

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

No 5 August 1975

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

This issue (from which familiar features, including the Vicar's contribution, are missing owing to pressure on space) will reach many readers on the eve of the Ploughman's Supper at Hillcroft: Saturday August 2nd, 7.30 to 9.30, tickets 50p. It will doubtless prove the biggest money-spinner in the Talent Scheme launched last month with a door-to-door invitation to help our financially-ailing church. Definitely an evening to enjoy.

Before this month is over, for the first time in history, cars will be passing one another on The Bridge on the B2163, and pedestrians will be able to make their crossing without worry as to whether they will make the next covert in time. After all the controversy, does it really look as hideous as its critics foretold? And eventually, because it has proved such a boon, shall we one day come to feeling it would be a pity to pull it down?

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Reference to 'Bangertide' in last month's 'Farming Scene' triggered off a little light relief from Mr L F S Platts. He wrote to us from The Chequers, 'British West Farleigh', thus: "Surrounded by cherry guns, and with bitter engagements with the invaders, the Garrison's barrels continue to discharge to good effect upon infantry and mobile columns alike. One favourable report we are able to publicise is that 'Life-Line', read by many who penetrate our barriers, has become a great success. Belated, but nevertheless sincere congratulations to all who planned and make this publication possible'. Mr Platts continues: "We also report a small (?) increase in our overseas detachment - a Grand daughter, Sasha Lee (11lbs 2ozs!) via Leonie in New Zealand. A far cry from the Chequers!" And he concludes: 'Recently two visits by Morris Dancing Groups have provided colourful entertainment at The Chequers, and it is hoped that if this is to be a venue for future events, we will arrange for timely advertising throughout the village'.

Who in West Farleigh remembers Mr W Bristow, one-time occupant of Mill Cottage? Mr Stuart Dyer, writing from Mill House, says he had a letter from him, stating he had visited the area to see the places where he spent his childhood. He remembered Mill Cottage as having "nice flowergardens and a runner-bean tent where we provided teas for river trippers". Mr Bristow worked at the cricket ball factory for 50 years. He is now 87, says Mr Dyer, and a very active member of the Baptist Church in Ashford, where he has been helping to raise £12,000 for renovations. "We hope to reopen free of debt on June 28th". How's that for a talent scheme!

To Mill House long after Mr Bristow came Mrs 'Kay' Taylor, founder and chairman of the Young Wives group, and probably no one was more sorry than its members when she left West Farleigh for a new home in Shipbourne. Certainly they will not be lacking in sympathy if this is first intimation to them that her husband Basil Taylor, distinguished art critic, historian and broadcaster, died at the age of 53. His obituary in 'The Times' was a column long, and revealed the fame of the man who had lived in our midst so quietly.

Dorothy Mackelden is a name not to be encountered in our writings upon West Farleigh, but very much the reverse is true of Dorothy Day. Marriage changed the familiar to the unfamiliar only two years ago. For this reason and because of her Farleigh popularity, when Mrs Mackelden became a widow last month, it was in the natural order of things for many sympathetic thoughts to cross the parish border to her home at Chart Sutton.

Postscript on the life and times of the Late Herbert Morlock MD FRCS. It comes from a cutting from the British Medical Journal, sent to us by his farming son at Collier Street: "His impressive figure dressed in the invariable wing collar, cravat with jewelled pin, morning coat and striped trousers was in the mould of the great physicians of the past. But there was nothing pretentious about him. To his patients he showed great compassion and understanding...to his colleagues and his juniors a marvellous comradeship and loyalty".

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (Continued)

It was the wish of the Late Rev Saxton that he should be remembered, not with flowers, but with donations to Christian Aid. They totalled £76.83, and this letter came from Christian Aid HQ on July 12th: "We are deeply grateful to receive your kind gift of £76.83 for the work of Christian Aid among people in need overseas, the more so because it is specially sent in memory of the Late Captain The Rev W I Saxton... Please feel assured that your gift will be used quickly and effectively in India as requested".

