on from the carol service at the church on Sunday 10th December at 5pm.....Come and join us for some carol singing on the green on Friday 22nd December at 6pm. The tree is being provided by the Good Intent, if you have any young ones who wish to make a decoration to hang on it please bring them along. The singing will be led and accompanied, all you need to bring with you is some good cheer and join in with the festivities.

All welcome!

Welcome to the village.....

A belated welcome to Mike and Louise Turner, their two young boys and little dog 'Sid'. They moved into no.1 Charlton Lane in the late summer from their previous home in Leybourne.

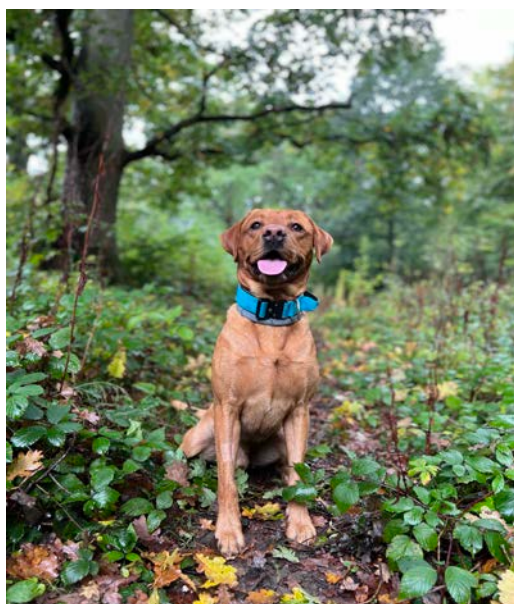
CANINE CORNER with Rebecca

The Red Fox Labrador. The term 'Red Fox Labrador' is not actually a recognised breed or variation of The Labrador Retriever. The Labrador is typically recognised as three colours; Yellow, Black and Chocolate and they are accepted by kennel clubs and breed standards.

The 'red fox' is a term used to describe a particular shade of yellow Labrador. Some yellow labs can have a reddish or golden tint to their coat, resembling the colouration of the 'red fox'. This fur colour happens due to the presence of a certain gene in their makeup.



If two Labradors with these genes mate, there is a chance that the puppies will inherit the red fox colouration. Over time, through selective breeding and passing down this gene, the Red Fox Labrador has become a distinct variation of the Labrador Retriever breed. It is important to note that their temperament, characteristics and overall health remain the same as the other Labradors.



Despite the name, Labradors do not actually originate from Labrador, Canada. They were in fact developed in Newfoundland, an island off the coast of Canada. They were initially bred similarly to the "Newfoundland dog" to help the fishermen in the 19th century to retrieve the fishing nets and catch from the icy waters. The breed is known to have excellent swimming capabilities, retrieving skills and friendly temperament.

They were originally known as St John's Dogs or Lesser Newfoundland dogs, but they eventually became known as Labrador Retriever's.

They are gaining immense popularity, and I in fact have four I look after. They are all amazing dogs who are excellent both as family dogs and extremely sociable to other dogs.

I would definitely recommend them as a high energy family dog, they will adapt to most living arrangements and are very easy to train if you are prepared to put in the effort.

Winter health issues

With winter there are a few things as a dog owner you should be mindful of. If your usual walk involves walking on roads or paths, then there is a good chance that salt has been spread on the to melt any ice. It is important that after walking on these surfaces to rinse your dog's paws with warm water, as the salt can irritate the dog's skin.

Antifreeze can be extremely dangerous to dogs, it can cause damage to the kidneys or even death, even after a small amount has been licked from their feet. If you notice any liquids that could of leaked from your car or spilt during refilling, keep your dog away and clean it up immediately. Wash their feet with soap and warm water after walks and if you think your dog may has licked it or been in contact with it contact your vet immediately.

LIFELINE'S YOUNG TALENT!

A BIG THANK YOU to the three young readers who responded to our request for contributions, led by this excellent piece from Austin. PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING.

