

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

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## LIFE AND THE LOTTERY

It is quite often said that life is a lottery. There is, of course, much truth in that statement. The two certainties in life are that we come in and we go out. For most of us there is, between these two points, a great deal of chance and choice.

The national lottery has become the focus for much discussion and argument, not only about the way the lottery is run, but also whether it is right to dangle such over-juicy carrots in front of a population influenced by the "Come on Down", "Strike it Lucky" attitudes that are beamed into our homes through television.

I still feel for that poor man who found himself better off by nearly 18 million pounds. His life has not only changed, it may well be shattered into fragments. How utterly naive of the lottery organisers to present the media with enough clues to the man's identity that the press were at his doorstep in almost less time than it takes to say "Camelot". His little flutter turned out to be an almighty flap!

Most of us find it beyond our imaginations to visualise a million pounds - so why do the top prizes have to be so enormous, so mind-blowing? Could not much more of this surplus cash be channeled towards our health service or be used to up-date our railways, making them safer and more reliable?

Isn't a million pound prize enough for anyone? Or has the creed of greed become so much part of our national life that the only thing that really matters is the survival of the fittest?

Paul of Tarsus had a view on this. Look up 1 Timothy, Chapter 6, Verse 10.

Yours in faith,  
Denys  
Rev'd Denys Gower, Maidstone 812494.

THERE WILL BE A WHIST DRIVE at Appledore, Charlton Lane on Saturday, 11th February at 6.30 for 7.0. £3 including supper. Let Helen or David know if you are coming and if you would like a lift. 814445.

THE CAT Last September a large and comfortable looking cat appeared at the White House pub. She took up residence in the shed, made herself at home and is still there, being fed by Jan and Arthur who took pity on her apparent homelessness. They can't allow her in the pub because they are afraid the two resident cats would object - probably violently - so the shed remains

## HELP IS AT HAND

There is a new service called the Maidstone Staying Put Agency whose aim it is to help elderly or disabled homeowners to cope with repairs to their homes and live in comfort and safety. It seems to be a generous scheme in which people can be helped in a variety of ways. The list includes damp-proofing, re-wiring, loft insulation, bathroom fittings, replacement windows, downstairs toilets. For disabled people there are grab rails, stair lifts and purpose built showers.

Funding comes from the Maidstone Borough Council Housing Directorate, Kent Social Services and an organisation called Hyde Community Services Ltd of Lee Green, London.

If you want to know more, David Swan has some leaflets or you can phone 765496. Grants are available so, if you would like some work done and paying for it is a problem, phone up and a quick check will reveal whether a grant can be made in your case.

DURING THE RECENT VERY COLD SPELL, Charlton Lane became a sheet of ice. Driving down the hill was an adventure with a most uncertain outcome and trying to drive up the hill was like a nightmare in which the steering wheel seemed to have little effect on the direction of the car. Yet, in spite of this, our mail and our milk got delivered, the buses continued to run and we got our papers on time. Life-Line says Thank You to all the good people who provide these services.

Now that the cold weather has been replaced by all this rain, has anyone thought of building an Ark?

ALSO at Appledore, STEPPING STONES House Group on Tuesday, 14 Feb, 8pm. Ring Helen on 814445 if you need a lift.

EVERGREENS at Hillcroft, Tuesday, 14 Feb.

her place of abode. She is mostly white with some tabby markings. She is a friendly cat and was wearing a collar when she appeared, though the identity capsule on it had come unscrewed and was empty. Jan thinks that somebody somewhere must be mourning the loss of a beautiful cat, so will that person please ring 820520 to be re-united.



### Environmental Matters

The next "freighter" for your bulk rubbish will be on the Green on Friday, 24 February, from 0945 to 1145. This new system of picking up large items of rubbish by means of a freighter instead of an un-attended skip has been adopted by the Borough Council because certain dangerous items such as asbestos have been left in the skips. As pointed out in the Kent Messenger, however, anyone with asbestos and the like to get rid of, being deprived of a skip and being too idle to make special arrangements for its disposal, will be sorely tempted to dump it in some out-of-the-way spot. This is not a criticism of the rubbish disposal authorities in Maidstone. It must have been a hard decision to bring in the freighter system instead of the skips. And in recent cases of dumping in the village the authorities have been very prompt and efficient in getting rid of it as soon as it was drawn to their attention. It is difficult to plumb the minds of those who dump rubbish (assuming they have minds) in public places instead of taking it to the municipal dump in Tovil.

Should you find a load of rubbish dumped in some lonely spot, ring 602162 for it to be got rid of. And if you catch someone in the act of dumping, take their vehicle number and ring the Police.

### FOOTBALL REPORT

Not many games this month because of the wet stuff which was a pity as out of four games played two have been victories, one drawn and only one defeat.

Farleigh 1st XI played local rivals Barming and a late strike by Jim O'Friel gave us a 1 - 0 win. Next came Ulcombe and a well earned 2 - 2 draw.

Farleigh's 2nd XI, after a disappointing 3 - 2 defeat v Ditton in the Benevolent Cup, returned to league action against Aylesford and, what a game it was! Unbelievably, we were 5 - 1 up at half time, having played out of our skins; 6 - 1 up just after the interval, Farleigh seemed to be home and dry. No way. Aylesford scored three more times and with 20 minutes to go anything could happen but luckily it didn't. We won 6 - 4.

Here's hoping we will continue this good form.

Cheers

Tel

THE PCC are compiling a Wish List. This is a list, something like a wedding gift list, of things that it would be nice for the church to have. The idea is that if someone wants to give something to the church, say, after a wedding or in memory of someone, the list of suggestions could be presented. Items already on the list are - violet frontals for the altar and matching curtains, a new shed for garden tools, another oil candle. Kind people have already given us a vacuum cleaner and some hymn books.

IF YOU SEE men apparently dangling from the church tower, don't be alarmed. It will probably be two enterprising young men who use rock climbing techniques to carry out a tricky bit of repair work to the tower - with full approval of the authorities, of course.

### SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

#### West Farleigh

Feb	2	2000	Service of prayer for healing
	5	0800	BCP HC
		0930	JJJ
	12	1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service
	19	0930	ASB HC
	26	0930	JJJ
		1115	BCP MP
Mar	1	2000	Ashing with HC

#### Teston

Feb	5	0945	Family Service
		1830	ASB HC
	7	0930	ASB HC
	12	0800	BCP HC
		0945	Children's church
		1830	BCP EP
	14	0930	ASB HC
	19	0945	Children's church
		1830	ASB HC
	21	0930	ASB HC
	26	0800	BCP HC
		0945	Children's church
		1830	BCP EP
	28	0930	ASB HC

#### Wateringbury

Feb	5	0930	BCP MP
	12	0930	ASB HC
	19	0800	BCP HC
		1115	Family Service
	26	0930	ASB HC
		1830	BCP EP
Mar	1	1100	Ashing with HC

Key: BCP = Bk of Common Prayer  
ASB = Alternative Joe 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.  
31 Jan - 3 Feb Wateringbury  
7 Feb - 1 Feb Teston  
14 Feb - 17 Feb West Farleigh  
21 Feb - 24 Feb Wateringbury

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

#### Children's worship contacts

W Farleigh: Alison Swan 814445  
Teastn: D & J Page 812691  
W'bury: G Sessions 813076

George Merritt and family  
thank all those kind  
people who sent cards,  
flowers and sympathy  
on Connie's death.