

“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

Fri 9th Oct	10am – 1pm	Water colour Workshop (see ad p.2)
Sat 10th Oct	7pm	Quiz Night in the church
Sun 11th Oct	9.30am	Harvest Festival service in church
Sat 31st Oct	18.30 onwards	Graveyard Ball at GI
Fri 6th Nov	6pm onwards	Farleigh Fireworks
Mon 16th Nov	7.30pm	Parish Council meet at Dandelion Time
Sat 5th Dec	11am – 2pm	Father Christmas event in the church
Sun 20th Dec	Time TBC	Morris Men – Carol Singing at GI

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Deadline for the next issue is October 20th

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ART

Watercolour WORKSHOPS

Sat 19 Sept **Hare Workshop**

Fri 9 Oct **Watercolour Techniques**

Fri 4 Dec **Christmas Workshop**

All Workshops are 10am – 1pm



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GARDENING NOTES BY TINA WOODHAMS

GARDENING NOTES BY TINA WOODHAMS

The effects of the hot and dry summer we experienced this year are still very visible in our gardens. The recent rainfall was extremely welcome and the greens in our lawns and borders are slowly returning!

Autumn in October brings that distinct earthy smell in the air and noticeably cooler temperatures, but don't be fooled into thinking that the garden is slowing down as this season is one of the most productive and satisfying times of the year.

Check the weather forecast for early frosts so you are ready to move tender plants under cover and harvest everything that needs to be brought in before the colder temperatures arrive.

Drought stressed plants are particularly prone to powdery mildew at this time. Clear dead and decaying foliage from the borders and empty summer bedding from pots to make way for autumn and winter bedding underplanted with spring bulbs for a colourful display.

This is the time to give the soil a boost, so apply a generous helping of mulch and organic matter onto the surface, typically at a depth of 5-7 cm, and around the crowns of herbaceous perennials.



Do not dig it in, just leave for the worms to do their magic over winter and it will improve the soil structure, drainage, fertility, and overall plant health.

Sowing grass seed for new lawns or repairing patches in your existing lawn is ideally undertaken in early autumn when the soil holds warmth from summer, rain is more reliable, and weed growth is less vigorous, allowing roots to establish strongly before winter frosts. The same principle applies to planting new fruit trees, bushes and canes.

In the vegetable garden, hoe off those persistent weeds and apply a mulch onto cleared patches of soil. Stake all brassica plants and secure nets over to prevent devastation by pigeons before you can harvest them! October is an important month for sowing seeds such as broad bean, pea and spinach so that they can slowly establish during winter and reward you with an earlier crop next spring. Winter salads and lettuce can also be sown under cover, in a greenhouse or on a windowsill for harvesting throughout the colder months. Don't forget to fleece any young plants grown outdoors in case of any early frosts.

It's time to start tidying up for winter and prepare for next year. Ensure that in between all your hard work you take time to relax in your garden; sitting and observing in it will bring fresh ideas to the fore – Happy Gardening!



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



OUR VILLAGERS

POETRY CORNER



After studying the poetry of Rudyard Kipling, The West Farleigh Poetry Group had a very interesting day trip to his home, Bateman's. The beautiful setting and fascinating displays provided an interesting insight into the inspiration behind much of his writing.

We were also treated to lovely poetry readings underneath a magnolia tree in the garden.

The poetry clubs chosen poem - A THREE-PART SONG by Rudyard Kipling

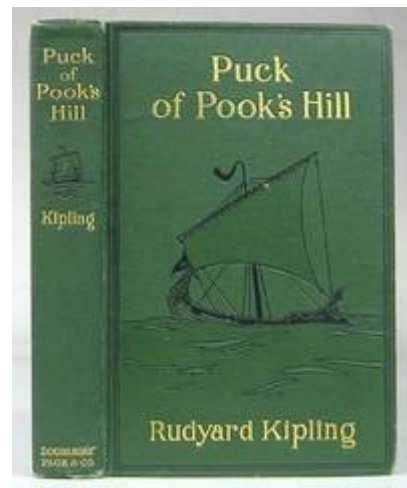
This poem appears within Puck of Pook Hill (1906)

