

"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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Email: timhill@clh34.freemove.co.uk

Distributed freely in October 2008 Edition No. 393

394!



Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

We've run out of "Lifeline" quotations—any ideas? Contact the editors.

Village Hall: It's Back to Square One—or perhaps Square Two!

After a long period of silence, at the latest meeting of the Parish Council it was revealed that the Ewell Lane site, which was to be given by the Cornwallis Estate, has been withdrawn and consequently the proposed village hall and community centre can no longer be built there. However, Rookery Estates is prepared to make a site on Charlton Lane available for lease for the same purpose. The Council is taking matters forward on the new basis. (See page 3 for a more detailed account from the minutes of the meeting.)

The Ewell Lane site had a number of disadvantages, notably dangerous access from the lane and an element of remoteness from the village's population centre, which will not be shared by the new proposed site. Another aspect of the original scheme's withdrawal is that presumably there will now be no erection of the pastiche "Sydney Opera House" sub-stately home adjacent. Life-Line hopes to report further as new information becomes available.

Harvest : The Season of Abundance & "Mellow Fruitfulness".

There's certainly abundant opportunity to celebrate autumnal plenty this year, as there will be two Harvest Festival Services and the Harvest Supper. The latter will be held on Saturday October 4th. in All Saints Church, and will include entertainment by the Farleighs' W.I.'s Music Group. No-one who was there last year will willingly miss out on a repeat performance—though who knows what new features may lie ahead? - so hurry to get your ticket. Helen Swan and Sue O'Donnell have tickets, for just a bargain £7.50.

The services take place at the White House Pub on the first Sunday in October (the 5th) and the following week (October 12th) we have the traditional church service at 11 a.m. when it will also be "Back to Church Sunday" in West Farleigh. Traditional hymns may be anticipated. Do come along!

Dear Fellow Readers

Please excuse me if my letter is in many ways personal. When I wrote the July letter, Anne, my wife, was still alive, and although her health was declining none of us knew that that she would die within days. Life has changed. An understatement in so many ways and it is hard to come to terms with that change. I know that I am neither the first nor the last to experience the change that the death of a loved one brings about. Over these last weeks I have been surrounded by so much love, love in the many cards and letters, love in the words that have been said about Anne, love in the concern for myself and my family, and that has been a great help and support and I am grateful for all that love.

So where does faith help? I believe our faith is in a loving God who walks with us through the events of life. We don't escape those events as Christians. It is not about an 'insurance policy' against what life throws at us. It's not like a lucky charm. I feel that at times the Christian faith can be portrayed in that manner. So often I hear people speaking about miracles in terms of a cure or escaping the consequences of events. My faith allows me to know that Jesus Christ walks with me through those dark moments of doubt and anguish in offering me His comfort and knowing His presence in my journey.

But secondly my faith helps me because of Anne's faith and God's promise, recorded by the writer to the Hebrews, to '(Jesus will) neither leave us nor forsake us' (Hebrews 13 v. 5). I know that for Anne the years of meeting the challenges of her illness and the pain within her body are no more and that she is with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10 v. 10) Anne believed that and saw death in terms of the fullness, the completion of life.

Yes, the physical absence of the one we love does hurt and the end of sharing life and things together isn't easy to accept and the emptiness is painful. Faith doesn't remove those human feelings but it can remove the fear of the future for both the one who dies and for those who live on.

Anne was one for writing down her thoughts. She wrote to try to put into words her thinking. These notes were seldom for reading - that is, unless she wanted me to know something. After she died I came across her response to being told her condition was in its terminal stage. I finish with this and hope that you may understand why she could face with confidence her death and maybe help other readers face the future with confidence.

'I do not expect to live until I am 70 but I want to live until I die. I am not dying...every day is a bonus! 'I hope to live until I die, not to be dying until I die.'

May you all know the presence of the living Lord in your lives.

