

# GRAPEVINE

## MARCH 2021

### EAST FARLEIGH

---



Gallants Lane, East Farleigh



Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their love and support at this very sad time. Here is a little insight into my Dad's life.

Dad was born at Pembury Hospital on Friday, 3rd January 1964 to parents Jean and Frank Dunmill of Burston Road, Coxheath. He had an older brother Alan and a younger sister Caron. They moved to Capell Close, Coxheath then Holmesdale Close, Loose in 1974. He attended Coxheath Primary School and The Cornwallis Secondary School, Linton where he met his future wife Susan Clarke in 1978. They met up again in 1984, got engaged in 1985 and married in 1986 at Sutton Valence Church. They set up home in Lords Wood then Vinters Park in 1993 and finally Sutton Valence in 2017. Their son Craig was born in 1989. After leaving school he worked at Chart Sutton Dog Kennels for 6 months until his dad told him to find a proper job which is when he started work for the Royal Mail as a postal cadet on the 8th December, 1980. A job he would do for the next 40 years firstly at Wyke Manor Road and Sandling Road, Maidstone then finally at Bircholt Road, Parkwood. He spent over 20 years as an East Farleigh postman. He was a member of the Bearsted and Thurnham Working Mens Club for many years playing in the Maidstone and District Snooker League since the 1980s. His other loves were Reggae Music, especially UB40, Spitfires, Tigers and not forgetting...Dogs!! He was a kind, gentle and loving family man who would do anything for anyone. Dad's kind heart just had no limits. He had just celebrated his 57th birthday and was taken ill the day after with coronavirus. Sadly he passed away nearly 4 weeks later. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was our world and we were his and life will never be the same again.

Susan & Craig Dunmill

# **-PARISH NEWS-**

Revd. Peter Callway, Rector  
Thanksgivings, Weddings & Funerals  
01622 747570 *Unavailable Fridays*

Revd. Lorna Faulkner  
Assistant Curate  
01622 439304

Revd. David Jones, Hon Associate Rector  
01622 741474  
*Unavailable Fridays*

George Moore, Church Warden  
01622 204874  
george-n-pat@blueyonder.co.uk

April Grapevine issue deadline – 18<sup>th</sup> March  
beckii\_richford@hotmail.com 07702 551745

Becky Parnham  
Children & Families Worker  
07949 646865

*16th February Funeral Service with Burial in the Churchyard, Norma Janet Penfold  
Norma's family and friends are in our thoughts and Prayers*

---

## **Nesting Time**

As milder weather returns, birds begin gathering nest material in the garden - small twigs, bits of grass, or pulling moss from the lawn. Blue and great tits can use a prodigious volume of moss for the foundations of their nests, especially if it's in a large nest box. Blackbirds and thrushes weave grass and fine twiglets into a cup shape before lining it with grass, in the case of the blackbird, or a layer of mud (there's no shortage of that) if it's a song thrush. How thrushes do it without plastering themselves with mud I don't know!

What I find truly remarkable is the construction skills of the pair of crows who have nested right at the tip of a mature chestnut tree in our garden for almost ten years. On the top of the ridge, the crown of this tree is rarely still for long, yet our two intrepid builders managed to construct a nest of sturdy twigs that has stood the test of time, needing only an annual bit of DIY to knock it into shape again for each new clutch. But how did they manage to get the very first twig to stay put while they went off to collect the subsequent ones?

We've named our pair Russel and Sheryl Crow. I doubt it's the same pair after ten years, but every summer they, or their successors, have managed to fledge young. It's fascinating to watch their courtship as it's about the only time you can work out who is Russel and who is Sheryl. Sexes are identical, so can only be told apart in the breeding season. Males are slightly larger than females, but to use that method you need to catch them to take the measurements of wings, legs and depth of bill. That's not easy - I've tried setting a special trap, but they are always one step ahead of me!

So, for yet another year, I will have to study them closely while eating my breakfast, hoping to catch the moment when their behaviour will demonstrate who is who. Not that it will be a lot of good as, being identical in appearance, as soon as they separate, I'll be none the wiser again!

Returning to the tits. I'm often asked if it's helpful to put out nest material for them. It's something I did for many years, until I started to check the progress of nesting attempts of swallows in stables. They made use of the plentiful horsehair to line their nests and it was not unusual to find chicks tangled in it. On two occasions when a brood had fledged, I found a pathetic corpse hanging by its neck on horsehair. Tits in nests with sheep's wool can also get entangled. So, I leave nature to its own devices. If birds can't find enough nesting material in your garden or nearby, they almost certainly won't be able to find enough food for their chicks.

Fortunately, Russel and Sheryl make do with leaves.

