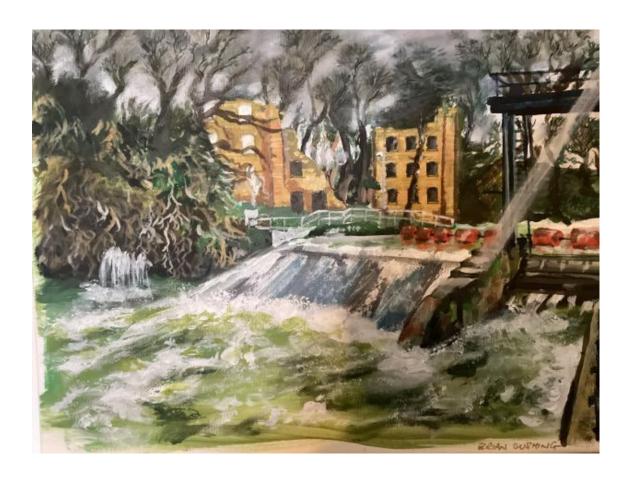
Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE





WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

3 rd March	Rachel Spreckley Art Studio Sale 10am-3pm			
15 th March	Good Intent Charity Quiz Night 7pm			
17 th March	Parish Council meeting – 7pm Bramley Barn			
17 th May	Inominata Concert in church 7.30pm			
18 th July	'Twelfth Night' Changeling Theatre at Elmscroft			

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Website: www.thefarleighs.co.uk
Email: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk

Deadline for the next issue is 20th April 2025

This month's cover shows the weir and the ruin of the linseed oil mill painted by Brian Cushing

If you have any local pictures you'd like to share please send to us.



Studio Sale

I will be selling old stock at discounted prices to make space for new work.

Original Paintings and Limited Edition Prints.

Friday 28 February 10–3pm Saturday 1 March 10-3pm

Smiths Hill Oast, Smiths Hill West Farleigh ME15 oPG



Smiths Hill Oast Studio

Saturday 25 April Friday 13 June

10-1pm £75 10-1pm £75

Please see website for further info & booking <u>rachelspreckleyart.com</u>



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SHAZPOTS HOLIDAY RETREAT

1 MAYS PADDOCK - LOWER ROAD - EAST FARLEIGH - KENT - ME15 OJT

POTTERY WHEEL HAND-BUILDING & **GLAZING EXPERIENCES**

ADULTS £15pp, Per Hour CHILD 4-16 YRS £12.50pp, Per Hour

Age 4-6 hand building & painting only. Small additional £2.50 firing cost per lb of clay for the Items you want to keep. Min 2 hours for wheel experience.

POTTERY COURSES

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Book a 4 week course in a time period that works for you. You choose the day and time to start.

RAKU KILN FIRING DAY

5hr hands on experience Learn some of the art of the traditional Japanese firing technique, Raku. Design and glaze 2 of your own pots, fire to 1000 degrees then complete the process ready to take home the same day.

> Adults £70 for the day Children £60 (14-16 yrs only) (old clothes advised as smoky)

SHAZPOTS HOLIDAY RETREAT

Why not have a pottery holiday?

Stay in our dog friendly 1 bed fully equipped cabin, sleeps up to 4 free use of our on site private secure off lead dog exercise field.
Plan and book your own bespoke break, pick how many days & how

NOT JUST FOR POTTERS

Stay in our cabin and enjoy the beautiful Medway Valley area of East Farleigh Kent

ITEMS FOR SALE IN OUR POP-UP STUDIO SHOP GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

TINA WOODHAMS GARDENING NOTES

GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH

March is the arrival of spring and the longer days provide a great opportunity to tidy flower borders and prepare seed beds for sowing.

With the snowdrops now finished, lift and divide any larger clumps to replant around the garden and remove any seed heads from early flowering daffodils and other spring bulbs, leaving the foliage to die back naturally. Plant any faded indoor bulbs into the borders for flowering next year. Now is the last chance to prune bush and climbing roses before the end of this month.



