

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE

*Connecting our community*



*Changeling Theatre at Elmscroft House 2025*

## WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

|                           |                    |                   |                                                           |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | 11am-5pm           | Smiths Hall       | Smiths Hall NGS Open Garden p.9                           |
| Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> July | 2.30pm             | All Saints Church | Evergreens "The Real Ian Fleming"<br>ALL WELCOME see p.10 |
| Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> July | 7pm                | Good Intent       | Fireworks public meeting see p.7                          |
| Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July | Doors open<br>6pm  | Elmscroft House   | Much Ado About Nothing                                    |
| Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July | 7.30pm             | Dandelion Time    | Parish Council Meeting                                    |
| Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug  | All day            | Whole Village     | Sunflower Measuring                                       |
| Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug  | Play starts<br>1pm | WF Cricket Ground | Village Cricket and BBQ                                   |

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

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ART

## Watercolour WORKSHOPS

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Fri 18 Sept **Painting Hares**  
Sat 19 Sept **Watercolour Techniques**

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## JULY GARDENING NOTES BY TINA WOODHAMS

July in the garden is a wonderfully busy month, with harvesting and maintenance the key elements plus seed sowing and forward planning for the seasons ahead.

Water pots first thing in the morning and in the evening when it is cooler and direct sun will not evaporate the water before it has had chance to drain into the pot. Ensure that you water directly into the soil to feed the roots and not onto leaves or stems as this will cause your plants to rot. Place pots on a saucer or tray to reduce water waste. Adding a mulch on top of the soil will keep roots cool and retain moisture underneath.



Deadhead roses, dahlias and annuals regularly to keep them tidy and encourage repeat flowering throughout the season.

In the borders, cut back early flowering perennials such as hardy geraniums, salvia caradonna, alchemilla mollis and dianthus to help ensure a second bloom in late summer or early autumn. Keep on top of the weeding! Hoeing or hand-weeding regularly will minimise any seeds from setting in the ground and allow your plants to grow freely. Edging the lawn around borders prevents the grass from spreading into your beds whilst maintaining their shape.

It's never too early to plan for next year! Sowing seeds for perennial and biennial plants such as hollyhock, sweet William, pansy, foxglove, honesty and wallflower will provide you with colour and interest for the following year.

In the vegetable garden direct sow root vegetables such as carrots, beetroot and radish for an autumn crop together with french and runner beans and peas for a final crop in the autumn. Now is the time to think about sowing crops that you can harvest in later winter – including spring cabbage and perpetual spinach. Plant out brassica plants - purple sprouting broccoli, calabrese, cabbage and Brussels sprouts, remembering to net these to protect against bird and caterpillar damage.



Remain vigilant for pests and diseases. Aphids multiply rapidly in warm weather and can be removed by hand or with a quick blast using the hose, or a soapy spray made using washing up liquid and water. Planting nectar-rich species such as cosmos, calendula and marigolds will encourage natural predators such as ladybirds and lacewings which will happily feast on the aphids!

Make the most of your outside area, as this is the time of year we get together with friends and family for al-fresco dining and relaxation whilst enjoying the results of our hard work!

Happy Gardening!

## WEST FARLEIGH IN BLOOM TALLEST SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Judging for this year's tallest sunflower competition will take place Saturday 15 August. There will be two categories, one for BIG people and one for those aged up to 16 years.

Please let us know if you would like your sunflower(s) measured by either emailing your name and address to [bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk) or putting a note through the door of Hoppers Corner, or No.1 The Green, Charlton Lane asking us to 'please measure your sunflower'.

PS. Please specify which category of the competition you are entering (or both?)

Gabby and Tina



## WEST FARLEIGH PLANT AND CAKE SALE

The annual Village plant and cake sale was once again very well attended this year. Villagers had a huge array of plants to choose from , after which , many sat down to enjoy the delicious refreshments and catch up on local gossip with friends and neighbours.

After expenses, the profit raised was a creditable £602:42 which was shared equally between The Village in Bloom group and the Church .

We would like to thank everyone who came along to support.

Thank you

Gabby

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## NEEDLES AND NATTERS



We have been busy at our Monday evening meetings creating themed postbox toppers around the World Cup, we hope you enjoy them.

We meet every Monday at the Good Intent from 6pm for a few hours of whatever craft takes your fancy and good company. No obligation to attend and all are welcome, just turn up.



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## PASTORAL LETTER FROM SUE ELLIOTT



Dear friends,

The weather that Lorna mentioned in last month's newsletter, written in the middle of May, was wet and chilly. Little did she know that we would be having a record-breaking heatwave during the next two weeks! Today, as I write the July newsletter, rather early in June, it is finally a wet rainy day. The gardens will be pleased, and the cooler temperature will be welcomed by many, I'm sure! I suspect that South-East Water will be pleased, too.

