

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE



*West Farleigh honey bee on manuka flower*

## WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**'Present Laughter' a Noel Coward play at Elmscroft House**

**Search "tickettailor present laughter" for tickets**

**11am-5pm NGS open day at Smiths Hall with Tea & Cakes**

**5.30pm Village cricket match with Bar and BBQ – free entry**

**Garden Safari – maps available to buy at the church**

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

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## PASTORAL LETTER from Rebecca Parnham

Hurrah, June is here! It's officially summer and, hopefully, if the weather that is happening as I write this continues, a glorious one it will be too. After the dreary, wet, spring we have had it's so uplifting to see the sun and feel it's warmth on your skin. The colours in the garden brighten and everything feels a little more vibrant. The birds are singing, the recently hatched chicks are developing their flight feathers and beginning to fledge the nest.



The dreaded exam season is midway through though and many of our young people are beginning to think about their futures and what lies ahead for them. As we approach the longest day of the year, we too may think about what the future holds for us. The days ahead may seem glorious and bright or they may feel overshadowed by anxiety or illness or burdened by debt and monetary fears or any of the numerous issues that daily life throws in our path.

We may look at the wider world and wonder what lies ahead, when we hear of wars and conflicts, of the desperate needs of peoples caught up in issues not of their own making. Sometimes it all seems just a bit too much and we want to retreat into our personal little bubbles that we know and feel comfy in no matter what our circumstances. But with the sun comes the opportunities to connect with others more easily. We may see people out in their gardens or walking and we feel more inclined to stop and have a chat in the warmer weather. Which leads us to problem sharing and how talking to others might help you gain perspective on your life, and what's going on around you.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us not to worry; to be assured that God will give us everything we need, but that can be a very hard thing to do, worrying seems to come naturally to us, but by sharing our concerns with others we may just gain a little perspective and greater peace of mind.

So enjoy the warmth and don't be so wrapped up in busy-ness that you miss those opportunities to connect with others that may just help you see the future a little more clearly.

## SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am Communion – Rev David Jones**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9.30am Morning Worship – Rev Lorna Faulkner**



## 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 ALMSHOUSE AVAILABLE

### Are you 60+, retired, of limited income and looking for a place to live?

We are looking for a single person/couple who would like to live in West Farleigh in our Almshouse, situated in Charlton Lane and on a bus route. It will be available this summer at an attractive rent, including water. The Almshouse is let unfurnished and consists of living room, fitted kitchen (without appliances), bedroom and shower room. There is a front and rear garden, along with off street parking. Preference will be given to those having current or historic connections with West Farleigh and the closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Application forms are available from the trustee Julie King at Oliver North Charity, c/o Angler's Oast, Church Lane, West Farleigh Kent ME15 0DT, Tel: 07810 650276, email:jsmail1@btinternet.com

Or Trustee, Rev'd Lorna Faulkner at Oliver North Charity, c/o The Rectory, 144 Heath Road, Coxheath ME17 4PL, Tel: 01622 747570, email:revlornafaulkner@gmail.com

## THE WEST FARLEIGH SUNFLOWER COMPETITION



Judging for this year's tallest sunflower competition will take place on **Saturday 10 August**. Nearer the time, would you please let us know if you would like us to measure your sunflower by e-mailing your name and address to [bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk) or putting a note through the letterbox of Hoppers Corner or No. 1, The Green, Charlton Lane asking us to 'please measure your sunflower'.

There will be two categories this year, one for BIG people and one for smaller ones up to 16 years. Therefore please specify which competition you are entering.

We look forward to seeing lots of (very tall) sunflowers around the village grown in the usual West Farleigh competitive spirit. Because of their association with the sun, sunflowers are well-known for being a happy flower and the perfect bloom for a summer flower delivery to brighten someone's mood.

**Good luck from our *Farleighs in Bloom* Team**

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the Annual Meeting of West Farleigh Parish Council, Martin Moy and Jill Morgan were elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the next year. Other new council members present were Helen Kirk-Brown and Geoff Underdown. The Annual Governance Statement was approved and this will be uploaded to the website at the end of the month as well as being posted on the Notice Boards.

The Rotabounce in the play area was damaged when a previous repair was undertaken. It has now been removed to be stripped and rebuilt free of charge by the contractor.

The defibrillator at the Good Intent has been removed and it has been established that it was subject to a recall. It now requires new items before it can be brought back into service however in view of the cost and age of the equipment it was agreed to apply for a grant to help buy a new one.

The draft minutes are now available to read on the Parish Council website: [westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk) The next meeting is on 15th July at 7.30pm at Bramley Barn.

## CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

The history of the Siberian Husky dates back thousands of years and it originates from the northeastern region of Siberia, Russia. The Chukchi people, a nomadic tribe living in the region, developed a breed for transportation and survival in the harsh Arctic conditions. They depended on sled dogs for hunting, transport and companionship. They selectively bred their dogs for endurance, speed and the ability to navigate through the snowy terrain.

In the early 20th century, the Siberian Husky gained international attention during the Nome Gold Rush in Alaska. The gold miners

needed a sled dog to transport supplies and travel across the icy terrain. The Chukchi dogs, known for strength and endurance, were imported to Alaska to meet the demand.



In 1925, a diphtheria outbreak struck the town of Nome, Alaska threatening the lives of its residents. A relay of dog teams, led by Siberian Huskies was organised to transport life-saving serum from Nenana to Nome covering a distance of 674 miles in just 5 days. This heroic effort, known as the 'Great Race of Mercy' or the 1925 Serum Run brought worldwide attention to the Siberian Husky and solidified their reputation as reliable and resilient sled dogs.

They first arrived in the UK soon after when explorers from the UK were drawn to the Arctic regions and some brought back Huskies. The breeds striking appearance, friendly temperament and working capabilities quickly gained popularity among dog enthusiasts and sled dog enthusiasts in the UK. They were recognised as a

KennelClub breed in 1966 and since then the Siberian Husky has become a beloved breed and wonderful family pet in the UK.

They are prone to overheating in the summer months so care should be taken to keep them hydrated and cool. They also like to run a lot, so a large fenced area is essential as they are prone to running off in search of an interesting scent or wildlife due to their high prey drive.

In addition to physical exercise, they are also highly intelligent and so require a great deal of mental stimulation to keep them happy and prevent boredom. Puzzle games, training sessions and scent games can keep them entertained. They have a strong pack mentality and thrive on social interaction with their human family so they are not a dog who would be happy left for long periods. With dedication and proper care and attention Siberian Huskies can adapt well to urban life and make wonderful companions for active and dedicated owners.



## **Summer heat hazards for our dogs**

As the temperatures begin to warm up it may be tempting to take your dog for a long walk to soak up the weather while it lasts. It's very important to exercise caution, however, because, sadly, dogs can sadly easily develop heatstroke on those warm days. Dogs have sweat glands in their paw pads but release heat primarily by panting.

All dogs are at risk of overheating but especially puppies, senior and overweight dogs. Brachycephalic or flat nosed breeds are at the most risk as they have more difficulty taking in enough air to cool down by panting.

Other breeds at risk are those with a double coat such as Labradors, huskies, shepherds, Newfoundlands and retrievers. People make the mistake of clipping those dogs coats in summer thinking it will keep them cool but in fact this doesn't help unless the warmer undercoat is stripped out. It's much better to brush them daily and keep the top layer long and fluffy so air can circulate and also protect them from the sun and sunburn.

On hot and humid days it's best to keep your dog inside or in a shady, breezy garden with plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Outdoor exercise and walks are to be restricted to early mornings and late evening.

When walking, stick to grassy areas, dogs' paws are highly sensitive and can burn on hot pavements, if you are unable to comfortably place your hand on a hot pavement for 30 seconds it's too hot for your dog's paws.

Despite annual campaigns, owners still continue to put their dogs at risk by leaving them in unattended cars. Even if it's 22 degrees outside the car could reach an unbearable 47 degrees inside within an hour. It can take just 6 minutes for a dog to die in a hot car so please leave them at home when popping to the shop.

### **Signs of heat stroke in pets can include**

Exaggerated panting (or sudden stopping of panting)  
Rapid or erratic pulse (this can be felt on the inner thigh)  
Salivation, drooling, anxious or staring expressions, looking strangely  
Weakness and muscle tremors or lack of coordination  
Blue or dark red gums and tongue may appear much longer than usual  
Convulsions, vomiting or collapse

### **What to do if you suspect your dog is showing signs of heatstroke**

Keep them calm and move your pet to a cooler, shady place.  
Slowly wet your pet's paws, ears, head and fur with cool tepid water or allow them to lay on a wet towel (do not cover the dog as this can trap in hot air).  
Do NOT apply ice or freezing water as not only can this cause your dog to go into shock but it can constrict the blood flow and discourage cooling.  
Fan your pet to promote evaporation, this cools the blood helping the pet's core temperature to decrease.  
Allow your pet to lap (but not bolt) cool water.  
Ring your vet for advice or take your pet to the vet asap for treatment.



## Searching for local photographs

I have a plea, dear neighbours, and I wondered if any of you could help me please? I'm in the final stages of converting Elmscroft Farmyard into two holiday lets and I'm in search of historic photographs of the site.



