

"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

Sat 18 th May	Plant Sale at church with tea and cakes (11am-3pm)
Fri 28 th June	'Present Laughter' by the Changeling Theatre at Elmscroft
Sun 30 th June	Smiths Hall gardens open. More tea and cakes. (11am-5pm)
Fri 5 th July	Village Cricket Match with BBQ
Sun 14 th July	Garden Safari. Maps to be bought in church

HOT FIXTURES

Sun 19 th May	WF Sports Club Under 13s CUP FINAL 10am kick off at the Maidstone United Gallagher Stadium
--------------------------	---

Distributed freely in April 2024 Edition 564
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 April 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


Find your inner peace


Services offered


- Counselling – Face-to-Face and online
- IEMT (Integral Eye Movement Therapy)
- EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique)
- Recovery Coaching (substance misuse/abuse)
- Women's Issues

Being someone with Fibromyalgia, I also specialise in Chronic Pain and Fibromyalgia support.

Contact me for an informal chat
zoe@zoerevellcounselling.com • 07809 555 728

 [_find_your_inner_peace](https://www.zoerevellcounselling.co.uk)

 Find your inner peace – Zoe Revell Counselling & Coaching Maidstone



www.zoerevellcounselling.co.uk



Easterbrook Upholstery

All your upholstery needs

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



Dear Fellow Resident & Potential Sponsors

Message from Debbie Bailey @ Red Tiles Charlton Lane

I am part of the team who provide swimming lessons and activities for Disabled Adults at Mote Park Leisure Centre. On Sunday 17th March 2024 we are holding a relay swim at Maidstone Leisure Centre to raise much needed funds for both :

- Maidstone swimming for the disabled
- Demelza Hospice Care for Children

with all the monies raised being split 50/50 between both.

The actual length of the relay swim cannot be pre-determined as the relay team will consist of both disabled swimmers, who may only manage one length at a time, to able-bodied swimmers who may do a number of lengths in their stints.

We are seeking your support by sponsoring a donated sum and hope you will be able to help.

I will be calling round to seek your support over the next few weeks. Alternatively if you wish to support us, drop a donation down to me at Red Tiles (enclosing your name and address so I do not approach you twice !!)

In anticipation of your kind support and donations,

Thank You

Debbie

[Editor's note: Sara's Gardening Column will be back next month but in the meantime keep up the weeding and mowing!]





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

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

It seems that potholes and trenches that have appeared on the edge of carriageways are not repaired by Kent Highways. Only holes on the actual road **might** be repaired.

If you come across a pothole, do report it on the MBC website. They require the location, width, length and depth (along with a photo, if you can take one without being mown down).

On a positive note, apparently the runoff water (the Ewell) that runs **across** the road at the bottom of Smiths Hill and erodes it, has been contained into a culvert taking it **under** the road and it seems to working so far. But repairing the damage to the road, caused by the constant flow of water, has not been done. This has been requested.

Chris Wilson is no longer a councillor and two members will be standing down in May. This leaves room for new members on the Parish Council. Some villagers have come forward, but there is still time for YOU to apply.

Closing date 15th April. Email the clerk westfarleighpc@gmail.com

TWO NEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1. Summer theatre at Elmscroft House

On Friday 28th June, the Changeling Theatre company returns to Elmscroft House after a 10 year absence to present one of Noel Coward's finest comedies, 'Present Laughter'. The Changeling Theatre Company tours the South East of England every summer, performing outdoors and are always popular. Tickets on-line at

www.tickettailor.com/events/westfarleighvillageevents/1201841

2. Village Cricket match – with a difference

And on Friday 5th July (this is a change of date) the annual village cricket match will take a different dimension: the village team will play a team selected from the Indian Orthodox community who have been worshipping at All Saints for 3 years. Naturally they have a lot of keen cricketers! Doors open 5pm, free admission, food from 5.30pm which will include our traditional BBQ but also some delicious alternatives from Kerala. The winning side will be awarded the President's Cup.

CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

I'm sure most of you enjoyed watching Crufts in March, I know I did. One breed I noticed being entered as a rarity there days was the Foxhound.

A total of 2,847 dogs were entered in Crufts 2024 and there was a mere 5 Foxhounds entered into the world-famous competition this year, as opposed to the Golden Retriever who had as many as 538!

As a girl growing up in the countryside I remember seeing many Foxhounds about. Hearing the Hunters horn or a "Trompe d' Orleans" - used to indicate losing a fox in covert - was a sound I got used to on a Sunday morning.

