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

**Welcome to West Farleigh's own**

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# LIFELINE

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## Sudden resignations from WF Parish Council

Our Parish Council has 7 members, plus a professional Clerk. This month, three of them resigned, including our Chairman, Bruce Scott, and Vice-Chair Geoff Martin. The third was Mick Merritt, who has lived in the village for half a century and been on the council for 20 years.

Mick had discussed retiring for some time, and has recently handed on his role as West Farleigh's Man of the Trees to Ed Boyd, but the other resignations were unexpected. The three are long standing members of the council. Their simultaneous departure deprives the council of a deep well of historical knowledge, experience and relationships.

So why did they leave? "It's a frustrating job," said Geoff Martin, "it takes up a lot of time and it's difficult to get things done. For example, the speed of the traffic on Lower Road and the abuse by HGVs of Teston Bridge are perennial issues and despite our constant discussions with Kent Highways and MBC, nothing has really changed beyond a few signs. Local residents get frustrated and we get the blame." [We think the new yellow diversion signs either side of Teston Bridge are a great idea. Ed.]

Another long-running and divisive issue has been the Village Hall project. Mick Merritt has championed this for over 40 years. An ambitious plan for a hall shared with the W.I. fell through, but there is a new idea for a Parish room as a harmonious addition to the Sports Club changing rooms. This has progressed. But it has also been controversial. Who would use it, some have asked? "It was the last straw. Bruce and I felt it was time for a change. Time for some new blood," said Geoff Martin.

Anyone who would like to stand for the Parish Council should contact the Clerk, Amanda Broadhurst on [westfarleighpc@googlemail.com](mailto:westfarleighpc@googlemail.com).

Let's hope that a newly energized Council will come to a rapid and decisive answer on the Village Hall project!

**Please note – there will not be a litter-pick on 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**October Press Deadline 20th September**



## Upcoming Events:

See back page

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## PASTORAL LETTER

### Significant events

Every generation or so a major festival takes place in Vevey, Switzerland. Running from 1797, the last two occasions being 1977 and 1999, the twelfth "Fête des Vignerons" – the festival of the wine growers – has just come to an end.

After three weeks of daily shows comprising 5,500 volunteer actors and performers who have rehearsed for a year, there were hugs, and tears, and smiles and cheers. Alongside the daily parade of characters, the merchandise, the food and the performances in the lakeside stages, the spectacular main event was indeed significant. Those who were privileged to see it (20,000 at a time in a temporary arena built on the market car park!) will long remember it.

Significant events stay in our memories and shape our experiences. In my previous employment I worked with people to explore significant events in their lives, from childhood through to the present, looking for patterns and themes that helped individuals discover more about themselves and the things they are good at. Often, we would find repeating patterns of things that were both enjoyable and successful and these help career choices and decisions about the future.

Significant events in our lives can include births, marriages, deaths, house moves, job changes and so on. When Jesus called the first disciples, this was the most significant thing that had ever happened to them (see Matthew chapter 4, Mark chapter 1, Luke chapter 4). They left everything and followed him into a never to be repeated ministry which changed the world for ever. All of us are called into a relationship that will change our lives forever, and our response to that call can be the most significant decision we have ever taken. Later this month on September 28th Lorna Faulkner will be ordained at Rochester Cathedral as she enters into the next phase of her calling and vocation. The following day we will be celebrating with her at St. Mary's Hunton as she is commissioned as the Assistant Curate in our benefice. Her father will preach, and we will gather in the village hall afterwards for a fellowship lunch (more details about the lunch will be shared in churches soon).

When we say yes to Jesus, we take our place in the body of Christ that is the church, and we each play our part according to our talents, gifts and abilities. As we celebrate with Lorna, we remember that the most important activities in the church are the unseen acts of service and love. At the end of the Fête des Vignerons the largest cheer was for those who followed the cows with shovel and wheelbarrow.

Quite right too!

Peter Callway  
Rector

### SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	9.30 am	Morning Prayer with Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30 am	Benefice Service at Hunton. Commissioning new curate Lorna Faulkner



**JOIN LITTLE ANGELS!** A toddler group suitable from birth to 5 year olds meets at All Saints Church, West Farleigh, Fridays 1pm -2.30pm term time only.

Join us for a cuppa whilst your little ones play with our huge selection of toys!

For more information contact Becky on 07949 646865

## WEST FARLEIGH IN BLOOM



### Sunflower contest

What a lovely morning the West Farleigh in Bloom judges had going round the village admiring all your sunflowers in search of the tallest.

