

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

No 6 September 1975

## THAT BRIDGE ON THE B2163

On September 5th, ninety-eight working days (minus 7 lost through flooding) after work began, the most talked-of bridge over the Medway will be opened to two-way traffic and to any pedestrian who cares to use its hazard-free footway. What Teston and West Farleigh think of it now it is finished we have yet to learn, but our speculation last month brought quick reaction from Mr John Balston. Signing himself 'artist severely provoked', he wrote to Life-Line thus:

"So now you think that in the future we may be able to lean over the old bridge in 'peace', thrilled as we watch the Juggernauts roar past each other across the new one - the summer air redolent with the tang of diesel perfume. Mind you, to speed them on their way, one would have to knock a few houses down, straighten out one or two bends in those awkward country lanes, and, so that we can have the pleasure of listening to them thunder all through the night, one would have to link those pretty sodium vapour lamps in Coxheath with those at Watringbury. It would be really rural then, wouldn't it? A great enhancement to one of the few beauty spots left in Kent. But must we leave it there? For those who wish to improve those ancient monuments that have been entrusted to our care, something in the same vein might be done for other architectural treasures in the parish. How about, for instance, beautifying the south side of our church with a really up-to-date petrol service station? Have your car serviced outside while you are ministered to within. It might attract a larger congregation; moreover, if the sermon were overlong, one could listen to the whirr of the petrol pumps... One of the great charms of Teston Bridge was that one used to be able to see its full length spanning the river, and at the same time it was set in a landscape of great merit. But, as I understand your editorial comment, people today may well prefer to watch the traffic go by (and this will certainly increase once you provide the facilities for it) than to look at the bridge and the landscape..."

Life-Line is grateful to Mr Balston for having brought a laugh into the business of producing it. At the same time, he sets us wondering. How wide does a lorry have to be before it's a 'juggernaut'? Is it more, or is it less than the 6ft 6in restriction imposed on the bridge approaches? And whence and why came the ugly word? Our dictionary declares a juggernaut to be "any idea, custom, fashion or the like to which one either devotes himself or is blindly or ruthlessly sacrificed". Maidstone's excellent Public Library quoted from their Oxford Dictionary thus: "Juggernaut: a title of Krishna, the 8th Avatar of Vishnu, the uncouth idol of this deity at Puri in Orissa, annually dragged in procession on an enormous car, under the wheels of which many devotees are said to have formerly thrown themselves to be crushed". The Dictionary of Slang had nothing to offer, and so we gave it up. At least the 'enormous car' seemed to have some relevance, but many a car today could cross the new bridge without offending our correspondent's eye or ear, and yet be called by some "enormous". For the benefit of the curious, we merely add that an Avatar is a descent from heaven, and that Orissa is a state of India south-west of Calcutta.

## OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 5th, 6th and 7th: Festival of Flowers at Teston; 10.30 - 7.0pm

Saturday September 27th: This is winding-up day for the Talent Scheme begun in July to bolster the church bank balance. Your presence is invited for a village rally on the cricket ground from 3.00 to 5.00, with Mrs Pat Honeysett and Mrs Frank Underdown looking after the teas. The Church Treasurer will be there to receive your profits on your chosen activity, and a Bring-and-Buy stall will be an outlet for sales and an inlet for coins you feel you can spare. The last Talent Scheme West Farleigh 'ran' raised over £300.

September 28th: Harvest Thanksgiving at Teston, 6.30pm. West Farleigh residents will be welcome.

October 12th: Our own Harvest Festival, with services both morning and evening

#### NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Burnea, on the old nursery site on Lower Road, is to become the home this month of Mr and Mrs John Morgan and their two children. They come to us from Hadlow. Mr Morgan is English Master at Maidstone Grammar School. On behalf of the village, Life-Line says 'Welcome strangers, and good wishes!'

Sympathy has been rife for Mrs Kathleen Bowen at Elmsdene, Charlton Lane, following the death of her husband just before his 62nd birthday. He had lived in West Farleigh since he was a toddler. For 32 years he worked in the now non-existent ironmongery shop of Haynes Bros, and for a further 12 years he was employed in the same trade at West Malling.

Congratulations to Mrs Winifred Payne on attaining her 81st birthday, and being able to celebrate it happily with a visit to Brighton.

Compliments of the football season to Terry Baines for having signed on with Maidstone United. West Farleigh's team will miss him.

Good luck to six pupils of West Farleigh Primary School who, this coming term, are moving on to secondary education. They are Angela Bissenden, Elizabeth Cheeseman, Alison Field, Lorraine Morgan, Barbara Simmonds and Angela Watson.

Less than justice was done in last month's item about swimming successes. Maxine Reed alone was credited with the 33-metre award, whereas her name should have been coupled with Angela Bissenden, Elizabeth Cheeseman, Alison Field and Jane Underdown. Maxine also gained a 75-metre certificate.

The Morgan family at Hillcroft (including their grandchildren) would like to thank all those who helped to make the 'Ploughman's Supper' such a success. Particularly Mrs V Smith and Mrs K Philpott on the stall, and Mr Bill Crittenden for acting as barman, and for lending tables and chairs for the lawn. Also Col Kennedy and Mr Ralph on the 'door'.

From No 2 Oliver North House comes a note saying "if you have room, will you please insert the following: Mrs Pearson is very grateful to all her friends who attended her coffee morning in aid of the Talent Scheme, and thanks them most sincerely for 'bringing and buying'".

Three West Farleigh children attended a play leadership morning at Teston Village Hall. They went with mixed enthusiasm, but returned full of smiles and asking if they could go again. This summer holiday venture, sponsored by Maidstone Borough Council, ended on 29th August, but other parents may like to know about it for next year. Mrs Oxley and Mrs Honnor were in charge.

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#### LOOKING AHEAD WITH THE SPORTS CLUB

West Farleigh football starts on Saturday September 6th with promotion talk in the air. But the club needs one or two players. Anyone wishing to join should phone Jack Martin (45491) or Ken Baines (812341).

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday October 3rd or 10th. The uncertainty revolves around negotiations for a speaker.

Only one Whist Drive this year - the grand Christmas one at East Farleigh Hall on Wednesday 17th December. Tickets 30p to include refreshments.

Five days later, on Monday 22nd December, the Christmas Social at East Farleigh Bull. It will incorporate the Grand Draw; major prize the usual giant hamper. Tickets on sale shortly. - K.B.

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#### LIFE-LINE'S THOUGHT-LINE FROM A READER

"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness". The sender wishes to remain anonymous.

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#### IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

Sept 7th: 8.00 Holy Communion; 10.30 Family Service

Sept 14th: 11.00 Matins followed by Holy Communion; 6.30 Evensong

Sept 21st: 8.00 Holy Communion; 11.00 Matins

Sept 28th: 11.00 Matins; 6.30 No service (Teston Harvest Thanksgiving)

Church flowers: Saturday Sept 6th, Mrs Smith and Mrs Page; 13th, Mrs J P Day; 27th, Mrs Philpott and Mr Sears.

Church cleaning: Week of Monday Sept 1st, Mrs Morgan; 8th and 15th Mrs J P Day; 22nd and 29th, Volunteers wanted. Please ring Mrs Morgan (26251)

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October contributions to 4 Warnham Cottages by September 19th (Tel 81273)