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Your local Fire Service personnel are happy to make an appointment to visit your home and discuss fire safety issues that are specific to you. They will also ensure that you have working smoke alarm(s) within your home and where you do not, they will supply and fit 10 year smoke alarms.

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USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

General Enquiries: 01273 481000

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Bins and Recycling: 01323 443322 or 01892 653311

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Leisure centres, swimming pools and parks: 01323 443322

Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0845 6080193

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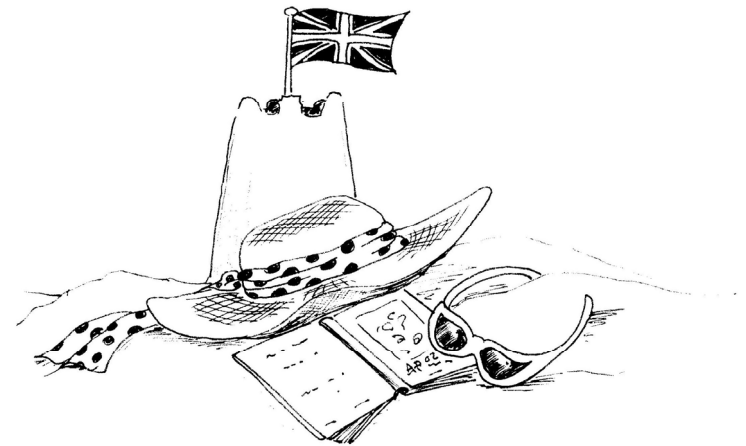
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*Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council*

Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
LOCAL CHURCH**

Priest-in-Charge : **Revd Chris D Lawrence**
 01825 891090
 (after hours 01825 890365)

Churchwarden : **Mr Brian Champion (01825 765634)**

Secretary to PCC : **Mrs Pat Herbert**

Treasurer : **Mr Richard Hill**

All communications for church matters should be directed to the Church Office – 9.15 am – 5 pm (closed Wednesday)

Email - framfieldchurch@btopenworld.com
Post - Vicarage Barn, Framfield TN22 5NH
Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090

Details of Operation Godsend are printed elsewhere in the magazine.

From the Registers :



Marriages – those whom God has joined, let no one divide:

11th July 2009: James Tuesday / Kelly Keeley

At Rest –

1st June 2009: Alan Hill

3rd July 2009: John Jeffrey

22nd July 2009: Desmond Edwards

**WHO'S WHO AT THE
St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER**

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Eryl Thomas

Editor: Sue Whitehead

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Secretary and Advertising:

Ann Newton

Pat Herbert

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

Distribution: Derek Thorogood

and his team of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

A bi-monthly Newsletter distributed free to all homes within the Parish.

Welcome Baptist Blackboys

On Sunday June 28 Simon Warner led us in an interesting and informative discussion on Euthanasia. We look forward to our next debate on Sunday July 12 on the relationship between Muslims and Christians, to be led by our pastor Guy Partridge.

Twenty eight young people from the Crusader group in Blackboys School and the Life2the max Youth Group, will be going to the South East Region SPREE camp in July. This is a weekend extravaganza of activities, fun, Bible teaching and worship for all Urban Saints groups (formerly Crusaders) in the area. Around 800 young people aged 8 – 16yrs have a great time camping with their leaders, whilst making new friends and getting hardly any sleep at all!

We meet every Sunday at 5pm in the Blackboys Village Hall for informal worship, tea and cakes. Everyone welcome. For further information Tel: Barbara Solly 01825 765178, or look on the website www.blackboys.org.uk.



Standing at the Crossroads

The weather is fantastic at the moment and it's just great to be alive enjoying the sunny weather; and if you haven't been yet; the coast is lovely.

Personally I find the simplicity of the seaside the perfect place to reflect on life and the future, but also a place to enjoy the moment.

We live in a fast paced society often rushing from one thing to another but for our own health and the well being of our loved ones we must take some time out. In family life vain promises will seldom do and actually putting a date in a diary or on the family calendar is what's actually needed.

In my Civil Service days I worked with many men and women who worked really hard with the aim that retirement would be the place to slow down, sit back and enjoy all the things they had worked so hard to achieve. The only problem was that the vast majority died less than two years into their retirement; a sobering but true statistic.

