

# Life-Line

The given-away Monthly News Sheet for West Farleigh

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

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## THE VOLUNTEER ARMY

Many organisations and movements flourish and survive because of the loyalty and commitment of volunteer workers. The Red Cross, the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation and the Lifeboat Service, among others, would all fall away to a handful of paid professionals without the steady, dedicated work of their volunteer force. And how would our political parties keep afloat without their ardent devotees filling envelopes, handing out pamphlets and raising funds?

The Church too would soon find itself in dire circumstances if all its volunteers decided to pull out of the line and find something else to do with their time. Our financial position would go from depressing to disastrous and the clergy would only have each other to talk to (depressing thought).

This gives me an opportunity to say thank you to all those volunteers in our three churches for all the time, skills, energies and abilities which you offer in our Lord's name. Whether it be paper work entailed at a wedding, the setting up of an altar for Holy Communion, the energy it takes to look after our young people, the cleaning and dusting and keeping the churches bright with flowers; and the long hours of council meetings - thank you for being there. Without you there would be no church.

Denys Gower

The Rectory, Teston, 01622 812494.

## TEA, ROUNDERS AND THE ORGAN

The weather stayed dry for the village tea party on the cricket field on 10 Sept but only until about 3.30 when it started raining and everyone went into the pavilion. Joyce Morgan manfully (or womanfully) pressed on with her produce stall and stalwart helpers continued to serve tea and cakes to willing customers. Meantime a game of rounders was played in the Court Lodge field and a police trio, who were there on a neighbourhood watch thing, joined in. Everyone got wet. But the church was open, a warm and dry sanctuary on a wet afternoon, and the organ was playing. It was played in succession by Philip Moore, Pippa Wakefield and Don Goodwin while devotees were on hand to show people round and talk about some of the 900 years of the church's history. Pity the weather wasn't better but it was a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon and the church finished up £160 better off. Many thanks to all concerned.

## EVERGREENS

At Appledore, Charlton Lane, the home of David & Helen Swan, on Tuesday, 10 October

## THE HARVEST SUPPER

The Supper was held this year at the end of a peaceful autumnal day when all seemed right with the world. Indeed, everything was right and continued so to the end of the evening. The hall, laid out for a banquet, was festive and inviting. High spirits were the order of the day and when the WI began to perform they were received with enthusiasm and much deserved applause. By that time the audience were well fed, relaxed and ready for anything and the WI's WWII songs and sketches went down a treat. The food, prepared with skill by loving hands, was wholesome and plentiful. Raffle prizes were won and, when the sing-song started, some of the audience got carried away.

Sandy Sharp, who lives in St Helen's Lane, is seeking new members for an English Traditional Dance Group. There are female dancers and male & female musicians and a good social life is promised. Ring Sandy on 721778.

Everyone had a song sheet, distributed by young helpers, and a great demand arose for "My Grandfather's Clock". The demand was apparently ignored by the Master of Ceremonies, John Day, who firmly asserted, "I'm in charge", which raised a laugh. It emerged later that the pianist didn't have the music so the firm line was justified. Nevertheless, a good natured but unruly element took over and the story of the old clock was once more told in song. Meantime, dedicated helpers were trying to get the tables cleared which was just as well because the last item was "Auld Lang Syne" with linked arms along and across tables which suffered a bit in the process. It was a good evening made possible by an army of helpers too numerous to mention but all co-ordinated and got together by Hugh Grainger. Well done, Hugh!

## A VERY SPECIAL SERVICE

The Family Harvest Festival will be in the church on 8 October at 11.15. This is the prettiest service of the year with the church decked out in all the produce of the earth. Come and join the celebration.

ALISON SWAN who runs the JJJ Children's Sunday Club, reports that twelve children attended the meeting on 24 September, the first of the "new term". This is a remarkable number, considering the population of the village (363 voters). It reflects the great skill with which Alison runs the club and the love the children have for her. It is delightful to see and Life-Line is pleased and proud to thank Alison for the lovely job she is doing. The JJJ meet in the church on the 1st and last Sunday each month.

