

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

West Farleigh's own

# LIFE-LINE

Editors: Tim & Christine Hill of School House, Lower Road.

Email: [tim\\_and\\_chris@btinternet.com](mailto:tim_and_chris@btinternet.com)

"It may be just string to you, but it's a lifeline to some poor bloke." A. Hancock?

Distributed freely in May 2013

Edition No. 443



Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

## TEMPORARY PAIN SHOULD GIVE WAY TO SAFER ROADS

**Three programmes seek to improve conditions for all road users in our village—but not without a little controversy and inconvenience in the meantime.**

The most immediate involves the closure of part of Lower Road for rebuilding the pavements along that stretch. For years they have been the subject of appeals for improvement as the adverse camber and uneven surface have threatened to tip pedestrians into the oncoming traffic. But the works (scheduled, according to the notice pictured, on Monday 22nd—but not started by the 24th) will lead to traffic diversions and, we hear, the loss of our bus service for 3 weeks.

**Secondly**, Life-Line has received mixed comments about the signage relating to the restrictions on lorry traffic over Teston bridge. While all agree that the bridge needs protection, some feel the "motorway style" blue signs are excessively large, especially the one insensitively sited near grade 1 listed Smith's Hall. Others doubt that the signs will help. If a truck sees the sign after approaching from Tovil, and then obeys the sign, what can it do? Turn round by Dove Cottage? This hardly helps traffic in the village. Perhaps the only useful sign is that over in Teston. What do you think?

**Good News.** However, KCC has announced an initiative to control lorries (7.5 tonnes plus) on rural roads. Under the proposals many lanes in the vicinity will be closed to these vehicles, *including Yalding Hill, in the centre of Yalding Village.* With other restrictions this means that it will be pointless for any HGV to come through West Farleigh unless it has business here.



The KCC's notice states: "This is a traffic management measure to reduce the amount of unnecessary through traffic by large vehicles due to the unsuitability of the roads", and invites support or objections at [TRO@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TRO@kent.gov.uk), quoting *TRO Experimental/Maidstone Borough 7.5 tonne Weight Restriction, by June 10th 2013.* Perhaps it is not too soon to hope that SatNavs will be able to take these changes on board and that our roads will become less overloaded.

-Eds.

### Rev. Peter Callway's Induction

It is confirmed that Peter (left) will be installed as the new Rector of West Farleigh (and of the whole Benefice) at a special service at St Nicholas' Church, Linton on June 7th. If you wish to attend, please let Churchwarden Val Grainger know as catering is being arranged and space is limited. Peter's wife Alison will also be licensed as a Benefice Lay Reader at the same service.

**Peter's first service at All Saints will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday June 9th.**

Deadline for June Life-Line is May 26th 2013

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**This month's pastoral letter comes from Rev. Eileen Doyle**

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter I will have celebrated a significant birthday. I will have many memories etched in my mind which I will be drawing upon as I recall this stepping stone in my life.

When we were young we may recall hearing those of riper years telling stories of the good old days, when they too drew upon past memories and experiences. It is our memories and experiences which, when recalled, form our understanding of who we are. Tragically more and more of us are encountering loved ones who are slowly disappearing as they lose their ability to recall their past and their identity. My heartfelt prayers go to those of you who are experiencing this today.

Christians around the world today are unable to draw on past experiences of Jesus when he walked on the earth because none of us were there then. You would have thought that would impact on who we are today. The reality however is very different. We can be sure of our faith, sure of our identity and sure that we are loved deeply by God himself. How is that possible? It is possible because God dwells within us through the Holy Spirit. This month on May 18th we celebrate Pentecost, when God gave his Holy Spirit to people on earth. We often refer to Pentecost as the Church's birthday. A significant birthday! The day when new experiences of God are etched in our hearts and minds.

Whoever we are, whatever our circumstances, we can draw strength knowing that God never forgets us. *"I will not forget you! See, I have held you in the palms of my hands."* Isaiah 49:15-16.

You are warmly invited to the Christian birthday celebrations of Pentecost on May 18th; no presents required, just your presence.

We continue to look forward to receiving another gift from God in the form of our new Rector, Peter Callway, who will be licensed on the 7th June. Please pray for him and his wife Alison as they prepare to join us.