In recent weeks the news papers and news reports have continued to bring further revelations about the death of Michael Jackson and it has been difficult in some respects not to think about his life and the suddenness of his death. His musical talent probably brought pleasure to billions but his personal life in the spotlight of the media was often portrayed as somewhat off-beam. To some his death was seen as a tragedy, to others a merciful release from a life of frustration and contradiction.

I tend to go with the latter view – but it also begs the question that if Michael Jackson knew he was to die suddenly would he have done anything differently?

The early death of a loved one, or indeed a celebrity often brings us up short as we ponder the question 'what about my life' where am I going, do I have any direction, am I content with my lot or am I living a lie?

This week I have been reflecting on a verse from the prophet Jeremiah – he writes:-

**This is what the LORD says:
"Stand at the crossroads and look;**

**ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.**

Life could be viewed as a journey interspersed with crossroads moments where a decision needs to be made. What is certain, is that life never stands still and if we never consider where we are going then our circumstances, or indeed someone else may make the decision for us for the next part of our journey.

Latterly Michael Jackson's life appeared to be one where he was surrounded with people offering him advice and direction. Some of it was probably good, but some not so good.

'Life' can mean many things to many people but a life that lacks direction is really no life at all.

Jesus described Himself as '**The Way the Truth and the Life**' and He also spoke about Himself as the 'Gateway', through which anyone can enter into a new life. A life with meaning, direction and purpose and at the end a place in heaven. He said - '**Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it**'.'

Like it or not we are all spiritual beings as well as having flesh and blood. But it is often the spiritual side of life that is glossed over or at best seen as of secondary importance. This in itself is a tragedy as it when we seek God first that we find that rest of life automatically falls into place!

In addition to standing and looking at the crossroads the Lord says **ask for the ancient paths; ask where the good way is, and walk in it.** One of today's problems is that people don't take the time to stop and 'ask' for Godly direction. Is it any wonder that there are so many restless souls?

Rev Chris Lawrence

Is today a crossroads day for you ? Which road are you going to take?

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET



NEXT MARKET:

22nd August 2009
and
26th September 2009

10 am - 12 noon

ALL WELCOME

Come and enjoy the Market stalls,
tea/coffee/ bacon rolls and company

Sandy – 840648

NO PARKING PLEASE !

We have recently been reminded that people are using the Southern Water drive to gain access to the Churchyard. May we remind you that there is no access via that route. The route must at all times be kept open for Southern Water and residents to obtain access. We would appreciate the courtesy to these parties by using the main entrance to the churchyard off Church Approach.

Thank you for your cooperation



Do you understand the strain of being a parent?

Susan has just given birth to twins and has an autistic son. She is feeling lonely, exhausted and overwhelmed. Could you volunteer 3 hours a week to visit parents like Susan?

HOME-START SOUTH DOWNS

The next *****FREE*****

Volunteer Preparation Course begins

9 September, Wednesday (Newhaven)

4 November, Wednesday (Heathfield)

for 10 weeks, *one* day a week 9.30 am - 2.30 pm

(excluding school and bank holidays)

Ring 01273 612025 or homestartsouthdowns@btinternet.com
for information

Registered Charity 1108855

Company 5368531

The Latest Bank Scam !

I have recently been the “target” of fraudulent attempts to obtain money from my current bank account. Your debit card can be read literally around the corner by someone with a mobile phone. A “Standing Order “ form is then taken from the bank ,the fraudster fills in your details, copies your signature and makes whatever sum of money he/she thinks you may not notice going from your account to theirs, and posts the Standing Order form back to the bank. If you are lucky, as I was, you may receive a letter thanking you for setting up the Standing Order and telling you what date your first payment will be made. I reported two attempts to obtain money this way to the police in Uckfield and have now been informed that the matter is countrywide and is being dealt with by the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad.

I was lucky— **but do check your statements**. The fraudsters usually start with small amounts which you may not notice. **Query everything ! I would hate anyone to go through the distress it caused me—suspecting everyone and everything, completely unable to trust anyone until the police gave me the answers. Sue Whitehead. Editor.**

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICES

AUGUST

- 02 Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
No Evening Service
- 09 Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
11.00 am Service on the Recreation Ground
6.30 pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 16 Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing
- 19** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 23 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 30 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion
No Evening Service

SEPTEMBER

- 06 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

- 13 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 16** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 20 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing
- 27 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Back to Church Sunday
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

Church Services : BCP – Book of Common Prayer.
CW – Common Worship 2001

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th SEPTEMBER 2009
TO
CHRIS LAWRENCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE –
01825 891090
OR
ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine). Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours. All communications for Parish Council matters should be directed to Ann.

