

West Farleigh's own

# LIFE-LINE



Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

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We shall soon have enough *Life-lines* to save the banking system.

attrib. The Chancellor of the Excheq.

## 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO BE FOCUS OF FARLEIGH SUMMER TWINNING FAIR

West Farleigh's twinning with the German village of Ringstedt will be 10 years old this summer and the Sports Club's annual sports event will mark this anniversary in style. With the Ringstedt soccer team visiting West Farleigh at the end of July this year a fine platform has been created for the Farleigh Summer Twinning Fair. The football match between West Farleigh Sports Club and SG Lintig/Ringstedt will take place on Saturday 1st August at 12 noon and will lead directly into the many other activities of the fair.

This was decided at the meeting held on Wednesday February 18th at the Good Intent at which all the interested parties in the village were represented. Councillor Bev Hodson chaired this gathering and the Sports Club, the Church, the Parish Council, the Dandelion Trust, the Seekers, and the W.I. agreed a framework for the event and for the sharing of the proceeds. Many "i" s need to be dotted and "t" s crossed by the committee which was formed to take the arrangements forward, but the following other elements are proposed:-

A Hog Roast to feed the five thousand and a beer tent; live music; numerous stalls from coconut shy to the traditional cakes and preserves stall; a tug of war and possible other sporting events which it is hoped will have a competitive element involving our neighbouring villages. A football match for children was also discussed. Other local charities are also invited to set up stalls.

The Sports Club will be holding a dance in a marquee on site the previous evening in honour of the twinning anniversary. Peter Baggott and Jack Martin from the Sports Club were very gracious in allowing their arrangements to be extended into a village fair. Thanks are also due to Stephen Norman on whose land all these events will take place.

Tickets for the Sports Club dance will be available in due course, as will tickets for the **Grand Draw** which will help fund the events. One thing more — volunteers to help in any and every way are needed and it is not too soon for you to step forward. Please contact any of the following:

Jack Martin, Peter Baggott, Sue O'Donnell, Helen Swan, Debbie Bailey or Bev Hodson.

### Appeal — Smith's Hall—Open under National Gardens Scheme. May 17th 2009.

Calling all gardeners! The Spring Plant Fayre in in of All Saints is to be held in the lovely gardens at Smith's Hall. Do you have plants to donate for sale to the public at this event? Could you sow any now in readiness? Are you willing to help in any way? If so, please contact any member of the P.C.C.

April Deadline: March 22nd 2009



Dear yellow reader,

March this year falls rather neatly into the Christian period of Lent, a period of 40 days that comes immediately before Easter and is meant as a time of preparation and reflection as we prepare for the events of Good Friday and the glory of Easter morning - Christ has risen! Hallelujah. The early church took time out to prepare and to reflect on the pressures of the daily routine, to look at life and how that life was in tune with the creator God. Gradually, over time, Lent has come to mark a time of 'giving up things' and more recently we think in terms of giving up luxuries, chocolate, cakes and other things.

I've been thinking about the whole idea of 'giving up' and I wonder if we ought to be a little more positive. Over recent years and months I have become increasingly irritated by the media, the press and radio and TV, in its negative approach to news. Everything is gloomy, and if it's not gloomy then they'll make it so by the way events are reported—for example, the recent snow resulting in the loss of millions of pounds of production caused by people staying off work; schools being closed and how terrible that is; the shortage of salt and even the gloom of the headlines stating 'most of Britain is in the grip of snow and ice, cities and towns paralysed, councils running out of salt' and so on, when in fact it is only parts of the country. Who saw the report of an airport being closed? Whilst the reporter was reporting this, an aeroplane took off behind her! It all adds to the negativity of life. Added to that of course is the 'blame industry'. Everything is someone's fault and certainly not ours!

This Lent I'm going to try to think of the positive things that I enjoy—the beauty of the world around me, the warmth of good relationships, the joy of helping people and being helped, of seeing people responding to support from family, friends and neighbours. We all suffer enough at times through illness, loss of employment, bereavement and concern for our families. It is right to be concerned, Jesus was always concerned by those around him who wanted support and help but he didn't go round casting gloom and despondency. He took delight in seeing people respond to His Good News.

