

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE

Distributed freely in July 2017 Edition no 490

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Website: www.thefarleighs.co.uk Email: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk



FULL AFTERNOON TEA AT ALL SAINTS ON Sat July 8th

Yes, the church is hosting delicious tea, cake, even Prosecco on this day. You can get a history tour of the Tower and see "the crack" in the tower. Listen to the Kettle Bridge Concertinas and the Farleigh Choir. Tickets are £10 (£5 children) from Sue O'Donnell on 01622 727852 or 07429 491022.

This is the launch of the church's funding raising campaign to repair the fabric and find new supporters. Please come and help keep the church upright!

WELCOME TO THE WILSON FAMILY

Chris, Megan, Kitty and Sam have moved into the top house in St Helens Lane. They moved from Gravesend as they wanted a more rural setting with easy access to dog walking areas. They have two longhaired German Shepherds and a Labrador.



They are enjoying being woken up by the birds and walking their dogs along the river. Chris is an engineer working for Coca cola at Sidcup, Megan works for Medway Council looking after carparks and parking enforcement.

Their son Sam is a kayaker and does the sport competitively, having learnt to kayak in the Scouts. Kitty is a keen dancer and helps out at children's dance classes and works for Otford Boarding Kennels.

Chris and Megan are keen to be integrated into the village, Megan already sings with the Farleighs' choir! Let's make them welcome!



Upcoming Events:

8th July Tea for the Tower
16th July Smiths Hall Open Garden

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New on the website

- Jon Fenlon's first Garden blog
- English Country Garden puzzle (by Chris Stockwell)
- Farleigh Feathers in colour
- Emily Hunter on Mrs May

Please contact the editors if you would like an article in Lifeline or on the Website – Email editor@thefarleighs.co.uk

STOP PRESS

Deadline for August issue of LIFELINE: 20th July, 2017

Pastoral newsletter by Peter Callway

I am writing this on the day after the General Election which saw a major change in the balance of seats in the UK Parliament. It was quite a surprise to all of us – expert and novice alike – and reflects and echoes the turbulent and unpredictable political landscape here and elsewhere in the world. As Christians, the Bible encourages us to take an active role in society, and to be a force for social transformation, so the old adage of not mixing religion and politics really doesn't apply. I work very hard to keep party politics out of the pulpit (and my twitter and Facebook feeds) but take a keen interest in what is going on in the political world. Christians in Politics is an all-party, non-denominational organisation which seeks to encourage and inspire Christians to get involved in politics and public life. I recommend them as a source of balanced information, who give a good account of how politics and faith can – indeed must – go hand in hand.



We are exhorted to pray for our political leaders and the Archbishop of Canterbury writes today “I encourage all Christians, and people of all faiths and no faith, to hold our political leaders in their thoughts and prayers at this time. My prayer is that they may know the love and presence of God, made known through Jesus Christ, as they continue their discussions and prepare to take on the weighty responsibility of leadership.”

Whatever your reaction to the result of the election, I want to remind us that in these uncertain and unpredictable times, there is an unchangeable truth that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ and that we can put our faith in him. Hebrews 11 verse 1 says this “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” As we work together to find the best way forward for our nation, let us put our faith and trust in God, and allow him to inspire us to do all we can to make the world a better place.

Many blessings

Peter

July Services at All Saints

Sunday 2 nd July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th July	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16 th July	9.30 am	Holy Communion (modern)
Sunday 23 rd July	9.30 pm	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 th July	10:30am	Benefice Service at Coxheath

PILATES CLASSES. There are now TWO Pilates classes in West Farleigh each week, at 9.30am on Tuesday mornings and a new one (due to the popularity of the Tuesday one) on 9.30am on Fridays. These classes get the benefit of the cheerful and expert tuition of Hilary Hamilton, who teaches in London but lives locally.

