

"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.

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"A New Editor would be a lifeline for Life-Line" - Ed.

Distributed freely in April 2015 Edition No. 465

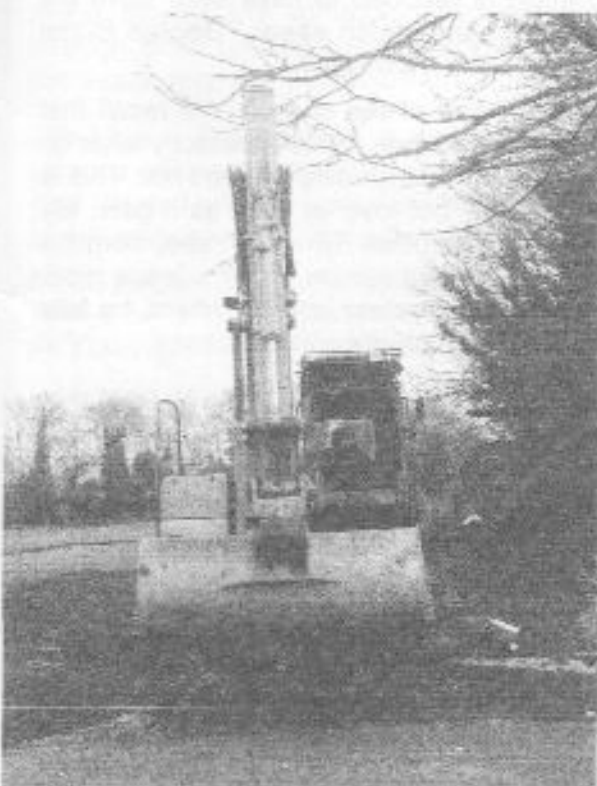


Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

Sports Club Car Park Completed.

The Sports Club made rapid progress on their new car park, thanks to heavy duty equipment (such as that pictured) and it was possible to open it for regular use from the first day of spring. Some volunteer labour was also in evidence during the process—the usual suspects came forward as ever. Undoubtedly it will be a relief to users of Chariton Lane on Saturdays and Sundays in the soccer season, when the bus company has been among the most prominent of critics of the "on-the-road" parking that had prevailed hitherto. Many people, apart from the actual users of the car park, should feel the benefit.

The Sports Club received a measure of financial support from Kent County Council (for which they are very grateful), but their own monetary resources have felt the impact of this major work. Thus, further contributions from any source would be most helpful in restoring the balance of the club's books. Volunteers, as above, are continuing to help with the landscaping around the site, which is rapidly blending in. -Eds



County Councillor Paulina Stockell cuts the tape—or garland rather—to open Dandelion Time's new Pottery at Elmscroft.

She is flanked by schoolchildren volunteers who had, earlier in the day, planted no less than 200 osiers for future use in basket-making and the like. The event took place on March 16th.

Local charity Dandelion Time, which works with troubled children and their families, providing many therapeutic rural activities, has also recently received a cheque for £8888 from Wrotham Heath Golf Club. Anyes Reading has further information on fundraising@dandeliontime.org.uk

Dandelion Time



Deadline for May Life-Line is April 27th 2015

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

Spring has sprung. The evenings are lighter, the day is longer, the weather is warmer. At least that's what should be happening at this time of year – along with the April showers which bring refreshment and energy to the growing plants. Life begins to re-emerge and things are all a little greener. (By the way, I hold that Spring begins on the date of the equinox when the earth is in the exact place in its orbit that the day and night are equal - March 20th this year - not March 1st which the weather forecasters seem to have adopted.)

Poets have long been inspired by the coming of spring, perhaps none more so than Alfred Lord Tennyson who penned these words in his poem of 1835, Locksley Hall.

"In the Spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast;
In the Spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest;
In the Spring a livelier iris changes on the burnish'd dove;
In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."

Plato wrote that with a touch of lover, everyone becomes a poet. Others have written or said things about love too – some of which are intended to raise a smile. Mae West for example is reported to have said "Love thy neighbour — and if he happens to be tall, debonair and devastating, it will be that much easier." George Burns said that "Love is a lot like a backache, it doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there."

