

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

Monday evenings	6pm – 8.30pm	Craft Club Good Intent
Sun 9 th Nov	10.45am	Remembrance Day Service at All Saints
Sat & Sun 22/23 rd Nov	10am – 3pm	Open Studio at Smiths Hill Oast
Sat 6 th December	11am – 2pm	Father Christmas & Crafts – Farleigh Church
Sun 14 th December	4.30pm	West Farleigh Carol Service

Written, managed, and distributed freely by West Farleigh residents. Edition 592

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 25th November 2025



CHRISTMAS Open Studios

Saturday 22 November 10-3pm

Sunday 23 November 10-3pm

Smiths Hill Oast, Smiths Hill
West Farleigh ME15 0PG

rachelspreckleyart.com
rachelspreckleyart@gmail.com

Watercolour WORKSHOP

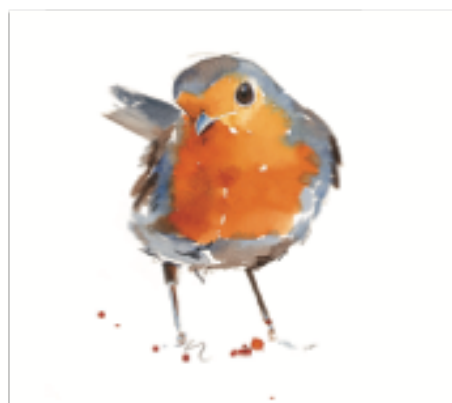
Smiths Hill Oast Studio

Saturday 11 October 10-1pm

Christmas Workshops

Friday 28 November 10-3pm (Full)

Saturday 29 November 10-3pm



LEARN & EXPERIENCE POTTERY



INDEPENDENT POTTER THAT LOVES TO SHARE HER KNOWLEDGE

TEL: 07725 059817

www.shazpots.co.uk

info@shazpots.co.uk



[Shazpotshandmadepottery](https://www.instagram.com/shazpotshandmadepottery)



[Shazpots](https://www.facebook.com/shazpots)

SHAZPOTS HOLIDAY RETREAT

1 MAYS PADDOCK - LOWER ROAD - EAST FARLEIGH - KENT - ME15 0JT
(Please contact to ask about entrance and parking)

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

4 x 3 hour lessons £150

4 x 2 hour lessons £100

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
many lessons you'd like.

NOT JUST FOR POTTERS

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

Gardening is a fabulous way to keep active and the month of November can be a really productive time, catching up on all those tasks that we haven't yet started and planning for the next year. This is usually the time that the garden starts to slow down, however with October bringing higher than average temperatures we may yet see a prolonged growing season!

One noticeable factor in our weather patterns appears to be the strengthening winds, so it is good practice to stake and support plants and trees where necessary, including crops in the vegetable garden.



Continue to cut back yellowing foliage of perennial plants, remembering to mulch afterwards, and prune roses to prevent wind rock.



Keep clearing the seemingly endless mountains of fallen leaves from lawns and pathways. Now is a good time to concentrate on controlling pests and diseases and any infected leaves gathered on herbaceous borders could instigate problems in the spring. Check containers for slugs and snails and also vine weevil, these pests can devastate an entire pot of plants!

Lawns will benefit from aeration to avoid waterlogging and subsequent growth of moss; you can either use a lawn aerator or simply insert a garden fork at regular intervals into the turf to create drainage holes (or go dancing on the lawn in your stiletto heels!!). The soil will still be warm from the summer months so it is a perfect time to lay new turf, giving the roots chance to take hold before the energy is directed into the growth of the grass next spring.

Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year, either in pots or directly into the ground. These perform better if they are planted deep so cover them with at least twice their depth of soil or compost. You may find that early-spring bulbs have reduced in price so grab them quickly as they can still be planted for a show next year. Sowing sweet pea seeds now indoors will provide an earlier and extended flowering season.

Plant bare-root trees, hedging, shrubs and climbers, ensuring that they are staked and protected from rabbits using tree guards. Applying grease bands around the trunks of fruit trees such as apple, plum, pear and cherry will deter winter moth damage and protect next year's fruit buds – it's not my favourite task but you will reap the benefits!

In the vegetable patch... protect your salads, peas and beans with cloches bearing in mind that good ventilation is crucial so if necessary leave the ends open to ensure adequate air circulation.

