



Bluebird care are the foremost  
Home Care company in the country

# Care in your own home in Eastbourne and Wealden area

Our commitment to you - **We care Passionately**. Bluebird Care provides personal and domestic home care covering the Wealden and the Eastbourne districts.

Our trained and dedicated team will offer our customers a high quality standard of home care at all times. We believe in the philosophy of delivering care in "**the good old fashioned way**". This can only be done with highly motivated individuals who take pride in their professionalism, and always put the customer first.

Our care service will be tailor-made to suit your care needs and at the times that you want it delivered. We provide a full range of services from shopping and companionship to full personal care including 24/7 Live-in Care.

We offer many options within our service such as Our "respite" and "sleep over" services which are specifically tailored to help family carers have a break with the safe knowledge that we will be there to look after their loved ones.

- Your care plan will be tailor-made for you.
- High quality care from 15 mins to 3 hours or more
- Full live- in care service
- Dependable programmed visits
- All staff are trained, police checked & fully supervised
- We help you maintain your independence
  - Trips to see friends, relatives
  - Sightseeing or leisure activities
  - Shopping
  - Washing and ironing
  - Personal hygiene
  - Cleaning the home
  - Assist with medication
  - Overnight care
- Call us for a no obligation chat and assessment of your care needs

**Bluebird Care**  
Eastbourne and Wealden  
01825 700702

Wealden@bluebirdcare.co.uk



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

# Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**APRIL/MAY 2011**

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

**Vicar :**                    **Revd Chris Lawrence**  
**01825 891090**  
**(after hours 01825 890365)**

**Churchwardens :**      **Mr Peter Tomsett**  
**Mrs Joan Burne**

**Secretary to PCC :**    **Mrs Diana Kentish-Barnes**

**Treasurer :**            **Mr Norman Jones**

**All communications for church matters should be directed to  
the Church Office – 10.30 am – 5 pm (closed Wednesday)**

**Email -    framfieldchurch@btopenworld.com**

**Post -      Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane, Framfield TN22 5NH**

**Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090**

*From the Registers :*



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

**19<sup>th</sup> February :**        **Antonio Basile / Charlotte Jasper**

**At rest:**

**31<sup>st</sup> January :**        **Stephen Kembery**

**17<sup>th</sup> February :**        **Molly Brown**

**18<sup>th</sup> February :**        **Kenneth (Ken) Smith**

**8<sup>th</sup> March :**            **Eileen Fanny Hills**

**FREE SMOKE ALARMS**

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.

To request a **FREE** visit call **0800 1777 069** (call is free).

**USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.**

General Enquiries: 01273 481000

Adult Education: 01273 481497

Bins and Recycling: 01323 443322 or 01892 653311

Education, general 01273 481000

Leisure centres, swimming pools and parks: 01323 443322

Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0845 6080193

Recycling sites: 01273 481000

Street Lighting: 0845 6080193

Trading standards (consumer issues): 01323 418200

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555111

Police, non-emergency: 0845 6070999

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 1777 069

**THE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE  
PUBLISHED IN GOOD FAITH. THE PUBLISHERS DO NOT,  
HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES  
SPECIFIED**

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

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

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.*

Thank you

Many thanks to Sue Whitehead for her work as editor. With her many other commitments, and a change of village, Sue has finally "retired"! We all wish her well in the future and we will miss her wit, sense of humour and determination to help others.

## Where have you come from and where are you going?

Within the Christian church we are in the season of Lent. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

This time of withdrawal could be regarded as a latter day period to 'chill out' with God, to do some soul searching and repenting away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. However, Lent is not just for Christians as it is also the season for reflection and taking stock. Something that we all need to do from time to time; ask ourselves some direct questions regarding life, our beliefs, family, work commitments, leisure and where would you like to be in 5 years from now?

As Jesus prepared for his forthcoming ministry this period of withdrawal was very significant in preparation for what was to come.

Jesus needed to hear very clearly what God's will was for him but that couldn't be done within all the other distractions of daily life. Similarly, taking some regular time out to be alone with God or just by ourselves to get things back in perspective is vitally important for our physical mental and spiritual well-being - but how often do we do it?

The pace of modern living still appears to be gathering momentum, but we have to ask ourselves: to what end?

We live in the age of the 'immediate' and the 'instant' rarely giving ourselves time to stop and think and reflect on our lives. What did we do before we had the internet, mobile phones, text messaging, Facebook and Twitter? Quite frankly we did perfectly well!

The world didn't stop when we had to wait for a letter to arrive in the post and the pace of life, much less hurried, had gentleness and rhythm like the ebb and flow of the sea. People were more patient and kinder to one another and Road Rage hadn't even been invented!

The main problem with living life at a very fast pace is that we never seem to be able to slow down adequately to reflect on our lives, and this is the only one we get! Life is indeed a gift and should be treated as such and not regarded as a point to point race to the next thing.