Rev Peter Callway, Rector: 01622 747570 Call for Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals, not Fridays

Rev David Jones, Hon. Associate Rector 01622 741474. Not Fridays

Rev Eileen Doyle, Associate Rector 01622 204241. Not Mondays and Tuesdays

Becky Parnham, Children and Families Worker 07949 646885. .

Albert Willmore

The editors are sad to announce the death of Albert Willmore, who lived for some considerable time in Oliver North House. He was 90. A Maidstone man, he worked for a local company as a wood worker and is reputed to have been an expert wood carver and had done work for prestigious places in the city. A shy man and a gentleman, who kept himself to himself, choosing not to get involved with activities in the village.

Why I go to All Saints by Jacky Taylor



I was bought up in the Church of England faith. Every Sunday was roast dinner at home followed by tea with Nan and Grandad or my Aunt then off to evensong. When we moved south from Stoke on Trent, the pattern changed and we went to church in the morning (followed by Sunday School) leaving the rest of Sunday for family games, or - if the weather was good - a long walk. I carried on in Sunday School and was eventually confirmed. Unlike my brother who 'gave up' church when he was 9 because he found out he wouldn't get paid for being an altar boy and did a paper-round instead.

Gradually the life of a rebellious teenager took over and I didn't want to do anything at all with my family although it was a 3-line whip at Easter and Christmas. Of course I did go back to church prior to my wedding but soon lapsed again.

Move forward a number of years I was happily married with two children. Mum and dad had been divorced and both had remarried. Mum moved to Ireland and Dad not too far away but his new wife had 6 children much younger than me so self-pity moved in. I felt I had 'lost' my happy, laughter filled extended family that I had grown up with and there didn't seem any point in going to church.

About my 40th year, mum and my stepfather moved back to the UK and were living in Wales. Sadly, shortly after this my stepfather died and my brother, sister and I organised to move mum closer to us 'just in case'. I started going to church with her to keep her company at Our Lady of the Annunciation in Chislehurst. I began to enjoy it again much to mum's delight and also I began to question why I'd left.

Mum's health started to deteriorate rapidly, and my siblings and I cared for her as much as we could until we realised that she needed a regular carer. Also around that time, life changed drastically for Ron and myself and culminated in a move to West Farleigh.

I was so worried about being able to see and care for my wonderful mum, who was now living with my sister and I found it difficult to visit every day as I was still commuting to London but we muddled through. Mum got worse every day and the dementia took hold and then she fell and broke her hip. We realised that she had to go into a care-home as the dementia prevented her from learning to walk again. Also along with many others, we couldn't afford the 24-hour nursing care she now needed.

I was at my wits end full of grief, uncertainty and felt completely inadequate. When Lifeline dropped onto the doormat, I noted the times of the church services and went along to All Saints the following Sunday. I was welcomed by Tim and Christine Hill who invited me to sit with them but I preferred to stay on my own. As I sat down other members of the congregation came to welcome me and say hello, and a feeling of warmth, peace and tranquillity came over me. David Jones was giving the service and his sermon somehow linked to my situation and the tears started to flow. I felt completely at peace afterwards and knew we had made the right move – I had come home.

All Saints has a friendly and active congregation, and is always welcoming to visitors. Up to 100 people come to quiz nights, harvest suppers & concerts, and enjoy the entertainment as well as the food and drinks afterwards. Our Carol Service is also popular. The church is decorated with Christmas trees. We sing along with the choir and drink mulled wine afterwards! Sometimes the Benefice service is held at All Saints when the other 4 churches in the Benefice ie Coxheath, Linton, East Farleigh and Hunton come & join us.

The 'Friends of All Saints' organise events and fundraising. Not all of them attend church but they all value this lovely old building and work hard to keep it in good condition for everyone to enjoy. If you'd like to help please email me: jackytaylor50@gmail.com. We need more Friends!

I attend church as regularly as I can and hope you will come and join in our collective worship and other activities, not only at Christmas but at other times of the year. The church is also used for other activities such as Little Angels Toddlers and Pilates classes. It can be hired for your event or activity by contacting Val Grainger (01622 820305) or Stephen Norman (01622 814617).