Leave any netting on brassicas to protect from pigeons and rabbits and check that ties on fruit and vegetable supports are in good order to prevent against wind damage.

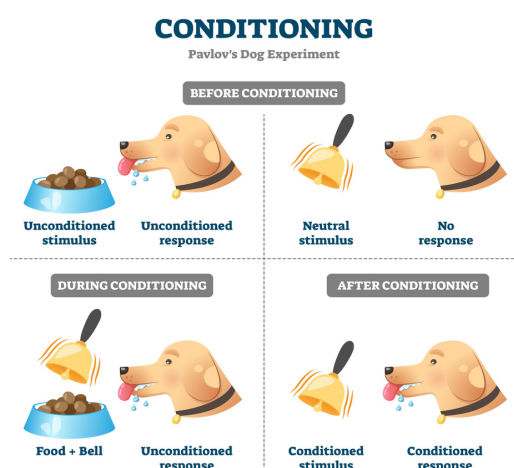
We are still privileged to see all the wonderful, vibrant colours on offer this season, from the golds, reds and bronzes of tree foliage to the abundance of fruit and autumn flowers, so enjoy the great outdoors – Happy Gardening!

A dog's mind – an article by Rebecca Hawkins

There is no question that through genetic manipulation, we can modify the dogs mind. We can increase friendliness, stamina, courage. We can create dogs for hunting, guarding racing etc. But there is still so much of the dogs mind that has it's origins in the ancestral gene pool. No matter how much we manipulate the dog in a genetic level, it will be limited to its inherited repertoire from the wolf. Dogs have various ways of learning and are in a constant state of acquiring knowledge throughout their lives, shaped by their interactions with humans, other animals, and their environment. The more we comprehend the learning processes of dogs, the better we can understand the impact of our interactions, our reactions to their behaviours, and our methods of communication. This understanding ensures that dogs grasp the lessons we want them to learn about us and their surroundings.



Classical Conditioning - Classical conditioning involves dogs learning through associations, linking two or more stimuli that occur close together in time. This learning can be described as automatic and involuntary responses, where the dog reacts without conscious thought.

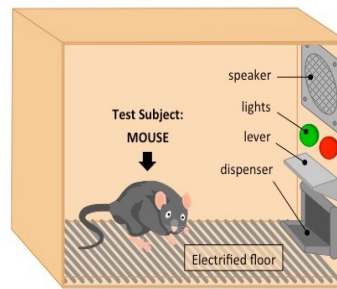


The most famous example of this was discovered by the Russian scientist Pavlov. He discovered through an experiment that dogs would salivate upon hearing a bell which was consistently rung before meals.

This learning method is based on one stimulus consistently predicting another and that the stimuli are closely related in time. This form of conditioning can occur without the owner's intention or the dog's awareness.

A dog may link the action of its owner picking up a lead with the excitement of going for a walk, displaying excitement as soon as the owner reaches for the lead. The rustle of the treat bag or opening of the fridge door if food has been associated with the sound. Another example could be a dog that feels anxious upon entering a vet clinic because it associates that environment with negative experiences, such as pain. The loud bangs of fireworks may have scared him once and so any similar sounds can cause great distress.

Operant Conditioning - Operant conditioning refers to how dogs learn based on the consequences of their actions. Operant conditioning as studies by American psychologist Edward Thorndike et al formulated the law of effect, which states that given a certain stimulus, animals repeat behavioural responses that give positive results while avoiding behaviours that produce negative results.



	Something given to the mouse	Something taken from the mouse
Increases likelihood of repeated behavior	POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT Mouse given food when lever pressed (after green light)	NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT Loud noise stopped when lever pressed
Decreases likelihood of repeated behavior	POSITIVE PUNISHMENT Mouse is shocked when lever pressed (after red light)	NEGATIVE PUNISHMENT Not applicable in this scenario

A dog may choose not to respond opt and remain still and observe rather than act. A non-favourable outcome predicts it is less likely to repeat that behaviour in similar situations thus shaping their future behaviours. Each dog determines whether the outcome of its behaviour is reinforcing or punishing so, if an owner scolds their dog for jumping up, hoping to deter the behaviour, the dog might still find the owner's attention rewarding, regardless of the reprimand's tone, and continue to jump.