David

PS

On Sunday November 2nd (the day after All Saints Day) at 3.00 p.m. at East Farleigh church there will be the annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have died. All are very welcome to attend and to light a candle in memory of a relation or friend. Many people find this service helpful in their journey of coping with their loss. The preacher will be the Rev Stuart Piper, Lead Chaplain for the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Hospital Trust.

Letter to the Editors of Life-Line

Dear Eds,

COXHEATH BOLLARDS

A word in favour of the bollards in Coxheath, having recently returned from France where the bollard system is being used to slow down the traffic in most of the through road villages. **It works**, otherwise they would not have gone ahead and put them everywhere at great expense.

Living in Ewell Lane, the B2163 in West Farleigh, I have noticed that there seems to be hardly any of those enormous articulated foreign lorries using the road as a cut through.

In Ewell Lane there are a number of spots where the lane is just not wide enough for two way traffic (and I say please do not make the road wider) and in point of fact this does make the traffic stop and give way similar to the bollards. Drivers have got used to it here.

I say to the people of Coxheath—please bear with it. Give it some years. Some of the through traffic will not use the route, which will help, and everyone will have to slow down and learn to drive with more caution, even if they have the right of way.

Yours,

Mrs Joyce Ellis

West Farleigh Parish Council: Minutes of the Meeting of September 15th 2008.

The following are the edited main points of interest from the minutes of the latest Council meeting.

POLICE BUSINESS

The PCSO was unable to be present but had previously advised the Clerk there had been no reported crimes since the last meeting.

HIGHWAYS

Charlton Lane – Erosion of Highway

Members noted KHS patched the section of eroded highway on Charlton Lane but the loose aggregate that has been used to fill the missing tarmac is not acceptable. The Clerk was asked to follow up with Highways.

Kent Highways

Following contact from the Liaison Officer, Susan Hollister, regarding meeting to discuss highways issues, Cllrs Hards, Martin, Merritt and Scott will attend this meeting and the Clerk was asked to arrange.

Kent Highways Seminar

Cllrs Martin or Scott will attend the Parish and Town Council Seminar at County Hall on Tuesday 14th October 9.30 – 1.30.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The current situation regarding this project was reported being the withdrawal of the Ewell Lane site by the owners and the offer of an alternative site on Charlton Lane by the owner of Rookery Estates. The land offered for lease was discussed and the owner explained that if further land was required this could be made available behind the land currently offered and Members **Resolved** that the project should be moved forward on this basis. After further discussion, Members **Resolved** the Outline Planning Permission should be submitted and Cllrs Martin and Scott to discuss with Maidstone Planning and after obtaining the lease and outline planning permission there should be a further consultation with the electorate to establish the requirements. It was Agreed to review progress at the next meeting.

MATTERS OF REPORT *(from the various councillors, including those County and Borough Councillors present)*

Cllr Mortimer reported there were new guidelines on Permitted Development coming out to Parish Councils and explained the current position regarding the traffic calming in Coxheath.

Cllr Parr reported concern about the state of the roads and an attempt to get greater accountability between KCC Highways and local people.

Cllr Wilson reported the current position regarding Quality Parish Status and Concurrent Functions and that the West Farleigh Road Action Group had made some suggestions on the Speed Limit Review.

The Chairman reported the mirror at the end of his lane at the junction of Teston Lane had been damaged. As this was a highways safety matter, it was **Resolved** that the Council should fund a replacement mirror.

Cllr Underdown reported that the first 100 yards of Teston Lane is in need of repair and should be included in the Highways works when Teston Lane is closed for repairs.

Cllr Morgan reported a sign at the other side of Kettle Lane at the junction was on the ground.

Cllr Martin reported the two fields by Teston Bridge that are owned by Teston PC are in a terrible state and the Clerk was asked to speak to the Teston Clerk.

Playground Roundabout

Members noted that MBC have confirmed the bid for the remainder of the funding for the Roundabout has been successful and the new Roundabout will now be ordered and installed as soon as possible.

Vacancy at Kent Highways

As reported in the Kent Messenger, Kent Highways Dept. will have to appoint an interim Director of Highways, following the departure from that post of Mr. Geoff Mee.

