

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

Welcome to West Farleigh’s own

# LIFELINE



*Planted by West Farleigh in Bloom Team*



## WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Village Plant Sale at the church from 11am – 3pm.

‘Present Laughter’ a Noel Coward play at Elmscroft House

Enjoy the NGS open day at Smiths Hall 11am – 5pm – with cake!

Village cricket match with BBQ

Garden Safari – maps to be bought in the church

## FOOTBALL HOME GAMES

All matches start at 1pm. Spectators welcome.

Distributed freely in May 2024 Edition 565

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Deadline for the next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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May is here at last!

*'See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.  
Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come...'*

*Song of Songs 2:11-12*



I always find May to be a hopeful month. It's when Spring begins to turn to Summer. Those of us sick and tired of trekking our dogs through cold, thick, sticky, mud rejoice in the return of firmer ground and cleaner floors; we can turn the heating off until October; the green-fingered among us will see our gardens flourish once more; the evenings are lighter; we have two Bank Holidays in the same month!

What's not to love? No wonder our ancestors welcomed this month with feasting and dancing. It must have marked some relief for them - the frosts were gone, food was more plentiful, less darkness, less sleeping, more time to enjoy the company of others.

I did a bit of internet research (always guaranteed to be an eye-opener!) and there are so many things to celebrate in May! Here's a selection of my favourites...

- May 1: World Laughter Day
- May 4: Intergalactic Star Wars Day
- May 10: Clean Up Your Room Day
- May 15: International Day of Families
- May 16: International Pickle Day
- May 25: World Otter Day
- May 30: Water a Flower Day

In the church, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll be celebrating too as we mark the festival of Pentecost. We'll hear again the account recorded in the book of Acts that describes how the Spirit of God was poured out on the first believers with tongues of Holy fire... You are welcome, as always, to come along and join us as we discover what these events can mean for us today.

Have a look for yourself - see if there's something you can celebrate this month. And if there isn't? Make something up - and invite your neighbours!

Warm May blessings to you all, Lorna

### **Services at All Saints**

<b>Sunday 12th May</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 26th May</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>

## West Farleigh Village in Bloom Annual Plant Sale



The popular annual plant sale is again being hosted at All Saints Church, West Farleigh on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 11am – 3pm, run by the West Farleigh in Bloom Team.

There will be delicious CAKES and COFFEE to enjoy as well as the opportunity to bag yourself a bargain! Come and meet with friends and neighbours, browse the selection of plants on sale and of course eat cake! All profits will be divided between All Saints Church and the Farleigh Bloomers team. (If you have any spare plants or cuttings or would like to donate a cake for the sale please bring them along on the day or let Sue O'Donnell know on 07429 491022 and she will arrange collection). Thank you for your support.

### ALSO

#### GARDEN SAFARI, Sunday 14th July.

If you would like to open your garden for others to visit and enjoy Sue O'Donnell would love to hear from you. Please Tel. 07429 491022 or email [sueodonnell@talktalk.net](mailto:sueodonnell@talktalk.net). (More details for this event will be included in June's Lifeline).

## New Village Event



On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June we will be hosting the Changeling Theatre's open air theatre production of 'Present Laughter' in the lovely grounds of Elmscroft House. Come along to a lively evening of laughter and fun, bring seats and a blanket with your favourite nibbles and drink and enjoy this classic Noel Coward comedy.

The plot depicts a few days in the life of the successful and self-obsessed light comedy actor Garry as he prepares to travel for a touring commitment in Africa. Amid a series of events farcical events, he has to deal with women who want to seduce him, placate both his long-suffering secretary and his wife, cope with a crazed young playwright, and overcome his mid-life crisis (he has recently turned forty).

A great night to be had. Tickets are available on-line (search **tickettailor present laughter**) or text Alex on 07843 112665. Tickets are £25 each and are selling fast! The show will go ahead unless the weather is really bad. We look forward to seeing you there.



