

Life-Line

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

October 1999

No. 295

IT'S THANK YOU FROM ME.....

WELCOME to the new look Life Line!

Being computer-driven rather than compiled on a typewriter, the appearance of our monthly newsletter will by necessity be rather different in the future, but, hopefully, it will continue to include all events of note in the village, in the same light-hearted and informative style set by our previous editor, Jim Patch.

As a relative newcomer to West Farleigh, I will be relying on you, the readers, to keep me informed of anything you would like to see included.

My thanks to Jim for his excellent work over the past 12 years, which I am sure has been greatly appreciated by everyone, and my best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

It will be a hard act to follow, but I will do my best!
Jane Stewart
01622 812562

AND IT'S THANK YOU FROM HIM!

After many years of steady and devoted service as Editor of Life-Line, Jim Patch hands over to our new editor, Jane Stewart.

My most sincere thanks to you, Jim, for de-coding my scrawl and for not cutting too much out of my monthly contributions!

West Farleigh owes you a huge vote of thanks for keeping the local Life-Line open and collating all our bits and pieces over the years. May God bless Frances and your good self in the days that lie ahead.

RAISE THE SONG OF HARVEST HOME

Most people will never have heard of the Revd. R.S. Hawker, Vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall.

But, in 1843, he was inspired to introduce a church service that many of us may believe has much more ancient origins. In a sense, that is true. Lammas (loaf mass) was celebrated in England from Roman times and right through the Middle Ages, with the blessing of the bread made from the first ripe corn. This special bread was then used in the Holy Communion which took place on August 1.

The Revd. Hawker discovered the old service of Lammas that had long faded away, revised it and produced the first Harvest Thanksgiving of modern times. In the C of E and Free churches, this annual act of worship has found a place on the calendar, usually in

September or October. These are services of celebration and thanksgiving, but farmers and those who work on the land may sometimes wonder that they have to celebrate these days, as the farming industry passes through a time of depression. In this Benefice, we are surrounded by farmlands on both sides of the Medway. If you attend one of our Harvest Thanksgivings (and I hope you will!), remember not only to give thanks for our daily bread and the fruits of the land, but offer a prayer for those who work the land, their families and their futures.

Denys Gower, Rector

NICK'S TREK

'Allo 'allo 'allo - what's all this then? Nick (Nick) Saunders from Church Lane has been spotted acting VERY suspiciously..... wandering around the highways and byways laden with a very heavy rucksack. On closer investigation, this aforementioned awag bag contained no less than a vast amount of valuablehousebricks. Yes, that's right - bricks.

The reason is actually quite simple. Nick is in training for a forthcoming trip to hike half way round the Himalayas - well, six days-worth of them, at any rate.

The venture, aptly named the Nepal Challenge, has been organised by the YHA and Nick is one of 90 like-minded souls who have decided to give up their time - and backs - in mid-November to help raise cash for disadvantaged children and young people.

For the geographers among you, Nick will be trekking through the Helambu region of the Himalayas, close to Kathmandu, using tracks only accessible on foot, with narrow ridges and steep climbs. (Eek!) The temperature at night often falls well below zero - but then again, Nick is well-used West Farleigh in Winter and has an ample supply of thick woolly socks.

Nick is aiming to raise at least £2,000 and is well on his way to the total, but any further contributions will be welcomed with open arms (and wallet.) He can be contacted on 813597 or at 1, Court Lodge Cottage, next to the church. After weeks of toil and sweat carting that rucksack around, he deserves all the help he can get!

SPORTS REPORT

Our Cricket Team is rapidly finishing its season, playing the final game on Saturday Sept 25, away to Hunton. All last month's games were friendlies and a good time was had by all. For the record, we had narrow defeats v Sissinghurst and Benenden but victory over Wateringbury. Next season is already on our minds as we have been asked, if possible, to field two teams to play league cricket which means forming a 1st XI. The sooner we can organise this the better, so if there is anyone who would like to play cricket or knows of anyone who might be interested, please get in touch!

Our football teams have now begun their league programmes and have started well and, with a little luck, could have done better still. The 1st XI started with two draws 1-1 and 3-3 v Lashings and Nu-Venture, but could have easily had more points with luck on their side. The 2nd XI played away to Take-Off Sports and came away with a terrific 2-1 victory, thanks to hard work and a good all-round team display, marshalled excellently at the back by new skipper Tom Payne. Hopefully, next month's results will continue this fine start.

As ever, local support would be much appreciated.

