

"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

"If you throw a lifeline, it helps if you keep hold of your end" -Anon

Distributed freely in November 2013

Edition No. 449



Illustration of All Saints'

REVITALIZING THE "FRIENDS" Terry Ayears reports on recent meeting

The Friends of All Saints Church held a meeting at Fox Pitt last Saturday (26th.), kindly hosted by Belinda and Michael Devenish. This meeting was held with the intention to 're-start' the group. There was no formal agenda, but Terry Ayears and Jacky Taylor put forward their views on a way forward for the group to help raise funds to support All Saints. Twenty people attended the meeting including our Rector Peter Callway.

Jacky and Terry outlined four channels of potential income and then set out to define how well any group would succeed, given the specific known Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and possible Threats, and the subsequent discussions centred upon building on our Strengths, tackling and mitigating any apparent Weaknesses and expanding the many ideas tabled on Opportunities.

Those present were unanimous in confirming by a show of hands that the post of Chairman and Secretary should be filled by Terry & Jacky respectively, and it is very much hoped that a volunteer to act as Treasurer will quickly be forthcoming.

In the meantime a bank account is being set up with Lloyds Bank in the name of "Friends of All Saints WF", with the account being initially managed by Terry Ayears as acting treasurer, with provision to add an additional name at a later date, such that there will very soon be a 'live' account to which any donations may be credited.

The date for a follow up meeting is to be confirmed. The group looks forward to other parishioners interested in supporting our aims joining them. The group will undertake a mail drop to keep all parishioners informed; any follow up information will be by way of Life-Line.

"Remember, Remember, the 10th of November....."

It is Remembrance Day, and the annual Service of Remembrance will be held at All Saints Church at 10.45 am. It is our own miniature version of the national one held at the Cenotaph and we will remember, particularly, and by name, those local lads who gave their lives in two world wars. By the time of the next such service we will have had commemorations marking the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the first world war in 1914. Make a special effort to be there this year: In spite of its importance it is not a long service.

Carol Service

Also for your diaries, the annual Carol Service at All Saints will take place at 6 pm on Sunday December 15th. The time is later than usual but we hope the atmosphere of candlelight on a dark but perhaps moonlit and not-too-chilly December evening will weave a kind of magic of its own. Many people regret the scarcity of the traditional Evensong service these days. This event will have the familiar lessons and carols and will form a proper opening to the Christmas season. Make a note of the date!

Deadline for December Life-Line is November 25th

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This month's pastoral letter comes from Rev. Peter Callway

Guy Fawkes, Fireworks and Freedom

Four hundred and eight years ago, on November 5th 1605, Guy Fawkes was discovered under the Houses of Parliament with 36 barrels of gunpowder. For several months thirteen young men had been plotting to blow up the Houses of Parliament, intent on killing the King and the MPs who had been persecuting them. They felt that they had been persecuted because of their religion. They had hoped that the new king would be more tolerant towards them, but this didn't happen. They believed that blowing up parliament and killing the king would bring them freedom. But some of those who were involved in the plot became worried that innocent people would be killed or injured and so they tipped off the government and betrayed their fellow plotters. Guy Fawkes was discovered, tortured and executed. Actually, Guy Fawkes was not the leader, just the one who was discovered, but he is the one whose name was given to the day on which we celebrate the foiling of the plot. Lately it has just become known as Firework Night or Bonfire Night but it is all the same thing. The rest, as they say, is history, and we still enjoy fireworks each year on that night.

Jesus, too, was betrayed - by Judas Iscariot, one of his closest followers and disciples. Jesus was tortured. Jesus was executed. But this plot was one that was formed by God, and this plan had an amazing ending: Jesus rose again to return to be with God for ever. And his death and resurrection have created a *real* opportunity for freedom. Jesus himself said "He [God the Father] has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." When he died on that cross he took all our wrongdoing away and gave us the opportunity for a new and exciting relationship with God. We can be free from the problem of sin, and free to worship God and enjoy life to the full. And nothing can get in the way of this plan being fulfilled. The Bible tells us that "neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) Now that's what I call a plot!

