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LIFELINE



Film Night at All Saints 7pm on Saturday 17th February FREE ADMISSION
See Philip Day’s latest film: Fields and their Secrets: September Skies

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PASTORAL LETTER FROM SUE ELLIOT

Hello everyone,

It's February already! Half-way through February the time known as Lent begins. Lent is a period of 40 days when Christians commemorate the time when Jesus was tested by the devil in the desert before beginning his ministry. It is a time of preparation for Easter, traditionally a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, which is described as the practice of giving money or food to poor people. Even if you don't identify as Christian or identify as religious you can still take part in the journey, which many people do.



Lent is often a time when folk give up something like, for instance, chocolate or coffee. Here are some other suggestions that I found online: give up scrolling on your phone; give up gossiping; give up social media; give up unnecessary shopping; give up holding grudges. Even better would be to give up time to help others. There are many volunteering opportunities or, maybe closer to home you know of a neighbour or friend who is needy in some way, and you can be of help. Perhaps consider giving to a food bank or donate to a charity any money saved by not buying chocolate!

The day before Lent begins is Shrove Tuesday or, as it is more popularly known, Pancake Day. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast, and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients. They were first mentioned in cookery books in 1439 and the first pancake race was in Olney in 1445.

Enjoy your pancakes on 13th February and I hope you mindfully consider ways in which you might be able to reach out to help others not just during Lent but maybe throughout the year. Here are a couple of quotes on which to ponder:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." Dr Loretta Scott

Blessings,
Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

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.

CHURCH SERVICES at All Saints

Sunday 11th February Communion at 9.30am Rev Clinton Davies

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday service at 7.30pm AT COXHEATH

Sunday 25th February Morning Worship at 9.30am Sue Elliot



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.

OBITUARY Alfred (Alf) Board

07.02.1924 - 08.01.2024

Alf was born in Wales and moved to Kent in his teens for farm work. He moved to Greenwood, Charlton Lane in around 1970 with wife Joyce and their children Susan, Sandra, David and Lynda.

Alf was manager at Tutsham Farm until his retirement. He propagated hop plants in the poly tunnel in the garden ready for planting out in the hop gardens. He always used to keep the garden immaculately, with neatly mown lawns and beds full of colourful flowers and he loved sitting out there.



Alf continued to live at Greenwood until 2020 when, following Joyce's death a few years earlier, he developed dementia and was no longer able to manage on his own. Alf was then cared for at Abbotsleigh Care Home, where he passed away peacefully on 8th January, just weeks before his 100th birthday.

Alf's funeral will be at Vinters Park Crematorium on Friday 9th February at 10.15am.



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IN THE GARDEN WITH SARA CUSHING

February means I get to do one of my favourite things in the world..sowing seeds! I spent January sourcing seeds at bargain prices (as a result of this, I inadvertently overordered and have now found myself with over fifty Sungold tomato seeds..) and I've been waiting impatiently to crack on with getting these into compost. The greenhouse has been cleared out in readiness for all the seed trays and though it is insulated, I'm hoping we don't get too much of a cold snap this month, which will impede germination. Unless you have access to a heated propagator or greenhouse, it may be worth waiting until temperatures are slightly higher before sowing as most seeds require minimum temperatures of 16°C to germinate. Equally a kitchen windowsill can work as well, unless as we do, you have cats that eat all green things..



I have been loving finding new varieties. 'Suncherry' is an improvement on the ever-popular 'Sungold', producing a red, rather than orange skin, I've found aubergine and cucumber that are perfect for outdoor growing, and the flower colours that are coming through now are so interesting! Sweet pea 'King Size Navy Blue' is particularly dramatic (I'll be offsetting this with a white sweet pea) and antirrhinum 'Lipstick Silver' is a pretty variety which caught my eye. I found an unusual nasturtium as well during my spending spree. 'Minor Phoenix' has beautiful split, jagged petals and come in a range of fiery colours. Now to find spaces to put these...