Sincerely, Jacky Taylor

E-NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (or there's no such thing as a free dongle)

What's my neighbourhood? Traditionally, the friendly little community around my home. But as the world becomes more connected, perhaps we need to rethink the word. Aren't your Facebook friends "neighbours" of a kind? Perhaps we should call them e-neighbours and the community to which I am electronically connected, is my e-neighbourhood.

My e-neighbourhood really is a jungle. E-thieves, e-beasts and e-snakeoil salesmen lurk behind every tree. Here's an example. Recently, I had a friendly but unsolicited call from my phone company (Vodafone, to save you guessing). The lady wanted to review my account. I agreed and it turned out she could put me on a better plan, with more monthly data that matched my actual usage. That would save me money! Of course, I was grateful and ready to agree. And, she said, with this plan, you will receive a free tablet computer! Wow! I don't actually need a tablet computer but maybe my 2 year old granddaughter does. I'm sure she does. **And then I remembered...**2 years ago, I had a similar call from Vodafone. This time, it was a free dongle that would create a wi-fi zone for multiple computers. I could use it on the train. Free? Not really! When my monthly bill arrived, I discovered that I was paying £15 a month for the SIM card inside. I had unknowingly signed up for a year. Ugh. "So," I said suspiciously to the Vodafone lady, "does this tablet come with a SIM card?" "Oh yes," she said, "of course."

Ah-ha. "In that case," I said firmly, "I don't want it." "In that case," she said firmly, "you can't have the new data contract." I saw red. The conversation became heated. The term "mis-selling" floated between us. It was the magic word. All of a sudden, I could have the new contract, and no tablet needed. Once bitten, as they say, twice shy.

I'm sharing this, hoping it will help a real neighbour being stung the same way.

This article is editorial opinion. It is not associated with or derived from the official Neighbourhood Watch.

EMILY'S YOUTH COLUMN



For the past few weeks, a hot topic for discussion has been the June 8 election. With opinion polls changing from day to day, no one knew what the future would hold for us.

Now it's June 10th and still we don't know what's going on. I think it's fair to say, whatever side you're on, that we are in a political mess. To be honest, where do I even start? Before I do, it's worth noting that starting from September, I will be a student at university, so my opinions are going to come from that perspective. I'm not naïve, so I know that by writing this, it isn't going to miraculously make everyone agree with me but I would at least like a few to understand where I am coming from.

Ok, so let's start with the "bloody difficult woman" herself, Mrs Theresa May. Now, personal views aside, I do applaud her for all of her achievements. I mean, she is the second female Prime Minister of the UK EVER. That is something worth congratulating in itself. In an institution full of (let's be honest) white, upper class men she has done an amazing thing. However, she went full speed in to this election campaign, arrogantly believing that she had it in the bag, because everyone hates Jeremy Corbyn, right?

Wrong. Whilst May's manifesto focused on having a "strong and stable" government, Corbyn introduced policies that would appeal to many different groups of the British population, including students and those on a lower income. Coming from Corbyn himself, a vote for Labour was a vote "for the many, not the few". Now, I'm also not going to kid myself into thinking that Corbyn is a Saint. In fact, back in June last year, I was one of those believing that he should resign to give the Labour Party a fighting chance against the Conservatives, to make the nation a two party state again.

However, he has proved me and many others wrong, as he himself has done just that. He is the reason that Labour did so well on June 8th. I can only admire him for that, and for remaining a gentleman throughout. Something that you may not know; 10 Labour MPs who resigned last year after Brexit are back in Corbyn's top team. Not every man could forgive that easily. Let's bear that in mind.