The second eleven are on a learning curve. The seconds have not always done themselves justice and they paid a high price for some silly mistakes.

Nonetheless, the second eleven proved they could win and hopefully a bit more success can be gained in the second half of the season.

Our Saturday Second Team league results & fixtures are as follows:

Rye III 81-4 bt Blackboys II 80 by 6 wkts
Heathfield Park III 118-3 bt Blackboys II 117 by 7 wkts
Blackboys II 187-8 bt Bell Yew Green IV 101 by 86 runs
Hellingly IV 166-1 bt Blackboys II 165-8 by 9 wkts
Seaford IV 141 bt Blackboys II 120 by 21 runs
Willingdon III 124-5 bt Blackboys II 123-8 by 5 wkts
Blackboys II 204-8 drew with Little Common Ramblers III 204-6
Newick III 127-1 bt Blackboys II 126 by 9 wkts
Blackboys II 205 drew with Pevensey II 195-9

11/07/2009 - Sat - Heathfield Park 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
18/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Rye 3rd XI
25/07/2009 - Sat - Bells Yew Green 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
01/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Hellingly 4th XI
08/08/2009 - Sat - Seaford 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
15/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Willingdon 3rd XI
22/08/2009 - Sat - Little Common 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
29/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Newick 3rd XI
05/09/2009 - Sat - Pevensey 2nd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI

If you would like to get involved with Blackboys Cricket Club please do not hesitate to get in touch. As I have said before, we want some new players to help take our club forward.

**Colin Eade, Secretary. 01825 761028, colin.eade@gmail.com
www.blackboyscc.co.uk**

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

In 2009 Blackboys Cricket Club started a new era for the club with the introduction of a second eleven. The club now puts out two teams every Saturday in the East Sussex Cricket League. The first eleven play in Division 3 and the seconds play in Division 12.

After a good start to season, the first eleven have had a mixed bag of a results, winning 3, drawing 3 and losing 3. Nonetheless, we find ourselves in the fourth spot at the halfway stage and this is an excellent position in what is the highest level of cricket that we have played in.

Unfortunately, lack of consistent player availability has meant that we have not been able to put out strongest team on a regular basis.

Our Saturday First Team league results & fixtures are as follows:

Blackboys I 201-6 bt Robertsbridge I 195 all out by 4 wkts

Blackboys I 186-7 drew with Wadhurst I 176-9

Blackboys I 137-2 bt Pett I 136 by 8 wkts

Blackboys I 145-5 bt Herstmonceux I 143-6 by 5 wkts

Ringmer II 247-7 bt Blackboys I 214 by 33 runs

Blackboys I 237-6 drew with Bells Yew Green I 214 for 9

Crowborough I 197-5 bt Blackboys I 195-6 by 5 wkts

Plumpton I 135-3 bt Blackboys I 134 by 7 wkts

Blackboys I 194-8 drew with Newick II 163-8

11/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Wadhurst 1st XI

18/07/2009 - Sat - Robertsbridge 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI

25/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Pett 1st XI

01/08/2009 - Sat - Herstmonceux 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI

08/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Ringmer 2nd XI

15/08/2009 - Sat - Bells Yew Green 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI

22/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Crowborough 1st XI

29/08/2009 - Sat - Plumpton 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI

05/09/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Newick 2nd XI

Framfield CE Primary School

As always at this time of the year the school is buzzing with activity as the children enjoy special days and events. We have held a Spanish day when the children spend time working on songs in Spanish, finding out about the Spanish artist Joan Miro, investigating Spain and learning to dance the flamenco! We were taught by Helena who came with two musicians to entertain and teach us some lovely dances and movements. The day ended with a presentation by the children of what they had learned through the day, including performance of their flamenco dances as well as a performance by Helena and her musicians. It was very exciting and we learned a great deal about Spain.

