

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

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LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

At this time (Christmas and New Year) the journalists and media people tend to produce articles and programmes that scan the recently passed year. The wars and rumours of wars, the toll in human misery, the rise and fall of various political figures, the twists and turns in the royal saga will all be paraded across our TV screens and our newspapers. Much of the material will make dismal reading and viewing, so much bad and sad news revealing acts of violence and depravity against some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Thank God not every aspect of the news in '94 was overlaid with doom and gloom. There is a great deal to give thanks for in the world. There are gleams of real hope breaking through the dark clouds of despair. Northern Ireland entered into a new situation in which lasting peace is a real possibility. Arabs and Jews are sharing in discussions that a few years ago few would have thought possible. In South Africa people who were once separated by race and politics have begun the long and sometimes painful process of learning to live and work together.

At the Christmas morning service at All Saints I put this question to the few who were gathered in the choir stalls. If you had the ability to offer one gift to the world in 1995, what would that gift be? Not surprisingly the first answer was "peace". This was closely followed by "understanding". Someone said, "love". I can't think of three better gifts to bring before the Prince of Peace in '95. Can you?

Yours in faith

Denys

Rev Denys Gower Maidstone 81249.

CHRISTMAS 1994

Village celebrations began on Sunday, 11 December, with coffee and mince pies in the church and a family service which included the blessing of the crib and the nativity play. The latter was another creation from the fluent pen of Alison which illustrated the contrasting ways in which the first Nativity might have been reported by newspapers of different complexions and readerships. Specimen copies of what might have been published, skilfully written and produced, were distributed to the congregation. Only Life-Line, I'm glad to say, came out unblemished by this thoughtful and hard hitting drama.

There followed on Wednesday, 14th December, carols in the three pubs, well organised and led by Richard Grainger, resulting in a collection for the Kent Air Ambulance amounting to £55.06. The Nine Lessons and Carols Service was on the Sunday before Christmas day (a full church again) and Hugh Grainger's Christmas Story Service was notable for the number of Grandmas and Grandads it attracted along with the children.

Thus was delivered the gentle Christmas message once more.

Life-Line hopes you all had a good Christmas and wishes readers

A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

EVERGREENS

Mill House, Tues, 10 Jan

THE VILLAGE HALL FUND

With Parish

Councillors now being Trustees of the fund, the Council now have a close interest in its administration. The amount in the fund on 8 November, when it was last assessed, was £10,629.57 and earnest consideration is being given to the question of what to do with it. It is of significance that the Farleighs W.I. Hall is in poor condition and the Trustees have agreed that they would take part in future talks about a new hall. Subject, of course, to the agreement of a village meeting and the Charity Commissioners, the Trustees would, in principle, support steps towards a joint village hall to be sited near the border between East and West Farleigh.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

BARMING BRIDGE

The somewhat shaky, wooden structure, which is one of our vital links with the rest of the world, is still under close scrutiny by engineers, councillors and others concerned with our road system. The bridge was closed again during recent high water levels on the Medway and its future seems to be resolving itself into two options, which are (1) demolition and replacement with a modern, albeit single track, structure capable of taking the current level of traffic and (2) repairing and retaining for pedestrian use only. There is also a suggestion that the bridge should be closed for a year to assess the effects on the community but the Parish Council doesn't think much of this idea.

FOOTBALL REPORT

Farleigh's 1st XI managed to secure their 2nd win of the season last month but, that aside, things haven't been going our way. Staplehurst Monarchs came first and a real drumming, losing 7 - 1. Next Ulcombe and a much welcome 5 - 1 victory after being 1 - 0 down at half time. Last season's champions Cherry Tree came next but unfortunately we lost 5 - 1.

Farleigh 2nd XI have fared a lot better. Unbeaten Payless Cabs were our first opponents and a marvelous 1 - 0 victory. This was followed up a week later v Ayloesford but only with a 1 - 1 draw. Finally came Leeds, a poor side which we should have beaten - but we lost 2 - 1.

Here's hoping that both our sides will climb up their respective tables in the New Year.

Happy New Year to everyone Cheers Tel

COMMUNITY POLICING

Police Sergeant Cherry attended the Parish Council meeting on 5 December to explain Community Policing and the appointment of Parish Constables. He explained that West Farleigh with East Farleigh and Barming had been chosen to pilot the scheme in the Maidstone district because it was a "medium type" policing area - that is, neither crime prone nor crime free. The aim of the Community Policing scheme was to give the public re-assurance with a visible police presence. It was hoped to recruit four Parish Constables who would be given training, uniforms and mountain bikes. They would not receive pay but would be given a generous expenses allowance. They would be expected to do 16 hours weekly and, after training, would patrol on foot with an experienced Police Officer. It is anticipated they will stay in the parish and, so far as possible, would not be taken away to Maidstone. If you want to be a Special Constable, phone 608067.

LARGE RUBBISH. A timely reminder that the new "freighter" for large items of rubbish will be on the Green on Thursday, 12th Jan from 0945 to 1145.

THE POPPY APPEAL raised £164.80. Vera Smith thanks all helpers - Sue Day, Pippa Wakefield Mrs Honeysett, Pat Donoghue & Tickled Trout

TON-UP Club winners

December	Christmas Jackpots
£10 Alan Newman	£50 Jeff Beensy
£5 Mary Oldfield	£30 Alan Newman
£5 Sarah Baggott	£20 Mark Hatcher

The Sports Club AGM will be on Tuesday, 28 Feb:
The Cricket Section AGM will be on Tuesday 14 March, both at the Bull, East Farleigh at 8pm.

MINI OF THE TREES Once again West Farleigh entered the "Trees in your village" competition but once again we failed to get among the winners. However, the judges wrote us a complimentary letter sprinkled with fulsome phrases like "well endowed with trees", "beautifully edged with good mature trees", "pleasing parkland effect". It seems we can be pleased with ourselves for our planting plan and care of the landscape and the organisers hope we will be

SERVICES FOR JANUARY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Jan	1	0800 BCP HC
	8	1045 Coffee in church 1115 Family Service
	15	0930 ASB HC
	22	1115 BCP MP
	29	0800 BCP HC 0930 JJJ

Teston

Jan	1	0945 Family Service 1830 ASB HC
	3	0930 ASB HC
	8	0800 BCP HC 0945 Children's Church
	10	0930 ASB HC
	15	0945 Children's Church 1830 ASB HC
	17	0930 ASB HC
	22	0800 BCP HC 0945 Children's Church 1830 BCP EP
	24	0930 ASB HC
	29	0945 Children's Church 1115 ASB HC 1830 Songs of Praise

Wateringbury

Jan	1	0930 BCP HC
	8	0930 ASB HC
	15	0800 BCP HC 1115 Family Service 1500 Baptism
	22	0930 ASB HC 1830 BCP EP
	29	0930 BCP HC 1630 Christingle See

Key: BCP = Bk of Common Prayer
ASB = Alternative See Book
HC = Holy Communion
MP = Morning Prayer
EP = Evening Prayer
JJJ = Children's Sunday Clb

Morning Prayer 0830 Tues to Fri.
All welcome. Also a chance for anyone wanting a quiet word.
3rd - 6th Jan West Farleigh
10th - 13th Wateringbury
17th - 20th Teston
24th - 27th West Farleigh

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, I will be pleased to bring it to you.

All JJJ members please note that future meetings will be on the 1st & last Sundays in the month.

CONNIE MERRITT has died. She had a severe stroke some six years ago which left her helpless. George faithfully looked after her but she suffered another stroke and she passed away quietly on 13th December. Life-Line extends