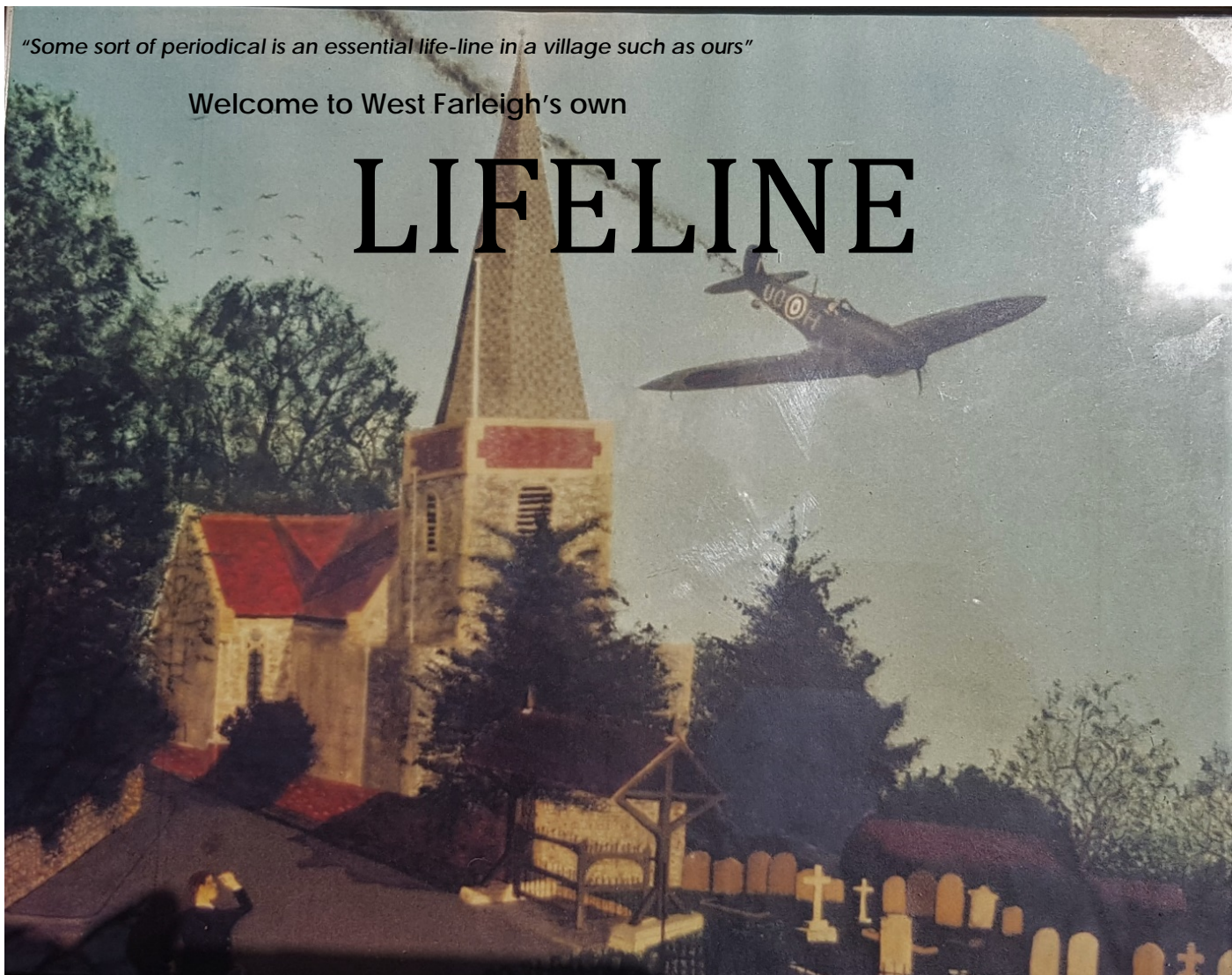


"Some sort of periodical is an essential life-line in a village such as ours"

Welcome to West Farleigh's own

# LIFELINE



## Mystery of the missing Spitfire

Geoff Cox was 15 years old and standing by the lychgate of Teston Church at 7pm on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1940. Years later he painted this dramatic picture to crystallise his recollection: a Spitfire in flames passing behind the church and crashing into the Medway valley below. It was the height of the Battle of Britain, which was being fought in the skies above Kent.

