

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE



*A West Farleigh Greater Spotted Woodpecker*

*by Rachel Spreckley*

## WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> June	Craft Club at the Good Intent 6.30pm
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Village in Bloom Quiz Night 7pm
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Garden Open Day at Smiths Hall
Various June dates	Rachel Spreckley Open Studios (See Pg 2)
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Village Cricket and BBQ
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Twelfth Night at Elmscroft
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Tallest Sunflower Competition Judging

Written, managed, and distributed freely by West Farleigh residents. Edition 577

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**Deadline for the next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

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ART



## South East Open Studios

Sunday 8 June 10–3pm  
Thursday 12 June 10–3pm  
Sunday 15 June 10–3pm  
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Saturday 21 June 10–3pm

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# GARDENING NOTES BY TINA WOODHAMS

## JUNE GARDENING NOTES

We are heading rapidly towards the longest day of the year!

Warmer temperatures and extra sunlight means that pots and planters already filled with bedding plants will benefit from regular watering and feeding. Use a high-potash or liquid tomato feed and remove dead flower blooms as they fade to encourage repeat flowering.



With a distinct lack of rain during the spring, we need to be water-wise in our gardens. Use water butts to store water and try to water every other day using a watering can. Top priorities for watering are seedlings, cuttings and anything that you have recently planted – established shrubs and lawns should generally survive.

Deciduous shrubs that flower in spring or early summer can be pruned, such as philadelphus (mock orange) and weigela which flower on the previous year's growth. Pruning immediately after flowering allows the most growth for flowers next year! Remove any damaged or dead wood and cut a fifth of stems to ground level to improve air flow around the shrub.

Harvest early potatoes and remove side shoots from tomato plants – these are the ones that grow between the main stem and the leaf- and start to feed them as soon as the first truss is setting fruit. Keep your greenhouse well-ventilated and shaded to avoid plants scorching. Various methods include fitting blinds, installing shade netting or applying a shading paint directly onto the glass.

Harden off any tender vegetable plants such as courgette, squashes and sweetcorn, and plant out. Sow a 'cut and come again' salad leaf mix, these will thrive either in the ground or in containers and are invaluable for fresh pickings in an instant!

Now is the time to start pruning stone fruit trees – cherry and plum – these will naturally shed some fruit, however, if branches are congested then these should be thinned out in order for the remaining fruit to grow larger.



If you decided to observe the 'No Mow May' campaign then you can either re-start mowing in June or wait until August which allows the wild plants to flower, providing food and habitat for insects and other wildlife. If you choose to mow now, then maintain the lawn edges with a half-moon edging tool and edging shears to ensure your borders are kept grass-free. In periods of dry weather it is worthwhile raising the lawn mower blades to reduce stress on the grass.

With the maximum daylight hours in sight, after completing your tasks you will have more time to sit, relax and enjoy all your efforts.

Happy Gardening!



## JUNE DOG TRAINING from Rebecca Hawkins.

### Tips for recall

Training your dog to recognise their name and respond to recall commands is essential for their safety and strengthens your relationship.

Here are a few tips to help with recall.

1. Begin by consistently using your dog's name to capture their attention. Ensure that everyone in your home uses the same name to avoid confusion.

2. Once your dog reliably acknowledges their name, introduce a recall command such as "come" or "here." Combine this verbal cue with a visual signal, like outstretched arms, or use a clicker (see below) to aid their understanding.

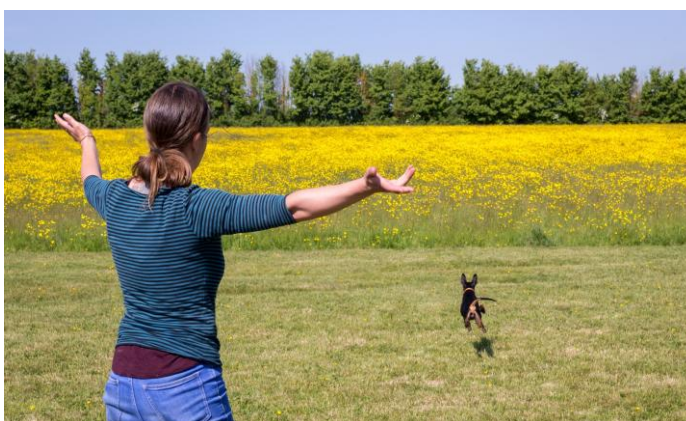
3. Use the recall command sparingly. Allow your dog a few seconds to respond before repeating the command, and refrain from calling again if you believe they may not return.