**Ray Morris**

**East Farleigh Church Services  
March 2021**



**Details of weekly Church service at  
10.30 Sunday mornings:**

**Computer, tablet or smartphone:**  
<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

**By 'phone**  
**Dial 0203 051 2874**  
**Enter 185124308#**  
**Enter #**  
**(Cost of a call is standard cost to a  
geographic number.)**

*NO CHURCH SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

World Day of Prayer 7.30pm zoom service On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The service is entitled 'Build on a Strong Foundation' and has been prepared by Christian Women of Vanuatu.

<http://bit.ly/VanuatuDayofPrayer>

**or**

World Day of Prayer

Time: Mar 5, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81619142059?pwd=dXZ3cTBMUDhuOU9QTjQxdV0rSi9mZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 1914 2059

Passcode: 316

Do you sometimes feel you're caught in some kind of time warp? Or living the experience of 'Groundhog Day'? How do we experience time, particularly when our normal routines have been disrupted? Has our sense of time somehow collapsed? With fewer 'landmarks' in our lives, it's sometimes even difficult to remember which day of the week it is.

In our Western culture we tend to view time as linear, with a definitive beginning and end. We talk about wasting, spending and saving time, so as time is viewed as limited in supply, we structure our lives by milestones and deadlines. We think of time as a road along which we proceed, with life referred to as a 'journey', and death as the 'end of the road'. We imagine ourselves as having travelled along the part of the road that is behind us (the past) and we see the untrodden path of the future stretching out in front of us.

Our culture is also predominantly 'monochronic'; that is, we prefer to do only one thing at a time, to concentrate on it and do it within a fixed schedule. This is how we think we get more things done — and more efficiently. Others perceive time differently. More importance is placed on doing things in the right way and maintaining harmony, rather than worrying about getting things done 'on time'. The driving forces are not schedules or punctuality, but the view of the present reality being more important than appointments. Priority is given to the relative excitement or significance of each human encounter as this is seen as the best use of time.

In some Eastern cultures, time is viewed neither as linear nor relationship related, but as cyclic. Each day the sun rises and sets, the seasons follow one another, people grow old and die, but their children reconstitute the process. This cycle has gone on for 100,000 years and more, so cyclical time is not a scarce commodity. There's a saying 'when God made time, He made plenty of it'.

Where does God fit into our perceptions of time? As Christians we believe that God is eternal — a challenging concept, and personally I find the 'always has been' aspect harder than the 'always will be' part. But God is also 'temporal' in that he exists at each moment in time. He also intervenes in our time. Many stories in the Bible point to this, most specifically the pivotal event of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Whatever challenges we currently face as we struggle with using our time, worrying about our future, or regretting the past, we can believe that God is alongside us, sharing our time here on earth, and beyond.

**Alison Callway**

**BULLET POINT SUMMARY ARISING FROM EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ONLINE via 'ZOOM' Meeting ID 965 1035 7078**

**On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 @ 7.15pm**

Please note that these bullet points (taken from the minutes) are not yet approved by Council when published in The Grapevine.

**EAST FARLEIGH MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

JANUARY 2021 (As presented to Council at the 2<sup>nd</sup> February meeting)

Information provided by: PSCO Paul Vasey Maidstone Community Safety Unit

**Crimes of note:**

NONE

**Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:**

Gallants Lane – Road Traffic Collision - 22/01/2021

Dean Street – Road Traffic Collision - 19/01/2021

Stockett Lane – Road Traffic Collision - 15/01/2021

Vehicle Theft – Dean Street - 13/01/2021

Dean Street – Road Traffic Collision - 03/01/2021

**Good Work:**

Good Liaison with Parish Council

Regular patrols of East Farleigh and Liaison with residents

Liaison with Parish Council clerk and landowner re hedge cutting which resulted in a good outcome

Regular patrols of Lower Road and Dean Street to deter speeding

For more information about policing in your area, visit: [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit: [www.kent.police.uk/contactus](http://www.kent.police.uk/contactus)

**At the beginning of the meeting, prior to discussing matters on the Agenda, the Chairman asked for 1 minute's silence in remembrance of dedicated village postman, Paul Dunmill, who was a much loved and respected member of our community. Our thoughts are with his family and close friends.**

**Thoughts were also for Capt. Tom Moore, a national hero**

---

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Under local Government guidelines, all meetings will be conducted on-line until such time as normal meetings may resume– the link will be posted on the Agendas where appropriate – Agendas are published on the East Farleigh Parish Website & Face Book, village notice boards and social media.

**AGENDA ITEMS & MATTERS RAISED**

- Review of Planning Committee: All Planning Committee items (incl. planning applications, enforcement issues, planning appeals etc.) can be viewed on the Planning Committee Agendas/Minutes which are published on the East Farleigh Parish Website, Notice Boards and other social media : <http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>
- New Councillor Canvassing/Elections: At the moment there are no plans to postpone the Elections again this year – scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May. As some current Councillors are stepping down in May, now is the time to consider how you can help the village and become a Councillor. It is vital for the survival of the Parish Council that there are members of the community willing to support the village in delivery of services, improving quality of life for residents and giving communities a democratic voice. You CAN make a difference 😊 Please contact the Clerk for information.
- **Call for Sites:**  
Parishioners are reminded that updated information can be found on the Parish Website: <http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/> (and other social media). Please share this information with family and friends who do not have access to the internet.