Rev. Eileen Doyle



### **Dr Jazz Concert**



**Tickets are now available for the unmissable concert by the acclaimed Combo**

### **Dr Jazz**

**All Saints Church, 7.30 pm 18th May**

**Tickets (£10 including welcome drink) from 01622 820305 or 813019, or [www.farleighevents.com](http://www.farleighevents.com)**

**first come—first served.**

The band has a long history, which can be reviewed on [www.jazzpilgrims.co.uk](http://www.jazzpilgrims.co.uk). Among other things it reveals that the band first played in a church in the 1980s at Stone-in-Oxney, and that it takes its name from a club the band played at in Dusseldorf many years ago. They are also inspired by the line,

*"When I'm trouble bound and mixed,  
He's the guy that gets me fixed."*

### **Garden Open and Plant Sale**

Once again, by courtesy of Stephen Norman,

### **Smith's Hall Gardens**

Will be open to the public under the

### **National Garden Scheme**

In aid of Dandelion Time.

Sunday 2nd June 11 am—5 pm.

### **PLANTS REQUIRED**

**This will also be the venue of the Annual Plant Sale, in aid of All Saints Church.**

The church asks local gardeners with surplus plants to donate them for sale

-annuals, vegetable crop seedlings, perennials.

If you are able to lend a hand in this or any other way it would help ensure the continuing success of this event. Please consider starting a tray of seedlings in this delayed spring. They could bring a little colour or flavour into someone's life, especially after a winter of plant losses.

important trees of the village.



This month's "important tree" is perhaps the finest le along Lower Road. It is a Horse Chestnut, and a though this species is one of the very earliest come into leaf, it was still not showing more than "sticky buds" on April 20th when our photo was taken. It is just over the wall of Court Lodge ground. It forks at a low level, so what is seen here is a single tree, with its characteristic drooping branches that then swoop up at their ends. The Horse Chestnut comes from South East Europe and beyond and it is thought that its early growth is because in those drought-prone regions it needs to win in the race to draw the winter moisture out of the ground. The tree generally has not fully adapted to our cooler and wetter summers.

**Last month's tree** has inspired **John Day** to write to Life-Line with added information. It was the Walnut at Tutsham farmyard and John recalls (being told of its planting by one Charles Addy in 1935. Charles was one of the farm staff. Peter Day apparently spent a lot of effort in trying to prevent squirrels making off with all the walnuts! With this added history this fine tree should be subject to a preservation order.

**Michael Bartlett** (of East Farleigh) tells us that the poplar tree, which featured as the very first in this series, had to be felled because of safety issues. It was too near the dwellings at the foot of Kettle Lane and

he considers it would certainly have hit them had it fallen in a westerly gale, and, as its owner, the responsibility would have been his. Incidentally, this ex-tree is still described as extant on the Farleigh Events website; it's time to think about updating the article.

### West Farleigh to have its own Farmers' Market.

The **Good Intent** is launching a Farmers' Market which will take place each Friday. Their poster (pictured right) gives details.

Small at first, it will nevertheless provide a welcome alternative source for staple elements of our diets, and we hope it will grow.

Publican Pauline said that it would be fitting if the pub could to a certain extent take on the mantle of the shops which the village used to have, even next door to the *Good Intent* itself, but now a faded memory—a sentiment with which one can readily agree.

The pub also has a festive programme for the May Bank holiday weekend. The familiar and talented Robert Brown and Mad Mick will each be making return visits on the Friday and the Saturday respectively.

GOOD INTENT  
FARMERS MARKET



COME SEE JOHN THE BAKER, JOHN THE BUTCHER  
STILL LOOKING FOR JOHN THE CANDLESTICK MAKER

COMING SOON | FRIDAY  
PRESERVES, OILS, HERBS | APRIL 26  
FLOWERS & FISH ETC | 4-8PM

### Council Elections

A reminder that the local government elections take place on Thursday May 2nd. The polling station is open at All Saints Church from 7 am to 10 pm. User-friendly hours!



**Play area extension now open**  
 Our picture shows the new apparatus— "Adventure Trail" — on the village green designed to provide entertainment and energy-sapping exercise for the village youngsters. The neatly designed equipment was installed on schedule, having been procured by Cllr Stockwell on behalf of the Parish Council. Though the new facilities are outside the existing ring fence, finance was arranged partly through a "ring-fenced" grant for children's playground development. Rubber or other synthetic soft surfaces are not needed, as there's not far to fall!

**Around the Surgeries.**

Many residents of the village are on the books of the Stockett Lane Surgery, Coxheath. This surgery produces its own newsletter (called "Pocket Socket") which we have been asked to publicise.

