

# Life-Line

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

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Tel: 01622 812562

April 2005

No. 356

## GREEN DAMAGE IS SNOW JOKE SAYS PARISH COUNCIL

When a customer from the Good Intent decided to take a short cut home through the snow, he - or she - damaged two of the perimeter posts, but also left a vital clue, as this photo shows!

The Parish Council, which pays for the upkeep of The Green has written to landlord Derek Draper to see if he can help find the perpetrator and get some recompense. However, Mein Host says his enquiries have drawn a blank - and certainly none of his regulars was to blame. If the guilty party would care to step forward, Parish Clerk David Swan would be thrilled to receive an explanation and, preferably, a cheque to help put right the damage.



Another incident on The Green had a somewhat happier ending. Two men in an unmarked white van, with trailer, were seen removing the safety tiles from beneath the swings and roundabout on the children's play area. Neither the parish clerk nor Maidstone Borough Council were aware of any such work being contracted for West Farleigh, so the number was taken and reported to community constable PC Bryan Hillman.

Police enquiries revealed the van belonged to a builder in Tenterden, who confirmed he had a contract to do tile cleaning work in Nettlestead and East Farleigh but not West Farleigh. Thanks to swift action by PC Hillman, the (now gleaming!) tiles have been returned and replaced.

## COUNCIL CLAMPS DOWN ON SPEEDSTERS & CRIME

West Farleigh is the only village in this area not to have any form of speed limit, despite Government guidance to highway authorities that "a standard speed limit of 30mph in villages should be the norm".

The Parish Council thinks this is totally unacceptable and will be taking up the matter with the County Council which is taking over responsibility for highways from 1st April. In the meantime, members are keeping a watch on unsuitable heavy vehicles using the lanes and crossing Teston Bridge.

For the first time since the Council has been given the numbers of crimes in the village, there were no reported crimes in either January or February 2005. Some Councillors thought it was the awful weather which had kept the villains at home, but we should not become complacent and take particular care of our garden sheds and garages as Spring approaches. (For more Neighbourhood Watch advice, see p2)

The formalities of planning for the Community Centre are continuing. In due course, the Parish Council is expected to become the legal Custodial Trustee in perpetuity for the land, while the management of the Community Centre itself is expected to be in the hands of a separate management committee, which will evolve from the current Steering Committee.

The annual Parish Meeting takes place in All Saints Church on Monday, May 16, when members of the public are invited along to see what their parish representatives get up to and to have their say. Make a diary note now if there's anything you would like to raise.



## PRINCIPLES OR COMPROMISE

In recent months, the question of whether it is always better to stay linked with people you fundamentally disagree with has come to the fore in the world wide Anglican Church.

Archbishops from around the globe met last month to work out the right way forward, given the fact that North America has enthroned a practising gay Bishop. Whilst some countries can accept this move, largely on the grounds of compassion, the majority believe that it goes against the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith. The result of the Primate's meeting was that for the next three years the two sides will have a time and a space to ponder their positions and hopefully to reflect on the good things in the other parties argument. (No doubt, which ever side of the fence we sit on, we all have something to learn from the other).

But all this bids a more general question. Which is more important...

to stand up for what you believe in, or to let go of your principles in the name of peace? We face this question daily in relationships; families; local, national & international & faith communities.

In the times of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah, people again were not being faithful to God, and whilst the priests and prophets were saying...

"Peace, Peace, you have nothing to fear, God loves you", God was angry because of his people disobedience and because their religious leaders did not speak His truth. (Jeremiah 6:13&14)

So maybe the next question in such dilemmas is; which path would bring real Peace? For surely real Peace is much more than the absence of argument, or the presence of visible unity.

As the church is finding, such questions sometimes take a long time to answer. It's about trying to be honest with ourselves - about our motives, and about seeking God's agenda, not our own. Its about trying to follow in the steps of Jesus, who walked the path of faithfulness and compassion most perfectly.

Rev'd Ruth Bierbaum

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Although it's getting warmer with the onset of spring and summer, we would ask parishioners not to be complacent about home security. When anyone leaves their property for any amount of time, could they please make sure that all windows and doors are securely shut and locked, at all times - even if you are only popping out for a short time. Sheds and garages need to be securely locked too - a thief will steal anything of value.

At the first opportunity, a burglar will steal your valuables, if a window or door is left open. Please don't be complacent and allow this to happen. Having good home security can be expensive, but it is worthwhile if it is going to protect your home from thieves.

