

West Farleigh's own

# LIFE-LINE

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Illustration of All Saints'  
after Harold Harbours.

**We wish all our readers a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Please note that there will be no January edition: this is  
a condensed 2-month Life-Line, while we take a little break!**

A Big "Thank you" to all our distributors, without whose efforts in all weathers over the last year, your Life-Line could not have been delivered! Well done Anne, Christie, David, Jim, Joan and Neil, Margaret, Pauline, Sheena, Sue and Tel, and not forgetting Jane who handles our advertising.

This month we are pleased to enclose the first official Newsletter from West Farleigh's Parish Council. In order to achieve "Quality Council" status the Parish Council has to show that it is appropriately communicating with its public—the electors and inhabitants of West Farleigh. The Newsletter, on distinctly coloured paper, is part of the process and it will probably be issued about 4 times a year. Note that the inserted Newsletter is only being delivered within the parish boundaries. Extracts from the (draft) Minutes of the latest meeting are on Life-Line's page 3. The next Council Meeting is on 19th January 2009.

**SOUTH EAST WATER and CLANCY DOCKWRA** have not been able to fulfil the fond hopes registered here last month for an early finish to the Lower Road works which have caused disruption to many people's lives over the past 7 weeks or more. However, we are assured that the water has now passed its lab tests, and that re-instating the road is all that needs doing. This should be done by 1st December, thus fulfilling the schedule exactly. A pity it couldn't be improved upon, though.....

## **Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning.**

November 22nd proved a morning of brisk cold affording a good opportunity to walk or drive to All Saints for the Christmas Fayre—with coffee, mince pies and biscuits. Over £270 was raised for Church funds, plus additional amounts for the two stands of the Fairtrade and Christmas card charities, but the main element of success was undoubtedly the conviviality over the coffee and many visitors perhaps stayed longer than they originally intended, catching up on news and views and local gossip. Many thanks to all those who manned the stalls and the kitchen and assisted in any way on the day, and to those who donated such a variety of goods for sale or consumption, notably cakes, preserves and plants - and last (but not least) the customers on the day. -Ed.

**Carol Service at the White House @ 7.30 pm on December 7th.**

**Carol Service at All Saints @ 4 pm on December 14th. with the  
East Peckham Silver Band.**

**Life-Line's errors.** Thanks to the sharp-eyed readers who pointed out that last month's edition should have been numbered 394, not 393. This means that we will reach (d.v.) 400 editions next June. Suggestions for celebratory elements in that landmark edition would be appreciated.....

**Next Deadline: January 25th 2009**



Dear Friends,

I guess I must have been about 8 years old when one Christmas I hoped that Father Christmas would bring me a train set. And yes, there it was that Christmas morning! What a great present that was!

Only years later did I discover that my Dad and Uncle Jeffrey had laboured many hours to lay track on a board and get all the bits and pieces together so that an electric train and carriages could travel along its railway.

What a wonderful time Christmas is to give others presents and to enjoy time to relax with family and friends. But each Christmas there is an aftermath to all this gift swapping, and it's often seen in adverts offering articles for sale followed by the words: 'unwanted gift'

We all hope that the presents we give will never be an 'unwanted gift'. Amazingly, we might have already put this 'tag' on a gift which has been offered to us. A gift offered by God Himself.

The Bible says, 'God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son, does not have life' (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:11-12)

God, you see, offers us eternal life (Romans 6:23). But we can only receive this gift when we accept Jesus as our Saviour. There is no other way (Acts 4:12).

What a wonderful gift for everyone without distinction!

This Christmas when we recall the coming of God's greatest gift, the Lord Jesus, it is a time to re-commit oneself to Him or accept Him for the first time. Or is it going to be, as those adverts put it 'unwanted gift'?

No matter what presents may come your way this Christmas, none will so perfectly meet your need as Jesus, for only He can ensure that you have forgiveness of sins now and a place in Heaven for all eternity.

I loved that train set, but even at that young age I knew about a greater gift - Jesus; six years later I knew Him!

'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift' (2 Corinthians 9:15)

We send our best wishes and prayers for a Happy and Holy Christmas and peaceful New Year,

Peter & Diana

#### PEOPLE.

**Rowley Day** had to have an operation after his fall last month. He is at home and in good heart but not without pain following his ordeal. He remains in our thoughts as we hope for a full recovery. Also undergoing an operation is **Lucinda Devenish** of Fox Pitt, who was suddenly taken gravely ill recently. May she too get better quickly!