Many thanks to Mr R.L. Day for donating a cash incentive for Farleighs 1st XI opening game of the season and I'm sure it's only coincidence that we didn't lose our first match for many years!

Diary date - our annual Race Night is on Saturday, November 20th, Hunton Village Hall.

Ton-Up winners: August: 145 - Norma Mercer £10 September: 110 - Matt Smith
44 - Terry Baines £5 72 - Mr P Bissenden
64 - Jack Martin £5 138 - Mrs D Board

FLOWERS AND MUSIC

DON'T forget the Festival of Flowers and Music at the Church from October 8-10. On the Friday, the church will be open from 2 - 5pm for visitors to enjoy the floral displays and again on the Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

On Saturday October 9, starting at 7.30pm, there will be "Music for All" in a concert by Peter Bonnert, a former theatre organist who is now resident maestro at East Farleigh Church.

The concert will include a variety of family favourites, including songs from the shows, Latin American, novelty numbers and classics. Tickets, priced £5 for adults and £2.50 for U16s, include glass of wine or soft drink, are available from Mollie Underdown on 813000 or Helen Swan on 814445.

Sunday October 10 is our Harvest Festival and there will be a family service at 11.15am, following the usual pre-service coffee in church from 10.45am.

This will be another marvellous opportunity to see the church in full bloom and in action! The church will remain open to visitors throughout the day until 5pm, with refreshments, cakes and plants for sale.

Donations of cakes and buns, savouries and sausage rolls, as well as items for the plant sale will be most welcome and can be left at the church from 10am on the Friday or at Helen Swan's home, Appledore, in Charlton Lane.

DIARY DATE Make an early note of Saturday, November 13 - the date of this year's village Christmas craft fair, from 10am-12 noon in church. There promises to be a mouth-watering array of jams, chutneys and home-made preserves, as well as pretty hand-made cards, decoupage pictures and the rare opportunity to buy a West Farleigh Souvenir Millennium calendar! All this, plus the usual raffles, tombolas, tasty cakes, fun and games!

HELEN BARTON

It is with great sadness Lifeline records the unexpected and untimely death, on September 4, of Helen Barton. Although a relative newcomer to the village, Helen had made many friends in both West and East Farleigh, where her son Matthew went to playgroup and, latterly, East Farleigh School. Helen was always cheerful and her larger-than-life personality endeared her to everyone she met. Her contribution to village life - particularly in 'Farleigh New Town' - will be greatly missed.

COUNCIL NEWS

There is a vacancy for a parish councillor, following the recent resignation of Coun Martin. If you would like to know what is going on in your village and have your say in its future, contact parish clerk David Swan on 814445 or parish council chairman Don Goodwin on 812035, for more information about this very important role.

SEVENTIES songsters Chicory Tip will be playing live at the Good Intent, Farleigh Green, on Wednesday, October 13.

All those who fancy a night of nostalgia should dig out their purple flares and get on down (or up, as the case may be!) to join in the fun, which kicks off around 8.30pm.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER WEST FARLEIGH

3 8.00 HC Common Prayer (Rev. Wendy Cranidge)
10 11.15 Family Service - Harvest
17 9.30 HC Alt. Service Book
24 11.15 Matins
31 11.15 Family Service

TESTON

3 9.45 Family Service - Harvest
6.30 Harvest Thanksgiving (Dawn Page)

10 8.00 HC Common Prayer
9.45 Children's Church
6.30 Evensong

17 9.45 Children's Church
6.30 HC Alt. Service Book

24 8.00 HC Common Prayer
9.45 Children's Church
6.30 Evensong

31 9.45 Children's Church
6.30 Songs of Praise/Compline

WATERINGBURY

OCT

3 9.30 Matins (Alastair Byron)
10 9.30 HC Alt. Service Book
17 8.00 HC Book Common Prayer
11.15 Family Service Songs of Praise
24 9.30 HC Alt. Service Book
31 9.30 HC Common Prayer

Morning prayer, Tuesday to Friday at 8.30am

12-15 Oct West Farleigh
19-22 (not 21st) Teston

26-29 (not 28th) Wateringbury

THANK YOU to all those who kindly looked after our Church Services while we were away

THE EVERGREENS meet this month on Tuesday, October 12th at 2.30pm, a Sundowner, Charlton Lane, the home of Anne and Graeme McNaughton. If you are Over 60 and would like a cup of tea and a natter, please come and join us. Call Helen Swan on 814445 for more details or for a lift.