As I got older and understood that this sound was associated with the fleeing fox I soon started to resent it. Fox hunting, which was once a popular and widely practiced sport, has faced increased scrutiny and regulation in many countries and has thankfully been banned in the UK in 2004 but with this the decline in Foxhounds has become apparent. Foxes were referred to as 'beasts of the chase' in medieval times, along with red deer, and



the earliest known attempt to hunt foxes with hounds was in Norfolk, England, in 1534 where farmers began chasing foxes down with their dogs for the purpose of pest control. The Breed is believed to be a descendant of various English hunting hounds, such as the Greyhound, the Bulldog, and the Fox Terrier.

For those hunters who had previously tracked deer, which required large areas of open land, foxes and hares became the prey of choice in the seventeenth century, with packs of hounds being trained specifically to hunt. England's oldest fox hunt, which is still running

today, is the Bilsdale Hunt in Yorkshire, established by George Villiers, the Duke of Buckingham in 1668.



Nowadays their hunting prowess and endurance have made them versatile working dogs in various fields. They are commonly used in search and rescue operations due to their exceptional scenting abilities and ability to cover large areas quickly. Some Foxhounds are even employed as therapy dogs, providing comfort and companionship to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, and other care facilities.

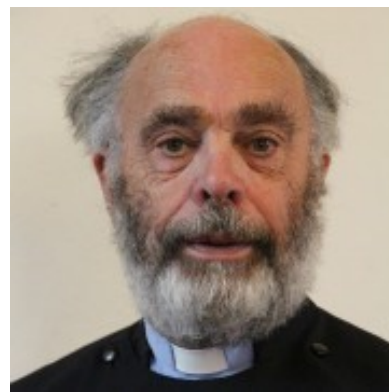
As pets, they require regular exercise to channel their energy and prevent destructive behaviour. Being active dogs, with high energy they thrive in homes with spacious gardens or access to open spaces where they can run and play. Their friendly and sociable nature makes them well-suited for families with children and other pets. However, due to their high prey drive potential owners should be prepared to invest time and effort into training and socialising them from an early age to ensure they grow into well-behaved and balanced dogs.



PASTORAL LETTER from Rev. David Jones

‘Alleluia, Christ is risen!’

May the message of Easter joy be to you all! Easter is always a wonderful time in so many ways. To the first Christians it marked the message that Jesus came to bring; new life after the dark message of Good Friday. It’s a message that lives on each year. It comes as the dark days of winter comes to a close. The days are longer and warmer, the bulbs and blossoms are beginning to encourage us that summer is coming with their colour and new life is bursting out in so aa different ways.



As a child the Easter holiday took us out of the suburbs of North Kent into the countryside to stay with our relations in Somerset, Northamptonshire or Kent. We saw primroses, daffodils in the hedgerows and lambs in the fields, the cherry blossom beginning to show. It was all good.

The cycle of the seasons gives us hope. Earlier in March, when I was thinking about this letter, my thoughts were focused on the gloom in so much of life and in the news. Who to believe, what to believe. The future in the news was grim.

But now there seems to be hope. The news hasn’t changed but with the Easter message in our ears and new life springing up all around us, we are reminded of God’s faithful love and promise yet again. The world may just come to its senses, and love in all its beauty and fullness may start to fill broken relationships, between individuals and nations. Is this really too good to be true? How can it come about? It will happen when we realise that each of us is one of God’s wonderful creations like so much around us, and we can show this in the new life he gives us when he died and rose again for us, his children.

So, try to live the Easter Life in the coming days and for the rest of your earthly journey and we will all see Life in all its joy and beauty.

David

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 14th April 9.30am Communion — Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 28th April 9.30am Morning Worship – Lorna Faulkner (*)

(*) The Annual Pariochial Church Council meeting will take place at this service.

WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE (x2)

Welcome to our new neighbours at Hillview in Charlton Lane. Adam, Carly and their two children Annabelle (6) and Henry (14) moved in at the end of October 2023 having previously resided in Larkfield. Adam and Carly both work in the travel industry in various guises and Carly is also a wedding registrar at weekends.

The whole family are very sporty and Adam is a keen cricketer so maybe one for our team at a later date? Henry plays for Kings Hill Juniors and Annabelle is a keen gymnast, Carly is training for her next marathon.



They are all delighted to be here, please say hello if you see them in the village.

And welcome to Tim and Priscilla Mills



Tim and Priscilla Mills have moved into a Bow Meadow Cottage. A charmingly renovated cottage with Panoramic views over the River. They have come from Peacehaven, where Tim was the vicar of a Benefice of three churches, assisted by Priscilla who was a lay Reader.