Hello, I'm Austin

I've just moved to west Farleigh and it's really fun! I came here in July with my mum and three brothers, I was worried at first if I'd like it, as I was happy living in Wokingbury I have made lots of new friends from all around the area.

There are so many activities I don't always know what to do. Though in fact I always like sneaking my Nintendo switch whenever I can! Ha Ha, mum hates gaming! I like walking down the river near Teston park to our boat, If I'm lucky If my older brother will take his phone and I can play Pokémon as well (mum hates that to but says at least I'm outside getting fresh air!) We will walk all the way down to the ramblers for chips and wave to friend on their boats as they go past, or just chill down at bow bridge boats yard where our boat is.

We had fun in the summer at their music event at the regatta (mum dragged us along as she sings) But there was plenty of things for us to do, we paddle boarded and kayaked, I even was jumping off the boat as we were so hot. There was a food van who kindly gave us free drinks, charity stall, Bricker back stall and plenty of space to run about or dance, The other bands were very good, oh and yep and there was mum.



I love the river a lot, spotting kingfishers, and dragon flies, while we pop the pink flowers on the edge of the river like little bombs in your hand, can't remember what they are called a lot of surprises ...

[Himalayan Balsam, we think. Ed]

Some jokes and riddles from Anna of Rokewood, West Farleigh aged 11

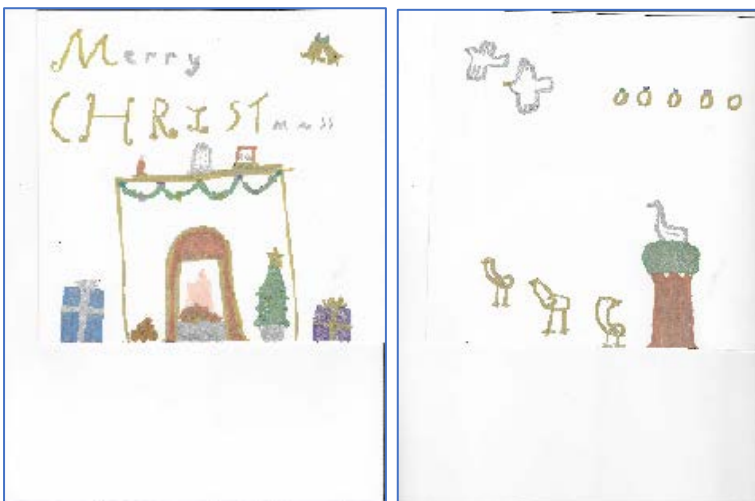
What do pigs use in the shower – Hogwash

How many petals do flowers have – Tulips

How does a squid go into battle – well armed

Why was Cinderella so bad at football – she kept running away from the ball

Keep them coming Anna, riddles in the next issue 😊



We also have this lovely virtual card from William Fowles to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas!

Thank you to all of our young contributors, more to come in 2024!

LOCAL TRADES

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

commercial and domestic Property Specialists

MJ Garden and Property Maintenance

22 Pembroke Road, Coxheath
Maidstone, Kent
ME17 4QJ

mjgarden.maintenance@gmail.com
01622 745406
07988608424



KIRK-BROWN LTD
Chartered Surveyors



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

CHRISTMAS TREES DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

It's that time of year again! Trees available from the beginning of December, delivered to your door (within reason!). All profits go to our Sports Club.

Prices (same as last year) are:

5' – 6' £35
6' – 7' £40
7' – 8' £50

Call Terry on 07761 355518 to order YOUR tree.

PS. (Trees can also be taken away after Christmas if required).



Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting can be found on the Parish Council website or on the village notice boards. westfarleighpc.org.uk

Highways will be hoping to attend to the flooding and road surface damage at the bottom of Smiths Hill during the February half term. They think they have found the problem.

