

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

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE

Distributed freely in October 2020 Edition no 526

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West Farleigh goes on BLOOMING!



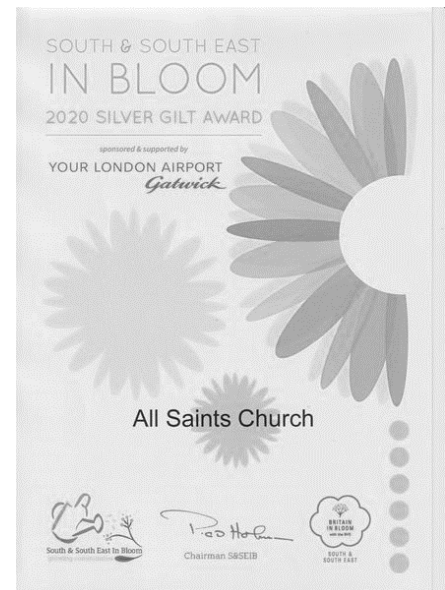
Congratulations to the Village in Bloom team and to everyone who helped to make our village more beautiful. The Judges of this year's 2020 South and South East in Bloom competition have awarded West Farleigh village and All Saints churchyard SILVER GILT awards.

This is our third year of entering the competition and we have risen every year (2018 Bronze, 2019 Silver). It will be difficult to improve on this and gain a gold in 2021 so we need your suggestions or offers of support please do join us - we need you!

Due to Covid, there were no visits by the judges this year. Instead, the team sent in presentations.

[Editor's note: in our opinion, the WF VIB presentations themselves were worthy of a gold medal for their **astonishing detail, scope, illustration and educational value**. Highly recommended! You can see them on-line at:

http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk/village_in_bloom.html



The next activity will be planting bulbs for the springtime!

The team would like to hear from you! Email them at bloom@TheFarleighs.co.uk

LITTER PICKING – CAN YOU HELP US!



A dedicated team of 8 volunteers met on the Green on Sunday, 6th Sept and split up into 3 parties, looking after Heath Road, Ewell Lane and Smiths Hill (which has never been tackled). 60 minutes on Smiths Hill produced 5 black bags of rubbish, including 4 hub caps, too many beer cans to count, similar quantities of Red Bull (why Red Bull?), 7 empty wine bottles, McDonald's cartons, Costa Coffee cups - and one baby bottle.

Our next litter pick is on **Sunday 4th October, 9:00 am** on The Green (Good Intent corner).

PLEASE JOIN US! Equipment and cars provided...just need the help. Brian and team look forward to seeing you....

Deadline for the next edition is 21st October 2020

Pastoral letter from Rev Lorna Faulkner

Dear Friends,

I've been helping our youngest son with a photography project this week. One of the photographers whose work he has been looking at is Ansel Adams, an American photographer. His most often quoted piece of advice about photography is this: 'A good photograph is knowing where to stand.'

In a year of cancelled events and restricted gatherings, mask-wearing and no hugging, I have found myself standing in a less than optimistic place. I have been impatient and irritable. Restless and resentful. You may have felt the same at times – but I know I can't stay there forever.



Ansel Adams was known to go out hiking early in the morning, climbing mountains in search of the perfect place to stand to capture the image he wanted that day.

There are constants: The mountain is still a mountain. The sky is still the sky. But the way we see things depends on how we look at them, and how we look at them depends on where we stand; and, sometimes, we have to search for a better perspective, to discover a better way of seeing what is in front of us. In this time of mask wearing and no hugging, of cancelled events and restricted gatherings, perhaps part of the journey is about finding other ways to see things. Other ways to do things. Maybe we can revive the lost art of letter writing? Make time for a telephone call rather than a text? Enjoy a walk in the fresh air and an autumn picnic rather than a meal out?

There are so many things we can't do – but still so many we can! Navigating the 'new normal' everyone is talking about can feel like climbing a mountain. Some parts are easier than others. At times, we'll find ourselves on a fairly clear path. Other times we'll feel like we're clinging on by our fingertips. Sometimes our metaphorical legs will ache from all the effort and we'll need to stop and rest and just have a little moan about it. But we will get up again and keep going, seeing the beauty that is all around us - and in those around us - as we climb it together, with one another and with God.

