

# Grapevine

September 2017

I was born in the mid-1950s and during a career in IT saw the transition from computers that filled basements to the desktop personal computer. I was involved in making that happen in the company I worked for in the 1980s and loved it. I embrace technology, believing it to simply be a tool which is neutral and the good and bad of it coming from how it is used. I've held on to that view, but it is very shaky now. Further developments saw the introduction of the internet (I was privileged to see an early version before it was made public) and the rapid miniaturisation of electronics which have resulted in the smartphone and tablet. I have welcomed all of this with enthusiasm. As somebody who likes being informed, I also enjoyed the availability of news at the touch of a button, and signed up for social media with relish, not being an avid 'poster' but an avid feed reader. I also loved the immediacy of the medium, knowing what world leaders were saying before it made the main stream media. These last six months, or maybe longer, have caused me a great deal of angst, however. The stuff I read (making a conscious effort to follow those with whom I disagree as well as agree for balance) has become more personal, more pointed, more sarcastic, more nasty, more intolerant of other's perspectives, more insulting, more .... dispiriting I suppose. It also made me feel powerless – all these people to whom I am exposed will not be influenced by me (and often just escalate the offensive remarks if challenged) and I turned to prayer. I was reminded of this, from the Bible: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” and “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things ... And the God of peace will be with you.” (Ephesians 4:29 and Philippians 4:8-9)

So, the social media is off, at least for a season, whilst I follow that advice from St. Paul and seek to ponder the pure and noble things of life.

Many blessings,  
Peter

## PARISH NEWS

### East Farleigh Parish Church Services for September 2017

Date	Time	Service
3rd	9.30	Matins Peter Callway
5 <sup>th</sup>	6.45pm	Compline Pat Moore
10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Holy Communion Peter Callway
	11.00	Family Service Eileen Doyle
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30	Sung Eucharist David Jones
24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Holy Communion Peter Callway
	10.00	Morning Prayer George Moore

#### **Rev Peter Callway,**

Rector:

01622 747570

for Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals, not Fridays

#### **Rev David Jones,**

Hon. Associate Rector

01622 741474

not Fridays

#### **Rev Eileen Doyle,**

Associate Rector

01622 204241

not Mondays and Tuesdays

#### **Becky Parnham,**

Children and Families Worker 07949

646885

#### **George Moore**

Church Warden

01622 204874

george-n-pat@blueyonder.co.uk

#### **Allan Springett**

Archivist

01622 74934

### **Coxheath Church Fete**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**1.30pm free entry**

on the grassed area around the church.

Entertainment, Strawberry Teas, BBQ,

Local Produce

Raffle, Tombola, Crockery Smash,

Coconut Shy and much more.

Come and join in the fun

### **COFFEE MORNING**

Come and enjoy a coffee or tea

raffle, homemade cakes,

jams & marmalade

aprons bags etc., handmade

cards

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**11-12.30**

Old School Hall

### **SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE UPDATE**

At the time of going to print we have one person participating in the **Friends of Kent Churches Ride and stride on September 9<sup>th</sup>** on behalf of East Farleigh Church. There are sponsors forms available in church or from me.

Anyone interested in taking part, please contact me on 01622 727142

**Judy Salway**

## ***Ancient cedar tree saved***



The cedar tree that stood in the west churchyard for over 100 years tragically lost a major branch in June has been saved by the skill of a team from *Down to Earth Trees Ltd.* The failed branch which it is estimated weighed approximately 7-8 tons, has been cut up into manageable size logs and taken away. The remaining two trunks of the tree are still standing and have been linked to provide support and the top branches have been lightened by the removal of a number of smaller branches to give stability. It is hoped that this remedial work will enable this old cedar tree to stand for many more years to come.



## **DO YOU HAVE A FARLEIGH PIPPIN TREE IN YOUR GARDEN?**

We (my husband and myself) have a fruit tree nursery where we preserve traditional (and sometimes very rare) varieties of fruit which are no longer easily obtainable. We have found a number of interesting old varieties in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, but of course there are many in other counties. Many of these old trees are far better than modern ones, as they were suitable for the home-gardener, rather than developed for the large commercial grower who sells to supermarkets. One interesting old variety of apple which was last mentioned in 1884 in 'The Fruit Manual' by Robert Hogg, was Farleigh Pippin. This was a late-season eating apple, ripe in October, which dates from the end of the 18th century. No-one gives details of where it was first grown, except that it came from Farleigh in Kent. It was described by several 19th century authors as medium sized, rather long, with five distinct ribs which were particularly prominent around the eye. The eye was deeply set. The skin was green (or green-yellow) in the shade, but brownish red in the sun, with darker markings. The flesh was green, crisp, juicy and sweet. According to Hogg, it was richly flavoured, and, as he had tasted thousands of apples, his good opinion counts. The tree is vigorous, with an upright habit, and gives abundant crops. Farleigh Pippin was also sometimes used as a cider sweet. It is quite likely that someone in Farleigh has an old tree in their garden without knowing its identity, so we thought that it might be worth telling you about this, as the apple season is approaching. I suppose people already know about the Farleigh Damson, which is still fairly easily available from specialist growers

Our website is <http://www.bernwodeplants.co.uk/index.htm> in case anyone wants to know more about us.

