

"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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Life-Line itself needs a lifeline in the shape of a new editor. T.H. 2016

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Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

LITTER PICKING!



YOUR

VILLAGE

NEEDS YOU!

COME JOIN US ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9 A.M. FOR AN HOUR OR TWO...

MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER!

CONTACT TEL BAINES ON 01622 815267 OR

BRIAN CUSHING ON 07568 363828 BRIANCO2@HOTMAIL.COM

A team has been formed to tackle the village's litter problem and we reproduce their poster above! Although entirely independent of the Borough Council, they have its backing in the form of binbags, tools etc., and a promise that the collected litter will be removed from the village, coupled with insurance cover for those engaged in this activity. The first outing is scheduled for May 1st—surely a great day for a spring clean—and ample volunteers are arranged for that pick, along Lower Road. But do step forward yourselves for subsequent months! Make sure it's not just the usual suspects putting in some effort for the good of all! There could and should be a material improvement in the appearance of West Farleigh in time for the Queen's Official Birthday in June.

As it happens "Clean for the Queen" is the official title of the campaign run by **Keep Britain Tidy** this year. That organisation is looking for a title for its 2017 campaign—you might like to contribute. But Life-Line is offering a prize for the best **TONGUETWISTER** to describe the new West Farleigh independent campaign. Something like "If Tel picked a lotta litter, how little litter is left lying littering Lower Road?" - Terrible - but you get the idea and can only do better! Email us—but above all help clean up!

Deadline for the next Life-Line is May 23rd 2016

This month's pastoral letter is provided by Christine Bostock

I am currently training to be a Guide at the Cathedral. The course is accredited by the Institute of Tourist Guides so it is not easy. Twelve of us started, I just hope 12 will finish!

It irritates me somewhat when people say it was Augustine who brought Christianity to Britain. He brought it to the Kingdom of Kent in 597 which is the year Columba died; who had already been Abbott of Iona for 35 years by then! In 604 Justus arrived to help Augustine and he was sent to Rochester. Our Cathedral is the second oldest foundation in the country, after Canterbury.

Justus founded a church in Rochester which was in need of repair when Gundulf arrived after the Norman Invasion. Gundulf demolished the church, moved it eastwards, and began to build the Cathedral which developed into the one we see today. So Rochester has stood witness to the Christian faith for over 1400 years. Gundulf also built the White Tower in London so we have a tenuous connection with the Tower of London.

The Prime Minister David Cameron recently proclaimed that "we are a Christian country and proud of it". Do you agree? Whose side are you on? Cathedral or Tower?

Currently it feels as if the Tower is winning as Christianity is pushed more and more to the edge by the Politically Correct, all-inclusive movement. It is up to us to claim it back and challenge those who would dilute our Christian heritage.

I trust that in another 1400 years our Cathedral will still be a vibrant beacon of faith and not a quaint memorial to a bygone age. Are you up for the challenge?

Christine Bostock

East Farleigh Bridge

I'm sure everyone can understand the frustrations when it comes to East Farleigh bridge. In the last few years, especially, as greater numbers of traffic has started to cross the medieval bridge, the amount of problems has risen. Temporary traffic lights were installed last year following a serious accident, but unfortunately these lights are confusing for road users and it could be argued that they make the problem worse. Therefore, Sue Morris, a long-time resident of East Farleigh has started a petition in order to protect and improve this iconic bridge. If you agree that something needs to be done about this landmark, go to <https://community.avaaz.org/petitions/protect-and-improve-the-medieval-bridge-in-east-farleigh?source=facebook-share-button&time=1459788023> and sign the petition. Currently, it boasts 514 signatures, but I reckon we could push this up to at least 600 between us.

Local Election

As I'm sure many of you are aware, the local elections are coming up. Head down to All Saints Church on Thursday 5th May to cast your vote as to who will be the next Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillor to Maidstone Borough Council. I've mentioned this in one of my previous articles, but I can't stress enough the importance of voting. Even if you think your candidate has no chance of winning, at least you have had your say. And can you really complain about the job the winning candidate is doing if you didn't do anything to stop them from winning? It's up to you, but I would definitely recommend going down to the church for five minutes to have your say.

