

Life-Line

The FREE
monthly
news sheet for
West Farleigh

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

Editor: Jane Stewart, 2 Court Lodge Cottage, Lower Road, West Farleigh. Tel: 01622 812562

March 2001

No. 312

LARRY JOHNSON - MARATHON MAN!

West Farleigh's Larry Johnson is in training for the London Marathon - to help raise funds for the charity which helped to save his daughter's life.

Grandad Larry (he was a child bride!!) has been spied running and cycling around the village in a bid to get fit for the Marathon, which takes place in London - as you might expect! - on April 22.

Larry's eldest daughter Rebecca was found to have cancer 18 months ago during a routine operation - a milestone which was to leave an indelible mark on the close-knit family.

Rebecca, at just 25 years old, underwent a full hysterectomy, followed by painful radiotherapy, leaving her unable to have any more children. However, when she vowed to run in this year's Marathon to help the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Larry had no hesitation in saying he would join her. Sadly, Larry's spirit may have been will-

ing, but his flesh was a bit out of practice - hence the evening runs from Farleigh to Barming and back and a practice entry in the Paddock Wood Half-Marathon on April 1.

Larry - not your run-of-the-mill fitness freak, but not in bad shape - isn't unused to hard work, but he admitted he has never run a Marathon before.

He said: "When Becky said she was going to do it, I had to say I would go along with her. She has been through so much, it's the least I can do."

Rebecca and husband Nigel now live in Allington with their son Stewart, aged three.

Larry hopes people in West Farleigh will sponsor him for his 'Marathon effort' to help people like Becky, whose lives have been affected - indeed, devastated - by cancer. Please call him on 01622 812580 to pledge your support.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the church on Monday March 5, starting at 7.30pm. The agenda for the meeting is on the village notice boards, copies and further information are available from Parish Councillors or from the Clerk, David Swan, on 814445. This is the only chance in the year that people in the village can raise matters directly with the Parish Councillors and everyone is welcome. Be there - or forever hold your peace, as they say!

PLEA TO GARDENERS

Presuming the wet winter weather will one day come to an end, gardeners should soon be out and about preparing their plots for the summer. The Church is planning to hold its annual Plant Sale in early May and is appealing to anyone planting seeds - flowers or veg. - in the next few weeks to sow an extra tray to donate to this highly popular event. Many thanks!
NB. The Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council takes place on Tuesday, March 27, in Church, at 8pm. All parishioners welcome.

LENT - A TESTING TIME?

Throughout March, and up to Easter, we are in the season of Lent. So, what's the point of Lent? We know it's supposed to be a time of doing without things; but why should we? After all life's hard enough anyway, isn't it? We try to observe Lent for two reasons: firstly to remind ourselves of the testing which Jesus experienced before commencing His ministry. Secondly, in order to discipline ourselves a little. Life is full of temptations; it is good for us to attempt to train ourselves in order to withstand these. The temptations which Jesus went through during His forty days in the arid Galilean desert were of the same kind which we encounter, but of course they were on a different scale and they were personal for Jesus. Temptations usually are very personal: a temptation for one person is not necessarily the same for another. So what were these special temptations for Jesus? Out there in the desert He became extremely hungry, and if He just turned one or two of those little round stones into some bread rolls it wouldn't really hurt, would it? But yes, Jesus reminds Himself that it is not material things which matter, but it is our relationship with God which should come first, and Jesus knew that His whole mission to the world depended on His doing what God wanted and not what was convenient for Him. The other two temptations of Jesus involved taking short cuts to achieve His earthly goals: instead of laboriously going round the country teaching and healing, why not a few well publicised stunts that would show everyone that He was obviously the Son of God. For instance, if He jumped off the highest tower of the temple and came to no harm, then everyone would immediately know how important He was. Or perhaps He could achieve what He had been sent to do by a few compromises with the forces of darkness: "well I know this isn't really right, but it won't hurt just this once" that sort of thing. But Jesus did not compromise, He did not give in, He stood firm and it was very tough for Him. But it was another of His examples to us as Christians: we need always to put God first, and to be on our guard against materialism, short cuts, compromises. Lent is an opportunity for us to put some of this into practice.