Two new doctors have recently joined the practice. They also operate a "walk-in" blood testing clinic—though this is temporarily suspended. A reminder is issued that 'flu vaccine is available, automatically on request to those over 65 and to others who may be vulnerable. This acts as a stimulus to mention the MMR vaccine. We have not heard this area mentioned as a scene of under-vaccination in the past, but in the light of the Swansea "epidemic" no doubt many local parents have checked their records.

**Roman remains at Teston/Wateringbury**

We understand that there are exciting discoveries being made across the river, at some excavations being conducted by the Kent Archaeological Society and such academic bodies as Edinburgh University, which institution describes the site as "Stupendous". Intensive work will be going on over the May Bank Holiday. What of West Farleigh, we ask, sandwiched between significant Roman complexes to the east and the west? Surely something major lurks beneath our very feet!

**Council Tax.**

We understand that a recent move by H.M Government gives everyone the right to pay council tax by direct debit in twelve basically equal instalments (not ten as has been the case in the recent past). You can arrange this, if you wish, on the Maidstone website.

**SEEKERS**—The Seekers youth group is still going strong in Coxheath, with about 15 children attending. Becky Pamham writes in the Benefice review of 2012 that much emphasis was on getting the children to communicate with the older generation in Coxheath, through sharing eating experiences. Bon appetit!

**Dandelion Time**

We will have our annual Summer Fair on **May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**. A BBQ is available, and there will be homemade cakes, refreshments, plant sales, traditional games, a guided Farm Tour. Come and learn to make bread! Visit our gardens and spend a lovely day at Elmscroft. Entrance is free and there is ample parking space.

Thank you for supporting your local charity. Anyes Reading




**Annual Plant Sale**

**Church of St John the Baptist, Tonbridge Road, Wateringbury**

**Saturday 4th May 2013 10am - 4pm**

Superb nursery plants plus home grown stall, St John's crafts, cards, good condition books and toys, home made cakes, cream teas and refreshments. Further information please contact 01622 813032

  
**SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE**  
 2012  
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 RAISED THE MAGNIFICENT SUM OF  
**£133,580**  
 MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO TOOK PART  
**RIDE + STRIDE**  
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2013 RIDE AND STRIDE  
 TO BE HELD ON  
**SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2013**  
 By cycling, walking or running around Kent churches you can raise money  
 to be shared equally between the Parishes of Kent Churches  
 and the Diocese of Maidstone  
 Details from your local organisers  
 Kent Churches  
 Dean Church House, Canvey Island, Kent, ME10 2JG  
 01622 813032  
 www.kentchurches.org.uk  
 Further info on Kent Churches and our 2013 Ride and Stride  
 visit: www.kentchurches.org.uk



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No cycling, walking or running around Kent churches or across other places  
 to be treated equally between the Friends of Kent Churches  
 and the Friends of Guilded Foot Church  
 Details from your local organiser  
Local Co-ordinator: Caroline Miles 01222 30014  
 caroline.miles@kfc.org.uk  
 Website: www.kentchurches.org.uk and www.gildedfoot.org.uk  
 F.O.C. Telephone: 01222 30014

## Church Services May 2013

**West Farleigh**      **All Saints, Church Lane**

May 5th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 12th.	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (mod)

### WHIT SUNDAY

May 19th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 26th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### Elsewhere in the Benefice:

#### East Farleigh

May 5th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 9th	Ascension Day 7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (BENEFACTIVE SERVICE)

May 12th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
May 19th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 26th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

#### Hunton

May 5th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
May 12th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 19th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 26th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

#### Coxheath

May 5th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 12th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 19th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 26th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service

#### Linton

May 5th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 12th	9.30 a.m.	Family Service
May 19th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 26th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### Clergy Contact Numbers:

**Rector**      **01622 747570**

Contact David Jones for Baptisms, Thanksgivings,  
Weddings and Funerals. **N.B. David's day off is Friday**  
Self Supporting Ministers:

**Rev. David Jones**      01622 741474

**Rev. Eileen Doyle**      01622 204241

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID I AM WITH YOU"**

**New—Alternative Service**

**May 18th 10am Holy Trinity Coxheath**

**Testimonies    Worship    Fellowship    Friendship**

**All are welcome.      Rev. Eileen Doyle**

### Nature Notes: "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

The answer to Shelley's question is "yes"! With winter commencing sometime in the endlessly wet days of November last year and not ending until Sunday April 14th—for once it is, I think, possible to be precise. Thus the state of nature in mid-April was more akin to early March in a more typical year and it had some catching up to do. Setting about this in two surges, a beautiful spring is the result.