Uncertainty over the roads –and speedlimits - is tangible.

EVERGREENS

At our August meeting we had a quiz about confectionary, as advertised in Lifeline. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves although we were a smaller group than usual as people were on holiday. For our September meeting 25 of us went into town to board the Kentish Lady at the Old Palace. We were given a very adequate lunch box, plied with tea or coffee and offered fresh fruit. The sun shone brightly as we set off upstream. We were all amazed at the number of apartment blocks that have been built on both sides of the river, on brown field sites. We sailed along the very pretty river, admiring the grand houses with gardens sweeping down to the river, and arrived at East Farleigh to find that the lock had to be emptied before we could sail in. We negotiated the lock and only just managed to get through the bridge. (Apparently on the Sunday before it was not navigable). We then sailed up to Teston Lock, not recognising our own village from the river. It looks amazingly different. We turned round here and went back into Maidstone. Everyone enjoyed the trip, which we would recommend.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th October* at 2.30 pm, at The White House, where we will be playing pub games, table skittles, dominoes, darts, cribbage etc. Jan will be providing us with afternoon tea. If you would like to join us, do come along and make yourself known or if you need a lift phone Terry on 814561.

* Date may be altered—check with Helen.

Helen Swan

Road Closure Likely to Lead to Un-diverting Diversions

Temporary Road Closure - Teston Lane & Lower Road, West Farleigh, Maidstone.

South East Water intend to lay new mains in the area and it will be necessary to temporarily close Teston Lane from outside Westchester, carrying on into Lower Road to the junction of Ewell Lane whilst the works are in progress. The temporary closure will commence **Monday 6 October 2008 for up to 8 weeks**. The road will be reopened as soon as works are complete. Access will be available up to the point of closure or via a signed diversion route. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contact for Clancy Docwra is Nicola Stone on 01634 873290.

Lou Dilloway

NRSA Technical Support Officer

Kent Highway Services

☎ 01622 798355

Fax 01622 798447

✉ khs.roadworksmid@kent.gov.uk

The above message from Highways gives details of the forthcoming closure of the most important road through our village. The map shows the actual closed road—solid line—and the diversion—broken line. Clancy Dockwra confirmed to Life-Line that they are currently on schedule to proceed as planned. Surprise! Work started already on 22nd September with "Trial Holing" as it is known!

In our view the works will be a considerable nuisance to most in the village, either by immediate interference, causing extra journey times, or by extra traffic down roads such as Charlton and Shinglebarn Lanes—since many cannot be expected realistically to observe the lengthy diversions. Others can expect some welcome but temporary lessening of traffic along their roads.



Another closure deserves a mention: from 22nd September **Barming footbridge** is closed for painting. This is likely to take 3 weeks, during which time the round walk along the riverbank and Lower Road will be impossible—though it will be possible if continued to East Farleigh. The painting of this rather small bridge is to cost taxpayers £35000. School-children may like to work out the maths. If the paint and materials cost £5000, and painters get £500 per week, how many painters will be busy at the bridge on each working day of the next three weeks? N.B. Make no allowance for profit ...

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5th October	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Harvest Service at the White House
12th October	11.00 am	Harvest Service & Back to Church Sunday
19th October	9.15 am	Holy Communion
26th October	11.00 am	Morning Prayer

East Farleigh

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Hunton

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Clergy Contact Numbers:

Contact Peter Walker for Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Weddings and Funerals

Rev. Peter Walker at the Rectory 01622 747570

Rev. David Jones 01622 741474

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

There is a very large field on the left as one travels to Maidstone—it's the last before the junction where one goes left. This year it had a wheat crop (or possibly barley) but last year it had a very big crop of maize. However, it is the stubble and weed growth which have proved most attractive to birds in general and to one in particular. A couple of years ago I stopped the car in order to have a closer look at a huge flock of geese which was feeding on the weeds and crop remains.

