

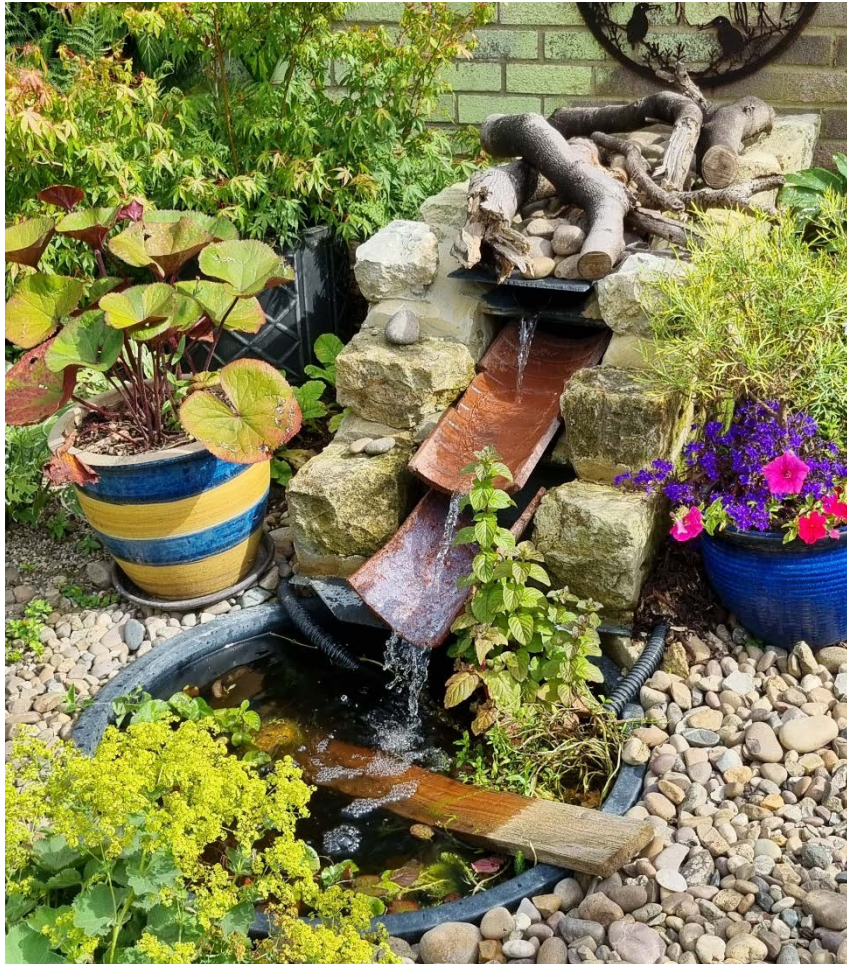
"Some sort of periodical is an essential life-line in a village such as ours"

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

LIFELINE



(Etching on the President's Cup)



WEST FARLEIGH EVENTS DIARY

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sun 18 th Aug | 1pm – 5pm Annual Village cricket and BBQ |
| Tue 13 th Aug | Oh No Jonah! Children's Holiday club see p. 5 |
| Sat 14 th Sept | Ride and Stride bike ride |
| Sat 28 th Sept | Harvest Supper |

HOME CRICKET GAMES

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 rd Aug | 1 st XI vs. Betsham |
| 10 th Aug | 2 nd XI vs. Stonehouse |
| 17 th Aug | 1 st XI vs. Ightham |
| 31 st Aug | 2 nd XI vs. Speldhurst |

All matches start at 1pm. Spectators welcome.

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Website: www.thefarleighs.co.uk Email: editor@thefarleighs.co.uk

Deadline for the next issue is 20th AUG

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TINA WOODHAMS GARDENING NOTES

August is often considered as high summer with hot sunshine and sticky temperatures whilst cooling off later in the month as we head towards autumn. Heat and humidity can not only affect our working ability out in the garden but also creates a favourable environment for insect pests.



Continued watering is an essential task this month along with regular deadheading to keep pots and perennials in tip top condition. Don't forget to treat them to a fortnightly liquid feed!

Next year's flower buds on camellias and rhododendrons will be forming during late summer so ensure to keep these well watered throughout dry periods.

