

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

West Farleigh's own

# LIFE-LINE

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*A Lifeline that is too heavy—or too light – to throw is of little use. - Anon.*



Illustration of All Saints  
after Harold Harbour.

## Presentation to Rev. Ruth Bierbaum

After a "Songs of Praise" in a crowded Coxheath Church, (standing room only) on August 10th Rev. Ruth was presented with a number of presents to mark her time as Associate Rector here in the Five Parishes. Our photo (courtesy Lesley Marsh) shows the framed pictures of all five churches which will form a permanent souvenir of her time here for Ruth. She was also given a physically huge cheque (and a smaller valid one) for £1438, the result of donations from parishioners. Making the presentations, the Rev. Peter Walker thanked Ruth for all her hard work, particularly with the youth of the benefice. She will be missed!

In her farewell comments Ruth said that she had happy memories too numerous to itemise and thanked everyone for their prayers and support, which were enabling her to make such a good recovery from her recent accident. Readers can just make out in the picture Ruth's "bionic" hand!

We are all confident that it will not be long before she can start work in her new post at the N.H.S.



## Harvest

Celebrations of this season begin on October 4th with our Harvest Supper. This will be in All Saints Church and will be similar to last year's highly successful and intriguing format. Who can forget the entertainment by the W.I.? Tickets (just £7.50) are available from Helen Swan and a number of P.C.C. members. Hurry to secure yours!

The following day, October 5th, will see an informal Harvest Festival service at the White House at 11 am. The next weekend sees the regular Harvest Festival in All Saints Church at 11 a.m.

Another date for your diary, especially if you have suffered a bereavement in recent – or indeed not-so-recent – years, is the Commemorative Service on November 2nd, when you can light a candle in remembrance of a loved one. This coincides with All Saints' patronal festival. More details will be published later, or contact the Churchwarden.

October Deadline - September 21st.

Dear Friends,

What would your last prayer be?

I recently read about Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous astronomer, who formulated the first modern theory of the solar system and proved that the sun, rather than the earth, is its centre. His teachings are looked upon as the starting point of modern astronomy.

Added to this, Copernicus was a mathematician, jurist, physician, diplomat, governor, and much more!

I recently asked a scientist his view on God. It was a case of 'I'm not really sure that I believe there is a God'. There are many scientists who have a strong Christian belief and see no conflict with their scientific studies and belief in God come in the person of Jesus Christ.

Copernicus knew that he was a child of God who had learned to walk with his Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth, and also how he recognised his place before a mighty God.

History books tell us that, at the end of his life, Copernicus had asked for the following prayer to be written on his gravestone:

*'O Lord, the faith Thou didst give to St.Paul, I cannot ask;  
the mercy Thou didst show to St.Peter, I dare not ask;  
but Lord, the grace Thou didst show unto the dying thief, that, Lord show to me'*

What a great prayer! It shows the character of a man who was able to understand the greatness of the God of the universe, while realising the insignificance of man.

Today, we see many who believe in the greatness of man while wondering at the significance of God.

As Christians our prayer should be that many the world over will recognise the greatness of our God and the hopelessness and helplessness without Him, and, with Copernicus, pray for God's grace in their lives, and indeed in our own!

Peter Walker

## Mothers' Union

Ten members of the Mothers' Union plus friends enjoyed a visit to Spadework in Offham, West Malling on a hot summer day in July. We were welcomed and given a talk about how Spadework began; established by parents to provide training for their young adults with learning disabilities. The charity has grown and offers trainees opportunities in Horticulture, Catering, Computing and Woodwork. We had a tour round the site, meeting the trainees and visiting the plant nursery/glasshouses.

We then enjoyed a delicious 2 course lunch in the Tastebuds Café, where we were served by the friendly trainees. Afterwards we had an opportunity to buy plants, or just to sit, enjoying afternoon sun in the grounds, before having an afternoon cuppa and returning home.

A very enjoyable visit and well worth returning to. For more information on the work of the charity see [www.spadework.net](http://www.spadework.net). or take a visit yourself and enjoy lunch or tea in the Tastebuds Café. In so doing you will be supporting the valuable work of the charity in helping these young adults acquire skills to equip them for life in the community.

For more information about Mothers' Union see [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org) or contact **Lesley Marsh**, tel 01622 745702. All our meetings are open. L.M.

