

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

No. 161 August 1988

The Rector looks back then forward

I sit writing this at the end of July and I wonder where the first part of 1988 has gone to! It seems to have rushed past and yet there is so much to recall from these last seven months. One of our recent highlights must surely be the very moving Family Service led by our Choir Club. They concentrated on the theme of Love and very well thought out it was. But more than that, it was well presented, and all who took part - ALL of them - enjoyed themselves as they inspired us. To the girls who arranged it and to all who had a part in it I say a big 'Thank You' on behalf of the 60 or so congregation members who attended.

But we must also look forward and I would draw your attention to two occasions in the near future. I am calling all cyclists! We need your assistance - anyone who has a bike and is willing to take part in a ride. Each year for the last few years, the Friends of Kent Churches (an organisation dedicated to helping with the upkeep of our churches) has organised a day of visits to churches all over our County. Sponsorship is called for - the more churches visited, the more money to be claimed from the sponsors. The whole point of the exercise is that the churches are visited by you either on foot or by cycle but ~~NOT BY CAR OR MOTOR BIKE~~, though you may, if you wish, take transport to some centre, say, Canterbury, then walk or cycle around the churches within reach from there. Half of the amount you raise can be donated to the church of your choice. We hope that anyone from West Farleigh taking part will send their half to us. If you want to know more and you are available on 10th September (between 10am and 5pm), please contact Margaret Frazer, Mollie Underdown or myself. Last year the churches in Kent raised over £62,000. This year the aim is for £100,000. Our portion last year was only tiny but we would like to make a real contribution. Can YOU help?

On 9th October we shall hold Harvest Festival. The Family Communion Service will be at 11am and I look forward to seeing a large congregation. As usual, the offertory will be donated to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. Harvest gifts of flowers, fruit and veg can be brought to the church on Saturday 8th or at the time of the Festival on the Sunday. Harvest Supper will be the previous week-end, Saturday 1st October.

May God's grace be upon you during your summer(!) break and may you return renewed and re-created.

Sincerely,

Donald.

EVERGREENS

Make a note in your diaries for the next tea party on Tuesday 9th August at Court Lodge.

LOCAL HISTORY

In the wake of the current exciting and nationwide talk about the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada, last month's mention in Life-Line of the ancient tunnel which is said to have led from the Medway up to the Chequers has stimulated a great wave of apathy. Nevertheless, a group of intrepid young explorers equipped with a lamp were spotted sloshing their way up the tunnel from the river end and your editor is grateful for their interest. They were a little put off when they found that, at its lower end, the tunnel seems to have been pressed into use as the channel for the overflow from a cesspool - nothing, may I hasten to add, to do with the cesspool at Mill Cottage. It seems the whole situation needs a thorough examination (ugh) by experienced archeologists cum pot-holers. There is no doubt there are tunnels but it would be an expensive (and insanitary) business to trace them out. It would have helped if the old smugglers had left plans to show where their tunnels ran. Perhaps H.M. Customs and Excise hold such plans!

CRICKET

The West Farleigh team were runners up in the David Clark Cup. They were beaten by Boughton Monchelsea but were very sporting about it because Boughton had never won the cup before. A well organised Disco at Elphic's Farm has sent the season swinging along but the team have had to do without their Eileen Baines teas recently because poor Eileen has had a spell in hospital. She has our great sympathy and is now home again. We hope she will soon be ready again to fortify the team with the usual good food they have come to expect from her. The weather has done its best to stop play altogether but natural hazards like this are taken in the stride.

JULY REPORTS

July came busting out all over with events of importance in the village. Joyce Morgan's annual party, known as Joyce's Coffee Morgan, on behalf of the Lifeboats was a happy affair. All the supporters of the Lifeboats from Wateringbury were there to lend a hand and look after the stalls, plus the W.F. stalwarts. A mind boggling array of goods were on offer from ironing board covers to Streptocarpus Rexii. It all resulted in the handsome profit of £323.

The Rector has written overleaf about the Family Service on 10 July which was run by the young members of the Choir Club. They were super and, at their request, the collection of nearly £35 went to the Children's Hospital at Great Ormond Street

The Ploughman's Lunch which followed the service was a social occasion to which the weather added spice. John Day was serving wine in those weightless cups made of poly-something. If you dared to put them down, even when half full of wine, they would take off in the wind and spray their contents all over your fellow ploughmen. The trick was, either to drain your cup in one go and let the wind take the empty cup away, or else try to hold your cup in one hand while dealing with your bread, butter, cheese, pickle and salad with the other, even though the whole lot showed a persistent tendency to become airborne. The strawberries and raspberries with their cream, which followed, stuck to the plates much better and were easier to deal with. Somebody said the sun came out once but most customers were too busy coping with the wind to notice. Josie Britcher found a sheltered spot for her cakes and produce stall and did a roaring trade. The total profit for the church was £196 of which £72 was from Josie's stall. Many thanks to all the willing organisers and helpers.

Other events which were staged within the village were the horse show, the custom car show and the Morris Dancers who performed outside the Chequers. All these "outside" events show how lucky we are to live in a place so beautiful it attracts people to organise things here just so that they can share it with us for a while. The weather, of course, has been awful. It has rained most days but those who escaped to the Mediterranean found it so hot they must have wished they had stayed home and got wet.

Ton-Up Club Draws

May £10 R L Day	June £10 S Day	July £10 Mrs Morgan
£5 D Puxtey	£5 Mrs G Botten	£5 Colin Watson
£3 Tom Underdown	£3 M Back	£3 Mrs M Baggott

FOOTBALL

At the recent AGM, Terry Baines was re-elected Captain of the First Team. Ian Paine was elected Vice Captain. Captain of the Reserve Team is B Luckhurst: Vice Captain is Paul Baines.

Harvest Hymns

Many people enjoy singing hymns or listening to others singing them - and everyone enjoys Harvest. On Sunday 18 September you may combine both activities in Wateringbury Church when, at 6.30pm, all the churches in Malling Deanery are coming together to sing Harvest Songs of Praise. Our church choir will be there with the choirs of Teston and Wateringbury and I hope many other West Farleigh people will be there to join the several hundred others who are expected.

I hope to see YOU there.

Sincerely, Donald

SERVICES FOR AUGUST IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

Teston Church, St Peter & St Paul, remains closed for repairs. It may be open for Evensong on 28 August but a notice will be put up about it. Meantime - the Village Hall.

West Farleigh

Aug	7	0800	PBHC
	14	0800	PBHC
		1100	Family 45
	21	0930	Parish Comm'n
	28	1100	PB Matins
Sep	4	0800	PBHC
		0930	Choir Club

Teston

Aug	7	1830	Evensong
	14	1830	Evensong
	28	1830	Evensong
Sep	4	FLOWER FESTIVAL	
			in Church
		1830	Evensong
			Preacher - The Archdeacon of Tonbridge

Wateringbury

Aug	7	0930	PB Matins
	14	0930	Parish Comm'n
	21	0800	PBHC
		1100	Family 45
		1830	Evensong
	28	0800	PBHC
		0930	Parish Comm'n
Sep	4	0930	PB Matins

Advance Notice

The Village Harvest Supper will be held at Nettlestead Village Hall on Saturday, 1st October. Entertainer Brian Higby is thinking up new jokes. Brian Cushing promises to be in good voice as MC.

Bon voyage to Donald and Truda when, on Thursday, 4 August, they again try to get away on holiday.