It's as if there is an inbuilt fear that if we stop, everything around us will pile up and our situation will get even worse and more frustrating. But stop we must, lest we become 'human doings' rather than 'human beings'.

Those of us who have to juggle many balls using the ubiquitous 'Do List' live with the false goal that someday we will complete everything on the list and then we can have a well-earned rest. Quite absurd when you think about it as no sooner do you complete a few things then new tasks are magically added on and round we go again! We all have the same 24 hours in the daily time bank. Time is the constant so what needs to change are the choices that we make about how we use our time.

This year, my Lenten challenge for you is to take a whole day off by yourself before Easter and go somewhere peaceful and relaxing and take stock - it might just be the most significant day of your life!

Some years ago when Sarah and I were walking in the countryside around Rotherfield we met two elderly gentlemen who stopped to chat. One of them said - there are only two really important questions in life - 'where have you come from' and 'where are you going?'

Two questions, simple yet profound, and worthy to be reflected up during Lent.

May God bless each and every one of you - *Revd Chris Lawrence.*

## Welcome Church Blackboys

Welcome Church Blackboys continues to meet at Blackboys Village Hall at 5.00pm on Sundays for an informal family service followed by tea and cake at 6.00pm. All are welcome to come and visit.

Email: [welcomchurchblackboys@googlemail.com](mailto:welcomchurchblackboys@googlemail.com)  
Tel: 01825 840 020

### PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

**BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL CAN SATISFY YOUR REQUIREMENTS.**

**2 HEATED ROOMS WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 100 and 50  
RESPECTIVELY.**

**SECURE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA FOR TODDLERS.**

**VERY COMPETITIVE RATES FOR BOTH REGULAR AND CASUAL  
BOOKINGS.**

**CONTACT SANDIE SMITH ON 01825 890644 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

### Wealden Online Events Calendar

Find out about events held in and around Wealden. The **Wealden Online Events Calendar** continues to grow in popularity as more local businesses and community groups and organisations advertise their events for local people and visitors to the area to enjoy.

Add your own event, for FREE, to the event listings service on Wealden District Council's website, [www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk). You can submit your event details online anytime of the day, and your details should go live within 24 hours. To add your event online, visit [www.wealden.gov.uk/events](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/events).



**Sue Starnes**  
FdSc Couns, MBACP

**Person-Centred  
Counsellor**

I offer counselling on  
a wide range of issues  
from my rooms in a  
peaceful rural setting  
in Blackboys

**Free initial session**

**07761 974166**

sue@uckfieldcounselling.co.uk

**DIXON·VINCE**

**Country and village  
Estate Agents.**

Professional Photography  
Floorplans  
Accompanied Viewings  
Free Valuations  
Extensive Local, London & National  
Marketing  
11 Associated Team Offices in Sussex  
No Sale—No Fee Conveyancing

168 High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 1AT

**01825 765559**

[www.dixonvince.com](http://www.dixonvince.com)



**YOGA CLASSES**

*Yoga is an excellent way to gently stretch and tone the  
body and de-stress leaving you more energised and  
better balanced.*

*Experienced teacher (BWY Dip, BA Hons) fully insured.  
Mixed ability classes - all levels welcome*

Daytime and evening classes in East Hoathly,  
Uckfield and Crowborough

Interested? Call - 01892 664883

Yoga Teacher  
**Julie Stannard**  
T: 01892 664883 E: julie.yoga@btinternet.com

**ROY RIDLEY & JASON PARRINGTON**

Tel: 01825 891023      Tel: 01825 831971

Mobile: 07881581637      Mobile: 07834787298

**LOCAL BUILDERS**

**ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING WORK UNDERTAKEN**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**Diary of Church Services**

**APRIL 2011** BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship 2001

- 03 Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
10.00 am Mothering Sunday – Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 10 Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 17 Palm Sunday**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 18 7.00 pm Holy Week Meditation (1)**
- 19 7.00 pm Holy Week Meditation (2)**
- 20 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)**  
**7.00 pm Holy Week Meditation (3)**
- 21 Maundy Thursday**  
8.00 pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 22 Good Friday**  
10.00 am Service of the Word
- 24 Easter Day**  
10.00 am Family Festival Holy Communion (CW)

**MAY 2011**

- 01 Second Sunday of Easter**  
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)  
6.30 pm Evening Praise

- 08 Third Sunday of Easter**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.00 am Family Service
- 15 Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
 10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)  
 6.30 pm Evening Healing Service
- 18** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 22 Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.00 am Morning Praise
- 29 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
 10.00 am Café Style Service (Village Hall)  
 6.30 pm Evening Communion

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
 BY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011  
 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.**

## Framfield CE Primary School

This term has seen us studying the Victorians and we were very fortunate to have a Victorian Classroom installed in our library for several weeks. This was a remarkable piece of equipment complete with a huge teacher's desk, beautifully embroidered sampler and teaching materials. We all enjoyed it very much, especially the children who delighted in wearing the mortar board and teaching a spelling lesson complete with cane and black-board! Each class has studied different aspects of Victorian life, learning about Queen Victoria, other famous and important people as well as the life of more humble members of society. Kingfishers class have taken up the mantle of inventor and created lovely machines to manage many different tasks ranging from collecting diamonds to cleaning the teeth. A high point of the term was a workshop with the Rainbow Theatre when we all dressed as Victorians and joined with the actors to find out about the often terrible lives of children during this period. It was both instructive and humbling as we realised how very fortunate we are now. It was also great fun!