## The Bull in East Farleigh has re-opened

Olly Aubrey has recently taken on the lease of the Bull at East Farleigh. He has worked hard to turn it into a friendly local village pub again. He has plenty of experience, he has the leases of other pubs in Maidstone.

The function room on the north side of the pub is the oldest part and can be seen in an old photo of the much older timbered pub, which burnt down. This has been decorated and smartened up and can now be used a function room for events, parties, wakes etc. It also doubles a restaurant. There is more informal eating in the bar. With a breakfast menu, a pub grub menu and Roasts on Sunday.

Watch out for special events, live music, gatherings of classic cars etc. You will also be able to get a haircut for your dog, while you eat and drink in the bar! A dog grooming parlour is to open in the garden. We wish him luck.

## Congratulations



To Farleigh's very own marathon runner Dee Barton who smashed the London Marathon on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April with an impressive time of 3 hours and 36 minutes – Well done Dee!



## Farleigh Under 13's football team

The West Farleigh U13 football team has won the Maidstone Youth Football League Division 2 by winning all their games this season. They will play in the top division next season.

The team has also reached the Challenge Cup Final and will be playing Chatham Town Youth at Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone, on **Sunday 19th May, 10am kick off.**

**Can you come along and support them!?**

Many of the team first came along to coaching sessions at Charlton Lane when they were just 5 years old, so we are proud of their development and achievements this season.



Message to West Farleigh Residents

*On behalf of Maidstone swimming for the Disabled and Demelza I would like to thank everybody who kindly sponsored and donated to my swim on behalf of these two charities. I completed 50 lengths of Mote Park Leisure Centre pool – not far off a mile in total !!*

*I raised an absolutely amazing £600 and would like to express a very special “thank you” to all the villagers who contributed so generously.*

*Sorry if we missed you when we did our door to door collections. If you still wish to make a contribution, we would be absolutely delighted to receive any further monies to boost the fund raising even further, please just pop it in an envelope and drop it round to ‘Red Tiles’ Charlton Lane and we will ensure it gets passed on.*

*Maidstone swimming for the disabled not only helps those with physical and mental disabilities, but can also help where somebody has had a joint replacement to help regain their fitness and mobility. If you need any information or may wish to consider taking advantage of the services offered please get in touch.*

*Thank you so much again.  
Kindest regards  
Debbie Bailey*



### **It’s swarm season for bees.**

In spring and early summer, the numbers of bees in our hives rises very quickly. If colonies start to feel cramped, they are likely to swarm. They will create a successor queen cell and the old queen and many of the bees will leave the hive, leaving the hive to the new queen.

The swarm will typically settle in a dense ball. Scout bees will set off in search of a new nest site and, any time from a couple of hours to a day or so, the bees will head off to their new home.

So what should you do if you see a swarm? You don’t have to do anything! Bees are not very aggressive when swarming and, if left to themselves, they will soon move off on their own accord. So you can just enjoy this amazing phenomenon.

However, your local beekeeper will thank you if you call them. And, if a swarm is in a public place, it’s best to collect it for the safety of both people and bees. If it is within reach, the beekeeper will collect it and deliver

the colony to one of their empty hives. This is best for the bees too as the majority of swarms will fail to find a suitable new home on their own and will die out. If you don't know a beekeeper [**but you do! see note below**], contact [chair@laddingfordbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:chair@laddingfordbeekeepers.co.uk). The process of collection is fascinating to watch from a safe distance.

We do get a lot of calls from people who think they have a swarm when in fact they have a lot of bees (or even wasps!) feeding on a plant! Swarming bees will be clustered in a very distinctive dense ball, usually in a tree or under an eave.

Don't forget to look out for invading Asian hornets this summer - with a darker body and bright yellow legs. Take a photo, trap if safe to do so, and tell a beekeeper.

### **Caroline Field, Laddingford and District Beekeepers.**

**Special plea from a LIFELINE editor:** we lost our bees last winter. We have a nice new hive waiting for a new swarm so if you see one please message Stephen on 07921684394.

