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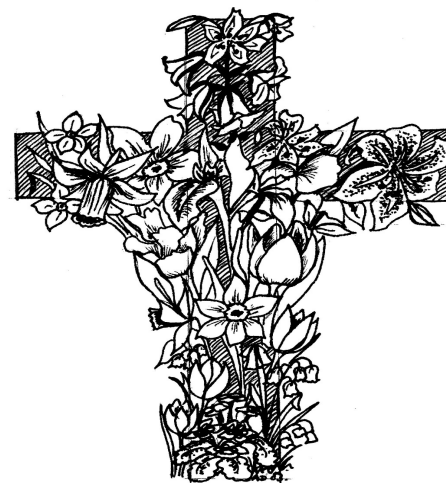
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*Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council*

**Parish
Newsletter**



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

APRIL/MAY 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 :



At rest :

9th February: **Ian Jeffery**
13th February: **Pamela Joy Moore**
24th February: **Roderick John Trickey**
9th March: **John Heywood Duffell**

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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",

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

Wishing you all

A very

Happy Easter

from

St Thomas à Becket Church

and

Framfield Parish Council



Diary of Church Services

APRIL 2012

01 Palm Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service

02, 03 and 04 April

7.00 pm Meditation in the Gage Chapel (for 30 mins)

05 Maundy Thursday

8.00 pm Holy Communion in the Gage Chapel

06 Good Friday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Service of the Word

08 Easter Day

10.00 am Family Festival Communion

15 Second Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

18 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

22 Third Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion with Prayer
for Healing (CW)

29 Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Café Service in Framfield Memorial Hall
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

being made of most journeys, with the exception of the very busy school journeys.

The section of service 32 route south of Heathfield will not be replaced. Stagecoach service 51 continues to provide a half-hourly service between Heathfield, Hailsham and Eastbourne during the main part of the day on Mondays to Saturdays, plus an hourly service on Sundays.

Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council are working to put in place a new bus service for the Hellingly Old Hospital development as soon as possible, linking with Hailsham and Eastbourne. This is expected to be a long-term solution using a funding contribution provided by the developer.

East Sussex County Council funded RIDER services

Rider 32

**Uckfield – Framfield – Blackboys -
Heathfield**

Countryliner will be operating a revised Rider service 32 between Uckfield and Heathfield on a temporary basis from 19 March 2012. This largely replaces the current Countryliner commercial service and fuller details are given under the Countryliner heading above.

Rider 318

**Heathfield – Broad Oak – Burwash
Common – Burwash –
Etchingam/Hurst Green**

As noted above in relation to the 32 and 317, it is the County Council's intention to revert to a more integrated service between Hurst Green, Etchingam, Heathfield and Uckfield to replace the existing 318 and temporary 32 arrangements, both on Mondays to Fridays and on Saturdays. Thus it is likely that some changes will be made to journeys currently run as service 318.

Recent surveys have shown poor use of the current 318 on Saturdays and this may have some impact on the County Council's plans.

Changes to Bus and Community Transport Services in the Wealden Area

Countryliner services

Route 32 **Uckfield – Framfield – Blackboys - Heathfield – Maynards Green – Horam – Hellingly Old Hospital – Hailsham – Polegate – Lower Willingdon – Eastbourne District General Hospital - Eastbourne**

This route was introduced by Countryliner as a new commercial venture from 30 August 2011. The bus company has given notice to cancel the route citing as its reasons the increased cost of its fuel and reductions in the government fuel subsidy for bus operators. The last day of operation of service 32 as a commercial service Uckfield – Heathfield – Eastbourne will be 17 March 2012.

In light of Countryliner's decision, it was the County Council's intention to revert to running contracted service 318, provided by Renown, between Uckfield, Heathfield and Etchingam at similar levels of service to that operated before August 2011. However, it has not so far been possible to reach agreement with Renown over the price of providing this service, partly because of the need for a higher capacity bus to cater for an increased number of school children who have been travelling on service 32 to and from Heathfield Community College.

