

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own



LIFELINE



Edition

WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS

19th April Sports Club Quiz Night

20th April Easter Holy Communion 9.30 All Saints

10th May Dandelion May Fair 11-3

17th May Village Plant Sale 10-1

17th May Spring Concert by Innominata 7pm

22 June Garden Open at Smiths Hall

18th July Twelfth Night at Elmscroft

Distributed freely in April 2025 Edition 575

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Deadline for the next issue is 20th April

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TINA WOODHAMS GARDENING NOTES

April showers and strong sunshine are typical elements of this month. As the air and ground start to warm we feel inspired to get out into the garden again although beware that so do other unwanted pests – slugs, aphids and fungal diseases!

Start to spray plants such as roses to limit mildew and rust, and remove any dead leaves from plants to prevent rotting. Aphids multiply rapidly during mild spells of weather and can be removed simply by rubbing off by hand. Protect the new young shoots of hosta, dahlia, lupin and delphinium from slugs early to minimise damage.



Also, don't get caught out by late frosts! Keep tender plants indoors overnight for a few more weeks, and remember to ensure that outdoor planters are watered as necessary.

Prune Camellia shrubs – once the flowers have faded and only on plants that are at least three years old - and evergreen shrubs such as euonymus, fatsia and hebe. Deadhead the flower heads on hydrangeas, cutting back to the first pair of buds below the flower head.



Prune Cornus (dogwood) to promote new growth and encourage brightly-coloured stems for next winter, these can be cut back almost to the ground. In the flower border, prune penstemon by cutting just above the new shoots and remove old, dead fern fronds to allow the new ones to unfurl. Place supports around perennial plants before they grow too large.

The milder temperatures will give the weeds a boost so start hoeing them off to help prevent seeding and spreading.

Sow vegetable seeds such as runner and French beans, cucumber, courgette, squash and pumpkins, as well as herb varieties. Flowering companion plants for the vegetable garden – marigold and borage- together with hardy annuals can be sown now.

Transplant your seedlings into larger pots. Tomato plants can be potted on into growing bags or large pots if you prefer. Plant second-early and maincrop potatoes directly into the ground or into suitable containers.



I always refer to this time of year as 'Silly Season'.....with lots of preparation and everything beginning to grow like crazy it's a great time to make a head start –

Happy Gardening

FARLEIGHS IN BLOOM TEAM

WEST FARLEIGH IN BLOOM SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

The Tallest Sunflower competition returns in August 2025. Not only does it create some fun, planting sunflowers around our village brings brightness and enjoyment for everyone.



Sunflowers are easy to grow so let's get you started! Inside this month's issue of Lifeline is a pack of seeds provided by the Bloom team.

All you need to do is fill some small pots with moist compost and place the seeds approximately 2cm deep then cover with a layer of the compost. Place in a warm light spot indoors and wait for the seeds to germinate which usually takes 10-15 days.

When the seedlings are large enough to handle, harden them off outside gradually - for about two to three weeks - then plant them outdoors in a sunny position.

We hope you will be inspired to join in the fun and be rewarded for your efforts!

West Farleigh in Bloom

Plant Refreshment & Cake Sale



SATURDAY 17TH MAY

THE FOOTBALL CLUB HOUSE

**Charlton Lane
West Farleigh
10.00AM - 1.00PM**



INNOMINATA SPRING CONCERT AT WEST FARLEIGH

(17th May, 7pm for 7.30 at All Saints Church)

Innominata is a choir of 11 singers. Their repertoire includes sacred and secular vocal music and instrumental music of many genres. This will be an amazing concert, do come along to a different experience.

