

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

West Farleigh's own

LIFE-LINE



Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

Editors: Tim & Christine Hill and Emily Hunter.

Email: tim_and_chris@btinternet.com

"A man needs many different lifelines to last him all his life" Anon, 2015

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Success of Fireworks means help for local Charitable Organisations!

West Farleigh Sports Club once again made a great success of the annual celebration of the defeat of Guy Fawkes' terrorist plot on (this year) November 6th, to the extent that it is able to make generous donations to village bodies. Their letter - below - explains it all - and gives us something to look forward to a year hence!

"West Farleigh Fireworks Spectacular - A Huge Thank You!

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who came and supported the fireworks spectacular at Elmscroft Park on Friday 6th November. The event was a great success and provided a superb night of entertainment and magnificent fireworks display for all who attended. Our thanks also go to local residents for their understanding and support, as despite our best intentions, the event was very popular and car parking spaces were at a premium!

As an active and well attended club, West Farleigh Sports Club is a thriving village organisation. The investment required to ensure that it remains well supported and fit for the future is not insignificant and the Fireworks Spectacular is primarily a fundraising event for this purpose. However, it is important to state that it is at the forefront of the organisers' minds that it represents much more than this to the village. By putting on such a large-scale event, we are proud to be able to enhance West Farleigh's local reputation as a vibrant, active village with well supported organisations, clubs, events and activities and hope that it is mutually beneficial to other local groups.

Earlier this year, West Farleigh Sports Club were delighted to be able to present the village with a defibrillator. This year we will be donating £1,000 to carefully chosen local charities, the aim being to support our local community and for the development of future generations. These charities are, West Farleigh Church, Dandelion Time, East Farleigh Primary School, Kent Air Ambulance, Demelza House, RNLI and the Evergreens.

The work that goes into the planning and execution of such an evening is not insignificant but we aim to build upon the success of this year's event and continue to deliver a great evening of traditional bonfire night fun and firework delight. So a date for your 2016 calendar - West Farleigh Fireworks Spectacular 4th November 2016 - we look forward to welcoming you!

For more information about West Farleigh Sports Club and to become a member, please visit our web-site: www.westfarleighsportsclub.com

West Farleigh Sports Club"

The village should rather be thanking the Sports Club for the entertainment and for these generous gifts! All our good luck continues, not least with weather!

-Eds

Can the **Sports Club** be instrumental in creating a new facility partly for community use at its new premises?

Should the (frozen) **Village Hall Fund** be put to this, or other, use?

The village is invited to have its say..... See page 4 for this and other **Parish Council** news.

Deadline for the next Life-Line is January 25th 2016

This month's pastoral letter comes from Hugh Grainger

What a year 2015 has been: commencing with Magna Carta there has been a succession of commemorations; The Battle of Britain; a celebration of the end of World War II, Waterloo - even Agincourt! Then of course we always remember the miracle of Dunkirk. Is there anything that we can learn today from these important historical occasions? In 1940, when this country really thought that at any moment we would be invaded by the Nazis, there was a surge of Christian faith: a universal understanding that we truly needed God's help if we were to survive as a free nation.

As a nation we have recognised our need for God at these many and difficult times. If God will help a nation that is worried and afraid, how much will He not help us who believe in Him? Jesus did tell us: "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." "Let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid." In our own lives too Christmas and New Year is a time for looking back as well as looking forward: we remember happy occasions in the past as we plan for new ones ahead. Does Jesus feature at all in these plans of ours? Or are we in danger of omitting Him completely in the midst of all the other things we have to think about? What we ought never to forget is that Christmas came about as a commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ: a time to commemorate the coming into the world of God's only Son. Bringing with him love and hope for the future.

May you all have a blessed Christmas.

Hugh Grainger

From the Rectory

As we approach Christmas and the year end, I want to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all the folk who do so much across the benefice in so many different ways to enable the life of worship and community engagement to flourish. Thank you for all you do. May we also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New year.

With love,

Peter and Alison.