4. Start training in a safe environment, such as indoors or a secure field. If you cannot be sure your dog will return it is imperative to use a long line until your dog knows the cue. When your dog approaches you, promptly reward them with treats and verbal praise, using an excited tone and open body language.

5. As your dog becomes more adept at returning, gradually increase the distance between you and introduce various distractions. Utilise the long line for safety during these training sessions. Use a line without a handle, to avoid your dog getting snagged on branches, you can step on the line if you anticipate your dog wandering too far.

6. If your dog fails to respond, stay calm and avoid showing frustration. Instead, you can gently guide them back with the long line or approach them directly.

7. At first, offer a treat every time they return. Try to keep high value treats such as chicken or sausage just for recall, they will be more keen to return if you have tasty treats. As they improve, you can lessen the frequency of treats but continue to reward them occasionally to keep their motivation high (dogs remember treats so will anticipate a treat even if it only arrives occasionally).



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A black and white photograph of a woman kneeling in a field, smiling at the camera. A dog is sitting next to her.

## Tips for clicker training



Clicker training is an effective method for dog owners to 'mark' positive behaviours. A clicker is a small plastic device that makes a distinct 'click' sound when pressed, helping dogs associate the sound with rewards. This encourages them to repeat the actions they were performing at the time of the click.

While using a clicker requires having it on hand, it clarifies desired behaviours and shifts your focus to what your dog does right, making the training experience more enjoyable and less frustrating.

There are two main methods for using the clicker. The first is to wait for your dog to naturally show a behaviour you can 'click' to reinforce, which can help with behavioural issues. The second method involves guiding your dog to perform a specific action, such as recall or avoiding distractions, marking it with a 'click' and reward. Gradually reduce your guidance while continuing to click for correct behaviours, which leads to quicker results.

Timing is essential, as the click serves as a reward signal. Always provide a reward immediately after each 'click'. Initially, click often for small successes, and as your dog improves, ask for more effort before clicking. For instance, when teaching down click when they lay down, then wait for them to stay down for a set time.

I have this down to a tee now, I can be out with 6 dogs and as soon as they hear the click they all come running!



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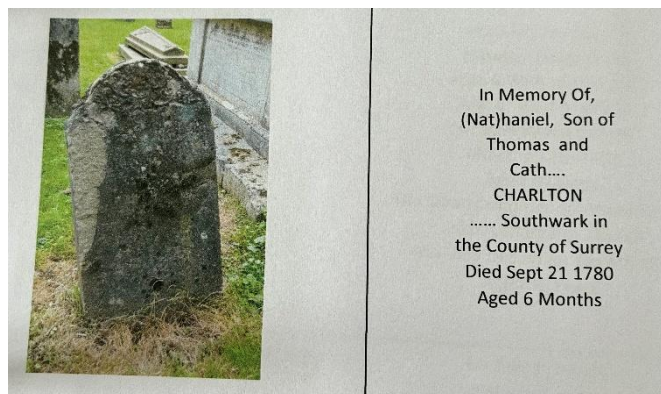


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## ALL SAINTS CHURCH GRAVEYARD

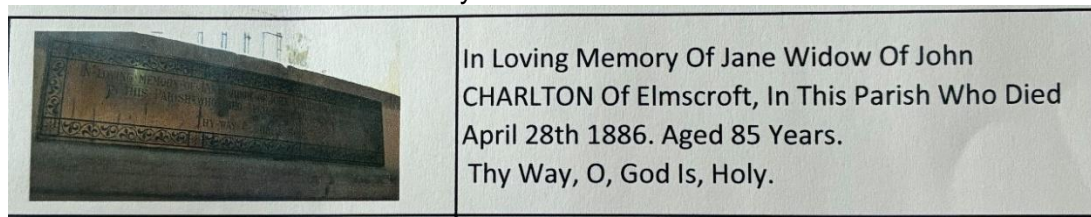
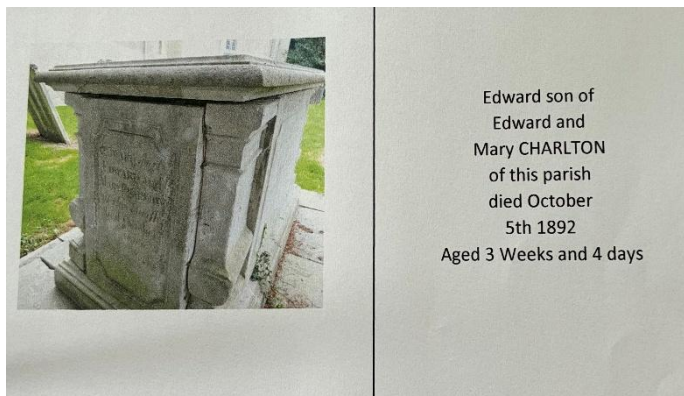
Between September 2021 and April 2022, the Maidstone branch of the Kent Family History Society spent time at our village church identifying 360 individual plots in the graveyard and recording no fewer than 553 names. A file was produced which contains an alphabetical listing of the Burial register from 1905 to 2022, a list of the five English Heritage Grade 2 listed headstones at the church, photos and transcripts of the burial/memorial plaques inside the church, a hand annotated map of the graveyard plots and photos and transcripts of every headstone standing!