### **In the garden with Sara Cushing**

The lovely Sara is taking a break from her many contributions to Lifeline. Her colourful and informative articles will be missed but we want to wish Sara all the best in her very busy career and say thank you.

If you are a budding gardener and would like to make contributions to Lifeline we would love to hear from you, this could be a regular slot or ad-hoc articles, please contact [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk).



### **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



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## CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

The English King Charles Spaniel vs The USA's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (Toy breed)

This breed can sometimes be mixed up with each other and are often mistaken as the same breed. They are in fact two different breeds that shared the same history until they diverged many years ago.

The King Charles spaniel (the original smaller breed typically 9-12lbs) has an interesting history that originated during the 16th to 17th century. Named after King Charles II (also known as the cavalier king) the breed was a huge hit amongst the royals, often seen sitting on their laps in the royal courts. King Charles had a deep affection for them and they were often seen by his side. It is rumoured that he issued a decree that allowed his beloved spaniels to enter any public place, including the Houses of Parliament.



The breed nearly became extinct when William III and Queen Mary took over the United Kingdom as the Queen preferred Pugs, so the King Charles spaniel quickly became canine non grata.



To save the King Charles from extinction it was crossed with the Queens favoured pug resulting in a flatter nose, an upturned face and rounded head with protruding eyes.

230 years later American breeders took on the challenge of reproducing the original longer nosed, flat head King Charles. Following WWII (and another phase of near extinction), the American breeders were granted a separate registration status for their burgeoning breed; the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (slightly

larger at 13-18lbs). Six surviving dogs became the starting point from which ALL modern day Cavaliers have descended.

These days the Cavalier has gained a significant following and often seen as a beloved family pet around the world due to his loyal and affectionate nature. They are a true companion dog, not overly energetic but do enjoy daily walks and playtime. They are also considered to be the healthier breed with a lower risk of certain health issues such as Mitral valve disease. However both breeds can still be prone to other various health conditions, so responsible breeding is essential.



The King Charles spaniel, although still cherished by enthusiasts, is less commonly seen and may be regarded as a rarer breed.

## GOODBYE TO ANN AYEARS



Ann and Terry Ayers moved, with their two daughters, Jo and Caroline, to West Farleigh 42 years ago from High Halstow. They quickly became part of the community, Terry managing Whitbread's local hop farms and Ann joining the WI, table tennis club, choir etc. She and Terry and latterly Ann were involved in many village events. Terry passed away 18 months ago and Ann continued living in Windyridge. It was apparent that the house was too big and that it would be sensible for Ann to move. She chose to move to Buckden in Cambridgeshire, the village, where her daughter Jo lives.

Village friends were invited to join the family at the Good Intent for farewell drinks and nibbles. The pub was packed, showing the love and respect there is for Ann in the village.

We wish her well in her new home. We are sure that before long she will be as involved in Buckden as she has been in West Farleigh! She will be missed, but she will only be two hours away and she has a spare room!

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The state of the roads continues to be an issue. Particularly Smiths Hill. You will have seen that Kent Highways have inspected the road and sprayed liberal amounts of white paint to indicate the problems that need attention. "The paint is wearing away!"

There will be local elections in May. Do vote for your borough councillors and Police commissioner. **PHOTO ID ESSENTIAL.**

There will not be elections for the Parish Council as there are not enough candidates. Those that have put their names forward, have automatically been "elected". Your New Parish Council will be introduced at the Annual Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 at Bramley Barn, Dandelion Time.



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## Village Sunflower Competition



Could you grow the tallest sunflower in West Farleigh this year???

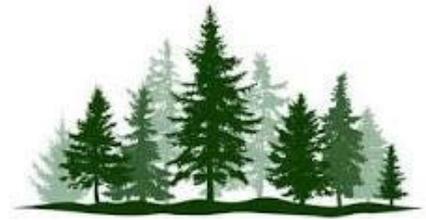
Judging to take place on SATURDAY 10th AUGUST.