Now that the sun seems to have returned and the flowers are beginning to show we are thinking about more outdoor activities. We have had two new shelters installed in the playground – partly to act as an outdoor classroom, but also for shelter from the sun and the rain. Peacocks and Kingfishers are beginning to think about taking walks in the local area to find out what is growing. Eagles and Puffins have already planted seeds for our summer vegetables. The pre-school has their growing patch ready so we hope for a bumper crop this year.

*Janet Wilde  
 Headteacher*

### Framfield CE School Summer Event

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

There will be traditional activities and displays, Cake Stall, Guess the Baby competition, BBQ and Pimms Tent and much more.

Come along and help to raise funds for some much needed sunshades for the playground, so our children can learn and have fun out of the strong summer sunshine we hope to have!

If you are interested in having a table to sell produce/gifts please contact Framfield School or the PTFA or email: naomitcampbell@gmail.com



**FRAMFIELD PRE-SCHOOL**  
**THE STREET**  
**FRAMFIELD**  
**TN22 5NR**  
**TEL: 01825 890943**  
**www.framfieldpreschool@gmail.com**

It is very exciting the Pre-School is now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year (formerly Framfield Playgroup), to celebrate the opening of our fantastic new premises last November we are having an official open day on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 2pm. If anyone has been connected with the Pre-School (Playgroup) in the past, staff or pupils, or you have any photographs you can share with us, please call Sarah on 01825 890943, we would love to hear from you.

To celebrate world book day all the children looked magnificent dressed up for the day. For Red Nose day we are inviting all the children to wear red and to fill a wellie boot with spare change.

Our theme for the summer term will be journeys, during this term we will be focusing on our local environment, using the bus service into Uckfield and taking a trip on a steam train.

We still have places available for morning and afternoon sessions. Please telephone Sarah Ridley on 01825 890943 for further information, or to arrange a visit. We are open every day from 9-6pm, including optional breakfast club 07.45-08.45 and after school club 3-6pm for children aged 2-11 years.

**OFSTED Registration No. 415265**  
**Charity Commission No. 1139563**  
**PLA Member No. 29899**

**Licensing and Induction of**  
**Revd. Christopher David Lawrence**  
**St Thomas a Becket, Framfield**  
**15<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Congratulations to Chris and Sarah and sincere thanks to all the people from near and far who attended this wonderful occasion. We've come through some difficult situations but have all pulled together by working hard and remaining committed to achieving this fantastic result.

The occasion was such a busy one that I found it impossible to meet and talk to everyone - but my luck was in! Little did I know that we have a budding roving reporter in our midst who goes under the name of 'Eve'; here's her report:-

What a nice evening we had at Chris' Licensing and Induction. How lovely it was to have the Bishop, Archdeacon and Rural Dean in attendance. Also Canon Bill Peters - who is instantly recognisable with most of the congregation. Some people realized he had christened their children 30 years ago!

Another couple had been married by him 37 years ago. This loveable character has been around a good many years.

It was also nice to meet Mrs Elizabeth Wix, the Patron of Framfield Church. The patronage has been handed down to her from her grandmother via her father. She explained it was bought by Rev. Haire's father-in-law and given to his wife.

Rev. Haire was vicar until 1948 when he retired to Eastbourne. She was also reminiscing about Framfield Village as it was, when she was a child. Her aunt was Mave Pearson and great friends with the Baxendales. They used to take tea with Lady Thornton as she was her sister's god-mother.

Now residing in Guildford, she visits the village and church as and when she is en-route to Eastbourne to visit relations.

The buffet in the Church Hall was excellent and many thanks to all those involved with that.

Let us be so thankful we have got Chris 'To ourselves' and support him wholeheartedly.

If anyone else would like to share their personal knowledge of our church or indeed life in Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common do get in touch with me. You don't have to 'put your name' to it - but tidbits from the past help to keep our interest and the way to succeed at anything is to hang on for that bit longer when all the others have given up.

*Joan Burne - Church Warden*



Christian Aid Week

This year, Christian Aid Week runs from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, and once again you will find the familiar red envelope dropping through your letter box.

Christian Aid works with its partners around the world wherever there is need.

For example, they will be working in Haiti until 2014 in response to the earthquake emergency.

