

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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May 2002

No. 325

WEST FARLEIGH FLIES THE FLAG FOR THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

Everyone in the village is invited to a special service on Sunday June 2 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Details are still being finalised for the service, which could be outdoors, weather permitting and could include a band.....

What is certain is that it will take place at 4pm and be followed by tea on the cricket field!

A formal sit-down tea is being planned for the Campaigners, all Under-16s who come along, as well as for the Evergreens and their friends.

Everyone else will be able to have a cup of tea and a bun but will have to sit on the grass!

There are also likely to be a few games to follow.

It isn't essential to come to the service to enjoy the tea (which should start about 4.45pm) but it would be terrific to see a full church to celebrate this special occasion.

If you have a child who is not a Campaigner who would like to join in please fill in the reply slip and give to Sue Walsh (either at school or 8 Charlton Lane) or to Helen Swan, Appledore Charlton Lane.

Everyone is welcome, but organisers need to know how many are coming for catering purposes.

Let's pray for fine weather!

PLANT SALE

The annual Plant Sale takes place this Sunday, May 5, on the Village Green, following a special outdoor service of thanksgiving, starting at 11.15am. If anyone has plants to donate, or raffle prizes to contribute, they will be gladly received on the day - or contact any member of the PCC.

FUND-RAISING RIVERSIDE WALK

Members and friends of Farleigh Sports Club will be putting their best feet forward on May 26 in a fund-raising five mile walk along the banks of the Medway. All are invited along (£5 entry fee for adults) to join in the walk, which sets off from the Cricket Field at 2pm. The route will take them along Lower Road to St Helen's Lane, down to Barming Bridge, then along the river banks to Watlingtonbury and back, via Tutsham.

The walk will be followed by a typical cricket tea of sandwiches and cakes back at the pavilion. Cash raised is to help the church and to pay for new thatching on the cricket pavilion roof.

I would like my child

Name.....

Age.....

to come to the Jubilee tea party.

Tel No.....

Parent's Name.....

In modern popular science books there is a lovely little story which tries to explain the randomness of nature and the unpredictability of, shall we say, the weather. It is called the 'Butterfly Effect'. It goes something like this.

In Japan a beautiful butterfly spreads its wings and flies off. As the wings beat up and down the air is slightly disturbed and the disturbances, by some strange quirk of fate, are magnified as the vibrations cross the sea and in a far-off land the result is a typhoon storm. I have always liked that story because it is a parable of the church. Who would have placed bets that the results of the preaching and healing miracles of a few frightened and uneducated men and women in Palestine would have resulted in a world wide faith with billions of believers? Yet it did happen and so when I visit a small village church I have great faith that big things can grow in unlikely circumstances and there are two factors required. The first is, of course, God's action through those who are looking for it and there is secondly the action of the community itself.

As the famous World War 1 poster stated 'Your Country Needs You', so it is equally true that here in West Farleigh your church, All Saints, needs you. In the Bible a saint is not so much a holy person but someone who tries to follow the teaching and the life style of Jesus. Can you be a butterfly for Jesus with the children, the old folk, the choir, the church services and all the other many ways of church life, for that is the way we shall make the difference and perhaps a 'wind of change' will blow though our village too.

Do join us for our Jubilee celebration service and may God bless you all.

Geoff Ellmore

LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

Dear Ma'am,

We have been attending West Farleigh Church for some time. What a beautiful church - and what peace and friendship can be found there. I commend it to one and all!

So often we take things for granted, including our church (until we wish to marry, to baptise or, sadly, to be buried when the church is the one 'sure foundation'.)

You know how you feel about your home - it is all taken so much for granted, but God is waiting for us. He is a loving Father, with all that that means.

The Church at West Farleigh has meant so much to us.

With kindest regards,

Roy & Ann Honnor.

Red Hill, Watlingtonbury

DIAMOND CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Roland and Brenda Day of Charlton Lane on attaining their Diamond Wedding on April 11.

Their family took charge of organising the celebrations and they received a large number of cards and messages of goodwill from parishioners and people in the village, as well as a card from Her Majesty The Queen. Both Roland and Brenda express their thanks to everyone for helping to make their day so special.

THE FARLEIGHS WI

Maggie Stredder, a former Vernons Girl, entertained members at the April meeting of The Farleighs W.I. by talking of her life in showbusiness and working with well-known stars.

The annual resolutions will be discussed at the monthly meeting on May 8 when members are asked to bring a plate of finger food for the buffet.

A Medway Valley W.I. District music evening will be held on Saturday, May 18 2002 at 7.30pm at our hall in Forge Lane. Guests are the folk singers Laverock Lea.

Tickets £2.50, include a glass of wine and nibbles.

For further information and tickets, contact 01622 743382.

All welcome.

Our Jubilee tea party is to take place on August 14 - more details to follow.

Pam Clark



EVERGREENS

Thanks to Anne McNaughton for hosting the last meeting. The next meeting is on Tuesday May 14, starting at 2.30pm, at Leslie Cushing's House, Rose Cottage, Charlton Lane (next to the Good Intent). Our belated good wishes go to Brenda and Roly Day, who celebrated 60 years of marriage recently. Our good wishes also to Laurie Walters who is still in hospital.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Thieves seemed to concentrate on Shingle Barn Lane in April. The glass was broken and lock forced on a black BMW - the thief made off with a bottle of Armani aftershave and the tax disc.

