Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

8th and 22nd Sept Tues 9th September Sat 13th Sept 11th Oct & 28th Nov 6th December

Craft Club at Good Intent 6.30pm Charity Pub Quiz at Tickled Trout Ride and Stride Fundraiser Rachel Spreckley Watercolour Workshop Father Christmas at West Farleigh Church

Written, managed, and distributed freely by West Farleigh residents. Edition 590 Editors: Stephen Norman, Helen Swan, Sue Birchall, Katie O'Connor Website: www.thefarleighs.co.uk Email: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk

Deadline for the next issue is 20th September 2025





Saturday 11 October 10 - 1 **Christmas Workshop**

Friday 28 November 10 - 1



Smiths Hill Oast Smiths Hill West Farleigh ME15 oPG



rachelspreckleyart.com rachelspreckleyart@gmail.com





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NOT JUST FOR POTTERS

ay in our cabin and enjoy the beautiful Medway Valley area of East Fa Dog friendly and free use of dog exercise field.

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

GARDENING NOTES BY TINA WOODHAMS

September is traditionally associated with the harvesting of our abundance of crops, continuing on from the summer's produce of salads, tomatoes, cucumbers and courgettes. Temperatures remain warm with a fresher and cooler feel to the air as we head towards the autumn season, with the daylight hours gradually reducing.

It's time to lift your maincrop potatoes and dry before storing – use hessian or paper sacks and keep in a cool, dark place away from nibbling rodents! Ensure that your potatoes are all undamaged as it can take only one rotten tuber to spread disease throughout the entire crop.



Fruits of squash and pumpkin ready for harvest next month should be raised off the surface of the soil to keep them away from dampness and avoid slug damage. Removing leaves from the plants will allow the sun to ripen the skins and increase air circulation between the fruits.

Fruits such as tomatoes, aubergines and peppers will have already provided harvests but to keep them producing for longer keep well fed once a week with a high-potash liquid feed. Any green tomatoes can be picked to ripen on windowsills indoors.



Check brassica plants such as cabbages, broccoli and Brussels sprouts for signs of the white cabbage butterfly – a cluster of small yellow eggs laid on the underside of the leaf which will

rapidly hatch into caterpillars - and wipe or hose off. If you have not been vigilant enough and the caterpillars are already munching on the leaves then control by picking them off or treating with a biological



control otherwise in no time your crop will be devastated!

There is still time to sow lettuce, spinach and rocket outside for a crop later on this year. Keep a close eye out for those slugs which will thrive in the damper conditions.

Prolong the flowering of summer bedding with regular deadheading and removing any dead foliage to help prevent mould and fungus attacks. Continue feeding with a liquid fertiliser and you will be rewarded with colourful blooms well into mid-autumn.

Make use of the shorter evenings by leafing through catalogues for spring bulbs which will need to be planted at the end of this month, and into next, and consider any shrubs or perennials on your wish list for next year. Planting conditions are perfect now with the soil still warm and (fingers crossed) a moderate rainfall. Pot up 'prepared' narcissi and hyacinth bulbs (these are specially treated) for fragrant flowers indoors at around Christmas time. Leave them in a cool, dark area to force them and then bring them out into the light as soon as the first green shoots emerge.

There is a certain tranquillity and calmness about the autumn days, however keep up the good work and enjoy the great outdoors!

HAPPY GARDENING!

WEST FARLEIGH IN BLOOM SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Congratulations to everyone who entered the competition. We had the highest number of entries for a few years and it was a pleasure to see the many displays of different heights, shapes and sizes of flowers.



The winners are:

16 years and under – Evie Clapp - height 3.14m

Over 16 years – Mike and Babita Clapp – height 3.54m

Trophies were presented to the winners along with a pottery sunflower cane top, hand crafted and kindly donated by Shazpots. All entrants received a lucky dip sunflower gift.



We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Gabby and Tina

MAVIS MERRITT

We are extremely saddened to announce the death of Mavis Merritt on 11TH August 2025. Mavis has been a longtime resident of Rookery Row in Charlton Lane with her husband Mick. An obituary will follow next month.