So for Lent this year give up negative thoughts and give out the love and forgiveness and peace that can make our lives feel better, and for those around us can we seek to lift the fallen? At the same time turn our backs on those who would have us see everything in terms of yet one more incident of gloom to bring us down.

Have a great Lent and come to the light and joy of the risen Christ, refreshed and renewed this coming Eastertide. Enjoy the chocolate and cakes this year!

Yours

David

## Parish Magazines Celebrate their 150th Anniversary

Life-Line is just one of thousands of parish magazines published monthly (or at different intervals) in the country's 13000 or so parishes but the occasion of the 150th anniversary of these taken-for-granted publications prompts a pause for reflection. (Indeed your editors were ignorant of the history of these magazines and have used the publicity surrounding the anniversary to bone-up on the facts.) The Archbishop of Canterbury has written a note of congratulation to the movement and drawn attention to the work of Gordon Neal who has done much research on the subject. Gordon considers that last month was the 150th anniversary of the first one, as long as a parish magazine is viewed as a regular newsy production of general interest but rooted in values both Christian and (in the best sense) parochial.

Like a number of good things, parish magazines started in Derby. The first was the brainchild of the Rev'd. J Erskine Clarke and was, quite reasonably, entitled "Parish Magazine". It is said that his magazine was "aimed not at the committed but at the other half." Larger than this Life-Line (at least in page numbers) it caught on and quite quickly became distributed to a number of parishes, who inserted their pages of local news. Maybe some residents of West Farleigh remember when our magazine, not then called Life-line, was of such a type. The earliest copy we have is dated April 1895 but there is no intimation in it that it's the first, so we can assume it had been around for some time. Again, does any parishioner have an older copy? Within Kent, the earliest known magazine appears to be that of Gillingham, dated 1866. These earliest records are valuable for what they tell us about everyday life in times-gone-by, and, we believe, good copies can fetch good money in the right market! Nowadays printing is so much cheaper in real terms, and modern technology permits the smallest parish to do its own thing, that there is little prospect of the movement dying away. Of course, individual magazines can easily fold, in more than one sense, but they will tend to rise, phoenix-like, from any ashes.

-Ed

## All Saints Parish West Farleigh: Annual General Meeting.

This meeting, preceded by a vestry meeting and followed by a meeting of the (new) Parochial Church Council, will take place on Tuesday 17th March next at 7.30 pm. in All Saints. All are welcome to the A.G.M. but in order to vote make sure you are registered as a member on the Electoral Roll (see separate notice on page 5).



## Assistant, relates something of her experience in January.

I'd like to share a little of what happened at this Diocesan Conference that Peter, Diana, David J and I attended. Butlins' accommodation has improved greatly since the days when we went to Spring Harvest at Minehead and Skegness in the late '80s – but it was still very cold! We were tired at the end of four days and no wonder, for the day started at 7.30 am and didn't end until after the late night cinema (not compulsory!) starting at 10.30 pm.!

So, what were all the sessions about? Well, the Bible Studies were led by **Revd. Dr Chris Wright** and he chose Deuteronomy because he said that it was God's word through Moses to God's people on the move and God's *purpose, promise and passion* are running through it. Chris Wright spoke about the treasured possession of the people who had come out of Egypt – a shared history; a sense of identity and mission. The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus are as important for us; the New Testament experience of coming out of darkness into light is, if you like, our Exodus. He said that any mission must begin with our experience of God. If our mission is really to win people for Christ and bring them into God's Kingdom then it has got to begin with our own experience of God so that what He wants us to do is our priority; not going our own way in the hope that it's right.

**John Bell** (Church of Scotland and the Iona Community) spoke on the theme of 'One People'. He said that it was the 'connectiveness' of the members that made the church 'one body'. They all knew each other, worked alongside each other, shared meals. When a person joined their group they were known because they were local. In recent times people have got into their cars to go to a church where they like the style of worship but 'the body' is nourished by 'each other' not only the preferred kind of worship. Imagination is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and he implored us to meet, to talk, to share.