As a short term measure, from 19 March 2012, the County Council will fund the continuation of a revised Countryliner 32 service between Uckfield and Heathfield. This service offers similar levels of service to the current timetable although there is a break in service at lunchtime and the last journey from Uckfield is withdrawn due to poor use. The service will continue to serve Heathfield Community College at school times. Departures from Heathfield during most of the day will be slightly later than at present, therefore giving more assured connections from service 317 and 318.

The County Council is considering the options for services between Heathfield, Blackboys, Framfield and Uckfield and it may be that some reduction in service will be necessary, particularly on Saturdays. Recent surveys undertaken on this section of route show only a small level of use

MAY 2012

- 06 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 13 Sixth Sunday of Easter – Rogation Sunday**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 16** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 20 Seventh Sunday of Easter - Sunday after Ascension**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 27 Whit Sunday - Pentecost**
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 MAY 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.

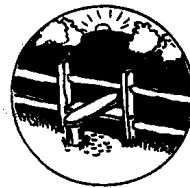
**CHURCH AND VILLAGE EVENTS
By Eve, Roving Reporter**

The new glass doors on the porch of the Church look really nice and must certainly keep the interior warmer! This anonymous gift is much admired and appreciated – THANK YOU.

The “Friends of Framfield Church” are ready to launch their £100,000 restoration appeal and a varied range of fundraising events are being planned for the coming year. Funds are needed to restore stained glass windows, re-decorating within the Church and the old guttering needs attention. There is always a list of jobs to be done and the Church is no exception. Don't worry if you are unable to attend the events, I am sure donations (large or small) will be very much appreciated.

Of course, we have to mention ‘the weather’. That small amount of snow we had in February didn't linger for too long so wasn't too disruptive. Spring is slowly creeping in now, the daffodils are coming, snowdrops and crocus are out. The little garden birds are in and out of the nest boxes with squabbles going on between Blue Tits and Sparrows. I'm not sure who's going to win but shall put up a ‘Sold’ sign when I know for sure who is actually going to take up residence!

Take care of yourselves and enjoy the Spring.
EVE



Framfield & Blackboys WI

Our ladies very much enjoyed Mrs Pat Bryer – A taste of Joyce Grenfell. She was great fun.

Details of our April meeting are as follows:

**Tuesday April 10th 7.30pm at Blackboys Village Hall
‘The Green Man’**

Music, Song and Folktales *with Dr Lynn*

In May we will be holding our Resolution meeting with a ploughmans supper. This year we are discussing the need for more midwifery services.

**Tuesday June 12th 7.30pm at Blackboys Village Hall:
‘My life as Henry VIII’ *Mr Tony Harris***

This meeting will be very special – our own Jubilee celebration. Come along and meet royalty! Dress in red, white and blue. There will be a collection of Royal memorabilia on display and a celebration cake to enjoy. Guests are very welcome so do please come along and join us.

The Federation Leisure and Learning Committee have arranged a guided tour around ‘Legal London’ complete with a carvery lunch. A trip not to be missed.

We are hoping for a warm summer as we have some garden meetings and walks to look forward to.

Hope to see you.

**Corinne Urban
01825 890422**

Framfield CE Primary School

We have had a very busy term with many activities related to our whole school topic on water. In **Peacocks** class they've been "under the sea", had a Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch and designed their own fire engines. Every Wednesday afternoon it's "Switch time" and the pre-school, reception and year one children work and play alongside each other in both settings and the outdoor environment.

Kingfisher class (years 2 and 3) presented their individual topics with great confidence to parents and carers at a special assembly. The range of topics was fantastic, from experiments about dissolving, metals that float or sink, hydro-electric power and about many different types of boats and ships. They are now learning about the Vikings and have a wonderful longship in their classroom.

In **Puffins** class (year 4) as well as learning about the water cycle they are studying the River Nile and Ancient Egypt. The children have had great fun making sarcophagi and using modroc to make mummy masks.

All the children in **Eagles** class (years 5 and 6) have produced excellent interactive posters and models to show their understanding of the water cycle. Following on from reading *The Tempest* the class enjoyed performing their own version in assembly.

