

*"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 DIARY

15<sup>th</sup> October – Charity quiz night at the Tickled Trout – 7pm. Book your table direct

20<sup>th</sup> October – Yalding Village Market 10.30am - 1pm

1<sup>st</sup> November - West Farleigh Fireworks – see page 4

3<sup>rd</sup> November - Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at Linton

13<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest festival at All Saints – 9.30 – bring dry goods to be donated to MADM

30 November - Father Christmas comes to West Farleigh – see page 7

Football season has started – matches on Saturdays on the sports field  
All matches start at 1pm. Spectators welcome.

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

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
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## TINA WOODHAMS GARDENING NOTES

October is the time to embrace the vibrant colours in our gardens and surrounding countryside - the golds, reds and bronzes of tree foliage and autumn flowers together with the harvest of later ripening fruits and of course this month's favourite, the pumpkin.



Look out for forecasts of early frosts and be ready to move tender plants under cover. Empty summer pots and hanging baskets and plant up for autumn interest. Cyclamen, heather, skimmia and heuchera provide a colourful display as well as wallflowers and pansies which also make a great addition to flower borders. Raise the pots off the ground using 'pot feet' (bricks will also suffice) to prevent waterlogging and frost damage and water sparingly.

This month marks the start of the tidying up season for winter and preparation for next year. Keep warm and burn those calories (an extra hot chocolate can be justified!). Rake up fallen leaves and store in a large leaf mould bin or heap to rot down.

In the flower borders, cut down perennials and divide. More tender plants such as penstemon, fuschia and salvia should be left so that this year's stems protect the crown from frost and then cut back in spring of the following year. After cutting down, mulch the borders with well rotted manure and garden or mushroom compost. Not only providing protection from frost, this aids improved plant growth by adding nutrients, reducing water loss from the soil and suppressing weeds leaving some stems for winter interest and as food and a habitat for wildlife.

Reduce the height of shrub roses and prune rambling and climbing roses when they have finished flowering. Tie in the stems, again to reduce the effects of damage caused by autumn winds. Clear up any fallen rose leaves, however do not compost these in order to reduce the spread of fungal diseases such as black spot. Take hardwood cuttings from ornamental trees and shrubs, including shrubby herbs such as rosemary lemon verbena and thyme. Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs, either informally in drifts in lawns or borders, or in containers. Tulips prefer colder conditions and perform better if planted in November.

October is a great time to get ahead in the vegetable patch so make early sowings of hardy cultivars of onions, shallots, garlic, broad beans and peas to give an earlier crop next season. Spring cabbages can be planted out now, together with new rhubarb crowns and existing crowns may be divided. Stake winter Brassica such as Brussels sprouts and purple sprouting broccoli as they become top heavy with crops and harvest the final crops of beans and courgettes, squashes and pumpkins. Cloches can be used to cover salad leaves to prolong the cropping season. Clear away any other old crops to deter pests and diseases, leaving a few pods on runner and french beans to ripen fully so the seeds can be saved for next year. Cut down spent asparagus shoots to soil level as they turn to yellow.

Happy Gardening ....and enjoy that well-earned hot chocolate!





**Hello and welcome from West Farleigh Fireworks!  
We've got a fantastic line up for 2024!**

We take great pleasure in inviting to you to this year's event at Elmscroft Park, Charlton Lane West Farleigh – Gates open at 6pm.

This is a quick note to let you know that tickets are now available. Please be aware that tickets can only be purchased online, there will be NO TICKETS ON THE GATE so please, do book early to avoid

disappointment as this event does sell out quickly! Please don't presume there will be tickets available in the last week, as that will probably not be the case. Gates open from 6pm for you to soak up the atmosphere of a great village event with friends and family. Enjoy our musical entertainment whilst sampling some of our delicious local food and drink stalls, then, get ready for a magnificent bonfire and spectacular fireworks display.



Use this QR code or go to [www.thefarleighs.co.uk](http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk)



The Evergreens had a conversation afternoon, each had to think about their worst holidays and tell their group about them. There were holiday homes which were dirty and infested, being kept awake at night with sheep coughing in the field beside the house. The most alarming one was when a 3 year old went off with her 3 siblings (aged 5,7 and 9) for a walk along the beach. The three year old failed to return. After a lot searching to no avail, they decided to go to the local police station to report her missing. They spotted her in the back of a car also on its way to the police station. The lost 3 year old: our very own Katy!

As the WI had a craft event in the WI hall, the lunch meeting was held in West Farleigh church. As the cooking facilities are very limited, we bought in Pie and chips! Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th October 2.30 in the WI Hall East Farleigh. Peter Meddeman will be telling us what he has found when out metal detecting.

If you would like to join us, just turn up or contact Helen 814445. We can offer lifts, if you live in East or West Farleigh.