In the borders some of the early summer flowering plants may be looking past their best, so boost colour in the garden by planting up containers with new fuchsia, dahlia or tall late perennials which can then be strategically placed into any empty gaps. Once finished, the pots can be emptied and dug directly into the border for colour next year.



Now is the time to prune wisteria, climbing and rambling roses as well as wall shrubs such as pyracantha.

August is a busy time for harvesting edibles: beans, potatoes, carrots and beetroot together with tomatoes and cucumbers. Remove the bottom leaves from your tomato plants to ensure good air circulation and allowing the sun to ripen the fruits. After harvesting summer fruiting raspberries, the spent canes may be cut to soil level leaving the new canes to develop for next

year. Sow crops of lettuce, rocket and winter salads as well as spring onion and radish.

Our gardens would not be complete nor function without wildlife.

During August, solitary leaf cutter bees may still be nesting. Plant late summer species such as aster, sedum, salvias and Verbena bonariensis and keep some longer grass in areas of the lawn to provide some shelter from the sun. August is a key month for butterflies and plants such as buddleja, dahlia, erysimum and geranium offer a valuable source of nectar.

Garden pests including aphids are active this time of year and ladybirds will happily feed on a wide variety of small insects and insect eggs. Encourage them into the garden by companion planting with marigolds and nasturtiums in the vegetable patch.



So fingers crossed for some glorious, hot and sunny days! We appear as humans to be naturally disappointed when it rains however the well-known phrase "it's good for the garden" springs to mind, and indeed maybe we should view it as a positive in that it makes our gardens green and lush, and our flowers, fruit and vegetables flourish.

And please...if you enjoy the hot and dry summers do not moan that your lawn has turned brown!

ON SAFARI IN WEST FARLEIGH



Cottage garden

Many thanks to the five keen gardeners in the village who opened their gardens for the Garden Safari on July 14th.

The trail started in the church, where you could buy a map and directions to the five gardens. There you could also fortify yourself for the safari with tea and excellent cake (a big thank you to Jill, Chris and Megan for all their help baking and serving).



Jungle view from the trail!



Ducks feeding

The event was a great social success, with gardeners reporting 40 or 50 visitors and a lot of discussion about greenfly and how to get rid of slugs. It raised £330.31 for the church.



Mike and Joyce Ellis discuss their dahlias with Sheila and Brian Spicer from Tutsham

ANNUAL SUNFLOWER CONTEST

***** STOP PRESS *****

by our *Farleighs in Bloom* team



Please remember to submit your entries for the annual tallest sunflower competition, by either emailing your name and address to bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk or posting a note through the letterbox of Hoppers Corner or No.1 The Green, Charlton Lane asking us to 'please measure your sunflower'.

Please state which category you are entering, the one for big people or the one for those up to sixteen years of age.

Judging will take place on Saturday 10 August so no time to lose! The Judges' decision will be final.....

Even if you think your sunflower is not tall enough to make the grade - we know that growing conditions have been challenging this year - please be encouraged to join in the fun and share your hard work. You never know you could be the winner!

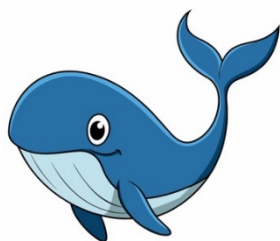
Good Luck Everyone and we look forward to visiting you on the day!

Gabby and Tina



LITTLE ANGELS

A mother and toddler group in West Farleigh Church 1pm every Friday in term time. From babies to pre-schoolers. Mums, Dads, Grandmothers, Grandfathers and carers all welcome. Coffee for adults, lots of toys and fun for the youngster



OH NO JONAH! – HOLIDAY CLUB

Join us for a free day of fun for school years 1 – 6, including games, crafts, stories and food at Holy Trinity Coxheath on Aug 13th between 9.30am and 3.00pm. To book your place email:

becky.thecat@btopenworld.com

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT (15th July meeting)

Report by Cllr Helen Kirk-Brown

Cllr Morgan, Cllr Underdown and Cllr Kirk-Brown were in attendance. Apologies received from Cllr Moy. Borough Cllr Claire Kehily observed the meeting.