It is good to see **Court Lodge** occupied again. The **Butler** family have moved in and we wish them every happiness in their new home. Also now occupied is the new bungalow at the top of Charlton Lane - we wish them equal joy in their new home. It's often hard to know of movements of the population as they occur: do make Life-Line aware of newcomers.

#### FOOTPATH OFF EWELL LANE.

It is a pleasure to report that the footpath which appeared to be impeded last month has re-opened with a splendid gate giving easy access along the public right of way. New resident in the village David Duce intends to run cattle on the leased pasture—there are sheep there at the moment - and it was always part of his plan to ensure proper maintenance of the path. It is heartening to feel that the land will be productive again and we look forward to meeting the livestock in due course!



**PARISH COUNCIL.** Here are extracts from the (Draft) Minutes of the Council Meeting which took place on Monday 3rd November last.

**PARISHIONERS OPEN SESSION**

The owner of Jewel Ultra updated the Council on planning enforcement matters relating to his property\*.

- **Police Business**—The PCSO had provided the crime figures from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, being one theft of a tractor and two incidents relating to damage to motor vehicles. PCSO Hannah Percival had provided a response regarding the problems with parking in the lay-by adjacent to Goulston Bungalows and following discussion the Clerk was asked to contact Maidstone Housing Trust and MBC to try and get the matter resolved. The Council was concerned about the absence of Police presence at Council meetings and the Clerk was asked to write to the Police to request more regular attendance.
- **Charlton Lane - Erosion of Highway**—Members noted Highways had confirmed the work carried out in Charlton Lane is the standard expected. However, it was reported with the volume of traffic in Charlton Lane generated by the recent road closure, the sub base used to fill this area has been depleted and the Clerk was asked to contact Highways again to get the work repeated with a more appropriate material.
- **Meeting with Highways**—A meeting was held with Susan Hollister and Ben Hilden of Highways on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October when various issues were raised including the speed limit on Charlton Lane. Despite assurances that there would be equipment installed to monitor the speeding cars on Charlton Lane within the week, Members were disappointed that nothing has yet been done. Cllr Merritt will follow up with Ben Hilden and Cllrs Stockell and Wilson agreed to speak to Jim Pearce at KCC on this matter.
- **Community Centre**—An update on the project was provided regarding the previous land offered to the Council that had subsequently been withdrawn and the land now offered in Charlton Lane that is currently with solicitors. There was discussion regarding the size and use of the hall and the amount of funding that will be required for the project. It was confirmed that when Outline Planning Permission has been obtained there will be a public meeting arranged for parishioners to attend to give their views on the project.
- **Communication & Parish Council Newsletter**—Concern was expressed regarding reports relating to Parish Council matters that had previously appeared in Life-Line and following discussion it was agreed that both parties could work better together for mutual benefit\*\*. A Parish Council Newsletter was discussed and it was Resolved to produce a quarterly newsletter with the first issue to be distributed with the December/January issue of Life Line. The Chairman agreed to be Editor and all Members will provide a short article for inclusion in the first issue.
- **Play Area Annual Inspection Report**—With reference to the Annual Report from Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Members discussed the quotations received and it was Resolved to accept the quotation from Park Leisure at a cost of £550.00. **Equipment** - There was discussion regarding the next piece of equipment that is required for the Play Area, being some form of climbing apparatus with slide, and it was agreed to investigate further sources of such equipment and prices for discussion at the next meeting.
- **Village Green Wooden Sign**—Members noted the finger post is in need of replacing and it was Resolved to accept the quotation from Lenham Oak to supply the 12' post and fingers plus the labour at a total cost of £450. Cllr Martin agreed to remove the old post with the assistance of Cllr Scott. Cllr Underdown agreed to paint the sign.
- **Individual Councillors Reports**—Cllr Merritt reported a post on the village green had been damaged and will arrange for this to be replaced, the picnic tables will require washing in the Spring and there was some debris in the play area. There were various reports of problems with litter bins around the village. Cllr Underdown reported problems with parking in Charlton Lane on football days and the Clerk was asked to write to the Football Club. Cllr Martin reported problems with horses on Cornwallis land and is in communication with Lambert and Foster to get the problems resolved.
- **Play Area Road Sign**—Members noted Kent Highway Services has agreed to install the play area road signs and this job will be put on their list for action and installed as soon as possible.

