



**MINUTES OF EAST FARLEIGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON  
TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 AT 19:30PM IN EAST FARLEIGH OLD  
SCHOOL HALL**

Present: Cllr A Fullwood, Cllr S Shearman, Cllr D Hussein, Cllr B Older, Cllr G Ashcroft,  
Cllr D Abbott, Cllr P Tranter

Officer: Clerk, Nina Henley

External Attendees: Cllr S Webb MBC KCC

Apologies: Cllr A Palmer

External Apologies: Cllr L Parfitt-Reid

- 1-APM/23 **Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting by the EFPC Chair Cllr Alex Fullwood**  
Cllr Fullwood thanked all those attending and introduced all the East Farleigh councillors and clerk.
- 2-APM/23 **Apologies for absence**  
Apologies were accepted for Cllr Palmer, Borough Cllr Parfitt-Reid, Peter Beasley (JBLC Allotments, Operation Scarecrow) Hilary Moon (Almshouses) Roseanna Smitherman-Cairnes (Montessori) PCSO Nicola Morris, Ellissa Morris (Brownies) Sarah Shearman (Pre-School), Elizabeth Thomas (HOKH), Jo Dawes (Porchlight)
- 3-APM/23 **Recording of the meeting**  
The Clerk recorded the meeting for EFPC.
- 4-APM/23 **Kent Police Report**  
No report was received from Kent police. Communication was received from Kent police in response to the APM invitation stating that EFPC should attend the Ward Cluster Meetings in order to be informed.
- 5-APM/23 **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting**  
Approval and signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2022.  
Approved and signed as a true record.
- 6-APM/23 **Matters from the previous minutes**  
None.
- 7-APM/23 **Kent County Report**  
Report received from attendee Cllr Simon Webb (items 7 & 8 delivered together)  
Report attached
- 8-APM/23 **Maidstone Borough Council Report**  
Report received from attendee Cllr Simon Webb (items 7 & 8 delivered together)  
Report Attached
- 9-APM/23 **Annual Report for East Farleigh Parish Council**  
Report Delivered by EFPC Chair Alex Fullwood.  
Report attached  
Cllr Tranter reported buses using Gallants Lane which is not a bus route.

**10-APM/23 Reports and representation from local organisations and groups – All reports attached**

- I. Allotments, Speedwatch and Operation Scarecrow  
Report sent in by Peter Beasley attached.
- II. Almshouses  
Report sent in by Richard Yaxley attached.
- III. East Farleigh Parish Church  
Report received from George Moore Church warden attached.  
Cllr Fullwood invited the Church to attend the next council meeting to discuss the issues further.
- IV. Montessori School  
Report sent in by Jeannelle Dening-Smitherman attached.
- V. The Old School Hall  
Report sent in by Gary Hindley attached.
- VI. Fete Committee  
Report received from Adam Palmer attached. Update given by Ian Chapman.
- VII. Evergreens  
Report received from Jill Morgan attached.
- VIII. East Farleigh Brownies  
Report sent in by Ellissa Roberts attached.
- IX. Porchlight  
Report sent in by Jo Dawes attached.
- X. Heart of Kent Hospice  
Report sent in by Elizabeth Thomas attached.
- XI. East Farleigh Preschool  
Report sent in by Sarah Shearman attached.

**11-APM/23 Public Participation**

Member of the public are invited to make statements or ask questions

- I. Member of the public reported the local roads were in a bad state of repair.
- I. Member of the public asked about local publication 'Grapevine' and if there were any plans to deliver a paper copy. The Church warden stated that there were no plans and they were having trouble to get individuals and groups to submit any items.
- II. Member of the public mentioned that there had been door to door collectors for Heart of Kent Hospice. When the resident contacted the Hospice they were told this is a scam and the charity never collects door to door. This was reported to police.
- III. Member of public spoke about the Bull Inn and the old part of the building being medieval and could possibly be listed. EFPC will chase the company to see when any developments will take place.

**12-APM/23 Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting**

To be confirmed

**13-APM/23 Meeting closed 9.03pm**

## **Maidstone Rural West Residents' Update 2022/23**

*Dear Resident,*

It has been my privilege to represent you at County Hall for the last two years.

The second year has been even more challenging than the first, as you all are aware, the war in Ukraine, the sudden rise in inflation, the cost of living crisis and the resultant rises in service, delivery and unit costs have required KCC to undertake some radical financial cuts.

