

# 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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No. 321

## STORMY WATERS OVER BARMING BRIDGE PROPOSALS

RESIDENTS in St Helen's Lane are planning to draw up a petition against the proposed reopening of Barming Bridge.

The old wooden bridge at Barming was demolished three years ago, after being declared unsafe for traffic, since which time the only crossing on St Helen's Lane has been a pedestrian footbridge.

However, Kent County Council does have plans to reinstate a single-carriageway bridge for traffic.

KCC's assistant bridge manager David Mountford confirmed that a new bridge was in the council's 10-year plan, but stressed it would not be built before 2003/4 "at the earliest."

Most of the county's budget is currently committed to re-

inforcing bridges over roads and railways, as well as rivers, in Kent in line with EC regulations.

Once this work has been completed, KCC will again be able to turn its attention to pressing local issues.

Mr Mountford said: "The closure of Barming bridge has always been an interim measure and the route will be opened again to traffic in the future."

But Michael Taylor, of St Helen's Cottages, who is to co-ordinate the petition, along with his neighbours, said:

"This would be a disaster for the area, which is now listed as part of a pleasant, traffic-free walk. The road is barely wide enough for one car, with few suitable passing places, and re-opening of the bridge would only lead to an increased number of accidents."

## CHARITABLE GIVING IN WEST FARLEIGH

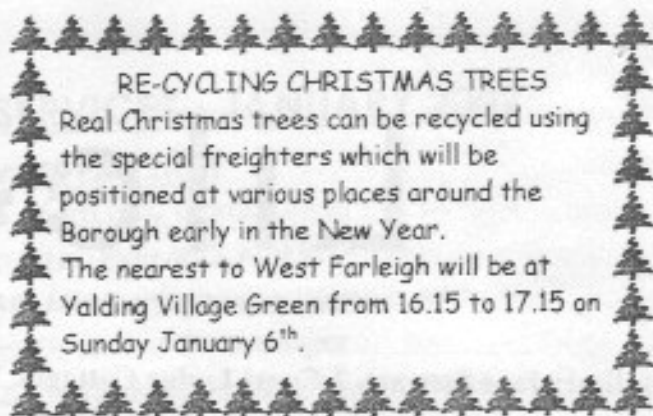
Although All Saints Church needs to raise a large sum of money for the rewiring and other reordering works, we still look outwards at the wider community and try to help where possible. A group of parishioners (somewhat depleted in numbers this year) went carol-singing around the village pubs and raised £170.19 for Demelza House Children's Hospice. The collections at the Carol Service and the Remembrance Sunday Service are also donated to charity and the Campaigner's group raised £256.00 for Children in Need. The church added to this from its own funds and has donated a total of 781.00 to charities at home and abroad, distributed in the following way:

Sight Savers International	£50.00	The Bishops Mission to Harare	£100.00
The Church Urban Fund	£50.00	King George V Fund for Sailors	£50.00
Demelza House Children's Hospice	£200.00	The Heart of Kent Hospice	£75.00
Children in Need	£256.00		

All these charities are devoted to giving practical help to those far less fortunate than we are and the PCC would like to thank all those who have supported us during the last year.

## BABYSITTING CIRCLE

Your Editor would like to set up a Farleighs Sitting Circle for all those mums and dads in the village who could do with a helping hand from time to time and might be short of relatives living locally. The circle would operate on a token system and no money would change hands, apart from a minimal registration fee to cover admin. If anyone is interested, please call Jane on 812562 asap.



### RE-CYCLING CHRISTMAS TREES

Real Christmas trees can be recycled using the special freighters which will be positioned at various places around the Borough early in the New Year. The nearest to West Farleigh will be at Yalding Village Green from 16.15 to 17.15 on Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## EVERGREENS

The Evergreens had a very successful Christmas lunch at the WI Hall, East Farleigh, masterminded by Anne McNaughton, who was ably assisted by many helpers.

Pippa Wakefield and Buri Balston accompanied the Carol singing and Frank Underdown entertained us with some jolly music hall songs. We were very pleased that Jim and Frances Patch were able to join us and we hope that they enjoyed themselves.

The January meeting is on Tuesday 8th January 2.30 at Sundowner, Charlton Lane (the home of Anne McNaughton)

## FARLEIGH FUN FOR OVER 50s

Are you free on Wednesday afternoons? If so, you are invited along to the Farleigh Club (formerly the Working Men's Club) on Lower Road, East Farleigh from 2-4 pm., when you can play table tennis, darts, cards or have a go at short mat bowls, or just have a cup of tea and a chat.

It's only £1.50 per session and the group would be delighted to see new people from West Farleigh.



## CAMPAIGNERS

December got off to a flying start with our Nativity Play. Our "Spice Guy" kings and their dancing pages had to be the highlight, but all the Campaigners played their parts really well and we are extremely proud of them all.

We had a church full of parents and grand parents but very few other villagers or regular congregation, which was disappointing for the children and the leaders. You missed a treat!

The Junos enjoyed a Christmas party at East Farleigh Church Hall and the Inters went ice skating at Gillingham to celebrate the end of term. Great fun was had by all. We were sorry to say goodbye to Janice Lawrence who is unable to continue helping due to family commitments BUT we are pleased to welcome Sue Goodall who is coming along regularly to help.