In preparation for Easter we had fun with pancake races on Shrove Tuesday and we are learning about the charity Water Aid which will be the focus of our service at church with Rev Chris Lawrence on Friday 30th March.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Last week the committee entered two teams for a quiz night organised by Uckfield Inner Wheel, in aid of M.C.S. The good news is that £500 was raised, but the bad news is that one of the teams was awarded the booby prize!

We are planning many events for the coming months. One of these is a dinner which is being provided at The Buxted Inn on the 2nd May. We are very grateful to have this opportunity to raise money for our charity. Also Uckfield Rotary Club are organising a Diamond Jubilee Charity Ball at the Civic Centre - Uckfield on Sat 19th May in aid of M.C.S. If anyone is interested in either of these events please contact Ann on 01825 890400

Two members of Macmillan Support Team attended our last meeting they told us that £140 million was raised nationally last year, including gifts, wills and legacies. Sussex alone raised £1.4 million through fundraising. We now have nearly half the amount of our appeal target for the new Cancer Support and Information Centre 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. 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

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our 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. There is a charge of £3 for visitors and £1 for members.

In March, Debbie Mathews came to talk to us about what is now Station Street in Lewes was like in the 1790's and the "lost" church of St Mary's. It was an enjoyable talk and we learnt a lot about how "enthusiasts and experts" working together can discover, and record local history. The topic at our April Meeting will be Sussex Folklore, with Mr C Hare. In May we will be having an informal "Memories Evening" concentrating on the years 1952 to 1972. Visitors are welcome and we will start at 7pm. We would like to know numbers in advance for catering purposes, please contact me if you are interested in coming along.

If you would like to know more about any of the above, or the society's activities in general, please contact the secretary on 01825 890359 or email baturner.18maple@btinternet.com.

Ann Turner

Queens Diamond Jubilee

Framfield & Blackboys parish council are arranging a family picnic day on Sunday 3 June at Framfield Recreation ground for everyone in the parish. We will be holding a hat competition and races, football, rounder's etc.

If anyone would like to offer help or have any suggestions both would be very welcome please contact:

Selina Allen 01825 891110. - Thank you

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It only takes a minute

It only takes a minute to clear up after your dog. However it may make someone blind for a life time if you don't. Please think of others and clear up on the pavements and in the recreation ground.

PLEASE TAKE THAT MINUTE

Welcome Baptist Church Blackboys

Each **Sunday** at 4.30pm we meet together in the Village Hall Blackboys for tea and cakes, followed by a short meeting for Bible study, prayer and worship, children are also catered for. Every 4th Sunday we meet at 10.30am for a Family service followed by refreshments and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Activities during the week.

Monday **Girls Allowed** (Ladies Bible study & fellowship)

8.00pm

Tel: Suzanne Hammond 01435 661054/Emma Doherty 01825

890029

Young Adults cell group (Bible study & fellowship 17yrs – 30yrs)

7.30 – 9.30pm

Tel: Andrew Wright 01825 840020

Wednesday **Life2themax** (Youth Club)

6.30pm – 8.00pm

Tel: Suzanne Hammond 01435 661054

Friday **Little Stars** (Mums & toddlers group)

Blackboys Village Hall

Friday morning

Tel: Emma Doherty 01825 890029

Crusaders

Blackboys Primary school

3.15 – 4.15pm

Tel: Suzanne Hammond 01435 661054/Emma Doherty 01825 890029

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Christian Aid

This year Christian Aid Week runs from 9th to 15th May, when we can expect to find one of those red envelopes dropping through our letter boxes. This gives us all an easy opportunity to make a small contribution to the work that Christian Aid does around the world. Just put a coin (or, if you are feeling generous, a note) in the envelope and take it to one of the local collection points listed on the label.

Since the earthquake in Haiti, Christian Aid and its partners have been in action there, distributing meals and food parcels, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, medical supplies and clothes. In response to other recent emergencies, they gave £1 million for flood relief in Bihar and £1.6 million after the cyclone in Bangladesh. Their greatest emergency effort was after the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean, when Christian Aid spent £45 million, £10 million of which they had raised themselves.