Goodbye...

As any of you who have children, or know someone around my age will know, exam season is coming up. As much as I would love to carry on helping to edit LifeLine forever, I have to prioritise my revision, and therefore this edition will have to be my last. I started writing an article for this magazine every month, and I enjoyed this so much that I started to help edit it as well! It's crazy how the time has flown as it has been over a year since I started, and I have enjoyed being part of this immensely. However, revision is starting, then the exams come, and in September I'm hopefully going to Bournemouth University to study Screenwriting (providing I get the grades). Therefore, I will be unable to carry on this job. This means that we desperately need someone to take over, as if all goes to plan, Tim and Christine will also be leaving the village in July. I have been told that the magazine is enjoyed, and I would hate for it to stop running because of this, so if you might be interested, please contact us! Anyway, I wanted to thank everyone who has ever read anything I have written, and especially to those who have responded to my articles and given me feedback. It has always been appreciated and I will never forget the experience I have had in my first editing job!

Youth Column

Food Banks and Ferraris

I recently listened to "Food Banks and Ferraris", a song by Sally Ironmonger, a singer-songwriter from the Medway towns. This song is a social commentary on those who have and those who haven't – and it really made me think. There are things that we as the general public see as a part of life. For example, going shopping in Maidstone, you will inevitably come across some people who are homeless, but this is normal right? All countries have people unfortunate enough to not have a home, so why should we be surprised that the same thing occurs here?

The answer to this question is that the UK is the 5th largest economy in the world. In itself, London is the biggest financial sector in the world, with other large cities such as Edinburgh and Glasgow in the top 100. Why on earth are there people living on the streets in the freezing cold when we as a country are doing so well for ourselves? In fact, because of the increasing amount of homeless people, there is a record high use of food banks in the UK. The latest figures published by the Trussell Trust show that 1,109,309 three day emergency food supplies were provided to people in crisis by the charity in the 2015/16 financial year, which is an increase of 2% on the previous year. How is it possible that people living in one of the wealthiest nations in the world can't afford to buy themselves food? And how have we become so self-involved that we don't notice it going on right beneath our noses?

Let's go back to the issue of the homeless, because I think that this is something that really needs to be paid attention to. According to the latest figures, there was an increase of 30% from 2014 to 2015 throughout the UK of rough sleeping, while since 2010 rough sleeping estimates show an increase of 102%. This means that on any one night, 3569 people are estimated to be sleeping rough. Is this acceptable? In Maidstone, rough sleeping is highly visible and there has been a tenfold rise in the number of households defined as homeless in the town. As I said before, I'm not shocked when I see rough sleepers in Maidstone – it's become the norm. I should be shocked, but it's too common. No one is immune to becoming homeless as there are many paths leading to this desperate place. What is the most shocking about the statistics regarding the homeless is that the average age of death for these people is 47 for men and 43 for women. If this doesn't prove that we have screwed up as a society, nothing will. If we aren't spending our billions of pounds on helping these people, what are the government's priorities? However, it's easy to blame people with more power than ourselves. What are our priorities? I could be out there fundraising to help these people, so why don't I? We concern ourselves with the TV, celebrity gossip, where to go out for dinner etc. whilst others are wondering if they will get through the next night of sub-zero temperatures.

Now I'm going to go to the other end of the spectrum. In 2013 Ferrari sold more of its sports cars in Britain than in any other European country. This should give an indication of how wealthy we are as a whole. In fact, this year the richest 1000 people have more wealth than the poorest 40% of households. According to the Equality Trust, the richest 1000 saw their wealth increase by a staggering £28,508 billion – the equivalent of £78 million a day, or £901 a second. Just this increase could pay 20 years' worth of grocery bills for all of the UK's users of food banks.