Water – something we all need but unfortunately, of late, many in our villages have not been getting a regular supply of. We do, however, have bottled water available to us, though rather too much for one or two vulnerable elderly folks I know, who have had huge numbers of bottles delivered to their doors! Spare a thought, though, for people throughout the world who have to walk to collect water from dirty ponds and rivers.

2.2 billion people (over 1 in 4) lack access to safely managed drinking water. According to the WaterAid charity, the average distance that women and children must walk to get water is 5 kilometres, and water is very heavy, isn't it?!

So, as the summer approaches, let's enjoy the nature that's all around us, fed and nourished by the rain. We are fortunate in these villages to be surrounded by beautiful countryside. Go for walks with friends; perhaps take a picnic to share. Don't forget to call in on elderly neighbours to make sure that they are keeping cool and hydrated in hot weather.

Family outings are so expensive but a picnic in a park with a playground is affordable. Don't forget hats and sunscreen – oh, and an umbrella in case it rains!

All good wishes,  
Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

PS. Some words that you may wish to ponder, spoken by Jesus to a woman at a well during a conversation when he asked her for a drink:

*"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*)

John's Gospel, Chapter 4.

### SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am

Communion  
Morning Worship

Lorna Faulkner  
David Jones

**NEED TIME TO REFLECT?** West Farleigh church services are friendly affairs, coffee and biscuits afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join in and spend a quiet hour away from it all.



### **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.

### **SAVE THE FIREWORKS!**



Our West Farleigh Sports Club has worked tirelessly over a decade to make this event the amazing spectacle that it has become, but they cannot continue.

The event sells out on-line each year, and much of the work is handled by others: the food, the fireworks display and the marquees. But there is still lots to do the week before, and on the night. Bonfire, lighting, fencing, the sound system and the staff needed to man the bar and the car park. And picking up the pieces the next day!

The event needs your support to continue! **Come along to the Good Intent 7pm on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> to meet other enthusiasts and consider the options. If you can't make it, email [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk) to register your thoughts or contribution.**

### **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING - LAST CHANCE!**



Following the success of Present Laughter (2024) and Twelfth Night (2025), the Changeling Theatre is coming to Elmscroft for a third time on Fri July 17<sup>th</sup> to perform Shakespeare's romantic comedy (see front cover).

Tickets on-line (see QR code)  
£25 per adult, £15 per youngster 12-18 yrs.

[www.tickettailor.com/events/westfarleighvillageevents/2039113](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/westfarleighvillageevents/2039113)

Or in person from Alex at Elmscroft House.

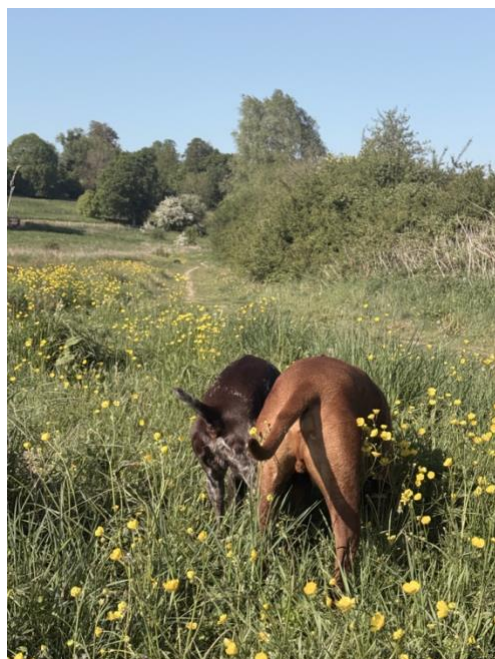


# . CANINE ENRICHMENT FOR YOUR DOG

BY REBECCA HAWKINS

Canine Enrichment is an important practice every dog owner should use to help keep their dogs brains busy. A 20 minute brain game is far more tiring than an hour's walk. It can also be useful for times when we can't go for a long sniffy walk or time is limited.

*Below are some simple instructions to a basic scent work game.*



## Search and Find!

We can use the dog's phenomenal scent searching skills to keep them entertained and tired them out. We're going to teach the dog to find a scent toy.

Some people use a cat toy, but it's a little small so there is risk of them being accidentally swallowed. Try to get something bigger. You could use any soft dog toy for this but actually a face flannel tied in a knot might serve equally well. You'll also need to purchase a tub of dried catnip.