It's not the first time local organisations have praised Spadework and the Tastebuds Café in Life-Line reports: it must have something going for it! -Ed.

**BED** We have been informed of a single electric Adjustamatic bed in new condition which is available free to a good home. Contact the editors for information.

**Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride (and Walk)** . All Saints would be very glad to hear from anyone who could spare an hour on Saturday September 13th to welcome and "sign in" participants. It's not an onerous task. Phone 813019 please, if you can help.

Dear Eds,

### Village Speed Limits – Charlton Lane

Whilst the proposed introduction of speed limits on specific roads in the village is to be welcomed, the proposals, as reported in Life-Line, do not go far enough.

Not only are the proposals still too high on the designated roads, the exclusion of Charlton Lane from these proposals is a serious omission. This lane is the most densely populated in the village and also a narrow lane, such that private driveways, residents' parking areas and the footpath often have to be used to pass any large oncoming vehicle. The lane is on a bus route and at times a busy link road to the nearby motorways and its designated lawful speed limit of 60m/h is simply crazy.

At the recent PC AGM the majority of discussion from the floor concerned road safety (speed limits) and poor road condition. It was very evident that most parishioners at this meeting were dismissive of the progress by the authorities on the introduction of effective speed limits within the village, a topic that has been ongoing for, not months, but years.

Charlton Lane should have an applied speed limit not greater than 30m/h for the safety of all users and households, in particular, the many who use the lane for leisure purposes such as walking (partial footpath), cycling, horse riding (two stables) and sports club activities (parking). It is easy to find roads in the vicinity far safer than Charlton Lane with 30 & 40 m/h restrictions in force.

Due to the inability of the authorities to introduce appropriate speed limits within our village, the residents should, by way of an action group, join together and press for urgent action on this important safety issue.

If you share these concerns, then write to Life-Line and express your views.

Terry Aycars

Life-Line is indeed ready to receive and publish letters on the important matter of speed limits, road safety and traffic in the village. We follow Terry Aycars' letter with news we have received from our PCSO Hannah Percival who is clearly very concerned about the same issues. -Ed.

#### "SPEEDWATCH"

I see from last month's Lifeline that Speedwatch in West Farleigh has been brought up, and the speed limits have once again been mentioned to Highways. Police Constable Warren Jarvis is the officer who organises Speedwatch for parishes in the Maidstone area. I have spoken with him about setting up Speedwatch in West Farleigh and this can only be done on a road that has a 30 mph speed limit.

If anyone has any ideas please let me know!

#### "ACCIDENT IN FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH"

In relation to the recent accident on Forge Lane, I would like to provide rural residents with a few points to remember when driving along country lanes in bad weather. I have received these points from the officers who attended Ruth's accident:

- Stick to main roads, avoiding country lanes.
- Decrease your speed during bad weather.
- Leave extra space between you and the car in front.
- When approaching tight bends, sound your horn to let other road users know you are there.
- If you do skid, avoid heavy braking.

#### "PARKING ON CHARLTON LANE"

I have had a number of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking on Charlton Lane, West Farleigh in the lay-by outside Goulston Bungalows. Please could I remind residents and visitors that this lay-by is not there for every day parking but is used by the ambulance service to pick up and drop off their patients. It becomes an inconvenience for them and other road users when they have to block the road to drop off patients because someone has parked in the lay-by. I would be very grateful if we could keep an eye on this.

There are no crimes to report between 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

Hannah Percival PCSO

EVERGREENS  
A smaller number than usual met in August at Appledore, when members were amused and bemused by a Confectionary Quiz.

- Q 1 Frankie Vaughan wanted this.....  
Q2 Tartan Granite.....  
Q3 This we like to hear.....

The September meeting will be held on the *Kentish Lady*, and we will be travelling from the Archbishop's Palace to Teston and back, with lunch on the boat. Sorry, all tickets are now spoken for and there are no more available. Members will be contacted nearer the time with travel arrangements. We hope that the weather will be fine, although the boat is covered.

(Answers to quiz at foot of page.)

Helen Swan

### SEEKERS

Seekers will resume on 11th September.

Sue Walsh

### The Farleighs WI

Alison Ellman-Brown's illustrated talk at the August meeting of The Farleighs WI produced a lively discussion on Water Conservation in the Garden - on a day when we had gale force winds and torrential rain!