From this article, I think we can pretty much say for certain that the gap is widening between the rich and the poor. Whilst the rich are buying their new 2016 model cars, others are losing their houses and in the worst cases, their lives. I appreciate that there is no simple solution, but poverty is real and here in the UK. More and more people are falling through the gaps in the welfare state safety net. It's a disgrace. I actually really want a response to this article from any local politicians who are reading it. Why is the situation getting worse and the gap between the richest and poorest growing? And what do you propose to do about it? In fact, I'd like to hear from anyone who has any thoughts or ideas about this topic.

Emily Hunter

Learning to Drive around West Farleigh

Those of you who know me will know that I have been learning to drive for a while. When I first started I thought that it would be easy, and wondered why it took my friends so many lessons before they were able to pass their test. Well, I think that question was answered as soon as I sat in the driver's seat. Let's just say I'm not a natural driver. However, until recently I was only on the roads once a week for my lessons. Unfortunately for you guys, my parents decided to buy me and my sister a car last week, which now sits pride of place on the drive. Despite having had around twenty lessons at this stage, I definitely underestimated how hard it would be to get used to my new car. This led to an unfortunate incident last week in which I stalled around seven times at the top of Station Hill, which was embarrassing to say the least. I wanted to say that I'm sorry if any of you guys were behind me at that point, because I caused a bit of a queue. However, I also wanted to say how surprised I was at how patient the other drivers were. Despite me taking a long time to do a hill start, no one got impatient or beeped at me, which was deeply appreciated because it would probably have made the situation worse. The point of this was to thank everyone who is patient with learner and new drivers, and also to warn you to look out for a small blue Peugeot on the roads!

West Farleigh Parish Council Meeting

Here are extracts from the draft minutes of the meeting held at The Good Intent on Monday 21st March .

Present: Cllrs B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs M Merritt, G Martin (7.35pm), L Johnson, J Morgan, C Stockwell, Mrs A Broadhurst (Clerk), Borough Cllr J Wilson and Community Warden Adam McKinley

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding the 30 mph sign which is repeatedly being removed in Charlton Lane. The Clerk confirmed that this has been reported to Kent Highways again, urging them to report the issue to Kent Police. Cllr Scott stated that it was very disappointing as everyone had fought so hard to get the speed limit lowered. Dog fouling in the village was raised as a concern, especially as a resident has seen a fellow parishioner not clearing up after their dog. The Community Warden stated that he would be able to help tackle this issue and can also assist with reporting the matter to MBC. A resident raised concerns at the amount of litter in the village, in particular around Teston Lane, Ewell Lane (around the bus stop at the bottom), Hunt Street and from the junction of Teston Lane/Lower Road through to Kettle Lane. The Clerk informed all that she would report these areas to MBC and find out when the village is next due its litter pick. A resident asked whether there was any update on a meeting room for the Parish Council. Cllr Scott stated that there had been discussion with the Sports Club and it may be possible to build a small meeting room, mainly to be used for Parish Council meetings. He added that approximately £15,000 has been saved and so the Parish Council is looking at the cheapest option for putting the money to good use. It was noted that the Police have historically stated that they could have more visibility in the village if there was a room to meet with residents in and the Community Warden added that he would be able to have surgeries with residents.

Highways Issues in West Farleigh: The Clerk reported that she has still not received any response from County Cllr Stockell regarding the various highways related concerns in the village. Borough Cllr Wilson stated that HGV issues in Kent need to be discussed and that another bridge is required in the area, through transport infrastructure improvements. He added that there is a lobbying day in Parliament soon and he is hoping that this can be raised. After further discussion it was noted that weight limits are put in place by KCC but enforced by Kent Police. Cllr Johnson stated that the potholes in Ewell Lane from Charlton Lane down have not been rectified. The Clerk offered to chase Kent Highways. It was noted that there is a large boulder sticking out from the verge in Ewell Lane- approximately 300m from the Green (Charlton Lane). This is extremely dangerous. A vehicle was witnessed hitting the boulder which forced the car into the middle of the road.