If your sunflowers aren't visible from the road please email us on [bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk) so that we don't miss you.



## EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had a visit from a Paul Smith and his Guide Dog. Paul has a hereditary type of blindness. Others in his family are also blind. He is able to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life with the assistance of his wonderful Black Alsatian Guide Dog.



The dogs not only keep their owners safe by guiding them about, they give security and emotional support, also. The bond between them was clearly apparent. Paul and his driver joined us for tea. We made a donation to the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. St Georges Day was celebrated with the Roast Beef of Old England.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Ring Helen 814445 if you would like to join us.

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## SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



**FOOTBALL** What a great month our first team had! Winning all three fixtures and putting themselves in with a terrific chance of promotion. We started with a 4-2 victory over Fleetdown followed by another 4-2 win against Horsmonden and finally scoring four again to beat Cudham 4-1. Meanwhile our second eleven have struggled with just one point gained out of a possible 9 losing 3-1 to The Oaks, drawing with Leigh 1-1 and going own 2-1 to Sutton Dynamo.

**See separate article on under 13's**



**NETBALL** No sooner has the winter season finished than we are looking forward to the summer one which starts on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Here's hoping we can continue our recent good form and start with some positive results, early games in next month's issue.



**CRICKET** Not long now! We kick off our new season with a friendly at home on 27<sup>th</sup> April with our league campaign beginning on 4 May with both teams playing Southborough. Let's hope it's a competitive, friendly season for all.

### CLUB NEWS

February lucky numbers

125	Keith Dalton	£30
72	Pam Bissenden	£20
135	Primrose Habbibi	£10

**! - Yours in sport, Tel**

**TAKING YOUR PHONE TO THE MATCH? WHY NOT SEND PICTURES OF OUR SPORTSMEN IN ACTION TO [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk). We can use them.**

**PS. More sports news on [www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/](http://www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/)  
THE FARLEIGHS W.I.**

## THE FARLEIGHS W.I.



Our April meeting 'No Bake OFF' was full of laughter and silliness. The overall winner of this Olympic themed event made from cake and sweets was an equestrian entry complete with chocolate roll horse and liquorice allsorts spectators!!

May one again is time for our AGM. The current president will be standing down after her 3-year term and we elect a new President and committee to carry on our lovely group.

Following the statutory business, we plan to have a film show of some of our past pantomime performance we have popcorn to get us in theatre mood.

Tickets are available for our open evening on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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;30 and show starts 7pm.

To reserve tickets please e-mail [Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 starts 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.

If you 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.