*I'm just in love with all these three,
The Weald and the Marsh and the Down country.
Nor I don't know which I love the most,
The Weald or the Marsh or the white Chalk coast!*

*I've buried my heart in a ferny hill,
Twix' a liddle low shaw an' a great high gill.
Oh hop-bine yaller an' wood-smoke blue,
I reckon you'll keep her middling true!*

*I've loosed my mind for to out and run
On a Marsh that was old when Kings begun.
Oh Romney Level and Brenzett reeds,
I reckon you know what my mind needs!*

*I've given my soul to the Southdown grass,
And sheep-bells tinkled where you pass.
Oh Firle an' Ditchling an' sails at sea,
I reckon you keep my soul for me!*





Terry Baines

Volunteer at the Kent Firefighting Museum

After 35 years' service, I left the fire brigade and started my retirement thinking that my involvement with the fire brigade would be, for the most part, a thing of the past.

However, last year I went to a former colleague's funeral at which I was asked by two old colleagues if I would like to volunteer at the Fire Brigade Museum. At first I didn't think it was for me but decided to give it a try. The museum was at the fire brigade headquarters in Tovil but needed to be re-housed. Fortunately we were offered housing at the Woodlands Garden Centre in West Kingsdown (near Brands Hatch) and it is a lovely location being ideal for families to visit.

Aside from the old fire brigade items, there is an old fire engine which children are welcome to climb on, it's open 6 days a week (excepting Mondays) from 10am – 4pm and it's free! Please note that it does close from December to February.



We would very much love people to come and visit and are also always on the lookout for new volunteers, you don't have to have a fire brigade background.

All you need is a helpful, friendly personality (not sure how I was accepted!), you can choose your times and any support is appreciated. If you think you would like to support

please let me know, otherwise we look forward to welcoming yourself and your family for an informative and fun visit. You can find us at Ash Lane, Sevenoaks TN15 7EG



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Father Christmas at West Farleigh

Apologies for the discussing this so far in advance of the festive season, but once again Father Christmas will be visiting West Farleigh. Save the date Saturday 5th December!

We will be taking bookings for any of your little ones to come and visit. Once again it is £5 per ticket with a lovely gift for each child who visits and the chance to tell Father Christmas all their Christmas wishes.

The day will start at 11am and there will be the usual festive cheer with Christmas inspired refreshments, a secrets room where the young ones can choose a surprise for their loved ones, lots of festive activities and stalls manned by our lovely village craft team.

To book a ticket please e-mail sue_birchall@yahoo.co.uk.

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PASTORAL LETTER FROM BECKY PARNHAM

Books! I am thinking about books today as I write to you. And writing for the October letter has reminded me of one book in particular: L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables. Anne Shirley (who is my absolutely favourite literary character) was enthralled by October (she was enthralled by most things to be fair – one of the things that draws me to her is her ability to find almost anything to be extraordinary...) There is a famous quote that is shared all over social media at this time of year:

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

And there's a little bit that comes after that I just love:

"It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill—several thrills? I'm going to decorate my room with them."

One of the wonders of Anne for me is her ability to throw herself completely into any and everything she comes across. Whether she likes or dislikes something; whether she is glad or sad; Anne feels everything with a wild and furious passion. Utterly committed to embracing the depths of the people and world around her and the full expanse of every experience. I rather love her (you may have guessed...) and I not-so-secretly yearn to grab hold of some of the spirit with which she devours life and takes every ounce of everything it presents to her.