Roundabout in the Play Area: Cllr Scott reported that Councillors have spent some time dismantling the roundabout to see whether the bearing issue can easily be resolved. After investigation, and subsequent discussion with the supplier, it is likely that the repair will be in the region of £2,300. It was noted that there seems to be a design fault with this particular unit as there have been other reports in the Borough of the same issues. The Clerk reported that she has contacted various suppliers to investigate the cost of a new roundabout, which is more like the 'old fashioned' type (with easier to maintain parts) and the costs range between £3,000 and £6,000 but added that a site visit would be required to get an accurate price. After brief discussion Councillors felt that HACS SMP should be approached to obtain a quotation, but Cllr. Martin asked that the Parish Council be informed of play areas where the roundabout has been installed approximately 2 years ago, so that Councillors can go and view before committing any money to the replacement.

Parish Council Marquee: Cllr Scott reported that the marquee had been used at Cllr Martin's Lambing Day last Sunday and it was noted that it could do with being professionally cleaned. Cllr Johnson has contacted a local company in Barming who is able to complete this for approximately £50.00. All members were in favour.

Borough Councillor's Report: Borough Cllr Wilson reported that MBC's Local Plan will go before the Inspector with a housing figure of over 18,500. He also reported that there is bad feeling relating to the Planning Department and decisions being made by the Officers and Planning Committee. Officers make the recommendations that go forward to the Planning Committee and because the Members of the Committee have less knowledge than the Officers, they do not like to go against the recommendations made. Cllr Wilson said that it was very disturbing to see the extreme pressure placed on Members of the Planning Committee by the Chairman. Cllr Scott added that the Parish Council would support any action taken against the Planning Department. Borough Cllr Wilson reported that this would be his last meeting as he is standing down at the elections in May. Cllr Scott thanked Cllr Wilson for the support he has given the Parish Council over the years. Cllr Martin thanked all who came to the Lambing Day, numbers were in the region of 230-240, which was a great turn out. Cllr Scott thanked Cllrs Martin and Morgan and also Cllr Martin's wife (Candy) and son (Ollie) for making the day such a success. He added that it was lovely for approximately 70 children to be able to stand and watch a birth!

Pension Arrangements: The Clerk added that, later this year, the Parish Council will need to get a working group together to decide on the pension arrangements to be agreed for next April.

Local Needs Housing Survey: The Local Needs housing survey has been distributed by ACRK to all households in the village. These must be returned by 6th April. It was noted that the bungalows in the village, which were once controlled by the Parish Council and were for the older people of the village, have been taken over by Golding Homes and the residents are now much younger and have no association with West Farleigh. Councillors stated that, if there was a need identified, any scheme would have to be able to be protected for people with a connection to the village.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council will come under a new audit regime next year, as a smaller Parish covered by the Transparency Code. However, all Councils must decide whether they wish to opt out of the current Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointment arrangements. Having read all of the corresponding documents, the Clerk recommended the Parish Council continue with the current arrangements, with all in favour.

The Clerk reminded all present that the Parish Council had awarded two grants last year, £600 to The Evergreens and £400 to the Church. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Martin to award the following: West Farleigh Evergreens £600.00 All Saints Church £400.00 Sports Club £510.39. Councillors then discussed the WI's application for a donation. Cllr. Merritt raised some concerns over the amount of work which is required at the hall. After brief discussion it was felt that no further money could be awarded this year.

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 16th May 2016 at 6.30 p.m.**, followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm at The Good Intent.** All Parishioners are welcome at this meeting.

Church Services

West Farleigh All Saints, Church Lane

May 1st	8.00 a.m	Holy Communion Rev. Eileen Doyle
May 8th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (mod.) Rev. David Jones
May 15th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (trad) Miss Chris Bostock
May 22nd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (mod.) Rev. Peter Callway
May 29th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Service

of Holy Communion at Coxheath

Revs. Peter Callway and Martin Booth

East Farleigh

May 1st	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 8th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
May 15th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 22nd	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Hunton

May 1st	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
May 8th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 15th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 22nd	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Coxheath

May 1st	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 8th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 15th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 22nd	11.00 a.m.	Family Service

May 29th 10.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion

Linton

May 1st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 8th	9.30 a.m.	Family Service
May 15th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 22nd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Clergy Contact numbers:

Rev. Peter Callway Rector 01622 747570

Call Peter for Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Weddings & Funerals. Not available Fridays.

