

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 PARADE OF PARADES

Ronnie Corbett, the comedian, spent his National Service in the RAF. He said he really wanted to join the Brigade of Guards but he had trouble with his eyes - they were too near the ground!

The show piece of the year for the Brigade is, of course, the Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guards' Parade in London. A spectacular event, timed to the second, the Parade of Parades, where the Colours (or flag) of a particular Battalion are passed before the Queen to the sound of military music and the bellow of the Regimental Sergeant Major. The origins of the parade, I believe, lie in those far off days when foreign mercenaries were employed to fight for this country and the colours were paraded in front of them to remind them whose side they would be supporting when the battle commenced.

The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is a kind of parade that the church has been re-enacting over the years. It wasn't planned or timed to perfection, it just happened. On that day in Jerusalem there was a great sense of expectancy and celebration. There was no fixed programme of events, no one to say, "Well, we've never done this before!" Just a carpenter on a donkey and a rather undisciplined crowd of pilgrims.

On Palm Sunday, March 31st, 9.15am, why not join our parade in Wateringbury car park? We shall be trooping our colour (in this case a cross) and a donkey will lead us to worship.

Denys Gower

KVERGREENS

Mill Cottage, Tuesday, 12th March

ONCE MORE INTO THE CHURCH, DEAR FRIENDS

Another important meeting in March will also take place in the church. This is the Annual Parish Church Meeting which is on 26 March at 8pm. This is the meeting where Churchwardens are elected. Members of the Parish Church Council (PCC) are also elected and reports given on the church's activities during the year, including finances. The church electoral roll will also come under scrutiny. This is an important year for the electoral roll because this year anyone wanting to be on the roll must fill in an application form. It doesn't matter whether your name is already on the roll, you still have

LISTENING AND TALKING

On Monday, 4 March, the church will be the place to be for the annual meeting of the West Farleigh Parish at 7.30. All residents are welcome. All your Parish Councillors will be there and, hopefully, your Borough Councillor, Peter Craven, and your County Councillor, Wilf Shilling. All will be available to answer questions and you will be able to air your views on whatever subjects of West Farleigh interests you like. The meeting will open with a talk by Mr. Brian Weddell on the plan which Maidstone Borough Council have to create a riverside park all the way from Teston to Allington. Mr Weddell is the Council Heritage and Services Manager and is well clued up on his subject. One point he will talk about will be a proposal to apply for money for the project from the National Lottery

Another item to be reported on will be the two ancient village charities, the Anne Goulston and the Oliver North, founded hundreds of years ago and still going strong. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Don Goodwin, will deliver his annual report which will not be on the subject of charities but a related matter, namely, volunteers, without whom the village could not function.

to fill in a form. This happens every six years. You qualify for inclusion on the roll if you are 16 or over, baptised, a member of the Church of England or similar and resident in the parish. If you don't reside in the parish you qualify if you habitually attend worship in the parish.

Forms can be picked up in the church or from the editor of Life-Line - only don't waste any time because the list must be complete a couple of weeks before the Annual Church Meeting.

THE FREIGHTER FOR LARGE RUBBISH - on the Green 23 March, 10am to 12.15pm.

ALISON SWAN conducted a Family Service in the church on 25 February. It was entertaining, instructive and enjoyable and she had an appreciative audience. Watch out for her next service and don't miss it!

SPORTS REPORT

Just five games this month due to the snow and rain. Farleigh 1st XI had success in the cup beating old rivals Staplehurst 4 - 0 but came unstuck against high flying MPE in the League, losing 2 - 1. Farleigh 2nd XI had a win, a draw and a defeat. First the good news - a 3 - 1 victory v Malgo in the Q/Final of the Tun/Wells Cup. Next came League action and we shared the points against Thurnham, drawing 2 - 2. Our defeat came at the hands of The Rose 4 - 2. Still a lot of points to be won and lost and with both teams in cup competitions, who knows, this could be our chance for cup glory. Mind you, I say that every year.

Forthcoming event: our so far successful wine and wisdom evening to be held at Hunton Village Hall on 19 April. Make a note in your diary and please let me know if you would like to enter a team. The questions are easy providing you know the answers.

Cheers
Tel

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

There are two new traffic signs at the approach to Teston Bridge on the West Farleigh side which say very plainly "Give way to oncoming vehicles." This is good, designed as they are to stop the numerous punch-ups which occur on the bridge between arrogant motorists who insist that THEY have the right of way. But the signs are accompanied by arrows, red and white, to reinforce the message and unfortunately the chap who put them up got his knickers in a twist so that one set of arrows indicate right of way from Teston and the other set indicate right of way from West Farleigh. Their meaning is as clear as mud. I suppose that, like certain statements made in another place, they are misleading but not meant to deceive and no duplicity is intended.

TON - HP CLUB

January

£10 Mrs T Bissenden £5 D Fernor £5 Poppy Britcher

February

£10 Laurie Walter £5 Mrs L Body £5 E Gilbert

Winter Bonus £20 Alan Godfrey

Nine singers, no less, from West Farleigh will take part in a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion in Rochester Cathedral on 9 March by the amalgamated choirs of the Royal School of Church Music. It starts at 5.15, entrance is free but you are advised to arrive early.

THE POST OFFICE has agreed to smarten up the village by painting the posting boxes. Also BT, after a lot of persuasion, are going to paint the listed phone box outside the Tickled Trout.

**SERVICES FOR MARCH
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES**

West Farleigh

Mar 3 0800 BCP HC
0930 JJJ
10 1045 Coffee in church
1115 Family Service
with Baptism
17 0930 Mothering Sunday
Family ASB HC
24 1115 BCP MP
31 0800 BCP HC
0930 JJJ

Teston

Mar 3 0945 Family Service
1830 ASB HC
7 0930 ASB HC
10 0800 BCP HC
0945 Children's Ch.
1830 BCP EP
14 0930 ASB HC
17 0945 Children's Ch.
1830 ASB HC
21 0930 ASB HC
24 0800 BCP HC
0945 Children's Ch.
1830 BCP EP
28 0930 ASB HC
31 0945 Children's Ch.
1830 ASB HC

Wateringbury

Mar 3 0930 BCP MP
1115 Family HC
6 2000 Service of
Prayer for Healing
10 0930 ASB HC
17 0800 BCP HC
1115 Family Service
24 0930 ASB HC
31 0915 Procession
from car park
0930 Liturgy of
the day. 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 Soc.

Morning Prayer Tues - Fri 0830
5 to 8 March West Farleigh
12 to 15 March Wateringbury
19 to 22 March Teston
26 to 29 March West Farleigh

The Rev. Denys Gower (01622 812494) will be glad to visit anyone who might appreciate a chat. Also, for those unable to share in a public Eucharist through age, accident or illness, he will be pleased to bring the Holy Communion to your home.