Most recently, KCC is offering to allocate £100 to any household which meets the need criteria. Please access the KCC website to see if any resident you know could qualify.

The aftermath of the COVID pandemic and its variants has seen the pressure on the NHS continue, and it is my earnest wish that a period of fewer medical emergencies is seen in the coming summer months to give our exceptional NHS workers a reprieve.

In addition to this the ongoing number of both legal and illegal migrants continues to impact on our services, specifically, with Adults and Children's services, with their budget service costs increasing by between 10 - 15%. There have also been periods of time where 'Operation Brock' has caused some significant disruption to freight and KCC residents going to and from work. These costs although unseen are real, and add to the costs which businesses are having to cope with.

For the financial year 2022/23 I was allocated a Members grant of £10,000 and I have been very careful to allocate some funds to support a wide range of projects, for vulnerable people. In the coming year 2023/24, quite rightly the grant has been reduced to £3600.

Although receiving a better-than-expected settlement for the forthcoming year, pressures coming from a combination of factors, including rising prices, the rising demand to support both our elderly residents and the most vulnerable young children has given KCC a shortfall of many million pounds. The resulting cost cutting measures agreed for the budget to discretionary services has caused concerns, many of these service cuts and the respective details are currently out for consultation. Please ensure your voice is heard and respond.

I sit on five cabinet committees, (a change from last year) which give me a broad section of work to complete, these:-

1. Adult Social Care (vice-chair of this committee)
2. Reform and Public Health
3. Audit and Governance
4. KCC Pension Committee
5. SEN(D) sub committee

I would like to pay tribute to the Leader of KCC, Mr Roger Gough, who leads by example and continues to fight for our residents at both a local, regional and national level.

I list below the exact details of the Members Grant to show complete transparency.

**Examples of support provided in Maidstone Rural West: (£10,000 + 4680 (u/s))**

<b>Communities</b>		
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Team Tutsham Charitable Trust	Allocation for child support and equipment/infrastructure costs	£2500
Marden Wildlife – covers EF/WF and Hunton	Volunteer Wildlife surveys for Village Farms	£750
Loose Parish Council	Costs towards alleviating West Street traffic	£2000
Loose parish Council	Love Loose Hate Litter	£300
Holy Trinity Church Pre-school	Fencing for stay and play group	£373.97
Hunton Village hall	Upgrading of Village hall heating	£500
Fusion (Charity)	Assist with Adult Literacy/Numeracy	£1000
Mid-Kent – Motor Neurone Disease Association	Support Group sessions	£1956
Coxheath – Park Road Highways	Assist with cost of resurfacing of road	£2000
West Farleigh Parish Council	Refurbishment of Play Area	£1000
Hunton Primary School	Refurbishment of play area to nurture area	£2500

As a Member of the County Council, I welcome contact with residents, support groups and local business. The Member Grant will always be available to assist vulnerable groups, be they of any age and if I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to be in contact with me.

Simon  
 Simon Webb  
 Member for Maidstone Rural West  
[Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk) 07878018997

2022 has been a difficult year in many ways. Cost of living, war on Europe's doorstep, the aftermath of Covid, and more banks on the brink of bankruptcy. It is times like these we should look to our local community for support both financially and mentally. For this reason, I am most proud we were able to deliver a reduction (in real terms) in the East Farleigh precept. This is thanks to a close eye on spending in 2021/22 and prior years of fiscal responsibility by the previous sitting councils. Although this doesn't make up for rises in borough council rates and other government tax increases, it is at least a small respite in household spending. In spite of our tax decrease, we are still able to deliver a refurbished playground which should be up and running by late summer and continue our same village maintenance (landscaping and litter picking) as in recent years. So, while we are financially sound as a local government authority, it goes without saying, if anybody is struggling in the village, please be sure to contact either MBC or EFPC for support. We want members of the village to feel looked after and cared for.

I would like to highlight particularly the Fete Committee who has had fantastic success and better attendance than ever before with our usual community events. For example, The Annual Summer Fete, the lighting of the Christmas lights at the Church. This year we can also look forward to the special Village Fete for the Kings Coronation on May 7. These community activities strengthen our mental health and our community spirit, and I encourage everybody in the village, young and old, to get involved in these activities and maybe even start your own community activity or attend a council meeting with your unique ideas! More information on how you can get involved is on our Facebook page and website.