'I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.' Psalm 121.

I do pray for us all that, as this year continues, we will be inspired and refreshed as we encourage one another to stand and look at the view from a different perspective.

Be blessed,

Lorna

Congratulations to Lorna who was/will be ordained at St Andrews, Paddock Wood on Sunday 27th September. You can see the profiles of this year's ordinands here: www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/new-revs/

CHURCH SERVICES IN LOCKDOWN

Note: Morning Prayer at All Saints at 9.30am on the second Sunday of each month

Day	8 am	9.30	10.30
1 st Sunday	No HC	Hunton HC	Zoom
2 nd Sunday	Linton HC	West Farleigh MP	Zoom
3 rd Sunday	No HC	East Farleigh HC Hunton Family Service	Zoom
4 th Sunday	East Farleigh HC	Linton MP	Zoom

Key: HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer

Connect to Zoom services on <http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice> or dial in on 0203 481 5237 & use Meeting ID: 185 124 308. Each Thursday, BCP Holy Communion on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion> at 10.00am or dial in with meeting ID 862 454 876 31.

Alpha

We begin our Online Alpha course on Wednesday 23rd September at 7.15pm. If you haven't registered yet and would like to, please be in contact with the Rector as soon as possible. All are welcome to this safe and enjoyable space to explore the big questions of life.

Harvest

Plans for Harvest that the Ministry Team were thwarted by the introduction of the 'rule of six'. So, we are now going to have a Harvest themed service in each church that is hosting services, but with all the usual social distancing and safety measures. Harvest services will be **11th October at West Farleigh**

Service for the bereaved

We can't hold our usual service where we all come together to remember the loved ones lost to us in the past two years, but you can do so on November 1st at **West Farleigh**. The church will be open from 2pm to 5pm for individuals or family groups to come and say a prayer and place a lighted candle on the altar.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Where there is an outdoor war memorial, we will be holding services outside, starting at 10.45 in time for the act of Remembrance at 11am. For West Farleigh (10.45) and Hunton (10.50), the memorials are in church and there will be short services inside, with attendance managed and safely distanced.

We also plan to record a service for those who cannot get to church, which will be live streamed via Zoom on the day at the usual time of 10.30. We hope to record some hymns using musicians and singers who we can edit together (a mini virtual choir). If you would like to take part, please let the Rector know soon!

APCMs

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for W. Farleigh will be on Wed. 7th October at 11:00 by Zoom.

Christmas

We will not be allowed to hold services as normal during Christmas unless something changes. We hope to produce a Carol Service video using as many of our church members and community as possible. We will record readers, musicians and carol singers. If you sing, play an instrument or have technical capabilities please be in touch with the Rector soon so that we can start to put together a plan.

Finally, we are immensely grateful for the continued support from a variety of people across the benefice who are keeping our worship alive, ensuring that we are all cared for, praying for each other and the nation, and keeping our buildings safe and virus free. This is how the church should be – loving, mutually supportive, and worshipping the living God.

Stay safe and keep praying!

Kind regards,
on behalf of the Ministry Team.

Rev. Peter Callway

Rector, United Benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh
01622 747570 and www.unitedbenefice.church

Report from your Parish Council

The Parish Council was hoping that, by September, things would start to get back to normal, after the strange times we have all found ourselves in this year. However, with the Government's new 'rule of 6' this is now still looking unlikely. Whilst Councillors would be able to meet, due to the current number of Members, we would still not be in a position to invite members of the public to attend [Zoom? Ed].

Fortunately, this has been a quiet year so far, with no major issues that would have required an urgent meeting. Delegated powers were awarded to the Clerk in March; however, these have not been needed to any great extent as work has continued with any decisions needed being agreed over email.

It is likely that a meeting of some kind will be held towards the end of the year, or in January to approve the usual budget and precept requirements for the following financial year and we will be discussing how we can safely organise this, taking into account the government guidelines in place at the time.