If you would like some tips on home security, then please ring us on 01622-727291. You need to weigh up the cost - the emotional and physical loss of your valuables or the cost of good security to protect your home.

On to a separate subject:

Please do not allow packets or parcels to be left on your doorstep when you are not at home. This is a clear indication that - friend or a family address. Don't leave things to chance.

If you have milk delivered, we suggest you ask the milkman to place the milk in an area out of view from the road. Please don't allow your milk to be visible to anyone. If possible, get a milk box which helps to hide the milk from view. All too often, people have milk delivered and it is left out, often all day regardless of time of year. Remember, burglars have cars and are driving around seeking properties to steal from.....

Charlie & Emma.

West Farleigh Neighbourhood Watch. 01622 727921

## EVERGREENS

Thanks to Roy Plommer for coming and talking to us about Interior design. His pictures and samples brought it to life. Thanks also to Michael and Belinda Devenish for welcoming us into their home.

This month we will be at Appledore Charlton Lane. Chris Lurcock and Jo Ayling from Millennium Property Services, who have recently relocated their home and garden improvement business to Charlton Lane from Boughton Monchelsea, will be coming to talk about the services they can offer us.

If you would like to come but need a lift ring Helen on 814445 who will arrange a chauffeur for you!

## BOGUS CALLERS

:Local police have had reports about a company which we believe to be named EEC, offering advice on alarms and fire security. We also believe that one of the E's stands for European and the company has been featured on Watchdog. Have caution in dealing with any company that cold calls in this way. If you want advice on burglar alarms or fire protection systems then NSI (National Security Inspectorate) is a good place to look. Their website is [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)

## LIFE-LINE DEADLINE

Please submit all items for the May issue to your Editor by Friday, April 22. Thank you!



## THE SEARCH IS ON!

*Three new families are each trying to trace their ancestors who used to live in the village. Any information would be gratefully received by those concerned:*

Tim Sargeant is trying to trace any descendants of the WHITE family who farmed at West Farleigh as recently as the 1920s. They possibly farmed Court Lodge Farm but lived at The Lodge, Watlingtonbury. The last reference Tim has is of a Montague White, son of Henry, who was aged 23 years in the 1901 Census. His sister Mabel married into another White family, John Lee White, who was the elder son of J S White the famous ship-builder from Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Tim would like to hear from any descendant of either family in connection with research he is doing regarding the Vauxhall motor car that John Lee White purchased in 1905. Call him on 01580 211303 / 211376.

The next plea comes from Peggy ASHBY who is trying to trace her husband's ancestors who lived in West Farleigh c 1834. The parents were William and Jane and the children Henry, George, Ellen and possibly others and they lived at the bottom of Kettle Lane.

Anyone with information should e-mail: [ashp@chariot.net.no.spam](mailto:ashp@chariot.net.no.spam)

Finally, Barbara Drolet is seeking information on the BINGHAM family.

Her father, Frederick Bingham, lived at Elms Croft Yard, where he was a gardeners' helper. We think he had brothers, William, Edward and Harry and their mother was called Ann Crayfound (not Crayford)

Mr Bingham was born in 1884 and had his family late in life, dying in Canada at the age of 63. She would be interested in any relevant information and can be contacted via the West Farleigh website [www.westfarleigh.org.uk](http://www.westfarleigh.org.uk)

*There are lots more fascinating queries on the site, thanks to webmaster Paul Boulton, who has compiled and co-ordinated this excellent log of West Farleigh activity. Why not take a look?*

## LONG TAILED MASTER BUILDERS

Before mid-March I began seeing long-tailed tits from our kitchen window and it was not really a surprise when one appeared with something in its tiny bill. "Nest material" I thought, and a quick search revealed a nest in our evergreen Californian lilac (ceanothus) bush.

The nest of the long-tailed tit is the most elaborate structure of any made by a British bird. It is an elongated globe, with an entrance towards the top, made of moss, lichen and spiders' web. The latter binds in the fabric, while the lichen mottles its overall green appearance with silver. It is said to make use of what is called "reflective" camouflage. The nests are usually positioned in dense and often thorny shrubs, which offer further protection. In spite of this, many nests are found and raided, often by birds of the crow family.

As I write the birds are carrying in soft white feathers up to 5 cms long, which threaten to act like a sail and blow them off course! The feathers line the nest and make it very warm - a necessary protection against April frosts.

