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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 2011

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

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

Churchwardens : **Mrs Joan Burne**
Mr John Mordaunt

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 – 5.00 pm (closed Wednesday)

Email - **rev.chris@btinternet.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:

3rd June: **David Satchwell / Faye Bennett**
25th June: **Darren Dean / Charlotte Brownings**
15th July: **Marc Ghione / Sheralee Holmes**

At rest :
23rd June **Norman (Nobby) Pilcher**

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Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322
Road maintenance: 0345 6080193
Recycling sites: 01273 481000
Street Lighting: 01825 890182
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

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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.*

Thoughts of summer Time to rest and let God do some recreation

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. -John Lubbock

As we rapidly approach the summer holidays those of us with children will be beginning to relish the thought of not having to get up quite so early to get the children ready for school. Perhaps also the anticipation of going on holiday.

Whether it's overseas to some exotic location or somewhere within the UK getting away from it all is virtually a necessity. As the saying goes 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'. We all need sufficient uninterrupted time to rest and relax for our own wellbeing.

Personally, I have been banned from taking my Blackberry mobile on holiday - it's just too tempting to answer the odd email. Being virtually un-contactable on holiday is I believe a good thing. If our days are being broken into, however briefly then your mind quickly switches back into work mode and that's not really what a holiday is all about. I do wonder how many businessmen will be taking a laptop away with them - just in case the office needs them. Believe me they can cope without you!

However, when we are on holiday are we really able to 'leave it all behind'?

I remember vividly last year that it took me about 4 days to wind down then I bought a daily paper - big mistake - it was full of the sham marriages scandal, a complete wind up. I had to apologise to my wife and children for being such a pain.

This year will be different. No phone, no papers, just quality family time; church matters will be left in the hands of the Almighty and our very capable Churchwardens - Joan and John.

I am a firm believer that you need to get in the right frame of mind prior to going on holiday in order to get the maximum benefit and to this end Psalm 23 is most apt.

As David wrote - ***The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul.***

Great words with wonderful promises - I am starting to relax already - hope everyone reading this has a great summer break - blessings to you all.

Revd Chris Lawrence

**Family Service on the Rec - Sunday 14th August 2011
- 10:30 am Breakfast - Service at 11.00 am**

Traditionally Framfield Church has been given the opportunity to use the large marquee for the Sunday service following the Summer Show.

This year we welcome Bernie and Jean French from Lantern Ministries (*do you remember Bernie's exploding Bible ?*) The service is open to everyone and will begin with breakfast - bacon butties, donuts, tea/coffee and soft drinks etc.

Please encourage anyone and everyone to come along - it's going to be a really fun service and suitable for all the family.

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

5TH SEPTEMBER - 1PM
ANNIVERSARY LUNCH -BUXTED PAVILION

19TH SEPTEMBER - 2.30 FOR 3PM
WURLITZER ORGAN CONCERT
AT THE EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

Open to others - Contact: Sandy 01825 840648 for details

PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

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BOOKINGS.**

CONTACT SANDIE SMITH ON 01825 890644 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

It has been an interesting and varied couple of months. At our June meeting we had a great speaker, Geoffrey Meade, talking about the Sussex Coast from Chichester to Rye. He gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk.

In July we had our summer outing to Highgrove, Prince of Wales private gardens. It was an amazing day out. On the way we stopped for lunch at the beautiful town of Tetbury. The flags were out to greet us! We had lovely weather and had a wonderful guided tour around the gardens, which were fascinating. Followed by refreshments in the Highgrove tearooms. The Guide and the staff were very welcoming despite all the security checks.

During the month our ladies, accompanied by some of the husbands, had a very interesting tour of Kingstanding, the Sussex Police training facility located in Ashdown Forest. It was a listening station during WWII for the Services where they transmitted propaganda and messages into Germany and wherever our spies were. We were told some wonderful stories of war experiences. As we walked around we saw many of the original war buildings and equipment. We went through the areas used for the police intensive riot training and also the areas where the specialist dogs train to find drugs and explosives. We then went underground into the nuclear bunker constructed at great cost during the cold war. Kingstanding are very proud of their conservation work and recently recorded the highest count of Silver Studded Blue butterflies, an endangered species.

Please be sure to visit our Bookstall at the Framfield Show on Saturday August 13th where we will have a selection of second-hand books, CD's and DVD's for sale, all at very reasonable prices.

We always look forward to welcoming prospective members to our meetings. Our next meeting is in the afternoon on Tuesday 9th August and we will be having tea in the garden. If you would like to join us, please give me a ring and I will let you know where we will be.