As you will all be aware, there should have been elections in May, but these were delayed across the country until May 2021. Unable to hold meetings, Councillors find themselves in the same position as this time last year, waiting for the elections to bring the Parish Council back up to full strength.

On a positive note, whilst many people have been furloughed or working from home, our new contractor has taken over the village ground maintenance contract with great enthusiasm. On behalf of the residents, the Parish Council would like to thank the team for continuing to help keep the village looking tidy, whilst keeping themselves safe in these unprecedented times.

Finally, if anyone has a concern or query that they would like to discuss with the Parish Council, please remember that you do not have to wait to bring this up at a Parish Council meeting. We are able to deal with many issues outside of meetings and an email to the Clerk (westfarleighpc@gmail.com) will start the ball rolling to assist you.



Ride & Stride

We had two teams out this year with a pair of riders in each. Larry Johnson and Stuart visited 25 churches and raised over £200. Stephen Norman and daughter-in-law Alex Easterbrook visited 12 and raised £151, so an excellent effort all round!

Many thanks to Sue O'Donnell for organising the sponsorship and the volunteers who manned All Saints for the day.

PS. Cyclists, of whatever persuasion, please consider this event for next year, it is fun and rewarding. You pick your own route, you see a lot of countryside – and in normal years, the inside of beautiful and ancient buildings.

Special note

The new website banner is a wonderfully evocative seasonal image by Ed Boyd. Thank you, Ed.

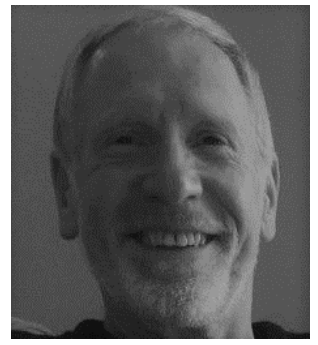
Seen here in black and white, obviously!



FARLEIGH FEATHERS by Ray Morris

Will they go, or will they stay?

Two of our common insect-eating species of bird, the chiffchaff and the blackcap are on the move. All across the country these small birds, average 7g and 17g weight respectively, are moving down the country in preparation for their flight south to spend winter in the Iberian peninsula and north Africa where the warm Mediterranean climate will still provide the sustenance needed to prepare them for next year's return flight.



As I write I am watching a chiffchaff foraging in my now rather unkempt looking vegetable garden, picking minuscule insects from the fading blackcurrant bushes. Blackcaps, meanwhile, have been taking advantage of the elderberries left fruiting through the top my garden hedges. Hedge-cutting has been delayed to allow them to do it as they need the sugar-rich berries to lay down the fat needed to fuel their migration flights.

Birds that winter in southern Europe and north Africa are considered short-distance migrants, the long-haul species having to cross the Sahara and continue to sub-Saharan and tropical Africa. The swallow even continuing all the way to south Africa.

Why do they bother? The explosion of life in the northern latitudes during the summer, and the longer hours of daylight to find it, is the explanation. It's been happening since the end of the last ice-age. But, for some birds, like chiffchaffs and blackcaps, things are changing. Every year a small but increasing number of these two species remain in the UK. Not only are winters becoming less severe, so insect food is not locked up in ice or under a blanket of snow, but human behaviour is also influencing the change. For once, the human influence is not a doom-laden one (although we are responsible for the warming climate) but one stemming from our wish to help nature: garden feeders. Data from the British Trust for Ornithology's research clearly points to the positive impact of garden bird-feeding on the survival of the blackcap in particular.



If the birds that take the risk of staying-put manage to survive (and they are doing so in greater numbers thanks to us), they don't have to undergo a hazardous migration, they are ready to breed slightly earlier than those with a long flight back to the UK and, as a result, they get first pick of the best breeding territories. But the birds don't sit and ponder the risks in a logical manner – it is likely that small genetic changes (a chance mutation) has caused some birds to stay in the north. As they have survived, their offspring carry the

same mutated gene, and they stay north too. And so it continues: slow and tiny changes to individuals possibly leading, eventually, to changes in a population.

Evolution happening before our eyes.

Don't forget: need carpet cleaning or a biology tutor or a plumber?

