

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

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## THANK YOU TO THE GLOOM LIFTERS

This must be the gloomiest summer for many a long year. We seem to have been living under a grey blanket of cloud through which the sun makes only the briefest of appearances. These words are being penned in mid July. Will August present a different picture? By the time you read these words the question may be answered.

Isn't it a fact of life that we are affected by the weather and the climate? If we are feeling sad or low in spirits a damp, grey day does nothing to lift us into a brighter frame of mind. And a holiday in a caravan with small children during a wet summer can be an experience never to be forgotten - I write from experience!

In a summer like this I am so grateful for God's gift of cheerful people, those positive persons who always have an optimistic outlook and a smile to share, whatever their personal problems might be.

I seldom leave the Post Office at Teston or the butcher's shop at Wateringbury without having gained some useful advice or words of encouragement - free of charge! Even on the dullest of days these sun spots give us light relief. Thank you to all the gloom lifters. May the Good Lord bless you and make his face to shine upon you.

Denys Gower, Rector.

## ALL ON A SUMMER'S DAY

The barbecue was held on one of the few fine days we've had this summer. Belinda and Michael Devenish were the hosts. There was a marquee but it wasn't needed except for setting out the food and for shelter from the sun. The cooking was performed admirably by Nick Saunders, Tony Walsh and Chris Barton who worked in close harmony and didn't allow any queues to form. Salads produced by Belinda and team complemented the burgers and bangers and the strawberries and cream completed the meal, helped by modest glasses of wine. The produce and cake stall was run by Helen Swan and the raffle by Val Barnwell. Amazingly, Joyce Morgan wasn't there. She had double booked!

## STUPIDITY CORNER

Our young people are, perhaps, more sports conscious today than ever before, what with World Cup fever and all that. It is therefore surprising that the gem of our village sporting assets, the cricket pavilion, should become the target of vandalism. But such is the sad fact and windows have been broken by young morons trying, it seems, to destroy their own heritage. They have been seen and, if they try it on again, they will be caught.

## ORGANIC RENEWAL

The new church organ is about to become a reality. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have given their lofty approval to dismantling the old organ and it is hoped the work will be done during August. The sundry parts will be stored in John Day's barn until somebody buys them or plans are made for their disposal. They could well be there a long time. The large, visible pipes will remain in the church as decoration and the space left by the keyboard or console is going to be filled with a nice wooden panel which will be in keeping with the surroundings.

The new organ will be in the body of the church diagonally across the corner where newly married couples sign the register. It will just fit under the monuments there. Speakers will project the sound upwards and other speakers hidden behind the decorative pipes will convey the music to the choir in the Chancel.

In addition to all this we are going to have a sound system which will amplify the voices of children when they perform their plays and sketches and the voice of any speaker whose voice needs boosting a bit. It will be done with a well thought-out array of floor and radio mikes and will incorporate a loop system for the hard of hearing. Never before will the voices in the church have been so audible.

## THE BISHOPS' DRAW

Our three pubs, the White House, the Good Intent and the Tickled Trout, are each running a continuous draw to help pay for the organ. For £1 you pick a name from a list of 36 Church of England Dioceses. Then, when all 36 names have been picked, the draw is made there and then. The first one out of the hat wins £10 and the second one £5. £20 goes to the organ fund and the landlord's favourite charity gets the odd £1. Then it starts all over again. SEE OVER THE PAGE for other fund raising plans.

**GAMBLING WITH THE WEATHER**

On 12 July one of our nice Family Services was held on the Green. It was a brave decision to hold it in the open because the weather was pretty doubtful. Indeed, towards the end, if things had got much worse, the situation would have been serious. But there were about 40 people there, a lot of them parents of Campaigners who received presentations for their work in their club. Recorder music was supplied by Sophie, Laura and Samantha who didn't mind getting wet in a good cause and were pleased to share in this triumph against the curious English Summer we are enduring.

Another open air service is planned for Sunday, 27 September before the boot fair - see below. A boot fair is an innovation for West Farleigh. It will be held in River Field, that's the one on the right by the river just across Teston Bridge coming from the West Farleigh side. More about this in September's Life-Line.

**CHURCH ORGAN FUND RAISING PLANS**

With the orders placed and deposits paid we must now find the money to pay the bills for our new organ and sound system. It can not be overstated that this organ is a super instrument and one that the village can be proud of. Also the new sound system will make the old church a desirable place for other functions in addition to services. A variety of fund raising events are being planned which will provide something for everyone. This needs to be a village effort so please give your support. Events so far planned are:-

- 27 September Boot Fair in River Fld
- Autumn 1998 Quiz at the White House
- Autumn/Winter '98-9 Whist Drives
- 21 November '98 Dinner with auction/Tutsham
- April 1999 Compah evening in a barr
- Summer 1999 Gymkhana
- Summer 1999 Flower Festival
- June 2000 Garden Safari

More details soon and the publicity posters will be a familiar sight. Offers of help and ideas for other events would be welcome. Contact Hugh or Valeria Grainger (820305) or John or Sue Day (812650).

Just before going to press Life-Line received news of a grant of £1,750 from Marshall's Charity which exists to help churches in Kent, Surrey and Lincolnshire. Such windfalls are rare but extremely welcome and we are grateful.

**SPORTS REPORT** West Farleigh cricketers have played well this month but without much luck. We lost 3 out of 4 and the other (Meopham) was rained off! We started away to Linton Park where we were soundly beaten but our next game, at home, v Horton Kirby was a terrific game, in the end just losing by 2 wickets (Farleigh 162 - 9, Horton Kirby 163 - 8). Finally this month we travelled to Staplehurst. On a very good wicket Staplehurst batted first and amassed an impressive 229 - 6. Farleigh started well and was always in the hunt but in the end just failed, being only 3 runs short of our target, finishing on 226 - 7, but a fantastic game.

Many thanks to all members and friends for supporting our club dance. We had a great night. See you at our Race Night in November! Our trip to Ringstedt comes on Friday. Hopefully by the end of next month I'll have recovered sufficiently to write a full report.

**SERVICES FOR AUGUST  
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES**

West Farleigh

- Aug 2 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
- 9 1045 Coffee in church
- 1115 Family Service with baptism
- 16 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 23 1045 Coffee in church
- 1115 Family Service with baptism
- 30 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer

Teston

- Aug 2 0945 Family Service
- 6 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 9 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
- 1830 Evensong Bk Cmn Prayer
- 13 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 16 1830 HC Alt Service Book
- 20 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 23 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
- 1830 Evensong Bk Cmn Prayer
- 27 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 30 1830 Songs of Praise and Compline

Wateringbury

- Aug 2 1830 Evensong Bk Cmn Prayer
- 9 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 16 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
- 1115 Family Service
- 23 0930 HC Alt Service Book
- 30 0930 HC Bk Common Prayer

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830  
4 to 7 Aug West Farleigh  
11 to 14 Aug Wateringbury  
18 to 21 Aug Teston  
25 to 28 Aug West Farleigh

If you are having a holiday this year I hope you enjoy a relaxing and interesting time. Spare a prayer for those who are not able to take time off due to work, family commitments or financial problems.

Denys

See you soon, Cheers, Tel.

EVERGREENS Applecore, Charlton Lane  
Tuesday, 11 August.

FRANCES. She's still the same but thanks for all the support and goodwill messages