Revd. David Jones: Hon. Associate Rector 01622 741474

Not available Fridays.

Revd. Eileen Doyle : Associate Rector 01622 204241

Not available Mondays and Tuesdays.

Becky Parnham Children's and Families' Worker 07949 646885

East Farleigh has a Complime Service on 1st Tuesday of the month at 6.45 p.m.

Nature Notes: The Under Cover Collection.

I keep a sheet of corrugated iron lying flat on the ground in a "wild area" at the top of our garden. It's not exactly decorous but it serves its purpose and it's only visible when we visit that area. It compensates us fully for any unsightliness by regularly giving us a sight of small creatures that we would not otherwise often see—and in some cases gives us our only sightings of animals that make a real point of keeping out-of-view. Over the last half-dozen years we have lifted the sheet of iron to find yellow-necked and wood mice, field and bank voles, common shrews, and, among the reptiles, grass snakes and slow worms. Sometimes we have a toad, but frogs have become very rare in our garden. We have never yet had a lizard (has any one had one locally?), nor a dormouse, which I would regard as a most unlikely candidate, even supposing they inhabit the area around our garden, because their habits, during their season of activity, take them upwards into the trees and bushes. Weasels do occur in our garden but I have not had one hide in this place, easy as it would be for them to pursue these small mammals on which they prey.

When they are exposed by my lifting the sheet that covers them the various mammals behave in rather different ways. The mice run off into the surrounding vegetation and disappear very quickly, usually by more-or-less the shortest route. The voles are much slower. They can be reluctant at first to leave the nests, mainly of chopped up grass, that they have built under corrugations. Probably the unwonted light forces them out and they too then bumble across to the edge of the barer patch and disappear by burrowing into the grass and leaves, probably down the corridors which they regularly use. During the last week the resident of the patch has been a common shrew. This creature behaves differently. It is much quicker than a vole and only slower than a mouse by virtue of its smaller size. If the mice have some directional stability, however, the shrew has little or none. First it rushes in one direction, then stops, returns and stops again on the other extreme. Yet again it can't decide which way to go. Its long nose twitches and points in one direction, then another. Finally it takes another course altogether and dashes out of sight. All this takes no more than 3 or 4 seconds, but so much activity and indecision is packed into the little creature's movements that it seems much longer. Grass snakes take a time to react. As I have previously discussed in this column, they are sometimes in pairs or threes and, being either asleep or pre-occupied, have to wake up and compose themselves before making off.

In Quarry Wood there are also a few of these "refugia", as corrugated sheets are sometimes called. On the opposite banks of the Medway someone has in past years maintained more, which are great for slow worms in particular. Corrugated iron is just one material that can be used, but flat coverings, like carpet square or rubber mats are also perfectly good. The small mammals make burrows beneath the flat surface, attracted by the warmth and security on offer. Do try one in your own garden! Little time or effort is involved and it will not be long before it becomes a temporary home to some creature and gives opportunities to observe them. © Tim Hill

LITTLE ANGELS - The Coffee morning that was postponed has now been re-scheduled for May 20th. Sue and Becky write " As promised the Little Angels Parent and Toddler Group are pleased to invite you to join them in All Saints, Church Lane, for "Coffee and Cake" on Friday 20th May. We shall meet from 1 pm until 2.30 pm and all are welcome to come and see this beautiful building being enjoyed by young families as a valuable meeting place for the community. This is a fundraising event to help us pay for tables and chairs* for the children to use for art and craft activities etc."

The group is growing (in numbers - as well as literally!) all the time and this party is an opportunity to support them and appreciate how they are getting on. **Stop Press - Tables and chairs should be delivered this week!*

EVERGREENS.