Hugh Grainger, Lay Reader

INSTRUMENTS WANTED!

The Children's 'Band' has become a popular feature of the Family Service on the second Sunday of each month. However, more instruments are needed for visitors or children who do not have their own. If you have any tambourines, bells, rattles, drums etc. that your children no longer use (or you would be pleased to see 'quietly' disappear!!) Hugh Grainger and Helen Swan will be delighted to relieve you of them, to add to church resources.



WHIST AID

The recent Whist Drive at David and Helen Swan's proved to be a jolly relaxed evening - with more bumbling amateurs present than card sharks! However, well over £100 was raised for the Indian Earthquake Appeal, largely thanks to the Chancellor's Gift Aid scheme and to those who donated even though they could not be present.

CARITAS IN CONCERT

The popular group Caritas will be performing at Wateringbury Church on Saturday, April 28, to raise money for the Church Toilet Fund.

The group has a varied programme, including Songs from the Shows and Italian Opera. The concert begins at 7.30pm. Tickets, to include drinks and light bites, are £10 for adults and £5 for children, available from Ros on 813032, Audrey on 01732 846540 or from Wateringbury Post Office.

CREATE HAYDN'S CREATION



Would-be performers are invited along to sing together in a dramatic performance of Haydn's Creation at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday, June 9. Rehearsals begin at 4.30pm, with the concert itself at 7.45pm. Singers' tickets are £10, audience tickets £5, with all proceeds going towards International Care and Relief, which helps young people in developing countries. For further details or to book, call 01892 519619.

DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for inclusion in the April 2001 issue of Life-Line to the Editor by **March 25th**. Thank you!

CAMPAIGNERS

The Junos have been studying the Creation and discussing how we can look after the world we live in. Look out for the posters they have made around the village! The Inters have been studying the Reformation, with the help of Val Grainger, and finding out how it affected the Christian religion in this country and, in particular, how it affected our church, here in West Farleigh. The Inters will be going on a trip to Canterbury, visiting the Canterbury Tales, the Cathedral and Laserworld - the latter for a little light relief!

We are still looking for helpers. Even if you can only spare one or two evenings per term, it would share the load and we would appreciate your help. Please ring Sue or Tony Walsh on 728252.

EVENING ALTERNATIVE

This lively Service, with lively music, for lively people who want to live life to the full, next takes place on Sunday, March 4, at 6.00pm.

Come and enjoy the band and learn, in an informal way, how we can do God's will. You will be welcome to join us for coffee, biccies and a natter afterwards.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

The 11.15am Service at All Saints on Sunday, March 25 will be a special Mothering Sunday Service.

It will be based on the Family Service, with the church young people, the Campaigners, taking part in the proceedings. Everybody is welcome - coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand.

LENTEN DISCUSSIONS

The Housegroup invite you join them during Lent to discuss 'Issues for Today.' The meetings, at Appledore, Charlton Lane, begin at 8.00pm and finish promptly at 9.30pm - so you won't lose any beauty sleep!

Discussions are relaxed and friendly and often amusing. Do come along to see if the Bible has relevant things to say about today's issues. If you have never been to a House Group or Lent Course, this is the place to start! Topics are: Wednesday March 7: In Pastures Green (The Environment); Wednesday March 21: No Place Like Home (Housing); Wednesday April 4: Would you Believe It! (The Media).

FARLEIGHS W.I.

Helen Ball could convert any couch potatoes with her Keep Fit Fun classes and she certainly had the February meeting going with a swing!

The action continues this month, with a talk on The Tiller Girls, with Jackie Simmonds, on March 14, in the Farleighs Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Our own song and dance group recently entertained Coxheath senior citizens and raised £50 for Demelza House while other members are busy baking for the Maidstone Hospice Coffee Morning. Collection points are at Elsie Percival and Joy Wiltshire's homes on March 16. New members always welcome - further information from Pam Clark on 01622 726919.