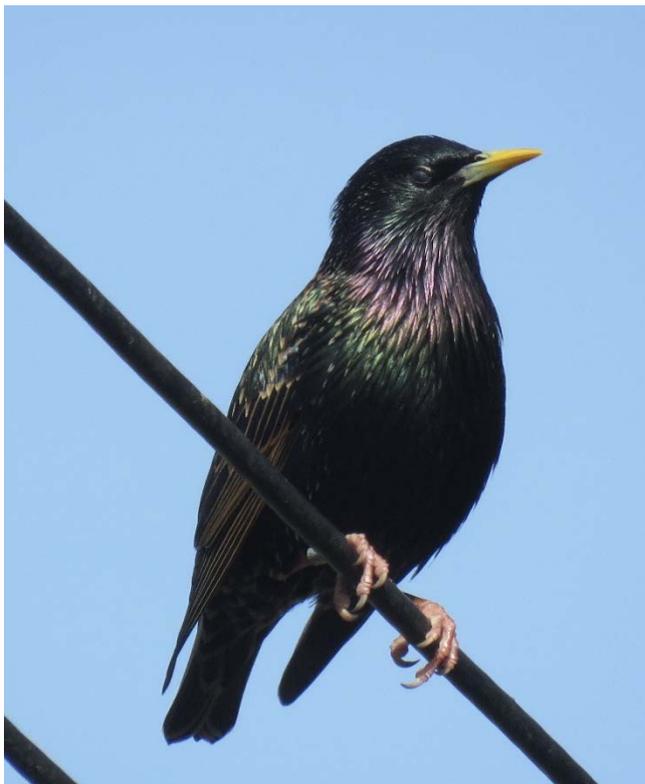
# ~~FLYING~~ *around* ~~the~~ FARLEIGHS



## My dog's got no nose!

Really? How does it smell? I'm sure you know the punchline... But Mozart, who kept a pet starling that scholars claim may have influenced some of his compositions, could have substituted 'my starling' in the joke. He kept one as a pet after buying it from a shop when he heard it singing – note perfect apparently - one of his compositions and made use of the bird's remarkable vocal output to inspire some of his work. Given so close an interest in the bird, he would no doubt have revelled in what we now know about starlings' vocal agility and, also, their noses. It's the olfactory part of the brain that's the key, of course, not a large appendage on the face.

By the time you read this, your gardens and bird feeders may well be overwhelmed by crowds of raucously begging fledgling starlings. My apparently bizarre musings are not unconnected! They were prompted when I saw two adult starlings plucking bits of leaf from a trough of wildflowers outside my kitchen window. It's been known for a long time that starlings (and some other hole nesters) select certain scented plants to add to their nests. The assumption was that their nests need all the help the adults can provide to keep them sweet-smelling; five starling youngsters leave quite an unsanitary mess behind them.



But is it the sweeter smell of the herbs that drives this behaviour? Without a nose as such, nobody could conclusively claim until now that starlings (or any bird) got information by sniffing. But modern techniques (MRI scanning for example) have identified and can 'read' the olfactory centre of the brain, demonstrating that starlings can indeed smell. It seems, though, this only occurs during the breeding season, so this temporary capacity to smell must have evolved to benefit reproduction – hence all those starlings clamouring for food on your lawn. It was no surprise, therefore, when it was found that volatile substances in the plants the birds select may have anti-microbial properties that help reduce pathogens likely to damage the chicks.

Studies have shown that young starlings raised in nests containing the additional scented herbs carry fewer bacteria and have a higher fledging weight than those reared in nests without them. The incubation temperature is also higher in those nests too. It has also been suggested that the scented plants don't reduce the number of fleas and mites etc. that parasitise the nest, rather, they stimulate the chicks' immune system, so they are better protected. So, do the sweet-smelling deodorants and wipes we humans

spend a small fortune on work better because they smell nice? No doubt the manufacturers would like us to think so.

Not surprisingly, a herb frequently selected by starlings is yarrow - *Achillea millefolium* - so named because Achilles is said to have used it to heal wounded soldiers. It's unlikely to be coincidence, therefore, that this plant has a long history of use in folklore cures for various ailments.

A smart male starling. But is he smart enough to offer the right herb? What scientists have also observed is that the female starling may make choices depending on the scented plant on offer by the male. Were the two starlings I watched in my garden a male selecting a plant and offering it to a female for scrutiny? Unfortunately, it happened so quickly I couldn't tell. But we do know female birds, just like humans, make mate choices based on how they think a male may be able to care for her and help raise healthy offspring.

A final thought then for any young Farleigh male planning to woo a fair Farleigh female: if the box of Milk Tray doesn't work, you could try a bottle of Harpic – it's available in four plant-scented varieties.

Ray Morris ([lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk))

## Local Trades

Business	Service	Website	Contact	Phone	email
Firefly Payroll Services	Payroll	<a href="http://www.fireflypayroll.com">www.fireflypayroll.com</a>	Jason Hart	01622 934110	<a href="mailto:enquiries@fireflypayroll.com">enquiries@fireflypayroll.com</a>
No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	<a href="mailto:nomuckinabout@outlook.com">nomuckinabout@outlook.com</a>
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Castle Portable Loo Hire Ltd	Events	<a href="http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/">http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/</a>	Steve Millsom	07990 606067	<a href="mailto:castleph@gmail.com">castleph@gmail.com</a>
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