Messiah Carols for All

An event not to be missed is the Messiah concert, taking place at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 8th December. The evening starts at 7.30pm and it is sure to be a great night, complete with a good number of carols. Tickets are £15 or £12 for concessions and proceeds are in aid of Rochester Cathedral. They can be purchased online at www.rochester-cathedral.org, at the Cathedral shop or by calling the Cathedral office on 01634 843366. Make sure you take the trip as I'm sure it will be something to remember.

Here is another fantastic puzzle provided by Chris Stockwell. Let's see who can get the right answer! How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the grid?

s a m t s i i r c h c s s s t
b s c h r i s m t m a s i a i
c a i c s s h s a m m t r m h
h h j r c r t c t s c a h t c
r c r r h h h i i h h m c s h
i s c c g c r c r h i s m i c
s i h a h h m i t h c i t r h
t r r c c r s t c s c r s h r
m h i i h t m c s h i c i i m
a c r h m r h s h i i r r r i
s h g c h r i s t m r i h c s
c c h r i s t m a m i h c c t
u r c h r c h s t m a s c r m
i c h r i r c s t m a s t r a
s a m t s i h c r h c h i m s

When you think you've got the right answer, send it to Chris at hollyvillas@hotmail.co.uk. The winner will be drawn on Monday 7th December. It's pretty tricky so good luck!

Youth Column

What we are told as children is that Christmas is a time of giving, being with family and celebrating another year. However, when you're young enough to believe in Father Christmas, all that's going through your mind on Christmas Eve is how many presents he's going to bring you. Christmas is a magical time for children, a time when everyone is happy and the impossible does actually happen. As I'm growing up, it's weird how Christmas has changed for me. I still love it, because I'm surrounded by the people I love but rather than wondering how many presents I'm going to get this year, I find myself more excited about the look on my sister's face when I give her a present that I know she's wanted for months. When we both grouped together to buy our parents a sound bar that was a lot bigger than expected, we had to drag it on buses from Aylesford to home and that is a memory that I will never forget. I've come to realise that Christmas isn't about material things, but about love, shared happiness and memories that will last a life time.

Therefore, I think that during Christmas we should also be thinking about those people who don't have a family to celebrate it with. For people in these unfortunate circumstances, Christmas is just another day in which they won't be giving or receiving any gifts. While you're eating that roast turkey around a big table, spare a thought for those who won't be doing the same.

I don't know if anyone else has seen the IKEA Christmas advert, but if you haven't it's worth a watch. Anyway to sum it up, children are asked to write two Christmas lists; one to Father Christmas and one to their parents. In their letter to Father Christmas they ask for toys mostly, which is completely expected. However, when they are asked to write a letter to their parents, they ask for things such as being able to play football with them, or spend a whole day with them. When the children were asked which letter they would rather send, they chose the one to their parents. Although this is staged, it is clear that what the children want the most is time with their parents. This is something that is so easy to do, and doesn't cost anything.

Lastly, I just wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and I hope you have a wonderful time, and are surrounded by family and friends during this amazing time of the year.

Emily Hunter

Is Maidstone "one of the worst areas to live in the UK"?

If anyone has been reading the Kent Messenger recently, you may have noticed an article (well it's actually pretty tricky to miss) declaring that Maidstone and north Kent is one of the worst places to live and work in the entire country. According to the Demos-PwC Good Growth for Cities Index, Maidstone, Sheppey, Sittingbourne, Medway, Gravesend and Dartford is the 10th worst area for growth. However, Maidstone council has spoken out about the ranking, arguing that a Maidstone and north Kent city area doesn't exist and since data about Maidstone by itself can't be provided, the report "lacks meaningful insight into Maidstone borough's quality of growth". The report also says that Wakefield is down at the bottom of the list as well. Having been to Wakefield and actually witness someone try to steal cars in a multi storey car park, I can understand why this is the case. But surely Maidstone is nowhere near as bad as that! In addition to this, Maidstone encompasses a lot of small villages such as our own, and it's pretty great to live here. Overall, the article talks about potential for growth, but the quality of living in an area is not solely dependent on this, meaning that we can all be assured that Maidstone, and in particular West Farleigh, is actually a fantastic place to live.

