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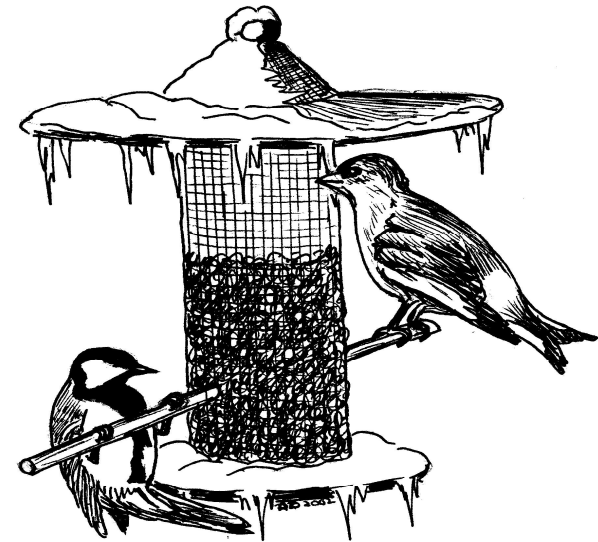
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Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

**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 :

No entries in the Registers for this issue

Advance Notice – Grand Jumble Sale in Aid of Church Hall Redecoration.

To raise funds for redecoration of the Church Hall I would like some help [and jumble] Hopefully we can arrange a sale in the near future. If you can help please contact Joan Burne on 01825 891037.

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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, Delia Gillies
and their teams of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters",

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2012 - Your way or God's way?

The New Year is now well under way and 2011 may just be distant memory, but have you found that the older you get the concept of time appears to be compressed?

When we are very young you just can't wait to grow up, even to the point of wishing our lives away. Age opens doors whether it is going to the cinema, going to the pub or driving a car. For those of us who have lived a few years when we were 18 or so we thought we would live forever! But then when you hit the higher milestone birthdays you look back and wonder where the time has gone. That's the trick of how we comprehend time and when we come to the realisation that life is short.

I was amazed the other day when it was said on the Radio that David Bowie had just had his 65th birthday and with it his bus-pass! How could that cool icon of the 70's and 80's possibly be 65? Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones will be 69 this July. Time certainly waits for no man and there is no guarantee that we will all live to a ripe old age. Anyone over 40 who has been to a school reunion will have realised that some of their school chums may have already suffered serious health problems or died an early death.

If life is relatively short and uncertain should we not aim to make the most of the time we have available? Yet in my experience many folk seldom fulfil their potential but tend to amble through life without any clear ambitions or goals. On the other hand many are locked into the past (mainly due to unforgiveness from negative life events) and are unable to break free to enjoy the remainder of their lives.

Some years I was listening to Dr James Dobson on Premier Christian Radio. Dr Dobson was telling the story of a man who was seriously physically disabled yet despite his disabilities had overcome many obstacles and fulfilled many of his goals, which were considerably more in number than my own! His latest one was to learn to fly a light aircraft and perform a solo flight. This he also achieved. It was truly humbling to listen to the testimony of this amazing man. Dr Dobson asked him how he managed to achieve so much in the light of his daily struggle with disability. His answer was simple and to the point, he said, "When I get up in the morning I make the choice not to be miserable but make the most of the day that I have been given". I was inspired that morning! By contrast walk down any high street or through any shopping centre and observe the look in faces of the able bodied. Do you see light, joy, optimism, happiness or misery?

When you boil it all down, in the majority of instances life is about the choices we make in the circumstances we currently find ourselves in.

You can choose to be happy; you can choose to smile rather than frown; you can choose to forgive rather than live under a cloud of bitterness; you can choose to work rather than be idle, etc.

King Solomon writing as an old man in the book of Ecclesiastes said this: **I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live.**¹³ **That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God.** *Ecclesiastes 3:12-13*

American actor and political commentator Ben Stein said: **“The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want.”**

Perhaps one of the saddest things in life is to never have tried, never risked something new and then to look back in regret at the wasted years and wasted opportunities. As the years advance perhaps we all need to ask ourselves at least two questions i.e. what do I still want to achieve in this life and how would I like to be remembered? Our lives should hopefully count for something positive.

To launch out into the unknown requires courage, but how much better would it be if you didn't have to be self-reliant in your endeavours? Fear of the unknown is also a major factor that holds many back.