During the weeks following the disaster, the charities:

- Provided immediate medical care to more than 15,000
- Distributed 237,000 hot meals
- Gave out 2,300 food vouchers or food parcels,
- Supported, 2500 families with emergency shelter,
- Provided tools and seeds to 1,400 for the 2010 planting season,
- Gave water purification tablets to 1,200,
- Informed 900 families about good hygiene to prevent the spread of disease,
- Covered the cost of school fees for 190 families

And that is only one corner of the world where your contribution helps. So, please fill your envelope generously again, and take it to one of the collection points listed on the envelope.

Thank you  
Derek Thorogood



## OIL SYNDICATE

Some while ago when oil prices last escalated, an oil syndicate was organised for the Parish. This now seems to have gone into abeyance, but in view of the near monopoly of oil suppliers we need an organiser more than ever before.

If it is the wish of the group of residents who were involved previously to continue, is there anyone who would like to organise it? If not my neighbour and I would be prepared to step in.

There doesn't seem to be a list of Members available so if anyone wishes to once again take part could they contact myself ideally by email with their name, address, phone number, approximate yearly litres and if they wish a particular supplier to quote please..

Brian Dodd  
bdodd@Glawood.com  
01825-890916

---

### Looking for a local venue?

Framfield Church Hall is available for regular meetings, special occasions, parties and village events.

The hall typically seats up to 60 persons.

Full kitchen facilities are available.

Costs - £7.00/ hour with reductions for regular users and church members. Tel the Church Office for further details and bookings - 01825 891090.



Details given on how members could pass on any scam mail to Fraud Action.

Details of various workshops organised by the Federation including how to play Mah Jong and Indian Embroidery.

Our speakers subject was “Colour & Wardrobe management”. This had our Members returning home with the best intentions to re-organise their wardrobes!

An invitation to make a quiz team for an event in Uckfield.

A request for volunteers to help cook for the Uckfield Housebound Club lunch. We are also hosting a ploughmans lunch in July.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please just come along – or contact our President, Frances Brinkhurst – Tel. 01825 890459 or our Secretary, Corinne Urben – Tel. 01825 890422.

### **FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB**

- Monday 4th April     Bring and Buy/ Tea & Biscuits - at Valerie Clarkes  
2.30 pm at Hobbs Barton (Framfield),
- Monday 18th April    Chair-based Activities with Louise Knight  
2.30pm at Buxted Pavilion.
- Monday 9th May      Cream Tea at St Lukes Church (Seaford)  
with Rev Christine Doherty  
Leave Framfield approx 1.45pm.
- Monday 23rd May     OUTING -for more info contact Sandy Rogers (840648)

2011 is the 50th Anniversary of Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club.  
Ring: Sandy for more information 840648.

### **FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT**

Rob Newton had indicated before Christmas that he intended to step down as Chairman in the New Year. Maria Naylor was elected as Chair at the January meeting with Rob as her Vice-Chairman.

The budget for 2011/12 was set at £43,993 and Precept at £44,000. This equates to a raise in Precept of £500 for the implementation of a website. In future years, we hope to recover the cost of maintaining the site by charging for adverts etc.

The meeting agreed to make a donation to both the Friends’ of the Church and Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club of £100.00 each. Great thanks were given to Sandy Rogers for all her efforts with the Club and also the Village Markets.

Website – the site will be launched on or around 1 April 2011. The address is **[www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**. We intend putting as much information – Parish Council and otherwise – on the website as possible. The website will grow and improve over the forthcoming months with opportunities for advertising – commercial and also news on local organisations etc. There will be a section for comments and ideas as well as all the relevant business of the Council. I hope that everyone who can, has a look.

I had notification in early March that PCSO Simon French is moving onto pastures new (in Pevensey) and we will be having a new PCSO – Chris Hardstone. I will forward his details when I have them. Simon has done so much for the Parish and will be sorely missed.

*This will be my last report for the current Council prior to the elections on 5 May 2011. If anyone requires a full copy of the minutes for any of the Council meetings please let me know.*

*ANN NEWTON/March 2011*

---

**Maria Naylor– Chairman (890946)); Selina Allen (891110); Richard Brocklebank (0788 9336446); Myran Eade (890507); Peter Friend (01435 867126); Felicity Groves (840341); John Mordaunt (890443); Rob Newton – Vice Chairman (890103); Ian Paisley (890904); Fred Thurston (890071). Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine). Email: [framfield.pc@virgin.net](mailto:framfield.pc@virgin.net). Messages will be picked up during office hours.**

# LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

My earliest memories are of an idyllic childhood in a rural cottage near Harting in West Sussex. There were always cats and kittens, and chickens and chicks and my grandmother's Spaniel Freckles. As a tiny child I was fascinated by all the tricks my grandmother taught him, which started a lifelong interest in dog training. I loved all the livestock, cuddling kittens, gently handling the new chicks and even taking the cockerels for walks clutched in my arms. When I was about nine my mother gave in to my demands and bought me my own Cocker Spaniel.

