

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

**Welcome to West Farleigh's own**

# LIFELINE

Distributed freely in November 2020 **Edition no 527**

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**AMY AND STUART PERKINS**



Stuart and Amy married on Wednesday 23rd September at Glengorm castle on the Isle of Mull on the north west coast of Scotland . They honeymooned on the NC500 road trip that continues up the north west coast to Durness, then along to Thurso where where they took the ferry across to the Orkney isles.

They moved into Charlton Lane in February 2019 and absolutely love living there, the editors wish them well for their future and are pleased they are integrating themselves into the village.

## WELCOME

**ARLO SWAMINATHAN**

Little Arlo Swaminathan was born to Ramesh and Louise at Tunbridge Wells Hospital (Pembury) on 21st September and weighed 9lb 10oz!

Ramesh and Louse have lived in Valley View here for almost 4 years. Louse is a research Midwife at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and Ramesh is a risk analyst.

We wish this lovely family every happiness.

**Congratulations**, also, to Ben (Good Intent) on the birth of his son Alastair who weighed in at 8lbs.

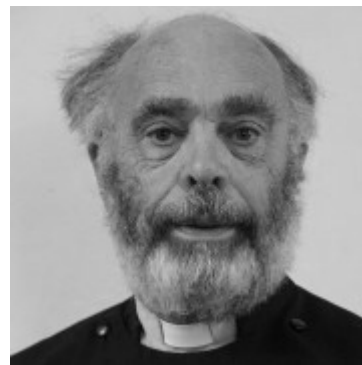
**Deadline for the next edition is 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**



## Pastoral letter

**'Thank you for the memories....'**

This morning I woke and found myself singing the opening bars of the anthem we always sang at harvest time many years before. 'Thou visitest the earth and blessed it, Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.' Yes, looking out of the window it was plain to see the signs of autumn and harvest but why did those words from years before come into my mind? What had awoken my memory of that event and that moment? The memory opens us to the past at sometimes the most unexpected moments and in so many ways. Deep in thought I heard the words 'The TV's gone dead'. A search for the remote control indicated that it would take more than that solution to sort out the problem. No power, so check the fuses, and then the realisation that we had no electricity to the house. Had the workmen working at the substation at the corner cut us off? Oh blow, and I was going to write the letter for the November Newsletter and now no computer! The mind went off again into that distant memory of a similar moment at school when we had a power cut at school and the dance teacher was beside herself when she realised that the lesson after break couldn't happen as she had no ways of playing music. The solution was to ask me to duplicate off a worksheet for the lesson instead and the agony of her face when I said the lack of power meant that I couldn't use the duplicator either!



It's wonderful the way our memories work, bringing us at one moment, pain of moments we wish we could put well into the past and at other times memories of joy and happiness which we long to keep and share. They come to us at odd moments, out of the blue with seemingly little connection to the present moment. So, my November letter got changed and delayed until the computer came back. Whatever happened to the written word, of pen and paper? But no that's another memory.

November is the traditional time for memories as do birthdays, anniversaries or Christmas, smells and sounds spark off thoughts of events or people from the past.

Throughout the Bible, the act of remembrance is never far away. The children of Israel on that epic journey to the Promised Land were told over and over and over again to 'remember' the great promises God gave them throughout that journey. And again following the Jesus' death the women went to the tomb and we read that two men in clothes' that gleamed like lightening' reassured the women that Jesus had risen and we read "Then they remembered his words' (Luke 24 v 8 )

Memories are there to encourage, challenge and reassure us. May your memories at this time give you comfort, reassurance and hope for the future as perhaps the events of the past bring an assortment of memories.

David

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

There will be a service of Remembrance on 8th November at 10.45 at All Saints Church. Wreaths will be laid, and the Immortal words spoken. No singing however. You are welcome, please wear a mask.

### Current church services

We will continue to hold online (Zoom) services each Sunday at 10.30.

<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

Collective worship will be held as follow:

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

Key: HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer

The congregation will be expecting to maintain social distancing at all times, and follow measures in place for infection control and keeping each other safe.

