

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE

Photo: Beautiful West  
Farleigh sunrise by  
Susanne Knuth



## WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept      Ride and Stride bike ride (see Pg5)  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Sept      Harvest Supper (see Pg5)  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov          West Farleigh FIREWORKS

## HOME CRICKET GAMES

31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs. Speldhurst  
7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. Kemsing

All matches start at 1pm. Spectators welcome.

Distributed freely in Sept 2024 Edition 569

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

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## TINA WOODHAMS GARDENING NOTES

September can bring pleasant temperatures and a moderate rainfall with cooler night temperatures and shorter days. The strength of light that plants receive changes with the seasons and many will use the length of the day to judge when to flower or set their seed. The soil is warm still from the summer sun and with the rainfall generally increasing, it is a good time of year to plant new perennials or create a new lawn, particularly towards the end of the month.



Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to extend the flowering season, and remember, with a little TLC in the shape of watering and feeding, pots and hanging baskets can be kept blooming until mid-autumn.

Everyone loves something for free! Increase the number of plants in your garden by collecting seeds from perennials and retain in labelled envelopes to grow next year. Dividing perennials that have finished flowering will not only give you more plants but will also improve future health and vigour of existing ones. Plant and water in the divisions well. Cuttings of fuchsia, salvia, pelargonium and osteospermum may be taken now and these can sometimes perform better from new cuttings each year. Grow the cuttings inside, either in the greenhouse or on a light windowsill.

Keep harvesting crops! There is reliably a glut of produce so aim to freeze, dry, pickle or store to benefit at a later date - or share with your neighbours. In the vegetable patch it's time to lift maincrop potatoes and dry off before storing - use hessian or paper sacks and keep in a cool, dark spot away from mice and other rodents. It's important to store only undamaged tubers as one rotten potato can spread disease throughout the entire crop.

Remove the leaves of pumpkins and squash to help the skins ripen and promote adequate ventilation. To prevent rotting and deter those pesky slugs the fruits are best raised slightly off the surface of the soil. If tomatoes are still green, pick the trusses and ripen indoors. One theory is to place them in a paper bag with a banana which releases ethylene, a hormone associated with the ripening of fruit. Alternatively seek out a great recipe for green tomato chutney and put your culinary skills to the test!

Apples and pears are ready for harvesting and surplus fruits can be wrapped in paper and layered in a cardboard box or crate to be stored away from sunlight, or placed in a fridge for future use. Mowing grass underneath fruit trees makes it easier to spot and pick up windfalls. Pick autumn cropping raspberries and blackberries on a dry day so the berries aren't wet and prone to rotting.

Sow greens such as kale, spinach, mustard and lettuce for late autumn and winter harvest, preferably in a sheltered spot. Cover brassicas with netting to prevent the birds eating your crops before you!

Keep a lookout for pests and diseases - mould and fungus can be a particular issue at this time of year - and treat accordingly. Rosemary beetles are prevalent so check your lavender and rosemary and pick off any unwanted guests.

Even when you fancy a sit down with a cuppa, you can turn your attention to ordering spring flowering bulbs - crocus, hyacinth, daffodil, fritillaria, bluebells - for planting next month, as well as trees, shrubs and fruit bushes.

For fragrant indoor flowers at Christmas pot up prepared narcissi and hyacinth bulbs. Placing the pots in a dark room and excluding light will force the bulbs to start growing.

Plan ahead into next year by taking notes of what does and doesn't work in your garden - I use a Gardener's Journal - and sketches or photos of borders can be really useful.

As always there is lots to do - 'A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever' quote by Richard Briers - Happy Gardening!

## ANNUAL TALLEST SUNFLOWER CONTEST

by our *Farleighs in Bloom* team

Well done to everyone who entered the Tallest Sunflower competition this year! Unfortunately there were unforeseen IT issues which meant that not all entries were received in time for judging on the day and on behalf of West Farleigh In Bloom we apologise wholeheartedly to all of those people affected. To this end, we decided to add a further category - under 5 years - in order to include those entrants who were initially missed and the results were as follows:

**Under 5 years** - Lucas Norman - height 64cm

**5-16 years** - Bailey, Morgan, Isabella and Eden, grandchildren of Ray and Jayne Monk - 3m, 35cm

**Over 16 years** - Janet Kemp - 2m, 65cm



Congratulations to our winners and to everyone who shared the fruits of their labour!