Saying this, from an objective point of view, maybe we would be better off if Labour hadn't have done so well in this election, because then the Conservatives wouldn't be going into a possible coalition with the DUP!!! Like is this a serious thing?! Let's think about this for a second. For the WHOLE of the election campaign, Theresa May and the Conservatives attacked Corbyn for his alleged links to former Northern Irish terrorists, and now they are considering going into a coalition with other former Northern Irish terrorists. What irony. Just in case you weren't aware, the DUP also actively fight against abortion and equal marriage. Like really? We want these people in charge of our country? May is so concerned with keeping Labour out that she is willing to do a deal with these people? This coming from the woman who "would rather have no deal than a bad deal". THIS IS A BAD DEAL THERESA, A REALLY BAD ONE. Whilst I would not condemn the Labour or Conservative Parties because I think they both have different ideas on how to improve Britain, I have no reservations in strongly condemning the DUP. Mind you, I'd better be careful with what I say, as they may be in power soon and free speech might be the next thing to go...

In all seriousness though, let's sort it out Theresa. Whilst I think I've made it pretty clear that I would prefer Labour to be in charge (mainly because of free tuition fees I'm not going to lie, it would be nice to not be in debt for the rest of my life), if you really won't back down then please please please sort us out. Carry out the policies you promised and make those people who voted for you, and even those who didn't glad that you are the leader of this country.

That's it. Rant over. Please feel free to post your comments. I promise I won't attack you as well!

View from the Garden by Jon Fenlon

Hi everyone, my name is Jon Fenlon, I recently took over from Lee as Head Gardener at Smiths Hall. I have had a passion for gardening from a young age and I am looking forward to working at such a lovely place.



In July, the most important thing is to enjoy your garden! But there are still some things you need to keep on top of...here's my own list:

Keep checking for dead heads on Penstemons, Lupins and foxgloves. Carefully check down the stem to spot the next flush of flowers and cut down to this point. Plants such as Hardy Geranium and Delphinium can be cut back fairly hard to get a second flush of young green growth and flowers. **But always water them well after cutting them back.**

If you have overcrowded Irises in the garden now is a great time to lift and divide them. Do this with a border fork to prevent damage to the roots. Once lifted, cut off any parts of the rhizome that are damaged or soft. You will notice the rhizomes have a front and a back end so when replanting take note of which way round you are placing it.



Lilies will now be flowering and smelling lovely but watch out for the Lily beetle. It is bright red with a black head and legs so it's easy to spot. The larvae just look like brown lumps on the leaves. If you only have a couple of lilies, remove these pests by hand. Otherwise use an organic insecticide such as bug clear.

If you are growing cucumbers, consider training them up a structure by tying them in. This will give you more space for other crops and also keep your cucumbers off the floor. By July your tomatoes will be cropping. They will be hungry for extra nutrients; you can help them by feeding them once a week with high potash feed. Make sure you water the top of the soil as this is the quickest way to the fibrous roots that run just under the top layer of soil.

Most people will have some herbs in the garden but not everybody is using them to their full potential. Herbs taste best when the leaves are fresh & young, so keep on picking! If you can't use it all, don't worry, you can dry or freeze the new leaves, and use the older growth in a cut flower arrangement.



June has been dry. If this continues into July I recommend cutting the lawn at a higher setting. The lower you mow the lawn the more stress you are putting it under which makes it turn brown quicker. And when the grass is longer, you can see where all of the weeds are. This is a good time to spray them off with a selective lawn weed killer. Then feed the lawn with a nitrogen based fertiliser to bring back its lush green colour and strong new growth. I would recommend that everybody takes a look at autumn crocus as a new addition to their gardens. The autumn crocus is a very overlooked plant, but it can add a splash of colour almost anywhere. So take a look in some bulb catalogues this month to find the right one for your garden.

Please come along and say hi to me at our NGS open day on July 16th.


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DO YOU MANAGE A BUSINESS IN FARLEIGHS? THIS IS FOR YOU!

