

# 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"

Editor: Jim Patch, Mill Cottage, 01622 813461

No. 251 February 1996

## ASH WEDNESDAY - FIRST STEP IN LENT

Christmas is just behind us and here we are looking towards Easter, the Church's most important festival, the day when Christians celebrate the rising of Jesus from the dead. But first we have to journey through Lent (Old English for Spring) and Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, 21st February. The day derives its name from the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of worshippers in the liturgy of the day.

It is a solemn ceremony that goes back to the tenth century and in this simple act of receiving a cross of ash on the forehead we are reminded of the continuing weakness of our human nature and our mortality. Some people, Christians among them, think that such symbolism is archaic and unnecessary in this day and age. For others, myself included, the service of ashing marks the beginning of a yearly pilgrimage, a pilgrimage of prayer and reflection on the darker side of our lives and times. And later, as we move into Holy Week, that reflection deepens as we follow in the footsteps of the suffering Jesus. Lent is not meant to be an easy journey for Christians, but will you share in the journey and take the first steps on Ash Wednesday, 11am at All Saints, West Farleigh or 8pm at St. John the Baptist, Wateringbury?

Denys Gower

Rev'd Denys Gower, 01622 812494

## LAW & ORDER & ALL THAT

It is with great pleasure that Life-Line reports that the post of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for West Farleigh has been filled. The task has been taken on by Mr M W Barnwell (known universally as Barney) of White House Cottage, Hill Top. Barney is in the early stages of taking over and getting his organisation going but he is an ex policeman and knows the score. We can be sure that we will be hearing from him in a positive manner pretty soon.

I don't suppose that Barney's induction into Neighbourhood Watch will be marked by any ceremony but in a similar and related context a ceremony is to take place on Saturday, 17 February at 10am on Barming's wooden bridge. Here the ceremonial hand-over to our Community Special Constables

## THE TOWER ROOM

At last serious work can be started on the room at the bottom of the church tower to convert it into a comfortable place for the JJJ children's club activities and a safe refuge where mothers can leave small children under supervision during services. The idea of converting the room was first suggested by Margaret Frazer in May 1994, and planning really started in September of that year when an adviser from the Diocese had a look at the place and gave it the nod of approval. Detailed plans were made by Helen Swan and in July '95 a working party was formed by Helen and Alison Swan and Huw Evans. Now the go-ahead has been given by the granting of a faculty (theological jargon for planning permission) and things like electric wiring, shelves, cupboards, mats, cushions can all be put in place, decorating can be done and the whole place brought to life. This is another step towards making the church a friendly family community centre, the source from which most of the village's social activities emanate.

of the mountain bicycles purchased by East and West Farleigh will take place. At the same time Barming Parish Council will hand over two high performance torothes which they have bought as their contribution to the equipping of the two police officers. All the village dignitaries will be there. Life-Line has no information about whether the traffic will be held up but it seems there will be plenty of police about to deal with any problems.

ALISON SWAN has changed her address.

She now lives at:- 11 Beech Road  
East Malling ME19 6DG

Telephone 01732 847005

## DOES ANYONE KNOW MRS ELLS?

Life-Line has been asked to print this appeal for her whereabouts. Please ring your editor if you have any information.

## SPORTS REPORT

Four victories and only one defeat start off Farleigh's New Year campaign.

Our 1st XI have played only two games but won them both convincingly. Blue Eagles in the League came first and a 5 - 2 win secured by a much improved all round team performance. A week later old rivals Chart Sutton arrived at Elmscroft in a Benevolent Cup 1st round. A final result of 4 - 2 was easier than the score suggests. Let's hope I can continue to report all the way to the final!

Plenty of goals also if you choose to watch the 2nd XI. Malgo arrived after Christmas and whatever we did over the New Year I wish we could do it more often! A 7 - 0 thrashing resulted and probably our best performance so far. If that was our best then the following week v Take-off Sports could easily have been our worst, losing 4 - 0 in a game we were lucky to get nil! Thankfully we picked ourselves up against Aylesford the following game. Started well, 2 - 0 up early on, only to be drawing at half time, but to everyone's credit in the second half played a lot better and deservedly ran out 5 - 2 winners. Let's hope our form and spirit continue.

Cheers

Tel

IS THERE ANYONE in the village willing to take on organising the collection for the LIFEBOATS? If so, please get in touch with your editor or with Joyce Morgan on 726251.

EVERGREENS

Tuesday, 13 Feb  
at Mill Cottage. Frances is feeling much better now, thank you very much, but this bug takes a lot of shaking off.

FREIGHTER for major rubbish. On the Green Saturday 10 February 7.45 to 9.45 am and again on Saturday 23 March 10.00am to 12.15pm.

## THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 4th March 7.30pm.

This is the time when residents can have their say about local affairs and address their Parish Councillors. The meeting will be followed by a normal Parish Council meeting which residents are also invited to attend but not take part.

RHODA BROOKS of Charlton Lane has moved into the Abbey Rose Residential Home in St. Michael's Road. It is just on the left going down the road from St. Michael's Church. She'd like to hear from her friends.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY  
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

## West Farleigh

Feb 4 0800 BCP HC  
0930 JJJ  
11 1045 Coffee in church  
1115 Family Service  
18 0930 ASB HC  
21 1100 Ashing with HC  
25 0930 JJJ  
1045 Coffee in church  
1115 Family Service

## Teston

Feb 1 0930 ASB HC  
2000 Service of  
Prayers for Healing  
4 0945 Family Service  
1830 ASB HC  
8 0930 ASB HC  
11 0800 BCP HC  
0945 Children's ch.  
1830 BCP EP  
15 0930 ASB HC  
18 0945 Children's ch.  
1830 ASB HC  
22 0930 ASB HC  
25 0800 BCP HC  
0945 Children's ch.  
1830 BCP EP  
29 0930 ASB HC

## Wateringbury

Feb 4 0930 BCP MP  
1115 Family Service  
Richard Arnold at  
W'bury School  
11 0930 ASB HC  
18 0800 BCP HC  
1115 Family Service  
21 2000 Ashing with HC  
25 0930 ASB HC

Key: BCP = Bk of Common Prayer  
ASB = Alternative See Bk  
HC = Holy Communion  
MP = Morning Prayer  
EP = Evening Prayer  
JJJ = Young People's See

The report of the KENT MEN OF THE TREES competition from last year was quite kind to West Farleigh although we didn't win a prize. There were 101 entries in the competition from all over Kent and the judges must have had a busy time getting round them all. Our village is described as "interesting" and compliments are paid to the imposing beeches and chestnuts near the church, especially the way in which the chestnuts of Court Lodge and the limes have been tended since the big storm of '87. Many of the criticisms in the report have already been dealt with, especially with regard to the churchyard where the untidiness of the yews was a cause for complaint. John Day has now seen to all that. Also in the churchyard, the report remarks on the fortuitous death of a cherry tree which, if it had lived, would have pushed the wall over.