By the time I married I had my Golden Retriever and we bought a cottage situated between Hadlow Down and Blackboys. It is a beautifully peaceful place to live with a wide range of wild life that I love. We have three sons who all went to Blackboys School which gave them an excellent start in life. When our youngest son David started school I had my first Newfoundland, Cassie. All the children loved to see her carefully carrying David's lunch box from the school door, back to the car every afternoon. On Fridays some of the parents sold ice cream in the playground which Cassie loved as she was often given one. Some residents might still remember Cassie also going to the local play schools to help teach road drill.

At this time I kept chickens and was busy chick rearing and selling old fashioned breeds of poultry. Over the years I had always trained my dogs to do interesting things including working in obedience, showing - and with the Newfoundlands - water work. This led to me to start one to one dog training lessons and later help with behaviour problems - first with dogs – then both dogs and cats.

In 2005 I had another Newfoundland puppy but when she was still only a few months old I had severe back problems so I trained her to be my home help and personal assistant. This incredible dog did so many unusual things and quickly attracted media attention and was shown on television here, America and Germany. In 2009 I had my book, *A Dog in a Million* published, which is being read worldwide. Being an academic failure and by then an old age pensioner I was thrilled and so proud of my wonderful dog. Very sadly a few months later at only three and a half, she developed an aggressive cancer and was put to sleep. I have started again with another Newfoundland that I am training to help me in the house and garden.

*Hazel Carter* - [www.hazel-carter.co.uk](http://www.hazel-carter.co.uk) - [info@hazel-carter.co.uk](mailto:info@hazel-carter.co.uk)

# Framfield & Blackboys WI

The new year saw a welcome return to Framfield Memorial Hall after a long absence – we will meet in the Blackboys Village Hall - April to September 2011.

The meeting started with a sincere welcome to all our new members.

It was certainly a varied evening which included:

A Bring & Buy stall which raised over £40 for the Treasure Chest. Details of members having chances to win cash bursaries towards courses at the WI Denman College. Invitations to various other WI events including a Spring Tea, a visit to The Royal Hospital at Chelsea and a Summer Picnic. An outline given of our involvement in the South of England Show this year including requests for stewards. The date of our next very competitive 10 pin bowling morning. An invitation to attend a First Aid Course for vulnerable people at East Hoathly WI.

The details given of our Summer Outing to TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall Gardens at Highgrove in Gloucestershire.

We also had an interesting speaker who gave an in-depth presentation of “Food through the ages” accompanied with slides.

The March meeting included:

Our president reading a letter of thanks from the family of Betty Davy for the catering at her memorial service. Betty had been a very popular and long standing member of our WI.

A trip has been organised for a visit to Kings Standing on Ashdown Forest. This recently featured on local TV and includes seeing the atomic bunker and where Sussex Police carry out riot training.

**VIEW CRAFT  
NEEDS A VOLUNTEER DRIVER  
LIVING IN THE UCKFIELD AREA**

Are you at a loose end on Tuesday mornings?

Do you drive a car?

Do you enjoy different types of handicrafts?

Do you like helping people who are less fortunate than yourself?

If the answer is 'Yes' - please read on.

We belong to VIEW CRAFT which is a small independent voluntary organisation which runs a unique craft group for blind and partially sighted people living in Eastbourne and the Wealden area of East Sussex.

(Registered Charity number: 1110290)

We are a happy group of people who enjoy doing different handicrafts.

We meet at Herstmonceux Village Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am to 12.00 noon during school term times. The difficulty for us is that being

visually impaired means that we cannot get to our meetings without transport.

Some of us also need a small amount of help with our chosen handicraft.

If you would be willing to collect one to three people in your car and take them to and from Herstmonceux we will pay a mileage allowance and welcome you to our group.

At the moment we are looking for a "supply driver" specifically to bring in our members who live in the Uckfield area

If you want to know more and can offer to help us, please contact Jenny Todd: 01323 641225

**Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society**

After such a harsh winter it is so exciting to see the first signs of spring in our gardens and hedgerows. Now the sun is out it is actually inspiring to get out and start planting, however large or small your garden.

Thank you to everyone who attended the "Survival of the Summer Show" meeting we organised. We were delighted with the turnout. It showed that there was a genuine desire to keep the show running. Many people offered their services and ideas and it would seem to me that this year's show has the potential to be bigger and better than ever.

The society has many events planned for the coming months the first one is:

16 March 2011 at 7.30 pm at Framfield Memorial Hall

"A Tale of Two Gardens" - Helen Yemm is coming to talk to us about her old garden and the new one she is now developing in Wadhurst. She will have copies of her new book available for purchase and she will be happy to sign them. This promises to be an exciting evening.