In addition to walks for the whole school in the local area when we looked for interesting plants and wildlife we have recently completed a project with Glyndebourne Opera, which gave our older children a marvellous introduction to the world of opera. During two workshop days the children learned to sing songs from 'The Faerie Queen' with opera singers from Glyndebourne and musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. They then travelled to Glyndebourne for a delightful day picnicking in the grounds, watching a performance of The Faerie Queen and then presenting their work to Buxted School and two London schools. It was a very special experience from which we all learned a great deal.

Even with all our extra activities, we have continued to work in class on the curriculum but this is often more exciting than might appear. Whilst working science on growth and life we were visited by 5 babies of carrying sizes so that the children could see the changes that occur so quickly in the first year of life - a lovely experience for us all. We have also enjoyed watching our flowering plants and vegetables grow under the watchful eye of Jimmy James who has supported the children in their gardening this year - we hope for a good crop to show in August. We wish you all a very good summer and look forward to returning in September.

Janet Wilde
Headteacher

My Baptism

5th July 2009

St. Thomas à Becket, Framfield
With Rev. Chris Lawrence

A burst of golden sunshine exploded through the clouds as Chris Lawrence handed me my lighted baptismal candle and said, 'God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.'

The setting could not have been more appropriate. Swaying trees, white clouds, a beautiful garden with a 'refreshing' heavenly blue swimming pool. My close relatives and many true friends had come to witness my baptism administered by full immersion in water. God had touched me with his love and given me a place among his people.

It was not a difficult decision to make; it just took a little longer for me because I had been so busy living my life, working, bringing up a family, socialising and generally getting on with life. I hadn't made time for God and just took it for granted He was there. I've let God down so many times, but He has always been there for me. He is my refuge, my place of safety, He is my one and only God and in Him I trust.

He has forgiven me time and time again and whenever I have been in need of Him - He has been there for me. I used to think I was 'lucky' but now I know I am blessed. My ongoing relationship with God has been far from perfect but I'm eternally grateful to Him for his patience in waiting for me to find my way to him.

Jesus never baptised anyone but He himself was and commanded his disciples to baptise. We all know of the dark backcloth of hatred and treachery surrounding his death but the symbol of baptism is a union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4-6) and the washing away of all our sins. What better assurances could you wish for than to start



BLACKBOYS PRE-SCHOOL
BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL, GUN ROAD,
BLACKBOYS, EAST SUSSEX, TN22 5JY

Tel: 01825 891113

Mobile: 07931 978071

Email: blackboyspreschool@googlemail.com

Website: www.blackboyspreschool.co.uk

The children recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to The Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, where they saw many of the birds and eggs that they had been learning about last term. This term the children are learning about all different types of vehicles, and what they are used for.

Everyone at the Pre-School would like to thank all those who recently supported a Race Night to raise funds for new resources for the wonderful garden area. Now that the weather is getting warmer the children are all making the most of being outside as much as possible.

If you are busy working parents, why not make the most of the breakfast club at Blackboys Primary School? Children from the Pre-School can attend the breakfast club, which starts at 7.45am. Staff from the Pre-School will collect children at 8.40am and take them to the Pre-School ready for the morning session. For more information about this, please contact the Pre-School.

All children from the age of 2 to 5 are welcome (they don't have to be potty trained), so why not come along to take a look at what Blackboys Pre-School has to offer. If you would like to book a visit, please give Jenny a call on (01825) 891113. We are open 5 days a week, with afternoon sessions on a Monday and Tuesday.

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our first ever Members' Workshop was held on a Saturday in July and was a great success, and enjoyed by all who attended. Our "speaker" was Geoffrey Mead. Not only did we learn a lot about how our villages are affected by their position in the wealden landscape, we also discovered how much we know already, and how we can find out more for ourselves! With the help of geological maps and slides Geoffrey explained just how important the geology of an area is to the development of communities, particularly in the Weald.

We do not have a meeting in August and our next one will be on Tuesday 1st September when David Powell from Lewes will be telling us about Thomas Paine. Our AGM and "seasonal supper" will be on October 6th.

Our meetings take place in Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8pm start, (unless stated otherwise). Visitors are welcome, entrance costs £2 and includes tea or coffee and biscuit.

If you would like more details about the above or would like to know more about the society or have information that you think we might be interested in, or if you think we may be able to help you, please contact me on 01825 890359 or email bturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Ann Turner

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Genuine transcripts of calls made to computer helplines.

Customer: "Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it."

your lives afresh? Without a physical birth you cannot have physical life. Without a spiritual birth you cannot have spiritual life.