Corinne Urben - 01825 890422

AUGUST 2011

- 07 Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 14 Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 am Service on the Rec (Breakfast from 10.30)
- 17** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 21 Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 28 Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Morning Praise

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 04 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 11 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
- 18 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening service with Prayer for healing

- 21 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship 2001

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th SEPTEMBER 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.




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LOCAL BUILDERS
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Did you think January was never going to end? The winter started early with snow in December and lots more in January. Travel was impossible and lots of events were cancelled.

We did eventually get rid of the cold and slowly but surely up popped the snowdrops and daffodils. We ended up with the most beautiful and memorable Spring. All the spring flowers and blossom seemed exceptionally lovely; they probably enjoyed the cold and the snow. We all have to enjoy it while it lasts and 'Thank the Lord' for a 'Blooming Good' Spring.

We have roamed further afield during April, visiting New York. Spring was just beginning over there so we saw daffodils again - in Central Park. We stayed in a hotel near Times Square on the 24th floor, just under half way as there was a total of 52 floors!

How do you describe this metropolis? Busy, lively - never asleep. Human beings en masse. You can see more people in one morning than you would see here in ten years. We had a good time and visited many sights. So different from 'our world' but a great experience.

On June 8th our senior fellowship group had a great success with '**Ploughmans and Puddings with the Parkers Lunch**'. Andrea Parker (niece of Marian Filtness) and her husband, Graham, travelled from the Midlands to be with us and gave us a great insight to the work they do for Latin Link in Bolivia, teaching teenage boys to do metalwork, also introducing them to the Christian Faith. By helping them in this way to learn new skills and knowledge it gives them a future with hope for a better start in life. It was a very enjoyable event and we were pleased to contribute £270.00 for their project. Well done and Thank You for all those who helped and supported the lunch.

Two Council meetings have been held since the publication of the last magazine, and the elections - the AGM in May, followed by an ordinary meeting in June.

At the AGM on 17 May 2011, Maria Naylor was re-elected as Chairman, with Rob Newton as her Vice Chairman. Other returning councillors include Selina Allen, Richard Brocklebank, Myran Eade, Peter Friend, Felicity Groves, John Mordaunt and Ian Paisley. Fred Thurston had made the decision not to restand. All of them must be thanked for all the time and effort voluntarily given to serve the Parish.

I thought I would give an update on the way the Council works.

- The two Trusts (Framfield, covering the recreation ground and Hall, and Blackboys, covering the recreation ground, allotments, Hall, and Palehouse Common recreation ground) for which the Council are Trustees are now run under separate meetings, always held prior to any Council meeting at 7 pm. There is also a Planning, Environment and Financial and General Purposes Committee. The details of membership are as detailed below. Rob and Maria are ex-officio on all committees.
- Planning – Maria (Chairman), Peter (Vice Chairman), Richard, Felicity and Ian.
- Environment – Felicity (Chairman), John (Vice-Chairman), and Myran.
- FGP – the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and of both Committees.
- Selina Allen is the School Governor at Framfield School and Ann Newton at Blackboys.
- Ian Paisley is the Tree Warden.

Blackboys – reduction in speed limit – I have had news that the speed limit reduction is back on the cards for Blackboys with the associated traffic calming. ESCC will be presenting the revised proposals to the Council at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 26 July 2011 just prior to the Council meeting in the Village Hall, Blackboys. Please come along if this message gets through in time! It will also be posted on the website.

A petition has been received by ESCC to do something about the speed of traffic on the B2192 as well as a similar request for the Palehouse Common Road – a busy time for ESCC!

Brian Short has been formally recognised as Caretaker to both Halls. For information, Mary Short takes the bookings at the Memorial Hall, Lisa Parsons does the cleaning. Sandie Smith takes the bookings and does the cleaning at the Village Hall, Blackboys. Great thanks must be given to them all for their time and efforts for the Parish.

Some remedial repair works will be commissioned at the Memorial Hall before the start of the football season.

The next meeting and last for the summer, is 26 July 2011.

Website – why not check it out – www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

If anyone requires a full hard copy of the minutes for any of the Council meetings please let me know. All our meeting details are available on our website – www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

ANN NEWTON/July 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);.

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

Living with fur and feather

RAINING CATS AND DOGS

Over the years I have helped people with their pet's behaviour problems, first with dogs then later cats and dogs. The trouble with cat/dog difficulties is that invariably I am called too late and the situation has already seriously deteriorated.