Many blessings,

Peter Callway

Rector

Local History Societies

The Farleighs History Society meets on the first Thursday of the month, at the Bull, East Farleigh. All are welcome. (Members £1 entry: Non-Members £2.50) The next meetings are :

Thursday 7th November *William of Cassingham* by Duncan Spencer

William of Cassingham was one of perhaps four people responsible for saving England from the invading French army of Prince Louis, backed by the majority of the Anglo-Norman nobility of the day. Yet his name is almost totally unknown.

Thursday 5th December *Aviation on the Medway* by James Preston

The Watringbury Local History Society will meet on 20th November, when their talk will be "***Knole and the Sackvilles***" by someone who ought to know- Lord Robert Sackville. It starts at 8 pm in Watringbury village Hall and also costs £2.50 for non-members.

The KENT CHAMBER CHOIR presents MUSIC FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

7.30 pm, Saturday 7th December 2013 at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Watringbury

Alan Vincent - Conductor. Helen Lacey - Soprano. Geoffrey Lester - Organ

The Kent Chamber Choir returns to Watringbury in its 30th Anniversary Year. They are joined by gifted soprano soloist Helen Lacey, Kent Chamber Choir's 2013 Kath Topping Award Winner and student at the Royal Northern College of Music. The programme comprises popular and less well-known carols, and the audience will be invited to join in the singing of some of the best-loved, accompanied by organist Geoffrey Lester.

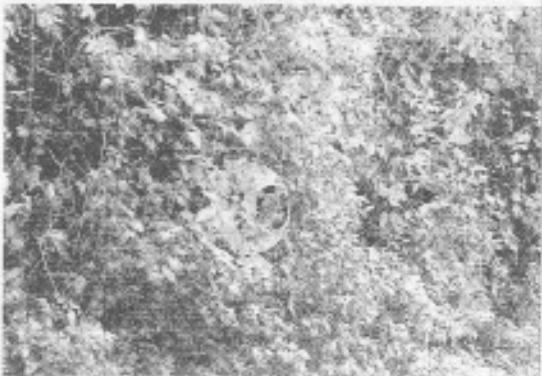
For further information go to....<https://sites.google.com/site/watringburylocalhistory/home>



Signs, visible and invisible.

To illustrate some of the comments made in the minutes* of the last council meeting, here are pictures of signage in Heath Road. The 40 mph speed limit signs are practically invisible, though both shots were taken full-frontal. We wonder whether this invalidates the speed limit? Certainly there is no point investing in signs if they are not kept in a state of visibility. Clearly no action has been taken since the matter was reported in September. On the other hand the "falling rocks" sign speaks loud and clear, even if the road is not in quite as much of a ravine as the sign implies.

* See the first main paragraph of the minutes on page 4. -Eds



Accident in Ewell Lane

One day last week, in the small hours, there was an accident in Ewell Lane. A car driver lost control of his car in the 40 mph limit area and wrecked his vehicle. Apparently there were no passengers and no other vehicle was involved. Happily the driver was not significantly hurt. Weather conditions are thought to have been good at the time. The police and removal contractors did an excellent job in clearing the road, which was closed only for a short time. However, a small but unsightly and unwelcome amount of wreckage remains in the lane. We wonder what the position of this is in relation to the litter laws. Parts of cars are numerous on local verges. Has anyone ever been prosecuted for littering the country in this way? It could be (we suppose) a matter of depositing litter in the first place, or failing to clear up properly afterwards. Joan Bakewell, presenting a *Panorama* programme on our attitude to litter (October 28th), drew attention to the generally deplorable record of councils in prosecuting litterers. The slogan "Don't be a Tasser", on which she also remarked, does seem more hard-hitting than Tonbridge Council's "Take your litter home; Other people do." Maidstone Borough does take action against town centre litterers, but nothing is done in the more rural areas. -Eds.

Action by Highways on local flooding

The installation of kerbstones at the foot of Smith's Hill seems to have gone a long way towards improving the drainage of this area, with an expected reduction in the flash flooding which has been a regular feature in the recent past. Indeed, they passed their first test on the night of the 26th/27th of October, when heavy rain and fierce winds brought much water and debris down the hill. Further towards Vale House (and hence behind our camera, as it were) the kerbstones present a small but so far apparently effective barrier to the passage of water, and guide it towards the drains.