**JOHN SMITHERMAN, formally of 13 Charlton Lane, has memories of Barming Bridge.**

**Also, a request for information**

I lived in Charlton Lane at No 13 for 24 years and used the bridge on a regular basis, and remember at one time the bridge being closed for strengthening work to be carried out to the main supports which went down into the water. When the bridge was open again it looked like the main wooden supports had been clad in concrete, this must have been in the sixties.

As a family we all use to enjoy a Sunday afternoon walk from the green down Kettle lane to Barming Bridge and then along the Towing path to Teston Bridge and sometimes a look at the locks before returning back to the green via the various foot paths through the orchards there at the time. Happy days!

I am trying to find out if anybody has any old photographs I could have copied of the red brick semidetached houses which stood where Rookery Close is now. They looked very much like the old red brick house next to Goulstone Bungalows. I would also like a copy a photograph of the house, where the Jobson Family lived, called "Oakdean". It stood back off the road roughly to the right of where Rookery Close is, of course I would reimburse any costs involved in copying photographs.

I can be contacted via email on [j.smitherman110@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:j.smitherman110@tiscali.co.uk) or on 01284 7624666.

Thank you regards John Smitherman.

If anyone can help, the editors would be grateful if they could be copied in, as this would be of interest to the village and would make a great article for Lifeline.

**AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE EDITORS**

The production cost of Lifeline is covered by the church, with some extra funds from small ads. We would very much like to make the Newsletter self-supporting, as we are aware it is very much a community Newsletter rather than a church magazine.

We are proposing to make room for more advertisements, by adding extra pages. We are proposing to offer small ads as now and other adds up to A4. We should also be able to use colour, which would make the adverts more eye catching. At the same time, we could have a colour front page, which will enable us to include more colour photos, instead of the black and white at present.

If you, or someone you know might be interested Email [space@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:space@thefarleighs.co.uk). For more details and costs.

The Editors

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE?**

**Lifeline is distributed to 300 houses in the village and more are sent out electronically.**

Email [space@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:space@thefarleighs.co.uk). For more information and Costings.



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# FARLEIGH FEATHERS

by Ray Morris



## OUT WITH THE OLD

After enjoying the birds (and fruit.....) in the pear orchard behind our house for the last thirty-nine years, it seems the trees were no longer commercially viable. In a matter of just a few days, therefore, they were grubbed out by machine, as easily as I'd pull out a weed in the flower border, and burnt. No more redwings and fieldfares from Scandinavia joining our native winter thrushes to rake the snow for the rotting windfalls, and no more summer woodpeckers, wrens or tits. Or nesting spotted flycatchers - but they have disappeared long since, as have many other farmland birds.

The seemingly empty field was quickly ploughed ready for a cereal crop to be planted, presumably while the soil still retains some summer warmth. And immediately, the birds returned - just different ones. First came the gulls; a screaming flock of a hundred or so black-headed gulls. These are white headed though at this time of year; their black heads will slowly reappear as the feather tips wear off to reveal the dark, chocolatey-brown breeding plumage. They spent a noisy few days picking over the clods searching for worms.

The cacophony grew as a similar number of starlings joined in, searching for their favourite leather jackets. It was all too easy to be overwhelmed by the spectacle, but amongst it all was another, much smaller, species - pied wagtails. A smaller number, but still numerous insect eaters flitting restlessly among the others, their high peeping, two-note calls just audible.

Had we witnessed a similar scene some fifty years ago when a hop garden made way for the pear trees, a tractor would almost certainly have had more gulls following it, along with lapwings too. But no more. Modern agriculture has now doused the soil with so many 'icides' there are far fewer invertebrates available for the birds to feed on, hence we have far fewer birds.



Yet all is not quite lost. The proposed new agriculture bill will pay farmers for producing wildlife, along with food; along with fewer chemical short-term fixes, ploughing to within a metre of my hedge will hopefully stop too, and payment for a generous field margin will bring with it the flowers, seeds, insects and other invertebrates needed to restore our impoverished countryside.

And who knows, The Farleighs might, but only just might, see spotted flycatchers again.



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So, November is nearly upon us the trees are changing colour and dropping their leaves, the flowers are fading away as well as the day light hours. The rain keeps on coming and going whilst the mornings are getting colder and colder. So that can only mean one thing I hear you cry, it is time to get in the garden. This is the hardest and one of the busiest times of the year for the garden at Smiths Hall. You would not believe the amount of plant material that we prune and remove from the garden daily over this period.