They were Canada Geese and I counted, in groups of approximately ten, until I got to 1500—which I took to be approximately the lot. They were all over the field, and, as you will imagine, pretty thickly spread. I contacted the Kent Ornithological Society over this huge number, but such is the common-ness of the species nowadays that they were not apparently impressed. Yet this is a big number, and in the 1990s counts here seem to have been considerably less on the whole. This suggests that there has been a further large increase in numbers in the last decade. Older readers will remember that 50 years ago the Canada Goose was nothing like as common as it is now, so that when one saw a goose one looked at it with interest—almost with excitement.

Once upon a time it would have been almost impossible to see a Canada Goose locally, for the bird was once confined to the north of North America, as its name suggests, and it owes its presence here to an introduction dating from the time of Charles II. It increased rapidly in the last century, and began to be a nuisance in the parks and estates where it had its main haunts. Therefore it was relocated to other parts of Britain where it was not found—which enabled it to build up its population even more rapidly! It caused nuisance by eating farmers' crops, and by fouling the green swards of public parks. In recent times it has been proposed to cull the bird for food. It may not be the best of geese to the palate, but it certainly is edible. Not much seems to have happened along these lines, however. Nesting locally on the Medway, and possibly on the largish pond at Court Lodge, it is undoubtedly a handsome addition to our birdlife, but I am inclined to support those who think it is altogether too common nowadays. Moreover, the practice of nursing ornamental wildfowl has led to a more recent explosion in the numbers of Greylag Geese. These are a native species, but now cause much the same problems as the Canadas. It is strange to think that 60 years ago Fraser Darling could write (in his great book on the Scottish Highlands & Islands) "The Greylag goose is becoming scarcer every year as a breeder, though it is still fairly evenly distributed over the Outer Hebrides. The tangle of lochs and land in North and South Uist will probably be the last stronghold of the species..." Naturally the behaviour of our not-so-wild geese is very different from those of such remote and romantic locations. © Tim Hill

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

The idea of Back to Church Sunday is to invite someone in the parish who does not usually come to church or who has never been a churchgoer to come along on this day. All Saints will be doing this on October 12th (which is also Harvest) so why not bring along a friend with you? An especially warm welcome is guaranteed on this day.

KATHLEEN MOORE. We wish to express our sympathy to our Church Organist, Philip Moore, on the sad loss of his wife Kathleen. Kathleen fought bravely, and with tremendous cheerfulness, during a very long illness. She died on September 8th, and the funeral was held at Hunton Church, where Philip is also organist, on the 19th.

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JUNIOR SPORT (contributed by Ian Wratten) Opportunities for young Rooneys..



The season has started with our running three teams in the Weald of Kent League, u8's, u9's and u10's and the development squad is up and running at Charlton Lane.

The club requires new players for u9's and u10's so if there is anyone in the village who knows of children in class 4 or 5 age group please get in touch.

The development squad runs on Saturday mornings at Charlton Lane from 10 am and would welcome new players from Year R and Year 1.

We also need to boost numbers of our u7's (class 2) in preparation for league fixtures next season.

The aim of the club is to provide fun footballing activities in a safe environment with the emphasis on children having fun and improving their technique.

For more details please contact Ian on 01622 746138

The Farleighs WI

Ann Chance kept The Farleighs WI members highly amused when she regaled them with stories of her ambition to be a cowboy on a cattle ride from the age of eight. This was realised after intense and hilarious riding lessons at the age of 64 in Montana, Wyoming and Oklahoma. A speaker to be highly recommended.

Choir practices are to commence weekly from 30th September at Helen Swan's home.

Country and Line dancing will be held at East Peckham village hall on 17th October, 7.30 pm. to 10 pm.

The knitting and sewing class will reconvene on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4pm. at Ann Ayear's home.

An open -to- all fashion show will be held on 22nd October at 7.30 pm. at the WI Hall. Wine and nibbles will be served.

The annual meeting and Autumn Show will be held on 8th October at 7.30 pm. at The Farleighs WI Hall.

Visitors will be most welcome.

Pam Clark

SEEKERS

The Seekers club for 6 to 11 year olds resumed on 11th September after the Summer break.