Young bedding plants are starting to become available, so purchase some and grow on under cover until they are ready to be planted outside. Summer bulbs such as lilies, dahlias and gladioli can be planted into pots to establish, ensuring a good display later in the year.

In the vegetable garden, plant onion and shallot sets and sow spinach, remembering to cover with a cloche as the risk of frost is still a possibility! Early seed potatoes can be planted towards the end of the month, either in trenches or in pots if space is limited.

BOX TREE CATERPILLAR

March is the start of the breeding season and runs through to October, so I would like to draw your attention to this relatively new pest that has caused much damage to our wonderful hedges and topiary.

Caterpillars are the larvae of the Box Tree Moth which is native to East Asia. Now increasingly common in British gardens, an infestation can reduce a healthy hedge to a bare mass of twiggy stems in a matter of days.

The flat, pale-yellow eggs are laid on the underside of box leaves. Within three days the caterpillars hatch and immediately start eating the leaves, which quickly escalates from damage to the surface of the leaf to consuming entire leaves by the time the caterpillars are fully grown.

After approximately two weeks the caterpillar wraps itself in a white webbing to begin the process of pupation and emerges as an adult box moth, subsequently laying eggs and starting the next life cycle. This can repeat up to four times during the breeding season.



Checking early plants from early spring is essential to manage these infestations. Where practically possible, the caterpillars can be removed by hand and Pheromone traps hung by box plants to catch the moths. There are also biological insecticides available containing a strain of microorganism to control caterpillar pest and is not harmful to beneficial insects such as bees, nor birds. Vigilance is essential!

So with this thought I wish you all HAPPY GARDENING!



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



NEW MONTHLY CRAFT GROUP

Our new craft group met up in the Good Intent for our first get together, introductions, drinks and project ideas and then again in February.

We currently have eleven members, each of us with our own craft passions and desires with abilities ranging from expert to 'I've never done this before'. The range of crafts that we all enjoy (or would like to enjoy) are many and varied including knitting, crochet, sewing, embroidery amongst others.

We agreed to have our first melee into craft as a crochet experience and will be meeting again on the 24th March at 6.30pm to share, practise and create so if you fancy joining in please do just turn up. All welcome!









CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

Some great advice from Rebecca this month over treats (or not) for our furry friends

For a healthy gut....add plain or Greek yoghurt and purees of squash or pumpkin

Cook dehydrated meat on low in small pieces in your oven for a healthy treat

Dogs can enjoy ... Bananas – rich in vitamin C and

potassium

Blueberries – packed with antioxidants

Skinless kiwi – As banana

Pineapple – try frozen for a cool treat Strawberries/Raspberries – high in fibre Carrots/Peppers – Beta-carotene for eyes Pumpkin/Squash – fibre, aids digestion

Yes but Apples – no seeds as they contain cyanide

Peaches but not the pit Rindless watermelon

Skinless oranges in moderation

Peanut butter – with no added sugar in moderation

Meats - plain cooked without seasoning

Avoid Raisins/Grapes – can cause kidney failure

Cherries – possible cyanide poisoning in large amounts

Avocados – can cause vomiting

Chocolate – can cause vomiting, seizures, pancreatitis

Allergies......

Could your dog be allergic? Food allergies are on the rise and can be difficult to diagnose.

Common symptoms include itching, redness, swelling, ear infections, vomiting, diarrhoea or changes in bowel habits.

Beef affects 34% of dogs, diary 17%, chicken 15%, wheat 13% and lamb 5%.

Work with your vet if you think your dog may be affected. Stick to one brand of food and try not to switch too often as this can affect your dog's gut.

If you do make a change make sure it is gradual transition to avoid stomach upsets. Avoid giving your dogs scraps as they may contain harmful ingredients.