Currently in the church calendar we are in the season of Epiphany which celebrates the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (non-Jewish). In this season Jesus also called his first disciples and when he did he just said “Follow me”. What is notable is that they did just that - left everything behind, didn't look back and simply followed Him into a life full of adventure. What they came to realise was that Jesus was totally reliable and wanted the very best for each of them. The good news is that nothing has changed; the love of God remains totally unconditional and timeless as the writer to the Hebrews says:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (*Hebrews 13:8*)

So will 2012 be a different year? Will it be another 'go it alone year' or a 'give God a chance year'? It's your choice, but may I encourage you with a few lines from a famous poem by Minnie Louise Haskins –

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

**And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'**

Rev Chris Lawrence

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Framfield & Blackboys WI

We are a friendly, lively WI. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at either Framfield Memorial Hall or Blackboys Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm.

Our next meeting is to be held at Blackboys Village Hall. Please note this is a change of venue to that posted in the Dec/Jan Parish Magazine. Please come along to what promises to be an entertaining evening.

**7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 14th February
at Blackboys Village Hall:
'Choice Joyce'
(A taste of Joyce Grenfell) Mrs Pat Bryer**

We enjoy outings, tea parties, craft courses, flower arranging, ten-pin bowling and many other activities. We will also be organising some new and exciting craft days and countryside walks during the New Year.

There are many opportunities to learn new skills. We will be running more of our own learning days and there are also courses regularly run at Headquarters. The Federation Leisure and Learning Committee arrange additional outings and exciting events. We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Buckingham Palace and Members had great fun at a Bowls taster day. We also had a fun day learning to play Mah Jong.

We have a wonderful programme of events planned for 2012. At our meetings we have a guest speaker followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. We often have a raffle and a quiz or competition. We end the year with a wonderful Christmas party and in January we go out to dinner to start the New Year.

If you would like to find out more, please come along to one of our meetings or give me a call.

**Corinne Urben
01825 890422**

Diary of Church Services

FEBRUARY 2012

- 05 Third Sunday before Lent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish HC (Trad) with Prayer for Healing
- 12 Second Sunday before Lent**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 15** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 19 Sunday next before Lent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 26 First Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion

MARCH 2012

- 04 Second Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
- 11 Third Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion with Prayer for Healing
- 18 Fourth Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

- 21 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

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

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th MARCH 2012
 TO
 ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182
 framfield.pc@virgin.net
 CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE SENT TO
 CHRIS LAWRENCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE –
 01825 891090**

**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.

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



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CHURCH AND VILLAGE EVENTS From Eve, our roving reporter

At the beginning of December my daughter and I went to Bath for the weekend to visit the Christmas Markets. It is very rare for us, as indeed many of you, to have time together without husbands and children, so we had a lovely time, just relaxing and browsing among the many stalls whilst trying out all the free samples that were on offer. The little wooden huts reminded me of Brugge, a lovely atmosphere with a continental flavour.

With all the Christmas activities and festivities having ended, the baubles, tinsel and nativity figures are all carefully stored away until next year. The tree gets put out in the garden probably with most of its needles still indoors which will finally all be hoovered up by June, at the earliest!

We have now entered the quiet month of January. Our spirits can become very low during these damp, dark and depressing days, especially with all those nasty coughs and colds that simply will not go away. It makes it very difficult to look forward with optimism. We don't know what is in store for 2012 but the Spring will come to cheer us up - so book your holidays now

If it's not too late - I would like to wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR - may it bring good things and good health.

Eve

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET - 2012

Saturday - 25th February - 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Saturday - 24th March - 10.00 am - 12.00 noon



A great variety of Market Stalls. The Monies from the RAFFLE/£1 STALL AND TEAS/COFFEES - only ALL go to the Village Hall. In 5 years this has raised £8,307.88.

Many Thanks to all those who have attended the Markets. If you have not been, then come up one Saturday and see for yourself what goes on, it's part of

your Village Events. For more info ring Sandy: 01825 840648.

A couple of weeks before Christmas the Uckfield committee did a collection at Morrison's in Crowborough for five days and were delighted to raise about £1,260. The Saturday before Christmas we were in the Arndale Centre, Eastbourne with the local group and our share was £340. We enjoyed listening to carols performed by a police choir, amidst a very festive atmosphere. In addition to this, Ann recently went to receive a cheque for £2,600, very generously donated by Piltdown Golf Club.

This has been a very successful centenary year for Macmillan Cancer Support. Many people across the UK have made tremendous efforts with fundraising, including the world's biggest coffee morning, cycling, running and walking challenges, to name but a few. There are plans for a new partnership with Boots the Chemist, to help reach more people with information and support 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

The church musicians did us proud as we sang our way through quite an extensive array of carols and we must have been in good voice because a fair number of customers came over and joined in.