Here we have our pumpkin's and squashes that are grown for decoration over the Halloween period. There is a variety of shapes, colour and sizes. These can be painted in lacquer to last longer in the home.

The banana tree I planted about 3 years ago is still going strong and has enjoyed the warm summer. Its trunk is now estimated 8ft and to the top of the leaves 15ft. It is that time of the year where I will be watching the weather and deciding when to wrap it up for the winter. I use a mixture of materials from bubble wrap to straw all depending on what we have around, if the stem is protected from excessive water and frost it will be fine.

Keep an eye on any tender plants you need to collect seed from to start the growing process again next year, these Ricinus plants can reseed themselves but we find we have much better results collecting the seed and starting them early in the glasshouse.



Do not forget to keep feeding your compost heaps all the leaves you collect up! The lawn will thank you for it and so will the flower beds when you make good compost from them.

## FARLEIGH DETECTORISTS

Hello again Treasure Hunters, Welcome to the return of our monthly updates.

### News:

The COVID restrictions have understandably affected our treasure hunting activities and naturally as a club we have been adhering to the ever-changing recommendations. That said we have been participating in limited club activities and highly organised events run by Joan Allen Events, where every participant is tested on entry and separated with military precision.



### The Joy of Detecting

Last week we had the joy of presenting a beautiful collection of coins that we found on the fields of a landowner who kindly allows our club to hunt. We have also removed over 25Kg of large metal objects from the ground and countless bin bags of rubbish. It is lovely to give back to the landowner and leave the fields in a better state than we arrived.



### Find of the month:

Congratulations new member Paul Lethbridge. A silver strap end, possible Saxon found at the last club rally. Naturally Paul has reported the find to our Finds Liaison Officer. Well done Paul a stunning find.

(Inserts: Paul's find and how it would have looked)



### Call to arms:

Once again, Please any landowners who would kindly allow our little club to search and tidy their land please get in contact, equally anybody interested in joining our happy, sociable club, we'd lovely to welcome you along

Happy hunting folks

Pete

Metal@thefarleighs.co.uk

### LITTLE ANGELS ARE BACK!

At last we have been given the go ahead to open our Parents and Carers Toddler Group from Friday 6th November meeting at West Farleigh Church from 1.00 pm until 2.30pm. It will be very different as we are not allowed to use the toys at the church because of the new Covid-19 restrictions however parents are asked to bring a toy/story book for their own child/children to play with and any drinks or snacks required. All adults must wear a mask and complete "track and trace" details on arrival. We shall be using the lovely space we have to play games, run around and generally have fun! After we've let off steam there will be time for stories which we hope will give the parents a chance to chat with one another (socially distanced of course). Obviously, this is new for all of us and we know it is not ideal but for now let's enjoy the opportunity we have to let the children play and just be kids! ! If you would like any further information please phone Becky on 07949 646865.

The months are passing by so quickly and we are still no nearer to resuming the meetings at the WI that we all enjoy. The hall committee are still working hard to keep the hall up to date with Government Guidelines, so that we can continue to support our hirers. There are many varied events being held down at the hall and please take a visit to see if there is something to suit you. I am still informing the members of the updates being sent from Head Office and the main one is that when we are open again we are able to offer new members a one-off payment of £10. 75, which will cover you to join us until end of March 2021. We offer many events, like craft, art, choir and special events why not come and join us, when we resume. We have a monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday in the month at 7.30 and if you would like to join us please ring me to talk through any questions you may have. My number 07711590402 and my name is Pam Lindon.



### **EVERGREENS**

We got very excited, when we thought that we could have 30 people socially distanced in the WI Hall. That would have suited us just fine. We could not have served tea and cake, but we could all have had a good natter, which is what we all need. However, Boris et al, brought in the rule of 6, which put an end to our plans. Hopefully our members are plodding along and keeping in touch with their family and friends. If any members have a problem or need a chat, feel free to ring Terry 814561, Helen 814445, Sue 727852, Jill 726251. Keep smiling, even if it is a fixed grin!!