East Farleigh Primary School Christmas Fayre

It's nearly Christmas, so that means it's time for the annual Christmas Fayre at East Farleigh Primary School. When I went to the school I always remember the fayre being a fantastic event, especially if you love chocolate! The event is on the 12th December at 1-4pm at the school. Stalls include homemade crafts, a chocolate tombola, festive stalls, a present room, fun and games for the children and of course, Santa's grotto. In addition to this, there is also a raffle in which there are some pretty impressive prizes up for grabs... anyone for a 24" smart TV? The fun doesn't even stop here, because Pukka Ponies Equine Rescue, a charity based in East Farleigh, will be bringing their lovely Shetland ponies dressed as reindeer for you to meet, pet and learn all about their worthwhile work.

West Farleigh Parish Council Meeting Monday November 16th. 7.30 pm at the Good Intent

These are notes of the main points of the meeting as recorded by the editors of Life-Line, pending publication of the Minutes.

All Councillors were present but Mrs Amanda Broadhurst, Parish Clerk, was unable to attend. Borough Cllr John Wilson was also there, but no County Councillors were present.

- **POLICE MATTERS: PCSO Matt Judges** was a welcome presence and he commented on the present crime scene.
- **Childrens' playground on the green.** The Council saw no option but to spend a significant sum (£1200-1300) on the play area flooring, as an inspection had taken place and found this necessary. This involved replacing the tiles with soft bark. It was widely felt that the roundabout was not fit for purpose and contacting its manufacturers was proposed.
- **Village Hall Fund.** The Clerk had heard from NatWest that this bank account could be closed due to inactivity. This matter can easily be resolved, but the trustees, who are all councillors, would look for a better return (difficult in the present climate of interest rates). They would also be interested to hear ideas for using the cash in the account—some £14000—always bearing in mind the purpose for which the money had been raised in the first place. Nevertheless, discussions with the **Sports Club** had taken place, on an entirely tentative basis, over the possibility of an extension being built to the club's new facilities on Charlton Lane. Extra space would have provision for an element of community use, including, perhaps, by the Parish Council. It was acknowledged that the available funds would not stretch far into financing such a project.
- Borough Cllr. Wilson considered the planning website to be very poor*. He hoped for improvement in the consultation time available to parish councils, which of course met only bi-monthly. The local plan would go to final consultation before January. The planned housing included in it could only exacerbate flooding and traffic.
- Drains were re-asserting their importance and their inadequacy (in the absence of frequent cleansing) with the autumn season.
- Traffic on the bridges seemed to be causing worse problems than ever, with the threat of violence lurking, as vehicle owners confronted each other.
- Cllr Martin reported that road salt for the winter weather was delivered and ready. However, although a bus route, Charlton Lane was not on Council's gritting schedule. The Clerk and Cllr Wilson would take this up.
- Some consternation was expressed over the apparent approval by MBC planning department of a dwelling in the orchard to the south of Ewell Lane and not far from the Good Intent. It was thought some agricultural planning loophole might have been exploited.
- Cllr Merritt reported that a memorial tree on the Green was to be replaced with an acer, while an oak would be planted to replace the present, but increasingly decrepit, tree.
- Cllr Martin reported that the Council had been asked to provide a sign of instructions for the defibrillator outside the Good Intent. This was agreed. Cllr Swan asked if further sessions on its use could be arranged - these were praised by those who had already been able to attend.
- Cllr Stockwell reported on a meeting he had attended about a road repair scheme that entrusted road sections to contractors. Cllr. Wilson said it was dependent on enforcement of standards—which was inadequate.
- It had not proved possible to organise a litter pick. Litter continued to be a major problem.
- Cllr Swan reported that the Parish Council sponsored coffee morning, held at the Good Intent, had gone well, with a high attendance, of those who knew, and those who didn't know, each other. Homemade cakes had been consumed and enjoyed. The small funds raised could be ploughed back into similar events. Another coffee morning was in the offing, and it was agreed they should be bi-monthly in the new year. All are welcome.
- The Clerk would be preparing the new budget for the financial year 2016-7.

The next meeting will take place on Monday January 18th at the Good Intent at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

*We understand that Councillor Wilson is to retire as Borough Councillor next May. He has been a hard-working member for 8 years and has had an excellent record of attending our Parish Council meetings, so he will be missed.