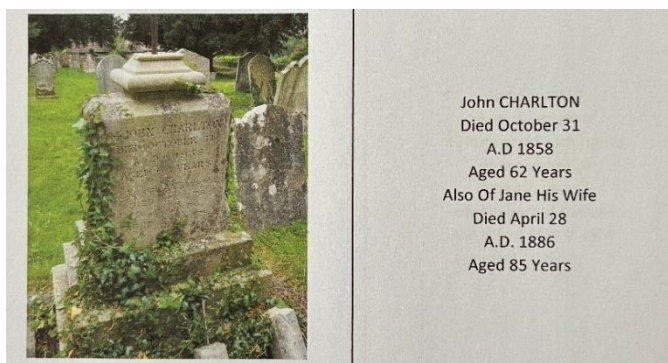
If, like me, you are fascinated by graveyards and headstones this folder makes for hours of browsing and imaginings of lives lived in our beautiful village over the years.

In the alphabetical listings, it inevitably catches the eye where there are many members of the same family recorded. It was not that surprising to find the name Charlton listed no fewer than 21 times – sharing this honour with the Miller family who are also featured 21 times.

The Charltons must surely have a connection to our Charlton Lane? The oldest family burial was recorded in no less than 1780 when Nathaniel was laid to rest at the tender age of just 6 months. His last relation to be buried in the graveyard was Edward in 1892 – 112 years later. Edward too died as a baby just 3 weeks and 4 days old. Happily, other members of the family enjoyed considerable longevity - Jane Charlton died in 1886 aged 85 and has a memorial plaque inside the church. The plaque shows that she and her late husband, John who lived to the age of 62, actually lived on Charlton Lane at Elmscroft! Is anyone able to enlighten us as to the origins of Charlton Lane's name and connection to this family?



More from the graveyard records next month.





## THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had an expedition to Brookside Garden Centre at East Peckham in May.

There was an opportunity to browse round the shop and the beautiful nursery. Later we all met up in the cafe. Plenty of tea and cake was consumed and , when it was discovered that there was a new Mr Whippy style ice cream machine on-site, two members indulged in cornets while Helen, who is very fond of ice cream, had a tub with caramel sauce!

We will be sharing lunch on the 27th May in the hall and our first meeting in June is a trip up the river on the Kentish Lady. Who will be first to spot a kingfisher? The river is looking good at the moment with lush grass and wild flowers along its bank.

If you are retired (our members range in age from their 60s to their early 90s) and would like to come along and enjoy our hospitality and company twice a month, ring Helen on 07710 442971 (she no longer has a landline) or email Katie at [katieeth66@gmail.com](mailto:katieeth66@gmail.com).

If you live in East or West Farleigh we can offer transport to and from the WI Hall where we meet in East Farleigh.

## INNOMINATA CONCERT

The chamber choir of 10, eventually got to entertain us, five years and 3 months after they were first booked! They were due to sing just as we were all shut down by COVID. The wait was worth it. It was a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. Songs of many genres, a recorder concerto, piano solo and a duet. A small and select audience enjoyed the concert at All Saints Church and the interval refreshments!




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## A MESSAGE FROM KATIE LAM, MP FOR WEALD OF KENT



Spring is one of my favourite times of year, and there's nowhere better to enjoy this time of year than here in the Weald. It's the season of Lady's Smock, Cow parsley, and butterflies. We're really fortunate that the Garden of England has so much to offer by way of flora and fauna: the wildflowers are in full bloom and our beautiful home is teeming with insect and animal life.