## Pastoral Letter from Rev. David Jones

Dates and anniversaries play an important part of life's journey.

As I write this letter in September 2024 it suddenly came to me that September marked the 25<sup>th</sup> year of my retirement from teaching, a career that had lasted 35 years. It also marked my 24<sup>th</sup> year since I was first ordained on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2000. I was getting old!!! .

Yet, autumn for so many years of my life had marked the beginning of a fresh start. The school year had governed the first 50 plus years

of my journey. Yet this year seemed different and I don't know why. Maybe it's the news, the international situation, the USA election for a new President, the financial problems effecting so many. In reality 'I'm all right Jack'. Yes, life has become more difficult, more complex, more demanding and more challenging. Certainly, we see and hear information more and more swiftly and in more graphic detail than we used to. Do I have an answer? Then as so often happens in my daily readings came this passage.

*"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? (Matthew 6:28-3).*

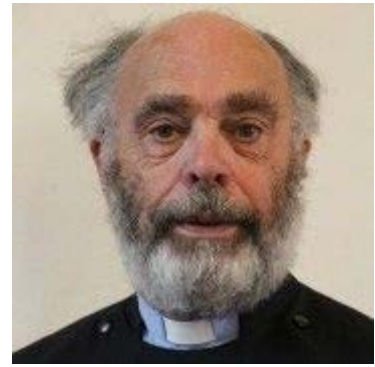
This passage from the Sermon on the Mount offers is a perfect example of how we sometimes worry about things which are actually fairly unimportant. The words may be very familiar to many. Yet it takes a greater effort to realize that Jesus is not just speaking poetically; he means what he says! The point of this passage is in the words: which come earlier "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life." He is speaking to people who had nothing, for whom every day was a struggle to survive. He realizes that they cannot embrace the spiritual power within them if they continue to focus on the poverty in their situation. So, Jesus assures them—in very real and practical terms that if they put their faith and focus on God, God will provide for their needs. We may say that's not realistic; our human needs must take priority. Few indeed are the people who have fully trusted this teaching and fully surrendered their human condition to their inner divinity! But Jesus always meant what he said. The promise of this passage is always present for all of us. Our work is to remove the doubts and fears and false priorities and trust our Oneness with God. It's a hard life and words whilst we know are true can at times be hard to accept.

David

### Services for October –

13<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am - Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

27<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am - Morning Worship



## Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance 3rd November 2024

Each year we hold a service in one of the churches in the benefice to give thanks and remember people whose funeral services we have taken in the benefice or at Vinters Park Crematorium in the past years. We invite relatives and friends to the service from the registers over the last two years and extend the invitation via the monthly newsletters to anyone else whose relatives would like to add names to the list of names read out. If you would like a name added please contact Rev David Jones with the name you wish to be remembered by the end of October by email at [davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com](mailto:davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com) or 01622 741474.. The service this year is on **Sunday November 3rd at St Nicholas church, Linton commencing at 3pm**. Light refreshments will be served after the service.



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## 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



## Father Christmas to visit West Farleigh

### All Saints Church

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Father Christmas arrives at 11am – booking required**

Our favourite festive friend is again coming to West Farleigh. Tickets for this event are £5 and available by e-mail from [sue\\_birchall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue_birchall@yahoo.co.uk). All visitors to the

grotto will get a gift and an opportunity to have a chat with Father Christmas. Any donations of gingerbread men, mince pies and items for a gift tombola will be gratefully received.

Refreshments will be available as well as craft tables, small stalls and festive fun!

If you would like to get involved, there will be a meeting at the Good Intent on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. We would be ho-ho-happy to have you along.



## Laddingford BeeKeepers

After a slow start in the cold damp spring, most Kent beekeepers are reporting below average honey harvests this year. Our anxiety about the arrival of Asian Hornets from the continent continues, but although there have been local sightings, they are yet to affect our production. It's probably inevitable that they will become established but at least we have a little more time to prepare and spread awareness.

With the honey now off the hives, it's time to strengthen our colonies for the winter. Honeybees are the only bees where the whole colony survives the winter. In other bee species, as in wasps, the workers die off in the winter and a small number of hibernating queens then have to found new colonies in the coming year.

The honeybees produce honey for their winter food stores so beekeepers are careful not to extract too much and to leave enough for the bees. Once we've taken off our honey for the year, many of us will also feed the bees sugar syrup to help them build their winter stores. Unlike humans, honeybees do very well on plain sugar but the conscientious beekeeper only feeds after the harvest so as not to compromise the quality of the extracted honey.

One of the reasons (apart from adulteration) that mass-produced honey is so disappointing is that bees are often fed on sugar syrup. It's a common practice in China where much of our supermarket honey comes from. Once, travelling in China, we passed an encampment of nomadic beekeepers. It all looked very picturesque and we stopped to talk. The whole family moved through Yunnan, tracking the seasons and living in permanent spring. However, the honey was disappointing - and the huge barrels of sugar syrup in the camp told us why.