I have repented and I believe. After all, Eternity is a very long time to spend in the wrong place.....

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Chris and Sarah, Ian and Pat, Richard and Sarah; all my family and friends within and outside the Church. A special 'Thank You' to Mike Anderson (The Pool Man ☺) for his generosity of spirit.

Joan Burne

BOOK SALE

**12th SEPTEMBER
THE READING ROOM, BUXTED
FROM 10.30 AM**

**APPROX 3,000 BOOKS FOR SALE
IN AID OF
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

Organised by Dr. Rob Harrison

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

If you've been affected by cancer, it's hard to know where to go for clear, accurate information. Macmillan produce a wide range of booklets and one of our groups of booklets that we know provides reassurance to a lot of people is the one focusing on specific cancers. These explain how cancer affects a particular part of the body and discusses the methods of diagnosis and treatment used for that particular cancer. They also address some of the feelings people may have after being told that they have the disease. You can see the full list of the 37 site-specific booklets we currently produce, and order any of them free at www.be.macmillan.org.uk or by calling 0808 800 1234.

Our Committee are organising a **Walk On The Forest** on **25th August** as one of our forthcoming fund raising events. Also in the pipeline is a **Book Sale** being organised by Dr Rob Harrison in **The Reading Room, Buxted** on **12th September from 10.30am**. He is hoping to have approximately 3,000 books for sale, and is well on the way to that number already. On **25th September** the **Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning** takes place - do look out for ones being held around here; the Committee are organising two or three (one in the Pizza Express, Uckfield). Looking ahead we will be holding a **Christmas Bazaar** at Buxted Pavilion on **25th November** - make a date in your diaries to come along and see if you can get something for Christmas. If you are interested in any of the above events, please contact either Ann or Maureen for more information.

For help or advice on matters relating to cancer please ring the **Freephone Macmillan Cancerline** on **0808 808 2020** or visit: www.macmillan.org.uk.

Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 890400
Maureen Byford, Secretary 01825 831882



10.00 am, Sunday 27th September 2009
Framfield Parish Church

There are a wide variety of reasons why people leave churches, but there is only one really good reason for returning; to re-establish your relationship with God. 'Back to Church' Sunday is the ideal day to make a quality decision to come back and make a fresh start.

If you have never been to church or are not even sure about the existence of God then why not give it a try? We are just a bunch of ordinary folk whom God has called to part of his family and that invitation extends to everyone. You will be assured of a warm welcome 'no-questions asked'.

You can also join us for a glass of wine, donuts and tea/coffee after the service.

comeasyouare

Also in May, the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009 were approved and have been sent to the External Auditor.

At the June meeting with my District 'hat' on I reported that the **LDF Spatial Development Options Consultation would commence on 6 July 2009 and run to Friday, 28 August 2009.** Every house will have by now received a leaflet and there will be advertisements in local newspapers. I urge everyone to send in individual responses so that we all have our say in the future of the District – the Framework covers a time-span of twenty years (2006/26). The PC will be sending in a formal response.

Finally, last time I mentioned that the three-year maintenance contracts for the three recreation grounds and allotments will be re-tendered in the Autumn. Would anyone interested in tendering for the work please contact me. I will then send out the specifications for the work. The deadline for the receipt of tenders will be 30 September 2009. There is a further advert on this in the magazine and I will put a notice on each noticeboard.

The next PC meeting is scheduled for 28 July 2009 followed by 29 September 2009. There is no scheduled meeting for August.

If anyone requires a full copy of the meeting minutes please contact me via the details below.

Eryl Thomas (890360); David Andrews ((07826 835295); Myran Eade (890507); Peter Friend (01435 867126); Brian Hodge (890199); Mark Moore (890166); Maria Naylor (890946); Rob Newton (890103); Ian Paisley (890904); Rita Redman (890276); Fred Thurston (890071).

**Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine).
Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours.**

AEN/17 July 2009

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Grounds Maintenance

The Parish Council is seeking tenders for the annual grass/hedge cutting maintenance to the three Parish recreation grounds and allotments.

Anyone interested in tendering for the work should contact the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton. They will then be sent the works specification. A contractor may apply to tender for any one or all the areas. The deadline for receipt of the tenders by the Parish Council is 30 September 2009. Contractors must have their own public liability insurance up to the value of £5,000,000 and must include a copy of their current insurance schedule with their tender. Each contract is for a period of three years (2010, 2011 and 2012) and each season runs from March to October (inclusive).