Step 1: Place some catnip in a plastic container (enough to cover the bottom). Place a paper towel over the catnip and place your toy/flannel on top of the paper towel. Keep the lid on while stored. The toy/flannel takes on the odour of the catnip and provides a distinctive scent for the dog to track.

Step 2: Using the toy, play fetch with your dog, throwing it just a short distance. If your dog doesn't fetch things back to you, no worries, you can just let him chase and grab the toy. To get it back, have another toy to throw or switch to some scatter feeding with a few treats. Be careful not to chuck the toy again until the dog has well and truly stopped eating for at least 10 seconds. If the dog is reliably fetching of at least chasing and picking up the item, you can tell him to 'Find It' whenever you throw the toy. This will become the dog's signal to go and look for the item later in the process.

Step 3: Place the toy instead of throwing it, and encourage the dog to Find It' (it helps if you have a good wait behaviour but it's not crucial. Reward with another toy, game or food.

Step 4: Start putting the toy just out of sight but allow him to see where you put it (maybe in an open box).

Step 5: Place it in easy to find places but without him seeing where you put it

Step 6: Increase the difficulty by placing the item in more challenging places around the house or garden and telling him to 'Find it' If he has seen you get the toy container he will certainly know that the game is on so will not be too dependent on the 'Find It' signal. It is nice to have the signal (cue) if you advance to hiding the toy without his knowledge.

Always ensure the dog is competent and keen at each step and always play fair. Don't ever place it where he can't reasonably access it. This is extremely good brain exercise.

You can see the concentration and focus as the dog uses scent, not just casually, but purposefully, to find a particular object. The dog is rewarded (or reinforced if we want to be technical) by the mere act of seeking. Further reinforcement comes from finding the item (if he was never able to find it he'd eventually give up trying) and further still from the game or food reinforcement we provide for him finding it.

## TERRY GEORGE

With sadness we announce the death of Terry George from Che Sera, Charlton Lane. His funeral will be at All Saints Church, West Farleigh on Mon 6th July, 11am.

Friends and neighbours, all welcome at the service.

## SMITHS HALL GARDEN OPEN

The gardens will be open for charity (NGS and HOKH) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 11am to 5pm. Adults £10, children free. Tea and homemade cake as usual. Woodland walk.

New feature this year is the Tuscan Hills Wildflower meadow (see below) which has been growing and changing colour every week since April. Luckily the Tuscan Hills get plenty of sunshine, so the meadow flowers are feeling at home.





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## THE EVERGREENS special event

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2.30 in West Farleigh Church to hear DELIA TAYLOR** who is an amazing speaker, speaking about Ian Fleming (? The real 007?).

**THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING, EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

*"Ian Fleming is well known as the author of the James Bond books, which led to the fabulous Bond Films. But during WW2 Ian Fleming instigated some of the most famous events carried out by the British and their allies. Ian's private life was also very intricate and he was known as a womaniser. This talk reveals lots of facts that have been hidden about Ian Fleming and I can assure you that you will be amazed at what I have found out about the real James Bond." Delia Taylor.*



This will be an **open meeting**, do come along and join us. Everyone is welcome. No commitment to become a regular but we would love to share this with you.

If you would like tea as well contact Katie  
[katieeth66@gmail.com](mailto:katieeth66@gmail.com) or Helen 07710 442971.

Lunch on the 28th July, back in the WI Hall 12.30




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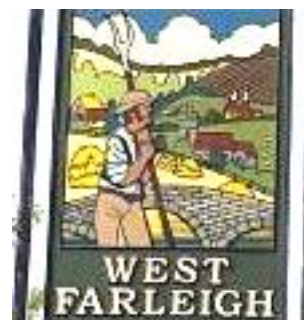

# WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Next Meeting: Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 7.30pm

## Public Discussion

The following items were raised: ongoing water issues within the area and in particular the impact new developments are having, a planning application awaiting decision, installing Tommy Statues within the village, an overgrown area which is being escalated further, older youths in the play area being abusive to residents.



## Council Meeting

Cllr Morgan has been elected Chair and Cllr Kirk-Brown Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year. Thanks to Cllr Moy for his service as Chair.

The transfer of the Village Green to the Parish Council is progressing, albeit slowly. The Parish Council have received a request to install Tommy Statues on Parish Council land by Rookery Row. A location will be agreed that does not have a detrimental impact on grass cutting.

The full minutes can be reviewed on the West Farleigh Parish Council website.

## Respectful Conduct at Parish Council Meetings

West Farleigh Parish Council welcomes residents attending Parish Council meetings and values the opportunity for local people to raise matters affecting the village. However, Parish Council meetings are legally meetings of the Council held in public, rather than public meetings themselves, meaning that formal debate and the decision-making process remains the responsibility of elected Councillors. The framework for this is set out within the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's adopted Standing Orders.