**Gabby and Tina**



### 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

## **RIDE AND STRIDE**

This popular event in aid of The Friends of Kent Churches will be held on Saturday 14th September from 10.00am until 6.00pm. Cyclists and walkers visit as many participating churches as they can and ask sponsors to pledge money for each one they visit. The money raised is used by the charity to fund building repairs etc for churches in Kent.

If you would like to join in please contact Sue O'Donnell on 07429 491022 or email [sueodonnell@talktalk.net](mailto:sueodonnell@talktalk.net) for more details and sponsor forms.

Sue would also like to hear from anyone that can spare an hour or two of their time to offer visiting riders and striders refreshments on the day. Did you know 50% of the sponsorship money you raise will go to the church you nominate? We hope it will be All Saints, West Farleigh! Thank you!

## **HARVEST SUPPER on 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Back by popular demand! Please put the date in your diary - Saturday 28th September, doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. The evening will include a delicious meal followed by **magical entertainment**, a raffle and bar (serving drinks for a donation). Tickets cost £20 and are limited in number so hurry - first come first served!

Please phone Tracy Ward on 07970 741454 for tickets and also, please note: in order to keep this village tradition going we do need volunteers to help! If we share the workload it makes the evening enjoyable for everyone. Please let Tracy know if you can help in any way. Thank you!

## **QUIZ NIGHT AT THE TICKLED TROUT**



As mentioned in our last edition Helen Kirk-Brown runs a monthly quiz night in the Tickled Trout in aid of Cancer Research. The latest quiz on 6<sup>th</sup> August raised £200 specifically for the Heart of Kent Hospice and Helen would very much like to thank everyone in the village and surrounding area for their valuable, on-going and generous support. Helen puts a huge amount of effort and 2-3 days a month into compiling the quizzes.

The date for the September quiz is yet to be settled but it will be posted on the Farleighs Facebook page as soon as possible. There is a raffle each time and prizes would be gratefully received. Teams are a maximum of 6 people and you can book a table by ringing the Tickled Trout directly. Come along, have some fun and find out how much you don't know

## **YALDING YULETIDE MARKET 2024**

This year the Yalding Yuletide Market will be held on **Saturday 7th December** in the High Street, commencing with the switching on of the Christmas lights at 5pm. The High Street will be alive with street entertainers, festive food and a variety of stalls run by charities, village organisations and individuals, all helping to create a festive atmosphere. Rachel Gosden is interested in recruiting new stall holders so if you are interested please feel free to contact her at email: [rachelgosden@gmail.com](mailto:rachelgosden@gmail.com) or by post: 8 The Glebe, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6BF. Rachel will be able to send you an application form.





## **CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA**

**The Saint Bernard** breed was developed in the 17th century by the monks of the Great St. Bernard Hospice, a monastery located in the Swiss Alps. Specifically, it was the monks of the congregation of the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine who established the hospice in the early 11th century. These monks aimed to provide shelter and assistance to travelers crossing the treacherous mountain pass. In their efforts to rescue travelers who became stranded in the harsh alpine conditions, the monks selectively bred large dogs that could assist in these missions. The result was the Saint Bernard, a breed still known for its strength, endurance and remarkable ability to navigate the snowy terrain. The monks dedication to the breed

not only helped in saving lives but also contributed significantly to the development of this iconic and beloved breed. The dogs were known to carry small barrels of brandy around their necks which were said to provide warmth and comfort to the stranded, although this particular detail is likely to be more myth than fact.

The Saint Bernard is a giant working breed of dog. Known for its gigantic size and appearance, they feature a huge head and powerful build with a thick double coat to provide insulation against cold weather. They typically weigh between 110 and 200 pounds and can stand 30 inches tall at the shoulder. The breed gained much popularity in the 19th century and has appeared in various forms of media, including literature and film. Notable mentions include the film 'Beethoven' which showcased a naughty but lovable St. Bernard. They are known for their gentle and friendly nature making them great family pets.



They are generally good with children and other animals but require proper training and social interaction due to their size and strength. If you have the time and room they could be a wonderful addition to your family.



## ANNUAL VILLAGE CRICKET AND BBQ



The annual cricket match took place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. In an entertaining game, Farleigh came out on top versus an Indian XI. Chasing 128, Farleigh achieved the target with eight overs to spare! We had a lovely gathering of villagers as usual which helped make the whole afternoon most enjoyable!

There was a great BBQ and Indian treats plus a bar and, of course, the traditional raffle. Many thanks to all the people who made it possible. Also thanks to Ed Boyd for the great photos.