A few primroses had, it is true, lifted meagre heads in late February but now they have burst forward with a density of flowers not seen in recent years. The clumps are rather compact and domed, with relatively few leaves—splendid! The wood anemones always come out simultaneously and in the last few days have carpeted their favoured locations so that they resemble the sparse falls of snow we might have had a fortnight or so beforehand. Parts of Quarry Wood where extra light has been let in by coppicing have been a sight to remember. These attractive flowers have been helped by the relatively slow growth of plants with coarse foliage like nettles which grow best in mild winters.

The calendar of the birds has been just as affected as the plants. In the early spring of 2012 Chiffchaffs arrived by March 22nd but this year it was the 13th April before I heard one in Quarry Wood. The same pattern applies to the Black-cap—28th March last year, 13th April this time. But here we see that there is some compression of the dates going on, because normally the Chiffchaff is a clear winner in the race to arrive here, but this year it merely shared the honours. Reports in the press and other hearsay support the view that bird migration this Spring is being compressed. Kent ornithologists report Nightingales three days earlier than usual, and the Cuckoo has been well on time—I have heard it in West Farleigh twice so far, on the 19th and 21st of April—quite early by the standards of recent years, as it has become almost a rarity nowadays. It seems, therefore, that the early birds were held up most and the second wave of immigrants was able to join them in a mid-April surge. Conversely, but in parallel with these late arrivals, the winter visitors have departed late, with Redwings in particular around into April (though their numbers were never spectacular in 2012-3) and I found Woodcocks twice early this month: only once before (to my knowledge) has one been found in Quarry Wood in April.

The consequences of this more Continental type of Spring are still to be worked out, and depend on the weather that follows, but it may be that our resident birds, and those arriving very early, will suffer, while the late comers will have timed (albeit accidentally) their arrival much better to take advantage of that flush of growth and food supply which will be that bit later this year. The "balance of nature" may have been presently adjusted in their favour, for the first time for some years. In truth, there is probably no "balance" in nature; the fulcrum around which it tips is itself ever likely to move. The weather each season moves things first one way and then the other, in favour of that species and against a competitor. Thus it is that some species prosper while others decline. There is no guarantee of a return to the original position—ever. And this is before we take into account man's activities...

Meanwhile we can enjoy the delightful burgeoning of the ground level flowers before the trees burst into leaf and begin to cast a shade. It looks as if the first bluebells will just about make it for May Day!

© Tim Hill



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### The Coxheath Chiropractic & Natural Therapy Centre