I am sure I have an Anne Shirley inside me, all ready to burst out, living with wild abandon; loving with depth and honesty; dancing through life in all its fullness. It's not easy though... I am not, in fact, a literary character, and I don't, unbelievably, live a whimsical life on a little Canadian island in years gone by. I inhabit this life; my life, with all its joys and sorrows; all the challenges of modern life and family, the anxiety of living in an uncertain world, the drudgery of laundry and shopping and cleaning and a garden I can't manage but I do love an October. And thinking about Anne Shirley today has reminded me that there is so much LIFE to be found in life itself. I must not let it pass me by. I must not miss the beauty there is to be found if only I will notice it!

I wonder who your favourite literary character is? And I wonder why you love them? And what you learn from them? And what that might mean about who you are, and what you are longing for and if you don't have one? Read some books this autumn... email me for some recommendations!

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 11 th October	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Please bring donations of unperishable goods
Sunday 25 th October	9.30am	Morning Worship	David Jones



Tear stains on dogs: causes and removal

By Rebecca Hawkins

Have you ever noticed some breeds of dog have staining around the eyes? Tear stains are a common concern for dog owners, particularly those with white or light-coated dogs. While usually harmless, they can sometimes indicate an underlying issue.



These reddish-brown or rusty marks appear under a dog's eyes or on their muzzle. They occur when tears spill onto the fur instead of draining properly through the tear ducts. It can also appear on paws or anywhere the dog excessively licks and leaves saliva stains.

What causes tear stains? Tear stains are typically caused by porphyrins, naturally occurring iron-containing molecules in tears. These molecules stain the fur, especially light-coated dogs. Certain dog breeds are more prone to tear stains. These include those with excess fur around their eyes and noses, particularly short-nosed breeds. Stress is another factor. Just like humans, dogs can show physical signs of stress and anxiety, which can lead to watery eyes.

Do tear stains disappear on their own? Yes, sometimes they do. Puppy tear stains are usually not permanent and typically fade as your dog grows and develops. Healthy adult dogs also tear occasionally, often a sign their eyes are flushing out unwanted bacteria. However, certain breeds may have tear stains that persist slightly longer. If you notice persistent staining, worsening, or accompanying yellow/green discharge, redness, or swelling, consult a vet to rule out infection.

How to remove and prevent dog tear stains: Regular gentle cleaning helps manage visible staining and prevents new ones. Use cotton wool and warm/cool boiled water and wipe away from the eye to avoid irritation and dry the area to reduce yeast or bacteria build-up. A dab of Vaseline under the eye can also help prevent tears from settling on fur.

Excess fur around the eyes traps moisture, worsening tear staining. Your dog's diet can significantly impact tear staining. Switching to a higher-quality dog food can sometimes help. If you suspect food allergies, discuss allergy tests or an elimination diet with your vet. Be mindful of your dog's water intake. Excessive water can contribute to tear staining. If your dog drinks water from a plastic bowl, consider switching to a stainless steel, glass or ceramic one. These are less likely to harbour bacteria and cause eye infections. You could also try mineral-rich tap water instead of filtered or bottled water, which might help reduce tear stains in sensitive dogs over time.

In some cases, your vet might prescribe antibiotics probiotics medicated drops or other treatments. These should only be used under veterinary supervision to treat tear staining in dogs. Some oral supplements claim to reduce porphyrins however, always consult your vet before using these as not all products are safe or effective.

I would advise against using home remedies like hydrogen peroxide milk of magnesia or human makeup wipes and eye drops. These can be harmful to your dog.

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TONY KITCAT 1961-2026

Picture by Paul Bryn-Davies



Tony was born in Maidstone and remained in the local area, moving to West Farleigh in 2012.

Tony enjoyed fishing, a passion of his since childhood. It was a common joke that he always caught bream! To relax indoors he didn't mind a bit of TV, a classic western, or the programme 'River Monsters', and he found Mortimer & Whitehouse entertaining. But if there was one thing that could reliably get Tony out of the house it was a visit to 'The Good Intent' where he could be at one with the world over a pint shared with his local friends.

He was a man who helped anyone and would have a go at almost anything, although he didn't believe in reading the instructions first! He had a cheeky sense of humour,

could be sarcastic, quick-witted and sociable, people always warmed to him.