As your Member of Parliament, it's my job to represent you and help solve the problems that you face on a daily basis. The most enjoyable part of my job, however, is championing our truly beautiful patch and promoting what makes it such a fantastic place to live.

That's why I'm excited to announce my brand-new Weald of Kent Awards, recognising the very best of our wonderful corner of Kent.

This summer, I hope you'll join me in celebrating the unsung local heroes who help our communities thrive. I want to shine a light on the Weald's favourite places to eat and drink, the very best Kentish produce, and the individuals, businesses and volunteer groups that go above and beyond to bring people together.

Can you think of someone in your area who deserves to be recognised? If so, I'd love to hear from you!

I'm inviting everyone in the Weald to nominate a winner from one or more of the following six categories:

1. The Weald of Kent Pub, Restaurant or Café 2025
2. The Weald of Kent Local Business 2025
3. The Taste of the Weald of Kent 2025
4. The Weald of Kent Local Hero 2025
5. The Weald of Kent Young Local Hero 2025
6. The Weald of Kent Heart of the Community 2025

If you know a worthy winner from your corner of the Weald, please do nominate them. Once the shortlist is decided, the finalists will be voted for by you, the people who know the Weald better than anyone else. I'll then announce the winner in August, and present them with a fabulous Weald of Kent Award.

Nominations will open on my website on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 at [www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards](http://www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards), and will be advertised across my social media pages over the summer.

As ever, if there's anything you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk), or speak to me on 01580 388344.



## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BECKY PARNHAM

Last month Lorna spoke to you about the feeling of having 'done nothing' – if you haven't read it, I suggest you track down a copy and reflect on how much you might actually do each day.....even if it's not the big, noticeable stuff that you think your friends are wanting to hear about.

This month I'd like to follow that by talking about the art of pottering – doing those small, daily tasks with intention and notice. A friend of mine introduced me, a few years ago, to a book called 'Pottering. A Cure for Modern Life' by Anna McGovern. The blurb on the back says it's "The perfect antidote to the stuff of life, pottering helps you discover the pace where contentment lies."



A piece inside helps to explain it better – "One of the basic principles of pottering is 'don't try too hard', not 'don't try at all': it is not 'sitting about in your onesie on your phone'. The very opposite, in fact. Pottering is relaxing because you are occupied."

Pottering helps us to focus on one task at a time and helps us to disconnect from the fast pace of modern life. In the bible we read that Jesus often took himself away from the crowds and the disciples and found places of quiet to pray. I would suggest that he was an expert in pottering; knowing that we need to find those places of peace, whatever and wherever they may be, to help us recharge, refocus and be able to cope when the demands of life crowd in on us.

We can't all suddenly disappear from life for a couple of hours as Jesus did, but we can learn to find our own rhythm that helps us face the challenges of daily life.

So, my suggestion, if you have times when you're feeling overwhelmed, is to put down your phone (or whatever digital device you are using) and do something simple like making a cup of tea taking time to focus on the task you are doing, thinking only of pouring the boiling water into the pot and pushing all those other tasks clambering for your attention to one side.

Happy pottering! Becky

## SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am	Holy Communion	
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.30am	Morning Worship	



### 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.



## ‘Twelfth Night’ at Elmscroft House on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Following the success of "The importance of being Ernest" last year, the Changeling Theatre is coming to Elmscroft House to perform Shakespeare's eternal play.

Tickets available <https://buytickets.at/westfarleighvillageevents/1538044> or in person from Alex at Elmscroft House. £25 per adult, £15 per youngster 12-18 yrs.

## LOCAL TRADES

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**You can also contact us online here:**

<https://unitedbenefice.church/contact-the-pastoral-support-team/>



## SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



**FOOTBALL** To round off the season, our 1<sup>st</sup> IX played their cup final against Kemsing. It was a tough evening! We were 2-0 down early on but managed to claw one back just before the break! However, the second half was another battle and we eventually went down 4-1. Well done to the team for getting to the final though!



**NETBALL** What a start our ladies have had to their summer season? We began with a terrific victory over Lightening 47-34, then followed that up with another impressive display against Headcorn, winning 37-31. Let's hope we can continue in this fine form!