Recently I met with a neighbour who kindly sourced a photo from the 70s/80s showing pigs and goats in the yard in all its former glory. Consequently, I have named the buildings The Goat Shed and The Piggery!



I'm wondering if anyone else who has lived in the village for a while has any other photos of the yard and its buildings. If you do, perhaps you would be so kind as to email them to me on [aeasterbrook007@hotmail.com](mailto:aeasterbrook007@hotmail.com)

Many thanks - Alex Norman

## A very successful Village Plant Sale!

Many thanks to everyone that supported the village Plant Sale on Saturday 18th May. The amazing sum of £779.92 was raised and will be shared equally between All Saints Church and the Farleigh Bloom Team. It was a really social occasion where friends and neighbours were able to chat over a cup of coffee and delicious cake whilst shopping for garden bargains. Well done West Farleigh!

Thanks once again - Sue O'Donnell



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## GARDEN SAFARI on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

There will be gardens open around the village for you to visit. Gardens of all sizes and designs. Some long established, some more recent and some still a work in progress.

If you would be happy to open your garden we would be pleased to hear from you. It is a great incentive to get those jobs done, that you have been putting off! All you need to do on the day is to welcome visitors.

Call Sue O'Donnell on 07429 491022.

If you would like to visit the gardens, you will need to get your program and map from the church, £5 per person. There will be tea and cake available in the church.





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## SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



**FOOTBALL** Our **First XI** rounded off a successful first season in the Sevenoaks League by securing 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division I and thereby gaining promotion to the Premier League for next season. Our last two remaining games were Chelsfield 2-2 and finally a 3-2 victory over Cudham.

Our **Second XI** finished off their season with a penultimate 2-1 victory over Westerham but an unfortunate final 7-3 defeat against Harkenbury. Overall, we ended up midtable so definitely something to build upon next season.

Finally, what a fantastic season our UNDER 13s had! They clinched the league championship by winning every single match they played! Sadly though, in the cup final against a strong Chatham Town from a higher division, the boys lost 4-1. Big congratulations to everyone involved for a truly great season.



**NETBALL** Our girls have just begun the summer season. We began with an incredibly close game against Wotsits going down by just one goal 36-35! Our next match was not so tight and the girls lost 39-19 to Vixens. It's early days though and hopefully next month will bring better results.



**CRICKET** We started our season by losing to Southboro' in a friendly. Our league started with our 1st XI having a fine victory over Shipbourne but then we came crashing down the following week scoring just 34 runs and losing to Pembury! To finish on a more positive note, our 2nd XI played their first match, also against Pembury, we were chasing 99 and won by 5 wickets. We are still looking for new cricketers for the new season so if you or anyone you know is interested in a game do get in touch! The Sports Club will be pleased to hear from you. Call Terry 01622 815267 or Paul 07730 435565.

### CLUB NEWS

Last month's lucky numbers were:

117 Tom McKellow	£30
157 John Boseley	£20
133 Matt Brooks	£10

**TAKING YOUR PHONE TO THE MATCH? WHY NOT SEND PICTURES OF OUR SPORTS TEAMS 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/)

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## THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had an enjoyable trip out to Brookside Garden Centre. It was an opportunity to look round the gift area. The cards were particularly popular. The Cotton Traders shop also had good business from us. Naturally everyone migrated to the café, where there was much chatting over tea and cakes! Fish and Chips back at the hall at our second May meeting. We are all looking forward to our meeting on 11th June when we will be having a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party!

If you would like to join us email Katie O'Connor [katieeth66@gmail.com](mailto:katieeth66@gmail.com) or ring Helen 01622 814445. We can offer lifts to those living in East and West Farleigh. We meet in the WI Hall Forge Lane East Farleigh on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

## THE FARLEIGHS W.I.



May has been a busy month for the WI. We started off with an hilarious evening with members and their guests being entertained by Margaret Thatcher aka Tony Harris. The following week our quiz team turned out for the Tickled Trout's monthly charity quiz: its fair to say our performance remains consistent (!) but as always we had a great evening. Later in the month, our craft group had a great day out at Fibre and Fleece art and craft shop in Badlesmere, trying out new crafts and, of course, eating cake. And our members have also continued to meet up for a variety of other activities, to play darts, go walking, or to have lunch and a good catch-up.

May also saw us have our AGM, with our much-loved current president and secretary, Diane Scott and Pam Linden, stepping down and new committee members being elected. We followed the AGM with a film show. Helen Swan had trawled the archives to find video of various WI dramatic productions from several years ago and there was great hilarity as members recognised themselves and each other, looking much younger and in a variety of dubious costumes.

