

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. 323

A TALE OF TWO VILLAGES

Including those stories you don't dare 'Tel'.....

A unique and historic tome, telling the tale of West Farleigh's twinning with Ringstedt, has just hit the shelves - but snap up your copy quick, as there are only a limited number around!

'Friendship United' tells the remarkable story of how a tiny village in Kent forged a firm bond with its counterpart in Germany.

The book, an amazing 212 pages of glossy colour photos and text, in both English and German, explains how a certain Matthew Smith, aged just 17, went out to Ringstedt in 1988 on work experienceand the rest, as they say, is history! Footballing tours between West Farleigh and Ringstedt ensued, with (alarming!) regularity, every year thereafter - the high jinx and fellowship taking second place to the sport, as photos in the book will testify! The book could never have been produced had it not been for the input of the Club Chairman Peter Baggott, (director of Modern Press Ltd.) and, as such, is unsurpassed in the annals of sporting history.

He readily admits that, even with a cover price of £25, the book will never make a profit - but it IS something

which will be priceless in years to come!

Much of the research came from Peter, assisted by Club Secretary Ian Payne. Across the water, Lars Brockbalz played an important part translating the anecdotes into suitably acceptable German - although a few of the stories are not for the faint-hearted!

There are some fascinating photos of Fareleigh teams going back as far as 1913, as well as plenty of memory-jerking snaps from the tours.

Speeches and photos are also included from the formal twinning ceremony which took place on The Green at the end of July 1999 - as well as details of the annual World Lawnmower Championships!

A real coup to conclude are letters from England team coach Kevin Keegan and Gary Lineker, congratulating the two clubs on their footballing friendship. Who says West Farleigh isn't on the map?!

Only 200 copies of the book have been printed and demand is expected to be high, so anyone wanting a copy should move fast - call Peter today on 01580 892010.

DIARY DATES

The annual Plant Sale takes place on Sunday, May 5 (Bank Holiday weekend) on the Village Green.

The Cricket Match v Watlington will be played at West Farleigh on Friday, June 21. Gates open at 6pm.

Anyone who would like to join our talented (?) team should contact Huw Evans (812222) or Paul Baines on 720810.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place in Church on Monday March 4, at 7.30pm, followed by the regular Parish Council meeting. The Annual Meeting will include an Open Forum, giving members of the public the chance to air their views on village matters. Other meeting dates for 2002 are June 10, September 2 and December 2.

EVERGREENS

In February, the group went to see the film Enigma, about the codebreaking establishment at Bletchley Park, after which Sarah Evans' mother Dorothy spoke about her experiences working there - fascinating!

This month, the meeting is at 2.30pm on Tuesday March 12, at Appledore, Charlton Lane. Later in the month, a group of Evergreens and their friends will be going to the Hazlitt Theatre, to see Maidstone Operatic Society's production of "Oliver".

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

To date, I am happy to say that there is nothing to report for our area. It is worth mentioning however that in East Farleigh, it is a different story, so please be on your guard! In East Farleigh, the window on a Daewoo Matiz was smashed in the car park. Also, a Mercedes Benz was broken into and a radio/cassette player stolen, along with a briefcase, which was later recovered. A silver Corolla's side window was smashed, as was a Ford Orion's window parked in Gallants Lane. In Forge Lane, three people pretending to be Water Board officials tried to steal from someone they called on. Always ask for identity of callers.

If in doubt, don't let them in.

PLEASE report suspicious callers to the police or myself.

Ivor Maskell,

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

CHOIR PRACTICE

Anyone who fancies singing with the church choir from time to time is welcome to attend a pre-Mothers' Day singalong in Church at 7pm on Wednesday, March 6.

Regular attendance at church not required - just enthusiasm and a reasonable voice! Contact Lesley Cushing on 812341 for more information.