Operant conditioning is a common method in training that utilises rewards with things that your dog finds enjoyable to praise good decisions.

Examples of Conditioning in Action

Addressing Jumping Behaviour. - A dog that jumps up to greet people may be reinforced by the attention it receives, even if the owner is reprimanding it. Using operant conditioning, the owner can get the visitor to ignore the dog and encourage the dog to sit instead. By rewarding the dog with treats or praise every time it sits when someone arrives, the dog learns that sitting is more rewarding than jumping.

Reducing Fear of the Vet- A dog that becomes anxious when visiting the vet may be helped through classical conditioning. If the owner brings treats and offers praise during visits, the dog can start associating the vets with positive experiences rather than fear. Over time, the dog learns to feel more comfortable in that environment.

Reducing fear of loud noises- When a dog is anxious around loud sounds they may look to you for your response. By remaining calm yourself and not reacting (by trying to calm the dog) he will eventually realise there is nothing to fear. Adding a tasty treat to event he will learn that reward comes from remaining calm.

Encouraging Calmness During Grooming-

ShazDogs

DOG SAFE & SECURE EXERCISE FIELD
At Shazpots Pottery, Lower Rd, E. Farleigh, ME15 0JT
"Allow your dog to run free off the lead"

- On sight parking with safe dog release.
- 5-6' fence & tree lined
- Shaded seating area with fresh water & dog waste removal bin.
- Must book in advance £5-hour per dog
- Special rate for dog related businesses wanting to use on a daily basis, please ask for details.

Contact to arrange meet & greet:
Facebook/Messenger: ShazDogs
Mobile: 07545118077

If a dog is anxious about grooming, operant conditioning can help. By rewarding the dog with treats and praise for remaining calm during grooming sessions, the owner reinforces the desired behaviour. Eventually, the dog learns that calmness leads to positive outcomes.

Encourage recall success- A dog that ignores recall commands can benefit from operant conditioning. By rewarding the dog with high-value treats when it comes back on command, the owner reinforces the behaviour. Over time, the dog learns that returning when called leads to enjoyable rewards, increasing the likelihood of compliance in the future.

By recognising what your dog enjoys can help reinforce desired behaviours, making them substantially more likely to repeat them on cue. Evidence-based training advocates recommend that every dog should be trained using reward-based methods, particularly positive reinforcement, which are supported by robust scientific evidence.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM REBECCA PARNHAM

For many of us November is the month of reflection and looking back. This is probably because of Remembrance Day on the 11th, and this year on the 9th, Remembrance Sunday. Both these days provide the opportunity for us to reflect on all those who have died in the first and second world wars – those ancestors that we may never have known – as well as remembering those who have died in the many other conflicts that have happened since.



This seems particularly poignant when, as I write, our news is full of the potential for the end to the war in Gaza. By the time you read this there may be peace....we can only hope! And that's the point, as we look back at the names of those who've lost their lives in conflicts we can be filled with sadness but also with hope. The hope that this time maybe things will be different, this time maybe we *will* learn the lessons and not inflict pain and suffering on others again.

The names of those who've died may be engraved on a stone monument for all to see, or they may be engraved solely on your heart, but wherever those names are, as we look back, we can be grateful for the sacrifices that brought peace to the nations again.

This time of looking back, reflecting on the past, gives us the opportunity to think how we can affect the world and make it a better place on an individual scale. Not many of us can affect governments directly, but we can take responsibility for our own actions. We can choose to treat those we meet with kindness, we can choose to treat others with respect, we can choose the words we use and the way we say things and very soon, if we all begin to treat others the way we would like to be treated we may find that the world is becoming a better place to live.

For Christians this is choosing to live our lives like Jesus, calling out injustice and unkindness whilst treating others with care and respect, putting their needs before our own. It's not an easy choice to make in a world that seems to value self above all others. But just as the butterfly effect says that small actions can have consequences miles away, maybe, just maybe, we can create a cascade of kindness spreading out across the world that everyone can join in with.... it's got to be worth a try, hasn't it?

Written with hope, Becky

Church Services

Sunday 9 th Nov	10.45am Remembrance Sunday	Sue Elliot
Sunday 23 rd Nov	9.30am Morning Worship	David Jones



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

FARMING IN THE FARLEIGHS – by Dan Robinson



The field in this vintage picture is near the top of Kettle Lane. It is where the pumpkins were being grown earlier this year. It belongs to a local man, whose father purchased it in 1970 from the Fox Pitt estate. It is now rented out to a farmer who is not based in this area.