The church's season at this time of year is Easter, and love is at the very heart of the season. We recall that Jesus said that greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Which is exactly what he did. He gave up his life for his friends. Who are his friends? That's the whole world – including you and me. This is not love that is a fancy thought made lightly, or an amusing anecdote or quote, but love as deep as it gets. My favourite hymn is "When I survey the wondrous cross" and my favourite lines from that hymn are "see, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet?" Jesus models love for us, and calls us to reflect his love in our relationships with others. The greatest commandment, he tells us, is to love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.

Happy Easter!

Peter Callway

Rector

A TODDLER GROUP FOR WEST FARLEIGH?

Calling all Child Carers! Val Grainger writes, after discussions at the March P.C.C. Meeting

There are now several families with young children in the village. The elderly have Evergreens but there is no group enabling those caring for children to get together socially, whether parents, grandparents or professional child carers. The All Saints Church Council would like to see if a group could be set up for all child carers to meet and share experiences. Possibly there could be a Parent /Toddler group during the day and/or an evening group, possibly following a **ParentCraft** Course for 6 weeks as a start. The group would be primarily for West Farleigh carers but also open to those from neighbouring villages and the rest of the Benefice. It would take place in All Saints, which is proving increasingly popular for a variety of community events (and this winter has proved the warmer for having its heating on during the week—Eds.) The ParentCraft Course was so successful at Coxheath recently that a second had to be arranged.

As a first step we would like to invite all those involved with young children to a meeting in the church at **7.30 pm on Tuesday 12th May**. We can then see if there is a demand for such a group and what specifically is required.

Becky Parnham (mentioned above) is the Benefice's Children's and Families' Worker, recently appointed. In fact she will be commissioned into her post on Palm Sunday (March 29th) at the Benefice Service at East Farleigh Church. In recent years Becky has organised the Seekers but now her role is much wider and (even more) professional. We are sure she has the good wishes and support of all as she formally enters her new role.

Advance Notice of those favourite Spring Perennials...

On **May 31st** we have the **Plant Fayre** in aid of All Saints. It will again be at Smith's Hall (through the kindness of Stephen Norman) and gardeners are asked if they can look out offshoots, self-sown plants and surplus material of any kind that can be sold at this event. Do come along to buy those bedding plants, and profit from the offerings from other people's gardens. Not least, see the changes in Smith's Hall's delightful gardens.

June 5th sees the return of the well-loved combo **Dr Jazz**. More info. will follow, but reserve the date!

The Petition's Progress—There's not too much positive news to report on the matter of the speed limits on Lower Road—but see the Parish Council Minutes overleaf. It creates a sense of unease when the personnel dealing with the matter change. It has emerged that the Cabinet Member for Roads is now Cllr. Matt Balfour: rather like going to the theatre and finding the expected cast has changed. We can but encourage Mr. Balfour to come up with a good performance—after all he has (with Sussex) the most dangerous country roads in England to look after. While we wait for a decision, there was another accident near Teston Lane junction at around 5 pm on March 7th. A car and a jeep type of vehicle were involved in a head-on collision, with some injuries (but apparently not too serious)

Twinning in the Vicinity While West Farleigh has its own twinning arrangement through the Sports Club with Ringstedt, our neighbours in Coxheath have a rather different connection with **La Seguinere**. Over the past 15 years, people from the south of Maidstone have taken part in a variety of activities, with people sharing similar interests in and around that village which is just outside Cholet in western France. These activities have included playing football, table tennis, petanque, running, walking, and visiting stately homes and gardens. They have stayed in others' homes and welcomed them to stay in theirs.

If this sounds like something you might want to find out more about, contact Coxheath Twinning Association through Colin Leith at colin.leith@btinternet.com or Laura by phone on 01622 741812. You may find conversing, corresponding, and potentially visiting a french family is something of real appeal to you.

Life-Line – Still seeking a new editor... As your present editors plan (for family reasons) to move to Cheshire, whence editing the magazine will be utterly impossible, the time for others to step forward and take over the editorship (floated without a deadline some months ago) has moved emphatically closer. There are many ways to run a parish magazine, and even if you have no pre-formed ideas about it at all, rest assured that inspiration will come.