The winner was Jackie Ellis of Church Lane whose sunflower was 3m 40 cms, closely followed by joint runners up Pauline and Peter from Charlton Lane and Linda from Mill Cottages whose came in at 3m 20cms. Thank you all for your efforts - it was heartening to find more sunflowers than we did last year (38 households in 2019). Let's keep this going and put West Farleigh firmly on the Britain in Bloom map as the "village of sunflowers"

### Garden Party

The rain held off for our West Farleigh in Bloom garden party and a wonderful time was had by all. Our guests were treated to a sumptuous afternoon tea and royally entertained by the fabulous Pete & Co.

As well as raising money for future West Farleigh in Bloom projects, our guests generously donated £161.50 to Spadeworks in Offham. It was nice to see so many of you there - thank you for your support

### Bug Hutch competition

The West Farleigh in Bloom competition to name the Bug Hotel at the Top of Teston Lane in the designated wildlife area was a tough run contest by the younger members of the village. The judges had a very difficult task but managed to whittle the entries down to 2 that split opinions. It was decided that:

1. The *Teston Wildlife Bug Hotel* will now be called: '**The Bug Disco** – where bugs do the bug bop' courtesy of William Fowle (aged 5) which included his pictorial image of the party.
2. An *additional Bug Hotel* will be built for the Church Yard and be called: **Casa Coleoptera** courtesy of Oscar Waters (aged 12).

Both our finalists won their own mini bug hotels to promote wildlife in their gardens too. Thank-you to all who entered.

**Next Village in Bloom meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 7:30pm at the Good Intent pub.**

## RIDE AND STRIDE NEEDS YOU!

**Ride and Stride** this year is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Walkers and riders from all over Kent visit as many churches as they can to raise funds for their local church and for others in Kent. Last year's 3-man team is looking for new members, young and old!

It's a fun day out and you get offered a lot of cake. Please phone or email Sue O'Donnell on 07429491022 or [sueodonnell@talktalk.net](mailto:sueodonnell@talktalk.net) for a sponsorship form.

Or perhaps you could spare an hour or two on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> to sit at the church signing the riders and striders in and offering them refreshments? Again Sue would love to hear from you.



## FARLEIGH MOWERS SURVIVE LOCAL CRIME WAVE (other machinery not so lucky)



In early May, a couple and a 5 year old child were seen behaving suspiciously on the West Farleigh cricket ground. Warned off, they left but reappeared the next day at the football hut. Cash, keys and a car disappeared (the car was later recovered from Coxheath).

This was just the beginning of a summer of mayhem.

At 10pm the following Monday, the chairman of the Sports Club was watching TV when he heard a noise like a road sweeper going up Charlton Lane. He looked out of the window. It was the cricket pitch mower! Running out of the house, he gave chase in his car. The driver of the mower saw him coming and jumped off into a car (which was escorting the mower up the road). The mower ran backwards down towards him, but fortunately ran into the fence first. The machine was recovered, although damaged by breaking through a fence at the start of its adventure.

Sometime during the next 3 days, the thieves returned to the football pitch. They broke into the container with the soccer pitch mower and drove off with it, out of the village and up past the White House Pub. The theft was advertised on Facebook and so when a dog walker came across the mower concealed deep in the woods above Barn Hill, they recognised it. Hoorah! That mower also came home again. PS. The thieves made another unsuccessful attempt to steal the cricket pitch mower 2 weeks later,

This was the start of a summer crime wave. Here are the main incidents involving machinery theft:

When	Where	Site	What was stolen
May 2019	W Farleigh	Cricket ground	Ride on mower
May 2019	W Farleigh	Football ground	Ford Focus car, cash, keys
May 2019	W Farleigh	Container	Fairway mower
May 2019	W Farleigh	Container	Ride on mower
Jun 2019	Tovil	Hut	Ride on mower
Jun 2019	Hunton	Roadside	Number plates
Jun 2019	Hunton	Outbuilding	Tools
Jun 2019	Linton	Shed	Tractor
Jul 2019	Coxheath	Roadside	Number plates
Jul 2019	Linton	Shed	Lawn mower & tools
Jul 2019	W Farleigh	Woods	Big car trailer
Jul 2019	W Farleigh	Barn	Tools
Jul 2019	W Farleigh	Shed	Gator vehicle
Aug 2019	Hunton	Building site	Yanmar digger
Aug 2019	Hunton	Yard	Car trailer
Aug 2019	E Farleigh	Sheds	Stable tackle
Aug 2019	E Farleigh	Sheds	Tools
Aug 2019	Teston	Cricket ground	Ride on mower

Crimes like this – not serious enough for the CID – are handled by a regular policeman as part of their daily workload, which will include answering 999 calls, interviewing witnesses, attending crime scenes, patrolling, staffing public events...an officer may have 30 open cases. Not surprisingly, not all of them can be given quality time. The case of the trailer stolen from West Farleigh in July was closed **24 hours after being reported.**

Balancing the resources consumed by the day-to-day with crime-reducing proactive investigation is obviously a management challenge for the police. After the May incidents, the police had vehicle registration details and other very specific information. There have been two recent arrests, which is good. Imagine how much time and crime would have been avoided if these arrests had happened in May?