We know from local records that the pilot was a young Australian, Frank Cale, of 266 Squadron, based at Hornchurch, and the aircraft was N3168. We know that it was shot down by a Bf 109 and that Frank Cale baled out. His parachute harness was burned and he may already have been fatally wounded. His body was found in the river the next day, and the harness, badly burned, was found in a nearby orchard.

*But what happened to the plane?* For the past year, the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge near Folkestone has been looking for it along the Medway, using a very sensitive metal detector capable of finding metal 5m underground. The search has been dogged by the wet weather. Every field

on both sides of the river has been scoured, without success. But as Lifeline went to press, tantalising clues were found: large quantities of old, molten aluminium, scattered in a field south of the river and close to Teston Bridge.

Is the molten metal from the missing N3168? The investigation by the Battle of Britain Museum is ongoing. We will provide an update next month. **If you know anyone who might be able to help with this search, please contact the editors.**

Middle Wallop Sqn., Northolt	NC	Killed. Engine caught fire between Northolt and Hendon and aircraft crashed in street near Harrow-on-the-Hill; pilot baled out unhurt.	12.00 hrs
Sqn., Hornchurch	C	Shot down by He 115, 12 miles east of Deal; pilot killed.	A16.30 hrs
Sqn., Hornchurch	C	Shot down by Bf 109s at Teston, near Maidstone; pilot's body recovered from R. Medway next day.	A19.00 hrs
Sqn., Northolt	C	Damaged in ground accident; pilot unhurt.	Not known
Sqn., Northolt	C	Damaged in ground accident; pilot unhurt.	Not known
Sqn., Northolt	C	Damaged in ground accident; pilot unhurt.	Not known
Sqn., Gravesend	C	Shot down south of Folkestone; pilot baled out and rescued unhurt.	A11.30 hrs
Sqn., Gravesend	C	Shot down south of Folkestone but crashed on land; pilot unhurt.	A11.30 hrs
		crashed between Selsey and	A17.40 hrs

Distributed freely in June 2021 Edition 533 Editors: Stephen Norman Helen Swan and Jacky Taylor  
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**Deadline for the next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021**



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## PASTORAL LETTER from Lorna Faulkner



Dear Friends,

*'You can feel it in your heart  
You can see it in the ground  
You can see it in the trees  
You can smell it in the breeze  
Look around! Look around! Look around!  
June is bustin' out all over'*

So sing the cast of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel. And by the time this letter is published, beautiful June will have arrived! At last! It's been a long winter and a long chilly spring. I am actually writing this on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and, yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that we will, from Monday 17<sup>th</sup>, be taking the next step in the easing of Covid lockdown restrictions.

When you read this, we'll be a couple of weeks into this new phase, enjoying freedoms we have only been able to dream about, but, as I write, it feels odd: As if I am writing to the future – a future that, however close, I can't yet see! I do have some ideas, though...

I am looking forward to meeting up with my family – the first time we will all be together since Christmas 2019.

I am planning to invite people to dinner.

I'll have barbecues, and tea and cake, and long lunches with friends.

And I am going to hug people!

The truth is, though, I don't know that my plans will come to fruition. I have no certainty that the outcome will be as I want it to be. Anything could go wrong. The weather could make a garden gathering impossible. Someone's car could break down. Someone could be ill. Everything could change.

Which of us has never made a plan that had to be changed or was interrupted by forces beyond our control? And, yet, we continue to plan because we continue to exercise that most powerful of human instincts: Hope.

Aristotle said, 'Hope is a waking dream'. A reality we imagine and visualise and wait to see materialised.

Norman Cousins said, 'The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started.'

Even when life is hard – and for so many of us it is, or has been, an enormous struggle of late – the hope of good things to come can inspire us to make a plan, even a tiny one, whether it be for the next year, or the next day, or even just the next hour.

My hope – and my prayer – is that this letter finds you all in the June sunshine, basking in the warmth of friendships and family reconnected, and with many more moments of hope on the horizon.

Every blessing to you all,

Lorna

## Return to church buildings

The pattern for worship will be as follows

	<b>8am Holy Communion</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in month	none	Hunton, Holy Communion	Online + HC
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month	Linton	West Farleigh, Morning prayer + Communion	Online
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month	none	East Farleigh, Holy Communion <i>and</i> Hunton, Family Service	Online + HC
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in month	East Farleigh	Linton, Morning Prayer + Communion	Online
Each Thursday: Coxheath, BCP Holy Communion at 10am			

All online services are at <https://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

## West Farleigh in Bloom



The cherry blossom is looking lovely and the good news is that our new saplings behind the cricket pavilion are growing and have blossom on them too.



