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."

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BIRDWATCHER IN SEARCH OF BIG CATS!

The Hills are alive with the sound of Samba!

West Farleigh's Tim Hill has been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Mexico to study the region's Big Cats.

Mr Hill, a keen birdwatcher, is to spend two weeks in the Tropical rainforests helping to catalogue species such as pumas, jaguars and ocelots, as part of an international Earthwatch Expedition.

The expedition, for people aged Over 50 who have an interest in natural history, is being funded jointly by the Millennium Commission and Royal Sun Alliance.

Mr Hill, a sidesman at All Saints Church, has always been interested in the environment and heard about the project during a natural history programme on Radio 4.

He said: "There are all kinds of ongoing projects, from whale watching to plant preservation and places are still available on some of them for anyone who is interested."

Mr Hill, who speaks fluent Spanish, flies out to Mexico later this month along with five more volunteers sponsored by the Millennium Commission, plus two University professors.

His work will involve trekking deep into the jungle early each morning, before the heat of the day, and again in the evening. It will be the group's task to monitor the big cats which have been captured in specially-set traps, logging their details and, where necessary, marking their ears to assist future tracking. On his return, he will be seeking suggestions as to how he can assist West Farleigh with a project relating to natural history and the environment.

PLANT SALE - Sunday May 13th

Look out for lots of bargains and unusual species at the annual West Farleigh Plant Sale. Hopefully taking place on the Cricket Field, from 2pm, (or on The Green, if foot and mouth restrictions prohibit), there will be the usual array of plants, herbs, annuals and perennials to keep your gardens in bloom this summer (should it ever arrive). Also, the ever-popular cake stall, with lots of home-made goodies, books, bric-a-brac, children's tombola and raffle - donations for stalls and prizes will be gratefully received on the day or to any member of the PCC.

656338 Mike Atkins Meadow View

BLOW ME KANGAROO DOWN, SPORT!

Barely had the ink dried on our recent tale of a Canadian Mountie heading here to track down his ancestors, than a story landed of some intrepid Antipodeans hoping to do precisely the same thing!

Bob Fry and his wife Kaye, from Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia, are planning a visit to the UK in September, in a bid to track down details of their ancestors, who migrated to the Southern Hemisphere in 1839. Mr Fry has already amassed information going back a quarter of a century and has been in touch with Parish Clerk David Swan and Churchwarden John Evans regarding checking out the Church records.

Mr Fry is particularly interested in people with the surnames Fry, Dunk or Furminger, as he is descended from William Fry and Elizabeth Dunk, who lived in West Farleigh prior to their migration, although they were married at Barming Church. Mr Fry already knows that William's father was born in East Peckham in 1771 and his mother, Sarah Furminger, was born in West Farleigh in December 1772.

He was inspired to contact David Swan via e-mail after discovering details of West Farleigh on the vilLage website, about which he was very complimentary (see story below)

Mr Fry said: "I am planning to visit West Farleigh a few times during out visit and hopefully will come away a much happier and wiser man!"

YOUR CHURCH - SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SERVICES

COMMON WORSHIP is the term given by the Anglican Church to its new forms of Services which were to be implemented at the end of last year. In common with all other churches across the country, All Saints West Farleigh must take action on this. From May onwards some changes will be made in the structure of our regular services. The PCC have decided that the 8am Communion will remain the same as it has always been. There will however be some minor alterations to the Family Service as also to the 9.30 Eucharist Service. The service known as Matins will change the most: the opening will resemble the Family Service, but some of the Canticles will be retained as will the two readings. The Family Service will become known as Morning Worship (All Age), and the new form of Matins will be known as Morning Worship (Traditional). The language used in the 8am Communion Service will remain traditional, but all other services will contain contemporary language. In planning the changes it is difficult to know what is most acceptable to people given the constraints which we are currently under; but surely our objective should be always to make our services as helpful and relevant as possible for those who attend them. We should be trying to enable the congregations of All Saints to draw a little closer to God through Jesus Christ, acknowledging that every individual has their own preferences. So therefore the PCC has agreed that it will review the situation in October and make any appropriate alterations.

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints about the changes, it would be helpful if you could make these known to myself, Helen Swan or to any member of the P.C.C. between now and October.

Hugh Grainger, Lay Reader

TESTON TOURS

Forthcoming trips include: Bruges & World War I battlefields; Hampton Court Palace Flower Show; Althorp House & Estate; Limassol, Cyprus. For further details, call Alan Hayes on Teston 812132.

COMING SOON

At West Farleigh cricket ground, on Friday June 22, starting at 6.30pm, a friendly cricket match.

West Farleigh v Wateringbury

EVENING ALTERNATIVE

A seat is reserved for you at our next Evening Alternative on Sunday May 6 at 6.00 pm.

Do come and join in with our lively and modern worship. There will be some musicians in the band making their debut - they need your encouragement ! Church services definitely do not have to be serious, quiet and traditional. So, if you fancy something a little different, come along on Sunday and see if this is your cup of tea! Our young people seem to enjoy the Services and many 50-somethings also come along regularly, as do a few Over 70s!