**PLANNING MATTERS**

**Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane - MA/08/2020** - Application for Listed Building Consent for the conversion of barn, cart lodge and bothy into a single dwelling and annexe and stock shed into a single holiday let. Recommendation: No objection.\*\*\*

**Smiths Hill Barn, Smiths Hill - ENF/10260** - Members Noted MBC has issued a Notice of an enforcement investigation regarding a breach concerning the operation of a horse trading and accountancy business and floodlighting outside permitted hours.

*Your Editor adds, by way of explanation \* Defending his original breaches of planning regulations over the 2.3 m. fence etc.*

*\*\*This refers to the Life-Line article campaigning for better speed limits than those proposed by Kent Highways.*

*\*\*\*Council spent some time discussing this important potential development. However, it is essentially a renewal of the previous approved plans and does not include the main mansion plan ( "Sydney Opera House" ) not yet required for renewal.*

*-T.H.*



**Seekers** are looking towards Christmas!

Look out for us somewhere near you on the evening of 11th December - we shall be coming out into the village making a "joyful noise". We're not collecting money, so it will be safe to open your doors! If you hear or see us, we would love you to come out and join us for some carol singing. Our approximate timetable is:

6.00 pm near the church  
6.20 pm Oliver North House  
6.40 pm Goulston Villas  
7.00 pm The Green

We shall then be returning to the church for refreshments - everyone is welcome to join us.

Everyone at Seekers wishes you all a joyful Christmas. Seekers will resume on Thursday 15th January. New members (years 1 - 6) will be very welcome. Phone Sue on 728252 for more information. Sue Walsh

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walking through bluebells by day or under the stars by night**

**having a speaker for your organisation or group**

**organising a coffee morning, ladies' luncheon or curry evening**

**or any event morning, noon or night!**

**We look forward to hearing from you**

**Thank you**

## **Traffic—Fowle on the Ball**

It is not every month that Life-Line editors agree so wholeheartedly with the Downs Mail, but we found Denis Fowle's comments on traffic and the K.C.C. (Nov. edition, Page 30) spot on. He says "Many are going to question the adequacy of (K.C.C.'s) first report "(on speed limits) concluding "We must not miss out" on the present opportunity to tackle the problem. The omens pointing to present action are auspicious. If we gather some together we see

- The vacuum at the top of Kent Highways is being filled. Cllr Paul Carter— leader of the KCC— is reported to have taken responsibility for Highways personally, while John Hobbs has been appointed Director of Highways Improvement. Neither, we are sure, will wish to be found wanting.
- Yalding Parish Council has conducted its own review of speed limits in their village—and KCC has footed the bill. Yalding will itself have to find the £5000 signage cost, for 30 mph limits but intends to do this, and already has agreement from county and borough councillors to use their devolved budgets towards it.
- This is additional to Yalding's hard-hitting petition aided campaign against HGVs.
- Local successes—precedents indeed—include 30 mph limits on Red Hill in Watlingbury.
- West Farleigh Road Action Group is seeking a review of the recent proposals. (Cont page 6)



*Ring out the Old, Ring in the New...* There are some changes to Services and Service Times in the New Year. They are not too radical and may indeed be easier to remember. The 9.15 am service is to be the 9.30 am service on the third Sunday of the month. The Modern and the Traditional 11 o'clock services are swapped, with the "Modern" to be on the 4th Sunday of the month. The changes affecting other parishes can be deduced from this timetable.