The public discussion identified a number of issues with hedgerows and trees in the area causing visibility issues when driving. Two areas of immediate concern were Charlton Lane and the approach to Teston Bridge (from West Farleigh). These concerns are going to be actioned.

Play Area: The rotabounce has been removed. We are awaiting an update on the repair.

Defibrillators: Cllr Moy will be arranging for the new defibrillator to be fitted at the Good Intent. It will then be added to the National Database.

Highways: Various road improvement work has been undertaken in West Farleigh. A query is going to be raised with the Highways team as to what has been completed and what is left to be done.

The full minutes of the Parish Council meeting can be found on the Parish Council website.

We would also take the opportunity to encourage residents to attend the meetings to share their views.

Next Meeting: 16th September 2024 at 7.30pm

WEST FARLEIGH ALMSHOUSE AVAILABLE

Are you 60+, retired, of limited income and looking for a place to live?

We are looking for a single person/couple who would like to live in West Farleigh in our Almshouse, situated in Charlton Lane and on a bus route. It will be available this summer at an attractive rent, including water. The Almshouse is let unfurnished and consists of living room, fitted kitchen (without appliances), bedroom and shower room. There is a front and rear garden, along with off street parking. Preference will be given to those having current or historic connections with West Farleigh.

Application forms are available from the trustee Julie King at Oliver North Charity, c/o Angler's Oast, Church Lane, West Farleigh Kent ME15 0DT, Tel: 07810 650276, email:jsmail1@btinternet.com.

CHANGELING THEATRE AT ELMSCROFT HOUSE

Noel Coward's comedy "Present Laughter" was a real hit with the capacity crowd of 120 or so in the garden of Elmscroft House. Both the cast and audience enjoyed it; it didn't rain and raised £700 for village funds which can be used to fund future events.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE TICKLED TROUT

The Kirk-Brown family has been organising these quiz nights for a couple of years now. They are good fun and have a loyal following. The latest one on June 11th raised £211 for Cancer Research. The next one is for the Heart of Kent Hospice, and will be on 6th August, starting at 7pm. Ring the Tickled Trout to book a table; it is a good evening. Congratulations to Helen and Cliff for their tenacity and hard work. They had no idea it would be enduringly popular when they started.

CANINE CORNER WITH REBECCA

The Pomeranian dog breed

The Pomeranian dog breed originated from the Pomerania, historic region of the northeastern Europe lying along the Baltic coastal plain between the Oder and Vistula rivers. This region is now a split part of modern-day Poland and Germany. The breed is named after this region.

Pomeranians are believed to have descended from larger sled-pulling and herding dogs known as the Spitz-type dogs. These dogs were commonly found in the Arctic



regions of Europe and were known for their intelligence and working abilities.

The Pomeranian breed was developed through selective breeding to create a smaller and more companionable dog. This process began in the 18th century when Pomeranians caught the attention of European nobility, particularly in the UK.

Queen Victoria played a significant role in popularising the Pomeranian breed in the UK. She became enamoured with the breed during a visit to Italy in 1888, where she

encountered a particularly small Pomeranian named Marco. Queen Victoria brought Marco back to England with her and began breeding Pomeranians in her royal kennels.

Under Queen Victoria's influence, the Pomeranian breed was refined to have a more compact size and luxurious coat. The breed quickly gained popularity among the British aristocracy and became a fashionable companion dog.

Since then, Pomeranians have remained popular not only in the UK but also around the world. Their small size, distinctive appearance, and friendly nature make them beloved pets and show dogs. Pomeranians continue to be cherished for their playful and affectionate personalities, as well as their charming **looks**.



A fascinating fact you may not know: why do dogs poo facing north-south?

You may have noticed your dog spinning in circles before they do their business? in one of the strangest yet fascinating studies ever published, Czech and German researchers found that dogs prefer to align their bodies north-south to poo, guided by the Earth's magnetic field. Female dogs also align like this to pee, but not males (raising their leg seems to interfere with the alignment). The 2013 study published in *Frontiers in Zoology* followed 70 dogs over two years, making 5,582 observations, and not only did it prove that this magneto-sensitivity existed, it showed that dogs were intensely sensitive to it. The Earth's magnetic field fluctuates, moves and can even flip, and whenever it's unstable, this directional behaviour in dogs pauses.