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## PASTORAL LETTER from Lorna Faulkner

A brand-new pencil case. Filled with brand new pencil case treasures. It doesn't get much better than that, right? Black pens, blue pens, red pen, green pen. Freshly sharpened pencils with no chewed-up ends. A shiny new sharpener. A smooth, white eraser that looks like a pebble from a beach. A ruler (with no scratches). A protractor (that you'll use as a ruler when the ruler has been lost...) A set-square - if anyone ever worked out what that was for feel free to enlighten me! A set of compasses to scratch doodles on your ruler (and the desk... gosh, I did get in trouble for that once!) A pot of Tippex that you're not really allowed to use in your school books. Fully equipped. A sight to behold. And one full of so much promise. But a promise that couldn't be realised unless the items were used for their intended purpose. What's the use of a pen that never writes, or an eraser that stays perfectly intact?



It got me wondering about the things that we might be equipped with in our own lives - the gifts and abilities we have gathered over the years; the promise that is contained in each of us that might bless not only our own lives, but also the lives of those around us.

We might be bakers or gardeners, listeners, encouragers, peacemakers or visionaries. We might be good with numbers or paperwork; we might be fixers or builders or organisers... we might just really like a chat and be able to put people at their ease. Whatever we have been equipped with, maybe September is a good time to take stock of what we carry in the pencil case of our lives, so to speak! What can you offer to the world (or at least to your friends, family and community) that would see you on the journey to fulfilling your intended purpose?

As you discover what treasure there is within you, I hope you - and others - will be encouraged and blessed by it!

Happy September... it's not long 'til Christmas now!  
Lorna

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## SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



**FOOTBALL** Our lads are in full swing playing friendly matches in readiness for the coming season which starts at the beginning of September. As ever, any budding players are always welcome so please do get in touch if you would like to give it a go!



**NETBALL** Nothing to report from last month, just to say our winter season starts early September so you can look out for our early results in next month's issue!



**CRICKET** August was not a great month of results for either of our teams, collectively winning just one out of nine matches! Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI started with that win, beating Pembury convincingly by 80 runs, however, after this defeats against Luddesdown by 7 wickets, Betsham by 50 runs, Horsmonden by 10 wickets and finally Ightham by 90 odd runs we find ourselves very close to relegation! Hopefully, our last three league games will bring us the results needed to stay up. Meanwhile, our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have lost all four of their games and are also in danger of going down. Our defeats have been against Pembury by 180 runs, Plaxtol by 9 wickets, a terrific game versus Weald only to lose by just 7 runs and finally going down by 5 wickets versus Stonehouse. Our final two games will determine whether we are staying up or going down so fingers crossed!

**WEST FARLEIGH RINGSTEDT TOUR** took place at the end of July and another successful trip was had by all! We travelled by road this time arriving midday Friday, some of us a little worse for wear already! In the evening there was a street party which took us into the wee small hours of Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon we played football which, considering the condition of some of our players, we did well to only lose by 5-2! Evening came and with it another party at the Sports Club. On Sunday a boat trip culminated in a very enjoyable Greek meal in the local town. After that, there were a few more beers back at the football pitch and before we knew where we were it was time to hit the road home again. Thanks to both sides for another great tour and we're already looking forward to hosting our friends from Ringstedt here in WF next year.

### CLUB NEWS

Our lucky winners in last month's draw were:

165	Stephen Norman	£30
50	Ian Prideaux	£20
152	Keith Dalton	£10

**Yours in sport, Tel**

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





## THE EVERGREENS

This month we met in the church for tea as sitting on the cricket field as planned would have been way too hot. The church was pleasantly cool with all the doors open. We celebrated two “noughty” birthdays with cake and the singing of Happy Birthday. Members were challenged with a Geography quiz. Yes! Senior folk can still use their brains, even on a hot day! Our next meeting is going to be back at our usual venue East Farleigh WI Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> August when we will chat, laugh and share a lunch of homemade soups and bread followed by strawberries and cream with shortbreads.



If you would like to join the group Email Katie at [katieeth66@gmail.com](mailto:katieeth66@gmail.com) or ring Helen 01622 814445. We are able to collect you, if required, from East and West Farleigh. Our members range in age from people in their sixties to Bill who is 100!



## THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

This month our members took part in a chair Pilates class led by

Jacqui Jennings, all happily engaging our core and finding muscles we didn't know we had, followed of course by tea and cake as a reward for our hard work! The art and craft weekly group is currently working on our “yarn bomb” project – decorating the outside of the hall with an array of knitted and crocheted sunflowers to celebrate national WI Day on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Our darts group continues to meet at the Good Intent every Monday – look out for us there and be sure to stand well back! We also have an active lunch club, a walking group and a brand new book club. In addition to all this, we were back this month at the Tickled Trout's charity pub quiz (see pg6) and although we could only field a team of three, our score per team member was much improved, if not our overall performance (!).