**Mark Russell**, 34 year-old head of the Church Army, spoke with great passion about 'One Purpose'. He said that we need to be a sign-post to Jesus, go where Jesus would go, root ourselves in integrity and love, be courageous, risk more and expect more from God.

**Alison Morgan**, biblical scholar, spoke on the theme of 'Together'. She also implored us to take risks; to use our imaginations, saying that creativity is often stifled. She also said this, 'Failure is only the opportunity to try or begin again'. What a lovely expression!

I would like to end by telling you about the lovely way that the conference started. As we entered the room we each had our hands washed by senior clergy. Each of the delegates was given a small white towel with a Bible reference, John 13 v. 15, embroidered on it. This quoted Jesus after He had washed the disciples' feet, 'I have set you an example – go and do as I have done.' I'd like to share with you the challenging words sung while we resumed our seats. Remember, we are the body of Christ in this place.

'If we are the body, why aren't His arms reaching?  
Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching?  
And if we are the body, why aren't His feet going?  
Why is His love not showing them there is a way?  
Jesus is the way.' (Words by Mark Hall)

I have come back from Bognor ready to use my imagination, to be prepared to take risks, to read God's word and prayerfully come to Him, to experience His love and find out what His mission is, for me and for us as Christ's body, and to try to be a blessing to others. Please join me. S.E.



Bognor Pier - early last century.

**RAINFALL IN 2008.** Those of us who remember 2008 as a rather wet year are correct. According to the statistics collected by Edward Raikes of Yalding (to whom thanks are due) rainfall last year was 15% above average. January, March, May, July, August and November were distinctly wet, while only June and October were really dry with just about half the usual rainfall. - Ed

### FOOTPATH NEWS

Ramblers and others will note that the footpath from Teston Bridge to the Cricket ground and All Saints Church has been restored to its historical straight course, as shown on the ordnance survey map. With the kinks ironed out it now presents somewhat of a lesser challenge for joggers! -Ed

### Ecclesiastical Joke; heard on radio 4.

A bishop was returning from a visit to a conclave in South America, and was surprised to be searched at the airport. "What are you looking for, my good man?" he asked as the customs officer searched his luggage. "Pornography, of course" proclaimed the officer, reaching the ears of a wide audience. "Oh, you won't find any of that" rejoined the cleric, "you see, I don't possess a Pornograph." -Ed



" Churches.....are truly democratic buildings, the meeting place of ordinary people through the ages. For centuries the parish church was the only building large enough for the local community to gather not only for worship but for business and play. In the Middle Ages it was often the location of a school in a room over the porch. Mystery plays were performed here and the church also provided the setting for feasts until church ales were suppressed by the Puritans. But the Anglican Church followed the Puritan path and, by the late Victorian period, any activities not related to the church service were relocated to the newly built village hall. This concept of the church as a sacred place has contributed to today's problems by divorcing religion from ordinary life: many battles over what is to happen to country churches stem from this fixed attitude that they should never be an arena for other activities. If the multiple use had been sustained there would have been no need for church halls. I believe that many problems could be solved today by giving the church building back to the local community, albeit with safeguards for worship. Through such adaptation the parish church could once again become a building for the community that is used for every kind of activity." (Sir Roy Strong: 'A Little History of the English Country Church' pub. 2007)

West Farleigh has already taken a lead in adapting its church to make it suitable for such 'multiple use'. I agree with the parishioner who 'expressed concerns about the size of the new (community) centre'. (Feb. Life-Line - Parish Council Minutes) We don't need a new centre at all; using the church as Roy Strong suggests would fulfil the community's needs and would help the church, both financially and by strengthening its position as a focus for village life.

Yours etc.

John Morgan, Lower Road.

