

# 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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## LOOK FOR THE LIGHT IN THE SHADOWS

A friend gave me a picture that now resides on my study wall. It is of a great valley surrounded by sweeping hills. At its centre lies a lake and a winding path alongside a stream make their way to the stretch of water. It could be morning or evening. The far hills are quite dark and the sky, partly filled with fleecy clouds, is glowing in various shades of pink and blue. If you look with care, you can see light areas within the deepest shadow. Every artist and photographer knows that a picture is made up of light, shade and colour. These three elements give shape and feeling to a picture. Light and colour would have little meaning without the shadows. If this is true for art, it is true for living.

Who knows what kind of picture 1999 will present to the world? There will be, without question, the usual mixture of light, shade and colour in the months that are to come. And, as in the year that is now past, we shall have to look very deeply into the shadow to discern the almost hidden gleams of light that are there.

A thought by an unknown writer for 1999, the last year of the 20th Century.

God never would send you the darkness  
If He felt you could bear the light.  
But you would not cling to His guiding hand  
If the way was always bright;  
And you would not care to walk by faith  
Could you always walk by sight.

*Demps*

## OUR NEW ORGAN

The new church organ was put through its paces at the pre-Christmas services. It was heard in all its glory at the service of lessons and carols on 20 December when the capacity congregation sang heartily to its grand sound.

The total cost of the organ and acoustic system was £25,000. By a huge effort from many generous people, all but £3,000 of this has already been raised and for this the PCC are most grateful. It remains now to finish the task in 1999.

There will be opportunities for everyone to hear the new organ at two concerts in the New Year. The first, on Saturday, 16 Jan at 2.30pm, will be by our own organist, Philip Moore. He will take us on a musical exploration of the organ with a programme to suit all ages. Philip will explain as well as play so we shall learn a lot. It is hoped that all who have helped to raise money will come and the price has been kept to a modest £3.50 or £1.50 for children. Buy your tickets in advance. You may find it cold to queue at the door. Tickets from Lesley Cushing on 812341. Light refreshments will be available.

The second concert is at an early stage of planning but will be the official Inaugural Concert on Saturday, 22 May, at 7.30pm. We have been fortunate in securing the services of Roger Sayer, the organist at Rochester Cathedral, who has performed at prestigious venues such as the Festival Hall.

## MESSAGE from IVOR MASKELL, our VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR

The Maidstone Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is probably the best in Kent though, thank Heaven, West Farleigh has been pretty crime free apart from a few minor incidents. My job, with the help of village volunteers, is to keep it that way. I invite you to join my happy band of crime watchers and become a member of Neighbourhood Watch.

So, what is required of a Neighbourhood Watch member? Simply to keep in touch with me so that I can up-date you on any suspicious goings-on. You can then pass on this information to neighbours. It is a form of village gossip with a good purpose. Membership is not about patrolling and looking for trouble.

Get in touch and help your neighbours. The knowledge that there is an active Neighbourhood Watch in an area is enough to put most criminals off.

Give me a ring on 727264 if you would like to take part.

In addition to all that, the police are bending over backwards to get the co-operation of all of us to fight crime. They have appointed two lady policemen with pagers to take down details of nefarious goings-on at any time. The two ladies and their numbers are:-

Gail Cox 01893 289376

Annette Franklin 01893 542140

## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

On Sunday, 10 January, there will be a Family Service of Thanksgiving for Christmas, starting with coffee in church at 10.45, when all young people are invited to bring along a gift which is particularly special (and portable) and join in the service. (They could bring along a picture of something big e.g. a dolls'house).

## SPORTS REPORT

Never a dull moment this season and this month's results were no exception. Unfortunately most of the goals came into our own net. Farleigh's 1st XI have shared the points away to Staplehurst 2 - 2, lost away to Snodland 2 - 1, had our Headcorn fixture postponed (water-logged pitch) and finally going down 3 - 1 home to The Rose. The 2nds have conceded even more goals but at least have come away with a victory. We started off with our defence leaking like a sponge, finally losing 7 - 1 to Senacre. Next came Take-Off Sports in the Kent Junior Cup, going down 7 - 4 in a ding-dong battle. Our one and only victory followed, a difficult away fixture v Marden in the Tun/Wells Cup. After being 3 - 0 up h/t, then 3 - 3, we finally forced our way into the c/finals, winning 5 - 3. Lastly we endured an uninspiring away match v Lenham, losing 2 - 0 in which we were lucky to get nought! Still, let's not be all doom & gloom; England's just won a test match!

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas raffle. It was very successful. A good time was had by all and it included a new, interesting rendition of traditional carols. - Unlucky for those who didn't get a prize (like me). It's not too late for tickets to our barn dance on Sat, 9 Jan. East Farleigh V/H (near The Bull), 8pm to 12, £4 (no food). Bring your own drinks & sense of humour. Phone 745744. It is rumoured that Neil & Joan Crighton will make a guest appearance. Happy New Year.

Tel

## EVERGREENS

Ridgely, the home of Brenda and Roly Day, Tuesday, 12 Jan, 2.30pm. Come & join us. We were delighted to receive a donation to the funds from the Parish Council. This will be put to very good use

## CAMPAIGNERS

livened up the services leading up to Christmas. They did an action packed Nativity Play on 13 Dec, acted out in a stable specially created for the occasion and vastly assisted by the new sound amplifying system. Then in the Service of Lessons & Carols their voices were heard as never before. There was great support from parents and friends who filled the church and made the start of the Season of Good Will swing.

The new term will start on Thursday, 14 Jan, in the church, 6.45 to 8.15pm. If you are between 5 and 13, join us NOW. Come along any Thursday evening or ring Tony Walsh on 728252, Nick Saunders on 813597 or Helen Swan on 814445.

## SERVICES FOR JANUARY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

### West Farleigh

Jan	3	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
	10	10.45	Coffee in church
		1115	Service of Thanksgiving for Christmas
	17	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	24	1115	Matins
	31	1115	Family Service with Delta Group

### Teston

Jan	3	0945	Family Service
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	7	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	10	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evening Prayer
	14	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	17	0945	Children's Church
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	21	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	24	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evening Prayer
	28	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	31	0945	Children's Church
		1830	Songs of Praise & Compline

### Wateringbury

Jan	3	0930	Matins
	10	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	17	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1115	Family Service
	24	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	31	0930	HC Book Common Prayer

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830

5 to 8	Jan	Teston
12 to 15	Jan	West Farleigh
19 to 22	Jan	Wateringbury
26 to 29	Jan	Teston

## CAROL SINGING

The 15 or so people who went carol singing on 16 Dec. raised £128.30 for the Demelza House Children's Hospice. They sang in the three pubs and at Mill Cottages where they gathered outside Frances's window to her extreme delight. Once again Arthur and Jan at the White House provided welcome refreshments.

## BARMING BRIDGE

At the Parish Council meeting in December, County Councillor Paul Oldham promised to do his best to ensure that the bridge reconstruction was not lost sight of but money was still the problem.