LOCAL TRADES

Business	Service	Website	Contact	Phone	email
Firefly Payroll		www.fireflypayroll		01622	enquiries@firefly
Services	Payroll	<u>.com</u>	Jason Hart	934110	payroll.com
No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	nomuckinabout @outlook.com
Heathside Electrical	Electrical	www.heathsideele ctrical.co.uk	Sam Sephton	07976 895001	heathsideelectric al@gmail.com
D. Ward	Plumbing & Heating services		Darren Ward	07973 314266	darren@dward.bi <u>z</u>
Pest Purge	Pest Control	www.pestpurge.c o.uk	Richard Lee	07758 615101	richard@pestpur ge.co.uk
Top Dog fencing	Fencing and Gates		Sam Morton	07709 530166	Topdogmaintena nce@icloud.com
Castle Portable Loo Hire Ltd	Events	http://www.castle portableloohire.co .uk/	Steve Millsom	07990 606067	castleplh@gmail. com
Hair Traditional	Hairdressing & beauty	Facebook/Instagram @hairtraditional.ma idstone		01622 817800	

West Farleigh Parish Council Report

Meeting: 22nd January 2025

Next Meeting: Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Public Discussion

Rainwater travels down Ewell Lane and Smiths Hill towards The Tickled Trout, outside the pub, resulting in water and silt covering the pavement. The issue is causing pedestrians to walk in the road, which is of concern as the roads through the village have been extremely busy with traffic in recent months. The drain outside the Tickled Trout blocks on a regular basis.

Following the remedial drainage work on Smiths Hill in February 2024, the Parish Council was informed that the drains would be cleared 3-4 times a year. However, the culvert is completely blocked causing further flooding and silt run off. We are unaware of any cleansing being undertaken in the past year.

A large pothole in Charlton Lane is getting worse. Numerous deep potholes along Ewell Lane, Cllr Kirk-Brown to photograph them. Both issues to be submitted to KCC Highways.

Agreement of the precept

It was agreed to increase the precept to £29,000; this equates to an increase of £4.52 to the annual charge per Band D property.

Donations 24/25

The WI submitted an application for a donation towards the cost of new external cladding. A donation of £200 was agreed. The full minutes can be reviewed on the West Farleigh Parish Council website.

We would welcome any applications to join the Parish Council. Please contact clerk@westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk







Another great West Farleigh event

When: Friday 18th July from 6pm Where: Elmscroft House, Charlton Lane Tickets: £25 adult £15 Child (12-18yrs)

Last year's 'The Importance of Being Ernest' was enjoyed by over 120 people with many asking if the event could be held again. So, following this success Changeling Theatre will once again be coming to Elmscroft House, this year with an interpretation of William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

A classic tale given a modern twist which promises laughs, surprises and a very enjoyable evening in a fantastic setting.

Tickets are now available at https://buytickets.at/westfarleighvillageevents/1538044 or in person from Alex at Elmscroft House.

THIS MONTH IN WEST FARLEIGH We are planning a new feature to look at our village history and would welcome any photos, comments, memories from you to contribute to this.

For this month we would just like to share with you the link to our village history page on our website which can be found at http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/village_history.html.

Excellent article on local hopping on our website at http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/media/other/19969/HOPPINGINTHEFARLEIGHS.pdf



Charity Quiz Night at the Good Intent

Come and join us on Sat 15th March for a fun evening.

7pm for a 7.30pm start

£5 per person, snacks on the Bar, proceeds go to the Charity of the winning teams choice.

Up to six per team. Booking in advance advised.



KETTLE BRIDGE CONCERTINAS



After a very busy pre-Christmas period, providing festive music and singalongs for various groups around the area, Kettle Bridge stepped up a gear (a musical term!) in February to present a concert to the many members of Coxheath and Loose Active Retirement Association who filled Coxheath Village Hall.

We were also celebrating World Concertina Day – the birth date of Charles Wheatstone, who invented the instrument. The photo shows us entertaining the folk at St Luke's Church Maidstone, in collaboration with Yalding's Village Voices choir.

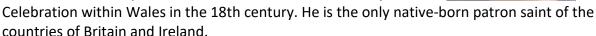
Please get in touch if you would like to learn to play this lovely instrument, or if you would like us to come and play for your group or event.

Sue secretary@kettlebridgeconcertinas.org.uk

PASTORAL LETTER FROM SUE ELLIOT

Dear friends - March has arrived! Lots of special days occur in March.