Thursday 12 May 2011 at 7.30 pm at Blackboys Village Hall

"A World of Lavender" – Simon Charlesworth from Downterry Nursery is coming to talk to us about Lavender. He will be bringing some plants to sell at this event.

There will be other talks and trips organised for the coming months so please do keep your eye on the local news-boards, papers etc.

All new members are very welcome and if you would be interested in joining us please contact myself on Tel: 01435 812711 or the Vice Chairman Alayne Jenkins on Tel: 01825 890580.

*Jennifer Graham*

# FRIENDS OF FRAMFIELD CHURCH

Present the Ashdown Singers  
in concert on

Saturday 21st May 2011 at 7.30 pm  
in Framfield Church.

Come and listen to this talented and prestigious  
local chamber choir perform.

Tickets £10 each to include a complimentary glass of  
wine and refreshments.

All proceeds to go towards fund raising for  
restoration work in Framfield Church.

For tickets and further information contact  
01825 890400 or Church Office 01825 891090



Directed by Terence Steele

help them. Garden ponds have become a real sanctuary from the harsher world of the countryside and it would be a great shame that, if in the future, children read about frogs and toads in the same way as they do now about dinosaurs.

Mike Russell  
Sussex Wildlife Trust

[www.sussexwt.org.uk](http://www.sussexwt.org.uk)

## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET LIST OF MARKET DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Saturday - 23rd April 10am - 12noon.

Saturday - 28th May 10am - 12noon

**ALL WELCOME**

**Do come and support.**

Come and enjoy the market stalls,  
tea/coffee, bacon rolls and company.  
Contact: Sandy 01825 840648.

**FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL**  
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE  
LARGE HALL WITH A CAPACITY OF 150.  
VERY COMPETITIVE RATES FOR BOTH  
REGULAR AND CASUAL BOOKINGS.  
**CONTACT MARY SHORT ON 01825 890854**  
FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Even the most urbanised of us Homo sapiens know what frogs and toads look like, we become familiar with them at an early age, featuring as they do in many children's story and picture books. Now they too are becoming urbanised as our gardens are becoming increasingly important breeding grounds for frogs in particular, as their natural sites are suffering pollution or disappearing altogether. A few years ago it was estimated that over 50% of frog spawn recorded in Sussex was from garden ponds.

This year I first recorded frogs in my garden pond on February 7<sup>th</sup> and by the 18<sup>th</sup> spawn started appearing. For those of a sensitive disposition I would recommend averting your eyes when frog courtship and mating starts to take place. It is a pretty brutal affair, particularly for the females as many males try and grab hold of her, with the successful one clinging on for dear life fending off other suitors to ensure he is the one to mate successfully. Because this happens during February, frogs are sometimes used as a symbol of St Valentines' Day as an illustration of love and romance, but I'm afraid that this mating process has very little to do with love, more to make sure whose genes will be passed to the next generation.

Female frogs can lay up to 2,000 eggs and not long after spawning the tadpoles will start to emerge and very soon there is a writhing mass of wriggling youngsters at the edge of the pond. Sadly, their main role in life is to act as dinner for a wide variety of other creatures, including other tadpoles! It has been calculated that out of one clump of frogspawn only half-a-dozen tadpoles will become an adult, but this is enough to maintain a stable population.

Toads are having an even harder time of it than frogs surviving in today's harsh environment. They require deeper water to breed and prefer more traditional breeding sites. If these are lost, they have more difficulty in adapting to new ones. In February and March they begin their migration to the breeding grounds which can involve a long and hazardous journey. If they have to cross busy roads, hundreds can be lost in a very short time. In Sussex, there are a number of identified 'toad crossings' with lots of toad-loving volunteers giving them a helping hand by transporting them safely across the roads in buckets!

To establish if you have frog or toad spawn in your pond follow remember that toad spawn is laid in long beads of string whereas frog spawn comes in more familiar clumps. As tadpoles, frogs are jet black while toad tadpoles have small but visible white dots over their body.

Both should be welcomed in the garden. They will munch their way through what some people regard as unwelcome garden visitors such as slugs, snails, woodlice and other insects, with toads having a particular liking for ants. But, they need you to

God works in all sorts of ways, his wonders to perform! One way is to send visions to his people to give them ideas on how to show His love in the world. One such vision was given to Jean Godfrey who faithfully followed it up with the PCC at St Thomas à Becket in Framfield. She could see that to provide lunch once a month in the Church Hall would be beneficial to senior citizens in the Parish, giving them delicious home-cooked food as well as companionship and friendship. The PCC agreed that she could "have a go" to see how it worked out. It was not to be profit-making, but the charge should just cover the cost of providing the meal. So right at the beginning, the 2-course meal with coffee to follow was £1 per person.

Jean gathered a few friends from church to help her with this new project, to be known as the Framfield Parish Lunch Club. They cooked pies and puddings at home, prepared vegetables etc. in the Hall kitchen, and washed up afterwards. Jean enlisted help in putting up (and taking down) tables in the hall and in arranging transport for those who needed it. I cannot remember details of the meal, but it was tasty and plentiful. The "customers" enjoyed the fellowship and kindness, and this became one reason why they came on the third Wednesday in each month.