Thanks to all of you who contacted us about your bee-attracting plants – we are still building our beeline so if you haven't

already, please let us know at [bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:bloom@thefarleighs.co.uk)

Kent's Plan Bee have published a guide to growing insect-friendly garden which may help with your planting:

**Spring** – wallflowers, hawthorn, dandelion, sweet williams, aubretia, lungwort, sweet alyssum, cow parsley

**Summer** – borage, fennel, lavender, rosemary, cornflower, honeysuckle, buddleia, poppy, brambles, cosmos, cow parsley, field scabious

**Autumn** – heather, carrots, dahlia, mint, marjoram, yarrow, fennel, ivy, michaelmas daisy

Hopefully everyone has been busy planting their sunflowers too .....

**COMING SOON** .... A new information board for the village – watch this space!

## GOODBYE CHRIS

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Christine Furlonger. Chris lived in Charlton Lane for 40 plus years and was a well-loved member of the community. A keen WI member, Trustee and treasurer of The Farleighs' WI Hall. A keen amateur performer, she and her pals put on entertaining shows for care homes, the WI and one year, performed at the Harvest Supper and upset the vicar, with their leotards and fishnet stockings. (Not seemly in church!) But it was great fun!



She had bravely fought and appeared to be winning a battle with cancer, but unfortunately it was not to be won. Several of her neighbours and WI friends stood on the Green to see her off and wish her love and peace. Her coffin was a wicker casket decorated with pink roses. Chris would have approved!

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## THE GARDEN IN JUNE

Sara Cushing



After a very difficult start to the growing season, it seems we're finally away! The unusually consistent, late frosts don't seem to have affected fruit formation, and though we've had to plant bits out later than we all expected, I'm confident it will all catch up quickly.

June is an incredibly busy time in the garden. As well as hardening off any remaining bedding plants, deadheading flowering plants such as sweet peas or roses need to be kept on top of to encourage repeat flowering. Tall perennials need to be staked, if this hasn't been done already with this ridiculous wind that's been whipping through! Fuschia can be pinched out to encourage bushier growth.



In the veg patch, potatoes and leeks should continue to be earthed up to encourage growth, and side shoots should be pinched out of tomatoes to encourage a single stem and larger fruiting trusses. If you have a larger side shoot from the base, these can be potted on to make another plant. Thin out any carrots, parsnips, leeks etc to encourage bigger growth.

Inevitably, the pests have started up again, with ants and slugs being the main issues. Though I haven't found an efficient organic way of dealing with ants (I use bait traps rather than powder), I can totally recommend ferric phosphate-based products for slugs, rather than the old metaldehyde pellets. They totally disappear with no slime trail, and the iron feeds the plants! Anything with a multiple use and no chemical is always a winner in my book!

Happy gardening

## OLIVER NORTH HOUSE

Many Lifeline readers will have passed Oliver North House in Charlton Lane and may have wondered on the choice of name.

Oliver North was the Vicar of West Farleigh for 50 years, from 1675 to 1726 and his devoted service to the community was widespread.

He founded the almshouses in the village and left money to keep them in good repair, and gave land to provide income with which to continue their maintenance. The whole operation was virtually a double act of kindness as he bought the property from a man who was in financial difficulties and made him and his family the first tenants.

He also sought to enrich the local landscape by planting the yews in the churchyard and a row of ash trees just outside the churchyard, although these have now gone. A double row of limes was planted at the Vicarage, he also built the Vicarage Barn and improved the Vicarage which has subsequently been sold.

The almshouses and land were sold to Maidstone Borough Council in the mid 1960's and a block of 6 flats was built and named Oliver North House. The proceeds from the sale was used to build Northcote, a bungalow towards the bottom of Charlton Lane. Maidstone Borough Council subsequently transferred the flats to Golding Homes.

One of the early residents of Oliver North House was Mrs Amy Reffell whose husband George lost his life during the Great War and whose name is included on the memorial in All Saints Church, West Farleigh. Her son, also George and his wife lived across the road in Sunhyl and some years later, George was a tenant of Northcote.

