

# WELCOME TO EAST FARLEIGH

**E**ast Farleigh lies approximately two miles south-west of Maidstone on the southern slopes of the River Medway. The area is mainly agricultural with apple and pear orchards.

Previously hops were grown on a large scale and pickers would come to East Farleigh particularly from the London area where they would live in small huts that can still be seen by the bridge.

In 1849 forty three strangers died of cholera and a wooden cross was erected in their memory in the churchyard.

The Ancient Parish Church of East Farleigh was founded in 961 and has been enlarged over the centuries.

The Normans re-built the church and there is a fine Norman arch over the doorway leading to the tower at the west end.

A major restoration was carried out in 1891 when the lych gate was erected and the bells were augmented to a ring of six. In 1979 to commemorate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, two treble bells were added.

Two of the vicars were sons of William Wilberforce, the slave trade reformer whose wife, with other members of the family, is buried in the churchyard.

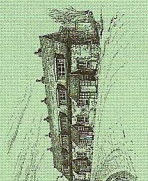
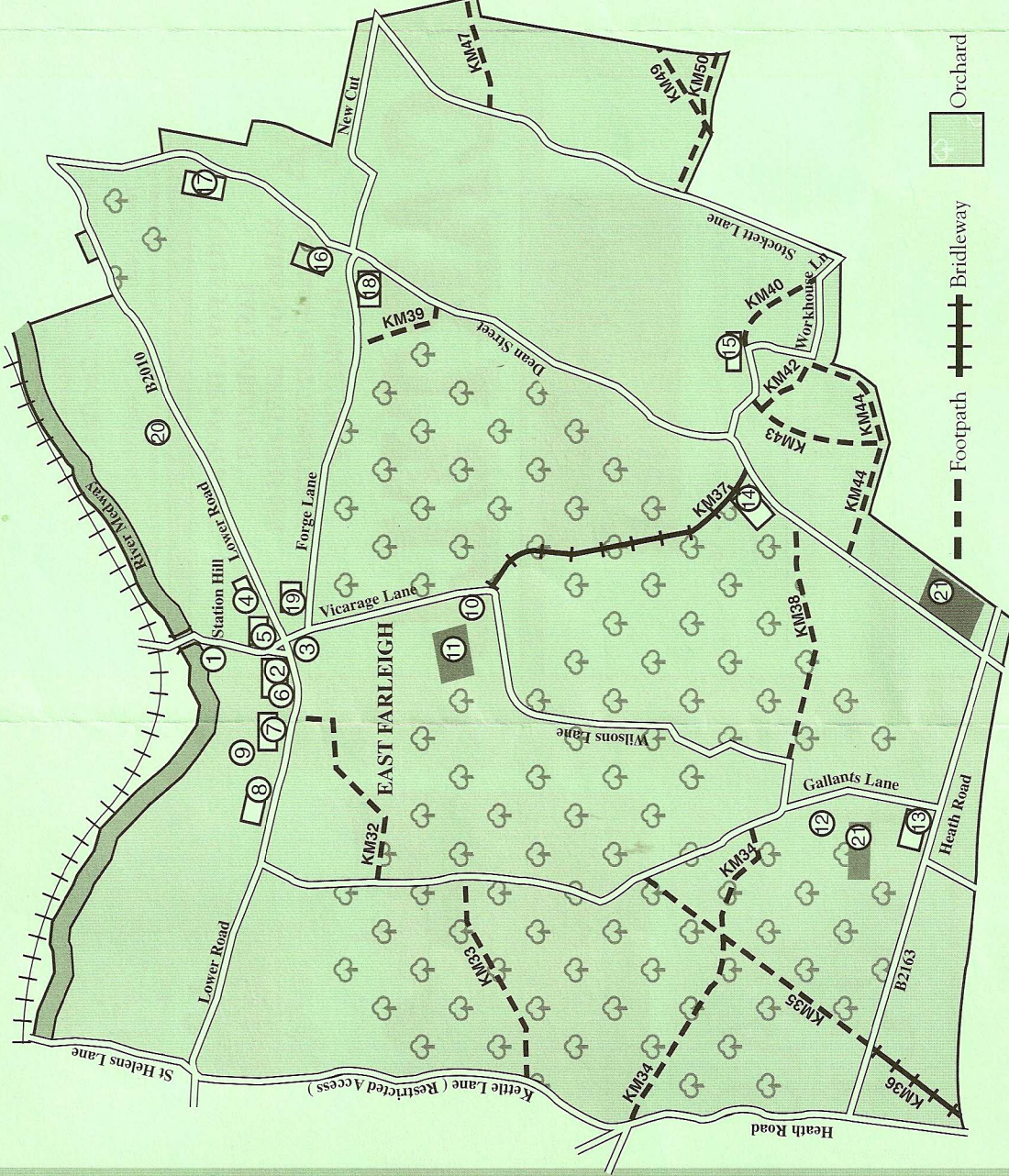
The five arched medieval bridge across the River Medway is a scheduled ancient monument and is one of the finest bridges in the south of England.

In 1648 General Thomas Fairfax led the parliamentary troops across the bridge on his way to defeating the Royalist supporters of Maidstone.

The Court Lodge Dovecote, Lower Road, part of Court Lodge Farm was demolished in 1934.

**KEY:**

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Medieval Bridge             | 12. Airey Houses rebuilt  |
| 2. Church                      | 13. The Victoria PH       |
| 3. Triangle                    | 14. The Horseshoes PH     |
| 4. Village Shop                | 15. Almshouses restored   |
| 5. The Bull PH                 | 16. Oast Houses converted |
| 6. Church Hall                 | 17. White Lion PH         |
| 7. Oast Houses converted       | 18. Walnut Tree PH        |
| 8. Farleigh Forge Garage       | 19. Farleighs Hall        |
| 9. Hartridge Farm Caravan Site | 20. The Priory Estate     |
| 10. E.F. Primary School        | 21. Recreation Ground     |
| 11. Recreation Ground          |                           |



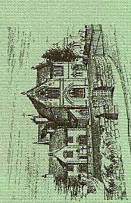
MEDIEVAL BRIDGE



VILLAGE TRIANGLE



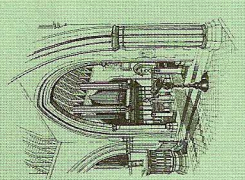
CHURCH



OLD SCHOOL HOUSE



THE BULL PH (1871)



CHURCH