This term begins on Thursday 17th January. The leaders are using Thursday 10th January as a planning evening.

The Inters will be finishing and putting up the bird boxes they have made. They will also starting a new Campaign "Are You Streetwise" for which we will be bringing in specialist people. We hope the young people will enjoy these sessions and learn from them.



## PASTORAL LETTER FOR JANUARY 2002

A new year, new challenges, new hopes; and sadly, but inevitably, new fears. We all have to face this as individuals, but it is also apt from the perspective of our church in West Farleigh. On December 10, interviews were held for a new vicar to assist Roger Castle in the Coxheath Benefice. Only one applicant eventually attended for interview on the day: a good applicant, whom most of the panel liked; unfortunately he phoned up the next day to say he did not wish to come. He felt a younger man would be more suitable. So we go into the new year still short handed at All Saints. But are we down-hearted? No, certainly not! We do still find that, somehow too much is being demanded from too few; but we have advantages such as greater freedom in our decision making, and closer communications than probably would be possible with an incumbent in post. So often, in life, it is the difficulties and setbacks which produce the most forward movement; the most growth. This may sound contradictory, but if everything is going smoothly, it can actually slow down progress and, at worst, produce stagnation. So we need to try and see difficulties and disappointments, not as setbacks, but as opportunities. We should be careful to think of this growth and progress, not merely in practical, material terms. We should also think of it in terms of other important areas of our lives: the development of our character, of our knowledge and skills, of our understanding of others, and above all our faith. It is in times of trial that we often rediscover our need for God: His help, His love. We have to view the future, the new year, with confidence that, if we can only trust Him and be faithful, then God will not let us down. This is true of our church, and it is true of every one of us as individuals.

*Hugh Grainger, Lay Reader.*

### **HOUSEGROUP**

The January meetings are on: Wednesday 16th January at 8pm and Wednesday 30th January 8pm at Appledore, Charlton Lane. We will be continuing to think about "How can we find God in our busyness?"

### **HOSTESSES WANTED !!**

The Evergreens would be very pleased if you would be kind enough to host one of their meetings.

You need a room that will seat around 16 people. That's All !!

The Evergreens will provide the crockery, sandwiches and cakes. The meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. If you are able to help, Helen (814445) would be pleased to hear from you. At the moment, the group has only two winter venues and doesn't want to overburden its hosts!

### **LAST CHANCE FOR TALENTS TO SHINE!**

As part of the Church drive to raise funds in 2001, it was agreed that members of the PCC (and anyone else who felt so inclined) would raise a minimum of £30 by performing some task or talent close to their heart. Among the ensuing efforts, cards have been sold, bird-boxes made, barbecues stocked and cakes baked. The PCC has agreed to extend the date for 'efforts' to Easter, so if anyone would like to organise an event or do some good deed to raise funds in the meantime, all donations will be gratefully received!

### WEEKEND FREIGHTER SERVICE

The freighter will be by the Green on Saturday 26th January from 11.15am to 12.15pm

## SPORTS REPORT

### FOOTBALL

Not many games played this last month, with the 1st XI still holding their own and the 2nds continuing their impressive league form. Our 1st XI began with a disappointing 2-0 defeat versus Lenham but followed that with a deserved 3-2 victory over Malling.

The 2nd XI again only played two games, firstly losing 4-2 away to Hawkhurst in the Kent Junior Cup but following it up with a terrific 6-2 drubbing of East Malling, which enabled us to finish the year in our highest ever position - 2nd in the second division.

Let's hope we're still there at the end of the season.

I'm writing this the morning after New Year's Eve, so apologise for the lack of usual content and wit....

Here's hoping I recover and will be 'normal' again next month!

Hoping my reader has a very happy and peaceful New Year,

Cheers,

Tel

(M/stone 745744)

## CHRISTMAS FAIR UPDATE

A further £100 has been raised from sales of cards, calendars, tea towels and produce, bringing this year's total raised to £800.

Rumour has it one of the calendars has even found its way to Ringstedt!

A big thank you again to everyone for their support!

## DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for inclusion in the February 2002 issue of Life-Line to the Editor by **January 24th**. Thank you!

## SERVICES - JANUARY 2002

### WEST FARLEIGH

6 8am Holy Communion - G. Ellmore  
(NO EVENING ALTERNATIVE)

13 11.15am Morning Worship AA\* -  
H. Grainger

20 9.30am Eucharist - Rev. M. Perkins

27 11.15 Morning Worship T\* - H. Grainger

AA\* - All Age (formerly Family Service)

T\* - Traditional (formerly Matins)

**NB: Coffee and biscuits are served prior to the 11.15am All Age Morning Worship**

### 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.

### EVENING ALTERNATIVE

There will not be an Evening Alternative in January but put Sunday 3rd February in your diary when we hope to do something special.

## A POINT TO PONDER!

*If you could find the perfect Church,  
Without one fault or smear,  
For goodness sake, don't join the  
Church -  
You'd spoil the atmosphere!  
But since no perfect Church exists  
Where people never sin,  
Let's cease looking for that Church  
And love the one we're in.*