If any readers know of any history of the village, that would be of interest to our readers, do let the editors know. [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk)

## REPORTS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

### Sports Report:

#### Football



After a bright start our 2nd X1 have hit the buffers and have not picked up a single point since last month's issue! We began the month with a cup semi-final versus Peshurst, after going down 1-0 in the first half, Farleigh recovered to equalise 15 mins from time, then we had the opportunity to finish the tie but missed an open goal! Then with extra time looming Peshurst scored a lastminute winner, so we went down 2-1.

Unfortunately for the lads this was followed by three league defeats against Green Street Rovers 3-0, Tatsfield 5-2 and another 5-2 score line versus Horsmonden. Let's hope we can buck the trend in our last three games.

#### Netball



Our girls have done well since the resumption of the league, we started with two narrow defeats by Lynx and Sensations, both by just three goals. They also lost to the Mixers and Attack Heat. Finally, our one and only League victory in our club this month, a fantastic and nail biting 12-11 win over the Hospice Hoopers.

#### Cricket



We started our season with two friendlies, beating East Sutton and Southborough, however we haven't carried it through to the start of the league season. Our first X1 losing to Kemsing and Hadlow, while our 2nd X1 also lost to Hadlow. The fixture versus Locksbottom was cancelled due to the weather.

#### Ton Up Club

Our luck ton-up winners for last month were:-

6	Wendy Stockwell	£30
49	Bill Emptage	£20
79	Keith Dalton	£10

Have a good month

Yours in sport *Tel*



This month we had a lovely lady who explained and taught us some moves of Qigong. I had never heard of this type of yoga but found it was fascinating and very enjoyable. Elaine taught us how to breathe while doing exercise, getting rid of the stress and bring in the calm. She informed us that she is available on line for full sessions for beginners if we wanted to find out more. This month is going to be an inhouse meeting with the business and information of the WI followed by a fun quiz. We hope that we will be opening up in July for members on the 14th July 2021 if you wish to join us with an interesting meeting and a cream tea after, please ring me. Looking forward to hearing from you Pam 07711 590402.

#### EVERGREENS



The Evergreens are very keen to get back together again. They are all doing their best to stay cheerful and positive, but isolation, boredom and loneliness is beginning to affect them all. The thought of meeting together again, is keeping them going. It is hoped that we can meet together on the 22nd June for a Fish and Chip lunch. It was looking very likely, but the new Indian variant might change things. We will stay positive!

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## LOCAL TRADES LISTINGS (neighbours who can help you)

Business name	Business service	Website	Contact name	Phone no	email
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No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	<a href="mailto:nomuckinabout@outlook.com">nomuckinabout@outlook.com</a>
Heathside Electrical	Electrical	<a href="http://www.heathsideelectrical.co.uk">www.heathsideelectrical.co.uk</a>	Sam Sephton	07976 895001	<a href="mailto:heathsideelectrical@gmail.com">heathsideelectrical@gmail.com</a>
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Pest Purge	Pest Control	<a href="http://www.pestpurge.co.uk">www.pestpurge.co.uk</a>	Richard Lee	01622 842481 or 07758 615101	<a href="mailto:richard@pestpurge.co.uk">richard@pestpurge.co.uk</a>
Top Dog fencing	Fencing and Gates		Sam Morton	07709 530166	<a href="mailto:Topdogmaintenance@icloud.com">Topdogmaintenance@icloud.com</a>
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## FARLEIGH FEATHERS

### The Farleighs' Dr Dolittle

When a pigeon squab tumbled out of its nest three storeys up in Maidstone's Bank Street, life's odds were suddenly stacked against it. Naked but for a few downy tufts, and barely recognisable as the offspring of the Chaplinesque adults that strut their stuff pecking at morsels of discarded takeaways, it soon drew the attention of concerned passers-by. "Is it dead?" "Someone call the RSPCA!" were two of the more constructive responses.

As returning it to its nest was not an option, 'Banksy' was promptly scooped up, stowed in a handbag and transported to The Farleighs' very own Dr Dolittle. AKA Gary.

Known not just for his patience and ingenuity, but also his fascination for doves, Gary set himself the onerous task of raising Banksy as any pigeon parent would - on pigeon milk.