Contracts will be awarded in the Autumn.

**ANN NEWTON
Parish Clerk (01825) 890182/framfield.pc@virgin.net**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Genuine transcripts of calls made to computer helplines.

A woman customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer.

Tech support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: No, my desk is next to the door, but that's a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine....

BLACKBOYS SCHOOL

I can't believe how quickly this last term has gone, and I know I always seem to be saying it, but we have just been so busy! What with class assemblies and trips locally and further afield, the time has just flown by. The sporting calendar has also been full with cricket and stoolball tournaments. There have just been so many highlights this term.

Years 3 and 4 had a wonderful day out in June at the Road Safety Day organised by Uckfield Town Council. There was a huge amount to see and do and the children really enjoyed themselves while learning the importance of many aspects of road safety.

Sports Day was a wonderful event and we managed to cope with the variety of weather that an English summer day brings, with the usual Blackboys spirit. The children had a fantastic time as did the parents and teachers. The festive atmosphere was carried on by year 6 after school with the running of their stalls to raise money for their chosen charities.

Year 6 went to All Saints Church in Crowborough for their Leavers' Service. The Recorder Ensemble played to accompany the choir of Stonegate School and at the end of the service. I have to say that their performance was truly wonderful—children from years 4, 5 and 6. The standard of playing was very high and the group was praised not only by the organisers, but also by other attending schools. Those who came with us will have seen the wonderful new School Banner made by Mrs Boswell and Mrs Winterton. An enormous thank you must go to both for the hours of hard work they put in. Everyone was very proud of it!

The school entered two Kit Car races this year. Ringmer Community College held their first event and all the Ringmer cluster schools took part and Blackboys rose to the challenge and managed to win the competition overall. Last week-end we took part in a similar event at Uckfield and came third. We must thank Mrs Wells and Mr Sullivan for all the time they put into organizing for this event. We must not forget the input from our vicar too – many thanks must go to Rev Chris Lawrence for his engineering skill!

Our end of year performance has been yet another one to remember: a musical based on Shakespeare's The Tempest. The children excelled themselves and performed the demanding roles really well. Our youngest children took part as Hobgoblins and made a great impression. Many thanks must go to all staff – especially our music staff – for all the effort and hard work they have put into the work this term.

Thanks so much to all the members of our community who have supported us throughout the year and we look forward to working with you all in an equally exciting year in September. *J K King, Headteacher*

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

In May at the Annual Parish Council meeting Eryl Thomas was re-elected as Chairman and Rob Newton as Vice Chair. Some minor re-allocation of the membership of committees was agreed as detailed below. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are both ex-officio members on the recreation ground, environment and planning committees.

Committees

- **Finance** (Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, Chairmen of Committees, Arthur Makepeace [Internal Auditor], and Jan Riddle [Responsible Financial Officer]).
- **Recreation Grounds and Allotments** (Myran Eade (Chairman), Peter Friend, Mark Moore, Ian Paisley, Rita Redman and Fred Thurston).
 - **Blackboys Allotments** (special responsibility Peter Friend, Brian Hodge).
 - **Trustees of Framfield Allotments** (Ian Nicholson, Myran Eade and Eryl Thomas).
 - **Pavilion Committee** (Rob Newton [Chairman], Myran Eade, Mark Moore and Eryl Thomas).
- **Environment** (David Andrews (Chairman), Myran Eade, Brian Hodge, Mark Moore, Maria Naylor, and Fred Thurston)
 - **Tree Warden** (Ian Paisley).
- **Planning** (Maria Naylor (Chairman), David Andrews, Peter Friend, Brian Hodge, Ian Paisley and Rita Redman).

Representatives

- **Blackboys Village Hall** (Ian Paisley and Fred Thurston).
- **Framfield Memorial Hall** (Peter Friend).
- **School Governor Representatives** (Ann Newton – Blackboys, Mark Moore – Framfield [Governor Designate]).
- **WDALC** (Eryl Thomas)
- **Emergency Planning Co-ordinator/Police** (Brian Hodge).

If anyone has a specific query, councillors can be contacted direct – their numbers are detailed below.

find them a handy little snack, while studies of barn owl pellets reveal that they make up one per cent of their diet!