We also read that Tunbridge Wells Borough, as one of the parties to the joint planning website etc., has had to allocate £150000 as it withdraws from the failed scheme. We wonder how much taxpayers' money Maidstone has "lost" in this ill-fated venture?
-Eds

WATERINGBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY has two meetings coming up. On December 16th Wilf Lower will be telling of "Life on the Wicked Stage", and on January 20th Colin Breed talks on "Royal Visits to Kent" 8 pm in the village hall. Janet Hall.

Ann Honnor. We have just heard of the death, aged 80, of Ann Honnor, whom readers will remember as she and her husband Roy were regulars at All Saints for many years. They left the district for a nursing home in Surrey about four years ago, but continued to receive a postal copy of Life-Line, until failing eyesight made this pointless. By profession Ann was a schoolteacher - a headmistress in fact. She was an highly intelligent and articulate woman, and even in her last years, when she suffered from complex illnesses, she would illuminate any meeting with flashes of brilliance and humour. We send condolences to Roy (who ran a family seed and agricultural merchants business in Maidstone and beyond) and to their children.
-Eds

Church Services

West Farleigh All Saints, Church Lane

December 6th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion Rev. Peter Callway
December 13th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service with Rev David Jones
December 20th	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service David Barnes
December 24th	9.30 p.m.	Holy Communion Rev. Peter Callway
Christmas Day	9.45 a.m.	Family Service Chris Bostock

Services in the New Year: 2016.

January 3 rd	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
January 10 th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (mod)
January 17 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (trad)
January 24 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
January 31 st	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

All Saints West Farleigh hosts the First Benefice Service of 2016.

East Farleigh

December 6th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
December 13th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
December 20th	6.00 p.m.	Family Carol Service
December 24th	4.00 p.m.	Christingle
	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
December 25th	9.30 a.m.	Family Service
December 27th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Service

Hunton

December 6th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
December 13th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
December 20th	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
December 24th	9.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
December 25th	9.30 a.m.	Family Service +H/C

Coxheath

December 6th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
December 13th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
December 20th	4.30 p.m.	Carol Service
December 24th	5.00 p.m.	Children's Service
	11.15 p.m.	Holy Communion
December 25th	10.45 am	Family Service + H/C

Linton

December 6th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
December 13th	4.00 p.m.	Nine lessons and Carols
December 20th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
December 24th	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
December 25th	9.30 a.m.	Family Service+ H/C

Clergy Contact numbers

Rev. Peter Callway Rector 01622 747570 Call Peter for Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Weddings & Funerals.

Not available Fridays—Peter & David.

Not available Mondays and Tuesdays—Eileen.

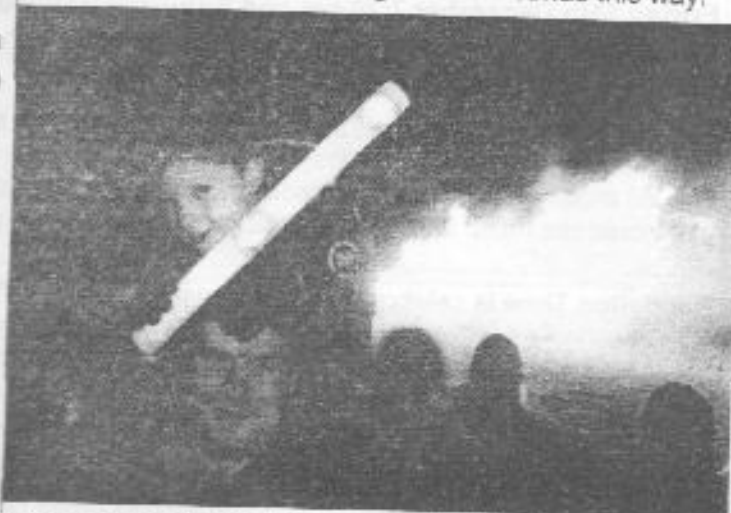
Truly the Gateway to Christmas

Do try and be at the West Farleigh Carol Service this Christmas. It's not until the **20th (6pm)** so there's no sense of celebrating too early, as sometimes it may feel is the case.

Children are particularly welcome. There will be something special for them, both in what they bring and take away.