If you think you may have one of these, or if you know anything more about them, please contact Judy Tolman at Bernwode Fruit Trees [bernwode@xln.co.uk](mailto:bernwode@xln.co.uk)

## **TICKING ROBINS**

In September most robins will have finished their annual moult. Unlike human hair, birds' feathers are 'dead' once they have emerged, and cannot grow to repair damage from sunlight or abrasion from hard surfaces. So, adults replace every feather on their body after breeding, and this year's juveniles also moult their breast feathers to acquire the full badge of adult plumage. And this is when trouble starts, as both male and female robins are territorial throughout the year. So, resplendent in their new feathers, all robins will be making the ticking sound that lets others know they are there, and the dominant birds will puff out their chests to intimidate those further down the pecking order – often dive-bombing them to drive them out of the territory. *Ray*

## **EVERGREENS**

Evergreens is a club for the retired in East and West Farleigh. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the W.I.Hall East Farleigh 2.30 – 4.30.

There may be a speaker or even an outing. We always finish with home-made afternoon tea. If you would like to join us ring Helen 814445.Or for a lift Terry 814561

<p><b>W.I.COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF MACMILLANS</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 11.00 – 1.30</b> <b>W.I.HALL FORGE LANE E.FARLEIGH</b></p>
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## ***Grapevine* Distributor wanted**

Our distributor in Workhouse Lane has decided after many years to give up. This leaves a vacancy for someone who is willing to spend about half an hour a month distributing *Grapevine* in this area. If you would like to help out please get in touch with George on: 01622 204874 or [george-n-pat@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:george-n-pat@blueyonder.co.uk)

## **Farmers' Market**

The August Farmers' Market suffered a few problems with several stallholders unable to attend due to last minute emergencies.

We welcomed COMMUNIGROW, a charity from East Malling who brought along a selection of their produce including squashes, beans, potatoes, onions and beetroot. We hope they will be able to join us at least for the next two months while we have no regular greengrocery stall. The volunteers were delighted to sell about £30 worth of produce to our customers!

The market recently donated £80 from the June market to MAIDSTONE RED CROSS which will be used to support local projects.

The September market will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 1pm. More stalls will be in attendance, but Le Berger French Delicatessen will be on holiday. Low Wood Nursery will be back with their wonderful range of plants and shrubs, as will Marianne's Kitchen offering delicious home-made tarts, quiches and almond croissants. Treat yourself to a full English brunch in the kitchen for just £4.50, or coffee and cake as an alternative treat!

## **W.I. AUGUST REPORT**

At our August meeting we had an artist, Alan College, to talk to us not only about how he became an artist but to also show us how he produces a picture by drawing, colouring and painting. I am not an artist but I was enthralled with the way he works. He held everyone's attention, and after he had finished he had many questions from the members. He brought his cards of various sizes that he had drawn and had printed which went down well.

**Future events.** Harvest Festival in September with Chicory Tips as the entertainment. Tickets still

Available. We have Art Classes, Craft Classes and on **28<sup>th</sup> September** MacMillan Coffee morning. Please come and join us. **Open to all raising money for a good charity.**

If you would like to come to one of our meetings then please come to the Farleighs W.I. Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm or ring Pam Lindon 01622 726337 for more information.

If anyone is interested in hiring the hall please call Karen Malins on 01622 920257

## **OLD SCHOOL HALL**

Gary and I need to apologise to anyone who has been disturbed or inconvenienced by any of the parties we've had in the hall in the last few weeks. We've always been wary of late teenage/21<sup>st</sup> parties so haven't taken them without first speaking to an adult who has promised to take responsibility. However, recently we've had damage, loss and upset because the responsible adults have been unable to control what the party has turned into, or occasionally because parties of this kind have crept in under our radar. We have now decided that we will no longer accept such parties under any circumstances, and if a party is booked under false pretences then on the day we will eject the bookers and their guests. Again... apologies.

Mandy (07703 525138) and Gary (07985 377585)

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