Many of them said 'I like a good sing-song - especially carols - it makes it more like Christmas'. They all certainly contributed to a wonderful musical evening and we extend an open invitation to pop along and see us in church - where we also sing - usually on a Sunday morning. Everyone was so friendly and actively taking part - we should do it more often! We were even rewarded for our efforts with a wonderful chicken and chips supper - what more could you want!

We look forward to more Hare and Hounds evenings and thank Mathew for his open invitation to use the car park when attending church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE - GOD BLESS

Joan Burne (Church Warden)

Framfield CE Primary School

This term has started very well with three new children joining us and Mr John Marsh teaching part-time in Eagles class(years 5 and 6)whilst I take on the role of acting headteacher.

We had a very successful end to last term with many Christmas events; many involved the children singing beautifully. The Eagles took part in a Christmas Big Sing at Glyndebourne which was very special. It was a delight to see the children's enthusiasm as they sang and "danced" to the songs. Did you know that Joseph may have said "Ow "in a rap as he hit his thumb?

Many children participated in a lively manner when singing at the Uckfield late night shopping event and could be heard live on the Uckfield fm radio. Several of the children sang to the Monday Club at their Christmas party which was warmly received.

At the end of term, after class work on many customs and traditions all the children performed in our production "Children of the World". Following this we held our Carol service at the church. This was especially poignant as it was also an opportunity for us to pay our fond farewells to Mrs Janet Wilde after being our headteacher for ten years. We all miss her but hope once her broken ankle has repaired she is able to fully enjoy her new career in child counselling.

Jacqueline Davies

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Start date: 30 January 2012
Duration: 5 weeks (25 working days)
Hours of work: 07:30am – 5:00 pm (some works conducted at off-peak times only)

What will the works entail?

This work is to make safety improvements to the junction. This is designed to slow traffic as it approaches this junction.

This will involve:

- Physical alterations to the junction
- New signs
- Re-surfacing
- New white lining

We will also resurface sections of the B2192 Lewes Rd between the junction and the Blackboys Service Station. **Traffic Management**

We will complete the majority of these works using temporary traffic lights. We will control these manually at peak traffic times to reduce disruption.

During the resurfacing works we will have to close the B2192 Lewes Road to through traffic. **This should only take 1 day**

Contact details: Highways Contact Centre:
 0345 60 80 193 East Sussex Highways, The Broyle, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5NP highways@eastsussex.gov.uk. Please contact the Highways Contact Centre. This service is available Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5pm and on Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

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Hare and Hounds Carol Evening

On Thursday 22nd December a good number of Framfield churchgoers met at the pub opposite the church and enjoyed a very friendly welcome from Mathew Marches and his staff.



Blackboys Pre-School
Blackboys Village Hall,
Gun Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex, TN22 5JL
Tel: 01825 891113

www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

There's an international theme at Blackboys Pre School this term. We have been learning about Handa's Surprise, a lovely book by Eileen Browne based in Africa, and have been trying the fruits in the story; avocado, passion fruit, guava and mango, to name a few. We will also be looking at the instruments that come from Africa and playing some of them.

By the time you read this, we will have been for a lunch at the Wok Inn to celebrate Chinese New Year. The children loved making a giant dragon to do a dragon dance to Chinese music and a very large Asian gong.

Montessori and Forest School

We now apply Montessori principles and Practice to some of our activities. This is a wonderful fit with the Forest School training that staff have also undertaken, which uses the natural environment for activities, such as den building and craft work. Both methods encourage children to be able to be independent and confident in their world, to learn life skills for the future, to be polite, to respect themselves, each other and their environment.

Growing up green - our allotment

The children are continuing their regular visits to our allotment and the colder weather is doing little to dampen their enthusiasm! We have started a wellie garden, whereby children plant seeds in old wellington boots. And it's only a matter of time before potatoes are planted in the allotment. If you are allotment holder in Blackboys and would like to talk to the children about the things you grow, drop us a line - we'd really love to hear from you! Give Jenny a ring on 01825 891113.

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By the time you are reading these notes Christmas and New Year will be but a distant memory but I am writing them on the day before Christmas Eve so am feeling all the usual panic that the festival brings. Have I got everything I need bought, packed, delivered, cooked, posted? There seems to be an endless list of things to do before the commercial world shuts down and I can relax because if I haven't got it by now I probably don't need it anyway!