We are going to launch a business directory distributed with Lifeline **to promote local businesses**. It will come out quarterly. In addition, you will get a free listing on www.thefarleighs.co.uk with a link to your business website. **For further details, please contact Helen Kirk-Brown at helen.kirkbrown@icloud.com**

Farleigh Feathers by Ray Morris

JULY: New village residents

Mid-summer sees an increase in the village bird population. Not migrants, but this year's newly-fledged young birds. Our two East Farleigh churchyard nestboxes occupied by blue tits contributed thirteen new birds to the population; they all have rings on so you may see them around the church or in a nearby garden. Blue tits rarely travel far from where they were hatched, but there are exceptions. I ringed one as a juvenile on a farm in Marden in 2015, saw it there again in 2016, and was amazed to re-trap it in my garden in East Farleigh a few weeks ago. If moving from Marden to Farleigh is unusual, a blue tit from Lithuania caught at Sandwich, Kent, earlier this year is even more so! So keep an eye on your new garden birds – the majority will be from a local nest, but you could also have one with fledgling wanderlust!



Most newly-fledged birds are easily identified – they are likely to be softer-looking, spottier versions of their parents, often with the remains of their yellow gape still visible at the base of their bill. Owls are no exception, but you rarely see them of course, apart from the Little Owl, which hunts during the day as well as at night. They feed on worms and beetles, and you could well find a young one parked on the ground or on a fence post by its parents. If you do it is almost certainly not abandoned – so don't touch it unless it is in imminent danger from cats or dogs, its parents will be back to feed it!

You may be lucky enough to enjoy the sight of young swallows and house martins lining up on overhead wires. If you are, there won't be any swifts among them – swifts never perch, and when the young leave the nest they remain airborne 24/7 for at least their first year of life, in some cases two or three years. Sadly, the populations of these three birds are severely declining, especially in southern England. It's likely that lack of insects is a major cause, but in the case of the house martin it could be difficulty in finding enough mud for nests. It seems too that many people object to the mess they cause on houses, and their nests are often destroyed by overly house-proud humans. As all birds now have legal protection, destroying a house martin nest in the breeding season is illegal and attracts a £2000 summary fine! What the law can't resolve, though, is young swallows becoming trapped in their nests by horsehair – I know of several cases recently in local stables; a natural hazard to add to the many human ones.

So enjoy the new birds while you can. They grow up all too quickly!

An extended, illustrated version of this article can be seen on www.thefarleighs.co.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY FRIENDLY CRICKET ON SUNDAYS?

The WF A team is looking for more cricketers. **There are no entrance requirements** except enjoyment of the game! Want to give it a go? Email or call Trevor: goldhagen.mobile@gmail.com or 07710 928382

View from the Scoreboard by Terry Baines



CRICKET: Farleigh have started their campaign well and after seven matches have only lost two. These came last month when we lost to Cudham Wyse and Penshurst Park, while our three victories came against Leigh, Horsemonden and Outwood. Previously we had beaten Southboro and Farningham. Let's hope we are still pushing for promotion this time next month.

Our 'A' team have struggled to play their fixtures due to a lack of players so far this season. These are all "Sunday friendlies" so players of all standards are welcome. Please get in touch with Trevor Goldhagen (see previous page) if you would like to play.

FOOTBALL: Despite the soaring temperatures, Farleigh footballers are in training for the forthcoming season. Anyone interested in playing, please get in touch or just come along, Thursday evenings at the football ground.

CLUB NEWS: Our lucky **Ton up winners for June were:**

72	Pam Bissenden	£30
37	Rachel Pearce	£20
60	Tom Underdown	£10

Yours in Sport

Tel



EVERGREENS

A club for those who are retired and would like to meet others. We meet fortnightly, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the WI Hall Forge Lane, East Farleigh and on the 4th Tuesday of the month we meet for lunch or have an outing.

On the 11th July there is a trip to Tenterden for ride on the KESR with a cream Tea and on the 25th we are going to the café at Kenward House for a light lunch.

If you would like to join us, call Helen 814445 or Terry 814561. We are happy to provide transport for those who are unable to get themselves to the hall and for outings. We make a small charge to cover hire of hall and speakers etc. When we go out, members are expected to contribute towards the cost. We would welcome anyone from East or West Farleigh, or very close by. You will find us a friendly bunch. Come and give us a try-no commitment!