**Come and join us!**

**Some of our WI's most talented bakers will be rustling up treats for an afternoon tea on Friday 27th September in aid of**

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*Every pound and penny raised helps Macmillan do whatever it takes to help people living with cancer.*

**1pm til 3pm**  
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**CANCER SUPPORT**

On Friday 27th September from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, we will be providing afternoon tea in the WI hall in East Farleigh to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please come along to sample delicious sandwiches, cakes and other goodies in return for a small donation.

Our monthly meetings continue to be the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the WI Hall in East Farleigh. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September we will be hearing from Judy, one of our members, about how she set up a successful craft company, Woolly Felters.

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. And please be sure to admire our sunflowers when you pass the hall in September!

Lynn Stout  
President, The Farleighs WI

### THE CHANGELING THEATRE AT ELMSCROFT HOUSE

As reported in last month's issue, the theatre night showing Present Laughter was thoroughly enjoyed and also successfully raised a tidy sum of £700 for village funds.

Thank you once again to Ed Boyd for capturing another village event so well in these photos.





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



Led by Mary Seymour, an intrepid Tutsham Team recently turned out in force to welcome three young barn owls to the village. The nestlings, on the point of fledging and leaving their nest box for good, were held safely in bags then weighed, measured and given a ring with a unique ID to identify them should they be seen again or eventually found dead (hopefully of natural causes).



Each had one of its large primary feathers measured, as from this we can calculate its hatching date accurately to within a day. Such precise information, along with that from hundreds of other chicks, is used to estimate the size of the UK's barn owl population (about 4,000 breeding pairs) and how it is changing. Between 1995 and 2020 their numbers increased by 225% - so a conservation Good News story, partly

because they are being provided with nest boxes in suitable, vole-rich rough grass habitat, such as we have along this part of the Medway Valley.



At about two weeks after hatching, the owlets begin to grow their first flight feathers, then in a further two, with a good supply of voles brought in by both parents, feathers are sufficiently well grown for them to be able to maintain their own body temperature without an adult brooding them. At this point the adults will roost nearby during the day, leaving the youngsters on their own in the increasingly crowded nest. After eight weeks the first faltering flights are taken, but they return to the nest in between to await delivery of voles (and other small rodents, and even an occasional frog). If the weather is suitable – still and dry, as the adults hunt by sound so prolonged wind and rain is disastrous – they will be ready to fledge in their eleventh week.

Two of the owlets were close to being ready to fledge. The third was a week or so behind its siblings. This is normal, as owls' and raptors' clutches don't all hatch at the same time – there is usually an interval of a day or two between each egg. This is a kind of natural 'insurance policy' in

the event of bad weather and sufficient food not being available for all the young – the largest get a bigger share of the food, leaving the smallest – if necessary - to starve to ensure at least some of the brood survive. Indeed, in very hard times the smallest chick can become food for an older brother or sister.

But our three proved to be lusty youngsters clearly doing well on The Farleighs' vole population.

They were also hosting their own 'residents' in between their feathers. While one was being ringed, a flat fly emerged and, after some deft handling of a specimen pot, was promptly captured. Just like humans, wild birds carry parasites and pathogens that can affect their health and sometimes prove fatal if there are too many. So, alongside data about the birds themselves, information is also collected about any parasites they are carrying as this not only helps us understand how the birds are faring, it can sometimes be a warning sign of potential danger to domestic animals and even human health – think Bird Flu for example.



As their name implies, flat flies have evolved to live in the space between birds' feathers. In fact, they are so flat that it's almost impossible to swat one if it lands on you. Our fly was duly

sent off to the national monitoring scheme and was identified as a Common or Bird Louse Fly *Ornithomya avicularia* which is routinely found on barn owls – so nothing to be concerned about and they don't harm the owl.



After an exciting hour of ooh-ing and aah-ing and serious data collection, not to mention perilous ladder-climbing, the three owls were returned to their box where they promptly settled down to await their first feed of the evening from a parent. The box has now been in place for four years and



in need of a few minor repairs and certainly a good clean out when the birds have finally left. The Tutsham Team have this on their 'to do' list for the coming winter and will almost certainly welcome the owls again next year to watch their comings and goings as they continue to increase the local population. Well done to all concerned!

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



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