On 1st March it is Saint David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales, who died on this day in 589. It was declared a National Day of





Another special day is Saint Patrick's Day on 17th March. He is not only the Patron Saint of Ireland but also of Nigeria, Montserrat, and of engineers! My husband and I happened to be in Ireland last year on St Patricks Day. Oh my goodness, there were parades everywhere, and, of course, lots of people wearing green because it is said that Leprechauns can't see you if you wear green and therefore can't pinch you! For Muslim folks the whole month is Ramadan, meaning 'scorching heat,', a time of fasting from dawn to sunset. It is so called because of the climate in Mecca at the time when, according to Islamic tradition, God first spoke to the Prophet Muhammad when the Qur'an was revealed.

Mothering Sunday is 30th March. In the 1600s poorer families would send their children to work as domestic servants in the homes of affluent people. Once a year they were allowed to return to their 'Mother Church' where they had been baptised and take gifts of flowers for their mothers. Observance declined after the industrial revolution but was revived in 1913 when a "Mothering Sunday Movement' was started by Constance Penswick Smith. She reinvigorated the UK celebration and by the 1950s her legacy had encouraged the celebration across the UK and Commonwealth Nations, leading to the now familiar day of reflection and the celebration of mothers and motherly figures.

Before it was known as Mothering Sunday, this day was called Laetare Sunday, which means 'rejoice,' there is definitely a cause for rejoicing in March because at 10.01am on 20th it is the Spring Equinox, hurrah! This is when days and nights are of equal length before the days continue to get longer thereafter. Spring has really sprung when daffodils are appearing, for Saint David, Wales, and for us! Those beautiful flowers really lift the spirits, and I discovered that they symbolise hope and renewal. I saw a photograph the other day of some daffodils flowering amongst the rubble of Gaza. Now that is an image of hope and renewal for the whole world, isn't it?

Enjoy the exquisite nature around us that God created and go well in the wonderful month of March.

Blessings, Sue Elliott - Pastoral Assistant

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS -

9th March – 9.30am Sunday Communion – West Farleigh Church 23rd March – 9.30am Sunday Morning Worship – West Farleigh Church

5th March 10am Ash Wednesday Service (HC) at Coxheath church

WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE

WELCOME TO TONY, KAREN AND ETHAN KING



The King family has moved into 2 Elmscroft Cottages, with their 5 house cats, from the Medway Towns. Tony is a site manager for a company specializing in Heritage properties. Karen has her own hairdressing business in Walderslade.

Tony has a large collection of medals, including two that were given to one of the Fletchers of Elmscroft! He is an historian and enjoys researching the previous owners of the medals.

Ethan is 18, he attended the Math School in Rochester and is now a driver for G4S patient transport.

They are enjoying living in West Farleigh and are keen to get to know the village and villagers.



Exciting news – next month sees our very own Lifeline hit a special birthday. Look out for this in our next edition.

THE EVERGREENS



The Evergreens met in February and had afternoon tea following some amusing games of Beetle. Always fun. full of frustration and dropped dice! Bangers and Mash was on the menu for the lunch meeting. It was with sadness, that the death of one our members was announced. Pat Lee was member for many years and great company, died after being

unwell for a while. (She was in her 90's!) Pat used to bring along cans of Gin and Tonic for her favourites when it was a lunch meeting! We also welcomed a new member, who enjoyed his lunch of cold Turkey, pigs in blankets and salad, we think he might come again!

If you are retired and would like to come along, ring Helen 814445 or Email Katie katieeth66@gmail.com. If you live in East or West Farleigh we are able to offer lifts. We are a welcoming group. We have a program of events and speakers for the year.

SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES

FOOTBALL



The 1st eleven are playing at the moment which is reflected in our results last month. We began with a hard fought victory over The Oaks 1-0 followed by a 2-0 win over 7 Oaks Forest. Lastly a crazy game against T-Wells Foresters, after being 1-0 up at half time, going to 3-1 down in the second half to a final score of 3-3.

Not such good news for our 2nd eleven with no points but playing some good football. We began with a difficult fixture over high flying Wateringbury and were unlucky to go down by a single goal and lastly a long trip to Westerham and obviously not travelling well going down 6-2!