Moreover, council gully suckers have been heavily at work locally over the dying days of October, and most of our drains are reasonably clear at the moment. They need to be, as the time of year with the most intense detritus creation approaches. The remarkable thing about the storm of October 27th was that, in spite of the high winds, so many of the trees have retained their leaves: this autumn is one of the latest ever. We suspect that, as soon as any of these grilles are blocked by leaves and litter, the kerbs will be overwhelmed. But the Highways have made a good attempt at resolving the problem and it would be churlish not to congratulate them on their action and on the results so far. The good definition of the highway will make a contribution to road safety in itself. The prevention of flooding will contribute to that aim, as well as being a boon for the immediately local residents, who occasionally have had to ride, and maybe paddle, through muddy, slimy water.. -Eds



Here are extracts from the draft minutes of WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 9th September at the Good Intent, West Farleigh

PRESENT: Cllrs B Scott (Chairman), Cllr B Merritt, G Martin, J King, C Stockwell and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE: Four parishioners were present.

Highways Issues in West Farleigh: The Thatched House – The Clerk reported that Borough Cllr Wilson had looked through the documentation and was unable to offer any further assistance as Kent County Council are looking into fitting additional posts. Cllr Merritt asked that the Clerk contact KCC to find out when this work is to be completed. It was also noted that the vegetation approaching this property, from both directions, is also obscuring the warning signs. Cllr Martin reported that there had been flooding around Hunt Street recently and this had resulted in there being rubble and mud on the road which had been dangerous. Cllr Martin reported that he had cleared Hunt Street and had cut slips, as discussed with Richard Dixon, along the road to help the water to run away. Cllr Martin reported that he had received calls from a resident with concerns about the junction of Teston Lane and Lower Road. They had written to Kent Highways requesting that a sign be installed warning of Pedestrians in the road and Kent County Council had responded to say that nothing could be done as there was no record of accidents in the area. After discussion, the Clerk suggested that she speak with Cllr Stockell to see whether the Parish Council could afford to install 2 signs, or whether a grant could be agreed to assist with the cost. All Parish Councilors agreed that, if the cost was under £500 for the 2 signs, the Clerk makes the necessary arrangements. It was noted that the hedge from Paynes' field is overgrown into the road. Concerns were raised regarding the wall at Court Lodge as the area is extremely hazardous for people walking along Lower Road. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident to enquire when the necessary repairs are likely to be completed following numerous complaints from residents.

Fly-tipping in the Village: Cllr Merritt reported that there is a large amount of fly-tipping occurring, especially at the bottom of Charlton Lane and in the lay-by on Lower Road. It was noted that George Grey (from MBC) does a fantastic job of quickly clearing the litter away. Cllr Merritt also discussed 'Fly-posting' as this is becoming a problem around the village. Independent groups are putting advertising posters up around the village but are not coming back to clear them away after the event. A recent example is the Sky cycling event which had passed through West Farleigh. Yellow arrows had also been put up, even on residents drain pipes, without their permission. The Church and Dandelion Time were discussed as also leaving posters up and Mr Hill commented that he tries to clear all posts away within 48 hours of a church event. Cllr Merritt added that Dandelion Time have also put a chained sandwich board on the Lower Road which is causing an obstruction on the footpath, advertising an event which took place some time ago. The Clerk was asked to write to Dandelion Time asking them to take posters down as soon as the event has taken place and to remove the sandwich board. Cllr Merritt reported that he is happy to place posters in the notice-board, if there is room, but he added that people are putting items in the notice-board and removing the Parish Council information. This is unacceptable. Cllr Scott added that the Parish Council should be in control of what is placed in the notice-board and that important items should not be removed or covered by other groups advertising their own events. It was noted that there is a lot of litter in Teston Lane and also from the Tickled Trout to Smiths Hill. The Clerk offered to report this to MBC. Cllr Merritt raised concerns over the people who have recently been selling cherries from Paynes Farm. They have been rather aggressive to people stopping to buy the produce and there also appears to be caravans on the land. It was noted that if they had bought the fruit off the trees, they are entitled to live on site for the duration of the fruit being on the trees. There are no cherries on the trees now, but it was noted that they have not removed the caravans. The Clerk was asked to report this.