On 19th September there was much excitement when we were visited by two eagle owls (with their owners Cliff and Lou). The children had an endless number of questions and we all learned a lot. Some of us were not too keen on seeing the day old chicks devoured whole though!

This term we are looking at the life of Joseph. We would very much welcome new children – if you are year 1 to year 6, come and join the fun – Thursdays 5.45 to 7.15 pm.

Contact **Sue Walsh** for more information on 01622 728252

S.W.

Events at the White House

The live music night with hog roast on 19th September raised £168 for Age Concern and before the end of the month there will have been be a Petanque Fun Day on 28th September.

Looking ahead to October there is a Harvest Festival Service at 11.00 on Sunday 5th to which all are warmly invited. The regular lunch club meets that day too. Then there is a Conkers competition on 12th October starting at 12.30 p.m. Why not chance your arm at this event?

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Sports Report:

CRICKET:

Our cricketers have all but finished and overall both teams can be pleased with all their efforts this season. The 1st XI ended their season with defeats versus Willesborough and Marden but a fine away victory over Belsted enabled Farleigh to finish in a respectable league position. The 2nd XI lost to Milsted but victory came at home to Bearsted. The Staplehurst game was postponed due to rain. We now had three friendlies to finish up, the first of which we have now lost to the West XI. In the game played on the 20th September our cricketers were victors over Teston with a score of West Farleigh 171 and Teston 165 runs. The match against Benenden is to follow.

FOOTBALL :

Our footballers have started well. Our 1st XI started with two great victories, firstly Headcorn away, eventually winning a thriller 5-3 and this was followed up with a deserved 1-0 victory over Cobdown. However they went down for the first time this season losing 5-1 to East Malling in the cup.

Our 2nd XI had just played the once, unluckily going down 2-1 to Thurnham. However, in the latest game - in the cup competition—they trounced Waitrose 7-1!

Yours in sport

Tel 01622 745744

Ton up Club Winners- September

1st prize -£25 No. 138 Andy Baker 2nd Prize- £15 No 13 Neil Crighton 3rd prize -£10 No. 20 Roland Day

Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride (and Walk)

Sue O'Donnell who took part writes:

"The bike ride/walk went really well with fine sunny weather and I walked to 13 churches in and around Maidstone, meeting many cheerful souls on the way. Thanks to all the many kind friends, neighbours, family and work colleagues who sponsored me I raised £213.00. Thanks must go to Peter Baggott who on the spur of the moment also decided to take part and cycled to several churches raising a further £50.00. Many thanks too to all those who manned the church during the day - your help was much appreciated. It was a fun day and I hope more people will be encouraged to join in next year. " Well done Sue!

5P Men's Group are organising a visit to 'look behind the scenes' at Glyndebourne, the world famous Opera House in East Sussex.

A coach has been booked for **Saturday November 15th**, leaving Coxheath at 9am returning at approx 5pm

There is an open invitation if folks, Ladies included, would like to join in this visit.

Places are limited to 51, so it's on a first come first served basis. Cost £15.25 per person.

There will also be a short visit to the village of Alfreton in the afternoon.

To book your place contact Mike Marsh on 01622 745702 or email 5pmen@talktalk.net

M.M.

Coxheath Area Mothers Union members will be joining Barming branch members on **October 14th** when Angela Pain will be talking about Mothers Union involvement with Rochester Prisons, including the Angel Tree Project.

Thank you to all those who generously donated toys and gifts at the Benefice Service in August. If you would like to know more about Prison Fellowship or how to donate to Angel Tree contact Lesley on 01622 745702 or join us at the meeting.

Do look up www.themothersunion.org website for the up to date information; the Christmas Gift Catalogue, which has reasonably priced cards, toys and gifts for all the family, also the new magazine 'Families First'

Coxheath Area Branch is open to all from East Farleigh, Linton, Hunton and West Farleigh.

Lesley Marsh

The Bulky Refuse Freighter will next be by the Green on Saturday 1st November from 9.30-11am.