**CONTINUED....**



- **Speedwatch** is still “on hold” because of COVID restrictions and safety concerns for volunteers. A repeat Traffic Survey has been requested but reply has still not been received. Police have been asked for extra support/speed checks around the village. It was agreed to forge ahead and fund police deployment at specific times of day and at different locations to try and deal with the problem traffic. An Extraordinary Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March to Approve the proposal (see notices on the EFPC Website, notice boards, FB and Nextdoor).
- **Lorry Watch Scheme** – Ongoing and on hold for now because of COVID restrictions.
- **Highways:** Councillors are actively seeking further meetings with Highways to resolve several issues around East Farleigh, such as repairs to wear & tear of road surfacing and white road markings.
- **EF Primary School requested footpath clearance to allow access via main school gate:**  
In the past, highways were consulted on this matter and it was deemed unsafe to encourage or allow pedestrians to use the vehicle entrance and, therefore, EFPC are unable to make further comments and cannot approve this request.
- **Vegetation/tree/hedge overgrowth:** It was again noted that there is significant overgrowth encroaching on some public footpaths around the village. These have been reported to Highways. Residents are reminded that if the overgrowth stems from the landowner’s property, it is their responsibility to cut back the overgrowth so that public pathways/highways are kept clear.  
The Parish Council is also in discussion with Highways about the upkeep and maintenance of the pedestrian footpaths around the village.
- **Litter/Flytipping:** It was noted that there is an increasing amount of litter around the verges in the village. A kind resident took it upon himself to do some litter picking and the Council would like to extend their thanks for his help. However, as some lanes do not have suitable pavements, residents are advised to err on the side of caution if they wish to personally undertake such action. The Parish Council will be asking the maintenance contractors to look carefully at the litter picking they carry out and EFPC have approved some signs “Take your litter home with you” to try and make people more aware of their responsibilities.
- **Diffusion Tubes:** It was noted that the report from MBC regards the Air Pollution Monitoring (Diffusion Tubes) has not yet been received. The Clerk is to chase for the information.
- **Flood Plan/Defibrillators:** It was confirmed that the recommendations regarding emergency use of the Old School Hall in a flood incident or defibrillators in an emergency, then saving and preserving life overrides any COVID restrictions. It was further noted that the recent heavy rains caused some flooding (ie the River Medway Tow Path) but no properties were flooded and no action was necessary.
- **Vicarage Lane Play Area/Village Car Park:** It was agreed to order another load of aggregate for the upkeep of the car park surface and to ask the maintenance contractors (Pearsons Landscapes) to carry out repairs to the VL playground as per their report.
- The Parish Council **Communications Working Party** reported that the new Website is being developed and, hopefully will be in place by the end of March 2021.
- **Parish Council Financial Matters:**  
The Monthly Financial Reports were presented to Councillors.  
All monthly Parish Council Financial reports/matters are published within the Minutes of Meetings (EFPC Website, Notice Boards and other social media sites). Other Financial matters can be found on the Parish Website under the heading “Publication Scheme – What we spend and how we spend it”  
<http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

**Please see the East Farleigh Parish Council website for further updates/information**

**For further information on COVID, please see the following Government website link:**

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

- A reminder that the Local Community Help Group is still assisting people. All information and telephone numbers are on the Parish Website and Notice Boards.
- If you require help, please contact:  
East Farleigh Parish Council Cllr Glyn Charlton (Chairman): 07768 352414  
East Farleigh Parish Clerk, Desiree: 07999 414712

**The next Parish Council meeting will be online on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.15pm**

## WI Report for February

We were lucky to have a Zoom Meeting in February with a lady, Jane Napper who makes chocolate. She showed how to make chocolate with salted caramel fillings, they turned out to look like marble. It was such a shame that we could not taste any of the chocolates, but they did make our mouths water. We will certainly invite her back when we return to the hall for our meetings. Have you ever thought about joining us at our WI, why not come along to our meeting as our guest, of course when we return, meet and talk to the members, join us for some refreshments. We will let you know when we will be able to resume our meeting. If you would like just to have a chat then please ring me Pam on 07711590402.

**YOUR LOCAL  
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**  
MAKE A CHANGE  
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

inalc

# MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

## WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services;
- Improve quality of life for residents;
- Give communities a democratic voice.

## BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve.

Local councillors have three main responsibilities:

- Decision-making;
- Monitoring;
- Getting involved locally.

## GETTING ELECTED

To stand for election to a local council you must be:

- a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union;
- at least 18 years old;
- an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT THE COUNCIL ON:**

*email: [clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk)*

[www.nalc.gov.uk/elections](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/elections)

**CALLING ALL  
COMMUNITY HEROES**