Adults will enjoy the mulled wine afterwards, and for all there's the visual delight of multiple Christmas trees, the auditory pleasure of the W.I. Choir, and the beauty of familiar words.

No-one ever regrets opening their Christmas this way!



Youngsters, of various ages, enjoying themselves at the fireworks on November 6th.

Around and About

A striking amount of construction and allied work around the village is coming towards completion as winter approaches. The scaffolding is still up on the new Ewell Manor, but the windows—large areas of glass in the great gables on the south western façade – have all been in place for a while and a sense of nearing completion is tangible. Further landscaping is taking place too.

There is little doubt that the work on the Tickled Trout will be done in time for Christmas—except, that is, the extension which now has a big impact on the once attractive garden. It remains to be seen whether children will be as frequently observed in it as in the past. Just down the road, Vale House has seen work on every day of the week, and now the front garden looks spacious with newly laid turf. Maybe new residents in the village will be installed there before Christmas.

In a way the most remarkable change of recent months has been the re-creation of what appears at first sight to be a large scale hop garden just outside the parish near Fox Pitt. It might not be this—vines come to mind – or any other crop requiring very tall cordons. We shall see when the plants are in. It's a trifle unfortunate that the line of the furrows is channelling rainwater run-off onto the bridle path to the White House, but we do hope the venture proves to be a commercial success, helping restore agriculture to the village.

Meanwhile, the stretch of railings on Lower Rd is near done.

Rev David Jones Hon Assoc Rector	01622 741474
Rev Eileen Doyle Associate Rector	01622 204241
Becky Parnham Children's Worker	07949 646865

EVERGREENS

At the last meeting we all had great fun learning how to exercise sitting in our chairs. We learnt to walk on our bums in order to move to the front of a chair, to make standing up easier. Hilarious!

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th December**. 2.30- 4.30 pm. **The Farleighs' WI Drama Group** will be putting on the play that they will be performing to the WI the following evening, a sort of dress rehearsal.

The meeting on the **12th of January** will be our annual Christmas lunch. We will be starting at 1 pm. All members will be contacted. We are open to all retired people living in West Farleigh or close by, or who have a close connection to the village. More information can be had from **Helen 814445** or **Terry 814561**. **Helen**

The Farleigh's W.I. News and Events: Barnado's was the topic for our November meeting, when Paul Beard gave us an interesting insight on how the charity has changed over the years and the many new projects they are working on. Our December meeting is party night for members only, when this year's show will be the highlight of the evening.

Tickets are now on sale for the **Annual Christmas Show 'The Farleigh Follies'** **£6.50 Adults £3.00 Children** **Friday 11th December 7:30 pm and Saturday Matinee on 12th December 2:30 pm**. Doors open 30 minutes before the performance and refreshments are included in the ticket price. **Come and help celebrate 100 years of the WI with song, drama and a lot of humour!!**

Please contact Pam Lindon 726337 for tickets. The W.I. shows are full of surprises and fun, so please come along and support our amateur groups of ladies.

The WI meets every 2nd Wednesday. Doors open at 7 p.m. for 7:30 at the WI hall in Forge Lane, East Farleigh. If you would like more information about any of the above, please contact me, **Diane Scott 01622 814476**

Dandelion Time is celebrating the success of its latest **Rowathon**, when some participant theoretically reached as far as Madagascar, and raised a lot of money for the charity's activities. A great array of local clubs and organisations took part in the event. We note the outstanding contribution of local Oakwood Park Grammar School which collectively rowed 621 miles.

The Charlton Lane charity is holding an auction of Christmas gifts—see these unique items and make a bid for them on the website www.dandeliontime.org.uk. You can also buy well-designed Christmas cards there. They are the work of three reputed local artists, Sam Roberts, Kate Neame and Graham Clarke.

Dandelion
Time

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Sports Report:

FOOTBALL: Just the two games last month for our 1st XI, unfortunately losing both by the odd goal. Firstly we lost 4—3 to Staplehurst, followed by a 1—0 defeat away by Aylesford. Meanwhile our 2nd XI have gone from strength to strength. After losing our first 4 games of the season, we have now won our previous 6, including 4 last month. It started with a 2—1 victory over Maidstone Athletic. Then came an amazing 8—4 win in the cup against Ditton and next a 6—0 win versus Watlington and finally another 4—2 victory over Parkwood. Our Vets XI have had 2 games- the first was an away match, losing 5—3 to Beckenham and another defeat 3—0 at home to Old Comps.