### **Sports Report**



#### **Cricket**

Just to round off our successful, albeit shortened season, we had a victory over Teston Let's hope next season will be back to normal!



#### **Football**

Our first XI started the season last month with a defeat versus early leaders Minster, unluckily conceding a late goal going down 2-1. Happily, the following week we had a terrific victory 4-3, after being 3-1 down, versus Woodness Boro'. Final, we again had a marvelous win, another 4-3 score-line against Sittingbourne.

Meanwhile our 2nd XI began well beating Kemsing 4-0, this was followed up with a hard -earned point drawing 2-2 away to Five Oak Green after being 2-0 down. However, we ended this month's fixtures with two defeats, losing in the cup 1-0 to Penshurst and finally, sadly we lost 2-1 versus Seniors after being 1-0 ahead.



Our girls have started well in the new season, although after four games we have yet to record a victory. We have secured three points and hopefully it won't be long before our first win

#### **Ton Up Club – Our lucky winners for last month were:**

No 5 Helen Swan £30

No 4 Matt Smith £20

26 Jack Martin £10

Yours in sport  
Tel (815267)

## THE FARLEIGHS' FARMERS MARKET IS BACK



**NEW NAME NEW VENUE, SAME QUALITY PRODUCE**

**SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 10-1**

**AT THE WI HALL, FORGE LANE EAST FARLEIGH.**

Covid restrictions will apply, one-way systems, sanitising stations and no drinks or refreshments will be served.

Also note that the toilets will not be open to the public. Masks must be worn.



There is limited parking, but you can park in Vicarage Lane and there is also parking at the Social Club.

**New stalls** Crocodile bakery selling fresh bread. Mockett's Farm shop, selling fresh fruit and veg. Plus, many of our long standing stall from last year.

*Do go along and support them, you will be pleasantly surprised at the variety and quality. Ed*

### PUKKA PONIES

Do you know about Pukka Ponies Equine Rescue, it's a small charity on your doorstep! (The Hollow)

Pukka Ponies is a registered horse & pony rescue, founded and run by Sarah Daniell. You can often see some of the ponies from the public footpath going down to the football pitch, many of you saw (and probably heard!) Bert the donkey, who was there most of the summer. He has now gone to his forever home.

Sarah has been rescuing horses & ponies for the last 11 years, and in that time 115 horses have been rescued, and most rehabilitated and moved onto new homes by the rescue. There are 11 equines over two sites.

Big Charlie the Shire, stands in at a whopping 18.3h – that's 6'3" at the base of his neck (not the ears)... BigC is 15 years old and previously was a plough horse. BigC has multiple medical issues, meaning his management and upkeep is extensive, therefore he is a permanent resident at the rescue. Another is our newest resident, "Choc Chip" or just Chip for short. Chip is only a foal, somewhere between 4-6 months old, Chip came to us from a breeder who did not want him, so he will be with us until he is of age to be castrated and then hopefully find his future home.

We do have one very little but very special resident at Pukka Ponies, Little Alvin the miniature pony. We are currently trying to finalize the fundraising for Alvin's operation to replace his shoulders with prosthetic joints to give him the quality of life he so deserves. More information on Alvin & how to support his appeal can be found on our website.

Help is always required. Donations, of course, and your time. There are always jobs to be done, poo picking, mucking out, your help would be gratefully received.

If you would like to learn more about Pukka Ponies, or get in touch please check out our website

– [www.pukkaponies.org.uk](http://www.pukkaponies.org.uk) or drop us a text/whats app on 07543111373 or email [pukkaponies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pukkaponies@hotmail.co.uk)

### NEW ON THE WEB

#### DO YOU LIKE A GOOD WALK?

Then go to the village website where there are many local walks of varying length and difficulty. With maps and full description of where to go and what to see. New ones are being added regularly.

They mostly start at the seat opposite Smiths Hall. Parking at the Tickled Trout, which would be pleased to see you after your walk.

Great photos of Autumn Colour in the village also.

#### NB

More information on local trades or articles of interest, "This Month in the Garden" in colour! Visit

[www.thefarleighs.co.uk](http://www.thefarleighs.co.uk) also check out our Facebook page.