*Life-line welcomes letters from its readers on any subject.*

*Note that the Sports Club is hiring the church in April for its Quiz Night. -Ed.*

## EVERGREENS

Three members of the Guild of Spinners, Dyers and Weavers came along to the WI Hall to demonstrate spinning with spindles and spinning wheels. They also brought along wool which they had dyed, to make knitted, woven and felted garments and articles. The colours were amazing and the articles made were novel, attractive and very different — a jacket made from fabric woven on a 6 inch square frame, bags made from felted wool, scarves knitted from wool so fine they were like gossamer. The members all had the opportunity to have a go on the spinning wheels and the spindles. It is not as easy as it looks. Keeping the thread from breaking, keeping it an even thickness and not over twisting it, is a bit like doing three things at once- OK when you have mastered it, but impossible when you are just beginning. One of our members, Bill, got very enthusiastic and has been given a spindle and some wool to spin at home. We look forward to seeing his efforts at our next meeting, which will be at Appledore, Charlton Lane on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30. We will be having an afternoon of horse racing.

Helen Swan

## Seekers

Seekers finished term 3 (for all those who haven't been to school recently, we now have 6 terms in the year!) with a lively and "action packed" family service which was enjoyed by all who came. There was a good mix of traditional and modern music, and even an original composition by Liv on the story of Nehemiah. Our next service is on Thursday, 2nd April at 6.30 pm (the end of term 4!) - everyone is welcome to come and join us - don't worry, joining in with the action songs is optional!

This term's theme is 'Journey to the cross'. This will be a whistle stop sprint through the Old and New Testament, highlighting God's relationship with man throughout history, culminating in the death and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

To celebrate 2009, the Year of the Child, we shall be taking the children to Angelfest, a children's festival being held at Aylesford Priory on 6th June, organised by Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, Youth for Christ, Scripture Union and Medway Youth Services.

We're really keen for new members to join Seekers. Please contact me on 728252.

Sue Walsh

## FIVE PARISHES MENS GROUP

The next event of the 5P Men's Group is an evening of Curling at Fentons Rink Nr Tunbridge Wells (England's only Curling Rink) on **Thursday 26th March at 7 30 pm**. Help is available with transport.

No experience is necessary as all instruction and footwear (not skates) are provided - just wrap up warm and come along and enjoy the fun. This particular ice is not slippery so no Torvil and Dean expertise is required.

Why not bring a friend?

For more details and to book a place please contact Jonathan Barnes 01622 747934 or Mike Marsh on 01622 745702 or email 5pmen@talktalk.net. Website is www.fentonsrink.co.uk



**West Farleigh All Saints, Church Lane**

1st March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
8th March	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
15th March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
22nd March	11.00 am	Family Service
<b>for Mothering Sunday</b>		
White House	7.00 p.m.	Mothering Sunday
2nd April	6.30 p.m.	Seekers End of term Service

**East Farleigh**

1st March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
8th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service
15th March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
22nd March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service

**Hunton**

1st March	11.00 am	Family Service
8th March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
15th March	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
22nd March	9.30 am	Family Service
<b>29th March</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Benefice Service</b>

**Coxheath**

1st March	11.00 am	Holy Communion
8th March	9.30 am.	Morning Prayer
15th March	11.00 am	Holy Communion
22nd March	11.00 am	Family Service

**Linton**

1st March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
8th March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
15th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service
22nd March	9.30 am	Holy Communion

**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.**

Although the winter has not been particularly cold, some birds that visit us only in winter have been around quite conspicuously this year. I am thinking of the Siskin. Last seen by me in Quarry Wood in 2005, it turned up again this February, and indeed has been moving about the Ewell Valley since Christmas.

What is a Siskin, you may ask.? It's a small finch, about the same size and shape as a Goldfinch, but streaky green in colour. There is a lot of difference in this species between the cock bird and the female, for the male is strongly greenish-yellow with a neat black bib and cap, while his mate has much streaky brown in her colouring. Siskins are much smaller than Greenfinches. Even more than Goldfinches they hang upside-down, or at crazy angles, while they feed, which is mainly on the cones of alders at this season. They move in small flocks and can stay in one tree for hours if it is a large one with plenty of cones. While they feed they chatter almost constantly in a light and slightly sibilant tone. This is how they got the name Siskin—it conveys the sound they make.