Cllr Merritt reported that he has ordered the posts for Lower Road and the Village Green. He had spoken to a tree surgeon recently regarding two trees on the Green. One is a rare Oak tree which is dying and the other is a Maple and it was noted that this has a lot of fungus and only parts of the tree are healthy. It was felt that this may be due to the twinning sign stone being against the tree which could be holding moisture below it. The Clerk was asked to write to the Sports Club and request that they move the stone, suggesting that it be relocated to the Sports Club. The garden area was also mentioned and the Clerk was asked to suggest that the area be tidied up or returned to village green. Cllr Merritt reported that the village green grass has been cut for the last 42 years, but one section is now being missed as KCC and MBC both state the area is not theirs. Cllr Merritt requested that this be investigated further, and asked that MBC and KCC confirm in writing that the land does not belong to them. Cllr Stockwell reported that he had spent 3 hours with the Kent Men of the Trees judge who had been impressed with the way the trees in the village are being maintained.

The Clerk reported that the annual play ground safety inspection had been completed. The main item was algae build up on the tarmac areas and Cllr Martin said that he would have a look to see what could be done.

The Clerk reported that she had compiled a draft risk assessment for the Lorry Watch scheme, but that a co-ordinator needed to be agreed before they can be completed. Cllr King offered to discuss this at the Speedwatch meeting in October as she is aware of someone who may wish to take on that role.

Grounds Maintenance Contracts: The Clerk reported that there had been problems over the summer months with regards to grass cutting, particularly around the Lower Road/Kettle Lane area. The Clerk had contacted the Parish Council contractor to ask them to quote for 4 cuts a year and also to remove the self sown saplings from the Poplar tree which had been felled earlier in the year. The contractor had responded that for the 4cuts, it would cost £200 for the year. It was proposed by Cllr Martin that the cuts be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Merritt with all in favour.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 18th November 2013 at 7.30pm at The Good Intent.

Church Services

<u>West Farleigh</u>		<u>All Saints, Church Lane</u>	
November 3rd	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Rev. David Jones
November 10th	10.45 a.m.	Service for Remembrance Sunday	
		Hugh Grainger	
November 17th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (trad.)	David Barnes
November 24th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Rev. David Jones
<i>Elsewhere in the Benefice:</i>			
East Farleigh			
November 3rd	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
November 10th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Remembrance Service	
November 17th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	
November 24th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
Hunton			
November 3rd	11.00 a.m.	Family Service	
November 10th	10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Service	
November 17th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
November 24th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
Coxheath			
November 3rd	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
November 10th	10.30 a.m.	Remembrance Service	
November 17th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
November 24th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service	
Linton			
November 3rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	3.00 p.m.	Service for the Bereaved	
November 10th	10.00 a.m.	Remembrance Service	
November 17th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
November 24th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

Clergy Contact Numbers:

Rector Rev Peter Callway 01622 747570

Contact Rev. Callway for Baptisms, Thanksgivings,
Weddings and Funerals

N.B. Peter's day off is Friday.

Self Supporting Ministers:

Rev. David Jones 01622 741474

Rev. Eileen Doyle 01622 204241

Nature notes: Pruning the natural way

The great storm forecast (didn't they do it accurately?!) came on the 27th October and went with even more suddenness, leaving perhaps rather less a degree of damage than had been expected. I say this in spite of having lost a tree from my own garden, and with some apprehension, lest some neighbour has suffered badly without my knowing. My own loss was no great one, the birch that went over already had grave problems with the honey fungus.

