

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

Editor: Jim Patch, Mill Cottage, 01622 813461

No. 280 July 1998

SOFT WORDS FOR THE HARD SELL

"Hallo, Mr Gower, this is Tracy, Sharon or Marvin. If you wanted to replace any windows in your house, which would they be?" So the sales talk goes on - it's almost like listening to a tape recorded message.

How do you respond to these calls, that often come at the most unexpected times? Do you find them a nuisance, an intrusion into your private life perhaps? My response, when I can get a word in, is to give them the telephone number of the Diocesan office. So far there has been no sign that such a contact has been made and our windows remain unchanged.

Although I tend to regard those good people, who indulge in selling over the telephone, very much as I regard those charming folk who present a clip board under my nose in Maidstone High Street - "not even a number, rank or name, thank you" - I do sympathise with anyone who really has to sell things or services to others, sometimes under great pressure, to make an honest living. I well remember when I was often wooed with a glass of something and a curry as some hard working rep attempted to sell me ink or other materials during my days in the printing industry. The pressure to keep the sales figures moving upwards must have been terrific. And also the reps were always in the front line and had to take the flak from the customer when the product failed to come up to expectations.

So spare a thought and a prayer for all who work in the stressful business of selling. And don't be too hard on the window vendors. They are only doing their job.

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower. 01622 812494.

THAT CRICKET MATCH

The evening of 19th June fulfilled all expectations: the sun shone, the situation was idyllic and the cricket was lively. There were a good number of supporters - or football escapees from both sides of the river, enjoying the atmosphere and being tempted by the raffle prizes, cakes and range of refreshments on offer in the pavilion. The hot dog stall and the bar did a steady trade so that the evening resulted in a profit of £295.50 for the Organ and Church Improvement Fund. Our thanks to the teams and the many people involved in the preparations. Both teams were talking of a return match next year.

Who won? Well, Wateringbury scored most runs while West Farleigh lost fewest wickets - which means a Wateringbury victory. But that didn't seem important.

THE SUMMER BARBECUE

The barbecue is on Sunday - the 1st Sunday in the month - at Fox Pitt, Shinglebarn Lane, the home of Michael and Belinda Devenish. Lunch will be served from 12.30 and for your £6 you will get a good - and beautifully cooked full lunch with a glass of wine or a soft drink (OAPs & children £4). Extra wine will be on sale. There will be a marquee. Tickets from Belinda on 820348 or Tony on 728252 and if you would like a lift, mention it when ordering tickets. Cakes and produce are requested for sale on the stall, also raffle prizes. Bring them along on the day or leave them at the Swan residence, Applecore, Charlton Lane. It would help if you brought a garden chair. All prophets to the church.

HEARING DOGS

The coffee morning organised by Sylvia Whittle, ably assisted by Pippa Wakefield, on Wednesday, 24 June, was perhaps not quite so well attended as usual. The weather was fine but Wimbledon was on ... Nevertheless, the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf benefitted by £270, thanks to all the generous helpers, customers and those who donated. Digby, the resident hearing dog, despite his 13 years, played host admirably. There were some fine plants for sale and it is pointed out that this is an ongoing thing. There are always fine plants for sale at Green Acre, Lower Road, especially shrubs, in aid of the Hearing Dogs.

EVERGREENS

We are having an outing to the Lakeside Tea Rooms, Hastings Fish Farms, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst on 14 July where we can have tea and see the sights of this pretty spot. No cost to members. Assemble on the Green at 2.30.

THE CHURCH ORGAN

Approval has finally been given by the Chancellor of the Diocese for a new organ and sound system to be purchased and installed in the church. The order has been placed and, all being well, we should be enjoying the benefit within three months.

This means, of course, that money is urgently needed. It could be borrowed but there would be interest payments. The Fund has got off to a good start with £295.50 from the cricket match, a £100 cheque from Zeneca at Yalding and an anonymous donation of £100. Finding this on her doormat brightened Val Grainger's day and she would like to thank the donor through this publication. Fund-raising plans are being made and details of some schemes will be circulated or detailed in Life-Line. If anyone can run their own fundraising event, e.g. coffee morning, bring and buy, beetle or whist drive, then the proceeds will be gratefully received.

SPORTS REPORT

Cricket season is now in full swing and, sure enough, it's been raining. Hollingbourne came first, got 140 odd but we could only manage about 100. Better news the following week when we travelled to Milsted: we batted first and amassed an excellent 212: Milsted 140 so a very good victory. Headcorn were due next but the rains came and match abandoned. Finally we travelled to Shipborne and for the first time really this season we were soundly beaten - Farleigh 124, Shipborne 125 - 1.

Plenty more cricket to come.

Our annual Summer Dance, Tutsham 25 July, £7.50 including food. Dancing to Tonic Blue. Please support your local Club. Maidstone 745744.

Cheers

Tel

FRANCES

So many have asked. She has improved a little, though still totally helpless. She is coming home shortly and with nursing visits and TLC will be cossetted and nurtured. Thank you all.

THE KENT MESSENGER

The role of West Farleigh village correspondent for the KM has been taken over by Bryan Ransom, son-in-law of John and Sue Day. No doubt readers will have observed his very readable and well informed contributions in the paper these last two or three weeks. But news and views can not be published until they are made known to the writer, so please let Bryan know of any news, important or trivial, or anything you feel strongly about, on 01622 812650. And Life-Line wishes him well.

THE RIVER PARK

The proposed developments at the Teston Picnic Site connected with the proposed Maidstone River Park have been earnestly discussed by both Teston and West Farleigh Parish Councils who are anxious that we don't find ourselves with a theme park on our doorsteps. Progress will be watched.

SERVICES FOR JULY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

July 5 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
12 1115 Family Service
ON THE GREEN
19 0930 HC Alt Service Book
26 1045 Coffee in church
1115 Family HC
Maxi Js to take part

Teston

July 2 0930 HC Alt Service Book
5 0945 Family PET service
ON THE GREEN
1830 HC Alt Service Book
9 0930 HC Alt Service Book
12 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
0945 Children's Church
1830 Evening Prayer
16 0930 HC Alt Service Book
19 0945 Children's Church
1830 HC Alt Service Book
23 0930 HC Alt Service Book
26 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
0945 Children's Church
1830 Evening Prayer

Wateringbury

July 5 0930 Matins
12 0930 HC Alt Service Book
19 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
1115 Family Service
26 0930 HC Alt Service Book

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830

7 to 10 July Teston
14 to 17 July West Farleigh
21 to 24 July Wateringbury
28 to 31 July Teston

I would be glad to visit you either for Home Communion or a chat. Please contact me or our Pastoral Assistants, Edna Craig for Wateringbury & Teston, 812922, or Helen Swan for West Farleigh, 814445.

THAT POP CONCERT

Residents watch with close interest while the Borough considers an application by an American whose name I can't remember to hold a potentially very loud concert over by Barham Court.

None shall sleep!