CONGRATULATIONS

They've been together 60 years and it don't seem a day too long! I am sure everyone will join together in congratulating Jean and Ron Kemp, of Rookery Row, who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on March 8. Jean and Ron were married at Igtham Church during the War and first came to West Farleigh in 1947,

where they lived in Court Lodge Cottages in Church Lane (it would have been next door to your editor - had she been around then!), working for Dr Moorlock. They moved to Barming in 1952 and then to Chatham, before returning to the village in 1967, chiefly because of Ron's great love of the village cricket team, for whom he played for almost 20 years.

Ron was well-known for his fast bowling (sounds like Tel could do with him back on the team!) and was also team Captain for several years.

The couple have been at their present address now for 34 years and wishing them well on their special day will be sons Derek and Robin, three grandsons and great granddaughter Bethany.

EVERGREENS

The Evergreens will be meeting on Tuesday March 13, from 2.30pm at Ridgely, Charlton Lane, the home of Brenda and Roly Day. Do come and join us for a natter and tea. If you would like a lift please phone Stuart Dyer on 812268.

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Jane Walshes at km

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SPORTS REPORT

FOOTBALL

Our first X1, although they started badly, have had a good month.

We started off by losing 2-1 away to Wheatsheaf, but had two fine wins versus Lashings - 4-3 and 5-1 - and, finally, a 3-1 away win against Ditton.

Thanks to this month's results, we now have a secure league position and even an outside chance of promotion!!

The 2nd X1 have also gained some vital league points this month.

First, we defeated Addington, 4-1 and had a marvellous 5-0 thrashing of highly-placed Leeds, before losing 1-0 to leaders Barming- sadly, we missed a penalty in the last minute!

100 CLUB

If anyone would like to join our 100 Club, it's only £6 a year - and there are cash prizes every month. Please get in touch with me for details.

CRICKET

We are still short of volunteers for this coming season - don't be shy, give me a ring!

The Cricket Club AGM will be held on Thursday, March 8, at the Bull, East Farleigh - please come and join us if you can!

Cheers,

Tel (M/S 745744)

WASTE FREIGHTER

The Freighter will be at the Village Green on Sunday, March 31, from 2.00pm to 3.15pm

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Thieves struck in Charlton Lane on the night of February 6, when they broke into a van parked in Rookery Row, stealing a quantity of tools. From their method of operation, it would appear that the thieves were professional. Car theft and theft from cars is rife in the Maidstone area. If possible immobilise your vehicle and ensure it is alarmed. Never leave valuables in sight.

Ivor Maskell, Area Co-ordinator.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2001

WEST FARLEIGH

- 4 8.00am BCP Holy Communion -
Geoff Ellmore
6.00pm Evening Alternative
11 11.15am Family Service- Hugh Grainger
18 9.30am ASB Holy Communion -
Rev Malcolm Perkins
25 11.15am Mothering Sunday - Hugh
Grainger

NB: Coffee and biscuits are always served prior to the 11.15am Family Service - join us from 10.45am.

TESTON

- 4 9.45am Family Service - Dawn Page
6.30pm ASB Holy Communion
11 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.45am Childrens Church
6.30pm BCP Evensong
18 9.45am Childrens Church
6.30pm ASB Holy Communion
25 8.00am BCP HC
3.30pm BCP Mothering Sunday Service

WATERINGBURY

- 4 9.30am Matins
11 9.30am ASB HC
18 8am BCP Holy Communion
11.15am Praise & Thanksgiving
25 9.30am ASB HC

THE INTERREGNUM

If you need assistance with arrangements for funerals, weddings, baptisms, home and hospital visits or communion during the Interregnum, please contact one of the lay ministers: Hugh Grainger 820305 or Helen Swan 814445.



EAST FARLEIGH PRE-SCHOOL

has a limited number of places available for children aged two and a half upwards for three sessions a week. If you would like more information or to visit, please call 726315. There pre-school also holds a waiting list for younger children. If you are DPP / NNEB or equivalent qualified, the pre-school is looking for an assistant for 2-3 sessions each week - contact Fiona Holden on 726142.