And all this disaster relief is extra to the routine work of feeding the hungry, improving water supplies, health education, and much more. I think it is a worthy cause.

Derek Thorogood

FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

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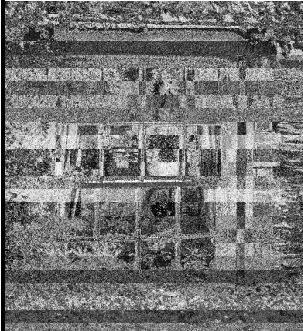
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www.framfieldpreschool@gmail.com

The spring term is always a busy one with lots of celebrations to participate in. ~The children have had fun developing their physical skills whilst raising money for sport relief and using our new equipment from the Have Fun & Fitness campaign, thank you to all the parents who registered their support.

We celebrated Mother's Day and the children made some lovely cards and biscuits. With the nicer weather Jimmy has been in to begin our planting in the garden with the children and we look forward to watching the bulbs grow. Active kids with Sainsburys has begun so if you have any spare vouchers we would be very grateful of any donations.

We look forward to the coming months and planning activities for the Jubilee.

We would like to welcome our new children and their families this term, Daniel & Tristan 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

In 2009, 20 nightingales in Suffolk were fitted with a tiny 'geolocator' device weighing less than a gram by scientists from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). These devices enabled the scientists to track the migration of these birds, plot their route and find out where they spent the winter. The results were fascinating. Following a single bird, it left its breeding ground on the 25th July and made its way down the west coast of France, past Madrid and arrived near Lisbon on the 1st September where it remained for a couple of weeks. Making its way down the west coast of Africa this individual arrived at its final winter destination in the south-west corner of Guinea in mid-December - five months after it left Britain. We know that this bird stayed in that location until mid-February when it set off on the return journey to England. Sadly the transmitter stopped sending back signals shortly after and it was assumed that the bird perished. However, in May 2010 the same bird was captured by researchers, just 50 metres from where they originally attached the device the year before.

My interest in nightingales has been re-invigorated even more year this year as the BTO is organising a national nightingale survey. The last was carried out in 1999 and raised concerns about the decline in their numbers that had occurred since a previous survey. Annual observations point to a continual decline and so this 2012 survey will give a clear picture of how many pairs of nightingales are breeding in the UK. We do already know that the population is shrinking into the south-east corner of the UK so we are relatively well off in Sussex for nightingales, but if this contraction continues at the current rate, in a relatively short time they may disappear altogether; a scenario too awful to contemplate.

Woods Mill is a place where you can hear nightingales between the end of April and the beginning of June. For many years now I have run 'Evening with Nightingales' events to give people the pleasure of listening to these wonderful birds as dusk emerges. This year there are three events in May; if you would like any information please look at the Trust website: www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk and click on the What's On tab or ring 01273 497561.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

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FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

- 2nd April 2012 Making Easter Cards etc.,
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm
- 16th April 2012 Bring and Buy at Hobbs Barton 2.30pm
Tea/Cakes with Valerie and Jeremy Clarke
- 14th May 2012 Shopping and Tea at Hillier's Nurseries and Garden
Centre
Shoes/Clothes etc., Nr. Stone Cross.
Leave Memorial Hall at 2pm Sharp.
- 28th May 2012 OUTING (to Lavender Line Isfield) 2.30pm
This is still being Arranged at the Moment
So if you require any details on this, please contact me,
Sandy Rogers - 01825 840648.
-

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET

Saturday - 28th April – 10.00 am – 12.00 Noon
Saturday - 26th May – 10.00 am – 12.00 Noon



A great variety of Market Stalls.
Tea Coffee and Bacon Rolls
It can be a fun time.

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.

Those Nightingales Again

by Mike Russell, Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm sure I've gone on about nightingales before in this column, but that's not going to stop me doing it again I'm afraid. For all of my 27 years of working at the Sussex Wildlife Trust at Woods Mill, nightingales have been an integral part of my life and as spring approaches it won't be long before that wonderful song will permeate across the reserve and for a couple of glorious months 'my' nightingales will provide the soundtrack to my life.