Let's give them a warm welcome to West Farleigh. It was only after receiving Lifeline, did they realise they were actually living in West Farleigh. They thought they were living in Wateringbury. They are on the boundary of West Farleigh, Wateringbury and Yalding.

Priscilla is no stranger to this part of the world as she grew up in Offham and went to Maidstone Girls Gramma School. From here they can more easily visit their three children. We hope that they join in and enjoy the many social events etc held in the village.

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





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

Telephone number 01622 745178

Promoting Natural Healing & Health

The Coxheath Chiropractic & Natural Therapy Centre

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

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

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	castleph@gmail.com
Hair Traditional	Hairdressing & beauty	Facebook/Instagram @hairtraditional.maidstone		01622 817800	

SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES

FOOTBALL



Our first eleven started with a heavy 6-2 defeat in our cup game against Kemsing. However, the following week we were away to Penshurst in the league and won 3-1 finishing the month with a terrific 3-2 victory over Green Street Rovers. Meanwhile, our second eleven only had one fixture for the month which was drawn 2-2 against Weald Wolves, coming back after being 2-0 down.

UNDER 13s

Our under 13's side have continued their remarkable season maintaining a 100% success in all of their matches. This means they have now clinched the Division Two title and have progressed to a cup final. This was achieved with a 14-0 victory over Ditton, 6-0 over Welling Town and 6-3 against Welling Wanderers. In the semi-final against Kings Hill we won 5-2.

Date for your diary – our final versus Chatham Town will be on Sunday 19 May, 10am kick off at the Maidstone United Gallagher Stadium. It would be great if we could get some local support and cheer our boys on!

NETBALL



Our girls ended our winter season last month beginning with a great victory over Headcorn 35-28. However, we ended our season with two defeats against KG Freeze 37-30 and Fusion 48-21. Overall a very enjoyable and satisfactory season, hopefully we can carry on our good form for the summer season which begins in May.

CRICKET



Not long now before we start our season which begins at the end of April, hopefully the weather will improve in the meantime. Are you thinking you might like to play this summer? The Sports Club will be pleased to hear from you. Call Terry 01622 815267 or Paul 07730 435565.

CLUB NEWS

Our final Ton-up draw was last month, the new year starts again in April. If you would like to join and support our club you would be very welcome. This is £10 for the year with regular monthly and a Christmas jackpot winners.

Last months winners were : No. 158 Sue Walsh £30
No. 114 Bethan Habbibi £20
No. 28 Jo Pollard

! - Yours in sport, Tel

PS. More sports news on www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/



THE EVERGREENS

We had Paul Warren come along to tell us about Attagirls, Night witches, doughnut girls and other women who did courageous work during the Second World War.

Attagirls flew planes for the Air Transport Auxillary. They flew new and repaired planes from factories direct to the airfields. Amy Johnson was the inspiration for many young girls to join. They flew Spitfires, Hurricanes and bombers. Nightwitches were German female pilots that flew night time bombing raids. The doughnut girls, were American women who came over to Great Britain with their food vans. They travelled to the American bases, made coffee and doughnuts, American style, to give the boys a little taste of home. Towards the end of the war they even took trucks to France.

We finished with afternoon tea. Unfortunately, the sudden death of one of members, Norman Hickmott, was announced. Many of us can remember him at West Farleigh Polling Station.

We will be meeting on 9th April, when Paul Smith will be telling us about Guide Dogs for the Blind. 2.30pm in the WI Hall Forge Lane East Farleigh.

If you would like to join us, ring Helen on 01622 814445.



THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

Sue Spiers gave an entertaining talk with lots of laughter in March with poems and songs from some of our funniest comedians including Victoria Wood and Pam Ayers.

Our April meeting is planned as a 'No Bake OFF' this is sure to be fun as the competition between tables heats up in

finding the overall winner.

Tickets are available for our open evening on Wednesday 1st May when Margaret Thatcher (Tony Harris) will be entertaining the audience in a way that only 'Tony' can! So come along, bring your friends and neighbours for an amusing night with fabulous W.I Buffet included. Tickets £5 for members, £7.50 Guests. Doors open at 6.30pm and the show starts 7pm.

To reserve tickets please e-mail Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk.

The Farleighs W.I are looking for new members to join our Group, we are very fortunate to have our own W.I hall in Forge Lane, East Farleigh and meet on 2nd Wednesday each month. So, why not come along and join us for coffee and cake and meet the lovely sociable women that make up our group? You will be made very welcome – our meetings start at 7pm with

refreshments followed by a quick update with what's going on, and there's plenty to suit everyone.

Craft, Art, Darts Bowling, Lunch club, Walking group, School reading group and a whole host of on-line training available for free to members.