It was raining cats and dogs when I arrived. I shivered as a cold blast of wind hit me as I stepped out of the car. Winter was coming. Trickle of ice cold rain were trickling down my neck as I knocked on the door. It was a relief to be welcomed into the pleasant warm cottage. I was there to help a lady who was very upset about her old cat Molly. She had decided to adopt a Jack Russell terrier who - unfortunately being a terrier - loved to chase cats. Molly was very upset when this terrifying creature came to live in her peaceful home.

Mrs Jones explained that living on her own she thought it would be nice to have a little dog for company as well as her beloved Molly. We had a chat while I made a

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.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - FRAMFIELD & BLACKBOYS BRANCH

Membership of the Royal British Legion in the Parish has been sadly depleted in recent years and we would welcome new members. Membership is open to all, whether or not you have served in HM Forces

We also need help with the annual Poppy Appeal. Could you spare some time in early November to cover a small area of the parish with a house to house collection?

If you wish to be a member or if you can help with the Poppy Appeal please contact David Jenner on 01825 890632; 07881 786785 or davidjenner@supanet.com



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

Our last term at Pre-School has been very busy, In June we had a fantastic visit from the fire-fighters from Uckfield fire station and their engine which they drove straight into the school playground, we were joined by the reception class, we all had fun climbing on the engine, using their hose to soak the playground and learning all about what fire-fighters do.

We have been really enjoying our outside area in this lovely weather, as it is our first summer with a garden, we have created a small allotment helped by Jimmy James and we are developing a sensory garden for the future.

Our term ended with a big party on the 22nd July, Dotty came to entertain us with magic and balloon creatures followed by lots of different games outside, ending in a big feast.

Our Rising 5's group ran very successfully for the summer term, this provides the children with the opportunity to meet their new teacher and class mates ensuring that their transition into the reception class in September is as smooth as possible.

At our Graduation ceremony on Thursday 21st July we wished all of our school leavers, Elliott, Teddy, Oliver, Alexander, Finley & Oscar a fun summer before their move to school.

fuss of the sweet but lively little dog. Wanting Chaser the dog to feel at home, she had given him the run of the house. Molly was very frightened and did not feel safe in her home any more. "Where is she?" I enquired. "Put your coat on and I'll show you" she said. We went out into the sodden wind swept garden, the rain still pouring down. I still could not see her. "There she is" she said pointing to the flat roof of the garage. I could not see anything at first and stepped back to get a better look and there she was. All I could see were two soaking wet ears flattened against Mollie's head as she crouched down trying pitifully to avoid the wind and driving rain on the exposed roof.

Molly refused to come down and we retreated indoors to discuss the situation. I offered advice on how to improve the situation, but when Mrs Jones explained that Molly was old and frail we regretfully decided that Chaser should be returned to rescue so he could be re-homed in a cat free home. I knew that once Chaser had gone Molly would soon return to her old routine and enjoy the warmth and comfort of her home again.

I have been called to other very similar situations where a new dog has been introduced into cat only households. Invariably it is the same story where the new dog is given access to all the house and the resident cat or cats decide to leave home. Sometimes they decide to move into another household or they compromise by finding alternative accommodation in the garden shed, under the parked car or handy bush. Occasionally they decide a safe refuge can be found under a bed or in the airing cupboard where the dog cannot reach them. I heard of one cat that decided to live in the airing cupboard only coming out for calls of nature and food literally for years. When the dog eventually died years later the cat amazingly resumed its previous routine and enjoyed the entire house again.

In most cases a little thought and forward planning before introducing the new dog would have prevented the problem.

It is most important that the dog is restricted to a limited area downstairs while the cats should have escape routes and plenty of high places to retreat to where they feel safe. Using a baby gate to restrict the dog and letting the cats have free access, particularly upstairs, will all help. Before they meet, familiarise them to each other's scent on clothing, articles and rooms. They can then gradually get accustomed to the new strange smells. Hopefully, having slowly and carefully introduced the pets to each other they will then become friends.

Hazel Carter www.hazel-carter.co.uk info@hazel-carter.co.uk



The Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show

Saturday 13th August 2011

BIGGER, BETTER with ADDED BEEF

As you may well know, the organisation of the Summer Show passed over to a new committee set up as a result of the meeting back in September 2010. The new committee has met a number of times and plans are now well underway for the show this year. Much will of course remain with the established traditions continuing.