We have continued our speed enforcements across the village in 2022 and we will look to continue with these in the new fiscal year. Our speed consultation has not been implemented due some staffing changes in KCC, but the Highways Working Group will persevere and continue to work through pushing KCC to implement these to reduce speeds in our village. Their focus in 2023 will be Dean street where many residents feel unhappy with not only speed but of course HGV traffic. The Highways Working Group has incorporated these concerns into their annual Highway Improvement Plan and two new surveys are being issued to give us correct data on how many HGVs are traveling on Dean street. This will help us prepare arguments for new schemes to slow traffic and prevent HGVs from travelling in our village unless they serve the local village businesses.

In addition to these expenditures, we are setting aside reserve funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the new playground so in the future it will always look its best. The budget is public information and available on our website, which I encourage everybody to review and give us their views. In early 2023, we hosted a Playground Inspection course for many of the neighbouring parishes. This was a valuable experience for East Farleigh Councillors to understand better how to facilitate and manage our equipment.

We have engaged with East Farleigh Primary School more than ever before and look forward to working with the new Headteacher in close cooperation. We are jointly hosting the fete for the Kings Coronation. Somewhat symbolically, from May, we are now holding our monthly parish council meetings at the school as the Old School Hall has changed management.

In my second year in the post, I am settling into the position of Chairman and learning by fire of course. However, I feel 2023 indeed brings a time of change and renewal. We have a new clerk joining us with great experience and qualifications and we have a full council with no vacancies and many new faces to give us a diverse and new ideas. I want to thank Desiree Home for all her contributions over the past years as Clerk and we wish her all the best in her "retirement" from Council life. Sadly, the East Farleigh Pre-school will be in a new venue and no longer in our village. We are sad to see them leave the village but very happy they will carry on at their new venue and no doubt go from strength to strength. Improvements to the Recreation Ground including a new Woodland area, planted by dedicated volunteers are set to continue for 2023. The one stalemate/challenge ahead seems to be the site of the Bull Inn which is due to be refurbished but for which no progress seems to have been made by current owners. In 2023, we will be watching this development closely as no doubt it is in the heart of our village, furthermore East Farleigh Parish Council has successfully registered the Bull Inn as an Asset Of Community Value giving the village first option to buy if the site is put on the market for development. If anybody has some ideas on what should be done, please attend a council meeting and have your voice heard or post comments on our Facebook page! In summary, 2022 has been challenging but we have achieved many goals during this time as a Council and the future holds much hope with more active participation than ever before.

Alexandra Fullwood

### **John Bunyan Leaver Charity Allotments.**

The JBLC Vicarage Lane Allotment site continues in good health, despite the difficult start to the growing year.

The site is an oasis of growing pleasure in the very heart of the village, with around 35 plots, both full 10 rod plots and some half size 5 rod plots, a huge range of vegetables, fruit and flowers are grown.

Maintenance and Insurance costs having been paid; the charity made donations to Dandelion Time to assist with their invaluable work with young people.

We have unexpectedly one, possibly two, vacant plots, if anyone is interested they can contact me on the number below.

### **East Farleigh Speedwatch.**

Speedwatch is currently not active in East Farleigh. Nothing to report.

### **Operation Scarecrow.**

Operation Scarecrow is the council initiative to fund serving police officers to carry out speed reduction enforcement in the village using speed measuring equipment...speed guns.

The scheme had been successful to date and was considered an effective replacement for Speedwatch. However, without warning council was advised in February that these police duties would no longer be permitted. It was agreed that council would write to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Mathew Scott and ask for an explanation as to why this decision had been made.

Peter Beasley. 07709 592079

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## **REPORT TO EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL THE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN CHARITY FOR ALMSHOUSES**

CHARITY NO. 210899 ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Committee members:-

Richard Yaxley — Chairman

Paul Richardson --- Trustee Treasurer

Hilary Moon — Honorary Secretary

Peter Jennings — Trustee Building Maintenance Malcolm Smith — Trustee Building Maintenance

### **Introduction**

With Covid now behind us the committee with renewed enthusiasm continue to serve the needs of the charity

### **Cottages**

The cottages being rather old continue to be a drain on our resources. Peter trustee responsible for all work on the cottages is regularly contacted by the residents with problems some minor some major that are swiftly dealt with by Peter organising the various trades to sort out the problems