In the Borders

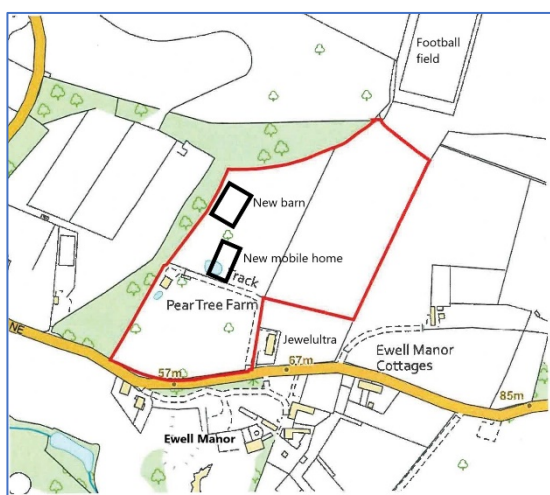
Providing it is a dry day, there is a massive amount of pruning that can be done this month. Winter-flowering shrubs such as mahonia and winter jasmine can be trimmed after flowering, as can buddleia. Wisteria side shoots can be taken back to three buds from the base stem to encourage flowering in Spring and summer flowering clematis to 30cm from the base. Snowdrops can be lifted and split after flowering, to replant in other areas. These are best done while the leaves are still green. Lilies, dahlia and canna tubers can be planted, and any overwintering dahlia can be brought into light conditions. These still need to be kept protected until the risk of frost has passed. Towards the end of the month, top dressings or fertilisers can be applied to give your plants a good start for the growing season!

In the Veg Patch

If you love a new potato, now is the time to start chitting! I've been leaning towards growing in potato bags over the last couple of years, especially if space is limited. It also means that they are contained more effectively and you don't find forgotten potatoes turning up in the middle of your beans. 'Swift' and 'Foremost' are generally good croppers, with a lovely waxy texture, and as I picked up 4kgs of 'Pink Fir Apples', I'm hoping to get a reasonable amount of these. Some seeds can be sown under cover, tomatoes, chillies and peppers as can aubergine, broad beans and peas. Radish, leeks, onion, kale and beetroot can also be started in modular cell trays and by using this method rather than direct sowing into the ground, and by bringing them on to be larger plants, they can be more resistant to damage from garden pests. Do keep an eye out for frosts and make sure that any tender seedlings are protected with horticultural fleece or even a layer of newspaper. It does pay not to be too impatient to get everything started though. Light levels increase more towards the middle of the month which helps prevent leggy, spindly seedlings and as I've been busting to get these sown since I bought them, a couple more weeks won't hurt!

Happy gardening! Sara

NEIGHBOURS CONCERNED ABOUT NEW DEVELOPMENT IN WEST FARLEIGH



A number of villagers attended the Parish Council meeting on 17th January to express their concern about developments at Pear Tree Farm to the councillors and Sue King, MBC Head of Enforcement.

Pear Tree Farm is a pear orchard with an old barn on Ewell Lane, next to Jewelultra and just south of the village football pitch. The land was bought on 11th May 2023 with planning permission to convert the old barn into a 3 bedroom house.

What has happened so far?

The new owners have wasted no time. A large mobile home has been installed along with a large

new barn, a caravan and a lot of machinery. The driveway to the new home has been asphalted and the gateway widened to enable wide loads to be delivered. 3 new hard standings have appeared with their own water supply (see pictures).

No work has begun on the old barn for which planning permission was given. MBC planning officers visited in September. They were told that the new mobile home was there temporarily while the old barn was converted. They closed the case. However given the



The new mobile home

evidence of new pitches for caravans they have opened a new case.

The new owner is one of the developers of the Newbridge Park mobile home park in Paddock Wood, next to the Wyevale Garden Centre and maybe others. What is his plan here?

Are these developments in keeping with West Farleigh? Planning officers listen to the views of the local community. You can express your view directly to the MBC officers by email to Sue King at planningenforcement@maidstone.gov.uk and use this reference:

23/500510/CRVNP2 Peartree Farm Ewell Lane West Farleigh



New barn

STOP PRESS

The new owner has put in a planning application for another large agricultural building 25m long, 8m high on site. No mention is made in the application of the barn he has already built. See MBC 23/505776/FULL for this new application and for your comments.



New pitches with water and electric supplies



What will go here? Is this the planned site of the second barn?

CANINE CORNER with Rebecca

The Jack Russell Terrier, also known as the Parson Russell Terrier, is a small yet energetic and tenacious breed of dog. Originating from England in the 19th century, this breed was developed by a clergyman named Reverend John Russell, who wanted a dog that excelled in hunting foxes.