CAMPAIGNERS

The Campaigners were presented with their awards, badges and certificates at a special family service on April 29, which was followed by a shared lunch. The Campaigners are keenly awaiting the opening of the footpaths so that they can get out and about this term. The Church is great in the Winter months, but the children do look forward to the Summer term when they can be outside and have fun with their parachute and play games. The group also hopes to go on its planned River Walk to Tonbridge (postponed last term due to Foot and Mouth). However, never fear - the camp WILL happen, as it is on private non-agricultural land. Let's just hope the rains have stopped by then!

HOUSE GROUP

We are sorry that Ian and Claire Williams are no longer able to come along but we are really pleased to have two new members. If you fancy an evening away from the kids come and relax with us, and join in our sometimes-controversial discussions. May meetings are on Wednesdays May 2 and May 16, both starting at 8.00 pm at Appledore Charlton Lane.

EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had a very enjoyable visit to Great Comp Gardens in April. As is usual for our outings, it rained! - but only when we were inside having tea. The Magnolias were at their peak and the Camellias were smothered with flowers - the garden looked absolutely splendid. This month, we are staying closer to home. Lesley Cushing has invited us to Rose Cottage (next to the Good Intent), where she too has a splendid garden, although not quite on the same scale! However, the views are definitely better! Feel free to join us on Tuesday May 8 at 2.30 pm.

On June 12, we have another outing, this time out on the River Medway on the Kingswear Castle paddle steamer. We will start out from the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, going downstream past Upnor Castle. Everyone is welcome and if you fancy joining us for this trip phone Helen on 814445 for more details.

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH - THOUGHTS OF A CHURCHWARDEN

The Church of England, especially in rural areas, is in slow decline. Buildings are becoming more costly to maintain as congregations are dwindling. Clergy are growing older, becoming spread more thinly, are less influential in communities and less relevant to many people's lives. These trends have not left us untouched.

It could be argued that a separate Church in West Farleigh is redundant and that we should amalgamate with some other local church. Yet, most people in the village - even those who do not regularly go to church - would hate that to happen. The way forward has been discussed at length and everyone has been given the opportunity to express his or her point of view. Having achieved the best concensus that we can, we must now start to implement our plans.

- We must move ahead with the Diocese to reorganise the Benefice, we must learn how to best to contribute to the new arrangements and how best to benefit from them.
- We must find ways of encouraging the involvement of youth in church life, alongside the traditional of us
- We must press ahead with plans to change the layout of the church to fulfil its broadening requirements.

We can only achieve these goals by speaking openly, by listening and respecting different opinions. Most importantly, when we arrive at the best concensus we can, we must all learn to accept it, even if it was not our own particular choice. (extract from Dr John Evans' report to the Annual Parochial Church Council.)

SPORTS REPORT

FOOTBALL

Forget the premiership - if you want excitement, then come and watch West Farleigh 1st XI in their remaining games of the season!!

After a terrific run of results last month, we have given ourselves a tremendous chance of going up at the end of the season!

Starting with a 1-1 draw against Malgo, followed by great victories over Safeways 3-2 and Staplehurst, our promotion rivals, 5-2, then another 1-1 draw against Ditton (in which we had all the play, but sadly couldn't convert our chances) things are certainly looking up!

Our final four games are against Larkfield (Away), on May 5, Sutton Valence (double fixture) on May 12 and finally against Wheatsheaf - on a date to be arranged.

Our 2nd XI have also done well, for different reasons. We have now secured our 2nd Division status for next season which is a great achievement.

Our results were: an all-important 2-1 victory over strugglers Zeneca; a 3-1 defeat against first-placed Barming and 6-3 defeat against second-placed The Rose. Here's hoping this time next month we will still be celebrating!

CRICKET

Our cricket season was due to start on April 28 but the wet weather has put paid to that. Hopefully, things will be underway soon.....

If anyone would like a fixture card, please call me.

SOCIAL

Finally, it's not too late if you would like to come along - or, even better, bring a team (six people) - to our Wine and Wisdom evening at Hunton Village Hall on May 5. Tickets are £5 per person and include food and wine. Again, please give me a call.

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.

Cheers,

Tel (M/S 745744)

DEADLINE

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

SERVICES FOR MAY 2001

WEST FARLEIGH

6 8.00am Communion
6.00pm Evening Alternative
13 11.15amMorning Worship
20 9.30am Eucharist –Rev M Perkins
27 11.15am Morning Worship - H Grainger

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

TESTON

6 9.45am Celebration Praise
13 8.00am BCP HC
9.45am Children's Church
6.30pm BCP Evensong
20 9.45am Children's Church
6.30pm ASB HC
27 8.00am BCP HC
9.45am Children's Church
6.30pm BCP Evensong

WATERINGBURY

6 9.30am Matins
13 9.30 ASB Holy Communion– M Perkins
20 11.15am Praise & Thanksgiving
@ Manor Farm, Old Road
27 9.30am ASB– Malcolm Perkins

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.

WATERINGBURY DIARY DATES

Wateringbury Church is leading the service in the Chapel at the Heart of Kent Hospice at 3.30pm on Sunday, June 3. Anyone from West Farleigh will be welcome to lend their voices and support.

Also, on Saturday, June 16, the Church is hosting a concert by the Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5. Contact Christine Byron on 812023for further details on either of the above.