Visit our Local Trades page on www.thefarleighs.co.uk also check out The Farleighs Facebook page.

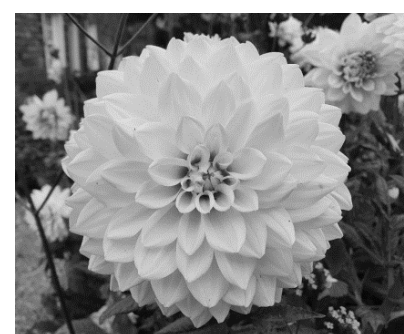


Where has the rain gone? Once the rain returns, we are hoping it will soften up the ground enough for the lawn care maintenance program to be done whilst there is still some heat in the ground before the temperatures drop. Grass seed requires at least 5C to germinate so it needs to be done September / October, at this time the combined temperatures and rain give the grass everything it needs without having to give any additional help.



The maintenance program will consist of weeding the lawn, scarification, seeding, top dressing the worst areas and low patches. Plus depending on the weather will try and get a slow release granular feed on once the grass has fully germinated, as this will help develop strong roots over autumn and quicker growth in spring.

It's that time of year for dahlias again. It would be interesting to know how many people in the area lift their dahlias or leave them in, as the end result generally all depends on how bad the winter is and your soil type. If lifting dahlias - cut down to around 3-4 inches and it is important to remove all the soil in order to check the tuber for signs of damage or disease which could cause issues with your other dahlias if not detected. After lifting the dahlias ensure that they are left to dry for a few days before placing them in pots with bark or woodchip and stored somewhere frost free over the winter generally in a heated glasshouse that stays just above freezing.



Once the frosts have begun to ease and the spring arrives you can give your dahlias a small amount of water and bring them somewhere light and wait for the new growth to appear. Continue to keep them stored and watered until the frosts have past and the new shoots appear then they can be replanted. If your soil is very free draining and does not sit wet over the winter, you may be able to mulch your dahlias and avoid the need to lift and store them. Results vary with this method depending on soil conditions, weather and thickness of mulch applied.

It has been an odd year so far and it looks to be continuing. Flash floods to start with and now draught. The drought this year has been hard on a lot of plants, but it has also been great for others. The fig pictured above has fruited a lot this year and our Perovskia blue spire plant is now bright blue. It has certainly highlighted the need for a more diverse planting and the need for more dry garden plants. So, it gives us food for thought going forward when re-designing gardens within the area for longevity and no reliance on irrigation systems.



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We had another meeting in the Park in September, the weather was good and was enjoyed by everyone. We then decided to try having a meeting in the morning at the hall in October just for a short time. Unfortunately this has now been cancelled due to the Government restrictions. I am still sending members updates about what is happening within the WI, especially as they are now selling the Denman College and the estate, which is very sad due to there were many courses available to members offering varied education. I am thinking of having a Zoom meeting with as many members as I can in October and will be contacting members to see who can attend. The hall is now open for our hirers and if anyone wishes to find out more please contact Karen on 01622 920258.

Best wishes Pam



EVERGREENS In view of the “Rule of Six” it will not be possible to meet for the foreseeable future. This is regrettable as many of our members are missing their social outings and feeling lonely and isolated.

We say goodbye to Jean Cifford, who has moved into a small bungalow in Bournemouth, to be near her daughter. We are also pleased to say that Peggy Kinnear is home and well, having had a revision of a hip replacement which had become painful. The leaders are still making contact with the members and it is hoped to continue with this

Sports Report



Cricket: Our season is coming to a close just as we started to get going! However the cricket we did have was very successful and enjoyable.

Our first XI continued their winning ways last month beating Shoreham, then another victory over Withyham. Unfortunately we lost our final game against Luddesdown. Strangely enough our 2nd XI moved in reverse. We lost our first two games versus Linton Park and Sissinghurst but finished on a high, beating Horsmonden.

We are ending the season with three friendly fixtures. First, we drew with Stoney & Oxley, then a victory over neighbours Teston. But for our final game versus Benenden you will have to wait till next month!



Football: After weeks of training and friendlies, we finally kicked off our football season. It's early days, I know, but it was like all that hard work pre-season seems to be paying off.