Another autumn task is to treat our hives for the varroa mite. This pest is another invader from Asia, now ubiquitous in the UK. Generally these mites weaken the hive but they can also transmit diseases and if present in large numbers, can threaten colony survival. We treat the hive with chemicals which are naturally present in the hive such as citric or oxalic acids. Bees can tolerate these acids at the concentrations used but they are toxic to the mites.

Caroline Field

Laddingford and District Beekeepers Association



## CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

### The history of the Doodle.

The beloved poodle crossbreed was originally interwoven with careful breeding practices and vision of many passionate individuals. Although the poodle mix began its booming popularity in the 80's and 90's it was actually a concept created as far back as the 1600's. Some of the earliest poodle crosses included the 'Pudlepointer' and Barbet. (In April

2018, the Barbet became the 220th breed recognised by The Kennel Club of the UK)



Their more recent popularity came about in the 1960s where Monica Dickens, the great-granddaughter of the classic author Charles, bred Goldendoodles to provide guide dogs for people with dog allergies.

These last few decades the hybrid poodle mixes or “designer dogs” as they were nicknamed in the 80's and 90's quickly sprang into a sort of “doodle boom” with a seemingly endless amount of different types of doodles. Combining the poodle's perceived hypoallergenic traits along with its intelligence with traits from some of the world's popular dog breeds has made doodles a new favourite among dog lovers. Unfortunately, this increase in popularity also means that there are a lot more disreputable breeders out there trying to cash in on these mixes while neglecting the health and safety of the dogs they're breeding. For this reason, it is imperative that you research the breeder well and make sure they are checking the backgrounds of the dogs they are breeding to ensure the lineage is as problem free as it can be.

You may have heard that heard of poodles being hypoallergenic or non-shedding dog breed, but this is a bit of a misconception. Although poodles are considered to be a low-shedding breed compared to say, a golden retriever or Labrador they do still shed. It is important to remember that some mixes take on the explosive shedding of the other breed. With regards to the hypoallergenic side, poodles contain higher levels of the dog allergen “Canister familiaris allergen 1” compared to breeds labeled as non-hypoallergenic. So, for allergy sufferers who still want a dog, doodles can often be a better choice.

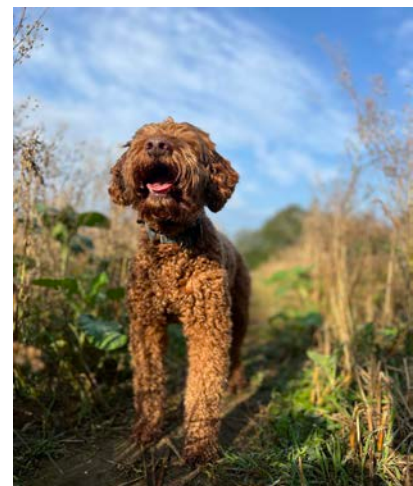
There are now many popular poodle mix breeds, some of the most well-known ones include;

Labradoodle - (Labrador Retriever x Poodle)

Goldendoodle - (Golden Retriever x poodle)

Cockapoo - (Cocker Spaniel x poodle)

Maltipoo - (Maltese x poodle)





Schnoodle - (Schnauzer x poodle)  
Cavapoo - (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel x poodle)  
Yorkipoo - (Yorkshire Terrier x poodle)  
Pomapoo - (Pomeranian x poodle)  
Bernedoodle (Bernese Mountain dog x Poodle)  
Shitpoo 🐶 - (Shitzu x poodle)



As of now, the UK Kennel Club does not recognise poodle mix dog as a breed but it does have a system for registering mixed breed dogs. The kennel Club's Activity Register is open to all dogs that are not eligible for registration on its Breed Register.

This includes crossbreed and mixed dogs and allows owners to enter their dogs to participate in various activities and competitions.



#### **A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS**

A small group of villagers volunteer to bring you Lifeline, your monthly e-mail newsletter and work on the website. We do our best to ensure that the content is up to date and interesting to you all.

However, we are always on the lookout for new stories, photos and items of interest. If you have a special interest you would like to share with your neighbours, have an event that you think others might like to hear about, are new to the village or want to share something of interest please get in touch with us at [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk).

Similarly, if you are a computer wiz or even just have an interest, we would love some help with our website. We would love to hear from you.