## Gardens

This year we have continued to make the gardens more easily manageable doing away with some of the redundant raised beds and reseeded

A new rotary washing line has been installed

Last year I reported that our long standing treasurer had resigned not an easy position to fill fortunately for the charity we now have our new treasurer in post Paul Richardson who resides in the lane along with his young family

The rest of the committee still stand along with our secretary Hilary Moon Residents

Last year I reported that one of our cottages was available I am pleased to report that the daughter of one of long term residents has now taken up occupancy

The residents continue to live in relative harmony and in good health

## Summary

With the support of the committee we will serve the charity in maintaining the cottages and gardens ensuring a pleasant environment for all the residents to live in

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all members of the committee for all their work they do in supporting this charity

R F Yaxley

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## Review of East Farleigh Church 2022

In the late nineteenth century this area was a lively farming community and all the farm hands were expected to attend church on Sundays. As a consequence, the North and South aisles were added at the expense of two local farmers. Now the church is too big for the community it serves.

Following the pandemic the size of the congregation, such as it was, has depleted even further. If we get into double figures we consider that a large congregation. This means that our income does not match our expenditure.

We have spent a lot of money over the year on necessary repairs. The lychgate has had a new roof and the heating system has had to be rewired to bring it up to commercial safety standards. Also it needs servicing and a bigger pump to power all the water required to heat the church. The car park wall has been damaged about four times and is awaiting repair yet again. The north churchyard wall has been repaired and we are awaiting a valuation for the repair and rebuilding of the rest of it. From the estimate of the work needed it will be a very expensive job. Another problem we have had is the lead roof on the Lady Chapel was stolen. Apparently they loaded the lead into a car and sped off with the police in hot pursuit the car crashed and the thieves ran off. Since then we have had a waterproof, temporary replacement put up and a surveyor has pulled up a specification for a new stainless steel covering. This change of specification has been sent to the Diocese for approval and a faculty granted. Since the theft 7 months have passed and still no action.

The Parochial Church Council is aged. On average not far short of 80 years old and none of them is seeking re-election at the church AGM later this year.

All is not doom and gloom however. The church is filled to capacity when the school uses it for its Christingle, Easter, end of year and Christmas services. The Children's Society Christingle Service is also well attended.

There is hope for the church. We shall see.



# ST. HELENS MONTESSORI SCHOOL



## St Helens Montessori School – Annual Parish Council update

St Helens Montessori School remained open throughout lockdown for the benefit of keyworkers with children attending both our Nursery and Elementary School. We all worked hard to provide a mixture of online lessons, and many work packs to go home to the children. Thankfully, we managed to survive the economic impact of the pandemic.

In November, St Helens supported the Coxheath and Hunton Virus Village Volunteers, with their 'Tea Boxes' for vulnerable and shielding members of the community. The children made approximately 45 Christmas cards, written with individual messages, to be included in the boxes. The children were thrilled to receive calls of thanks from the recipients!

## Smith's Hill Farm and School outings

In spring of 2022, we once again took the Elementary Children to learn about farming and see the lambs at Smith's Hill Farm in West Farleigh. After visiting Geoff, Candy and Ollie (a former pupil) many times over the years, it was especially sad that this would be our final visit before their move to Devon.

This term we also once again took our older children to the Royal Albert Hall to see the Classical Spectacular Event.

## Ukraine

In March 2022, we had a fantastic response to our appeal for urgently needed items, which we arranged to be sent directly to Ukrainian families and those in the war zone fighting to defend their country. We managed to fill 87 boxes of much needed medicine, food, clothing, baby items, and other vital goods. Our little school also managed to raise a fantastic £750 from donations and from the sale of cakes, sunflowers and bracelets made by the children. We were humbled to receive over 50 hand-drawn thank you cards made by Ukrainian children.

## Queen's Jubilee

For the Queen's Jubilee in May last year, the School held a Grand Garden Party. All the children came dressed in royal-themed outfits, in tribute to the now late Queen Elizabeth II. We all enjoyed playing a variety of garden games, before enjoying a delicious picnic.

## Remembrance

We continue to support the British Legion annually. Members of the British Legion are always invited to join our Remembrance Service, in which the whole school takes part, with readings, songs and prayers. We hold a cake stall, and the children sell Remembrance merchandise in the weeks before. In 2022, we raised £280 for the British Legion.