The history of the Jack Russell Terrier can be traced back to the early 1800s when Reverend Russell began breeding terriers with specific traits suited for hunting. He aimed to create a dog that had a strong prey drive, intelligence, and the ability to dig and go to ground after foxes. The breed's name was later changed to the Parson Russell Terrier to honor Reverend Russell's contribution. The Jack Russell Terrier was primarily used for fox hunting, a popular sport in England at the time. Known for their agility and stamina, these dogs were used to flush out foxes from their dens and keep them at bay until the hunters arrived. Their small size, sharp senses, and fearless nature made them excellent hunters, able to navigate through rough terrain and dig into burrows. In addition to their hunting abilities, Jack Russell Terriers have gained popularity as family pets. They are loyal, affectionate, and highly trainable. However, their high energy levels and strong-willed nature require consistent training and socialisation from a young age. They are best suited for active individuals or families who can provide them with plenty of exercise and mental stimulation.

It's worth noting that there are variations within the breed, with different types of Jack Russell Terriers recognised. The two main types are the "short-legged" and the "long-legged" Jack Russell Terriers. The short-legged variety, often referred to as the "Puddin' Jack," has a shorter stature and is closer in appearance to the original working terriers bred by Reverend Russell. The long-legged variety is slightly taller and more commonly seen in modern show rings.

Whether they are working, being shown in the ring or a family pet the Jack Russell Terriers continue to showcase their unique qualities and leave a lasting impression on those who encounter them. Pixie as pictured in Quarry wood climbing a tree, is a tough little cutie who takes on the big Rhodesian Ridgeback Chester if he is playing too roughly, and he gallops off with his tail between his legs 😊



Some Interesting dog trivia you may not know!

Dogs have a unique nose print, similar to human fingerprints. Each dog has a distinct pattern of ridges and bumps on their nose, making it possible to identify them individually. Dogs have been domesticated for a very long time. It is believed that dogs were first domesticated around 15,000 years ago, making them one of the oldest domesticated species. Oldest dog: Bluey, an Australian Cattle Dog, holds the record for being the oldest dog ever recorded. He lived to be 29 years and 5 months old, from 1910 to 1939.

SEPTEMBER SKIES – A Battle of Britain film presentation at All Saints Sat 17th February at 7pm
Admission free and a bar for refreshments

Also at the following venues and times:

- Staplehurst:
The Parish Room, The Hill - Saturday, 10 February, 3-5 pm
- Kildown:
The Village Hall - Friday, 23 February, 7-9 pm
- Marden:
Vestry Hall - Saturday, 24 February, 7-9 pm
- Capel:
Battle of Britain Memorial, Sun 25 Feb, 2-4 pm (limited space, call in advance)



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Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting from 17th January 2024 can be found on the Parish Council website or on the village notice boards. westfarleighpc.org.uk

There were 7 members of the public at the last meeting, who spoke to the council about the mess on the footpath where it floods on Lower Road; mud and gravel from the unmade track running past the Good Intent being washed down onto the frontage of Rookery Row. Also autumn leaves still on the footpath down Charlton Lane. These issues will be addressed by the Clerk.

Mrs King from Maidstone planning gave an Enforcement presentation and answered questions from the council and members of the public.

There will be NO change to the annual charge to B and D property. The Evergreens were given a donation of £300 and the church received £300 towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

Next Meeting Monday 18th March in Bramley Barn Dandelion Time.

Villagers welcome. Have your say at the beginning of the meeting! Or just come and see what business is conducted.

ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton or nearby villages, should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver25@outlook.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.



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SPORTS REPORT



FOOTBALL

Not many games have been played over the last two months what with Christmas and the weather but there have been plenty of goals scored in the matches that were held - keeping the fans interested! Just not always in the right net!

Our first XI started with an unlucky 3-2 defeat to Tonbridge Juniors, followed by a tremendous cup victory over Chelsfield winning 5-4 AET. A 2-2 draw against Fleetwood followed and lastly Chelsfield again, in the league this time, ended an exciting 3-3 draw.

Meanwhile, our second XI began with a convincing 3-0 victory over Wilderpark only to go on to lose 6-3 to Tunbridge Wells 3rds and 3-0 to Kings hill U23s! 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.

NETBALL



Our girls started well with a fine 35-29 victory over Bengals but this was followed by a heavy 67-17 defeat to Hurricanes. Two more games ended in defeat although with much closer scores: 35-30 to Foxy Wotsits and 39-27 to Vixens. The girls are hoping for more wins next month.

CRICKET



No real news on the cricket front except to say that if there are any budding players out there who play the right way and enjoy a social, friendly afternoon, please get in touch on 07761 355518.