Church Services December 2008			Church Services January 2009		
West Farleigh			West Farleigh		
All Saints, Church Lane			All Saints, Church Lane		
7th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	4th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion
@ White House	11.00 am	Carol Service	11th January	11.00 am	Matins
14th December	4.00 pm.	Carol Service	18th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
21st December	9.15 am	Holy Communion	25th January	11.00 am	Modern Matins
24th December	9.30 pm.	Holy Communion			
25th December	10.30 am	Christmas Day service			
28th December	10.30	Benefice Service @ Coxheath			
<b>East Farleigh</b>			<b>East Farleigh</b>		
7th December	9.15 am	Holy Communion	4th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
14th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	11th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Morning Prayer		11.00 am	Family Service
21st December	6.00 pm.	Carol Service	18th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
24th December	4.00 pm	Christingle	25th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion
24th December	11.30 pm.	Holy Communion		9.30 am	Matins
25th December	10.45 am	Holy Communion			
<b>Hunton</b>			<b>Hunton</b>		
7th December	11.00 am	Family Service	4th January	11.00 am	Family Service
14th December	9.15 am	Holy Communion	11th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
21st December	6.00 pm.	Carol Service	18th January	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
24th December	11.30 pm.	Holy Communion	25th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
25th December	9.15 am.	Christmas Day Service			
<b>Coxheath</b>			<b>Coxheath</b>		
7th December	11.00 am	Holy Communion	4th January	11.00 am	Holy Communion
14th December	9.30 am.	Morning Prayer	11th January	9.30 am.	Morning Prayer
21st December	4.00 pm.	Carol Service	18th January	11.00 am	Holy Communion
24th December	5.00 pm.	Childrens Service	25th January	11.00 am	Family Service
	11.15 pm	Holy Communion			
25th December	10.30 am.	Christmas Day Service			
28th December	10.30 am	Benefice Service			
<b>Linton</b>			<b>Linton</b>		
7th December	9.15 am	Holy Communion	4th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
14th December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	11th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service	18th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion
21st December	4.00 pm.	Carol Service		11.00 am	Family Service
24th December	11.30 pm	Holy Communion	25th January	9.30 am	Holy Communion
25th December	9.15 am	Christmas Day service			

Note the **Benefice Service**  
on the last Sunday of 2008 at 10.30 am  
at Coxheath Parish Church.  
All Welcome.

#### 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.





The u8's have played two matches this month and have been passing the ball well, working well as a team and all the players are working hard to improve their skills.

The u9's have played two matches against Wittersham and Burwash and unfortunately both games resulted in two 3-0 defeats.

The u10's have had only one match this month against Great Chart. This was a close match but Great Chart scored twice in the last 5 minutes to take the points.

There are still opportunities for new players to join this fun Saturday morning sports session.

## The Farleighs WI

Barbara Stevens entertained The Farleighs WI in her inimitable style when she gave a talk on **Pioneering, Pragmatic Presidents of Downe WI**.

The institute was formed in July 1919—the same month and year as ours - 1919. (Celebrations ahead next year)

The **District Carol Service** will be held on 18th December at 7.30p.m. at **East Farleigh parish church**.

The **Farleighs WI Christmas Show and Play** will be held on Friday 12th December at 7.30 p.m. and Saturday 13th December at 2.30p.m. at the WI Hall. Tickets £3.00 adults and £1.50 children

Contact Maidstone 814111 for tickets.

A Happy Christmas to you all from The Farleighs WI

Pam Clark

## EVERGREENS

The November meeting of Evergreens was at the home of the McNaughtons where Pat Tomlin gave a demonstration of Christmas decorations and flower arrangements - some very simple but effective. I am sure that there will be holly and chocolate Christmas trees in the village this Christmas. We have also booked to go to the Horseshoes for Christmas lunch on 9th December. There are also plans to go to the cinema to see *Mama Mia*. Should there be sufficient funds we will be booking for a London show rather than the local panto.

Helen Swan

## Traffic (Cont. from page 4.)

**Meanwhile** Charlton Lane continues to suffer from diverted traffic, which interferes with the free run of the speedsters. Ask yourself the question, who would suffer from a 30 mph limit on the lane? Responsible drivers already keep to 30 mph or less, so that leaves the irresponsible driver, and perhaps the naïve one who is unfamiliar with the lane. If there were a 30 mph limit, the latter would be warned: the former could be brought to book in the event of an accident—the accident which seems inevitable at some point. Let the authorities ask themselves a similar question; what is gained by delay in taking action in Charlton Lane? (and elsewhere).

Let us learn from events around us and from the actions of our neighbours and keep up the pressure for change. The early months of 2009 look to be propitious ones if determined action is taken. -Ed

## MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

CONCERT BY KENT POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR

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**FOOTBALL :**

I think that the lads must have Christmas on their minds if the results last month are anything to go by!