It turns out that this behavioural quirk is well-known in grazing and resting cows and deer. Red foxes hunt using magneto-sensitivity and are more successful at catching mice when they pounce on them in a north-east direction.

VILLAGE CRICKET AND BBQ: NOW on SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST, 1PM onwards



Capt Matt Davis lifts the Cup for the Village XI in 2023

The contest for the President's Cup was postponed due to bad weather. This year it will be between the Village XI and a team from our friends at the Indian Orthodox community who share the church with us. Rumour has it they have been seen practicing – kitted out in professional T20 uniforms – at dawn down at the cricket ground.

There will be an exciting game, no doubt, plus the usual BBQ, refreshments and this year, plates of Biryani and Samosas and the traditional excellent RAFFLE.

PS. Please bring your own glasses if you can. This event raises much needed funds for the Sports Club and All Saints.

NOTE THE NEW TIME. This is an afternoon event.

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PASTORAL LETTER from Sue Elliott

Hello everyone,
Time flies, doesn't it? August already! So here we are again, children off school and parents, grandparents and other carers and friends trying to find things to do to occupy them. It can be a difficult time, especially if the weather isn't kind. Our strange weather is all the fault of the Gulf Stream apparently. It is further south than it should be and is drawing cold, unsettled weather down from the north. Hopefully, by the time you read this (I'm writing it mid-July) the weather will have improved.



Within our Benefice there will be a couple of children's events taking place; the Oh No Jonah! holiday club on 13th August, school years 1-6 (book via email to becky.thecat@btopenworld.com) and on 15th August, a Crafternoon for parents and children, all ages 2-4pm.

For those of you who like DRAGONS there is one in Rochester Cathedral! It's name is Draco Roffensis. It's made up of lots of foil scales; silver, gold and bronze, that were decorated by children and adults who visited the Cathedral earlier in the year. It is well worth a look, and it is free to get in the Cathedral. (What attractions are free these days?!) The Rochester Dragon has been inspired by illuminated artwork found within the pages of Textus Roffensis, a 900 year old medieval book that can be seen in the crypt. Find out more here:

<https://www.rochestercathedral.org/dragon>

There are also free Family Craft Activities at the Cathedral on Tuesdays and Fridays in July and August, and a free Family Friendly Organ Recital on 26th August. Music inspired by Draco Roffensis. Guess what, the organ has 3,808 pipes! Amazing! A free, daily Anglo-Saxon Riddle Trail, too, to help you discover more about the Cathedral. The link above shows you all about what is happening in your Cathedral over the holidays including one or two ticketed events that you might be interested in.

For those of you who might prefer a quieter life in the summer, find a nice place to sit, a garden or park, and relax. Look at nature, the flowers and trees, and think on this, from a song that many will have sung at school: Think of a world without any flowers, think of a world without any trees, think of a sky without any sunshine, think of the air without any breeze.

We thank You, Lord, for flowers, trees and sunshine. We thank You, Lord, and praise Your holy name.

How blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of creation.



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Enjoy! Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

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SPORTS REPORT BY TEL BAINES



FOOTBALL Our annual weekend with our friends from Ringstedt is at the end of July. This year it is our turn to visit them. Looking forward to it as much as ever but maybe not so much their German beer! Full round up of our visit in next month's Lifeline, if I can remember!



NETBALL Our girls finished off our summer season last month ending up mid-table in the league. We began with a terrific 47-33 victory over Bengals, next an amazing score-line ending up with a 54-54 tie versus Fire Marks. Lastly we lost to Fusion 35-24. Here's looking forward to a the winter season which starts early September.



CRICKET Our 1st XI started last month with a defeat away to Halstead but bounced back a week later with a thumping 8 wicket victory over Hadlow. However next came a loss against Kemsing and finally a game abandoned after tea at Shipbourne due to rain. Strangely our 2nd XI results are almost like for like. We began losing to Penshurst by 5 wickets but the following week we won by 90 runs away to Speldhurst. Unfortunately our friendly against Rusthall was postponed and again our final game this month versus Marden was abandoned due to the weather.