## MONEY WELL SPENT

The Parish Council are given a sum of money by Maidstone Borough Council each year to spend on things called Concurrent Functions. The list of proposals as to what to spend the money on is quite impressive. It includes a seat by the bus stop outside Goulston Villas and the renewal of the seat on the Green. A grant of £100 has been made to the Evergreens OAP Club and a further £100 towards the production of Life-Line, both of which are very welcome. Also there has been a very generous grant towards the new facilities for children in the church described in the August Life-Line (which was mistakenly labelled Sept). Finally, a most charming and thoughtful gesture, to spend £75 on providing and planting bulbs around the village to brighten up the place for Spring.

## "PLEASE DON'T" DEPARTMENT

There is a path (not an official footpath) off Lower Road on the other side from the Tickled Trout, leading along Barrett's Field, with a stile at the end. The fence by the stile is often damaged, though it is hard to see why unless it is to allow lame dogs to get through. It is bad that this fence gets damaged because the two fields which it separates belong to two different owners whose sheep wander through the gap and join the wrong flock. Please don't damage this fence. It does lead to so much trouble.

## SPORTS REPORT

Farleigh cricketers have finished their first season under new rule and I think without doubt a terrific achievement despite the lack of successful results. It was a credit to all concerned that an enjoyable season was had by all and hope a similar atmosphere will continue in the years to come.

Farleigh footballers have once again embarked on another campaign. The 1st XI have started well, beating old rivals Staplehurst 3 - 1. Meanwhile, the 2nd XI have lost to South Celtic 5 - 1 after being 1 - 1 with 20 minutes to go. But we did pick up our first point, drawing 2 - 2 at home to Leeds.

Either the 1st or 2nd team are always at home so some local support would be much appreciated; you might even get a piece of left-over orange.

Date for your diary. 17 November we are holding our annual Race Night. Please come and support your local club if you can.

Cheers

Tel

PS. Unlike everywhere else I will not be mentioning Christmas until a week before! Tel

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

### West Farleigh

Oct	1	0800 BCP HC
		0930 JJJ
	8	1115 Family Harvest Festival
	15	0930 ASB HC
	22	1115 BCP MP
	29	0800 BCP HC
		0930 JJJ

### Teston

Oct	1	0945 Family Service
		Harvest Thanksgiving
		1830 ASB HC
	5	0930 ASB HC
	8	0800 BCP HC
		0945 Children's Ch
		1830 BCP EP
	12	0930 ASB HC
	15	0945 Children's Ch
		1830 ASB HC
	19	0930 ASB HC
	22	0800 BCP HC
		0945 Children's Ch
		1830 BCP EP
	26	0930 ASB HC
	29	0945 Children's Ch
		1830 Songs of Praise

### Wateringbury

Oct	1	0930 BCP MP & 50 yr
		Christian Aid Sce
	5	0800 Sce of prayer
		for healing
	8	0930 ASB HC
	15	0800 BCP HC
		1115 Family Service
		Harvest Thanksgiving
	22	0930 ASB HC
		1830 BCP EP
	24	0930 BCP HC
	29	0930 BCP HC

Key: BCP = Book of Comm Pryr  
ASB = Alternative Sce Bk  
HC = Holy Communion  
MP = Morning Prayer  
EP = Evening Prayer  
JJJ = Children's Club

Morning Prayer 0830 Tue - Fri  
3 - 6 Oct Wateringbury  
10 - 13 Oct Teston  
17 - 20 Oct West Farleigh  
24 - 27 Oct Wateringbury

For October the week-day  
Eucharist has been moved to  
Thursdays 0930, Teston.

Service of prayer for  
HEALING, Wateringbury  
8pm Thursday, 5 October.