He was a devoted son, dad and grandad to his ever-growing family and a treasured member of his local community. A service to celebrate his life was held on 9 September 2026.



The United Benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh,
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You can also contact us online here:

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

Sometimes we just need someone to listen.

WEST FARLEIGH FIREWORKS 2026



Plans for this popular event are now well underway, you may notice an ever-growing woodpile appearing at the site, look out Guy Fawkes!

Tickets are now available to purchase.

Date – Friday 6 November

Gates open – 6pm

Bonfire lit – 7pm

Fireworks Display – 8pm

Click the button on the village website

to buy tickets: www.thefarleighs.co.uk

We would love to hear from anyone else in the village who could come along to help set up and clear away. For example, could you marshal traffic on the evening? Or check tickets on the gate? Or round up lost children and do one of many other jobs we have not thought of yet!? This is our event, we need your help!

To sign up, text 07884 243125 or email jeannettbellamy@yahoo.co.uk



. West Farleigh Tommy Statues

We now have taken delivery of two of each of the large statues and these will be appearing around the village over the next few weeks.

If anyone is able to help with putting them in please contact the editors e-mail – all help gratefully received.



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THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens celebrated their 45th birthday with a birthday tea.

The first meeting was to celebrate the wedding of Charles and Diana!

Our lunchtime meeting included cold meats salad, new potatoes and crusty bread with two very difficult quizzes to solve while lunch was being plated up.



The members enjoy a good natter and look forward to the meetings.

If you would like to join us you will be made welcome. You just need to be retired, 60 or 96 you will fit in fine.

Email Katie, katieeth66@gmail.com or ring Helen 07710 442971

We can pick you up if you live in the Farleighs. You are still welcome if you come from elsewhere but you will have to bring yourself!

At the next meeting on 13th October Mike Marsh will be talking about his trip to Antarctica.

Pete and Den's Fun Quiz Night

"There's still time to book your seat at Pete and Den's Fun Quiz Night but you need to be quick.....!! Tickets are just £5 per person for Saturday 10th October, 7.00pm at West Farleigh Church available from Sue O'Donnell on 07429 491022. By taking part you will be supporting our Evergreens social club for seniors. Super raffle prizes to be won! Please bring your own drinks and nibbles."

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SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



FOOTBALL - Just running the one team this season but hopefully we can build on the team spirit and create a better club atmosphere. However, results wise we haven't started too well with a 6-2 home defeat against Kemsing followed by a disappointing 3-0 loss against Kings Hill. Finally, playing Borough Green in the Cup, we gave a much better performance with a full time score of 0-0, unfortunately being beaten 6-5 on penalties! Our vets also played and they had a convincing 5-1 win over Rochester City.



NETBALL - Our girls have started the season well with both a loss and a very good win. Firstly, a close competitive game against Vixons, scores were close until the final minutes where we eventually lost 42-34. Our second game was a cracker starting slowly against Sprinkboks but growing in confidence, playing a great game and end up with a 41-27 win! Very good all-round performances that included Jenny Baines scoring about 30 goals!



CRICKET - Last month both teams only had one game each to play in their league. The 1st eleven rounding off their season with a convincing victory away at Groombridge while our 2nd eleven lost their final game to Flimwell. Glad to report that both teams maintained their positions in their current leagues, good work! Playing a few friendlies to the end of the season we met local rivals Linton Park where we were chasing 154 but came up short by 50 runs, then met Snodland at home who won by 50 runs. Our final friendly is away to Teston on 26th.

This month's lucky winners were:

38	Eva Goldhagen	£30
105	Amelia Pollard	£20
29	Cristina Pollard	£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.

We say this every month, we very rarely get sent any photos. How about a photo of the Netball girls in action? More sports news on www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/



At our monthly meeting in September, we had a visit from Ned from N2 Sweet Lab, the “bean-to-bar” chocolate shop in Maidstone. Ned gave a fascinating demonstration of chocolate making and we were particularly excited to taste some samples of his work.

