

GRAPEVINE

JUNE 2021
EAST FARLEIGH



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

Ray Morris



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July Grapevine issue deadline – 18th June
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WI REPORT - MAY

EFPC would like introduce
some new Councillors
following the May elections;

East Farleigh Parish Council
would like to welcome newly
elected Councillors;
John Wilson – Chair
Adam Palmer

2 returning Councillors were
welcomed and, with thanks for
standing for re-election:
Alexandra Fullwood – Vice
Chair
David Hussein

3 Co-opted members proposed
and unanimously agreed, were
welcomed;
Steve Shearman
Barry Older
Angela Howe

We would like to thank our
outgoing Councillors, Chairman
and Vice Chairman, for all their
hard work and dedication to
EFPC throughout their term off
office.

This week 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 helped us learn how to breathe while doing exercise, getting rid of the stress and bring in the calm. She informed us that she is available online for full sessions for beginners if we wanted to find out more. This month is going to be an in-house 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, Pam 07711 590402. Looking forward to hearing from you.

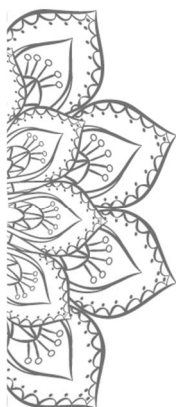
Local Yoga Classes


Tuesday 9.30am
Seasonal Yoga Flow (Zoom)

Friday 10.30am
Seasonal Yoga Flow (In Studio & Zoom)

Tuesday 7.30pm
Yin Yoga (Zoom)

Book here:
<https://app.ubindi.com/Katie.Murphy.9020>
Or contact Katie on:
07871 678370
www.lovebreatheyoga.co.uk



East Farleigh Church Services June 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.)
Date	Time	Service	
20th	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion David Jones</i>	
27th	8:00 am	<i>Holy Communion Peter Callway</i>	

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 11th, and, yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that we will, from Monday 17th, 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**

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May 2021