There will be a donations bar. Tickets £10 from the GOOD INTENT or on-line from

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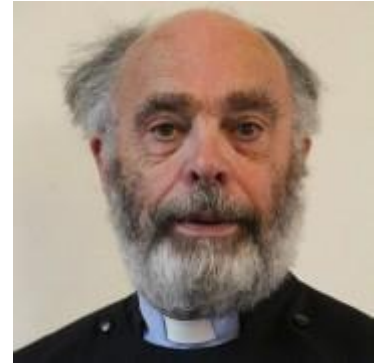
(You can also get tickets for Twelfth Night here Sat 18th July)



PASTORAL LETTER FROM DAVID JONES

Dear fellow hibernators

Easter Sunday falls this year on April 20th Easter being the great festival and celebration of the Christian Church. When I first came to Coxheath in 1967 it fell on Sunday March 26th. It is a movable feast and can fall on any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th and the date is calculated according to the moon. In the service on Easter Sunday the opening words are usually the greeting. 'Christ is Risen, Alleluia' to which the congregation reply 'He is risen indeed, alleluia' reminding us that after the events of Good Friday when Jesus was crucified the 'enemy', death was defeated and Christ rising conveys the understanding that life goes on and there is hope.



As a youngster living in the suburbs of London, Easter was the first real school holiday of the year and we would go off to stay near Grannie in the countryside. One year we went to Glastonbury to see her and the banks of grass leading up to the Tor were covered in primroses, lambs grazed in the fields, catkins hanging from the trees and leaves just showing life. It was wonderful. The long cold days and dark nights were almost behind us. I got the same feeling when I first came to Coxheath, walking the footpaths along the Greensand Way. The difference was that in Coxheath the wind still blows cold until the end of May. But still, the sun shining, some warmth in the sheltered places gave us hope and still does.

I hope that Easter offers you 'hope' The warmer weather brightens your lives and we see people coming out for walks on the footpaths as the blossom breaks through and the longer days together remind us of God's power and authority in a world that at times seems to have lost order and purpose. Have a great Easter and look forward with hope.

David

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 13 th April	9.30am Communion and APCM
Sunday 20 th April	9.30am Easter Day Communion
Sunday 27 th April	9.30am Morning Service



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.



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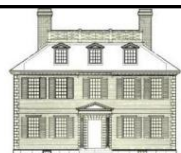
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FIFTY YEARS OF LIFELINE

Fifty years ago, the vicar of West Farleigh was producing a church magazine, once a month. He had the time, he only had our parish to look after! These were sold for 3d. Following the vicar's retirement, the next vicar had Teston parish to look after as well. (You can see the way things were going!). Harold Harbour, who lived at Warnhams' cottages on Hunt Street, took on the challenge to write a village news sheet. (It is still managed by the church as a church magazine). It was two sides of Foolscap. Longer than A4. This, as now, was distributed to every house in the village, free. Jim Patch, took it on and enhanced it with nature notes. It was copied on an old Roneo machine in Jim's living room. Jane Shotliff took it on until she moved away. It was then taken up by Tim and Christine Hill. It was produced, literally, by cutting and sticking and was four pages of A4. When they moved away, the Website committee took the production under their wings, and introduced adverts and colour. The editing was shared, so that it did not become a chore. It also grew in size, with more pages. There are now four editors, who take it in turns to put it together.

Current editors are Sue Birchall, Katie O'Connor, Helen Swan and Stephen Norman.

If you have any news, articles, ideas, photos that you think we could incorporate, please email the editors: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk.

We would love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy reading the copy of the first Lifeline. Things don't change a lot! Rose Cottage has just been sold again in a derelict condition!!! However, the church finances are in a better state now, than in 1975, but with fewer members!

Dandelion Time May Fayre



The May Fayre is on Saturday 10th May, from 11am – 3pm at Dandelion Time, in Charlton Lane.

The event will have traditional games, amazing local food, performances from a variety of musicians and local community groups. Our spring raffle will also be on sale with prizes such as a travel pass on the Kent and East Sussex Railway.

We are on the lookout for local handmade crafting businesses to join our stall offering. Or, if you'd like to volunteer at the event, donate some plants for our stall or bake a cake, please contact Kenresa on kenresastratford@dandeliontime.org.uk.

CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

With Easter fast approaching and the risk of chocolate being more readily accessible for the opportunist dog in your household I thought I'd share some basic tools to teach your dog the "Leave it" command.

To start, secure your dog on a lead and practice in a calm, distraction-free room at home. Your first goal is to teach them the "leave it" command, which helps prevent them from picking up objects. Hold a treat in your fist while secretly hiding another treat nearby. Allow your dog to sniff your hand; they might lick, paw, or nudge it in an attempt to get the treat. Be patient and wait until they stop trying to get the treat for a few seconds.



Once they pause, reward them with the hidden treat and repeat this process until they understand that complying with the "leave it" command brings rewards.

Next, elevate the training. With your dog still attached to the lead present two kinds of treats: a basic one and a more appealing one. Scatter a few ordinary treats on the ground in front of them and instruct them to "leave it." If needed, use the leash to help control them.

Once they resist the urge to grab the ordinary treats, reward them with some of the tastier ones and offer praise. Incorporate this practice into your walks to reinforce the desired behaviour in varied settings.

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Finally, it's important to introduce the "drop it" command to your dog. Start this process by enticing them with a toy that is not particularly appealing to them. Allow your dog to hold the toy in their mouth and play with it for a minute or so. Next, present them with one of their favourite toys or a tasty treat. As soon as they open their mouth to release the toy, clearly say "drop it." This command will help them associate the phrase with the action of letting go of the item. When they successfully drop the toy, be sure to praise them enthusiastically and encourage them to come to you for the new treat. To enhance their understanding of the "drop it" command, vary the objects you use, consistently encouraging them to trade up for a more desirable item.

Incorporating these commands into your training repertoire is essential for every dog owner, as they promote good behaviour and strengthen the bond between you and your dog.

THE AMERICAN ARBORETUM AT SMITHS HALL



*Vivid colours of the
liquidambar tree*

In the centre of West Farleigh, between Elmscroft Park and Lower Road is a plantation of some 3,000 trees, all native to North America and all chosen for their autumn colour. They were planted as a memorial to the 3,000 who died in the Twin Towers on Sept 11, 2001.

After several years of preparing the ground, the arboretum was planted as whips (young trees with a single stem) between 2005 and 2007 in a 12 acre field known as Barratt's. In the 19th century, Barratt's was an orchard in the lower half, and woodland above, but later given over to arable. The majority of the new trees are maples, cherries or oaks, planted in dense blocks. The maples are *Acer Saccharum* (Sugar Maple) and confusingly *Acer Saccarinum* (Silver maple), and there are six species of American oaks, of which the majority are Red oaks (*Quercus Rubra*), Pin oaks (*Quercus Palustris*) and (very confusingly) Northern Pin oaks (*Quercus Ellipsoidilis*).

Along the boundary of the dense woods is an ornamental border, featuring 30 species of American trees and shrubs planted in small groups, again all chosen for their vivid autumn colours, although here in England the yellows and scarlets are not always as vivid as they are in the Fall in New England, where the frosts are earlier and harder. Trees in the border include the paw-paw, the cucumber tree, the Kentucky Coffee tree, even a hop tree. Don't be fooled, no, sadly, no cucumbers, hops or coffee beans from them!

Over the past 20 years, the majority of the trees in the dense plantings have grown fast and well – although preyed on by our native grey squirrels - and are over 40 foot high. Some ornamental trees along the edge have not done so well, and there will be new plantings over the next 3 years. If you are interested in trees, there is now a tree guide and a list of the original plantings on the website. There will be a guided tour of the arboretum this autumn (provisionally Sunday 2nd November) with a sign-up sheet at the Plant Sale on May 17th.



Liriodendron (tulip tree) avenue

**PATRICIA WINIFRED LEE
(PAT)**

1934-2025

Pat moved from London to Oliver North, West Farleigh, to be nearer to her daughter who had moved to Ashford. Her family were surprised how quickly she integrated herself into the community, she went to Coffee Mornings at Coxheath Village Hall and joined the Farleighs' Evergreens, where she was well liked and she enjoyed the company. She had her favourites and would regularly take along cans of G&T and treat them to an aperitif before lunch!