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 on Tuesday mornings in the WI Hall, where our members can learn new skills or continue to work on their personal projects. We are beginning to craft seasonal items in preparation for our Christmas Fair on Sunday 15th November.

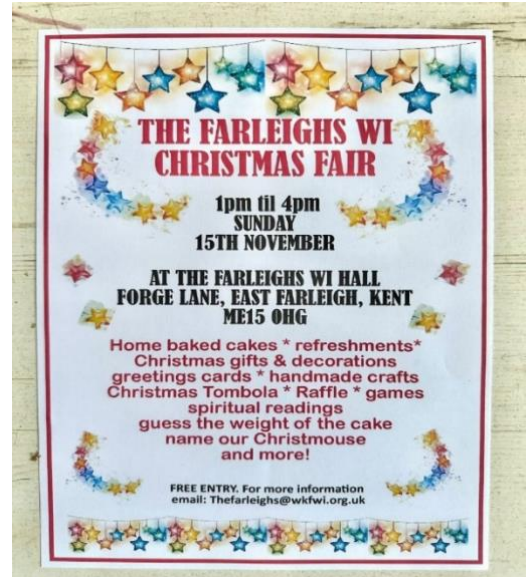
Our darts group continues to meet at the Good Intent every Monday and our quiz team takes part in the Tickled Trout charity quiz each month. This month our book group discussed now “The Offing” by Benjamin Myers and are now reading “Beautiful Ugly” by Alice Feeney. Our Film Club has worked its way through the Downton Abbey series of movies and are now planning our must-watch films for the Autumn.

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. Over the last few weeks, we have also been warmly welcomed by Loose Bowls Club for some taster sessions and we are looking forward to next season to improve our bowling skills.

Our monthly meetings continue to be the second Wednesday of each month, 6.45pm for a 7.00pm at the WI Hall in East Farleigh. At our October meeting we will be trying chair yoga.

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



FLYING AROUND THE FARLEIGHS

Stop for a chat in the fields



Keep an eye on Farleigh field edges this autumn and you may spot a small bird perched upright on a fence post, bramble or clod of earth. It may bob its tail, flick its wings and give a sharp little *tack-tack* call. That's a stonechat: a smart, alert visitor whose name sounds rather like a conversation starter.



Stonechats are around all year in some parts of Britain, especially open heathland and rough country. But in autumn, birds move about, and some travel south or west for the winter. Others wander in search of food and shelter. That means one can turn up in an unexpected place — including a field along the Greensand Ridge or along the river. It may stay for a while or simply pause on its travels.

The male is handsome in his dark head, bright white collar and warm orange-red breast. Females and young birds are more softly coloured, with streakier brown plumage, but they share that upright stance and restless way of perching. Look for one on a prominent lookout, scanning the grass for insects and other small prey. Stonechats often return to the same perch, so if you lose sight of one, wait a moment and have another look.



Their name is thought to echo their call: a crisp, clicking *tack* that can sound like two stones knocked together. It's not much of a chat by our standards, but it carries well across a quiet field. The bird may also give a thin, high-pitched whistle. Once you recognise the sound and the habit of perching out in the open, you'll be better placed to notice one.

Autumn walks are a good time to watch for them. Check fence lines, hedgerows, scrubby corners and rough patches beside fields. A stonechat's small size can make it easy to overlook, but its habit of sitting in full view is a gift to anyone looking. Binoculars help, though a patient pause can be just as useful.

And if you do see one, enjoy the brief conversation. It may be a local bird, or a traveller passing through; either way, it brings a little movement and colour to the changing countryside. Fields are full of seasonal stories if we give them time to speak. This one may only offer a *tack-tack* before flying on — but that's quite enough to make a walk feel richer.

Male stonechat (Darren Nicholls)

Female stonechat (David Errey)

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