The United Benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh,

Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh

Do you know of anyone who is housebound or lonely and would like a visit? If so, please ask them if you can give their details to us. We have both men and women on the team and we will be pleased to visit.

Call: 07437 544229 in confidence to speak to one of the Team. If there is no answer please leave your name and number or text your details. We will get back to you just as soon as we can.

You can also contact us online here: https://unitedbenefice.church/contact-the-pastoral-support-team/

Sometimes we just need someone to listen.

DOWN ON THE FARM WITH DAN

(our new regular feature on farming in the Farleighs)

Tom J Sewell from Warnham's Farm on Hunt Street has been telling me his news. He is the manager at Sewell Farms, who have been farming in this area for many years. In early August they harvested 280 acres of wheat off Gallants Lane and in late July they harvested more wheat and field beans off Hunt Street and Bow Hill. Field beans are edible and are closely related to broad beans but you won't see them in the supermarket.







The wheat is good quality, and it can go for milling to turn it into flour. The field beans will either go for animal feed or human consumption, depending on the quality. They will be assessed for bruchid beetle damage. This causes the beans to be spoiled by exit holes and if that's above a certain percentage then the beans have to be ground up and be used for cattle feed or chicken feed. However if the beans are good quality they go for human consumption. Many of them are exported to North Africa where they are cooked and eaten.



The oats in the fields off Hunt Street are due for harvest and are good enough for human consumption. They will become biscuits, breakfast cereals, cakes etc. Contrary to popular belief, oats don't just grow in Scotland.

The very dry spring has retarded cereal growth. Though the quality is good, yields were affected, and it has also meant that less straw and hay has been produced.

Becks Pursey is a sheep farmer based in Yalding. She has been grazing her sheep in the fields behind the Tickled Trout and off Mill Lane. In mid-July she wormed, and

gave injections to protect against clostridial diseases. The lambs were sprayed with Crovect to prevent flystrike. Flystrike is a condition where flies lay eggs on the lambs, and then the maggots burrow into the flesh. It's as nasty as it sounds!

August has been busy for her. She has been weaning the lambs off the ewes. Usually this would have been done in early July but the hot dry weather impaired the grazing quality and this has put her four weeks behind. That has a knock-on effect on the ewes, who now have less time to regain condition before November when the Suffolk ram will get them pregnant. In September, Becks will be checking the ewes to see if they have gained sufficient condition.

There were 65 Suffolk Cross lambs to wean. They have been taken to new pastures further along Hunt Street. The 38 North Country Mule ewes have gone to Wateringbury and Kenward Road. The ewes and lambs have to be put far enough apart so that they can't hear each other, as this would be distressing and there is also a risk that they would jump out or break through fences to be together again.

Recent rain has improved the condition of the grazing land. While the ewes were in the pen, Becks checked their teeth, udders and teats to make sure they will be OK for next year's lambing.

It will soon be time to weigh the larger lambs to see if they are anywhere near 40kg. This is the ideal weight for them to go to the abattoir or market.

WF's SAM WILSON IS WORLD CHAMPION IN SQUIRT BOATING



In a stunning display of skill and determination, Sam Wilson has claimed the title of World Champion in the men's squirt boat category at the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Freestyle World Championships, held in Plattling, Germany. Representing Great Britain, Sam not only took home the gold but also shattered the world record—three times over—on his path to victory, scoring 3246.67 points.

The event, often referred to as the "Olympics" of freestyle kayaking due to the sport's absence from the Olympic Games, brought together athletes from 40 countries across various categories. For the squirt boating community, this is the pinnacle of competition.

Sam qualified for the GB team during the national selections at Nottingham White Water Centre in October

last year. From the outset of the world championships, he dominated the field—finishing first in the preliminaries with a record-breaking performance. He then surpassed his own record in the semi-finals and once again in the finals, securing the gold medal and the world title.