So do contact us, or any PCC member about it, please!

—Eds

A Younger Perspective. *Emily Hunter writes once more with commentary on the way we live now...*

How long can you survive without your phone?

According to my parents, the first "mobile" phone wasn't exactly mobile. It came with a huge, heavy battery that was needed at all times to keep it charged. Looking at the phones produced today, you can see we've come a long way. However, it is an argument that people are now too dependent on their phones – especially teenagers.

Now introducing the concept of FOMO (fear of missing out). I am included in the large number of people who would feel completely lost without the familiar feel of their phone in their hand. But why? One reason is that we think if we don't check our phones 24/7 we will miss out on the latest news, or in my case, school gossip. If I forget to charge my phone overnight (and this is a regular occurrence) I have no idea what people are talking about the next day. So many conversations are based around social media that you miss out on if you aren't constantly checking your phone.

Let's be honest, phones can get you out of some really awkward situations. For example; flicking through Facebook while waiting at a bus stop makes the time pass so much quicker, and also makes it look like you do have friends. Also, you'd be lying if you said you hadn't faked a phone call to get away from someone who didn't deserve your time

This makes it sound as if it is only teenagers who can't put down their phone. The common misconception is that very few people over the age of 65 own a smartphone, let alone know how to use one. What isn't known by many is that there are quite a few "silver surfers" out there (unfortunately, that is an actual name) and these are those above a certain age who are addicted to social media on smartphones. I don't mean they like to flick through Facebook a few times a day, I mean it's more like a few times an hour. To be exact 31% of all seniors actually use Facebook.

The truth is, smartphones and social media have become increasingly like a necessity for so many people, that without them, they don't have a clue what to do with their time. However, they are rarely used for their true purpose – to make calls. Instead the various social networking apps such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat are what they are primarily used for.

Emily Hunter

Antique lovers please note that **Hunton** has an **Antiques & Craft Fair** at St Mary's Church in West Street on Saturday 25th April from 10am - 4pm, with homemade refreshments served all day. All are very welcome.

Lambing Day At the latest Parish Council Meeting, the Chairman, Bruce Scott, rightly thanked and congratulated fellow Councillor Geoff Martin on the inspirational success that the Lambing Day had been. On March 8th, the Martins –and their livestock - entertained some 200 visitors who came to see new lambs being born. There was a contest to guess the name of one particularly engaging lamb, we understand, and it was **Zulu**. *Now guess its colour!*

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Here are extracts from the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th March at the Good Intent, West Farleigh

PRESENT: Cllrs B Scott (Chairman), B Merritt, G Martin, L Johnson, C Stockwell, H Swan, Borough Cllr Wilson, PCSO Matt Judges, County Cllr Stockell and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk PLUS 5 Parishioners in attendance.

POLICE MATTERS: PCSO Judges reported that there had been one crime since the last meeting, which was a theft of a vehicle. He added that this was a vehicle used on farm land only, as he did not want people worrying unduly. It was also noted that there have been thefts in other villages which were mainly oil related.

Highways Issues in West Farleigh The Clerk reported that the yellow lines in Teston Lane should have been reinstated in February, but this could not be completed due to the weather conditions. Kent Highways are hoping to complete this in the near future.

Speed Petition: Cllr Scott stated that he had supported Mr Plommer on the day that he handed in the petition but felt that the Parish Council should write their own letter if they wish to offer any further support. After brief discussion, Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent. It was noted that David Brazier is no longer the cabinet member, Matthew Balfour has now taken on the role. Cllr Wilson raised concerns that he too had been present when the petition had been handed in, but this had not been mentioned in Life-Line. Cllr Wilson reported that the speed limits were set according to the number of houses in the area, however, new regulations have recently been agreed for setting speed limits and he offered to forward a copy of the regulations to the Clerk. It was noted that the speed limit is an issue for pedestrians who need to walk along Lower Road and there was general discussion on the need for more accurate records of the road incidents that occur in the village. Cllr Scott asked whether an article could be placed in Life-Line and all Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea if residents could supply the following details: Date and Time of accident Location Brief description Details of any injuries Pictures (if possible)