After several years, Jean felt she had to retire, although she continued to attend as a customer for a time. Eve Wickerson took over, having been part of the team from about 1990. There have been many helpers over the years, always providing meals of the same high standard that Jean initiated in 1989. Can you imagine cottage pie with vegetables followed by a wonderful selection of desserts such as bread & butter pudding, trifle or apple crumble? All this was delivered with caring, cheerfulness and laughter. The price did have to be raised, but still it was very good value.

We are going to miss this monthly event. Eventually Eve and her assistants came to the conclusion that they could not manage any more. The last lunch was the traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings (including crackers) on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Thank you, Eve, and all your friends. We are all very grateful for the work, imagination and love you have shown to so many of the more elderly residents in Framfield, and latterly from churches in Uckfield.

*Rosa Thorogood*

# Manor gardens

At Medici Healthcare we exceed expectations both in the homes we build and the care services we provide. We welcome you to Manor Gardens, a superior brand new purpose built care home located in the heart of the Sussex countryside, midway between Crowborough and Uckfield. We provide the perfect combination of exceptional surroundings and first class 24 hour professional care.

- Long or short stay, respite and convalescent care
- Shop, library, home cinema room
- Family/internet café room, activities room
- Extensive menu, fresh locally sourced produce
- Therapy suite, hairdressing & beauty salon
- Daily delivery of newspapers and magazines
- Personal laundry and housekeeping services
- Extensive social care, including art, gardening, flower arranging, music, reading and history
- Landscaped and herb garden, woodland walk
- Single en-suite bedrooms, individual terraces, internet access, remote controlled flat screen plasma TV and 24 hour nurse call system.

MEDICI  
HEALTHCARE  
*exceeding expectations*

Please feel free to drop-in or call 01825 714400 - [www.medichealthcare.co.uk](http://www.medichealthcare.co.uk)

Manor Gardens | Herons Ghyll | Uckfield | East Sussex | TN22 4BY

John P C Graham  
Licensed Property Consultant  
The Mill House, East Hoathly, East  
Sussex BN8 6DP  
Tel: 07939-223413.  
Email: [jpcgraham@gmail.com](mailto:jpcgraham@gmail.com).

Thinking of buying / leasing a  
Public House? Contact me for an  
initial, without obligation, meeting,

Specialist in Negotiations of  
Lease Terms & Rent Reviews,  
Valuations, Off Market Transactions  
- Sales & Purchases.

For impartial and independent  
advice, contact John Graham.

# VILLAGE HEATING CO

- Oil Heating Specialists
- Oil Boiler & Range Cookers
- Service, Breakdown & Repair
- ✓ Efficient & Reliable Service

01825 731900  
[www.villageheatingcompany.co.uk](http://www.villageheatingcompany.co.uk)



## BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In April our speaker will be Richard Alum who will be telling us about the History of Ashdown Forest. Our speaker on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, is Debby Mathews, her subject will be Lewes, St Mary's & Station Street. At our meeting on June 7th speaker Peter Hill's subject will be Pills Potions and Patience.

Meetings are held in Blackboys Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 for 8pm start, unless otherwise stated. New members are always welcome and although most current members are senior citizens, we would welcome visitors and new members of all ages.

If you would like to know more about any of the above, or the society's activities in general, please contact the secretary on 01825890359 or email [baturner.18maple@btinternet.com](mailto:baturner.18maple@btinternet.com)

Ann Turner

### BLACKBOYS SCHOOL PTA NEEDS YOU!

We are going to hold a "Grand Auction of Promises"

and this event will be open to the whole community. It is in aid of the work we need to do to rejuvenate the outdoor play area for the children so they can enjoy all year long. We need to make this event really special and are therefore asking for help from the community.

Would you be able to donate **time**, **products** or a **service** for us to auction off? Anything big or small would be gratefully received with great efforts made to get the best donation.

Examples of possible donations could be:  
music lessons, haircuts, nights at a hotel, voucher for a meal, pony rides, party packages, dog walking, beauty treatments, gardening, trips to local attractions, cinema tickets, car valeting, bouquet of flowers, gift vouchers, hot air balloon flights, babysitting, taxi rides, cleaning, chimney swept etc

Whatever your skill or talent we can use it!