The strawberry tea in Ann and Graham's garden raised £233 for Breast Cancer Care and Helen and David Swan's garden party £153 towards Ivy's funeral costs. Ivy was a WI member for many years and especially loved taking part in our Christmas shows.

We provided tea and cakes at the popular and successful FLAG village fete raising over £200.

It was decided that the monthly raffles will continue and the money given to the Associated Country Women of the World's Cameroon Project.

The darts team is again entering the County Tournament with practices at the White House.

Forthcoming events include "Dr Jazz" on 20th September at 7.30 pm. for 8 pm in the WI Hall. Tickets are £10.

Contact 743382 for tickets and further information.

Our next meeting is on 10th September in the WI Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh.

Pam Clark

### John Evans writes for Life-Line about The Charity of the Reverend Oliver North which cares for the Almshouse in Charlton Lane.

Our Parish Church records first show a connection with Oliver North in 1663 when he was appointed to be Vicar of the parish of West Farleigh in Kent. He was followed in 1675 by his son, Oliver North junior, who remained vicar for almost fifty years.

His will dated 5th September 1725 provided a dwelling house for the accommodation of the two families of Thomas Manser and William Stretfield and their wives in trust for the rest of their lives, together with the use of four pieces of land and a barn and oast house.

The Trust was to be under the supervision of three Trustees; the Vicar, the churchwarden and an 'overseer', who would also be responsible for filling any future vacancy with the family of a suitably industrious man who should be "past his labour" or should have children to maintain.

Since that time the serving vicar and usually two churchwardens have managed the Trust, latterly under the guidance of the Almshouse Association. Their overriding responsibility is to manage the Trust in a financially sustainable way and to choose tenants who best meet the criteria of the Trust when a vacancy arises.

The accounts of the Trust are reported at the annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council each spring, and show assets of the Almshouse in Charlton Lane together with a reserve fund for maintenance and the future.

We hope both Oliver Norths would be gratified to see that their original settlement is thriving almost 300 years later, and still providing appropriate benefit for the village.

J.E.

Answers to Evergreens' quiz: 1) Moonlight 2) Edinburgh Rock 3) Good News

West Farleigh	All Saints, Church Lane	
7th September	8.00 am	Holy Communion
14th September	11.00am	Morning Worship
21st September	9.15 am	Holy Communion
28th August	11.00 am	Morning Prayer

#### East Farleigh

7th September	9.15 am	Holy Communion
14th September	8.00 am	Holy Communion (bcp)
	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
21st September	11.00 am	Family Service
28th September	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Morning Prayer

#### Hunton

7th September	11.00 am	Family Service
14th September	9.15 am	Holy Communion(bcp)
21st September	11.00 am	Morning Prayer (bcp)
28th September	9.15 am	Holy Communion

#### Coxheath

7th September	11.00 am	Holy Communion
14th September	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
21st September	11.00 am	Holy Communion
28th September	11.00 am	Family Service/Communion

#### Linton

7th September	9.15 am	Holy Communion
17th September	8.00 am	Holy Communion (bcp)
	11.00 am	Family Service
21st September	9.15 am	Holy Communion
28th September	9.15 am	Holy Communion

#### Clergy Contact Numbers:

Contact Peter Walker for Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Weddings and Funerals

Rev. Peter Walker at the Vicarage 01622 747570

Rev. David Jones 01622 741474

N.B. Peter's day off is Friday; David's is Monday.

The mixed and rather dull weather has meant that it has not been a good summer for most species of insect, but there have, as always, been some exceptions, even if it is not possible to say whether their success is due to a good number of them having survived the winter, rather than a response to this year's conditions. That's just one of the mysteries which surround the group of insects which have caught my attention this season.

I have noticed that the newly formed acorns are totally miss-shapen, not in the ones, but in their thousands. Their cups are deformed. They have green or bronze spirals of fleshy growth attached to them, so that each may look a little as if it sports the locks of a medusa, folded around the acorn. The acorn itself may be obscured and even unrecognisable. Sometimes it is just rather knobbly, and the word "knop" is probably a variant or diminutive of knob, for this is a Knopper Gall. Its cause is a tiny gall wasp *Andricus quercuscolicis*. As the insect lays its egg certain chemicals cause the tree to react into producing these extraneous growths. It's reminiscent of a cancer in some ways, but overall the trees are robust enough to withstand even a heavy attack. The wasp's larva can feed on the starchy food made available on the inside of the gall. Eventually the acorns fall and by then they are brown and rather crunchy underfoot. The small insect burrows its way out of its gall home and is ready to lay its eggs. Here's where things begin to get curious and complicated: instead of laying its eggs on the common English oaks the female wasp—and in this generation they are all females—chooses the catkins of the Turkey Oak. The galls formed here are quite different and very small, but the next generation has two sexes, which are naturally only ready to lay eggs after mating. This is timed for early summer, when the acorns are being formed—and so the life cycle is restarted. It's strange to think that one generation has all the fun!