This victory marks a significant milestone in Sam's kayaking career. Now 28, he has been competing for Team GB in Men's K1, C1 and squirt since the age of 16. Some of his previous accolades include bronze medals at the 2016 World Championships in Platting and the 2019 event in Sort, Spain, as well as titles as British and European Open Champion in both 2023 and 2024.





For those unfamiliar with squirt boating, it's a unique and technically demanding discipline. Athletes use a low-volume kayak—resembling a slalom boat with the air "sucked out"—to perform intricate tricks. Points are awarded based on the angles achieved and minimal paddle use. A key feature of the sport is the "mystery move," where the paddler submerges both themselves and the boat underwater for as long as possible, multiplying their surface score. The unpredictability of where and when the paddler resurfaces adds to the thrill and spectacle.

When he's not travelling the world to compete or coach, Sam lives at St Helens Corner with his parents, Chris and Megan, who are extremely proud of all his achievements.

Beyond competition, Sam is a qualified kayak coach across all disciplines, teaching everyone from beginners to international-level athletes on both flat and white water. His passion for the sport and dedication to coaching have made him a respected figure in the paddling community. More information can be found on his website https://samwilsoncoaching.wordpress.com/

To witness Sam's incredible rides, simply search "Sam Wilson ICF world champion squirt boating" online.



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PASTORAL LETTER FROM SUE ELLIOT

Dear friends,

I have what most would say is a big birthday coming up in September. When I was 50, I remember it being said that 50 is the new 40, and when I was 60 it was said that 60 is the new 50! I recently read that 70 is apparently the new 53! Research cited in the IMF's World Economic Outlook, based on samples in 41 countries, suggested the average 70-year-old in 2022 had the same cognitive ability as a 53-year-old in 2000!



Rather than big birthdays though, I am thinking about all the youngsters who have big events happening, like starting school, moving to big school, leaving school and starting apprenticeships or work, or going off to college or university. Massive events in these young lives.

This time of year can be difficult, too, for parents having to buy school uniforms and it can be emotional when children go to school for the first time or youngsters leave home to go to college or university.

Do you remember when you first went to school or college or started work? Was it a good experience? Do you look back with fondness or would you rather forget it? Bad experiences can affect people for a very long time, sometimes for their whole lives. That's why it is important that we all help our children and young people have the best experiences possible, because they are very precious.

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing. Psalm 127:3 (Good News Translation).

You might not have any children, but you may be an auntie or uncle, or a neighbour to a family, or a friend. Do help our young people have good experiences that they will remember with joy and affection. Be a listening ear when they need to talk. Pray for them, they grow up so fast.

Big birthdays might be celebrated but when all is said and done 70 is just a number. Am I bothered? Nah!

Enjoy the rest of September.

Blessings, Sue Elliott - Pastoral Assistant

LITTLE ANGELS will be restarting on Friday 5th September after our school holiday break and we are looking forward to seeing you all!.



We are a mother and toddler group meeting in West Farleigh Church every termtime Friday at 1pm. From babies to preschoolers with theirs mums, dads, Grandmothers, Grandfathers and carers. All are welcome – there is coffee for the adults and lots of toys and fun for the youngsters.

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

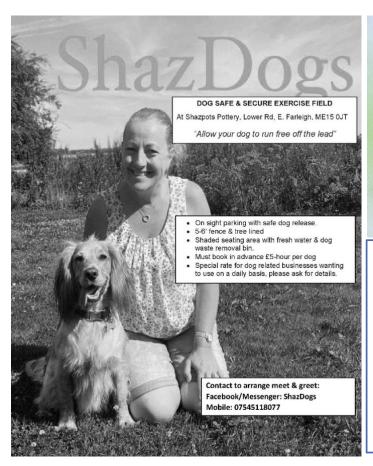
Sunday 14th September Sunday 28th September

9.30am 10.30am Communion
Morning Worship

RIDE AND STRIDE

The Annual fundraising Ride/ Stride, to raise funds for the friends of Kent churches, takes place on Saturday 13th September. We would love you to join in. Sponsorship forms from www.kentrideandstride.co.uk, or phone Helen Swan 07710 442971. Half of the sponsorship money raised will go to a church of your choice. We hope you nominate All Saints West Farleigh!