## General

. We remain in close contact with Keeper's Nursery next door to us, with several visits per year, and have been working hard on cultivating a new named apple for St Helens, which was registered last Autumn!

## **OLD SCHOOL HALL**

### **Report to East Farleigh Parish Council Annual Meeting 2023**

There must be few people now who don't know that the hall has been on the market for a while. A potential buyer came forward just before Christmas: we have accepted his offer and if all goes to plan completion will be in mid to late August. He is intending to use the ground floor as his office space and live on the upper floor once it is habitable. The hall will therefore be fundamentally changing its function. We have talked to our regular bookers about selling the hall and when we have exchanged we will issue formal notice to them. We like to think that in the eleven years we've owned and managed it we have preserved the hall for community as well as commercial use and hope we have brought some interesting events to the village. As you can imagine, we are very disappointed that we didn't manage to complete the upper floor and enjoy a few years living 'above the job'. Our decision is partly because we haven't fully recovered from the financial hit of Covid, partly because the very increased costs of running the hall are no longer equal to the income that it can command by its current usage, and partly – far more than partly – because Mandy had a cardiac incident fifteen months ago and, despite making an excellent recovery, this kind of life event does make you think about why you're doing what you're doing and whether it's really what you want to continue to do. If this sale goes through, we don't yet know where we will move to but hopefully it will be near enough to keep in contact with the many friends we have made in the past decade and more.

#### **BUILDING**

We will be leaving this beautiful building in good, stable condition. The car park, however, suffered after that very cold spell in January and – as is only to be expected – our insurance company has offered no help whatsoever in exchange for the very pricey cover we have. We may or may not be able to improve the surface before we leave.

#### **THANKS**

Thanks, as ever, for the kindness, support, understanding and encouragement we have received from our tenants and others over the past year. This includes but isn't limited to Preschool, representatives of the church (Sheila Allchin in particular), members of Parish Council, the warm friendliness and sheer fun of Old School Samba and our so-tolerant neighbours Peter and Marilyn Beasley, Irene Jenner, and Kirstie and her family in School House.

Gary Hindley and Amanda Howard

16 March 2023

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#### **East Farleigh Parish Council Fete Working Party EFPC AGM Update March 2023**

The Village PLATINUM JUBILEE event on Saturday 4th June 2022 at Old School Hall was well attended and people seemed to enjoy the music, entertainment, food and drinks available. It was organised by the EFPC fete working Party with help from the WI who provided excellent tea and cakes and made some profit for their own funds.

It wasn't a profitable day for the EFPC Fete Working Party but the primary aim was not to make money but to provide an event to bring the community together in happy celebration of the Queen's platinum Jubilee.

We hosted the annual Mulled wine and mince pies event at Christmas and this too was well attended. This is a free event offering a bit of festive cheer, carols, mulled wine and mince pies. We plan a similar event annually. This was the first year we used the holly tree growing in the churchyard as recipient for the Christmas tree lights, saving a cutting down a local fir tree.

This year the EFPC Fete Working Party are planning a CORONATION FETE. This is with a lot of support from the School, Friends of the school and the WI.

This event will take place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May between 12- 3pm on the recreation ground. This is in line with the planned national celebrations and the BIG LUNCH.

At the Coronation Fete there will be a BBQ, tea and cakes and a bar. There will be entertainment for all the family including live music, stalls and games. We are encouraging a red, white and blue theme.

We are truly thankful for the support we receive with these events and feel they are beneficial beyond the money they may raise. We are especially thankful to the WI and the School and its Friends.

That said we do need more volunteers so if you are able to help in any way please make contact. You don't have to give a lot of time, or join the committee; we appreciate whatever help you are able to offer.

Whilst the main aim of the EFPC Fete Working Party is to promote community cohesion, we also hope we will have modest funds to support a local initiative, so please also tell us if you have any ideas or nominations for how we might spend any profit.