The Turkey Oak is an introduced tree, and many have been planted here in our amenity woodlands. The insect did not arrive in Britain until the 1960s and spread very rapidly. As oaks produce many thousands of acorns, and since it takes only one to produce a tree, our native trees are not threatened, but this new gall is taking its place alongside the oak apple, the oak marble gall, and the very different looking Robin's pin cushion which is found on roses. Also caused by a gall wasp, this is very aptly named. It is in my garden this year, but seems not to cause much trouble, and could be described not just as curious but actually pretty. With Oak Marble galls it's easy to see the exit holes where the wasps have drilled their way out, but this is not, I think, timed to celebrate oak apple day—May 29th—which owes its origins to something completely different!

© Tim Hill

#### Evelyn Cheeseman R.I.P.

We are sad to report the death, on August 10th 2008, of Evelyn Cheeseman, long time of *The Birches* Lower Road. She died in Maidstone age 74 years after a relatively short illness. At one time she was a particularly well-known person in the village, as the Cheeseman family business was egg production from the smallholding behind her house, and the eggs were sold from a kiosk in the front garden.

The funeral was held at Vinters Park Crematorium on August 21st. She will be remembered by her friends and neighbours as a quiet unassuming person who was always ready to help. She leaves a daughter, Elizabeth, partner of Ian Wratten, and two grandsons, Adam and George, to all of whom we extend our sympathy at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

## 5 Parishes Mens Group—We have a fuller account this month of this group's activities.

Our last event on July 21<sup>st</sup> was a very successful evening at the White House Pub in West Farleigh when several ends of petanque were enjoyed. The landlord then provided some excellent buffet food afterwards and our thanks to David Simpson, a member of the pub petanque team, for organising the event.

The next evening planned is on **Thursday 18th September at The Bull Pub in East Farleigh (opposite the church) at 7.30 pm** when our guest speaker will be Mr Don Ellis a volunteer HM Coastguard at Birling Gap near Eastbourne talking about his work and experiences in this challenging job. All welcome so please join us if you can.

Over the weekend of **10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of October** six of us from the Benefice including Rev Peter Walker and our reader David Barnes are travelling to Liverpool for the annual CVM conference (Christian Vision for Men). It is being held on the Fred Olsen ship the Black Prince. We sail overnight to Dublin and after enjoying the delights of this fair city we return on Sunday to Liverpool. One of the main speakers on board will be Rev Eric Delve vicar of St Lukes Maidstone and the weekend promises to be a real mix of fun, excellent teaching and enjoying the company of many with great food too. Please pray for us- even for a smooth crossing.

CVM aims to equip local churches to bring men to a faith in Jesus from wherever they are in their spiritual journey. Check out the CVM website, if just to see our own David Barnes and son Jonathan in the conference page picture gallery from last year's conference. [www.cvmen.org](http://www.cvmen.org)

For all you culture vultures I have booked a visit to Glyndebourne Opera (near Lewes) on **Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Sadly the budget does not stretch to an opera performance but you will have a guided tour of the stage sets and around this world famous venue. The event is open to all, not just the men, so please book the date now. Details will follow in the October magazine issue but, if I can organise a coach, it is expected we shall depart Coxheath around 9 am and return mid to late afternoon.