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established 1993

Telephone number **01622 745178**

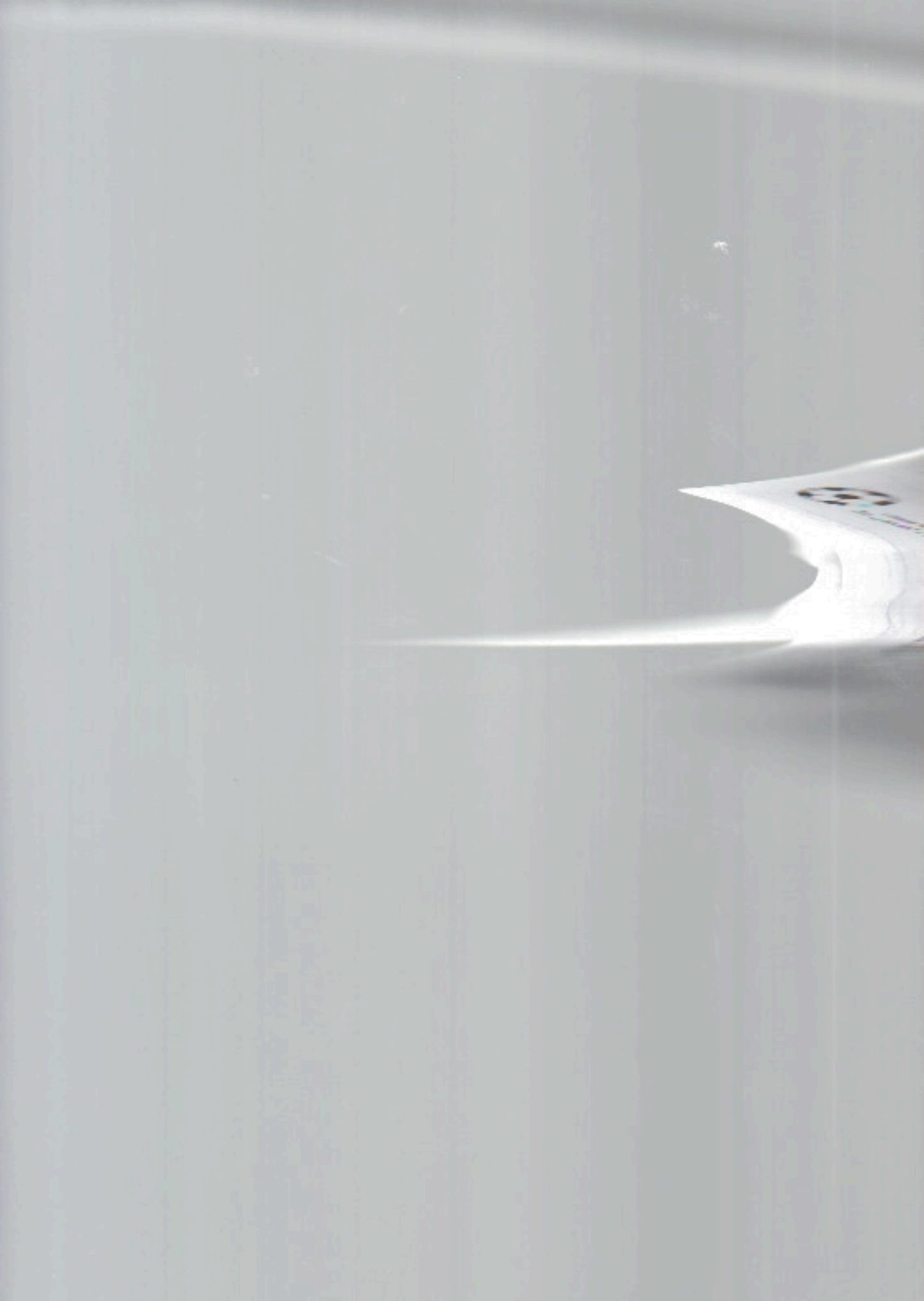
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## Sports Report:

**Football:** After last month's indifferent results our 1st XI have recaptured their fine run of performances. We started off with a hard fought 0—0 draw versus Headcorn. Next came a thrilling 3—3 over high flying Eccles. It was then onto winning ways and a 4—0 victory against Saxon Chief and coming out on top 3—1 in our return fixture over Headcorn.

Our 2nd XI have continued to be as unpredictable as the weather. We started off with a terrific 4—2 win over Saxon Saints, but failed to turn up the following week, losing 4—2 to a poor Woodlands side in the Tunbridge Wells Cup. Finally another defeat but a much better performance, going down 3—0 to a strong Aylesford side.

A mixed bag of results from our Veterans team last month. Firstly we lost to Ditton 4—0, followed by a fine 2—1 victory over Riverside and finally a 2—2 draw over Sheppey.

**Sports Club Quiz:** Unfortunately we had to rearrange our annual quiz night. Our revised date is **Friday 24th May at West Farleigh church, 8 p.m. start.** It will be a great evening and all are welcome. Please get in touch if you would like to come.

**CLUB NEWS:** Our lucky Ton-Up Club Winners for April were:

**£25** No. 162 John Baker

**£15** No. 66 Jane Shorter

**£10** No. 27 Maurice Baggott

Yours in sport

Tel (01622 815267)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH—Julie King updates us on progress.

Thank you to all Neighbourhood Watch volunteers who attended the inaugural meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April. We have a good spread of representation across the village, and details of your local co-ordinator will be issued next month. We are, however, short of a representative from St Helen's Lane – if any St Helen's resident would like to become involved (to a greater or lesser extent to suit you) please do contact Julie King on 01622 816977.

In the meantime Julie and Cllr Chris Stockwell visited Kent Police Headquarters on 16<sup>th</sup> April and met with Ann Barnes, the newly appointed Police Commissioner for Kent, for the official launch of the new Maidstone and District Neighbourhood Watch website. The website is considered to be the best Neighbourhood Watch site in the UK and provides details by Kent Trading Standards of the latest scams, along with many specific security advice downloads. Do take a look on [www.maidstonenhw.co.uk](http://www.maidstonenhw.co.uk).