ROUNDERS! We are proposing to have another Rounders competition in September if there is enough interest. Please let us know if this is something you would like (07761 355518). Details in next month's Lifeline if this goes ahead.

CLUB NEWS

Our lucky winners in last month's draw were:

| | | |
|-----|-------------|-----|
| 78 | Mick Back | £30 |
| 3 | Marcus Lowe | £20 |
| 159 | Ann Ayears | £10 |

! - Yours in sport, Tel

PS. More sports news on www.westfarleighsportsclub.com/



THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens went on an outing to the Kent and East Sussex Railway, joining the train at Tenterden Station. A cream tea was enjoyed as we rolled gently along the line to Bodium, where the engine ran around the carriages to get the other end to pull the train back to Tenterden. We were pulled by an engine that had come from the Longmoor Military Railway.

There was a romantic view of Bodiam Castle, through the trees. A variety of wild life was seen including a flying Tawny Owl, deer and swans on the River Rother. The gentlemen of the party were intrigued by what seemed to be a lot of railway “junk” rotting away in sidings. It might come in handy one day!!

We car shared, so there was no chance of the coach going in the ditch like last year!!! The ride to Tenterden was gentle and picturesque. Different for many of the members who no longer drive and don't get out and about much.

If you would like to join us email Katie O'Connor katieeth66@gmail.com or ring Helen 01622 814445.

We can offer lifts to those living in East and West Farleigh. We meet in the WI Hall Forge Lane East Farleigh.



THE FARLEIGHS W.I.



The WI have had another full month of activities, including art and craft, darts, walks, lunches and other activities. Our craft group are learning to felt, courtesy of The Woolly Felters, and we also now have a WI book group which met for the first time this month.

At our July monthly meeting the Farleighs WI celebrated our 105th birthday in true WI style, with a cream tea, a beetle drive and precious time spent among friends. After the meeting, one of our members had her very long hair cut short for charity, raising funds for the Kent Air Ambulance.

Our monthly meetings continue to be the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the WI Hall in East Farleigh and at our next meeting on Wednesday 14th August we will be trying out chair pilates.

We are open to women of all ages and new members are always welcome. Check out our Facebook page, email us at TheFarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk, or just pop into our next meeting where we can guarantee tea, cake and a warm welcome.



Lynn Stout
President, The Farleighs WI

~~FLYING~~ *around the* FARLEIGHS

Oi! Who are you gawping at?

A natural response forthcoming from many a bird at this time of year to being stared at by a curious human. Although, to be fair, they do sometimes look a real mess, even like a victim of the dreaded neighbourhood moggy, in which case they deserve sympathy rather than curiosity.



The mess is usually caused by the bird's normal process of annual moult. All adult small birds replace every one of their feathers once a year after they finish breeding, and juveniles like this robin replace all those on the body but retain their wing and tail feathers. Damaged and worn feathers have to be replaced to maintain their waterproofing and insulation properties, so each one is shed, and a new one grown in its place.

Not all at the same time though. The change of wing feathers must be carefully coordinated so they maintain the ability to fly, and enough body feathers must be available to keep them warm and dry.

In many birds it's not very noticeable as a dull brown plumage may just look a little unkempt. However, in the case of some juvenile birds, like this robin, the first set of feathers they grow in the nest are very different from their adult set. It's a slow business too, as each old feather is first replaced by a waxy sheath from which the 'feathery' part of the new one grows. In this picture, you can see these waxy sheaths pointing downwards from dead centre of the bird's breast where the brown juvenile feathers are being replaced by the red. When this bird finishes its moult, as a robin, that's when its troubles will start. As soon as he looks like an adult, the resident robins – male and female – will chase it away. Robins are

fiercely territorial, including in winter when food is scarce. Your garden handouts are a lifeline for many birds, but robins won't want to share with another, hence life can get very tough for an inexperienced juvenile that may look adult but hasn't yet risen up the pecking order.

Starlings, on the other hand, are a perfect example of how the moult progresses as their dull brown juvenile plumage is replaced feather by feather to produce their iridescent adult finery.



It's something to look out for while garden birdwatching at this time of year. But please remember, it's rude to stare!

Ray Morris (lepiaf@hotmail.co.uk)

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