So far the weather is pleasing us gardeners. A bit muddy perhaps but we can cope with that. As I said in my last letter I have taken all the precautions I possibly can to protect my more tender plants so I feel fairly confident that any damage won't be as serious as in the last two years.

The Horticultural Society Committee has already made some plans for an interesting year ahead. Keep your eye open on your membership card as well as details on the Web and notices that are put about in the Villages. We hope to visit a snowdrop specialist's garden which is very local and is being opened for charity. There will be more details later. On 1st March John Waller will be showing us how to make a willow obelisk and we hope to raffle one of his creations. I look forward to seeing you all there. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and I wish everybody a very happy gardening year. *Jennifer Graham.*

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Saturday 18th February 2012 - 2.30pm & 7.30pm

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www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com

Blackboys Pre-School - community events

More than just a village pre-school, Blackboys Pre-School is an important part of village life. We host a number of events open to all members of the community.

We had a great coffee morning and open day on Thursday 11 January where parents and carers caught up over coffee and homemade cakes. Our next coffee morning will be advertised on our boards in the village and on our website at www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk.

Having a spring clean? Rather than send your unwanted items to landfill, we can arrange for them to be recycled. Ecokids will give us £550 for every tonne we collect. Our next collection is on 24 February at Blackboys Village Hall. Give us a call if you'd like us to collect from you!

We are also hosting a quiz night on 24 Feb. Tickets will be on sale soon. Events are listed on our website at www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk where you can also sign up to our email newsletter.

Want to look around?

Our regular open days are a great opportunity for people to look around and see all the great things Blackboys Pre-School has to offer. Staff and the pre-school manager are on hand, and parents of existing children are always happy to share their experiences. If you can't make an open day but would like to arrange a visit, email us or give Jenny a call on 01825 891113.

Can you make a difference?

Blackboys Pre School is by no means immune to the financial pressures being caused by cuts across the education sector. But we believe that providing quality pre school education to children in our area is vital. By setting up a regular donation, your contribution will go directly towards providing a nurturing and caring environment for 2 to 5 year our children.

Like many charities, the generous support of benefactors can make a huge difference. We are now registered for Gift Aid, which means we can make every £1 you give worth 25p more. Visit our JustGiving page at

<http://www.justgiving.com/blackboyspreschool/Donate> to make a pledge. To find out how you or your company can become a Blackboys Pre-School Patron, contact our Treasurer Daryl Willcox at enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk.

Blackboys Pre-School is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 3.30pm. We have places available for immediate start. 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.

The Blackboys Pre-School team



FRAMFIELD STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE



In aid of MacMillan Nurses

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support buying stars and giving donations to Uckfield Macmillan Nurses. Everyone helped raise:

£218.30

I would especially like to thank the following people:

Noah's Ark Fishery (01825 732964) for the Christmas tree
Framfield Parish Council for the Hall - with big thanks to Rob Newton
Linda Kemer for the donations of the decorations
Amy Gaylor for arranging all the music

Without these people and everyone else that got involved we would not have raised so much. So thank you to all.

I gave the money to Uckfield Macmillan Nurses last week and they were extremely grateful.

Thank you
Selina Allen



FRAMFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

THE STREET

FRAMFIELD

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TEL: 01825 890943

www.framfieldpreschool@gmail.com

I would like to introduce myself as the new manager of Framfield Pre-School. I may well be known to some of you as I have a long history of working and living in this area. In more recent times I have spent six months working in a Montessori nursery school to develop my knowledge of the Montessori principles and practices and six months working in Brighton undertaking training in special educational needs. I am very excited to be back in this area and being part of this lovely setting and school.

This term we are learning about water and begin our pond project together with the school celebrating Chinese New Year with one of our families. We really want the pre-school to continue to be part of the community and would welcome any visits into pre-school to share interests and hobbies.

During this term we will be starting our Launchpad to quality scheme to ensure the pre-school continues as a fantastic place for young children to learn and grow. We will also be holding an open afternoon for parents of the pre-school during February.

We would like to welcome our new children and their families this term, Emily, Isabella, Alicia, Holly & Theo; we hope you enjoy your time at Framfield Pre-School. We are open 7.45 - 6pm daily, including a breakfast club 7.45-8.45 and after school club 3-6pm for 2-11yrs. We still have some availability for morning and afternoon sessions, if you would like to arrange a visit or for more information please telephone Sarah Ridley on 01825 890943.