Although the wind huffed and puffed, not too much came down. In Quarry Wood everywhere is littered with fallen twigs and branches. Most of the latter are small but a few have proved hard to shift off the pathways. Those in the un-trafficked wood are just left to moulder and to rot. The time it takes to do this depends, naturally enough, on the type of tree that was involved. One familiar path was blocked by a substantial twiggy branch about 8 years ago. The path was diverted around it, but after about five years nothing tangible remained of the twigs and the path resumed its direct route. That was an ash, if I remember correctly. Permitting the natural process of rotting is a vital part of preserving the diversity of any woodland, or indeed ecosystem. More substantial pieces of other woods take much longer to rot. Nearby we still have elm half pipes which were used to channel the very topmost waters of the "river" Ewell where it emerges from the ground. Who knows how long these have lasted? It seems unlikely that they were laid after the 1939-45 war. Elm gutters were at one time extensively used on housing, as they were famed for their water resistance.

Alas, there is no longer the elm available for this use, even if, in these days of plastic, it were required, Dutch elm disease having done for the English population. There is still a small number of wych elm trees in the wood however. This species proved more resilient to the disease than the English elm, and when they are in flower in the spring it can still make a delightful sight in the wood, though necessarily bringing to mind "what might have been".

The recent storm also brought back memories of 1987, which was on a totally different scale. Evidence of it still lurks visibly in Quarry Wood. Many of the Sweet Chestnuts which were felled then are still visible as enduring logs up to forty feet long. Almost all other fallen trees from that time, including the harder oak, have vanished completely, but the chestnut is more rot resistant. This is why, of course, it is used so effectively in chestnut paling, one of our major local contributions to the landscape. Ash and sycamores that have been felled usually are gone inside about eight years, irrespective of size, and beech not much longer, so readily do they yield to fungal attack. Even now, however, elm stumps—not the logs—remain visible in the wood. They are fluted and black, and each year they become smaller and more gaunt, but they persist, as wet as old groynes by the seaside. Long may their vestige remain!

© Tim Hill

Junior Sport

Our Under 9s have had 2 matches against Beckley and Goudhurst. The new boys seem to be settling in and getting used to matches. After a good start to the season the U 12s are going through a sticky patch, losing their last 4 games against Tenterden, South Ashford, Mersham and New Romney. It is a mixed bag for the U14s, winning 4—0 to Smeeth, but losing 4—1 to High Halden in the Champions' league, against the same 2 teams. Our U15s had two close games winning 1—0 to Biddenden, and losing 3—2 to Mersham. Special mention must go to the 8 boys who played against the 11 Smeeth players and somehow managed to come back from 3—1 down to win 5—3. They were exhausted but were proud of their heroics.



Paul Beck

EVERGREENS

Louse Ferns came along to our meeting to tell us about Great Ormond Street Hospital. She gave a very interesting talk, telling us about the history and pioneering work of the hospital. Although it is a NHS Hospital, they need to raise a great deal of money each year to provide the services which make it special. Every parent is made welcome and encouraged to stay with their children, as they come from all over the UK. Flats have been built and rooms provided by the charity. New state of the art equipment is bought. Standard NHS issue is not always suitable for children. One of our members has a child whose life was saved by the skilled surgical care provided by Great Ormond St. Sadly another member lost a child there, but she can be comforted by the fact that they had gone to one of the best children's hospitals in the country.

The Evergreens were invited to tea by the Seekers at Coxheath Church. We were made most welcome, nothing was too much trouble. The Seekers were excellent hosts, making sure we had everything we needed and keeping our cups topped up! A splendid spread was provided and we were entertained with Autumn songs and poems. The children were a delight to be with - polite, courteous and sociable. Beckie Parnham and her helpers should be very proud of them. We thank the Seekers and the leaders for asking us. It was a lovely occasion, and we hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 12th November at 2.30 pm in The Farleighs WI Hall Forge Lane East Farleigh. Ring Terry on 814561 if you would like a lift.

Helen Swan

The Farleighs' W.I.

Because bad weather was forecast for 3rd October, our Pétanque evening was cancelled.

9th October - The WI Annual Show was held at the WI Hall. We had a record attendance for this event, with an impressive number of entries to compete for the WI Shield. Joy and Betty, our judges, made a careful appraisal of all entries and finally chose Linda Bolton as the winner, with Mandy James and Wendy Barrott as close second and third. We were very pleased to have The Huntones Choir to sing for us. They are very enthusiastic and obviously enjoy singing. We hope that they will pay a return visit soon. As always, the refreshments were delicious.