Stile for KM21: It was noted that there seemed to be some confusion with regards to the work which was to be completed along KM21. Stephen Norman had suggested that a metal gate be fitted in the field close to Teston Lane, with the wooden stile (previously suggested) being fitted by the cricket field. He had suggested that the stile on Church Lane be left as it is, due to its low height. This was ultimately the decision of Don Goodwin as it is on his land. Cllr Merritt confirmed that he had spoken with Don Goodwin who was happy for the stile to be left as it is. The Clerk reported that Stephen Norman was happy to make a contribution towards the cost of the wooden stile, as it is more expensive. It was therefore confirmed that one metal gate would be fitted (towards Teston Lane), a wooden stile would be fitted by the cricket ground and the stile on Church Lane would be left as it is. All Councillors were in agreement with this course of action. Cllr Martin proposed that the Parish Council purchase the wooden stile and accept the donation previously offered by two ladies at the last meeting (£50.00) and Stephen Norman's donation, with the Parish Council paying any shortfall. Cllr Merritt seconded the proposal, with all in favour.

Bench Maintenance required around the village: Cllr Merritt reported that he had carried out the fixed asset survey around the village and has completed much of the maintenance work required. However, the double sided bench by Smiths Hall needs urgent work as the slats on the side facing the field are broken. Cllr Stockwell proposed that the wood be purchased and this was seconded by Cllr Martin, with all in favour.

County Councillor's Report: Cllr Stockell reported that the budget was the main focus of Kent County Council at present with an increase of 1.9% agreed from April. The Community Warden scheme has been saved, although the number will be reduced to 70. Cllr Stockell added that £48m of the £50m which had been in the Icelandic bank, when the financial crisis had hit, had now been recovered.

Borough Councillor's Report: Borough Cllr Wilson reported that a survey had been sent to residents asking what their 3 biggest gripes were and the responses had shown the top three as: 1 The Local Plan 2. Roads - including the condition and congestion 3. Street lighting. Cllr Wilson reported that the Local Plan is in disarray.

Cllr Merritt reported that the marquee has now been located and the person has confirmed that they are happy to keep it in their garage for the Parish Council.

Clerk's Reports: Transparency Code for Parishes with a turnover of under £25,000 The Clerk reported on a recent training course run by KALC regarding the new transparency code for smaller parishes. Whilst some of the new requirements are still unclear, a list of actions has been highlighted which will affect the workload of the Clerk. Under the new legislation, smaller Parish Councils will no longer have a full external audit, instead a large amount of information will be loaded onto a website and this needs to be visible for 6 years. Documents required include the following: monthly breakdown of payments over £100. As well as completing all of this, it would appear that, until 2017, these Parishes will still have to have an external audit which will mean that there will be a large amount of additional work required.

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Subscription to Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK): The Clerk reported that Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) have asked whether the Parish Council would like to join. This group is able to assist with advice for village halls and Local Needs Housing. The Clerk reported that the lady who deals with this particular area has offered to come to the Annual Parish Meeting to speak with residents about the process of completing a survey. All Councillors agreed that this would be helpful so that residents could understand the process better.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 18th May 2015** from 7.00 pm – 7.45 pm at The Good Intent, followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm** (At which refreshments will be served --Eds.)

Church Services

West Farleigh All Saints, Church Lane

April 2nd	Maundy Thursday	7.30 p.m.
April 3rd	Good Friday	10.00 a.m.
April 5th	Easter Sunday 8.00 a.m	Holy Communion
(with hymns)		Rev. Peter Callway
April 12th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (mod.)
		Rev. Eileen Doyle
April 19th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (trad.)
		David Barnes
April 26th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (mod.)
		Rev. Eileen Doyle

East Farleigh

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

Hunton

April 5th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 12th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 19th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer +baptism
April 26th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Coxheath

April 3rd	2.00 p.m.	Good Friday service
April 5th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 12th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
April 19th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 26th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service

Linton

April 3rd	11.00 a.m.	Good Friday service
April 5th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 12th	9.30 a.m.	Family Service
April 19th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 26th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Don't forget the special services for **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**. They are both at All Saints at **7.30 pm** and **10 am** respectively. There is a dramatic reading of the Crucifixion on Good Friday amid quiet prayer. All are welcome.