The centrepiece will of course be the incredible range of talents on show in both the marquee and the village hall of the skills and talents in the usual classes. Many of the stall and side shows will continue with Mrs Back-to-Front making a welcome return along with the multi-class Dog Show and the Pig Pat Lotto. However, there will also be a range of new attractions such as Classic Vehicles, Deb's Dancers and the exciting return of Tug-of-War contests.

So therefore the Summer Show looks like being bigger and better than ever, with added Beef.

Such a huge and impressive undertaking is not an easy task and many hands are needed. Many have already volunteered to assist, some for an hour, others for longer. All this help is gratefully received and it is part of the way the Summer Show brings the Parish together. Why not join the team.

Like to Enter Something?

Full details are in the Summer Show Schedule that was delivered with the last Parish magazine. The schedule is also downloadable including an entry form from www.fabhortsoc.org.uk and if you need any guidance please call Terry Everitt on 01825-891392

To Offer Your Help

Whether it is to carry tables, make cakes, or help on a stall then please call Katherine Rabson-Stark on 01825-891291

Tug-of-War

You can be a group of friends, work colleagues or a group of children. With a range of contests including all female and the services of a quality referee secured, this should be a spectacular event.

For more details and to enter the Tug-of-War contests - Call Peter Tipping on 01825-890095.

Would you like to have your own stall?

For the details, costs and forms to fill in, please call Penny Malloy on 01825-890638 or pamalloy@btinternet.com

So that just leaves the weather. We can but hope. See you there!

Please put the date, Saturday the 13th August 2011 in your diary and come along to enjoy the fun whatever the weather!



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



No market in August

Saturday 24th September – 10am - 12noon

ALL WELCOME

Do come and support

**Come and enjoy the market stalls,
tea/coffee, bacon rolls and company.**

Contact: Sandy 01825 840648.

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@gmail.com

Tel: 01825 840 020

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Blackboys Pre-School

Blackboys Village Hall,

Gun Road, Blackboys,

East Sussex, TN22 5JY

Tel: 01825 891113

www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

As this school year draws to a close, we've had a fun-packed term and lots of outdoor activities to take advantage of the (mostly) beautiful weather.

The children are really enjoying the opportunity to grow food at our new Pre-School allotment. The courgettes, tomatoes and squash are already doing well, and there are big plans for expanding our crops! We always welcome any offers of advice or donations of tools for our 'Growing up Green' project. Drop into the Village Hall or email us – we'd love to hear from you.

This term we have also continued our collaboration with the Mohair Centre in Chiddingly. Most recently we had a session with Jacky where the children experimented with spinning, weaving and felting. We look forward to lots more visits to the forest school to explore the outdoors and enjoy nature

Parents, grandparents and carers turned out in their hordes to see the children take part in Sports Day. The children all did amazingly well, although the jury's out on who had the most fun as grown-ups showed their competitive side in the adult egg and spoon races!

Our annual sponsored walk was a very sociable event and the money raised will be used to buy tools and equipment for our new allotment. Thanks to Chris Hardstone, our local police community support officer, for starting our fancy dress walk with the "blues and twos". Thanks also to the Blackboys Inn for providing squash to the children at the halfway mark, and to Michael Fordham at Holly Gap Farm Shop in Isfield for donating the most delicious sausages for the post walk barbeque.

Come and meet us at the Blackboys and Framfield Show on Saturday 13 August. We'll be selling candyfloss and cakes and doing face painting. It's also an opportunity to buy a Blackboys Bear (did you know there was a colony just by the Pre-School). Pop over and say hello if you're at the show!

We run termly coffee mornings and open days. The next one is on Thursday 29 September from 9.30am to 11.30am. They are primarily social events where any parents or carers of young children can come along to meet others, have a chat and enjoy a slice of homemade cake and coffee/tea while their little ones play. They're free and all are welcome! It's also an opportunity for those who are interested to have a look around the Pre-School and chat to staff and parents of children who already attend. Check out our website at www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk for details of other events and to sign up to our email newsletter.

Blackboys Pre-School is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 3.30pm. We have places available for September. For information or to book your child in for a no-obligation free trial, call Jenny on 01825 891113 or email enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk.

Have a great summer!
The Blackboys Pre-School team

Registered charity: 1026132 - Ofsted registration number: 109388.

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.

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 has depleted their habitat. Then there is the weather to contend with. If they survive all that, there is a range of hungry predators; stoats, foxes, kestrels, cats and crows who would find them a tasty snack, while studies of barn owl pellets reveal that harvest mice 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 describing them as 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 walking in 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 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
www.sussexwt.org.uk

Polite Notice Board:

Could horse riders please not ride along Public Footpaths - horses have rights of way only where there are designated Bridle Paths. The distinction is there for the safety of all concerned.