Speeding in the village is always a concern. A 20mph speed limit had been proposed, but West Farleigh does not qualify. It has been suggested that SLOW signs on the road surface be refreshed and more put in either side of the Thatched House. Also, in Charlton Lane, "Pedestrians in the road" signs, where it is narrow and on a bend. This can be done by KCC, but at the moment they do not have the money. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the work to speed it up.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 15th January 7.30 in the Bramley Barn at Dandelion Time. Villagers are welcome to come along and are able to speak to the council for the first 15 minutes.



IPAF Trained
LOLER Cert.

Sunhill
Charlton Lane
West Farleigh
ME15 0PB

01622 720810

ang/global
AngloGlobal

07730 43 55 65

www.AngloGlobal.com

Access Platforms



Barrett Roofing

Brandenburg Oast, Collier Street
Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9RH

All types of roofing work undertaken, including:

Flat Roofing	Tiling
Lead Work	Slating
Gutters	Fascias

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

 **NFRC**
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
ROOFING CONTRACTORS LIMITED

SPORTS REPORT



FOOTBALL

After a solid start to the season our lads have since struggled and are finding it hard to get a decent run of results going.

However, our first eleven started with a victory beating Peshurst 2-0 in a cup match.

Sadly we lost the next few fixtures against Green Street Rovers 3-1 and getting thumped 6-1 away to Tonbridge Juniors. Gladly we finished off last month's results by beating bottom placed Eynsford 3-1.

Our second XI started with a defeat against Sutton Dynamos 5-2 and then unfortunately conceded versus Woodlands and were unlucky the following week losing to Harkenbury 2-1. Finally another narrow defeat going down 2-0 against Kemsing in the cup.



NETBALL

What a month our girls had winning three of our first four matches! We began by beating Lightning 44-33 followed by another win against 'All the Girls' 44-31. However, we came unstuck a week later when we lost 37-26 to Vixens. Gladly we kept the best for last and after trailing for most of the game versus 'Attack' and with only 2 to 3 minutes left we eventually sneaked ahead and won 24-22.



CRICKET :

Alan Smith won 'Cricketer of the Year' for last season. Congratulations to him and all those who made it another enjoyable season.

This month's lucky Ton Up winners were:

Sharona Pearce	£30
Maggie Brooks	£20
Jack Martin	£10

Yours in sport, Tel

Are you good with techie things? We need some help with the village website, posting content, and moving to a new platform.

Don't delay, be bold, email editor@thefarleighs.co.uk and give it a go.



THE EVERGREENS

We had a very interesting talk about racing pigeons. Katie (one of our leaders) husband keeps racing pigeons. He and his brother have this hobby together. They have been very successful. The distances and speeds they achieve is quite remarkable. Followed of course with afternoon tea.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th December. Kettle Bridge concertinas are coming along to play carols, to put us in the mood for a Christmas tea. There will be no lunch meeting in December as it falls on Boxing Day!

If you would like to join us call Helen on 01622 814445. We can offer lifts to those living in East and West Farleigh.



THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

It's that lovely time of the year with fun and laughter planned for our members.

On 29th November -we had the fabulously entertaining Tony Harris presenting Poirot with audience participation in solving a murder! This event is a sell out again. Hopefully, we can plan other get togethers with friends in the new year so watch this space.

Our December Christmas party on 13th December is full of games and silliness to get everyone in the festive mood. And places at our Christmas lunch on 21st December is at capacity.

Last year we decided as a group not to hold meeting in the evening during January and February as dark nights and icy roads were too much of a challenge for some members – we hold zoom meetings in their place, with the Green Team giving a talk on 'Green Initiatives' in January and Elaine Whittaker demonstrating 'Gentle Exercise' in February. Our secretary will send out the link to members ahead of the meeting.

Our monthly catch up meeting will still take place at 12 until 2pm on Monday 29th January and Monday 26th February in the Hall when everyone can keep up to speed with what's been going on.- Bring your lunch and we will provide tea and coffee.

We look forward to meeting new likeminded members who would like to actively 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

Diane Scott- President.