In the spring and summer the Siskin inhabits spruce forests. These used to be rare in Britain but the growth of Forestry Commission plantations led to a large expansion of the population of this bird in these islands in the last century. Although a Scandinavian source is possible, the birds I have seen lately most likely came from Scotland or Northern England.

Another source of food that they fancy is the bird table and it may well be that some readers have had these birds visit their gardens, especially if they live close to the Ewell valley where most of our native alders are. The birds do not seem to care as much for the cones of the hybrid alder trees which were planted as windbreaks around the local orchards. Perhaps their seed quality is not as good. At any rate I have only seen them between Quarry Wood ponds at one extreme and the Medway itself at the other.

Outside the parish we very recently came across another wintering finch, not seen by me here since even earlier - 2004. This is the Brambling, which is probably even closer to the Chaffinch than the Siskin is to the Goldfinch. Both sexes have a white rump which affords the easiest way of recognising them. We can be sure these come from the northernmost parts of Europe, as they are virtually unknown as breeders in Britain. Each of these small birds is a very welcome addition to our winter bird-life.

© Tim Hill

**REVISION OF ALL SAINTS ELECTORAL ROLL**

The annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll is taking place during March. If you are baptised, over 16 years of age and live in the Parish, or attend services at All Saints, you are eligible to be on the roll and to have a say in the affairs of the Parish. To enrol, get a form from the Electoral Roll Officer, Christine Hill Tel. 01622 813019

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**Friday 6th March**

**Holy Trinity Coxheath**

Jenifer Horbury will lead the annual service at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.





The weather has caused havoc with the fixtures with only two matches played.

The u8's had a tough game on a very heavy pitch after the snow away at Tenterden. Tenterden are setting the standard this season and our boys gave a excellent performance in an end to end encounter. It was a tough game and we managed to improve on the result from earlier in the season.

The u10's played one match with a 2-1 victory win against Beckley Blues. The u10's league have adopted the 'Scottish system' where the one big league splits into two smaller leagues for the second half of the season. This result puts the team into the top division for the rest of the season.

Hopefully the weather has now turned and we can look forward to some warm spring Saturday mornings to complete the season.

We are always looking for new members. We provide football for children in Class R up to class 5. Contact Ian for more details on 01622 746138

### Farleighs History Society

The first meeting of the Farleighs' History Society will be on Thursday 12 March 2009 at the Bull, Lower Road East Farleigh at 7.30 pm. Graham Johnson will be giving the second part of his illustrated talk on the Medway - 'From Teston to the Thames Estuary'. Members enjoyed his talk last year From the Source of the Medway to Teston, and he has agreed to return this year to complete the final part of the journey.

Entry £2.50 on the door (Annual Membership £8.00 includes entry). Everyone welcome.

Enquiries to Jenny Finch 01622 726312 [jenniferfinch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenniferfinch@hotmail.co.uk)

### LUNCHES FOR LENT

A warm welcome awaits you in Watringbury Village Hall every Wednesday from 4th March to 8th April 12.15PM to 1.45PM NO CHARGE

Why not pop in for a chat over soup and bread or cheese, tomato and bread, with tea, coffee or squash Cake available for children. Charities supported from any voluntary donations will be:-

Kent Air Ambulance, Maidstone Christian Care for Homeless, The Dandelion Trust ( a local charity supporting children with behavioural problems). Further information from 01622 813032 Gordon Diment

### 2009 The Farleighs WI

President Helen Swan and committee members gave details of forthcoming events at the February meeting. They included a quiz night, visits to the theatre at Tunbridge Wells to see Fiddler on the Roof and to Small Hythe Place, near Tenterden where Life with Vita Sackville West is being staged. We are also going to the Alan Titchmarsh Show and Loose Women TV show.

A soup and desserts lunch will be held on 22nd April at 11.30 am. at The Farleighs WI Hall for new members to get to know us, and the ever popular safari supper is on 6th June.

We were given graphic examples of the work carried out at Maidstone Hospital by the many volunteer helpers (some of whom are our own members) by Voluntary Services Organiser Linda Whiffen and Linda Payne, representing the League of Friends.