In June 1992 I sent off a used nest to a student at Glasgow University, whose thesis was on the structure of long-tailed tits' nests, and who had appealed for examples to be sent him. I think he received ten, and then set about counting up the components, which was clearly some task. A nest contains up to 2000 feathers!

As for the long-tailed tit itself - the name is not quite right, for though certainly long tailed, it is not really a tit. (As you probably know, all true tits nest in holes, and generally favour nest boxes.) The tail is, at 9cm (3.5 inches) not, in truth, incredibly long, but it is almost two-thirds of the bird's total length. The birds look "fluffy", like so much candy-floss, weighing less than the average wren. In colour they are a subtle mixture of black, white, brown and pink. For much of the year they go around in small flocks, which are charming to see, for they are confiding and twitter animatedly.

Because they are so small they suffer in severe winters, but they are very numerous now, as it is a long time since we had one of those. However, I was surprised to see nest building going on so soon after the snow of early March. It must be that conditions had been generally kind to them, so that they had ample reserves to survive the poor weather and to start breeding early.

I wonder if the female will lay eggs as soon as the nest is ready?

Tim Hill

## FARLEIGHS WI

Habibi Dah, Tarken Hup and Inti Malakeh belly dances were performed by the Sheppey Shimmiers at The Farleighs W.I. monthly meeting.

It was then time for members to have a go -and we found out it was not so easy to do the necessary gyratory movements, especially wearing winter clothing!

Turkish food was a welcome addition to an evening with a difference.

New Age Kurling on June 15 at Larkfield Leisure Centre and a Willow Basket Day School on June 22 and 29 at Chiddingstone were among forthcoming County events.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 13 when Jean Talboys' subject will be Perennial plants for continuous colour. The meeting is held in The Farleighs W.I. Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh at 7.30pm.

Pam Clark.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Two important dates for your diaries.

Firstly, the

Benefice Service at 11am on Sunday May 29, will take place at West Farleigh when we are privileged to have John Nicholson from Fundatia New Life as our guest speaker. John, from Littlehampton, is in Sri Lanka at the moment, helping victims of the Tsunami disaster and will be speaking about the charity and its work.

This will be a Family Communion, suitable for all ages, and a collection will be taken for Fundatia New Life. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Secondly, on Monday June 6, at 7.45pm, the Guild of Church Flower Arrangers will be meeting at All Saints Church, when Graham Harmer will be demonstrating his skills.

This is an inexpensive opportunity to learn a little more about formal flower arranging. All welcome.

## EAST FARLEIGH PRESCHOOL

The pre-school held an Easter Egg Hunt, which coincided with the Palm Sunday Service at East Farleigh Church, when a couple of donkeys attended... So the children had great fun patting and stroking them!

The congregation joined the children after the service and shared home made soup, hot-dogs, tea and coffee. It was a real community atmosphere and raised £123.

The annual Easter Bonnet Parade took place on March 22 when Rev. Ruth Bierbaum gave a talk about the Easter story, after which the children sang some songs and refreshments were served.

A raffle and a cake stall raised £42.60. Many thanks to all who attended and helped.

The Pre-School is not exclusive to the Farleighs and accept children from all over the benefice. The organisers are always willing to show prospective parents round at any time. Visit the website [www.eastfarleighpreschool.com](http://www.eastfarleighpreschool.com) to download a prospectus.

## MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL WEEKEND FREIGHTER SERVICE

The freighter will be by the Green on  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April from 13.00 to 15.15 and on  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June from 09.15 to 10.45



## SPORTS REPORT

Farleigh footballers didn't kick a ball for a while this month (nothing unusual about that, some might say!) due to the snow. The teams only played two games each. The 1st XI lost 3-1 to Dittan but beat Lenham with the same scoreline. The 2nd XI had similar fortunes and beat Staplehurst 3-0, but went down to The Rose 2-0.

I know that many of you were coming to support the semi-final, which was postponed due to the snow — so we gave you another chance on Easter Monday!

This time next month, cricket will be upon us and anyone wishing to play will, as always, be more than welcome. We are still looking for someone willing to make cricket teas for some of the home games: you would be even MORE welcome!! Finally, we need someone — young or old — able to score for us. It's always friendly and we can normally promise you a free tea and drinks in the pub afterwards!

The wine and wisdom evening is this Saturday, April 2, at Hunton Village Hall, 7.30pm. Still a few places left if you want to come along. Please phone and let me know!