A garage was entered and a set of golf clubs and chainsaw were stolen.

Thefts from cars has increased in Maidstone. Hide anything which may attract a villain. They may steal anything of low value, but cost you a great deal in car repairs. East Farleigh continues to be hit, with six reported crimes last month. It could be West Farleigh next!

Ivor Maskell.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Tel : (01622) 727264

BARMING BRIDGE UPDATE

More than 80 people have now signed a petition opposed to the re-opening of Barming Bridge.

Parish Council Clerk David Swan has been flooded with letters following the item in last month's Life-Line, for which he says a sincere thank you. The views of the villagers will be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council on June 10, so there is still time to put pen to paper if you haven't done so yet.

A BIG THANK YOU TO GEORGE!

All Saints Church and the PCC would like to say a huge thank you to George Reffell, of Charlton Lane, who has spent the past 20 years dealing with the church envelopes. He has only given up now because of problems with his eyes. The church is indebted to George and those like him who work quietly and unassumingly behind the scenes to ensure that important jobs get done. Many thanks indeed, George.

CAMPAIGNERS

The new term has started and we have already made use of the cricket field - many thanks to Don Goodwin.

The Inters made use of the finer weather by walking to Watlington via Tutsham, where they bought chips and walked along the riverbanks back. Why do things always take longer than you estimate??! The group was joined by Andy Baker from Coxheath - a young man, who may be interested in helping. We hope they didn't put him off!

The Juno's are studying the Country Code and some of them are working for their Wayfarers badge.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

(May 12 - 19)

During May, the Campaigners will be raising money for Christian Aid, so if you see an event or are asked for sponsorship, please be supportive and encouraging.

The Christian Aid Charity quietly gets on with helping people throughout the world, whose plight is ongoing and does not hit the headlines. They need our continual support.

FARLEIGH TWINNING BOOK

Don't forget to get your copy of the unique book 'Friendship United,' the story of West Farleigh's twinning with Ringstedt.

Only a limited number of the books have been printed and sales are going well - on both sides of the English Channel! For further information, contact Peter Baggott on 01580 892010.

FREE ADVERTISING!

Business in West Farleigh can advertise for FREE on the village website, which is linked to other county sites. Check out www.westfarleigh.org.uk and contact webmaster Paul Boulton for details on paul@pboulton.freemove.co.uk

SPORTS REPORT

Not many games last month but the future of one of our sides has been decided by the other teams' results!

Our 1st XI have secured Premier Division Football next season, even after losing our one and only game, going down 2-1 to Hunton. Well done all! (for the promotion - not for losing the match!)

The 2nd XI came out on top, beating East Malling 1-0, but came unstuck v fellow promotion contenders The Rose, losing 3-2, in which we made the majority of the chances but didn't take enough! The leaves us favourites to clinch the second spot, but having now finished, await one other important result. Let's hope next month brings good news.

The cricket season is upon us and we played an enjoyable and relaxed inter-club game before our first friendly 1st XI home to Underriver, 2nd XI away to Watlingtonbury.

Our league season kicks off on May 4. If anyone would like a fixture list, please get in touch - and it's not too late if anyone fancies getting a game or two or being involved this season; you're very welcome!

Don't forget - everyone is welcome to join us on the sponsored walk on May 26, starting at 2pm (see front page). See you there!

Cheers,

Tel (M/stone 745744)

EVENING ALTERNATIVE

The May service is on Sunday May 5 at 6.00 pm - yes, the same day as the Plant Sale.

(Three services in the village in one day - we must be very keen!)

The theme for this service is 'Who Care' with the aim of introducing Christian Aid week which many of the Campaigners are supporting by fund raising.

A serious subject but a fun and lively evening is assured. Even though it will have been a busy day, please come along and join us. There will be coffee afterwards - and you never know, there might be a cake or two left over from the Plant Sale!!

SERVICES - MAY 2002

WEST FARLEIGH

5 8am Holy Communion - B Stevenson

11.15am Family Service on The Green

6pm Evening Alternative - H Swan

12 11.15am Morning Worship AA* -

M. Moore

19 9.30am Eucharist - Malcolm Perkins

26 11.15am Morning Worship T* - M Moore & Geoff Ellmore

AA* - All Age (formerly Family Service)

T* - Traditional (formerly Matins)

NB: Coffee is served prior to the 11.15am Morning Worship - a time to chat and get to

ANYONE FOR CRICKET??

Don't forget the Farleighs Cricket Match v Watlingtonbury which takes place at West Farleigh on Friday, June 21. Gates open at 6pm and it's not too late to join the team!

Contact Huw Evans (812222) or Paul Baines (720810) for further information.

HOUSEGROUP

The meetings this month are as follows:

Wednesday 8th May 8.00pm at 8 Charlton Lane (the home of Sue and Tony Walsh) and

Wednesday 22nd May at Appledore, Charlton Lane. We are looking at John's letters, written to the early church between 85 and 95 AD.

The messages are still relevant to the church today!!!

P.S. Thanks to Geoff Ellmore for supporting our last meeting.

DEADLINE

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