December's lucky Ton Up winners were:

90 Lesley Cushing	£30
82 Megan Shilling	£20
154 Lucas Shilling	£10

Christmas Jackpots were won by:

19 Marcus Lowe	£50
15 Gill Payne	£30

And finally, January's winners were:

78 Mick Back	£30
48 Geoff Underdown	£20
107 Nicholas Boseley	£10

Happy New Year to you all! - Yours in sport, Tel



THE EVERGREENS

At the first meeting of the year, we asked members for their memories of childhood Christmases. Christmas trees with real candles! (Health and Safety Nightmare). Christmas

stockings with a tangerine in the toe, a real treat! When Christmas was exhausted, we moved naturally on to our childhood. Tales of “hand me

down” clothes, homemade clothes, very, very tightly plaited hair! To have it kept tidy. Playing out, with no supervision. No one could remember any problems. Walking to school. Parents did not have cars then.

In anticipation of things going a bit flat in January after all the Christmas excitement, we had a pub lunch at the Woolpack at Benover organised for our second meeting of the month. This was a huge success with 25 members all enjoying delicious main courses and desserts! The staff at the Woolpack were marvellous and made us all feel very welcome!

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.

JANUARY 2024

Happy, Happy New Year!

As this goes to press, we are looking forward to holding a lunch meeting on Monday 29th January 12 until 2pm. Members bring their own lunch and we enjoy

a coffee and a natter.

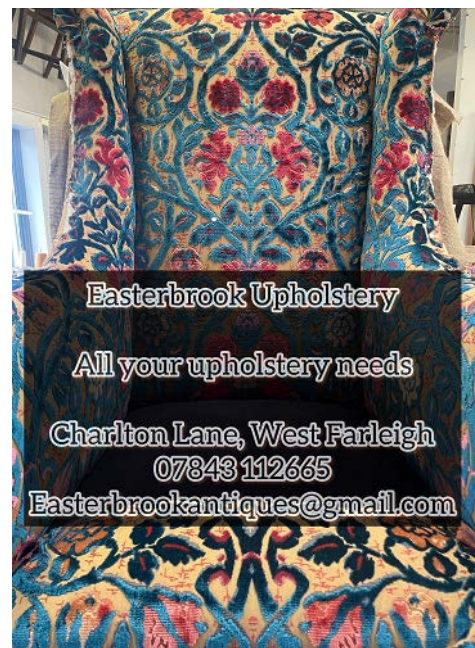
The February (14th) meeting will be on Zoom to avoid dark nights and bad weather driving. So we can all stay warm with chair Yoga but still catch up with all our members.

We would welcome new members getting involved in our very sociable group - why not come and join us for coffee on 29th and meet new friends?.

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



Having feasted well and possibly excessively over the festive season you may experience a sense of foreboding if I warn of an imminent irruption. But read that sentence again and relax.

I'm referring to an occasional movement of Waxwings from northern Scandinavia that brings tens of thousands of these spectacular berry-eaters to this country when their native crop has failed, or, a poor crop has simply been exhausted in a year that has seen an unusually successful breeding season. It has happened twice in the last few winters, this being one of them.



Photo: Mark Lopez

The birds usually make landfall on the east coast of Scotland, making their way south – sometimes as far as the West Country – devouring any remaining rowan berries in their path before starting on any pyracantha berries left by the local birds. This year they have reached Kent in good numbers and have been seen in neighbouring villages but not, so far as I am aware, in The Farleighs. But with luck we may see these magnificent birds. Surprisingly our best bet is often large supermarket car parks, or on new, but established, housing estates where the decorative trees and shrubs of choice – rowans, pyracanthas and cotoneasters have been planted to soften the harsh brick, concrete and tarmac surroundings.

A feature of these birds that mark them out as different from the normal species found in northern Europe and the UK is that which gives them their name – they have waxy tips to some of their secondary flight feathers. These are thought to have evolved as a sign of fitness. A healthy bird displays these to signal this; the bright red is created with carotenoids, chemicals they - and humans - require for a robust immune system. As the bird ages, so the number of these waxy tips increase, signalling that the bird in question has survived the elements and is an experienced individual. A good choice as a mate, therefore, to breed with and pass on one's genes in the resulting young



Their delightful fluty, whistling call is amplified by their habit of travelling in flocks to strip their chosen tree of its berries. By now, of course, trees are also bereft of leaves making a busy flock easily visible to a passing sparrowhawk looking down through the leafless branches. The waxwings' multi-primary-coloured wings, though, create a whirr of confusion to baffle the would-be predator. Leaving them to live, to devour our berries and enchant us, for another day!

Ray Morris

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