The field has quite a history. The 1842 Tithe Records show that it was then owned by Sir Henry Fitzherbert at Smiths Hall, and was rented out to Mary Charlton, whose family gave their name to Charlton Lane. Historic OS maps show that it has variously been used as arable land and as an orchard.

In 1970 the field was being used to grow corn. The owner then planted pears on one side of the public footpath and apples on the other. He had a full time job and could only farm in the evenings and at weekends, so maintaining a commercial orchard in addition to the day job and family commitments must have been tiring and difficult. Around 25 years ago the apple orchard was grubbed up as this was more profitable than keeping it -- the EU had a large ongoing surplus of apples and they paid farmers to destroy the trees. The pear trees survived until 2015.

The name “combine harvester” describes very accurately what the machine actually does. It combines several different operations. It is designed only for crops that grow above ground level, such as cereal crops, beans or oilseed. First it reaps (ie. mows) the crop, then it threshes -- this is separating the straw stalks from the grains or seeds. Then it winnows the crop -- this involves getting rid of the worthless husks or pods but retaining the actual crop. Then it ensures that the straw and the crop are kept apart but piled neatly -- these are the valuable bits the farmer will want to use or sell. The crop is kept in an onboard hopper and when the hopper is full, the crop is transferred to a nearby trailer to be taken away and stored. A skilled trailer operator will not constantly keep moving alongside the combine. Instead s/he will anticipate where the hopper is likely to be full and will wait for the combine

at that point. This saves fuel and minimises collateral damage to the unharvested crop. The combine will leave a trail of straw behind, which will be gathered up and baled later. A skilled combine operator will leave a neat trail of straw as s/he turns the combine at the end of each row. This makes things easier for the baling crew.

There are different types and sizes of header depending on the crop that is being harvested. A header is the “mower” attachment, and the different types of header can be detached and swapped. Combine harvesters are a technical marvel, and they are expensive. These days, it is not unusual for a new one to cost more than £400,000. This is still cheaper and more efficient than using people. It is far faster and allows several tasks to be carried out almost simultaneously.

LOCAL TRADES

Firefly Payroll Services fireflypayroll.com Jason Hart 01622 934110 enquiries@fireflypayroll.com	No Muck'in About Professional and affordable cleaning services Sarah Dunn 07885 634559 nomuckinabout@outlook.com	Heathside Electrical heathsideelectrical.co.uk Sam Sephon 07976 895001 heathsideelectrical@gmail.com
D. Ward Plumbing & Heating Darren Ward 07973 314266 darren@dward.biz	Castle Portable Loo Hire castleportableloohire. co.uk Steve Millsom 07990 606067 castleplh@gmail.com	Top Dog Fencing and Gates Sam Morton 07709 530166 Topdogmaintenance@icloud.com



TANTONS TREE SURGEONS

Your Local Tree Experts

Fully insured, qualified & experienced in all aspects of:

**Tree Surgery, Site Clearance, Stump Grinding, Whole Tree Chipping
Land Clearance Machine for hire. Commercial and Domestic.**

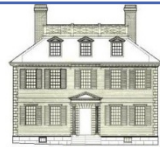
Clean, tidy and friendly service guaranteed

For a quote please telephone Ben Tantons (MCH Arb.) on:

01622 630312
07788973053


tantontreesurgeons@yahoo.co.uk

www.tantontreesurgeons.co.uk


KIRK-BROWN LTD
Chartered Surveyors

Planning and Building Regulation Applications
Homebuyer Survey Reports
Building Surveys
Party Wall and Neighbourly Matters
Defect Analysis
Professional Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Contact Cliff on 01622 817769 or 07908 641668
Email Cliff@Kirk-Brown-Ltd.co.uk



The Coxheath Chiropractic
& Natural Therapy Centre

43, Stockett Lane, Coxheath, ME17 4PT
established 1993

Telephone number 01622 745178

Promoting Natural Healing & Health

McTimoney Chiropractic: A safe, gentle manipulative technique to help to ease your aches and pains and soothe away the stress and strain of life:

Neck, shoulder or back pain. Headaches & Migraines. Carpal Tunnel.
Sciatica. Arthritis. Pins & Needles. PMS or Pregnancy. Sport's Injuries

For full details please visit: www.coxheathchiropractic.co.uk



COXHEATH VETERINARY PRACTICE

6 Westerhill Road, Coxheath

Professional Pet Healthcare in a bright, caring friendly atmosphere
Modern Diagnostic & Operating Facilities
Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 8.30 am – 7pm; Sat: 9am – 12 noon

PATRICK TIBBITS BVSc (Massey) MRCVS
For Appointments or 24 emergency cover, phone 01622 734888

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - Meeting: 15th September 2025

Next Meeting: Monday, 17th November at 7.30pm

Co-Option of Councillor: Welcome to Sue Birchall who has joined the West Farleigh Parish Council, we all look forward to working with her.

Conservation Area Review : MBC is to review the Conservation Area. The Clerk is contacting the Officer to gain more insight. It is then proposed that a public consultation will be called in the New Year to discuss any potential changes.

Highways Matters : West Farleigh will be gaining one new “SLOW” sign on the road, with the other two locations being refused by KCC. The ongoing flooding issues were discussed alongside the number of punctures experienced locally that pull into the Tickled Trout pub for refuge. Cllr Kirk-Brown has spoken with the pub who are going to pass on the details of how to report the punctures to anyone impacted. It was stressed that if anyone is impacted by the flooding, road condition and punctures, please continue to report it to the KCC Highways department to help build a case for further improvements.

www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement

Planning Matters : Cllr Wilson spoke about the planning application in Watlingbury and the impact this may have on our village. The full minutes can be reviewed on the West Farleigh Parish Council website.

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If interested, please contact

clerk@westfarleighparishcouncil.gov.uk

An update from Katie Lam MP

Autumn is always a beautiful time in the Weald: orchards full of apples, and our vineyards and farms busy finishing the harvest. Just the other week, I managed to pick my own pears in Marden and to sample some lovely wine produced in Ham Street. It's a busy time of year, especially with Parliament returning, so I wanted to share a short update on what I've been doing, as well as what's coming up locally. I recently met with Kent County Council's Transport Cabinet Member to share findings of my transport survey. I pressed for fairer funding for Kent's roads, better resurfacing and pothole repairs, stronger enforcement on speeding and HGV routes, and protection for local bus services. I want to update you all fully on what I found out, so over the next few weeks, every household in the Weald of Kent will receive a letter from me in the post. Inside, you'll find the results of the transport survey that so many of you completed earlier this year and a new survey on crime and policing.

As the nights draw in, many people worry more about safety: at home, on our high streets, on our roads – and even online. At a local business earlier this month, I heard about trailers and stock being stolen; sadly, it's a common problem, especially for many of our farmers. Rural areas like ours face different challenges to cities, and I want to make sure the voices of our small villages and towns are properly heard, and to see how I can best help. This is your chance to tell me what's happening where you live. So, please do take a few minutes to fill in the survey when it arrives. Your answers will directly shape the questions I ask in Parliament and the work I do with Kent Police.

I hope everyone's wrapping up warm as winter approaches. It's a season that can bring its own challenges as well as moments of quiet reflection. It's a good time to take stock and think about how we can support one another and keep our communities connected. As ever, if there's anything you'd like to talk to me about, please don't hesitate to get in touch at

katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk

THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had a very enjoyable afternoon. Village Voices, a choir that meets at Yalding Church and in which you will find five West Farleigh faces, came along and sang Folk songs from Africa, jolly rhythms and harmonies. English, folk and traditional songs, one thought to be written by Henry VIII. The choir then spread themselves around the tables for afternoon tea, with many interesting conversations. We will definitely be asking them back.

At our meeting on **November 11th**, we have a speaker who is talking about her “**Life as a Covert Forensic Officer**”. **December 9th** we will be having a **Christmas tea**, with children from East Farleigh School singing carols and Christmas music. We welcome new members, If you are retired and would like to join us, email Katie katieeth66@gmail.com or phone Helen 07710 442971. If you live in East or West Farleigh we can arrange a lift, if you don't drive. We meet at the WI Hall East Farleigh. Members from outside the villages are welcome but we cannot collect them.