**CRICKET** We started our season with two friendlies: we beat East Sutton but then lost in a high scoring game against Southborough. Since then both teams have played twice in the league but neither have yet managed a victory. Our 1<sup>st</sup> IX lost to Locksbottom and Betsham, while the 2nds went down against Lenham and Underiver. However, it is early days and hopefully I will be able to report better results this time next month!

**Nets are every Thursday down on the ground at 6.30pm, please come and join us – we need more players!**

### CLUB NEWS

Last month's lucky winners in our Ton-Up draw were:

52	Jane Reid	£30
108	Harley Harold	£20
84	Berni Brewster	£10

**Yours in sport, Tel (07761 355518)**

**Taking your phone to the match? Why not send your pictures of our sportsmen in action to [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk). We will credit you.**

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



## The Farleighs WI

Our monthly meeting in May was mostly taken up with our AGM but we also took the opportunity to enjoy a cream tea and watch a slideshow of our highlights from the last year, of which there were many.

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. Wet felting is currently on our craft agenda, but we love new ideas for any craft we haven't yet tried. 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 takes part in the Tickled Trout charity quiz each month. This month we managed to come second in the quiz although we refute any suggestion that the questions were easier than usual! Our book group is proving popular with members, and this month we have read *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell. For any Jackson Brodie fans out there, our next read is *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson. We also have an active lunch group, which does the rounds of local hostelrys and eateries, and a walking group, as well as other regular opportunities for socialising with friends. This month a group of us went to The Hazlitt theatre to see a great local production of the *Calendar Girls* (and no, we won't be following their example!).

Our monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month, 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start at the WI Hall in East Farleigh. Future topics for coming months include the working life of a prison officer, the history of belly dancing, and a visit from some therapy ponies.

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

### CASPER WILLIAM EASTERBOOK NORMAN

Casper, the second son of Alex and William Norman of Elmscroft House, Charlton Lane, was baptised by the Rector, Lorna Faulkner, on 17<sup>th</sup> May in our beautiful village church, surrounded by family and friends. Including his grandad, Stephen Norman and mischievous brother Lucas.





## WEST FARLEIGH IN BLOOM

The sun came out for our annual plant sale - and so did lots of people! We had a huge array of plants and delicious cakes. Most people sat down to enjoy refreshments once they'd bought their plants. We all agreed it was a lovely sociable morning and the money raised was split between the sports club, the church and West Farleigh in Bloom. The plants we didn't sell were shared between Riding for the Disabled for their plant sale and Dandelion Times so the sale benefitted the village in many ways. Thank you to everyone who helped, supported us by coming, and for donating plants!



On **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June** we have a **Quiz Night** at the Church hosted by our very own, fantastically handsome, he says, quizmaster -Peter, which promises to be a fun evening. Teams of 6 preferably, £5 per person on the night, bring your own drinks and nibbles, and there will be a raffle. Come along at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Last but not least, the annual **Tallest Sunflower Competition** will be judged on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August**.

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## FLYING AROUND THE FARLEIGHS



Late again!

Hmm. It's not without some little embarrassment that the title of my June 24 article was also 'Late again!' And for substantially the same reason.

"Sloth", I hear you mutter, but it couldn't be further from the truth. At this time of year, anyone with even with just a passing interest in birds can't help but notice the summer arrivals or, as Shakespeare named one of them – the House Martin – Guests of Summer. So throughout May I have been pre-occupied with another summer visitor, whose identity I will reveal in next month's article, along with some locally taken photos.

I hope too that it will be met with "Yes, we heard one of those as we were walking to the pub last night" or "At last, I've seen one. It was down by the river when we were taking the dog for a walk. I'd never seen one before!". The latter being more likely to have been uttered by someone born this century.

Older readers may well have seen or heard them before. Those with a love of literature will also be familiar with the name and their place in our culture. Not only were they mentioned in The Bible, one of the earliest mentions of them in literature was by a Muslim woman in 12<sup>th</sup> Century Spain where women from elite families were celebrated for their literary skills, although in this instance the lady in question – Hafsa bint al Hajj - used the reference to puncture a young man's inflated opinion of himself as a lover!

Chaucer, Shakespeare, Anne Bronte and even Edgar Alan Poe (no, it's not a raven) wrote about these birds – they feature in no less than five of Shakespeare's plays plus one of his poems. In recent times they were even referred to in a reading at a royal wedding.

All will be revealed next month.

Ray Morris



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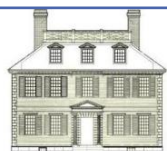
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