

No 2 May 1975

SO NOW WE LOSE THE SCHOOL

Parishioners who linked their names with written objections to the Kent Education Authority's proposal to close West Farleigh Primary School have received a letter from the Department of Education and Science intimating that the Secretary of State has approved the proposal. The likely date of the closure is anybody's guess, but informed circles favour July 1976. When it does ultimately happen, all the village will be saddened.

During Lent, the Junior Class at the school collected £4, which, by their own wish, they sent to help the starving children of Bangladesh.

KIND HEARTS AND COLLECTIONS

The Easter Fayre ended up with £232 in the kitty, - £5 more than the total announced when the show was over. Mrs Morgan craves a line to express her thanks to all who helped to make the venture run smoothly, especially the husbands who stayed behind to clean up the school. Mr Wynyard Wallace has also asked for space in which he can thank everybody who made it possible for him to raise £35 on his bottle stall.

Mr L S Dyer reports that the recent house-to-house collection for the Dr Bernardo's Homes raised £22.41, and Miss Wakefield reports that collection boxes in charge of Mrs Forrest, Mrs Reffell, Mrs Simmonds and Mrs Wells raised £6.09 for USPG (United Society for Propagation of the Gospel). Some private subscriptions added another £5.00.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Sports Club party is to be held at Roses Farm, Gallants Lane on Saturday May 24th. Mr Donald Fernor and Mr Brian Piper are the organisers, but no details have come the way of 'Life-Line'.

At long last, satisfactory arrangements are being concluded with the Kent County Council for the building of the temporary Teston Bridge. They will remove the temporary structure and reinstates the land on our side of the river within three years, or sooner if the old bridge repairs are complete.

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

A year ago this month, the news flashed round the village that Harry Pile had died two months after his 62nd birthday and one hour after he had been chatting happily to Mr and Mrs Baines. His popularity ensured persistent memories of him on and around The Green, even to this day when into the hands of 'Life-Line' came a volume of local history. It was a scrapbook put together by Lady Rentinck, wife of our then Vicar, perpetuating the fact that in 1943 the West Farleigh Mothers' Union and friends sent a Christmas gift to every man and woman of the village serving with H M Forces. Here, splendidly preserved, were all their letters of thanks, and among them one from 1398109 AC2 Pile H W. He had written it from Drift Sands Air School, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and this is part of it: "It is a wonderful experience to be so far from home and find that the kindly people left behind think and care for one so well. It gives us all greater zest for the hard fight ahead...in this world of corruption and moral turmoil ... I trust everything goes well with the village as a whole and the anxious ones will not have too long to wait for the days of peace when we shall begin the real struggle to get everyone back to the road of love and prosperity ...and every man the world over on an equal basis, free from disease and squalor". That was Harry Pile at 50. But the hopes he built at Drift Sands were built on quicksands. Thirty-two years later the hard fight, the real struggle, is still to come, corruption and moral turmoil flourish, and squalor is a television commonplace in the nine o'clock news. Where did we all go wrong?

The death of Mrs Fanny Bromley at her home in Lower Road at the age of 83 led to recollections of her prominence in the village in times long past. Her latter years were spent in comparative seclusion, but some remember her running the village post office when it was sited at Dove Cottage. She was twice married, having lost her first husband in the '14-'18 war.

Janet Eastwood is now of a mind that everybody, before shutting the door

when they go out, should ask themselves 'Is everything off?' This because one day last month she failed so to do, and returned to her Tutsham home to find her kitchen in need of the Fire Service. "Funny part is", she said afterwards, her smoke-tarnished face matching a coal-black mammy, "I don't remember having switched anything on".

THE FARMING SCENE IN APRIL

Court Lodge Farm: "After all that rain, basically we are still waiting for something to happen. The pear blossom, for instance; what's going to happen to that? But at least it's warmer, and that's something!"

Tutsham: "A most frustrating month! Regularly-spaced periods of rain have played havoc with our spring seeding schedule, and crops could be much depleted by the enforced late sowing".

THE FOOTBALL SCENE AT SEASON'S END

(Condensed from a 650-word review contributed by Kenneth Baines)

It must go down as disappointing, after promising much. The decision of the Daniel brothers to join the army, and of Peter Hutchins to move home depleted our pre-season strength, and in the opening game I dislocated a cartilage. By Christmas we had only 3 points and were bottom of the league. The tide seemed to be turning when we mustered six unbeaten games, five of them draws! But three defeats in our last four games sank us back into trouble, and Alan Belton getting married and missing two of them didn't help! So while I write, the fate of Farleigh's first team, second from bottom with only 12 points, remains in the balance until we visit Larkfield on April 26th. The Reserves have done much better. Only two seasons ago they had gone more than a whole year without a win, but this season, having gained 13 points and scored 40 goals with one game to play, they will have a comfortable mid-table position in Division Six. A final point: all praise to Grant Wells (first season as captain) for steering the 1st magnificently.

LIFE-LINE'S THOUGHT-LINE FOR THE MONTH (contributed)

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune, but do not distress yourself with imaginings

THE VICAR'S MESSAGE

Between the major festivals of the Church year the normal services are main-week by week. We rejoice to see large congregations at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, but we are called to worship God on a much more regular basis. Mankind is basically a religious animal, but he cannot be complete and feel integrated unless his spiritual life is fed and exercised. This can be achieved only by prayer and worship. We can pray daily in the seclusion of our own home, but we need to gather together weekly or monthly for worship. Forty-five or 50 minutes are not a great deal of time to re-charge our spiritual batteries. Give it a trial! - Robert Sharp

IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

May 4th:	8.00am Holy Communion	May 18th: Whit Sunday:	8.00am Holy Communion
	10.30 Family Service		11.00 Matins
Thursday May 8th: Ascension Day	8.00pm Holy Communion, Teston	May 25th: Trinity Sunday	11.00 Matins
May 11th:	11.00am Matins followed by Holy Communion		6.30pm Sung Celebration
	6.30pm Evensong		

Church cleaning: Week of Monday 5th, Mrs Forrest and Mrs Reffell; week of Monday 12th, Mrs Morgan; weeks of Monday 19th and Monday 26th, Mrs Smith and Mrs Smitherman.

Church flowers: Saturday May 3rd and 10th, Mrs Forrest and Mrs Reffell; Saturday May 17th, Mrs Jourdier; Saturday 24th and 31st, Miss Wakefield.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

The Rev. W I Saxton was admitted to Guy's Hospital on April 24th. Mrs Saxton told 'Life-Line' his condition is not critical, and he is cheerful.

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