Our first XI started with an amazing 8-0 victory over Rochester. However we came down to earth the following week, unluckily losing 3-2 away to Staplehurst. Finally this month we got back to winning ways, beating Ramsgate 2-1. Meanwhile our 2nd XI have started really well, winning their first two matches, 3-2 against West Kingsdown and 2-0 away to Horsmonden. Let's hope our fine start from both our teams continues.



Netball: Good news, our netball girls start their season on the 29th September. Let's hope we can have just as an enjoyable season as the last.

Ton Up Club – Our lucky winners for last month:

No 72 Pam Bissenden £30 – No 121 Emma Pollard £20 and No 91 George Baines £10.

If you would like to find out more about sports in West Farleigh, please visit www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/

Yours in sport Tel

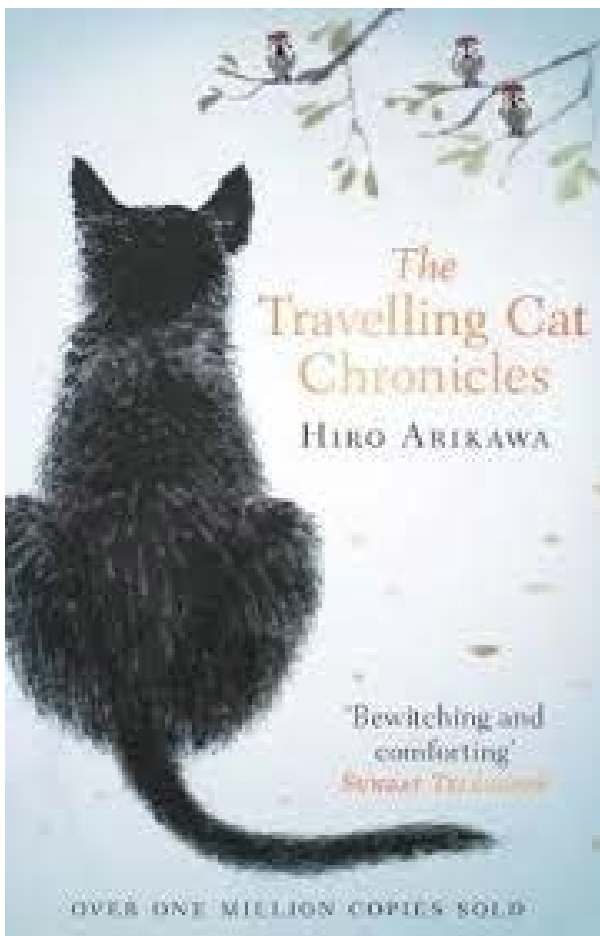
Book Review

Since our events page remains almost non-existent, we were delighted to be handed this new idea from Helen Kirk- Brown: why not a book review page?

Have you read something during this strange time that you would wish other to share and enjoy? Or equally useful, have you invested time on something – perhaps widely advertised – that you feel did not deserve the plaudits? Either way, we'd love to publish your thoughts. You know where to send it: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk.

So here it is: our first review by Helen Kirk-Brown.

The Travelling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa



The beautiful illustration on the cover sets the tone for this book. It is called “Man and the world” and is painted by an artist with cerebral palsy – Shuai Liu. The cat does not resemble Nana (the cat in the book) but the author fell in love with the original brush painting during her research.

I have always enjoyed reading books from different cultures and this is my favourite. To quote Lynne Truss of The Guardian: “Anyone who has ever unashamedly loved an animal will read this book with gratitude, for its understanding of an emotion that ennobles us as human beings, whether we value it or not”. I would add, you do not need to be an animal lover to appreciate this book.

As Chapter One describes, Nana starts as “a cat with no name” and is befriended by Satoru; they become inseparable and commence a road-trip through Japan to visit three of Satoru’s friends. Nana does not know why. As the story unfolds, told from both Nana’s and Satoru’s perspective, it moved me deeply. Loyalty, love, longing, solitude, helplessness yet hope.

I read this book for the first time several years ago and it still resonates with me now. I am jealous of anyone reading it for the first time.

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