Just one victory in six games tells its own story. Our 1st X1 have only played twice, losing to Three Suttons in the Kent Junior Cup 5—0, followed by losing in the league 3-2 to East Malling. Our 2nd X1 started well, eventually defeating Staplehurst in a dramatic penalty shoot-out in the cup, but unfortunately going down in the next three games - Chipstead 3 -2 (K.J. cup), Sutton Saints 3—0 and finally 2 -1 to Waitrose (no 'buy one, get one free' there!)

**CLUB NEWS**

Our Christmas raffle this year will be held at the Walnut Tree (East Farleigh) on Tuesday 16th December.

Tickets will soon be available with the usual array of nice prizes. Please contact me if you would like to support the club.

**Christmas Trees** (profits if any to the Sports Club) will soon be available. This year's price is £22 for a 5 -7 ft. tree, £25 for a 7—9 ft. tree, delivered to your door. Mince pies optional!! Please give us a call if you would like one.

May I wish my readers a very Happy Christmas.

Yours in sport

**Tel** 01622 745744

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**Ton up Club Winners November**

1st prize -£25 Ian Tillott

2nd Prize- £15 Helen Swan

3rd prize -£10 Stephen Back

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**Nature Notes—The Source of Springs—an Excursion into Geology.**

As I go about wardening Quarry Wood I constantly note the state of the stream that starts there. It's the infant Ewell - not that this particular stream ever becomes much more than the merest juvenile before it hits the Medway. It must have been an important factor in village life for many centuries, and even after it ceased to be in itself our water supply, other springs which feed into it were harnessed for our use. Many others villagers have the opportunity to observe it better than I as the Ewell runs through their gardens. Like me they note that the flow does not vary a great deal from day to day or month to month, and they therefore sleep confidently at night, secure in the knowledge that even 48 hours of torrential rain will not affect the stream's flow—a little local road run-off excepted. Equally, even in the worst droughts of the last decade the springs at the source have never run dry, so that the flow has been adequate at all seasons.

Not having geological knowledge I have had to consult the local geological survey to establish the natural conditions - other than long term rainfall - which govern the flow. Although it is often referred to as the Greensand ridge, the high land to the south of West Farleigh consists of the Hythe beds which are described as "sandy limestone and calcareous sand". The whale-backed hill is constructed in large part of the pervious limestone called Kentish Rag. It was this that was quarried in the wood and elsewhere. This is overlain by thin but impervious clays in places, such that parts of the wood soon become very muddy after rain, while others remain "dry" to the foot. In some places there are quite deep deposits of wind-blown glacial soils known as brickearths or Loess. These are very fertile, though patchy. At the bottom of the rag beds there is a thin band of another impervious clay, which forces the rainwater which has descended through the rag to move laterally down whatever slope there is in the strata until it emerges into daylight. It is at the visible junction of the rag and this Atherfield Clay that the Ewell is born. This clay (which is named for Atherfield Point on the Isle of Wight but is widespread across south-east England) extends locally from Yalding to Leeds in what shows on the maps as a narrow strip. All along its junction with the overlying Hythe beds are springs. These can be seen on the Medway banks in the sequence of clear brooks which flow into the river itself. I feel that after a very wet winter an incipient spring may appear in my own garden! The Ewell valley in which much of West Farleigh stands is one of the largest areas of exposed Atherfield clay around here. In some places the streams flowing across it have deposited *tufa*, a modern limestone formed in the past few thousand years. Readers will know that All Saints church is famed for its tufa arches, and I wonder, having read about it, whether the tufa came from a deposit quite nearby, between Barming church and the Medway. Deposits of tufa are usually small, but this one was 14ft thick. The Ewell river is still depositing tufa on its stones today. The stream bed in places provides a very good habitat for caddis flies but as far as I know these have not been properly investigated.

Back up in Quarry Wood it is also possible to see the "gulls" - a word used locally to describe folding cracks in the rag-stone. They have trapped the brickearth in carrot-shaped exposures on the rock face. Some of the ragstone forms good seams, but between them is "hassock"—another local word - for more shapeless sandy accumulations. © Tim Hill

**The Bulky Refuse Freighter** will next be by the Green on Sunday December 21st, from 1.30- 3.15 p.m.