In addition to all of this we hold Monthly Catch-up meetings, bring your lunch and we supply the tea and coffee - why not come and join us for coffee on Monday 25th March or Monday 29th April and meet new friends?

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.



hadlum

print large format printing invites
signs banners invoice forms 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



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



IPAF Trained
LOLER Cert.

Sunhill
Charlton Lane
West Farleigh
ME15 0PB

01622 720810

AngloGlobal

07730 43 55 65
www.AngloGlobal.com

Access Platforms



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

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



FLYING MILKMAIDS? SURELY NOT.

It can't all be down to April Fool Day, but this the month that confusion reigns. Not so much in the bird world, although many different – and some rarely seen because they migrate under cover of darkness – species are returning to breed.

But the world of plants is rife with confusion: umpteen country names for the same species, even from one village to the next, and even more associated folklore about their power to cure, kill, fertilise, predict, protect, or feed us.

This plant, an even earlier opener this year in response to our rapidly heating climate, is *Cardamine pratensis* and was snapped locally by Lou Carpenter. It's regaled by an assortment of names depending on where the viewer hales from: Milkmaids, Lady's Smock, Cuckoo Flower and no doubt many more.



According to the Kent Wildlife Trust: *The common name 'Lady's-smock' arises from the cupped shape of the flowers. However, 'smock' was once a slang term for a woman and the name may have alluded to certain springtime activities in the meadows!*

If this allusion to a widespread country pastime of yesteryear means what I think it does (do any lads and lasses – aka blokes and smocks, I suppose - frolic in meadows anymore?), then there is another etymological connection with Cuckoo Flower and cuckold. Folklore has it that these flowers emerge as Cuckoos return to breed, traditionally on the 23rd of the month, St George's Day as well as Shakespeare's birthday.

The cuckoo of course is well known for 'cuckolding' small birds when laying its own egg in their nest. Early scientists had many fanciful ideas (all of them wrong) about the cuckoo's lifestyle, but no real understanding about its egg-laying.

Not until, that is, 1788 when Edward Jenner (the country doctor famous for his work on inoculation against smallpox) published the first observed account of what we now know really does happen. Even back then it was poo-pooed by respectable scientists and wasn't full accepted for a century or so.

Nowadays, of course, most people have watched it happening on TV to the hushed tones of a David Attenborough voiceover. You can see the extraordinary behaviour of the Cuckoo and it's chick on BBC Earth, just browse **Cuckoo Hijacks Warbler Nest**

So if you come across a 'bloke with a smock' in the meadow, don't disturb them. They're probably watching it in real life.

Ray Morris (lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk)

ASIAN HORNET UPDATE

Local beekeepers are on high alert to spot Asian Hornets as the queens emerge from hibernation. This is likely to be in March. Asian Hornets are an invasive species and pose a major threat to British honeybees and wild pollinators. Since 2016 there have been 101 confirmed sightings and 78 of them were in 2023. Over 40 of these 2023 sightings were in Kent. Where nests have been found, they have been destroyed by the National Bee Unit but, given the rise in sightings, it's very likely that some of the queens will succeed in overwintering this year. We need to spot them and deal with them before they found nests. Laddingford and District Beekeeping Club sent one of our members to Jersey, where the Asian Hornet is already established, to get hands-on experience with local beekeepers of identifying, tracking and destroying Asian Hornet nests. We've been passing this knowledge on to other Kent clubs. The club will be making large quantities of traps to put in areas of previous hornet activity or where there are unconfirmed sightings.

At up to 3cm, Asian hornets are much bigger than wasps (and slightly smaller than our native hornets). They have a darker body than native hornets but the real giveaway is their distinctive yellow legs. If you see one, take a photo or trap it if you can. Report it on the Asian Hornet Watch app, tell a local beekeeper or contact us on Chair@laddingfordbeekeepers.co.uk . If you haven't managed to get a photo or trap your suspected Asian Hornet, contact us on the above email and we can set out bait traps to check out the location.

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport

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** 

Diamondbrite®

PROTECT | CLEAN | CARE

EXPERTLY FORMULATED PRODUCTS
TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLE CLEAN
INSIDE & OUT



Diamondbrite is a proud sponsor of LIFELINE & the community of West Farleigh Jewellutra Ltd, Diamondbrite House, Ewell Ln, West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NG
For these and 100s of other products, visit DIAMONDBRITE.CO.UK

#TimeToShine

SUITABLE FOR: CARS / MOTOR-HOMES / CARAVANS / MOTORBIKES / BICYCLES / AIRCRAFT / BOATS