12th October - The Table Top Sale, widely advertised, proved very successful, with plenty of customers and a great variety of gifts to tempt everybody. The WI ladies ran a craft table, cake table and a preserves table. A great time was had by all. The local Charity Members helped to make the occasion relaxed and friendly. The event was masterminded by Diane Scott - many thanks from everybody!

FUTURE EVENTS IN NOVEMBER.

14th November - Visit to the Hazlitt Theatre to see *"There Goes The Bride"*.

18th November - Dinner Club at the Hop Pole, Nettlestead.

Rehearsals are now progressing for the **Farleighs Christmas Variety Show** and tickets are now available from East Farleigh - Daphne - 728167 West Farleigh - Ann - 814561

Details are as follows: **-FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 7.30 PM; SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2.30 PM**

Refreshments - Tea and Mince Pies ADULTS £5.00. CHILDREN. £2.50

Linda Bolton

5P Men

The 5P Mens group are having a quiz evening on Monday 25th November at the Victoria pub in Heath Road, East Farleigh, beginning at 7.30 p.m. Contact Events Co-ordinator Kevin Jenner 01622 741054 if you would like to join them.



THE GOOD INTENT has events to interest you on two Fridays in November.

First, on November 15th, is a "Curry-Oke" evening—"Keep Naan and Curry On" says (we understand) Clive Simpson. This starts at 7.30 pm.

Secondly, on 22nd November there is a Quiz in aid of the R.N.L.I. (Lifeboats). It starts at 8 pm.



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Sports Report

Football: After all the difficulties, our 1st XI have finally had their first victory of the season. Firstly however we started with defeats at home to Headcorn 2—1, Eccles 6—0, Larkfield 5—0 (both in the cup). Then came an amazing 5—4 defeat against Wateringbury in which we led three times by two goals. We were 4—2 up only ten minutes before the final whistle, but we still lost! Finally came our long awaited victory, a much deserved 2—0 win over Aylesford. Our 2nd XI have also struggled to gain victories, but similar to our 1st XI we had one win last month. We started off with defeats against Leybourne 1—0, Maidstone Athletic 3—0 and Horsmonden 4—2. Our victory came against Kingsley Arms 2—1, with almost the last kick of the game!

Our veteran XI unfortunately lost both of their fixtures last month – against Farnborough 4—1 and Ditton 4—1. Hopefully all our teams will have better fortunes next month!

Our lucky Ton-Up Club Winners for October are:

£25 Andy Starr

£15 David Gilliver

£10 Ann Ayears

Yours in sport

Tel (01622 815267)

Those school reports....

Catching sight of our grandchildren's reports has reminded us of some we remember - or heard about—from many years ago. Alas, the tone of them is now definitely not PC!

- Of a boy who was often off ill: *"I don't believe we've met."*
- Of a similarly unfamiliar youth: *"I know of nothing to his detriment."*
- Of a boy at an academy in Perth, Scotland. *"Possibly he would do well in Western Australia."*

Boot Fair.

This event now seems but a distant memory, but took place a mere 5 weeks ago (too late to be reported on after the event, in last month's edition). Our picture shows some of the large crowd of people who came along and enjoyed the event. It is interesting to note that the attendance profile was completely different from that of the previous Boot Fair which took place at the same venue (more or less) a year before. On that occasion there were only 4-5 times as many visitors—buyers that is— as vendors (boots) but this year there were 10 times as many, thanks to a large increase in visitors and a small decline in those selling. Does this reflect the general improvement in the economy?!? What will happen next time?—there may well be a "next time" because the event was successful in raising a net £290 approx for each of the joint organisers, the Sports Club and All Saints Church. Thanks are due to all who helped with this event.

The weather was very clement for the event, with dry ground allowing easy movement for cars. The dry spell soon ended. How prescient was Terry Ayears, then, in not arranging a firework display on the same site, and thus not taking a chance on a third dry early autumn in succession! Which omniscient forecaster do you have a hot line to, Terry?