Many thanks to the enthusiasts of the West Kent Rural taskforce and the Community Liaison team for their help piecing together this article.

## FARLEIGHS DETECTORISTS

**Hi Treasure Hunters, welcome to my brief monthly update. What miserable weather we've had this month so far, but it's set to improve thank goodness. The farmers have thankfully got the harvest in so we detectorists have been busy, lots of finds!**

But first: our competition winners Alex and Olly (SEE RIGHT) were presented with their prizes for correctly spotting the austerity post war George VI sixpence! Well done boys. I hope this inspires you with an interest in history and detecting. I am delighted to say that the boys and dad John will be joining the Farleigh's Detectorists for a day out treasure hunting. I hope this means 3 more members for the club.



### More news: Gold under our feet!



A hoard of Celtic gold coins found in a Kent field has sold for record prices at auction. It raised a total of £35,000 - three times the expected price - while one coin set an auction record for a UK Celtic coin. The haul was dug up by a metal detector in a field near Westerham. I must add, I've never met a treasure hunter remotely interested in making money from his/her hobby, but hey, I'll take it if it comes 😊.

### Find of the month:

Despite hot competition, the author and sole judge for "Find of the Month" unsportingly picked Pete M as the winner. Who'd have thought it? But it is a lovely find: an early Queen Victoria Florin. BUT what date is it? a prize for the correct answer. Remember high definition pictures at <http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/>



### Thank you:

Chris Barton and Ian Sharp for lovely emails with fabulous description and detail on the Hawker Hunter fighter, which was the aircraft that Stephen found in last month's find of the month. I will publish the emails with the authors permissions on <http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/>

Happy Hunting folks... Pete

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## IN THE GARDEN WITH JON FENLON

### Summer is going quick

With the days becoming shorter and the winds and rains increasing, September reminds us of the transition between summer and autumn. That being said, the soil remains warm from the summer and offers the perfect opportunity to plant perennials and trees in preparation for next year. It is important to plan ahead to how you would like your garden to look next year as most of the preparation will need to start now in order to achieve this vision.

September is the perfect time to collect seeds from perennials and hardy annuals for use in the next year, most seeds can be collected roughly 2 months after flowering. Ensure your seeds come from plants without any disease to ensure the seeds are healthy. Make sure to store the seeds you collect away from any excess heat or moisture to prevent the seeds from rotting or dying of fungal diseases. Paper bags work well for this.

flowering. Ensure your seeds come from plants without any disease to ensure the seeds are healthy. Make sure to store the seeds you collect away from any excess heat or moisture to prevent the seeds from rotting or dying of fungal diseases. Paper bags work well for this.

To keep your garden flowering for as long as possible, keep up to date with the dead heading until at least the first frost. If you have any vegetables in your garden continue to harvest. Harvesting tomatoes will be starting to slow down. If you grow potatoes its time to prepare the soil for next years crop, digging over the soil and mixing in manure can help next years crop.



It's the perfect time of year to clean out and re-organise your greenhouse, removing any dirt, moss or algae. This can prevent pests and disease from spreading and also allows more light in. It is also a good time to clean out your garden water butts and guttering before winter hits.

September is a great opportunity to work on your lawns, scarifying, edge repairs, re-seeding or laying new lawn. Throughout my time here at Smiths Hall I have spent a significant amount of time trying to improve our lawns within the garden. Below right is a picture of the lawns in June when I started and exactly 2 years later.

The cut flower garden has survived the recent rains and winds and the dahlias in particular look perfect and ready for picking. It's always nice to grow flowers for use in the house, everyone loves fresh flowers!



**THEN**

**NOW**

## FARLEIGH FEATHERS by Ray Morris

### When does a dove become a pigeon?

Usually when it becomes a pest; there is no scientific difference. If we like it, or it has positive connotations, we call it a dove. Doves are symbolic of good things in many religions – in Christianity it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The turtle dove is a symbol of love, to be given to one's heart-throb on the second day of Christmas, and we persist in releasing Doves of Peace (or are they just white pigeons?) on special occasions or to commemorate the dead. Mediaeval manor houses had dovecotes in which they reared pigeons to provide fresh meat in the winter – a good thing before the days of the freezer, hence they were called doves. Most UK doves/pigeons will lay successive clutches of two eggs throughout the year, so our ancestors could fetch fresh squabs from the dovecote for a warming winter casserole.



An increasingly frequent visitor to our gardens is the woodpigeon, once called the ring dove until it became an agricultural pest after country people stopped catching them for the pot. Their numbers have gone up dramatically so that they are the fifth most-likely species to visit gardens according to the RSPB. I have a regular pair, plus their frequent offspring, in mine. The collared dove is another frequent (and, because of its repetitive call, some find irritating) visitor. As it is a relatively recent arrival in the UK (the early 1950s) and was much sought-after by birders it is still called a dove.