**EFPC Fete Working Party contacts - Adam 07711 318714 or Hilary 07775 756181.**

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### The Evergreens

The Evergreens began in 1981 after a tea was organised for the senior citizens in West Farleigh to celebrate the wedding of the then Prince Charles and Lady Diana in July, it was such a success that a request was made for a tea be organised on a monthly basis, the first one taking place in the following September and held in a residents house. This continued in various houses until the numbers grew to the point that they needed larger accommodation and arrangements were made to hire the Farleighs W I Hall in East Farleigh. In 2017 it was decided to offer lunches as well as teas. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month for tea and have lunch on the fourth Tuesday. Entertainment is provided before the teas and they have enjoyed quizzes, talks and demonstrations however some of the best have been contributions from the members. They chat amongst themselves after their lunch. Whilst the group started in West Farleigh it now includes retired folk from East Farleigh and surrounding villages.

Sometimes we organise outings and last year because funds hadn't been used during Covid they had a trip on the Kent and East Sussex railway with a ploughman's lunch, afternoon tea at a local garden centre, a cruise along the river Medway with a fish and chips lunch on the Kentish Lady and a coach trip to the Brick Lane Music Hall for Christmas lunch and entertainment. We were lucky to have been given two donations which part funded these.

This year we celebrated Burns Night and enjoyed illustrated talks entitled London is Stranger than Fiction and The Origins of Phases and Sayings. The Kettle Bridge Concertinas provided us with song books and invited us to sing along which we did with gusto. We plan to hold teas to celebrate Easter and the Coronation.

The members make a contribution which goes towards the hire of the hall, provision of food and entertainment and other expenses with the remainder being used for the outings enhanced by much appreciated donations.

Jill Morgan

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## **East Farleigh Parish Council**

c/o The Pump House, Riverside Park, East Farleigh, Maidstone  
Kent, ME16 9ND

To whom it may concern

### **1st East Farleigh Brownies - Report**

c/o 90 Amsbury Road Hunton, Maidstone Kent, ME15 0QH

20 March 2023

May I firstly start by saying thank you once again to the Parish Council for the very kind donation towards 1st East Farleigh Brownies. This donation will greatly assist the unit in providing a happy and safe place for girls to fulfil their potential.

As some of you may be aware, the Brownie Unit has been closed since March 2020 due to Covid. Since then, our previous unit leader, Clare, has decided to step down from the unit. We would like to thank her for all the work she put into inspiring and leading the Brownies, and wish her all the best for the future.

Myself and Nikki will be taking over as leaders of the unit which will be restarting on 15 May 2023. We are currently advertising for new joiners as we have plenty of spaces for girls aged 7 - 10 who would like to join us for non-stop fun, learning and adventure. We will be meeting on Mondays during term time from 6pm till 7.30pm at Old School Hall. If you would like more information about joining the unit, please email [1stEastFarleighBrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stEastFarleighBrownies@gmail.com).

Over the next year, we will be launching the new 'Brownies' brand, encouraging the girls to be curious, courageous, energetic and excitable! We will be doing activities and working towards badges - exploring the Brownies' creative side, getting out into the great outdoors, and starting to learn how to look after herself, others and the world we live in.

We hope to culminate the year with an adventure day or Brownie Holiday in the Summer of 2024. Kind regards

E.J.Roberts

Ellissa Roberts (*Brown Owl*)

**PORCHLIGHT  
S137 DONATION & APM**

Hi Desiree

Sorry we won't be able to make the meeting but many thanks in advance for the donation (bank details remain unchanged).

Our focus over the last 12 months has been on supporting homeless and vulnerable people. Currently, hundreds of people across Kent are being pushed to the brink by the cost-of-living crisis, rising rents and huge spikes in energy bills. They are finding themselves at risk of homelessness and in need of Porchlight's help. In the last 12 months, over 27,000 people called our helpline, over 8,000 families and individuals were supported by our staff and over 1,000 people were prevented from losing their home.

Jo Dawes She/Her  
Director of Fundraising & Communications

**Porchlight**



To all at East Farleigh Parish Council,

I want to start by sending my sincere apologies for not being able to attend in person tonight. I hope that you will instead accept this letter as a sign of our gratitude for the support you have given us over the years. It is heartening to know that our services are so valued within the community.

Last year alone, we cared for over 1,800 patients and their families and year-on-year, demand for our services grow. The donations that you give form a very important part of the income we need to provide personalised, compassionate care, and support, to patients and their families in our community.

Every year we send you an update of what we have achieved at the Hospice with all the facts and figures. I wanted to go beyond that with this 'thank you', and share a bit about what kind of place the Hospice is.