Clergy Contact Numbers:

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
Children's & Families' Worker	B. Parnham 07949 646865

Nature Notes: Timing is everything

On March 17th, after walking round most of Quarry Wood, we finally heard the repetitive notes of the Chiffchaff. I had been expecting this because it was a reasonable day in terms of weather and because March 17th is the average date, of recent years, for the Chiffchaff to arrive in Quarry Wood. There was, however, only one. With the trees still completely bare of leaves, and with this individual singing persistently, we were able to locate the little pale brown bird, newly arrived from its wintering grounds.

All this was completely normal—indeed, it was a signal of utter normality, since the bird was on time and proclaiming its presence from a high branch as usual on arrival. On our next three visits, however, we could not find the bird, by eye or by ear. Now this is unusual. Once one Chiffchaff has arrived, not only is that bird normally conspicuous, but it tends to be immediately followed by others, and they sing (if that is the right word for what is, it must be admitted, a monotonous call) in competition with each other, from territorial songspots for many hours of the day. Even now, very few seem yet to be present in our local countryside.

This can be put down to the weather. Although not unusually cold, the weather for mid March onwards has been "disappointing", with some days "miserable". If not bitter. (Of course, there are benefits of cool weather now—notably in that the daffodil season is extended!) I suppose that these conditions, which doubtless prevail in north France too, have deterred other Chiffchaffs in the progress of their migration. Whenever they arrive, these little warblers do not seem to have difficulty in coping with cool weather, even though insect numbers are extremely depressed in these conditions. We can be sure of this, because in many parts of Britain the Chiffchaff is not just a summer visitor but a winter resident as well. For instance, friends in Oxfordshire—not a place noted for its mild winters—tell us they often see them in the winter, and we know that's true of bits of Staffordshire as well. The normal wintering grounds are from Spain southwards into north-west Africa. Many birds cross the Sahara to pass the winter in west Africa proper, but probably there has been a tendency for them not to go as far in recent times.

The birds around here sing as soon as they arrive, and to an extent this is puzzling, because ornithologists know that the female birds do not come along until a couple of weeks later. If we can assume that the cock Chiffchaffs know this, it suggests that the song is a matter of territorial declaration, before it is to attract a mate. The song is not as simple as it sounds. If it can be heard at really close quarters, it is found that there is a sotto voce preface before the song rings out loud and clear. It is still the two tone call, but softer, and at the same time more husky than the proper song. Many languages have similar names for the bird because of its song—German "Zilpzalp", and in Dutch "Tjiftjaf" for instance—but whatever its name, this delicate little migrant is still a true harbinger of spring and lifts the heart when it's first found in unreliable March.

©Tim Hill

Junior Sport: *Paul Beck writes:* Our U7s have had their first friendly match preparing them for the league next year. The U10s have not fared well in the cup, but, bearing in mind half the team are playing up a year, they gave a good account of themselves. The U13s tumbled out of the cup to Bromley Green and narrowly lost 3-2 to Biddenden in the league. The U15s lost 4-0 to Headcorn and 4-1 to Wittersham, but gained a good 3-0 win between those results against Weald Wolves. The U16s are through to the semi final of the cup, beating Mersham Reds 4-2, then beating Mersham Reds 1-0 and drawing 2-2 with Smeeth & Brabourne in the league. Aspiring players can contact Paul on 07717 433828.



Heart of Kent Hospice BLUEBELL WALK SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2015 The Heart of Kent Hospice invites you to join its new circular 6 mile route through Kent's beautiful countryside. The walk starts at Harrietsham Village Hall ME17 1LE: Plenty of refreshment will be available. Registration opens 8.30 a.m. on the day of the walk. Advanced booking is recommended. - latest start time is 11.00 a.m. Ample free parking. No minimum sponsorship. Entry is £10 per adult, £3. per child £25 per family of five For further information or to book your place please contact fundraising on 01622 790195, visit our website www.hokh.org or e-mail fundraising@hokh.co.uk.