Thank you - Teresa Howell - Pre-School Manager

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

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th February when Mick Harker will be giving a talk about our local area, with a selection of local photos/post cards. On Tuesday March 6th the topic will be "Lewes, St Marys & Station Street in the 1790's with Debbie Matthews.

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

Ann Turner

PARISH MAGAZINE

It's that time of year again when we will be renewing the adverts in the magazine. We only do this annually as we have a one-off print which keeps our overall printing costs down.

I will be sending letters out shortly to all current advertisers, but if you would be interested in placing an advert and haven't done so before, could you please contact me, preferably by email.

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

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

6th February 2012 "Getting to know you", (bring a Photo) at the Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

20th February 2012 Tour of UCKFIELD with Sandy and Evelyn at the New Holy Cross Church Hall (Belmont Centre) 2.30pm

5th March 2012 Boccia (Bowls) at Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

19th March 2012 Chairbased Activities with Louise Knight, at Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

Open to able bodied 60/100? year olds, Transport can be provided, for more info ring Sandy - 01825 840648.

50 YEARS OF FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

2011 was a very special year as it was our 50th Anniversary. The Club was formed in 1961. September was the climax of the celebrations with a Birthday Lunch on the 5th at Buxted Pavilion. There was a Golden Theme including the flowers, serviettes and balloons. There were also sweets wrapped in golden paper for everyone to take home. Several helpers provided and served the lunch. A very good time was had by all.

Then on the 19th we had a very special afternoon at the East Sussex National Golf Club for a musical concert with the Musical Director, Michael Wooldridge, playing the Wurlitzer organ, which is the largest one outside America. It has been lovingly restored from an original shell dating back about 80 years.

The first tune he played was 'Congratulations' - made famous by Cliff Richard and went on to play a variety of tunes from Glen Miller - musicals and 'Top of the Pops' from 1961. He finished with a melody of songs from around the British Isles which of course included 'Sussex by the Sea'. We had a very enjoyable afternoon - a lovely birthday treat.

We have a membership of 40 and aim to provide an afternoon of company, friendship and laughter. If you are over 60 and would be interested in joining us ring **Sandy Rogers on 01825 840648.**

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Blackboys Church of England Primary School

Although Christmas is behind us, we thought we would let you all know how Blackboys School celebrated this very special time of the year!

The lead up to Christmas was very exciting as we had a slight change to our usual celebrations. For the first time we organised a separate Nativity for our youngest pupils who certainly excelled themselves holding the stage very professionally; the singing was wonderful and particular praise must go to those who had solos including Rosie Sullivan and Taite Elsey as Mary and Joseph, as well of course as Thomas Lyons who did a tremendous job as the Inn-Keeper.

We did of course have a celebration in our Parish Church and the Carol Service at Thomas A Becket Church took place on the Wednesday evening. Although it was the first time we had organised the event separate from KS1, it was wonderful to see so many parents of our younger children there to support and celebrate—thank you all very much for coming along. Vicar Chris excelled himself this year with not only balloons, but chocolates as well to retell the Christmas story!

Thanks to all the pupils of course—especially the readers and soloists—and to Mr Sullivan, Miss Neill and the team of TAs including Mrs Peck, Mr Turner, Mr Beddoe and Mrs Page for their hard work. A special thank you this year to our music teachers Mrs Bayman and Mrs Turbett who had two events to cater for. The music as usual was of a very high standard. Thanks to the Recorder Ensemble and the Orchestra too —these two groups always helps to make this service a very special event.

The rainbow Theatre came and performed a terrific version of Snow White to entertain the children with some of the children themselves taking part; the children were also lucky enough to have a super school Christmas Lunch as well as KS1 and KS2 parties where Father Christmas

was guest of honour!

Class 4 - our oldest pupils - organised a wonderful Christmas tea-party for the older people in our community. They made sandwiches and cakes and entertained them with singing from our Carol Service. We have received many letters and cards of thanks and appreciation and hope to be able to organise another visit before too long. The children enjoyed themselves as much as our visitors!

A wonderful Children's Market was organised by the PTA at the end of term. All the children were able to buy something exciting for their family and went back to the classrooms full of smiles. The PTA then organised a super tea and mince-pie event which brought a large number of parents into our hall. A total of £345.19 was taken. Huge thanks must go to our PTA for holding this very well-organised and enjoyable event!

Immediately afterwards of course, we had the Crusaders' traditional Follow the Donkey which was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Mrs Doherty and Mrs Hammond for organising this lovely event.

Our new school term is well underway and I know the children are looking forward to the many visits and other exciting events already organised.

We all wish you a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Jonquil King

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