IN MEMORIAM - MAVIS KATHLEEN MERRITT

23rd July 1941-11th August 2025

Mavis lived with her parents in New Road Ditton. When she was 14 she met Mick (17) who lived on the London Road and that was it! Mavis's dad was very strict but approved of Mick, so was happy with the liaison. Mick went off to National Service aged 21. On his return in 1961, they were married. Mavis worked in the laboratory at Reeds Paper Mill.

Karen was born in 1963, followed by Tina in 1969. They moved to West Farleigh, at Christmas that year, to live with Mick's parents at 3 Rookery Row. When No 2 became empty, Mick's Mum and Dad, moved into it. Mavis worked for the Morlocks and later for the Evans' at Court Lodge and of course went fruit picking in season, with many other women and children, from the village



SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES

FOOTBALL



A great month for our 1st eleven with a 3-1 win in the cup against Fleetwood, a 7 goal thriller which we won 4-3 against The Oaks and again in the cup beating Woodchurch 2-1. Finally, and yet another cup tie saw us lose 3-1 to Hawkenbury.

Our second eleven have experienced highs and lows beginning with a crushing defeat 9-1 away to Westerham followed by a 5-1 loss against Watlington. However, we then played Chilham in the cup and came away with a 1-0 victory! Not many of us saw that coming!

NETBALL



Just the two games for our girls last month and although without a win, they were both well contested matches losing 40-31 to Sensations followed by a close encounter narrowly going down 45-42!

Last month's lucky Ton-Up winners were:

65	Stephen Norman	£30
123	Graham Judge	£20
127	Vicky Lowe	£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. We will credit you.

More sports news on www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/

CHRISTMAS TREES – A note from Tel

I hope to have Christmas trees available again this year, if you are interested please could you let me know by 9th November as trees will need to be ordered and may not be available after this date.

There is a small increase in price which this year will be :

5ft tree	£41
6ft tree	£ 46
7ft tree	£ 57



As always, delivered to your door and taken away after Christmas free of charge (well maybe for a donation of any unwanted mince pies!). Tel 07761 355518

The Farleighs WI

For the women of The Farleighs WI, October got off to a flying start with an Autumn Fair, selling crafts, cake and other items, welcoming back Dude the pony from Mini Horse Heroes, who greeted visitors to the fair. The day was a great success, raising funds for our WI and our chosen charity, Refuge. Thank you to everyone who helped out or came along on the day; it was great to see so many people supporting us.



We recently undertook a litter pick along the river to coincide with the WI's Week of River Action, one of the many campaigns run by the National Federation of WIs, to which we are affiliated. At our monthly meeting in October, we were pleased to welcome Steve from KSS, previously Kent Air Ambulance, who gave us a great insight into the work the charity carries out across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

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, which meets weekly and where our members can learn new skills or continue to work on their personal projects. 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. We also have a book group which this month discussed *The Girls who Disappeared* by Claire Douglas.

We 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. 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@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

The logo for 'hadlum' features a stylized flower icon to the left of the word 'hadlum' in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

print large format printing invites
signs banners invoice forms stickers flyers
window graphics design newsletters
site boards posters booklets
orders of service business cards brochures
leaflets pull-up banners t-shirt print
building plans printed magnetic vehicle signs

27-31 St Andrews Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9AN
e: info@hadlum.co.uk t: 01622 727403

The logo for 'Barrett Roofing' features the company name in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized house icon to the right.

Brandenburg Oast, Collier Street
Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9RH

All types of roofing work undertaken, including:

Flat Roofing	Tiling
Lead Work	Slating
Gutters	Fascias

Tel: 01892 730581 • **Mob:** 07850 785381
Email: office@barrettroofing.co.uk

The logo for 'AngloGlobal' features the company name in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font.

Sunhyll
Charlton Lane
West Farleigh
ME15 0PB

01622 720810

AngloGlobal

Access Platforms **07730 43 55 65**
www.AngloGlobal.com

FLYING AROUND THE FARLEIGHS



The Marvel of the Day – but which one?

The sharp-eyed reader will immediately spot that this close-up photo of lichen on a bright autumn day, has a moth hiding on it in plain sight – a Merveille du Jour. Hands up if you need me to translate the name of



this marvellous moth from the French.