Why does this small, pretty but non-descript brown bird have such an impact on not just mine but many people's lives? The answer to that would seem obvious; it is the song.

Throughout the centuries, musical, literary and artistic references abound to the beauty of its song and that still is the case today. Just a few weeks ago on Desert Island Discs the author Vikram Seth was the guest and of the one records from the eight he would save from the waves was a 1942 recording of a nightingale singing to the backdrop of a low, but increasing throb, of RAF Lancaster and Wellington bombers on their way to a raid on Germany.

The song gets right to your soul and it just makes you wonder how such a small living being the size of a robin produces such a beautiful, evocative and complex sound.

When you delve a bit further into their lives you get a picture of how remarkable these birds are. We know they are migratory and they spend the winter somewhere in West Africa but which way they go, how long do they take to get there and what do they need when they arrive to survive. There have been remarkably few nightingale ringing 'recoveries', that is birds that have been caught and have had small rings attached to their legs, but recent developments in micro-technology has led to more information being discovered.

teaching Assistants and even the Headteacher for the day. The number of pupils taking part and the contribution of both staff and pupils to the day was recognised by County Hall and that we received a prize of £150. This is a tremendous achievement for a small school such as ours and is recognition for the focus we put on enterprise and enrichment.

Further enrichment this term has included our thriving Chess Club which has been very successful at a variety of tournaments and, more recently, pupils from our school took part in the Annual Cross Country Race. We have also had a number of school visits and visitors including a visit from Zoolab and a fantastic performance from M and M productions of Treasure Island which the whole school enjoyed.

As one parent commented in our questionnaire: "Life is never dull at Blackboys School."

Just a reminder to end: We will be having a pre-Easter service at Thomas a Becket Church on Monday 26th March 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 Fair on 5th May. 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!

Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show

It's going to be an exciting year – the Queens Jubilee, Olympics and of course the Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society Summer Show!

As always, we are praying for good weather, not just for the show day, but also for the months in advance for all the green fingered folk who produce such wonderful exhibits for us all to see – good luck in your preparations!

Once again the schedule is packed with numerous classes and creative challenges, some traditional, some new and the Hort. Soc. would particularly like to welcome and encourage any new comers and young alike – its tough competition at the top, but there's plenty of opportunities for those novices amongst us! Get planning, planting and most of all – have some fun!

Plans are well underway for the show, building on the success of last years event, continuing with the aim of a traditional, fun village fete with attractions and interest for all ages. If you have ideas of something you would like to see at the show, please do let us know.

The show organising team would be very glad of any volunteers willing to assist, even if just for an hour or two on the day, or helping to set up / clear up – all help gratefully received, please contact Patti Whitaker on 01825 890075 or patti@whitakermail.co.uk

See you at the show

Phil Day
Show Organising Team
01825 890168

London Moonwalk

Breast Cancer charity fundraising event being held at The Star, Waldron, 2nd June, at 8pm. Christine Thomas from Blackboys is taking part in the 'Moonwalk', 26-mile night time walk round London on 12th May with a work colleague who underwent a mastectomy last year. They are being supported with music by John Crampton, one man blues singer from Brighton and a raffle will be held with prizes gifted by local businesses. Christine can be contacted on 01825-890809 for sponsorship enquiries.



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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 chairman Daryl Willcox at daryl@dwpub.com

Established almost 30 years ago, Blackboys Pre School, provides a wonderful, nurturing environment for children aged between two and five in a fabulous rural setting. The Pre-School applies Montessori principles and practice to some of its activities as well as offering Forest School activities to children.

We are open daily during school term times from 8.45am to 3.30pm and 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

Blackboys CEP School - March 2011

- Another eventful term here at Blackboys!
At the end of the Christmas term, we said farewell to our Secretary/Bursar of some 11 years standing, Mrs Holman; having recently moved out of the Uckfield area, she left us to pursue her career closer to her new home. We welcomed Mrs Lucy Sheffield as Secretary and Mrs Gillian Lawday as Bursar in January; they are settling in very well and have already become valuable parts of the Blackboys team.