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



Turtle Doves are not just for Christmas.

In fact, if we're not careful, it won't be long before we never see them again except on Christmas cards. Turtle Doves are the fastest declining UK bird – we've lost ninety-eight percent since 1970. A once common countryside bird seen in flocks many hundreds strong, I used to have them visiting my garden in East Farleigh when we first moved in, in the eighties, but this bird was my last – in 2016.

The reasons for their decline are now well documented and are the same for most wild birds and other animals: loss of habitat, industrialised farming and widespread chemical use, a rapidly warming climate and, in the case of the doves and other small birds, illegal hunting in the Mediterranean. All of which are driven, I suppose, by human over-consumption of resources - something, ironically, the perennial Christmas carol celebrates as loving behaviour.



But it's not all bad news for turtle doves around The Farleighs. We can derive some Christmas cheer from the fact that an increasing number of local landowners are managing their land to help the doves, as well as to grow food. With a bit of thought, and simple changes to the management of hedges and field margins around crops, the two can go hand in hand. Farmers around the Farleighs, Coxheath, Hunton and further



afield across the Low Weald are building on a study that has been taking place around Marden for several years. It has shown that turtle doves can be helped, and their soft purring calls could become the soundtrack to summer again, as it was in Biblical times: *"Blossoms have appeared in the land; the season of singing has arrived, and the sound of the turtledove is heard in our land."* (Song of Solomon 2:12)



Kent now has a third of the country's breeding turtle doves, so we are ideally positioned to throw a lifeline (pun intended) to this iconic species. Using modern satellite tracking technology, doves are being tracked around farmland to discover the areas they are using so that farmers know what is working and how they can make simple changes in what they do to help the doves even more. (Above is George with a tiny GPS tracker, and (left) what it revealed about the way he was using farmland.)



Local volunteers have been especially helpful too – checking camera footage and recording sightings. Anyone interested can get a report of the project's progress by emailing mardenwilife@gmail.com

Meanwhile, putting things right for Turtle doves will help the Partridge in the Pear Tree and the Four Colley (calling) Birds too. We may have to renegotiate Brexit to help the French Hens though! Turtle doves are revered in many cultures as tokens of love, caring, peace and hope. In Christianity, it was the dove sent forth from Noah's Ark that returned with an olive branch as a symbol of a new beginning. Let's hope there's a new beginning on the horizon for the Turtle Dove in Kent.

Ray Morris

YALDING TAXIS

Competitive - Personal - Professional - Reliable

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

 **078 777 777 44** 

Computer Problems?
Quality Home and Business support

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

Mobile
07722 293187

Email
info@warford-computers.co.uk

Facebook:
Warford computers

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

hadlum

print large format printing invites
 signs invoice forms banners stickers flyers
 window graphics design newsletters
 site boards posters booklets
 orders of service business cards brochures
 leaflets pull-up banners t-shirt print
 building plans printed magnetic vehicle signs

27-31 St Andrews Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9AN
 e: info@hadlum.co.uk t: 01622 727403

Easterbrook Upholstery

All your upholstery needs

Charlton Lane, West Farleigh
 07843 112665
 Easterbrookantiques@gmail.com

And finally, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all contributors, editors, advertisers, distributors and of course to you, our lovely readers. Thank you for your support and here's to a happy and prosperous 2024!

Diamondbrite®

PROTECT | CLEAN | CARE

THE CHRISTMAS PACK!

£59.99

£49.99

Available from 1st December 2023



EXPERTLY FORMULATED PRODUCTS TO KEEP ANY VEHICLE
CLEAN INSIDE & OUT



Diamondbrite is a proud sponsor of LIFELINE & the community of West Farleigh
Jewelultra Ltd, Diamondbrite House, Ewell Ln, West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NG
For these and 100s of other products, visit www.diamondbrite.co.uk

#TimeToShine

FROM ALL AT DIAMONDBRITE MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!