Club News: Our Ton up Winners for November were:

Jill Morgan £30

Keith Dalton £20

Jack Martin £10

Tickets are now available for our Christmas Raffle, to be held on 10th December at The Good Intent. Anyone willing to support our club raffle, please get in touch. Also **Tel's Christmas Trees** are once again available in aid of the Sports Club. Please get in touch if you are interested. Delivery any time from December 7th. Prices are: 5 ft. £30 6 ft. £35 7 ft. £40 8 ft.+ £45+

Yours in sport

Tel (815267)

P.S. Many thanks to all who supported our recent Bonfire Party. We hope you enjoyed it and it wasn't too disruptive.

Junior Sport: Having had the best start to the season within memory, the U16s won against Weald Wolves 4-3, and are involved in a 3 way tie at the top of the league. The U11s have adapted well to changing from 7 to 9 a side and keep on improving this season. The U8s have now had 3 matches, the latest against Goudhurst, who are very welcome to West Farleigh as they bring cakes with them! As for the Farleigh Lambs (the development squad of Year R and 1), we now have up to 20 boys and girls that play, and even in the freezing cold we are getting 10 or more players every week. Phone Paul Beck on 07717 433828 if you would like to join them on Saturdays at 10 am.

Paul Beck

On December 5th Kent Chamber Choir will present Music for Advent & Christmas in St John's Watlington
Conductor: Alan Vincent. Soloist: Prize winning soprano Alice Brown. Time 7.30 pm. A varied evening's entertainment will include gems by John Rutter and by the late Sir David Willcocks, with traditional and less well-known carols. Tickets at £10 (£5 children/students) available from Ros Diment 01622 813032, Rebecca Moate 07715 399320 and Watlington Post Office.

From the Pulpit, or rather from The Church Times of late last century, an item irresistible.... We quote:

"The service during the Archdeacon of Norfolk's visitation to St Mary's Church, Martham, in Norfolk, had to be halted for what must rank as one of the best notices ever (or worst, depending on whether you were listening to it or having to deliver it). The Vicar of Martham stood up and announced: "In the next hymn, please sing 'speaking', rather than 'spanking". The service sheet read,

Lord, your Church on earth is seeking/ Power and wisdom from above:

Teach us all the art of spanking / With the accents of you [sic] love."

A genuine typographical mistake, we understand. A bit unfortunate, though, that verse two begins:

You release us from our bandage./ Lift the burdens caused by sin; and verse three mentions:

In the streets of every city / Where the bruised and lonely live."

We at Life-Line think there ought to be a prayer for preservation from misprints.....

HUNTON CHRISTMAS MARKET: For a special start to Christmas, please come to Hunton Christmas Market. It's on Saturday 12th December at St Mary's Church, from 4 till 7 pm. Craft Stalls, Food and drink, Homemade Cakes, Bottle Stall, Mulled cider. Bar-B-Q

Heart of Kent Hospice : Fancy treating yourself to a mid-week roast? Then why not visit *Heart of Flavour* in King Street where you have a choice of two meats with all the trimmings for only £5.95 between noon and 3 pm every Wednesday. Feeling hungrier? Then why not enjoy two courses for £8.00? 100% of the proceeds from *Heart of Flavour* go to Heart of Kent Hospice, so you can enjoy great food while supporting a good local cause. *Heart of Flavour* is open every day except Sunday. So whether you want to kick start your morning, de-stress at lunchtime, meet friends for afternoon tea or enjoy a drink and deli platter or a hot meal, please come and visit our bright and airy café, where Scott and his team would be delighted to welcome you.

Get your friends, school or office to wear festive jumpers on Friday 18th December in aid of Heart of Kent Hospice, and help support patients in our care this Christmas. Wherever you are, don your festive favourite and donate £2 to Heart of Kent Hospice by texting HOKH52 £2 to 70070 or visit www.justgiving.com/xmasjumper15 to donate.

Dorothy Gorman