Aside from our Inpatient Unit, we offer outstanding, specialist compassionate care to patients across the community, in their homes and also via our new Hospice Hub service in Magnolia Place. Magnolia Place is a light, airy and cheerful space, where every week our Hospice colleagues and volunteers will offer a range of services, many of which operate on a flexible drop-in basis.

shortlisted for the 'Older People's Nursing' award in the Burdett Nursing Awards which is a huge achievement.

*'Last Saturday I popped into the Hospice while the Dementia Café was on and it was so busy. All those people had chosen to come to the Hospice to access the support and advice of our wonderful Dementia team and their volunteers. It is clearly a much-loved and much-needed service. Keeping up with this demand is already very difficult and it doesn't go very far but I wanted to say Thank You to the Dementia team for all their hard work juggling the constant demand for their time and support.'* Rachel Street, CEO.

At Heart of Kent Hospice, we provide award-winning specialist dementia support services  
for patients and their families living with dementia and recently our Dementia Team were

Heart of Kent Hospice, Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7PU  
 [enquiries@hokh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hokh.co.uk)  General: 01622 792200  Fundraising: 01622 790195  [www.hokh.org](http://www.hokh.org)  
Patron: Geraldine Allinson OBE DL Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No 2184005 Registered Charity No 298164

## The difference we are making in your community

Here, our families and colleagues share their stories and views on Heart of Kent Hospice. By listening to them we can understand what is important and how we've fostered strong and trusting relationships.

Chris tells us how the Dementia Team is guiding her and her husband through a diagnosis of Alzheimer's. "I know as Bob's illness progresses, I can call on the Hospice whenever I need them. It is a critical service and I am so grateful it's there."

Jackie, our Clinical Educator at the Hospice (recently retired) highlights the importance of training

healthcare professionals in end-of-life care.

"Without specialist training, patients so often do not receive the help and support they need."

Leanne – a Registered Nurse in our Inpatient Unit gives an insight into the importance of palliative care. "It's an honour to be in a position where I can provide a lot of comfort and support at one of the most vulnerable times of a person's life and make a difference."

Marion tells how the Hospice Community Team supported her in caring for her husband Peter, enabling him to die at home. "With their help, Peter was able to stay at home. When he died, he knew I was with him."

Carol, shares how our Family Support Team help her family. "I will be forever grateful to the Hospice for their help, support, advice and equipment, but especially because they gave Jake a future and they gave Eddie his life back."



Heart of Kent Hospice, Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7PU

 [enquiries@hokh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hokh.co.uk)  General: 01622 792200  Fundraising: 01622 790195  [www.hokh.org](http://www.hokh.org)  
Patron: Geraldine Allinson OBE DL Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No 2184005 Registered Charity No 298164

## The Magic

They made a very excited 3-year-old  
and allowed Dad and family to spend a birthday party together.

I could talk about the Hospice all day! I'd like to end though with a message from our CEO, Rachel, from one of her most recent Hospice Weekly Update emails. These are always full of inspiring stories, colleague achievements and links to resources to support us in the workplace.

*'I just wanted to end by saying a huge thank you to all our clinical and patient-facing colleagues this week. Your compassion, resilience and good humour are inspiring. The difference that you all make every single day to our patients and families really is incredible. You make such an impact on people's lives with your kindness and care. You are all very special human beings.'*

Heart of Kent Hospice is truly a very special place. Thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to do what we do.

Warm wishes to you all,

Elizabeth  
Trusts Fundraising Executive

## Annual Report from East Farleigh Pre School 2023

There have been some changes this year some small and some big. Nicki Saunderson resigned as manager and Angela Crisp took on the role. We have also had two new practitioners join the well established team. The number of children have been on par with where we expect to be and we are almost full at this point in time. Our Christmas fundraising was very successful and we continue to try to raise money as the cost of living has a big impact on us with increases on rent, resources etc and the government funding not covering the cost to have a child at pre-school.

The biggest change for us is that The Old School Hall has been sold and therefore we will need to move premises. We have conducted an extensive search for a venue in East Farleigh or close by but unfortunately nobody was able to help us. We have however found premises in Tovil (subject to contract). This means that we as a team are able to keep our jobs and stay together in jobs that we love. Almost all of our children who are not going to school will be moving with us which is wonderful. We are also now getting many enquires for our new setting which is very encouraging. We are very sad to be leaving East Farleigh after over 40 years and that the village will no longer have a pre-school for its children, but we are excited to be moving to a purpose built setting.