The Evergreens will be going out in May. We hope to see bluebells and blossom. We will be having tea out. If you don't usually attend but would like to join us, ring Terry 814561. Transport will be arranged.

In June we will be celebrating the Queen's official birthday with a Garden Party in the beautiful garden of Smith's Hall. Look out your glad rags!!

Helen Swan

The Farleighs W.I. The Farleighs W.I. is looking for new members. Would you like to make new friends, learn a new skill or just get away from the routine for a couple of hours? Come along and see what we are all about: the W.I. is what you make it and you can join in as much or as little as you like.

Our 11th May meeting is the A.G.M., which is very much a social evening. One of our members will be speaking about the balloon company that she runs, and the new committee and president will be elected. The Farleighs W.I. meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the W.I. hall in Forge Lane, East Farleigh. Doors open at 7 p.m. for 7:30. Please contact myself Diane Scott if you require any further information on 01622 814476. The Farleighs W.I. meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month - doors open at 7 p.m. for 7:30 at the W.I. hall in Forge Lane, East Farleigh. Please contact myself Diane Scott if you require any further information on 01622 814476. See also page 7.

Diane Scott

GARDENS OPEN—Lots of lovely gardens are open to the public in the coming month or so.

Gallants Manor (East Farleigh): exclusively open for the Heart of Kent Hospice Sunday 15th May 2 – 5 p.m.

Noah's Ark (Headcorn) also for the Heart of Kent Hospice, p.m. on Sunday June 5th.

Bishopscourt (Rochester) for Christian Aid on Saturday 14th May. Ring 07816 828439 for further information.

Smith's Hall – right here (N.G.S) - also June 5th with All Saints Plant Fayre. Don't miss this!



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Life-Line is delivered by volunteers. If you would like to make a contribution in this way, please contact the editors. We are looking for reserve distributors.

All Saints Church is available for hire.

Ring 01622 813019 or 01622 820305 for information.

And so is the W.I. Hall. It caters for meetings and parties at very reasonable rates. Contact Karen, (920258)

Volunteers Needed. The hall is 85 years old and has served the community well. Many clubs and societies make use of the facilities and new bookings for an Alzheimer's group adds to the community spirit. We are about to embark on a programme of refurbishment and have written to the Parish Councils for financial help, together with requests for help from local DIY stores. Our members will be decorating but we need help. If you can spare a few hours and would like to help with this please contact Keith Perkins 01622 749771 - Keith has kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the work.

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Sports Report:



FOOTBALL: Our 1st XI have had a quiet month, only playing the once. This came at home against Aylesford and we continued our fine season winning 3-1. Meanwhile our 2nd XI also started with a good victory 2-1 over Aylesford Reserves. Next came a terrific semi-final encounter with Hawkenbury. The drama started with a 1-1 scoreline after 90 minutes, 2-2 after extra time, and finally ended with a 4-3 victory on penalties. The final is on Thursday 28th, versus Seal at Tunbridge Wells Culverden stadium. Kick-off is at 7.30 p.m.. All are welcome. Finally we had a 3-2 home defeat against Maidstone Athletic. Lastly our Vets played 2 games and had 2 victories, 3-0 against Riverside and another 3-0 score against Wellcome Sports (Beckenham). Also our Vets have just returned from a successful tour in Brighton where we beat the local team Whitehawk 3-1.

CRICKET: Our first couple of friendlies have been cancelled. Hopefully our first fixture will be on 30th April, a friendly at home to Bearsted, 1.30 p.m. start. League fixtures for May are, Outwood (A) 7th, Cudham Wyse (H) 14th, Southborough (A) 21st and Locksbottom (H) 28th.

CLUB NEWS: Thanks to all those who supported our recent Quiz Night. I hope the questions were not too hard!