We will be exercising with Beverley Miller on 11th March at 7.30 pm in The Farleighs Hall, East Farleigh.

Come along and join us!

Pam Clark

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**FOOTBALL:**

Farleigh 1st XI should have started with a fixture versus Yalding (postponed), followed by two successive draws, drawing 1-1 against Eccles then 2-2 with Headcorn, finally Yalding again, going down 3 -1. Our 2nd XI must be tired of shopping or driving as amazingly our first three fixtures were all postponed due to the weather (Mallgo, Addington and Larkfield). Finally we did play our home fixture versus Larkfield and in some ways I wished we hadn't, as we were thumped 5-0!

Our football veterans are going well, beating Medway Regals 2 -1 in heavy rain, and then losing 5 -3 to Larkfield in heavy snow!

**CRICKET :**

Nets are well underway every Monday 7-8 p.m. at Sutton Valence School. All are welcome! As usual at this time of year we appeal to anyone willing and able to help out at umpiring or scoring for our cricket teams- you would be very welcome and you get a free tea!

**CLUB NEWS :**

Our next social is our popular Quiz Night which is being held this year on Saturday 18th April at West Farleigh Church. Please let me know if you would like to come.

Yours in sport

**Tel** 01622 745744

**Ton up Club Winners February**

1st prize -£25 Helen Swan      2nd prize- £15 Jeanette Reio-Marr      3rd prize -£10 Linda Body

**Signs of Christ's Glory**

6 remaining talks for Lent from John's Gospel

St Faith's Church Brenchley Gardens Maldstone Talk: 1.00 - 1.30 pm

Soup /hot drinks available from 12.30 Bring your own sandwiches

4th March	Jesus heals a sick boy	Canon Arthur Houston
11th March	Jesus cures an invalid	Major Janice Williams
18th March	Jesus feeds 5,000	Derek Savage
25th March	Jesus walks on water	Jonathan Jankowski
1st April	Jesus restores sight	Steve Edney
8th April	Jesus raises Lazarus	Bishop Graham Cray

**Our Own Lent Course *Reconciling One and All***

*A course of 5 studies based on the book by Brian*

*Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge*

2nd March	Memory ...or Remembering
9th March	Victimhood or Not
16th March	Forgiveness
23rd March	Reaching out to the Other
30th March	God's Gift to the World

Meetings all start at 7.30 pm. The first and third will take place at The Barn, Hilltop, Hunton and the rest at All Saints. All welcome. Contact Hugh Grainger on 820305

**Becky Parnham** writes, "Fairtrade Fortnight started on Monday 23rd Feb. and I'm holding a coffee morning on Tuesday **3rd March** at 15 Hanover Road, Coxheath, 9.30-12 noon. All are welcome. This will be an opportunity to view and purchase products from the new **Traidcraft** catalogue. I can be contacted on 07949 646 865 should anyone want further information."

**W.F.R.A.G.**, the local roads action group led by Roy Plommer, has obtained some interesting information from Kent Highways, under the Freedom of Information Act. It concerns the survey on which the new proposed speed limit recommendations for the village are based. Conducted last year, this surveyed the B2010 from Tovil to Yalding. Numerous photographs were taken to support the points and conclusions of the survey. W.F.R.A.G has been surprised and disappointed to find that whereas in the parish of East Farleigh 23 photographs were taken and in Yalding (this side of the village) 19 were taken, **not one was taken to show the situation in West Farleigh.** In the complete course of the survey, which also covered parts of Coxheath and Teston, no less than 76 were taken. Is there a mysterious radiation impeding the performance of digital cameras in West Farleigh, or do we need to seek some other reason for the lack of evidence of the survey's thoroughness in our parish? Ed.

**EVENTS AT THE GOOD INTENT.** Forthcoming events at this pub include, on Friday 13th March (in aid of the the Red Nose Charities) an '80s night, beginning at 7.30 p.m. with a disco and fancy dress. On 15th March the singing Duo "Solara " will be performing from 4-7 p.m.

The next large rubbish **Freighter** will be on the Green on Saturday 11th April from 1.30 to 3.15 pm.