The Summer Dance is at Buston Manor on Friday, July 29 — tickets now available priced only £10 each. Please buy early, if you can.

Cheers

Tel

Telephone (01622) 745744

## CAMPAIGNERS

The Campaigners finished the term with an end of term service. Unfortunately, due to snow at the wrong time we had not been able to prepare as much as we would have liked and we also clashed with a Parents Consultation evening at school. Notwithstanding, we had a lively service with much participation.

Well done to the two dads who unwittingly volunteered to try an African meal of Malze porridge! We also had hoped to take part in the Mothering Sunday service but due to an untimely fall of snow only four children were able to make it, but did participate by reading the prayers and distributing posies. Next term will start on Thursday April 14th. Chris Knott from the Starfish project will be coming to talk to the Campaigners about their work with a school in Malawi, a project the children have been studying as one of their challenges. This would be a good time to join us. Do come along bring a friend, you do not have to live in the village, all are welcome. The summer term brings games on the Cricket field — outings and adventures! 6-10's 6.00 until 7.30 and 10-13 7.45 until 9.15. Just come along or if you need more information ring Helen (814445) or Sue (728252)

## BIG BAND NIGHT OUT

The Kenward Trust is a registered Christian Charity helping people with drug and alcohol addiction problems.

To help boost the much-needed finances for the Kenward Trust's New Building Appeal, the Mayor and Mayoress of Tonbridge & Malling are promoting a "Night of Brass Band Music", featuring the Kent Messenger Medway Band, at Tonbridge School on Saturday April 2.

The concert starts at 7.30pm, with tickets priced at £12.00 (plus 50p p&p) available from the Box Office on 01732 - 361908.

## SERVICES - WEST FARLEIGH APRIL 2005

- 3 8am Holy Communion  
- Rev David Jones  
6pm Evening Alternative  
- Helen Swan / Rev R Bierbaum  
10 11am Family Service  
- Rev David Jones  
17 9.15am Holy Communion  
- Canon Gordon Oliver  
24 11am Morning worship (trad)  
- Rev Ruth Bierbaum  
May 1 8am Holy Communion

## DURING THE INTERREGNUM

For admin matters, call Ann in the Rectory on 747570 (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

For marriages & baptisms call Revd David Jones on 741474. For everything else call the Associate Rector Revd Ruth Bierbaum on 743856.

NB Neither Revd Ruth Bierbaum nor Revd David Jones are available Fridays.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 16. Learn British Sign Language!

A taster day on interpreting songs and hymns, St Pauls Church, Maidstone. £15.00 per person. Contact Jo Moore on 01622-755014

June 11. 2gether4god again.

Children's Festival at The Friars, Aylesford.

June 18. Wellspring 2005. Aylesford Priory

## MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

10-16 April: Global Week of Action on Trade.

In London there will be a major rally called "Wake up to Trade Justice" with people sleeping in Whitehall over night 15/16th.

Starts 10pm Friday April 15, ends 8am Saturday April 16.

In Maidstone there will be a joint service at Union Street Methodist church on Sunday April 10 at 6.30 pm, and a proposed march on Saturday April 16, convening at 10.30am at County Hall.

## EVENING ALTERNATIVE

There will not be an Evening Alternative in April, due to lack of leaders and musicians. It is hoped that those who are around might like to visit another church, ring Ruth or Helen to see what has been arranged.

Put the date of the May service in your diary now! Sunday 1st May. May Day- Maypoles-Morris dancers- blossom- red flags- who knows?

## ALPHA LUNCHESES

Our last Alpha attracted some 40 guests, some regular church goers, many not. For many, those evenings of meeting with people who became friends, were a significant landmark on their spiritual journey.

Please do feel welcome to come to our next Alpha. You need no special credentials. Just call, write or email us, to let us know you are interested. We provide the food (physical and spiritual), the creche and the friendship. It will be held at The Rectory, 144 Heath Road, Coxheath.

Tel: 01622 747570 email: coxheath@benefice.wandoo.co.uk



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### AROUND THE BENEFICE

Benefice United resumes on April 12, at the  
Coxheath Centre. Meetings start at 7.30pm with  
a bring and share supper, followed by fellowship  
and a topical discussion.

The forthcoming theme is Unity & Diversity and  
the programme is as follows:

April 12: Roman Catholicism

May 10: Celtic

June 14: Free

July 12: Charismatic Evangelical

A new Bible Study group also begins in April  
again at the Coxheath Centre, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tue  
of the month. The first three meetings are