A public participation session is normally provided at the beginning of meetings, allowing residents to speak on items of local concern.

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, this 15 minute session is held at the discretion of the Chair, who determines how it is conducted and may set reasonable time limits to ensure all speakers have an opportunity to be heard. The Standing Orders also contain provisions to deal with disruptive behaviour, and the Chair has the authority to maintain order during meetings, including requiring a disruptive person to leave if necessary.

The Parish Council remains committed to openness and transparency whilst ensuring meetings are conducted respectfully and in an orderly manner for the benefit of the whole community.

## The Farleighs WI



At our monthly meeting in June, we were pleased to welcome Lucy O'Mahoney from Tropic Skincare who gave a talk entitled "Beauty Without Compromise". We heard how the company was founded and were introduced their range of skin care products.

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. We have recently tried Seminole patchwork and have now moved on to card making.

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 our book group are reading "By Any Other Name" by Jodi Picoult.

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. 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](mailto:TheFarleighs@wkfwi.org.uk), or just pop into our next meeting where we can guarantee tea, cake and a warm welcome.

Lynn Stout  
President, The Farleighs WI

## FARMING IN THE FARLEIGHS BY DAN ROBINSON

Kent has traditionally been a county where fruit is grown. There are many reasons why this is so. Kent's climate has higher average temperatures and more sunshine hours than the rest of England -- these are beneficial for fruit farming. In much of Kent the soils are well-drained which prevents waterlogging, thus allowing the roots of fruit plants to grow deep and healthy.



Before refrigerated transport was possible, being near the large marketplace of London allowed farmers to quickly transport highly perishable berries to a large customer base by rail. This meant it could be delivered and sold before the produce could spoil. Then because Kent had already established itself as a centre for fruit growing, the research and infrastructure followed. That is why major agricultural innovators like the East Malling Research Station and the National Fruit Collection in Faversham are here. Major fruit wholesalers such as WB Chambers in Maidstone and Hugh Lowe Farms in Mereworth were able to become well established locally.



The Farleighs is, of course, a fruit growing area. Currently Clock House Farms have many polytunnels in the fields off Hunt Street.

Just one field alone has got 24,000 raspberry plants in hundreds of rows of polytunnels. The raspberries are the Maravilla variety. This variety is a relatively recent one. The berries are designed to be easy to harvest, minimising damage. They are an attractive fruit with a good shelf life.

The firmer texture means there is less risk of damage in transit. The taste is consistent and reliable. The plant is productive, having potential to produce all the way from May to October. All these attributes make Maravilla popular with farmers, wholesalers and retailers.



The polytunnels protect delicate crops from harsh winds and heavy rain, and they also allow the crops to be tended and harvested in poor weather. They can be adjusted to be made warmer or cooler, thus accelerating or delaying ripening.

It's no coincidence that polytunnels were developed in Kent. They go hand-in-hand with the fruit farming industry. The raspberry plants usually grow in individual pots, with a drip feed irrigation system constantly watering all the plants.

This will, alas, be my final farming article for the Lifeline magazine. Me and Patricia (my wife) will soon be leaving Kent and relocating to Dorset to be closer to the rest of my family. We have loved living in West Farleigh but it is now time to move on.

## SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES

### FOOTBALL

Only on the TV!



### NETBALL



Happily, our girls have stopped their losing streak and have won two of their three fixtures last month. We began with a moral boosting victory over Phoenix 36-29, then another hard-fought game against Sensations finally going down 31-24. And lastly a terrific win over Headcorn 41-34.

### CRICKET



Our 1st XI started with a defeat away to Shoreham and another followed when we lost to Brasted by 4 wickets. After our Locksbottom fixture was cancelled due to rain, we bounced back with a fine seven wicket victory over Bearsted. Meanwhile our 2nd XI lost to Leigh, then a cancellation versus Speldhurst for rain and finally we were chasing 190 against Bidborough but unfortunately ended 70 runs short of our target.

Our young cricketers coaching program has been going well, with 25 youngsters and parents turning up on Saturday mornings to enjoy the game (**and the cafe in the pavilion, all welcome**).

Due to the success of the course, the club are considering extending the program during the summer holidays, dates and course booking to be shared on Clubspark in due course.

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/> and search **West Farleigh** and then **Dynamos or All Stars**.

Would you like a game? Call me on (07761 355518).

### CLUB NEWS

This month's lucky ton-up winners were:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| 104 Farleigh Forge | £30 |
| 007 Liz Day        | £20 |
| 41 Jane Reid       | £10 |

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