

GRAPEVINE

APRIL 2021
EAST FARLEIGH



WI Report March

This month we had a virtual meeting with a Lady named Helen Tobias who talked about Princess and Pearls. She explained, the best advice if you have a pearl necklace do not leave it in a safe place but to wear them. The pearls keep their colour in the open and especially wearing them next to your skin. She has been a speaker we have had before and every subject she has given interesting knowledge. Just a thought, what does joining the WI give you, it is all about inspiring women, with knowledge, skills, friendship and variety of experience. There are 195,356 total Memberships in this Country so we must be doing something right. Come and join us, if you require information ring Pam 07711590402.

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

www.nalc.gov.uk/elections



**CALLING ALL
COMMUNITY HEROES**

-CONTACTS-

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

May Grapevine issue deadline – 18th April
beckii_richford@hotmail.com 07702 551745

Becky Parnham
Children & Families Worker
07949 646865

*19th March, Funeral Service with Burial in the Churchyard, Thomas Mills.
Tom's family and friends are in our thoughts and Prayers.*

Coming soon, to an allotment near you...

Picture the scene – as recounted recently by a village allotment holder. You're busily digging in the load of farmyard manure delivered to your plot. You pause to wipe the sweat from your brow when something catches your eye. Looking up, you see them. Three brown birds. Large brown birds. With hooked bills. Curved claws in yellow talons. You hear the rush of air through feathers, barely a wing's length away. Buzzards.

Not what you expect on your allotment. Robins, yes. Blackbirds naturally. Even a pesky woodpigeon or two. But buzzards? They're birds of prey surely; rabbits and that. Even lambs (so you've heard). Wasn't there something in The Sun about them taking a baby from a pram?

But your infants are safe and may be lucky enough to grow up seeing these magnificent creatures at close quarters. Now we are finally recognising these graceful, soaring birds as the harmless small-mammal hunters they are, they are no longer persecuted, apart from by a few rogue gamekeepers on shooting estates. So, they are once again becoming a familiar part of our countryside. No hot summer day is complete without their mewing calls as they spiral upwards on thermals or pass food to each other as part of their mating rituals.

Nesting as they do in small clumps of trees as well as woodland, Hamlet Wood and Quarry Wood, for example, they are adapting to the chequered and increasingly built-up Kentish landscape.

Their claws are actually quite small – a large claw isn't an advantage if you are trying to grab a mouse - but they can manage a young rabbit, or a slow, elderly one. But rabbit numbers fluctuate when disease, like myxomatosis, ravages their population, and the last ten years has seen it decimated by another, rabbit haemorrhagic disease.

So, when food is scarce, what do these large, fierce-looking birds turn to when they're hungry?

Another of their staple foods. Worms. In a ploughed field - or your allotment.

Ray Morris



East Farleigh Church Services April 2021				Details of weekly Church service at 10.30 Sunday mornings:	
Date	Time	Service		Computer, tablet or smartphone: http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice	
<i>Easter Sunday</i> 4 th	8:00am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Peter Callway</i>		By 'phone Dial 0203 051 2874 Enter 185124308# Enter # (Cost of a call is standard cost to a geographic number.)	
18 th	9:30am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Lorna Faulkner</i>			
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 28 th	8:00am	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>David Jones</i>			

As I write this the year ahead seems to be full of hope and the promise of freedom. The Government have released details of their 'roadmap' out of lockdown. The vaccine programme is rolling out faster and more efficiently than was originally expected. Schools have reopened to all pupils and we are seeing the restrictions on our movements slowly being lifted. There is light at the end of the tunnel! Even if it comes with a caveat that the dates are not set in stone but only the earliest at which the next step will be taken; the announcement has given us all hope. It's an indicator that soon we will be able to reconnect with those we have missed and return to a pattern of life free from many of the restrictions we have been living under.

The announcement coincided with the changing of the seasons bringing longer, brighter, warmer days and now we've passed the equinox it's officially Spring. The signs of new life that we see in the natural world fill us with a lighter, more hopeful spirit after the darkness of the winter.

After such a long time separated it is certain we will all be experiencing a mix of emotions. Fear, of what's to come, of being near people again. Sadness, at the time, people and things we have lost. Anxiety, of what if it happens again; what if, what if But there will also be happiness, laughter and tears of joy when we meet up with family and friends again in person rather than through a screen or on the end of a telephone line.

As Christians we will also be celebrating the most hopeful season of our faith this month – Easter. We see the crucifixion of Jesus not as a loss, but as a victory! We can look back at the events of over two thousand years ago, secure in our faith and knowledge that he triumphed over death and rose from the grave to show us the depth of God's love for us all. This is the Christians light at the end of the tunnel, this is where we find hope; and it's the same for everyone who chooses to follow Jesus.

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! Happy Easter! Here's to hope wherever you find it!

Becky

**BULLET POINT SUMMARY ARISING FROM EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ONLINE via 'ZOOM' Meeting ID 980 9622 5849
On Tuesday 2nd March 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

There was no monthly police report for East Farleigh.

For more information about policing in your area, visit: www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit: www.kent.police.uk/contactus

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

- **East Farleigh Parish Website:** EFPC have changed website host and the new website will be “live” from 8th March 2021. The old website will be closed down. The new website address is: www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk
- **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.
- **New Councillor Canvassing/Elections:** There are no plans to postpone the Elections again this year – scheduled for 6th 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.
- **Chairman’s Report 2021:** It was agreed that the Chairman’s Annual Report is to be printed and delivered by hand to households in East Farleigh along with a leaflet encouraging residents to consider becoming a Parish Councillor.
- **Annual Parish Meeting (APM):** It was agreed that the APM should be brought forward to Tuesday 30th March 2021 and be held on-line via Zoom. Councillors also agreed to lobby Helen Grant MP regards questioning the Government’s proposal of resuming “face-to-face” meetings after 7th May.
- **Annual Meeting (of the Parish Council) (AM):** This is a set date after Elections (meeting must be 4-14 days after Elections) – Elections this year are on 6th May so the Annual Meeting date has been scheduled for Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7.15pm.
- **Speedwatch** is still “on hold” because of COVID restrictions and safety concerns for volunteers. There was an Extraordinary Meeting held on 16th February and it was unanimously agreed that Police will be deployed for extra support/speed checks around the village. Times, locations and costs have been approved and, a trial period of 3 months is to be implemented.
- **Highways:** Councillors have a meeting with Highways this month to resolve several issues around East Farleigh: such as repairs to wear & tear of road surfacing, white road markings and follow-up traffic survey.

CONTINUED....

- **Lorry Watch Scheme** – Ongoing and on hold for now because of COVID restrictions.
- **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 who have agreed to “cutting back” where the responsibility lies with Highways. **However, 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. It was reported that some work to the pavements has been completed but more needs to be done.
It was agreed by those present (one Cllr abstained) to ask Solicitors to draft an Agreement between EFPC and a Land Owner over an ongoing hedge dispute.
- **Litter/Flytipping:** The agreed signs were purchased and placed in appropriate places to remind people that “litter clearing has taken place and to take their litter home”.
- **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 provide a quote for playground repairs.
- **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” www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk

COVID-19 UPDATE

Please see the East Farleigh Parish Council website for further updates/information regards the easing of Lockdown.

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 Monthly Parish Council meeting will be online on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.15pm, after the Planning Committee Meeting