Surprisingly, the little harvest mouse was not recognised as a distinct species until the late 18th Century when the great Selbourne Naturalist Gilbert White sent two specimens to Thomas Pennant, a regular fellow correspondent and describing them as a separate species for the first time. In fact there has been no archaeological evidence of harvest mice before Roman times, giving rise to the idea that they might have been brought into this country at that time.

While out on your walks in late summer and autumn it is worth taking an extra peek into grass verges and tall vegetation bordering agricultural fields, you just might find a little straw cricket ball clinging tenuously to the dying stalks and perhaps give a little thought to the smallest mammal in Europe and the struggle it has to survive in these modern times.

Mike Russell - Sussex Wildlife Trust - August 2009

Framfield and Blackboys WI

WE have greatly enjoyed our meetings so far this year with speakers on topics such as Smuggling at Rye in the 19th Century, Energy efficiency, writing Poetry, Garden visits, restaurant meals and we look forward to a trip to Great Dixter in July.

Our A.G.M. Resolution this year at the Royal Albert Hall focused on trying to save the world's honey bees and some members are off to our own college (Denman, Oxfordshire) in September; where courses range from Architecture, Garden Design, Computer skills, Music and History to name but a few.

Monthly meetings are held at Blackboys Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30. We extend a warm welcome to all ladies, you can see we are not only Jam and Jerusalem so why not give us a try. If you would like to know more just ring Delia Gillies on 01825 830319.

We have received the very sad news that our past President and stalwart member Rita Redman died on Wednesday 15th July. We would like to send our condolences to Dick, her family and friends. You are in our thoughts.

We shall miss her.

Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

7th September
Birthday lunch at Buxted Pavilion

21st September
AUTUMN FAIR

Open to all at Framfield Memorial Hall
2.30pm
Come and join us have a cup of tea.

New members welcome.
For more info ring Sandy on 01825 840648.

Collecting for the Red Cross:

Have you got a little time each month to look after a collection box in your own local shop? It doesn't take long and will help raise vital funds to help the Red Cross continue their valuable work in Sussex. Please contact Hannah Rosalie on 01273 227805 or email hrosalie@redcross.org.uk.

Holiday home in Normandy available for short or long breaks.
Easy access from Dieppe (via Newhaven). The accommodation is a delightful old farmhouse in true Normandy style.
Reasonable rates and many special offers out of season.
Web site: www.letheilnormandy.co.uk
Tel: 01825 762077

Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society

SUMMER SHOW

**Saturday 8th August
from 1.30pm**

**FRAMFIELD RECREATION GROUND
and in the FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL**

Floral, Horticultural and Craft Exhibits

The Warbleton Brass Band
Bentley Wildlife Carvers
Plate Smashing
Coconut Shy
Refreshments
Hoopla

Wheelbarrow Races
Punch & Judy Show
Bouncy Castle
Terrier Racing
Pimm's Tent
Stalls

**Fun Dog
Show**
Entries in the ring
Judging from 2.00pm

Admission

Adults - £ 1

Children - 20p



For further information or a
copy of the show schedule
and entry forms telephone
Jennifer Graham
01435 812711
or email Jenny Bacon
j.bacon@zen.co.uk

www.fabhortsoc.org.uk

ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN

Golden sheaths of wheat decorate the late August landscape as the height of summer gently glides into the approaching autumn, when the light and the very texture of the countryside seems to change with the new season. A very 'romantic' or idealised view of our 21st century landscape I know, but even in this highly mechanised modern world, the onset of autumn does have a very distinct feel about it; a sense of reaping the efforts of all the hard work that went before and is about to come again soon.

For much of our wildlife it is a time when the rigours of raising a family are over and the essential task of getting ready for surviving the winter either through migration, hibernation or by staying here and 'toughing out' the cold months begins. Our smallest rodent owes it's name to this season, the harvest mouse, a really charming little creature that is probably not uncommon, but it's size precludes it from being seen very much. The Latin name *Micromys minutus* is indeed very apt.

As the name implies, the harvest mouse has an association with cereals, particularly wheat and builds a nest of woven grasses around the stems of crops and grasses which can range from half to a full metre off the ground. In fact you are far more likely to record the presence of harvest mice through finding the nests during winter once the surrounding vegetation has fallen, though by this time the mice will have abandoned it. The nest is spherical like a cricket ball and they build breeding nests that can be up to 10cms in diameter whereas a non-breeding chamber is only half the size.