If you are interested in coming to the September and November events or need more information about them or the 5p Mens Group please contact me on 01622 745702 or [5pmen@talktalk.net](mailto:5pmen@talktalk.net). Mike Marsh

*Holy Trinity Coxheath*

*Harvest Barn Dance*

*Friday 3rd October at Coxheath Village Hall from 7.30 pm till 10.30 pm*

*Dancing to the Springer Sisters Band*

*Tickets are £8 (under 12's free) and include a Ploughman's supper Bring your own drinks and glasses*

*For tickets please ring Mike or Mike on 01622 745702 or 744047*

### **The Farleighs History Society**

The Farleighs History Society will be meeting on Wednesday 10th September at The Bull, East Farleigh at 7.30 pm. in the function room. The talk for the evening will be given by Chris Passmore on the History of Printing in Tovil. All are welcome. Cost is £2.50 on the door - or for members free. Jenny Finch

### **HARVEST SUPPER**

The Church of St John the Baptist invites you to a Harvest Supper on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September in Watlingbury Village Hall at 7. 30 pm. The supper will be followed by a Guest Speaker and Sampling Session entitled "A Lifetime Pursuit", a light hearted talk around beer. Tickets are £10 and are limited for this unique event SO BOOK EARLY. Available from Norma 01622 817974.

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## Sports Report:

### CRICKET:

Our First XI have faulted recently and unfortunately failed to register a win last month. We lost to Milsted, Cobham and Leeds. Meanwhile our Second XI had only two fixtures and one of them was abandoned. I'm pleased to say that the one game we did finish we won, beating Rumwood—Farleigh 115: Rumwood 104. The game versus Headcorn was rained off.

### FOOTBALL:

Our friendlies are well under way, with mixed results, but we won one of them 11–0! (not a misprint) Here's hoping our new campaign, which starts on Saturday 13th September, will be more successful than the last! Training is every Wednesday at the ground.

### TWINNING IN SPORT:

Another very enjoyable tour to Ringstedt took place at the end of July. We went in the early hours of a Friday morning and for the first time travelled by coach, arriving in Ringstedt at around 2 pm. We then had our first taste of German beer which set the tone for the rest of the weekend. Parties followed, together with pub-crawls, good food, great company, no sleep, and, all in all, another terrific time was had by all. Oh, I almost forgot.... we lost the football 3-2.

Yours in sport

Tel 01622 745744

### Ton up Club Winners— August

1st prize -£25 Joyce Morgan

2nd Prize- £15 David Swan

3rd prize -£10

Helen Swan

### HELP CREATE A HUGE STIR at World's Biggest Coffee Morning

This event is taking place at Linton Church on Friday 26th September between 10.00 am and 12 noon. A cup of coffee or tea with delicious cakes and scones will be served.

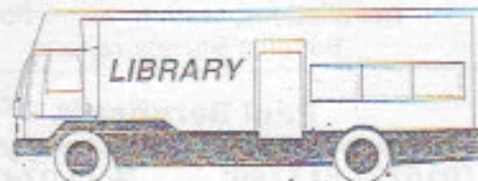
To "help create a huge stir" we hope to raise a magnificent amount of money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Do please bring along your friends, family and neighbours as your support will make a vital difference to people living with cancer.

If you are unable to join us but would like to make a donation, please contact 01622 747571

### THREAT TO MOBILE LIBRARY: HELP SAVE OUR WEST FARLEIGH SERVICE.

Mrs Molly Underdown, on behalf of the regular patrons, has pointed out to us how useful for residents the mobile library is. It calls every **Wednesday afternoon at Goulston Bungalows (3 pm) and Oliver North House (3.35pm)** in Charlton Lane so that residents can exchange not only library books but also tapes and videos. The trouble is that although the Goulston stop is well patronised, the Oliver North stop is presently unused, so the whole service may be jeopardised. It's another case of "Use it or lose it" it would seem. Users can influence the selection (and indeed order) books, so there is every case to assume that the mobile library can be a fruitful experience for us all. We do urge those who live near the stops to get out and borrow books. We understand it's a friendly social experience as well!



### East European humour....

A local couple were on holiday in Slovakia and, having seen some of the more obvious sites, thought they would visit the well-preserved and allegedly pretty village of Jam. At the regional bus station they enquired of the next bus to Jam. The local *apparatchik* (for it seemed likely she had been doing the job since communist times) said, "Are you per"aps Eengleesh?" and receiving nodded affirmation, went on, "in that case I 'ave to tell you, you 'ave missed ze bus. My instructions, which you will understand, are always to say you cannot travel to zis village today, except you wait for the 11.30 bus tonight. You see, *for you eet eez always Jam tomorrow!*"

**The freighter for bulky items will be by the Green on Sunday September 14th from 13.30–15.15**