#### **Constitution**

**Our village Friends constitution is now out of date and needs to be re-adopted to allow us to be able to register for events and also access any support and funding for village events from other funds. We have a draft which will be available at events and published on the website.**

**Paper copies will also be available on request to any of the editors.**

**Please take time to access it and let us have comments by 30 November, at which point it will be adopted.**

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## SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



**FOOTBALL** Our first X1 started their new season in the premier league with a 3-0 away defeat versus Westerham and unfortunately lost their second game, narrowly going down 3-2 at home to Harkenbury.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 began their campaign well with a 4-2 win over Wilderpark but were brought down to earth the following week with a 6-1 defeat away to Wateringbury.



**NETBALL** Our girls began the new season with a tough encounter against a strong Dolphins side. We played well but lost 31-54, this was however strong enough for us to earn our first point of the season.



**CRICKET** Our 1<sup>st</sup> X1 started on a soggy note with our fixture against Halsted rained off. The gloom continued when we lost our final 2 games against Hadlow and Kemsing. Our lads are now relegated and will begin next year in division 4.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 were also rained off but the all important game against Speldhurst was played and we got the victory meaning that we stayed up. Whether up or down, congratulations for all of your hard work and effort throughout the season. We are not done just yet, we have three friendly games. The first saw a narrow defeat against Linton Park, results for the other two fixtures will appear in next month's report.

### CLUB NEWS

August lucky numbers

Jill Morgan     £30

Ann Anyears   £20

Gill Payne     £10

Yours in sport, Tel

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



# ~~FLYING~~ *around the* FARLEIGHS

## But when the flying stops ...

Last month's piece about the family of three young barn owls raised successfully in a nestbox at Tutsham Mill – and ringed for scientific study and conservation – has been thrown into sharp relief by my owl escapades of the last month. Our ringing group periodically visits [Folly Wildlife Rescue](#) in Tunbridge Wells to ring owls and raptors that have been brought into the centre either injured or as abandoned young. Orphaned baby birds rarely survive without the patience and skill required for almost round the clock feeding. When injuries are involved, especially to wings, Folly has the services of a wildlife vet and surgery to draw upon. But, on the birds' release, there is always staff frustration at having no way of knowing how the bird (or fox, or badger) will fare on its own.



Having a bird uniquely numbered and identifiable with a British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) ring is one way, at least, of having some chance of knowing if, and for how long, it survives. A few weeks ago, I went with Alex, my young trainee, to ring nine tawny owls, three barn owls and three kestrels, all of which had been brought in as chicks when their nest boxes had been destroyed in gales. None of them had suffered physical injuries but had been fed and cared for with as little human contact as possible to prepare them for eventual release and life in the wild. As testament to their wariness of humans, we were required to wear full face protection when handling the tawnies - their talons certainly proved sharp enough to draw blood from unprotected fingers, so our eyes had to be well protected from attack. As can be seen in the photos, they may look cuddly, but they have been rightly raised to be wary of other animals - and of humans in particular!



On the day we were informed of the tawnies' successful release, the centre also took in two injured barn owls. One had an open wing fracture and sadly had to be euthanised by the vet, and the other, picked up weak and unable to fly, died soon after it had been brought in. As both birds had BTO

rings, the numbers have been put into the BTO's database and we await details of where and when they were ringed – information that will be fed back to the ringers and the detail of birds' demise will also add to the data we have on the species' survival and movements.

Running an organisation like Folly Wildlife Rescue of course is not cheap and it is solely funded by donations. Like many charities in the current economic climate, it is also facing severe financial problems that could lead to imminent closure – and unfortunate animals like the owls in the picture being denied help or, even, the dignity of being painlessly put down if beyond help.

If you would like to learn more about what Folly does, or feel you could contribute to keeping this wonderful facility open and able to continue its work, please visit their [website](#) or their [Just Giving](#) page.

Ray Morris



### **THE FARLEIGHS W.I.**

At our meeting this month our members heard from the Woolly Felters, sisters and proud WI members Judy and Roz, who talked to us about how they set up a successful craft business in retirement. As well as running felting classes, Judy and Roz are the authors of many books about the craft and they brought with them a range of their felted characters, ranging from small animals to royalty. As a follow up, our craft group had a go at making felted hedgehogs under Judy's expert tuition.

It's been a very crafty month at our WI. Passers-by may have noticed that WI hall in East Farleigh was "yarn bombed" this month, decorated with an array of knitted and crocheted sunflowers to mark national WI day on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ever WI meeting in the country.

As well as arts and craft, we continue to offer a wide variety of activities and social events for local women. Our darts group continues to meet at the Good Intent every Monday and our quiz team excelled itself at the Tickled Trout's charity pub quiz this month by, unusually, coming a rather respectable third. We also have an active lunch club, a walking group, and a brand-new book club. Finally, never knowingly passing up the opportunity to bake, or for that matter to eat cake, we ended September by hosting an afternoon tea in aid of Macmillan cancer support. Our monthly meetings continue to be the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the WI Hall in East Farleigh, and our next meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October will be a social evening and quiz.

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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