Harvest mice don't hibernate so their size makes them very vulnerable to cold, wet winters. It also means they have high energy requirements and during their short life they have to continually search for seeds, berries and insects to sustain them. They usually have two or three litters a year, mainly between May and October, and average around six young in each litter. They change from being blind, naked rodents at birth to exploring outside the nest at eleven days to being totally abandoned to their own devices five days later.

Being a harvest mouse is a tough business. Modern agriculture has made their life more difficult and the tidying up of verges and removal of hedgerows have depleted their habitat, then there is the weather to contend with. If they survive all that there is a whole range of hungry predators they have to face; stoats, foxes, kestrels, cats and crows would

**Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show – Saturday 8th August –
1.30 – 5.00 pm - Framfield Recreation Ground**

This year Framfield Church will be offering a 'Prayer Station' in addition to the usual yummy cookies and drinks.

Asking God for help or direction in any aspect of our lives or indeed for someone or a particular situation is the essence of prayer.

I have often been amazed that folk are quite content to have a Tarot card reading or consult a fortune teller but are nervous about asking God for anything.

Well no need to be nervous – we will have a few members of the church there to pray for you. A brief chat about your need followed by a short prayer – should take about 2-3 minutes.

So if you have any need; it could be a health issue or someone or some situation you are worried about. God is there to help you and you never know what he may do unless you ask! *Please be assured that anything said remains in strict confidence.*

Look forward to seeing you there – please pray for good weather!

Rev Chris Lawrence



THE CHILDRENS PAGE

CUR-TAILED by a TELL-TAIL !!

Yes it's Poppy again. George is sulking! I had a wonderful letter from an old "friend" of George from their schooldays. What a revelation ! So much for George going for the sympathy vote all these years and getting away with his "hang dog" look. His cover is well and truly "blown".

I am going to let you into a secret by printing the letter from Phydeaux whose Master is clearly both cultured and academic. Mistress is trying to find out who they are so that she can personally thank them both for the best letter she and I have ever received. If any of your pets know Phydeaux do tell us at the Newsletter, or if you can re-unite Phydeaux with "Chumly" that would be- even better.

Have a lovely summer holiday-how about telling us how your pet spent his or her holiday.

Love and Licks

POPPY

*1 Bone, Lane,
Uckfield.*

Dear Poppy,

My master showed me your letter in the Parish Magazine. I'm sorry to see George is up to his old tricks again. I remember years ago when we were at school together in Kennelworth - he was always trying to bite off more, than he could chew.

It was good to read that things have settled down for you now that your mistress has finally got your home as you want it - Oh by the way, I haven't heard you on the radio have I?. Someone, was on Paws for Thought recently and I thought it was you.

My master sends his love, although it must be, nearly six months since he saw you last. Oh and one last thing, I don't suppose you have seen anything of Chumly, you know, that old pedigree, been trying to get hold of him for a while.

Hope to see you again sometime.

Keep your tail up.

Phydeaux

Just when I thought it was safe to come out of hiding since "the hand incident" they get this letter from a friend - some friend! From George (don't tell them I can use the computer better than they can (Grrrh!))

Sunday Club @ Framfield Church

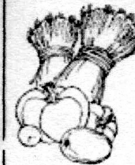
We meet in the Church Hall on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month. (During term-time.)

We start at 10am and have lots of activities, (stories, songs, games, art and crafts etc.). We learn about how faith is important in our lives and how messages from the Bible apply to us everyday.

We will be glad to see you if you are 4 to 11. We also have a corner in the Church with toys and crayons for younger ones.

1st Sunday of the month is the Family Service in Church,
ALL are welcome.

Sunday Club Dates for the Autumn Term 2009

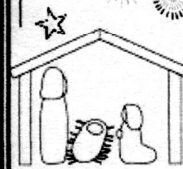


13th September
20th September
27th September

11th October
18th October

8th November
15th November
22nd November

13th December
20th December



Jesus said, Let the little
children come to me
(Matthew 19:14 / Mark 10:14 /
Luke 18:16)

Come, my children,
listen to me
(Psalm 34:11)

Children are always
welcome in our Church

If you would like to know more please contact the
Church Office 01825 891090