If you are no longer a cyclist or walker, could you man the church for an hour and sign in the visitors? Call Helen on 07710 442971 if you could help.









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		1

the WI

The Farleighs WI

At our monthly meeting in August, we were pleased to welcome Dee Thrussell and her pony Dude from Mini Horse Heroes, an organisation that takes miniature ponies into care homes to visit residents, and also to schools and nurseries. Dee also writes children's books with Dude as the main character. Dee gave an interesting talk about how Mini Horse Heroes came about and

Dude charmed our members in return for being petted and fed carrots.



As well as our monthly meetings, we 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. We are currently preparing a range of craft items for our Autumn Fair on 5th October. The group is also open to any member who just wants to call in for a coffee and a chat. Our darts group meets at the Good Intent every Monday and our quiz team takes part in the Tickled Trout charity quiz each month. This month our book group are reading The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich. We also have an active lunch group, which does the rounds of local hostelries and eateries, and a walking group, as well as

other regular opportunities for socialising with friends.

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. 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.

Please also put Sunday 5th October 1.00pm your diaries and come to our autumn fair at the WI Hall in East Farleigh.

SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES

FOOTBALL



The new season is not long away! A number of friendlies have been played and training is well underway. We are always looking for new players, so if you, or anyone you know, is looking for a game please get in touch.

NETBALL



Our girls start their new winter season in September. We have a good squad of players with some new additions and are, therefore, hopeful of a successful, but most of all enjoyable, season.

CRICKET



Our three 1st XI games last month produced some good cricket but unfortunately, we did not manage a victory. We began by losing to Southborough followed by an exciting finish away to Outward where we lost by just 8 runs! Lastly, we had another terrific match against Stonewall but lost by two wickets.

Meanwhile our 2nd X1 had just one fixture in which we lost away to Pembury.

CLUB NEWS

What a great Ringstedt Tour we had last month when our friends from Germany paid us a visit? The tour included a music festival, swimming, a scenic walk along the river, the odd party and even made time for a football match which resulted in a friendly 3:3 draw! I'm already looking forward to next year when I'll try and enjoy their German beer!

This month's lucky ton-up winners were:

123	Graham Judge	£30
105	Amilya Pollard	£20
161	Rachel Pearce	£10

IN OTHER NEWS, THE SPORTS CLUB WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE TAKING A WELL-EARNED YEAR OFF FROM ORGANISING AND PUTTING ON THE WEST FARLEIGH VILLAGE FIREWORKS EVENT.

Yours in sport, Tel (07761 355518)

PS. Taking your phone to the match? Please send your pictures of our sportsmen in action to editor@thefarleighs.co.uk. We will credit you.

FLYING around the FARLEIGHS

When does a dove become a pigeon?



Usually when it becomes a pest; there is no scientific difference.

If we like it, or it has positive connotations, we call it a dove. Doves are symbolic of good things in many religions – in Christianity it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. It was a dove that

Noah released to find land again as the Great Flood receded. The turtle dove is a symbol of love, to be given to one's heart-throb on the second day of Christmas, and we persist in releasing Doves of Peace (or are they just white pigeons?) on special occasions or to commemorate the dead. Mediaeval manor houses had dovecotes in which they reared pigeons to provide fresh meat in the winter – a good thing before the days of the freezer, hence they were called doves. Are there any dovecotes (functioning or otherwise) still tucked away in West Farleigh? Most UK doves/pigeons will lay successive clutches of two eggs throughout the year, so our ancestors could fetch fresh squabs from the dovecote for a warming winter casserole.