NETBALL

Although our girls have lost 3 of the last 4 games, they have secured enough points to stay in the division. We began losing to Alchemist 38-28, then a disappointing 36-13 loss to bottom placed Bengals, bouncing back the following week beating Lightening37-26 and then losing 51-33 to a good Dolphin side. We have one game of our winter season left.

CRICKET



Nets began on Monday 24th February at 7pm at Maidstone Grammar School for boys. Anyone who would like to come along would be very welcome. The season starts to wards the back end of April.

CLUB NEWS

February lucky numbers

20 Trevor Goldhagen £30
135 Primrose Habbibi £20
107 Nicholas Boseley £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. We can use them.

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



THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

We had a great attendance at our February meeting where we were treated to a make up demonstration by Kerry Lethbridge of Revolution make up.

Our already beautiful members were made even more so with Kerry's great tips and brilliant products, and there were lots of freebies to take home and try. As well as our monthly meetings, we continue to offer a wide variety of activities and social events for local women. We have an active arts and crafts group, where our members can learn new skills or continue to work on their personal projects. Our craft leader Annie is currently trying very hard to teach us to crochet, with varying degrees of success!

Our darts group continues to meet at the Good Intent every Monday and our quiz team returned to the Tickled Trout charity quiz in February where, as always, we had a great time despite the growing realisation that we really should work on our general knowledge skills! Our new book group is proving popular with members, and this month we are reading The Cat Sanctuary by Patrick Gale. We also have an active lunch club and a walking group, as well as other regular opportunities for socialising with friends. No skill is needed for any of our activities; our aim is to make new friends and catch up with old ones.

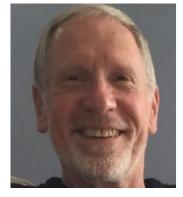
Our monthly meetings continue to be the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the WI Hall in East Farleigh, and at our next meeting on Wednesday 12th March we will be having a demonstration on the subject of spring cookery.

We are open to women of all ages and new members are always welcome. Check out our Facebook page, email us at TheFarleighs@wkfwi.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

FLYING around the FARLEIGHS

This is one bird that is generally instantly identifiable when seen soaring above The Farleighs at this time of year. In Scotland it's known as the tourists' eagle because of its size and because most people in the UK - some ninety percent of whom live in towns - assume that any large brown bird with a hooked beak is just that.



It's partly because the Victorian obsession with shooting game birds led to the virtual extinction of most birds of prey to preserve the game species, although populations recovered slightly during the two world wars when gamekeepers were sent off to shoot at

targets that could shoot back. As birds of prey numbers declined, so did the public's knowledge of them, to the point where any southerner holidaying north of the border would instantly proclaim this one to be a golden eagle when spotted perched on a roadside telegraph pole waiting to swoop down to pick up roadkill.

All birds of prey are now protected by law, but sadly that doesn't protect them from people still harbouring the Victorian idea that anything with a hooked bill is vermin. Worse are those who make money from shooting birds for 'sport' and view these magnificent creatures as damaging to their fun or profits.

Ironically, when not clearing animal corpses from tarmac, this 'eagle' specialises in mice, frogs and worms. But they can still fall victim to illegal persecution by indiscriminate poisoning in some parts of the country by people who see them as a threat to their business interests.

Attitudes to these and similar species are becoming generally more civilised and informed, and the birds are gradually becoming part of our everyday experience. Peregrine falcons can now be found nesting in most large towns – London, Canterbury and Eastbourne for example boast breeding pairs that prey on the plentiful pigeons - taking advantage of the city lights that permit them to hunt twenty-four seven! Red kites too are fast regaining their centuries old foothold by clearing up our edible rubbish. This was once offal and bones discarded in medieval streets but is now being replaced by discarded 'fast food'.



A Kent red kite by Darren Nicholls

As our attitudes to these magnificent creatures continue to improve, with luck we'll see more of them flying around The Farleighs.

And the tourists' eagle perched on the Farleigh fence? It's a buzzard, now the UK's commonest raptor.

Ray Morris

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