Our lucky **Ton up Winners** for April were:

£30 Zoe Martin

£20 Grant Wells

£10 Joe Pollard

Yours in sport

Tel (815267)

Junior Sport: U16s have had two league wins, both against Wittersham, and more importantly won their cup semi-final 2-1 against Weald Wolves. (The final is at Staplehurst on Saturday 14th May 2.00 pm KO). U14s have also had two league wins against Biddenden and Hawkinge. However they lost their cup semi-final to league leaders Bromley Green, putting up a fantastic game against a very strong opposition. U11s beat Headcorn 7-2 in the cup but were then knocked out by Weald Wolves 6-2. U8s have had a goal feast in the cup, beating Headcorn 9-1 and then losing to Goudhurst 9-2. The Lambs (school year R & 1) continue to have fun, training at West Farleigh Saturday mornings from 10.00. If anyone has a son or daughter who would like to try please turn up or phone Paul Beck on 07717 433828

Paul Beck

MARATHON MAN Alan King successfully ran the 2016 London Marathon—all 26 miles 385 yards of it - last Sunday. He has raised through sponsorship about £3000 for the Prostate Cancer Research Centre. It's not too late to donate to this good cause (and give Alan a metaphorical pat on the back) - just Google 'alan king london marathon' or 'alan king virgin money giving' and click onto his link, which is the first entry in the search listing.

East Farleigh Farmers' Market: We were delighted to welcome a much larger number of visitors to our market in April. Stallholders commented on the increased trade and we are all very grateful for your support. The profit of £100 from the February market has been donated to Involve Cancer Support, part of Macmillan Volunteer Service, which specifically helps local people living with cancer. I am pleased to announce that we will have three new stalls at our market on Sunday 1st May. These are newly established Teston Bakery; The Kent Biltong Company of West Farleigh with a selection of flavoured Biltong and Knife Ninjas with their equipped sharpening van on site - plus your other favourite stalls.

Sue Morris

Wateringbury Church Annual Plant Sale: Saturday 28th May between 10 am and 4 pm at The Church of St. John the Baptist, Wateringbury. Beautiful top quality plants to fill your garden with colour - bedding plants, perennials, herbs, vegetables and small shrubs. It is an ideal occasion to purchase plants for your flower beds, pots and vegetable gardens, whilst at the same time raising much needed money for our beautiful church.

P.Berry

Dandelion Time: Come and join us at the Dandelion Time May Fair on Saturday 14th May, 12-3 pm. Our annual summer fair is set amongst beautiful surroundings in the Dandelion Time gardens and farm in West Farleigh. Pottery, Farm Tour, Bread Making, Clay Modelling, Tearoom & BBQ, Plants, Crafts and lots more.

Dandelion Time has also benefited in April from the help of 144 employees of Kimberley Clark who remodelled an area of garden, installing a new therapeutic project area including a yurt (base)! They did great work that will further enhance the ability of the charity to help troubled local children.

**Dandelion
Time**

Anyes Reading

Who Let the Dads Out? Is the title of an event organised by **Beacon Men**. It's at Holy Trinity Church Coxheath on Saturday 7th May (10 am.) and is an exciting opportunity for Dads and Male Carers to have fun together with their children and meet up with other dads. More details from Michael (01622 744047) or Peter (01622 747570). Games/music/toys/crafts/food.

Church Wall Exposed. Prior to major repairs, some of the rendering that had bulged away from the wall has been stripped off. The wall underneath is exposed for the first time in a century or more - but what is that when you are 900 years old? The quoins are ashlar but the wall is rubble. How to carry out the repairs is the question for the PCC and for the church's architect.

(NOT VERY) LOCAL FOOTPATH CLOSED. Anyone intending to walk or jog or ramble to Maidstone on the "towpath" along the river should note that the way is closed beyond East Farleigh, roughly opposite Tovil. We do not know the reason for its closure. The reason for the difficulty with the permissive extension to the footpath which provides the last 80 yards to the Teston Bridge is much more obvious - the drain on the road is functioning in reverse, issuing water down onto the path. It is thus very muddy and of little use to anyone in regular footwear, so most people are having to use the road for now.

-Eds