From Mrs Wells at 1 Oliver North House: "Do you think you could mention the Leprosy Collection? It is now West Farleigh and Teston. In December I sent £26 and in April £25. I would like people to understand I don't expect them to fill the boxes. I am grateful for just a few coppers. If they live far out, I should be so grateful if they could give their boxes to the Vicar, or, if passing, drop them in here".

Lastly in our mailbag, this little charmer: "Dear Life-Line; I visited Mrs Pearson at Oliver North House a few days ago, and she gave me the last two copies of Life-Line to take home. What fun it has been to read them, and to have news of old friends. West Farleigh will always be very dear to us all after 16 happy years spent at Elmscroft. We are all well and happy, and hope West Farleigh is the same. With best wishes to everyone, and long live Life-Line! - Wendy Leschallas

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

'Open Day' at the end of summer term followed the usual pattern, with the pupils' work on display, and plays and songs from the Juniors. For their seasonal outing the Juniors went to Dover Castle. On their home ground they collected £10.50 for the NSPCC. Swimming certificates have been won as follows:- Royal Life-Saving Society's Preliminary Award: Alison Field, Lorraine Morgan, Barbara Simmonds, Angela Watson; Water Safety Award: Nicholas Botten, Michelle Goacher, Michael Garrett, Carl Honeysett, Nicholas Miller, Michael Palmer, Lisa Wade; 33 metres: Maxine Reed; half-mile (800 metres): Alison Field, Lorraine Morgan, Angela Watson.

All these successes prompt a note in passing: Coralie Smith has passed her Grade Five pianoforte examination with honours.

SPORTS CLUB CRICKET COMMENTARY

In the Whitbread/Kent Messenger Evening Cricket League we won all our matches and so appeared at The Mote against old rivals A.P.M. With seven wickets down, Aylesford could muster only 78 from 16 overs. With evening shadows reaching across the pitch from the pavilion poplars, our batsmen, too, found runs hard to score. Six overs were bowled before the 20 came up, with the loss of Simon Day. Peter Cooper quickly followed, leaving Donald Fernor and Micky Back to get us back into the game. Fortunately Aylesford's bowling lacked in depth, and the change suited both batsmen, - until an unfortunate run-out broke the partnership. Six runs were needed from the final over, and Trevor Back scrambled home on the penultimate ball, thanks to an inaccurate shot at the wicket. The cup was ours, and tankards to both teams rounded off an excellent series of matches. J.P.D.

For the Sports Club's Cheese and Wine Evening at Tutsham Hall Mr and Mrs John Day spared no effort, but evidently much of the village could ill spare the time. Those who did go met with outside hospitality. Such was the scale of 'refreshments' that the world's smallest salt-cellar would have been hard put to find itself table-room. Eats-wise, as they say, it was rather like Christmas, a 'glorious time of great too much'.

IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

August 3rd:

8.00 Holy Communion

10.30 Family Service

August 10th:

11.00 Matins followed by Holy Communion

6.30 Evensong

August 17th:

8.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Matins

August 24th:

11.00 Matins

6.30 Evensong (No H.C)

August 31st:

8.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Matins

Church flowers: Aug 2nd and 9th, Mrs Dyer; 16th and 23rd, Mrs Filmer; 30th, Mrs Smith

Church cleaners: Weeks of July 28 & August 4, Mrs Dyer; weeks of August 11 and 18, Mrs Willson; week of August 25th, Mr and Mrs Hunter.

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (continued)

It was the wish of the Late Rev Saxton that he should be remembered, not with flowers, but with donations to Christian Aid. They totalled £276.83, and this letter came from Christian Aid HQ on July 12th: "We are deeply grateful to receive your kind gift of £276.83 for the work of Christian Aid among people in need overseas, the more so because it is specially sent in memory of the Late Captain The Rev W I Saxton... Please feel assured that your gift will be used quickly and effectively in India as requested".

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