THANKS FROM ABBY & FAMILY

The Walsh family extend their thanks to all those who contacted them following Abby's recent accident. Abby, who is studying medicine at University in London, suffered a fractured skull after tripping from a kerb into the path of a bus. The accident could have been much worse and, fortunately, following a few days in hospital and some TLC at home in Charlton Lane, Abby has now recovered well enough to return to her studies. Sue and Tony say thanks to all who expressed their concern.

WHIST DRIVE

Helen and David Swan are holding a Whist drive on Saturday March 16, 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Do join in the fun - no-one takes the game too seriously, there will be no post mortems and lots of advice. Even if you can't play, it's a great way to meet people and catch up on all the news and gossip!!! If you would like to go, please give Helen or David a ring (814445), so that they have enough tables and refreshments.

THE FARLEIGHS WI

At the start of the February meeting, members stood in silence in memory of Betty Shaw, a loyal and respected friend. As the speaker was unable to attend, members were fortunate to have Mollie Richford who gave a fascinating illustrated talk about her visits to The Galapagos Islands. Future events include theatre visits, a music evening on May 18 and a possible visit to Chatham Dockyard. Members are also baking cakes for the Hospice coffee morning on March 16. Ciss Collins will be speaking on the Womens Land Army at the March 13 meeting in The Farleighs Hall at 7.30p.m.

TRIBUTES FOR VAL

The collection at Val Barnwell's funeral raised £390 for Heart of Kent Hospice. A collection for flowers was made by the congregation and PCC of All Saints and the money raised exactly equalled the cost of the flowers.

HOUSEGROUP

The meetings this month are on Wednesday March 6 and Wednesday March 20 at 8pm, at Appledore, Charlton Lane. If you would like to join in, give Helen a ring on 814445.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE MESSAGE THIS EASTER!

This year Easter falls at the end of March; last year it was April, and it really seems no time at all since I was writing the relevant article for Lifeline 11 months ago. Easter is the most important time of the Christian year, since it is then that we remember and celebrate the true significance of the Son of God coming to the world: the adulation of the crowds on Palm Sunday, the farewell supper on Maundy Thursday, the horror of the crucifixion on Good Friday and the jubilation of the resurrection on Easter Day. How much time shall we be making for Jesus, for God, this Lent and this Eastertime? There is always so much to do on a Sunday, isn't there? But if God means anything at all to us, we need to meet with Him occasionally in His church for an act of worship. This is true at any time, but especially at Eastertime when, as it were, it all happened for Jesus.

No church service is ever going to suit everyone and, whatever service one goes to, there will be some parts that fail to touch you. However, it may be that there will be some moment in any service, where you feel that little closer to God; where He may be able to reach out to you in some way. We all need to give God a chance in our lives: we never know when we may need Him to help us, and it is surely better to have Him there as a friend rather than a stranger. At All Saints our services are short: almost invariably less than an hour and usually just half an hour. We try to make them relevant, sincere and welcoming. If you have children, then why not give us a try on the second Sunday of each month at 11.15am? Our special Easter Day service will be on Sunday March 31 at 11.15 and, although with communion, will be suitable for children.

Hugh Grainger, Lay Reader.

CAMPAIGNERS

Mother's Day is on March 10 and Campaigners will be taking part in the service in the church. Some of the Junos are working for their Entertainers badge. Their singing and dancing has been to a very high standard, they are practicing a play now. They are also studying Joseph this term. The Inters have chosen to do some more practical things and have requested a night hike. They hope to see some owls, but this seems unlikely, as they would be scared off by the chatter!!!

The last Thursday of term sees a joint service of praise and worship, where some of the youngsters' work will be displayed. This service is open to everyone, so do come and join in the worship and meet the young people. It takes place at 7pm on Thursday March 21 - and there will be the usual refreshments afterwards.

CHURCHYARD WILDLIFE

The project to improve the Churchyard for wildlife has continued through the winter, albeit at a reduced level, due to short days and the hibernation of some creatures....