**Village events: Make sure you turn out to as many as you can of these fun events, organised locally for your delight and delectation and mostly taking place in May!**

**Kettle Bridge Clogs.** May 1st is naturally the most important day in their calendar, when they perform on the bridge that shares their name. It's a 7.15 pm start with the dancing procession across the picturesque bridge—after which they repair to the Bull in East Farleigh for refreshment. Not to be missed!

**Dr Jazz concert.** It's at All Saints on **May 18th.** (See page 2 for details) Make up a party and enjoy this opportunity to have first class entertainment on your doorstep. Tickets from 820305 or from Life-Line.

**Also May 18th Dandelion Time - Summer Fair . 12 noon. See page 4 for details**

**Sports Club Quiz.** Re-scheduled for **May 24th** at 8 pm, come along, support your local sports club and have a fun evening competing for the coveted Sports Club quiz trophy! A good time is guaranteed! See above for further information.

**Plant Fair & Open Garden.** This is on the **2nd June at Smith's Hall** (see page 2 for details). It's your opportunity to get some splendid plants for your garden. With this late spring June 2nd will be fine, so reserve this Sunday to help local charities - and your own garden!

## FOOTNOTE: Suffering from Thatcher overload? Then look away now!

But we were reminded by the road closure (see page 1) that it's thanks to Mrs T. that closing the road became easier. Before she changed the law it virtually needed an Act of Parliament to close the Queen's Highway. Now anyone can do it (so to speak) and mending the pavement becomes a road closure. However, our favourite Thatcher story (which just maybe is not true) concerns an impromptu celebratory dinner she had with the members of her cabinet. The waiter asked what she would have off the menu - "I'll have the steak" she replied. "What about the vegetables?" asked the waiter. "Oh, they'll have what I'm having." responded the redoubtable Mrs. T! -Eds.

"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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"It may be just string to you, but it's a lifeline to some poor bloke." A. Hancock?

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Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

## TEMPORARY PAIN SHOULD GIVE WAY TO SAFER ROADS

**Three programmes seek to improve conditions for all road users in our village—but not without a little controversy and inconvenience in the meantime.**

The most immediate involves the closure of part of Lower Road for rebuilding the pavements along that stretch. For years they have been the subject of appeals for improvement as the adverse camber and uneven surface have threatened to tip pedestrians into the oncoming traffic. But the works (scheduled, according to the notice pictured, on Monday 22nd—but not started by the 24th) will lead to traffic diversions and, we hear, the loss of our bus service for 3 weeks.

**Secondly**, Life-Line has received mixed comments about the signage relating to the restrictions on lorry traffic over Teston bridge. While all agree that the bridge needs protection, some feel the "motorway style" blue signs are excessively large, especially the one insensitively sited near grade 1 listed Smith's Hall. Others doubt that the signs will help. If a truck sees the sign after approaching from Tovil, and then obeys the sign, what can it do? Turn round by Dove Cottage? This hardly helps traffic in the village. Perhaps the only useful sign is that over in Teston. What do you think?

**Good News.** However, KCC has announced an initiative to control lorries (7.5 tonnes plus) on rural roads. Under the proposals many lanes in the vicinity will be closed to these vehicles, *including Yalding Hill, in the centre of Yalding Village.* With other restrictions this means that it will be pointless for any HGV to come through West Farleigh unless it has business here.



The KCC's notice states: "This is a traffic management measure to reduce the amount of unnecessary through traffic by large vehicles due to the unsuitability of the roads", and invites support or objections at [TRO@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TRO@kent.gov.uk), quoting *TRO Experimental/Maidstone Borough 7.5 tonne Weight Restriction*, by June 10th 2013. Perhaps it is not too soon to hope that SatNavs will be able to take these changes on board and that our roads will become less overloaded.

-Eds.

### Rev. Peter Callway's Induction

It is confirmed that Peter (left) will be installed as the new Rector of West Farleigh (and of the whole Benefice) at a special service at St Nicholas' Church, Linton on June 7th. If you wish to attend, please let Churchwarden Val Grainger know as catering is being arranged and space is limited. Peter's wife Alison will also be licensed as a Benefice Lay Reader at the same service.

**Peter's first service at All Saints will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday June 9th.**

Deadline for June Life-Line is May 26th 2013