The feral, or town, pigeon (descended from the now scarce rock dove) needs no introduction. Unfortunately they are easily, and usually are, confused with the stock dove. Stock doves are common in rural areas – I have a pair nesting in my garden – and they usually reveal their presence with a soft, deep “coo-roo”. Unlike their town cousins they don't foul buildings as they nest in holes in trees (tree trunks were referred to as stocks in days gone by, hence the name). Although superficially similar to 'town pigeons', stock doves all resemble each other: a largely uniform soft grey back, pinkish underside, an iridescent patch on its neck and a black eye. It has a single pair of black, 'wonky' quotation marks ( ' ' ) towards the back of its closed wing. Like all their relatives, they feed their young on 'pigeon milk' secreted from glands in their throat until the young birds are able to cope with solid food.

Stock doves are on the amber list of conservation concern, but I've no doubt many are mistakenly killed by shooters targeting woodpigeons and feral pigeons; perhaps shotgun licences should only be granted to people who can tell the difference? Meanwhile, if you are lucky enough to have them in your garden, marvel in the symmetry of their mainly monochrome plumage, and admire their gentle, peaceful demeanour.

## EVERGREENS



We had a lovely afternoon in the garden of Smiths Hall with strawberries and cream. Later in the month we enjoyed a lunch of Gala Pie and salad in the WI Hall.

We will be meeting on the 10th Sept at 2.30 in the WI Hall for afternoon tea and a talk about Japan. On the 24th we will be having lunch at Kenward House.

If you would like to help, by collecting and taking home members it would be much appreciated. Unfortunately we are unable to accept any more members at present. But, if you would like to go on a waiting list, phone Terry 814561 or Helen 814445.



After a hectic July when we were celebrating the 100 years, it was nice to get back to a normal monthly meeting. We had a very busy meeting with our speaker Mr Joe Mendell who was talking about all of the American Presidents, with an entertaining and informative presentation. He has given us many funny facts for us to use when we next go to a party. Next month we have a speaker talking about 'Rattling the family bones' which sounds interesting. We also have a McMillan Coffee morning on the 26th September at 12pm at the Farleighs WI Hall, Forge Lane

East Farleigh, Kent which is not a WI event. We will be serving refreshments, plenty of cake and conversation. All are welcome please come and join us, it is for a good cause. We are always looking for new members so please come on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to the Hall 7 for 7.30pm.

## VIEW FROM THE SCOREBOARD by Terry Baines



**CRICKET** : A mixed bag of results for both our teams last month including one postponed match and the other abandoned, Our first XI started but didn't finish the game against Otford as it had to be abandoned due to rain. The following two weeks had better news beating firstly The Weald then a convincing victory over Halstead. Sadly we finished off this month being soundly beaten by Luddesdown. As for our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI we didn't bowl a ball against Shoreham as the rain beat us that day, this was followed by terrific game against Luddesdown narrowly losing by two wickets. But I am glad to report another great game and this time coming out on top over Stonehouse. Finally, in our last game we were brought down to earth when we narrowly lost to Hadlow despite the fact that we only had eight players!



**FOOTBALL** Friendlies have been coming thick and fast in readiness for our season which started on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Training is still taking place regularly on the ground every week. If you would like to join please come along, if you think maybe your better days are behind you our Vets start their season on 1<sup>st</sup> September. You would be more than welcome

**Ringstedt Tour 26-29 July** Another great weekend was had by one and all when our friends from Germany visited us at the end of July. After spending fourteen hours on their coach getting to Farleigh we took them (by coach) to Canterbury to watch Kent play cricket. On Saturday we entered the raft race at the Maidstone Boat Festival. Both Farleigh and Ringstedt had a boat to start with but soon Ringstedt's boat resembled a submarine! Needless to say I think we won ☺. Finally, on Sunday we played football, obviously our beer affected our Ringstedt friends more as the final result was 10-4 to Farleigh! This was followed by some more games involving beer on the Green. Rumour has it that the GI ran out of beer! A great weekend, looking forward to our next tour in Ringstedt next year.

**Netball** – more information in next month's issue

### Our lucky TON UP WINNERS last month were

49 Bill Emptage £30

51 Graham Judge £20

31 Mick Back £10

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> Tickled Trout Wine Pairing Evening

7.00 pm

Enjoy a 3 course meal paired with Balfour Wine flight and canapes plus a drink on arrival £35 per head – book early  
(Locals discount will not apply)

### Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>

10.30am onwards

### Hunton Church Benefice Service and Commissioning

Revd Lorna Faulkner will be commissioned as an Assistant Curate. This will be followed by a fellowship lunch. All parishioners welcome.



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