As we've generally given up eating them, an increasingly frequent visitor to our gardens is the woodpigeon, once called the ring dove until it became an agricultural pest after country people stopped catching them for the pot. Their numbers have gone up dramatically so that they are the fifth most-likely species to visit gardens according to the RSPB. I have a regular pair, plus their frequent offspring, in mine. The collared dove is an occasional (and, because of its repetitive call, some find irritating) visitor. As it is a relatively recent arrival in the UK (the early 1950s) and was much sought-after by birders it is still called a dove. Perhaps, as its numbers are now beginning to decline, it will be saved from the name change.

The feral, or town, pigeon needs no introduction. Descended from the now scarce rock doves that were originally domesticated and housed in dovecotes for a food supply, they come in myriad varieties of plumage. Unfortunately, they are easily (and usually) confused with the stock dove. Stock doves are common in rural areas – I have a pair nesting in my garden – and they usually reveal their presence with a soft, deep "coo-roo". Unlike their town cousins they don't foul buildings as they nest in holes in trees (tree trunks were referred to as stocks in days gone by, hence the name). Although superficially like 'town pigeons', stock doves all resemble each other: a largely uniform soft grey back, pinkish underside, an iridescent patch on its neck and a black eye. It has a single pair of black, 'wonky' quotation marks (' ') towards the back of its closed wing. Like all their relatives, they feed their young on 'pigeon milk' secreted from glands in their throat until the young birds can cope with solid food.

Stock doves are on the amber list of conservation concern, but I've no doubt many are mistakenly killed by shooters targeting woodpigeons and feral pigeons; perhaps shotgun licences should only be granted to people who can tell the difference? Meanwhile, if you are lucky enough to have them in your garden, marvel in the symmetry of their mainly monochrome plumage, and admire their gentle, peaceful demeanour.

As I'm writing this, I am also screening photographs from a camera trap, set to count the turtle doves I wrote about last month. You'll remember that the turtle dove is one of the UK's scarcest birds and has declined by over ninety-eight percent in recent years, so this is a sight you will be hard-pressed to find anywhere else in the country: nine turtle doves, with no other doves or pigeons in sight!



Ray Morris

TWELFTH NIGHT AT ELMSCROFT HOUSE (SEE FRONT PAGE)

The Changeling Theatre production of Twelfth Night was performed at Elmscroft House back in July to much local acclaim! It was very kind of Alex and Will Norman to host this event once again in their garden and a great time was had by the many locals and villagers who attended.





EVERGREENS





ARE YOU RETIRED? THEN WHY NOT COME ALONG TO EVERGREENS?



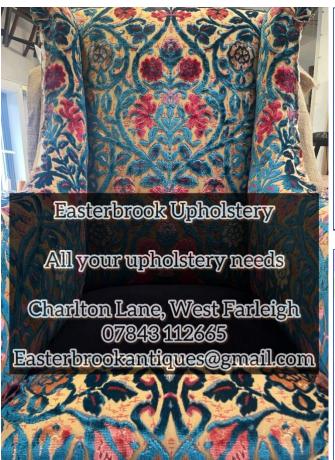
We meet twice a month in the WI Hall, East Farleigh. On the second Tuesday of the month we meet at 2.30pm when there is a speaker or entertainment. This is followed by afternoon tea, tasty sandwiches and cakes to die for! On the fourth Tuesday, we meet at 12.30pm for a home cooked lunch and simply to chat and enjoy each other's company.

So it is not what you may think it is - a group of doddery, gaga old people! It is a lively group and there is much chat and laughter. Yes, some of us are older but we were younger when we joined! And no, it is not all women! Our programme up until Christmas looks like this:

Sept 9th The Swinging Sixties Well worth coming along - interesting and fun.
Oct 14th Village Voices. A choir based in Yalding, but with several familiar faces!

Nov 11th My Life as a Covert Forensic Officer – sounds fascinating! Dec 9th Christmas tea with East Farleigh School Choir singing seasonal songs.

If you would like to come along, Email Katie katieeth66@gmail.com or ring Helen 07710 442971. We will put you in touch with someone near to you, who you can chat to about the group. We can offer transport to those living in East and West Farleigh.





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