Latterly she had lots of help from her cleaner, Jacky, who used to take her shopping. As Pat became frailer, Jacky did more and more for her.

She leaves behind her daughter Joanne and two adult grandchildren.

She will be missed.



WELCOME TO MICHAEL AND BABITA CLAPP



Michael, Babita and Evie have moved in to Dawsons Cottages. Although used to the open space of Mote Park, near their previous home, they are enjoying the quiet in the village.

Mike is an area manager for Bookers, Babita is a Diabetes Specialist Nurse based at Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill. Fortunately, she can often work for home. They enjoy

walking and gardening as you can see from all the work they are doing in their front garden.



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Mike has run Marathons, participated in Iron man challenges and runs a Judo club in the Boxley Road.

THE FLETCHER FAMILY

The Fletcher family lived in and around West Farleigh for over 100 years. They lived in several of the more prestigious properties. Their first house in the immediate area was Kenward House in Yalding (pictured below)

It was bought from the Kenward family, by Major General Edward Charles Fletcher, who was a man with private means and property in the best part of London. He lived there with his wife and family until his death in 1879. He left the house to his wife Lady Frances, who continued to live there, with six maids, plus footman, butler and groom. One of their sons Lionel, bought Ewell Manor, for his family. But that is another story.

More in next Lifeline and on the website www.thefarleighs.co.uk



NB Kenward House is now a charitable Trust helping people with drug and alcohol addictions.



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~~FLYING~~ ^{around} ~~the~~ ~~FARLEIGHS~~ →



THE GARDEN MONEY CHANGER

It's officially Spring, so we expect our days in the garden and countryside to ring with birdsong. While a very few species, like robins for example, sing throughout the year, other species start to join them their numbers amplified by the returning migrants, here to make the most of our long days and (once) plentiful insects.

One of the first to return is a diminutive, but persistent singer, the chiffchaff. Its repetitive song is easily distinguished from the increasingly crowded dawn chorus, and most days it can be heard all the time except around noon when most birds take a break to preen out of sight in foliage.

So called because of its onomatopoeic song – *chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff* – its call is also reflected in its Dutch *Tjiftjaf*, German *Zilpzalp* and Basque *Chifftxaff* names.

It will also be busily hunting insects to put on weight ready for the energy-hungry task of breeding – two broods of five or six eggs each year. Often picked from the underside of leaves, this behaviour leads to its scientific name *Phylloscopus* – Greek for leaf-seeker. Its insect prey is hungry too, for the



same reproductive reason, and can often be found feeding on nectar in the emerging flowers. Birds too are partial to the sweet liquid, and small bills and tongues probing flowers for nectar and insects all add to the process of fertilisation of plants by transferring pollen from to another. Scientists are only just becoming aware of the role birds play in this, and their commercial value as pollinators of fruit. It is now thought blue tits' spread around the northern hemisphere mirrors the spread of apple trees, as both were linked by pollination.

Evidence to support this theory is often seen if you are lucky enough to get a close look at small birds in spring. As chiffchaffs, for example, fly northwards from Mediterranean north Africa,

they fuel their journey with nectar from the emerging spring flowers along the route and continue their sugary feeding once here. But as we all know from our sticky fingers after eating a doughnut, sugary, syrupy food leaves its mark on everything that touches it, so small birds poking around in flowers get nectar and pollen stuck on their facial feathers and emerge with what ornithologists call 'pollen horns'.

The second part of the Chiffchaff's scientific name – *collybita* – is also taken from the Greek for 'money changer'. An oblique reference to the tinkling sound of small coins changing hands. As is often the case, the common countryfolk got there before scientists did: in Normandy this delightful herald of spring was once known as 'Compteur d'argent'.