Our monthly meetings continue to be the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the WI Hall in East Farleigh. We are open to women of all ages and new members are always welcome. Check out our Facebook page, email us at [TheFarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:TheFarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk), or just pop into our next meeting where we can guarantee tea, cake and a warm welcome.

Lynn Stout

President, The Farleighs WI

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## Sheila Burkart

22nd April 1928 - 30th January 2024



Sheila had four children - Sandra, Marilyn, Michael, and Richard, 6 grandchildren - Stuart, Victoria, Simon, Sarah, Anna and Jane and 9 great grandchildren.

Sheila loved golden cocker spaniels, clothes, dancing, parties, painting, photography, flowers, gardening and was an amazing cook. She enjoyed a wide and varied social life. Her early life was not easy, she lived in a caravan with her partner Bob and baby Richard. There was no room for her other three children. Sandra and Marilyn were in a convent and their younger brother Michael in foster care due to having nowhere to live. Sheila fought hard to keep her family together and when she was able to borrow £500 to buy their first home she finally got all the family together.

Sheila was very close to her extended family and liked nothing more than meeting up with them and great fun was had flying kites etc with her grandchildren and sisters and their grandchildren. She loved to see her grandchildren and would often turn up and suggest something fun to do.

In later life, Sheila had the opportunity, for the first time, to travel abroad with her husband Edward and had a house in France which she loved and a time share in Spain. She loved to be away. She was married to her third husband Edward for 47 years and they lived in West Farleigh for the whole of their married life.

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

## Late again!

The usual editor's email arrived saying (and I paraphrase and extrapolate here) 'you're late again with your article so can we have it yesterday please', prompting a minor panic because I've been far too busy to give it any thought. So, in a lightbulb moment I thought I'd write a little about what I have been doing far too busily, after all, it does concern things flying *around* The Farleighs in the sense of them being *outside* it.

I suspect it's a long time since many of you have heard a Turtle Dove, let alone seen one flying around The Farleighs. I took this photo in my garden many years ago and I've not seen or heard one here since.



The reason for the bird's precipitous ninety-eight percent decline since the 1970s is intensive farming – herbicides denuding farms of agricultural weeds (the doves only eat seeds) and the removal of tall, bushy hedgerows and scrubby corners (where the doves nest) in the interests of efficiency. Being shot for sport as they migrate through the Mediterranean to the Sahel region south of the Sahara accounts for probably tens of millions more.

But the species is being thrown a last-minute lifeline by farmers, particularly in Kent where a third of the country's turtle dove breeding population is now found. There has also been an EU moratorium on hunting observed by France, Spain and Portugal, although notoriously only honoured in its breach by Malta and Cyprus.

Members of the Marden Farmer Cluster (which extends across the Low Weald from Frittenden to Coxheath and Hunton) are providing supplementary seed to help them quickly get into breeding condition in May when they return from migration. Field margins are lightly tilled to expose wildflower seeds in the soil, while hedges are being encouraged to grow tall and thick again for nesting, helping a myriad of other species as well, including the essential pollinators.

To gauge the success of this help we started putting colour rings on the doves in 2022 so they could be individually identified, monitoring their use of the extra seed with trailcams on the feed sites. This demonstrated a definite impact on the doves' feeding and, along with sightings sent in by volunteers via the Marden Wildlife Facebook page, we were able to begin building a picture of the local population. But what it didn't tell us was where the doves were spending their time or where they were nesting and roosting etc. Significantly, it didn't tell us if or how they were using the features of the local farmland that farmers were being paid to put in place to help them.

Last year, therefore, with support from Kent Wildlife Trust and a special licence from the British Trust for Ornithology, we fitted three doves with tiny GPS trackers so we could follow their movement in detail for a month – to a level of accuracy of just a few metres.

The data received proved very interesting and instructive. While one dove behaved exactly according to the book, staying near its supposed breeding area of just a kilometre or two. The other two re-wrote it, travelling around the area as far south as Hemsted Forest, east to Headcorn and west to Collier Street, visiting places where local people had no idea they were. So, do these timid doves visit The Farleighs? Are they covertly breeding here? We may find out this year as KWT has secured funding for ten more GPS tags and we'll be working with an MSc researcher from the University of Kent – who is also tracking nightingales as they tend to share the same habitat as turtle doves.

So far this year, four of the original five doves we ringed have returned and been caught on camera. Not only has this provided important scientific data about their survival, but it has also provided a glimpse of their social behaviour, as this post on the Marden Wildlife Facebook page illustrates.



Not for nothing are turtle doves synonymous with true love! Who knows, this year we may discover them Flying around The Farleighs too!

**Ray Morris**



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