EVERGREENS A great deal of fun and laughter was had at our March meeting. Elly Bernherdt brought along some moulding icing which she shared amongst us and showed us how to make an Easter Bunny. Everyone made something, but not many of them ended up looking like rabbits!! Very enjoyable, nevertheless! Our next meeting is on 14th April 2.30 -4.30 at the WI Hall Forge Lane East Farleigh. A representative of Brighter Futures is coming to tell us what service they can provide to the retired. - followed by a home-made afternoon tea.

If you are retired and would like to come along, you would be very welcome. Ring Terry if you need a lift (no problem) Our new initiative "Evergreens at Home" is going well to date. Some of the more active members visit those who do not get out much, for a chat and a cup of tea. Everyone seems to enjoy the visits. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their donation. We will use it for outings and a Christmas meal. **Helen Swan**

The Farleighs' W.I. Helen Swan and Margaret Perkins are putting together a series of *Get Fit Through Walking* walks - they take place on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays - next one is therefore 31st March.

Join The Farleighs WI Darts Teams: they practice at the Good Intent - information from Ann Ayears Wire knitting workshops are taking place at Ethel Hunt Lodge 30 April and 7 May- closing date 27 March. Heart of Kent Hospice would like us to bake some cakes for their Bluebell Walk on 2nd May - the cakes should be delivered to Pam Lindon.

On 22 May there will be a Quiz at the WI Hall with a Fish and Chip Supper

Jacky Taylor

The Marsh Warblers in Watringbury

Present a short informal concert of West Galley music while performing in Georgian period costume

Saturday 9th May at Noon at the church of St John the Baptist, Tonbridge Road, Watringbury. The concert will be followed by a light lunch of a sandwich, cake, tea or coffee.

Tickets at £5 in aid of church funds can be purchased from the Post Office or by telephoning 01622 813032.

The LILY Foundation

Coffee Morning

To be held on 18th April 2015 10.30 a.m.

Green Oaks, Charlton Lane, West Farleigh

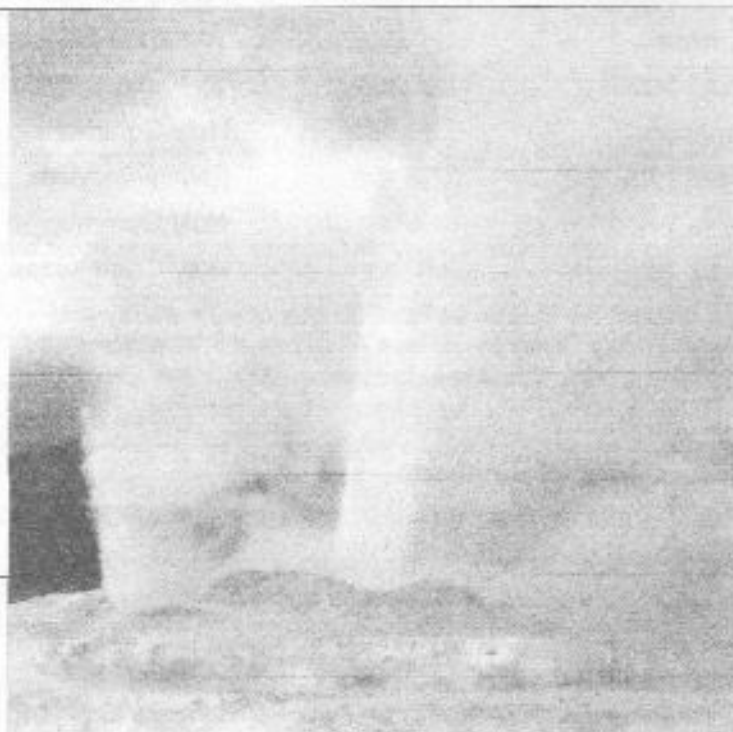
In aid of the Foundation*

Coffee, Tea, Cakes, and Nearly New Stall

Excellent Raffle Prizes

The Lily Foundation is fighting Mitochondrial Disease through research, awareness and support.

The Hot Rocks power and community heating scheme in full lay. Note Quarry Wood in the background. This is expected to be the vista on 1. 4. 16. - or perhaps a year later, depending on engineering progress. -Ed.