Unlike other birds' practice of carrying insect food, usually wriggling or regurgitated, to their young, pigeons secrete a nutritious liquid from special skin cells in their throat. The nestlings probe the parent's gape to drink it. A packet of budgie seed was not an option.

Setting-to with a latex glove, elastic band and tiny jam pot, Gary quickly replicated the oral serving hatch Banksy craved, dispensing a liquified blend of a fifty percent fruit-based wild bird seed mix and fifty percent peanuts, water and a drop of cider vinegar. With regular feeding, day and night, our orphan started to thrive. Plumage grew steadily – starting with feathers 'in pin' as the quills emerged, hedgehog-like, from the skin, producing the soft, coloured vanes as they developed. The pathetic cries for food gradually became less frequent, eventually allowing Gary a full night's sleep.

Four weeks later, Banksy not only looks like the town pigeon he is, he's growing into a splendidly brown and white specimen and has even taken his first hesitant flight. Unlikely ever to return fully to the wild, he is steadily finding his feet as a human family member, while eyeing the local flock of white doves feeding outside the window. Perhaps, one day ....

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Martin Moy, Jill Morgan and Helen Swan were elected, unopposed, as parish councillors for West Farleigh. The Parish council will be looking to co-opt new members to the council.

Retrospective planning permission has been granted for the deluxe blue horse shelter in the hollow.

The council is still very much aware of speeding issues on Lower Road and trying to find ways (legal) that can be employed.

The community spirit of the village, especially during lockdown has not gone unnoticed. The shopping, the lifts to appointments, the phone call to our elderly neighbours has continued throughout.

Assuming that the lifting of Covid restrictions in June will happen, the Parish Council are organising a Village Picnic on the Green. An opportunity to mix and mingle with our neighbours. Remember VE Day! The GI will put on a Barbecue and we are hoping to have some music. It can't possibly rain, there will be none left in the sky!

There are picnic tables on the Green and there will be some plastic tables and chairs, but it would be good if the younger villagers could bring a blanket to sit on.

There is limited parking round the Green, so please walk if you can.

More information in next month's Lifeline.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES – SUBJECT TO COVID RULES!

(Yes, there are some at long last!)

**Friday 25th June**  
6pm

### **ANNUAL VILLAGE CRICKET MATCH** The President's XI versus the rest



*Photo: Ed Boyd*

**ALL SPECTATORS WELCOME**  
Barbecue (we take cards) & bar  
and a raffle with **amazing prizes**:-  
Tickled Trout overnight stay for two  
Tickled Trout Sunday lunch for 2 people  
£50 cash  
Good Intent voucher  
£10 meat voucher from Woods  
Plus, children's prizes.

**Sunday 27th June**

### **SMITHS HALL OPEN GARDEN**

11-5

Admission £5 children free  
Homemade Afternoon teas  
Dog and wheelchair friendly  
Lots of garden "rooms".  
Woodland and meadow walk.



**Saturday 10th July**  
3-5

### **PARISH PICNIC**

Come and meet up on the Green with all those neighbours  
you have not seen for months  
We have not had a good natter since VE day!

**Friday 16th July**  
7pm

### **DOCTOR JAZZ**

In the church with a donations bar  
Tickets £12 from 07710 442971 or better on line at  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dr-jazz-tickets-156523789869>

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August**  
From 2.30

**TEA AND CAKES IN THE GARDEN**  
At Greenoaks, Charlton Lane.  
**in aid of BREAST CANCER NOW**

# ALL SAINTS AND YOU



The ministry team



The churchyard



LIFELINE



The church in our village is **tenaciously** supported by a few regular churchgoers and **widely** supported by 100+ others. In the last 10 years, it has developed as a hall, and it puts on community events which are well attended.

### This has been successful

So it has funded its running costs of £23,000 (includes the costs of printing this newsletter, maintaining the church and churchyard and the costs of our rector, curate, & youth worker without whom we have no services, no weddings and no Little Angels).

### Until COVID-19

No rental income (£3,380), no community events (£3,327). In 2020 All Saints lost over £6,000.

### How can you help?

- Join in our events
- Advertise in LIFELINE
- Donate (today or even better monthly)

### Every penny helps!

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For donation details

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7 pm **SAT 12<sup>th</sup> October**,  
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Village cricket match

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**SAT 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**  
AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, W FARLEIGH

2pm Tower history hour  
3pm onwards Choir and concertine  
4.30pm onwards Full afternoon tea

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