Its cryptic colouring and pattern has evolved so it is concealed on lichen, usually on the bark of old oak trees. With a wingspan of up to 50mm it is a spectacular moth, most likely to be seen in Autumn. When its eggs hatch in spring the caterpillars feed first on the tree's buds, then its flowers and eventually its leaves.

Another unexpected marvel of this moth's story is that there appears to be little or no folklore attached to it, apart from this:



The Whispering Moth of Wansbury Shaw

In the Low Weald, where the land folds gently between clay fields and alder-lined brooks, there once stood a hamlet called Wansbury—long since vanished, its name lingering only in the shaw that bears it. The people of Wansbury lived close to the land, tending orchards, coppicing hazel, and listening to the wind for signs of change.

One autumn, the oaks of Wansbury Shaw began to shed their leaves too early. The hedgerows grew silent, and the marsh tit—once a daily companion—vanished. The villagers feared a curse, whispered to have come from disturbing an ancient boundary stone buried beneath the roots of the oldest oak.

An elder named Maud, known for her knowledge of moths and mosses, recalled a tale her grandmother told: that when the land forgets its balance, the merveille du jour moth will appear—not in flight, but resting, perfectly still, on the bark of the tree that holds the memory of the place.

Maud searched the shaw by moonlight, her lantern dimmed to a glow. On the third night, she found it—green as lichen, veined like the leaf of a dying oak, perched on the very tree that marked the old boundary. She whispered an apology to the land, placed a sprig of meadowsweet at the base, and left without turning back.

By spring, the marsh tits returned. The hedgerows bloomed with blackthorn, and the villagers spoke again of balance—not as superstition, but as stewardship. To this day, moth recorders in Kent say that if you find a merveille du jour in Wansbury Shaw, you must speak gently to it. For it remembers the land, and it listens.

This is how many of Kent's moth recorders come across this moth nowadays – packed in an egg box in the bottom of the moth trap they left out overnight to sample the local population. But, in this case, perhaps **the real marvel of the day** is the fact that the 'traditional' Kentish folk tale printed above was not handed down by word of mouth over centuries of contact with nature, but in a matter of seconds by the AI program on my computer.

A marvel, perhaps, to be wary of - Ray Morris



Photo: Virginia Gibbons

West Farleigh Craft Club

We have been very busy getting poppies made for the two village post boxes in Charlton Lane, (*see front page*). Both boxes will get their decorations on the weekend before Remembrance Day. All of our members of all abilities have contributed to this, we hope you enjoy them.

Our members will all be donning their elf guises to support the West Farleigh Christmas event, see below.



(some of the craft team)



Father Christmas is coming to West Farleigh

Saturday 6th December
11-2pm
West Farleigh Church
Tickets £5 per child
(Includes Gift)

Children, come and explore the delights of Father Christmas's workshop, where the elves can help you create something special, along with visiting our secret present shop while you are waiting to speak to the big man himself.

Don't worry grown-ups, there will be the opportunity to purchase some elf craft and have some refreshments while you are visiting too! All welcome!

Tickets and timeslots for the Father Christmas visit only need to be booked and paid for in advance from sue_birchall@yahoo.com

YALDING TAXIS

Competitive - Personal - Professional - Reliable

- **Friendly, local, experienced family-run business since 2006**
- **Excellent local knowledge & throughout Kent**
- **No journey too short or too far**
- **Whole of Kent covered for long distance runs (airports, seaports, stadiums, London etc.)**
- **24/7 service, 365 days a year** (when booked in advance)
- **Competitive rates**
- **No extra charge after midnight** (when booked in advance)
- **All major credit & debit cards accepted**
- **Vehicles with up to 8 passenger seats**
- **Modern, clean, comfortable fleet - fully licensed and insured**
- **All drivers DBS checked and fully licensed (badged) by local taxi licensing authority**

 **078 777 777 44** 

Diamondbrite®

PROTECT | CLEAN | CARE

THE CHRISTMAS PACK!

~~£73.99~~

£47.99



EXPERTLY FORMULATED PRODUCTS TO KEEP ANY VEHICLE
CLEAN INSIDE & OUT



Diamondbrite is a proud sponsor of LIFELINE & the community of West Farleigh
Jewelutra Ltd, Diamondbrite House, Ewell Ln, West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NG
For these and 100s of other products, visit diamondbrite.co.uk

#TimeToShine

BUY NOW IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!