The Campaigners helped to put up a bat box in the autumn, but were probably too late to attract occupants this winter. Last month, they put up five nest boxes, which should attract pairs of tits when the nesting season starts. The boxes are high in the trees—hopefully well out of reach of cats. The Campaigners made the boxes themselves, from kits supplied by Jeremy Lawrence. (An owl or bird-of-prey box has also been made, but not yet put up.) After the installation, five of the Campaigners walked to Yalding railway station, via Quarry Wood, an exhilarating walk, if a little strenuous! Observations on flora and fauna have also continued, with no fewer than 36 bird species spotted in the Churchyard and a further 7 overhead. If you do see anything of interest, Tim Hill would be delighted to hear from you on 813019. He will post the list of sightings on the porch notice board.

Flowers are rapidly coming into bloom, with wild primroses in flower by February 2 and snowdrops already past their best by Feb 18. When the project has completed its first year, a report will be sent to Earthwatch in Oxford, under whose auspices the exercise has been carried out.

DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for inclusion in the April 2002 issue of Life-Line to the Editor by **March 31st**. Thank you!

SPORTS REPORT

The 1st XI are struggling at the moment and despite still being in the cup, our league position is our main priority. We started the month with a deserved 3-1 victory over Division I side W heatsheaf in the Benevolent Cup. Next came a Challenge Cup game v high-flying The Rose, when we lost 2-1 and finally, an important league encounter against lowly Eccles. After missing a couple of early chances, we were made to pay the penalty as we eventually went down to a disappointing 5-1 scoreline. We now have to fight hard to avoid relegation to back from whence we camebut am I worried?

Our 2nd XI have also found the promotion push hard and need to consolidate if they want an automatic place in Division I next season. Our first of two games brought a 3-1 victory over Fant Arms, but a poor performance against Rose Res. saw us go down 4-1.

If anyone is keen on a fun night out, we are holding one of our popular Wine & Wisdom evenings at Hunton Village Hall on March 9, kick off 7.30pm. Please get in touch for tickets.

Recent ton-up winners are:

January: £10 Mrs Forrest; £5 Neil King and Stuart Dyer.

February: £10 Mick Platt; £5 Marian Newman & Phil Picton. Winter Warmer £20 Alex Baggott.

Cheers,

Tel

(M/stone 745744)

EVENING ALTERNATIVE

Sunday 2nd March 6.00 pm. The Theme this month is "Good News!". Do come and join us and find out what that Good News is. The band will be leading the worship, augmented this month. Come along and see our guest artists! This service is aimed at the young and young at heart, a lively, fun and informative evening is promised. Do come along and join us, bring the family, even grannies enjoy it! The service will be followed by refreshments.

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.

SERVICES - MARCH 2002

WEST FARLEIGH

- 3 8am Holy Communion - G. Elmore
6pm Evening Alternative - H Swan
10 11.15am Mothering SundayAA* -
H. Grainger & Campaigners
17 9.30am Eucharist - Rev. M. Perkins
21 7.00pm Campaigners Service
24 11.15 Palm Sunday T* - H Grainger
28 Maundy Thursday - 10am, Communion
29 Good Friday -10am, Devotional Service
31 Easter Day 11.15am Family Communion
AA* - H Grainger & G Elmore

- APRIL 7 8am Holy Communion
6pm Evening Alternative
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

EAST FARLEIGH

- 29 Good Friday - 2pm Devotional Service
- Roger Castle
31 Easter Day 10.30am Holy Communion
for all - Roger Castle

HUNTON

- 29 Good Friday - 9.30am Devotional
Service - David Jones
31 Easter Day 9.30am Holy Communion for
all - Roger Castle

COXHEATH

- 28 Maundy Thursday 10am HC - R Castle
8.00pm Holy Communion - R Castle
29 Good Friday - 2pm Devotional Service
David Jones
31 Easter Day 10.30am Holy Communion
for all - David Jones

For details of other services at East Farleigh, Coxheath or Hunton, please contact Roger Castle on (01622) 747570