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Helen Grant

Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald, holds regular surgeries in the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail Helen at

helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk
or telephone 020 7219 7107.

www.helengrant.org



Sports Report :

Football: Games are few and far between at this moment, especially for our 1st XI having just played the one since last month, and it was not a happy outcome, losing 2—0 at home to Aylesford. Our 2nd XI have played three games, consisting of a win, a draw and a defeat. It started with beating the Early Bird 3—0 in our Tunbridge Wells quarter final. Next came an evenly fought encounter against Maidstone Athletic 1—1. Finally we had terrific performance over high-flying Hollingsbourne, losing 1—0 with literally the last kick of the game! Lastly our veterans have had just the one game and an entertaining 2—2 home result against Hythe.

Cricket: Nets are still underway every Monday at Sutton Valence School. New cricketers would be more than welcome.

News: This month our lucky Ton-up winners were

£25 John Epps

£15 Ann Shilling

£10 Grant Wells

Yours in sport,

Tel (815267)

Beacon Men are going to Town.

The next event is a breakfast on Saturday 11th April at 8.00 a.m. at the Muggleston Inn - Library area—of J.D. Wetherspoon in Maidstone. Ben Cooper, pastor of Elim Church, Swanley, will be our speaker. A donation of £4 is suggested to cover breakfast and the speaker's expenses.



Opportunities to get involved and give your feedback...Helen Swan draws our attention to an important health matter.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals jointly provide acute stroke care and rehabilitation for patients from West Kent. Reviews have shown that similar to many other hospitals, locally and nationally, we can greatly improve stroke outcomes for our patients and reduce long-term disability.

Our hospital clinicians and GP leads are currently developing higher standards of care for every patient. It is our aim to ensure all patients have access to dedicated stroke teams and treatment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We are involving our patients, the public and healthcare professionals in this important work over the coming months, using their knowledge and experience to help us build better stroke services. You can find out more about this online at www.mtw.nhs.uk. If you would like us to send you more information, or want to share your views and experiences with us on stroke care to help shape these important improvements, you can email us at: mtw-tr.myhealthcare@nhs.net or write to us for free at Freepost Stroke Services, Room 118 Service Centre, Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9QQ

If you would like to speak to someone anonymously, you can contact Healthwatch Kent by phone: 0808 801 0102 or email: info@healthwatchkent.co.uk

Dr Jim Milton, Clinical Lead for Stroke Services.

Wateringbury Local History Society: Sandra Noel is coming along on Wednesday 15 April to talk about an Everest Pioneer. The meeting will be in Wateringbury Village Hall with tea and coffee available from 7.40 pm and the talk starting at 8 pm. Visitors welcome at a cost of £3.50.

Farmers' Market: The next East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 12th April from 10 am to 1 pm in the Old School Hall and car park, Lower Road. A wide range of stalls offering top quality local produce and crafts will be available for you to enjoy. Hot drinks and home-made cakes are served in the kitchen. All profits from stall charges, after deduction of running costs, are donated to Kent charities. For further information please contact Sue Morris on 01622 726164.

The Return of the Freighter The truck that collects large items of domestic refuse will be back at the Green on Saturday April 11th from 2.30 to 3.05 pm. If this is convenient for you, don't miss it, for the frequency of visits is now much reduced, thanks to the budget cuts of recent times.

Hot Rocks hold out hope for Community Heating Project in West Farleigh. It has been a fairly well-kept secret that "hot rocks", similar to those in Cornwall, were discovered during the excavation works for the new Ewell Manor. Now the Meddemmens, along with adjacent landowner Stephen Norman, have arranged for planning to commence to exploit the hot strata beneath our very feet.

Trial borings, which will ultimately involve the insertion of pipework to circulate ordinary water to pick up the heat and bring it to the surface, will shortly commence. Parties involved said that an initial demonstration of the feasibility of the project and the power available in this local source of energy might well take the form of a luxury open-air jacuzzi on each of their plots. If these work successfully, the project will be rolled out across the community, so that the many can enjoy facilities normally reserved for the few. West Farleigh is doubly lucky to have hot rocks and generous exploiters. —See page 6 for an artist's impression of the development. —Ed.