Could dog owners please not allow their dogs to chase walkers and cyclists in the lanes. Dogs should be kept under close control at all times and especially near livestock when they need to be on a lead.

All is Safely Gathered In

As the height of summer gently glides into autumn, golden sheaves of wheat will decorate the late August landscape and the light and the very texture of the countryside seems to change with the approaching 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 its name to this season, the harvest mouse, a really charming little creature that is probably not uncommon, but its 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 them. The nest is spherical like a cricket ball and breeding nests 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 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.

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MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Our most recent fundraising event was a Golf Day at the East Sussex National Golf Club. Despite the dreadful, windy and wet weather, it was a huge success and raised in the region of £9,000. We are grateful to all those who donated prizes for our auction and to those brave golfers, who, I'm told, had to queue to dry socks under the hand dryer! Also, our committee made tea and cakes to follow a lovely concert in Buxted Church, which was again most successful and made just over £700.

Many of our committee attended a Macmillan Day in Uckfield, as one of the many events being held to celebrate our centenary. We heard updates of plans at a local and national level. The teams are redesigning the workforce and plan to have one central office in London. This would involve reducing local offices and saving money in administration. One of the aims for this year is to work in partnership with Boots to offer people with cancer more information on the high street.

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. Information can be had over the telephone, or you can request any number of relevant booklets.

Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 890400

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

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Are you interested in the history of our parish and adjacent areas? Would you like to meet others who share your interest?

Blackboys & District Historical Society

was set up in 1997 by a group of local people to "indulge" that interest in the history of our community and also to encourage research and the "gathering together" of photos, documents and other "archive" material. Our name was particularly chosen to reflect how boundaries have changed several times over the centuries. Meetings are held most months on the first Tuesday, in Blackboys Village Hall. Dates and topics for the remainder of 2011 are as follows;

Tuesday 6th September - Archaeology of the Weald

Tuesday 4th October - AGM & Supper

Tuesday 1st November - Bonfire Riots

Friday 9th December - The Turning Year

We welcome visitors at our meetings, and prospective new members, of all ages. We try and make each meeting interesting with a variety of speakers and topics through the year. Whether your interest is just a general one in our history, or a particular one, eg family history, archaeology, house research, or the natural environment etc we would like to hear from you.

Please contact the secretary on 01825 890359

Email: baturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Blackboys Church of England Primary 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 a variety of events and 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 -children from years 4, 5 and 6 - played to the congregation both during and at the end of the service. I have to say that their performance was truly wonderful. The standard of playing was very high and the group was praised, not only by the organisers, but also by other attending schools.

The school entered the Goblin Kit Car race this year at Ringmer Community College Blackboys rose to the challenge as usual and managed a very respectable 4th place. We need to thank the staff of RCC for their support as, there were doubts this year as to whether we would be able to attend due to staffing shortages.

At Blackboys we firmly believe in keeping alive traditional Sussex pursuits. With this in mind, we sent two teams to the Third Annual Firlle Stoolball Tournament. We are very pleased to report that both teams won all of their group matches and so played each other in the final! This guaranteed a rather magnificent trophy will be spending the year at Blackboys School!

Our end of year performance has been yet another one to remember: a musical based (loosely!) on some of the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. The children did very well and managed some very challenging songs! Our youngest children took part as fishermen and islanders. 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.

As you know, reading has a high priority here at Blackboys and our eldest pupils always enter the quizzes and challenges sent by both the local library service and the

Schools Library and Museum Service. This year pupils from year 5 and 6 have won a variety of books by entering the Review-writing challenge: in total eight pupils wrote reviews that were good enough to win. Furthermore, our school was joint winner in the Book Award Quiz for the East Sussex Library and Museum Service! A terrific achievement for a small school! Well done year 6 and thanks to Mr Sullivan for all his support. The prize was a collection of books for our school library.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the local community for supporting our PTA Auction of Promises a few weeks ago. Although the weather was not kind to us, many people turned out and of course we also had many sealed bids. By the end of the evening, under the expert auctioneer skills of Mr Sullivan and our wonderful PTA helpers, we managed to raise over a fantastic £3,500 for our playground project! In these times of financial constraints and difficulties, it is so wonderful to have the support of our local community. It is very much appreciated.

J K King
Headteacher



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