Please contact Mrs King at Blackboys school on 01825 890423  
or [office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
(and pencil in **Friday 17th June 2011** - date to be confirmed)

# Uckfield Chiropractic Clinic

## Chiropractic care

- Back, disc & neck pain
- Sports injuries
- Headaches & migraines
- Joint, nerve & muscle pain
- Baby, child & pregnancy care

*Flexible appointment times*

*Lunchtime, evenings & weekends*

## Massage

- Sports & remedial massage therapy
- Hot stone & Deep tissue massage

**10% DISCOUNT** with this voucher  
Valid on first massage or  
initial chiropractic consultation

Dr Becky Andrew BA, MSc, DC

116 High Street, Uckfield

**01825 744100**

[www.uckfield-chiropractic.com](http://www.uckfield-chiropractic.com)



## LEE'S LOCKS

**NO CALL OUT CHARGE!**

All locks fitted to insurance BS3621

Window Locks • Supplied & Fitted  
Fully Guaranteed • O.A.P. Discounts  
Insurance Work • UPVC Specialist  
Digital Locks • Break ins  
Garage Door • UPVC/Patio  
Free Estimates • No VAT!!



**LOCKED OUT? DOOR JAMMED?  
LOST KEYS? NEED EXTRA SECURITY?**

*Store this number in your  
phone NOW! You may need it*

**Mob: 0792 1068 564**

**Tel: 01825 480 047**

Email: [lee@lees-locks.com](mailto:lee@lees-locks.com)

FREE  
PHONE **0800 44 88 147**



## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Macmillan Charity we are holding two major fundraising events.

*A Fashion Show on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Buxted Park.*

and

*A Golf Day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at the East Sussex National Golf Club.*

Details of both events are available from Ann 01825 890400.

In addition to these events we have a Macmillan Ice Cream to celebrate 100 years' service, and the children of Downlands School are to hold a competition to determine its flavour.

Every year 7,000 people in Sussex are told they have cancer, yet 1,400 of them are left with little or no information about the illness they are facing or the options available to them. For this reason we are continuing to support the Sussex Macmillan Cancer Support Centre, a separate building situated close to the Sussex Cancer Centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton.

If you or anyone you know has worries about cancer, if they've just been diagnosed or even if their treatment has ended, the Cancerline, Benefits Helpline, Cancer information Nurse Helpline and Youthline have all been brought together under one phone number: **0808 808 0000** or the website can always be visited on [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk). Information can be had over the telephone, or you can request any number of relevant booklets.

*Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 890400*

## Blackboys CE School

Another eventful and energetic term here at Blackboys! With the weather gradually improving our thoughts have turned to spring and the countryside around us with a focus on the environment and sustainability.

Earlier in the term students from Ringmer Community College joined us for our assembly and gave a presentation about the work the school is doing to support energy saving and make the world a "greener" place. We were informed of the school's work with wind turbines and solar energy cells as well as the awards they have achieved and their visit to Highgrove House to meet the Prince of Wales. They were able to spend a little time with our year 6 pupils and have re-engendered the enthusiasm for recycling that had faded somewhat since the start of the new academic year.

Class 2 went for a Walk In the Woods - Blackboys woods! This was part of their project and they went on a hunt for the first signs of plants and flower growth. They have completed some wonderful work based on this trip and will be visiting again next term to see what changes have occurred. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful resource almost on our doorstep—it's great to see our school using it for their learning.

Class 3 were not to be left out and went on a very exciting class trip to Wilderness Wood where they were taught a variety of survival skills - how to construct a shelter and build a camp fire etc. We feel that it is essential that our pupils learn how to estimate risk in their lives and to make decisions about everyday situations.

This kind of activity gives them the chance for decision making and for team building as well as problem solving. They all learnt a great deal about themselves as well as having a great time.

Of course, we have had some wonderful assemblies from all classes and another highlight was our World Book Day Celebration which really went with a swing!

Those of the KS2 parents and pupils up early enough were able to come in to our school hall at 08.15 and share a good book with the children at the same time as a bacon sandwich and a cup of tea! Our Assembly was very special as Rev Chris shared his favourite author with us and led our act of worship. We were then able to celebrate the success of three of our pupils who have succeeded in winning books in a county wide competition involving the Library: In competition with all other schools in our area, three of our pupils have managed to write winning reviews and win books! Congratulations must go to Mikey Taylor, Kizzie Budd and Raphaela Winterton. It's fantastic for a school as small as we are to have so many prize-winners and is evidence of the talent of our pupils and the quality of the teaching.

I was very pleased last term when approached by Mrs Doherty to see if we could accommodate Crusaders in our school hall on a Friday again! It is lovely to have them back and I always enjoy hearing all the stories and singing that now end our week so positively! Welcome back Crusaders!

Just a reminder to end: We will be having a pre-Easter service at Thomas à Becket Church on Monday 4th April from 09.10 for about three quarters of an hour Parents and friends are very welcome to join us and celebrate this very special time of the year - we look forward to seeing you all there.

### From the PTA

The PTA are planning a **Spring Fete on Saturday 2nd April**. Amongst other things, we are hoping to have a well-stocked plant stall, so we would be extremely grateful for any donations of plants of any kind, seedlings, vegetables, flowers etc. If anyone local can help us with this, please contact the school directly!