It was a warm evening and my first meeting as the new President. It was a good job we had Jo from Taywells Ice Cream. Jo gave an interesting talk about the Company but the best was tasting the different ice creams and sorbets, the Mango was so smooth and thick, yum yum. We also will be at the East Farleigh Fete on the 24th June with drinks and cakes please come along and meet us. We are always happy to chat and answer any questions you might have. We will have leaflets to give out with telephone numbers if you wish to find out more. We will also have a Sale of Goods stall, many items brand new and some nearly new garments for sale.

In our next meeting on the 12th July 2017, we have Blooming Green Nursery who will talk about how they started their nursery at Boughton Monchelsea and also a demonstration of how to make a lovely flower bouquet. On the 29th July we will be having a cream tea from 2pm to 5pm, with live music, lets hope the weather will be good. Please give me a ring if you wish tickets £6 each, my number is 01622 726337, my name is Pam. We also have a lovely hall for hire and if you wish further information then please contact Karen on 01622 920258 or email thefarleighswihall@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon

Pam Lindon
pamlindon@btinternet.com
07711590402

Events

Date and time Event and venue

Saturday 8th July

3 pm

A CONCERT WITH AFTERNOON TEA

There will a concert by the Farleigh Choir and Kettle Bridge concertinas, in West Farleigh Church. Take a tour up the tower, from 2pm and see the damage that need to be repaired and look at the amazing view. A full afternoon tea will be served in the interval.

Ticket £10 Children £5. From Sue O'Donnell 727852 or sueodonnell@talktalk.net

Sunday 16th July

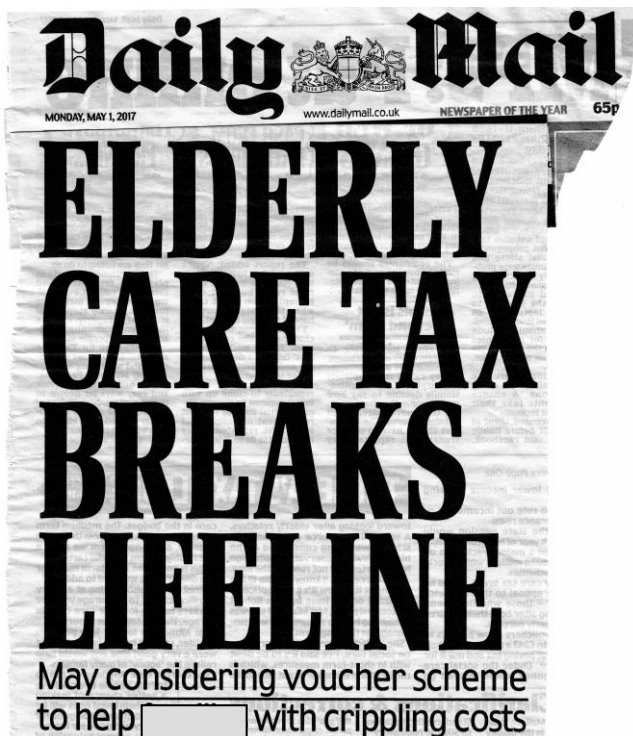
11,00 am to 5.00 pm

SMITHS HALL OPEN GARDEN

Provided there is some rain soon, the extensive herbaceous borders, the sunken water garden and the rose walks will be in full bloom. Plus the woodland walk. Tea, quiche and cakes for sale.

RECORD TURNOUT FOR PLANTS, TEA AND GARDENS

Thanks to everyone who supported the Plant Sale and the NGS Open Garden at Smiths Hall. The Plant sale was very busy and raised £485 towards repairing the church, and the Open Garden had an all-time high of 404 visitors and raised £2,800. £700 for the Heart of Kent Hospice, and the rest to the NGS charities.



Thanks to Terry Ayears. We would like to reassure readers that it has not yet come to this!

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