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No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	nomuckinabout@outlook.com
Heathside Electrical	Electrical	www.heathsideelectrical.co.uk	Sam Sephton	07976 895001	heathsideelectrical@gmail.com
D. Ward	Plumbing & Heating services		Darren Ward	07973 314266	darren@dward.biz
Pest Purge	Pest Control	www.pestpurge.co.uk	Richard Lee	07758 615101	richard@pestpurge.co.uk
Top Dog fencing	Fencing and Gates		Sam Morton	07709 530166	Topdogmaintenance@icloud.com
Castle Portable Loo Hire Ltd	Events	http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/	Steve Millsom	07990 606067	castleplh@gmail.com
Hair Traditional	Hairdressing & beauty	Facebook/Instagram @hairtraditional.maidstone		01622 817800	

CRAFT GROUP



The newly formed Craft group is now meeting every two weeks in the Good Intent. The next meeting is **7th April at 6.30**.

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. All welcome!

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SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



FOOTBALL Plenty of goals last month for our two teams, unfortunately, most of which were in the wrong net! Our 1st XI did not have a great month losing all three matches. Firstly we lost to Chelsfield 3-0, next Kemsing 7-2 and finally going down 5-1 to St Laurence. Only two fixtures for our 2nd XI, we started with a crashing defeat losing 9-0 to Tonbridge Juniors, finally some good news, we had a terrific 2-0 victory over Weald Wolves.



NETBALL One final game to report which ended the winter season, although we lost 56-34 against "Attack" overall it was a successful and enjoyable season, ending in 6th position and we can look forward to our summer encounters which begin in May.



CRICKET Nets practice has been going well. If you fancy coming along we meet at the boys Grammar School Monday evening at 7pm. All are welcome. We start our season at the end of May.

CLUB NEWS

March lucky numbers

109 Marcus Lowe £30

51 Delphine Judge £20

54 James Reid £10

? ?

SPORTS CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

? ?

Saturday 19th April at East Farleigh Social Club. Teams of 6. ALL are welcome. If you can't make up a team come any way and make new friends in a team made up for you! £5 each, bring your own nibbles. The bar will be available!

Book your place on 07761 355518

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 EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had a very interesting talk about the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institute). We heard about its history and its growth over the years, from wooden rowing boats to state of the art unsinkable and self righting boats and from life jackets made from cork to the very light modern jackets. They are nearly all volunteers, even the Lifeguards on the beach. We made a donation and had a whip round the members and collected a goodly amount. It is funded solely by voluntary donations. Lunch meeting was Fish and chips.

Our oldest member Bill Horn has died. He was 100. We celebrated his 100th birthday at an Evergreens meeting. His funeral is on 3rd April 9.15 at Vinters Crematorium. He will be missed. He loved his trips to Evergreens where he would often reminisce about the old days and his time in the army in the Second World War.

If you would like to join us email Katie O'Connor 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 2nd Tuesday at 2.30 and on the 4th Tuesday at 12.30.



THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

Members of the WI had a real treat this month when Julia Davies came to talk to us about spring cookery and demonstrated some straightforward yet delicious recipes including a cheese and leek plait, a couscous salad, berry meringue and a Norwegian springtime cake. And, we all got to sample these delights at the end of the meeting.

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. Easter bunnies are a current theme, but the group is also open to any member who just wants to call in for a coffee and a chat.

Our darts group continues to meet at the Good Intent every Monday and our quiz team excelled at the Tickled Trout charity quiz this month where, as always, we had a great time, but this month we actually knew some of the answers and finished in joint second place.

Our new book group is proving popular with members, and this month we have read The Cat Sanctuary by Patrick Gale. We also have an active lunch club, which does the rounds of local hostelrys and eateries, 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, 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start at the WI Hall in East Farleigh. At our next meeting on Wednesday 9th April we will be welcoming well-known local speaker and historian Janey Ramsay who will be talking to us about England's five queens who have reigned in their own right.

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, 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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