Earlier in the year, Blackboys school entered the National Takeover Day competition in East Sussex! Children undertake the roles of staff for the day and complete a form explaining what they did and what they learnt as a result. Many of our children became teachers,

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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

Spring is in the air and the children have been having lots of fun on our allotment, sowing seeds and generally preparing for some bumper crops. We are desperately in need of a shed to house our tools so if any member of the community has an old one they can spare, we'd be delighted to take it off your hands! Call Jenny on 01825 891113 or email her at enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

Easter is a busy and fun time for us - we've made edible Easter nests and have been weaving baskets, not to mention enjoying an Easter Egg hunt and sponsored walk around Blackboys village.

Meanwhile our resident hamster Jimmy has been visited by some other friends -- Tony the snake, Geoff the kitten, Pip the bird and Gin and Gordon the guinea pigs -- as we have learned about animals and how to care for them.

Blackboys Pre-School - community events

Our next coffee morning and Open Day will be on Thursday 26 April from 9.30am to 11.30am. It's open to everyone, so if you fancy a coffee and a slice of home made cake, and perhaps a look around the Pre-School, we'd love to see you there. If you can't make an Open Day but would like to arrange a visit, just give Jenny a call on 01825 891113.

Can you make a difference?

We believe that providing quality and accessible pre school education to children in our area is vital. **As a charity**, we are registered for Gift Aid, which means

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Residents will have noticed the alterations to the junction of the B2102 and B2192 in Blackboys. This is intended to make turning left from the B2192 into the High Street easier but turning right from the Lewes Road into the High Street a slower process, in theory slowing the traffic down.

ESCC are also revising the proposals for Blackboys High Street in general – toning down the improvements – de-urbanising their ideas - but hopefully also slowing the traffic down. There will be letters going out to residents shortly. The Parish Council are in support of these revised proposals which remove the necessity for an extra street light and build-outs which were not popular with residents.

Letters will be sent out shortly to all tenants of both sets of allotments – Blackboys and Framfield – renewing the tenancies for another year. There is no rent increase this year but the Council has agreed that the rents will be raised next year. There are some spare plots at Framfield so please contact me for further information.

If anyone spots any problems with the highways/pavements please contact ESCC Highways direct on 0345 6080193 or via their email address highways@eastsussex.gov.uk

If anyone is experiencing problems with street-lighting I should be contacted in the first instance.

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/March 2012

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

NEWT'S IN THE CELLAR

Our old cottage has a cellar. There are three doors on one kitchen wall, one leads to the pantry, one to the front hall and another to the cellar. The cellar door has always been kept locked ever since a fleeting visit from our local doctor. He hurriedly gave instructions for our young sick son as he was leaving. He quickly opened what he thought was the hall door behind him, and stepped smartly backwards. He froze on hearing a shouted warning just in time to prevent him falling down the steep brick steps leading to the cellar.

This cellar is a fascinating place. It has a brick floor and because the cottage was built into the hill it has a gully all the way round so that water can come in from the upper side, flow round and go out on the lower side. If it rains very hard it can flood the cellar, usually only a few inches. It is unpleasant when not expecting it when icy water splashes over your toes when wearing sandals. In the centre is an ancient gnarled tree trunk that holds up the dining room floor. It is interesting to see the tide marks of earlier flooding on it.

On Christmas morning, busy doing the festive lunch, I clambered down to the cellar to collect sausages from the freezer. Being in a hurry, I wasn't as watchful as usual, and nearly stepped on a large dark newt just in front of the freezer. We have always lived with the wildlife that treats the damp cool cellar as a convenient temporary lodging. Recently a frog decided its favourite place was again just in front of the freezer. Each time I visited the freezer I would peer at the wet mottled bricks knowing the frog would be almost invisible there.

We now have an oil fired Aga, but for many years we had a coal fired one. Our local coal merchants were wonderful and very careful to check the cellar for visiting wildlife before tipping the coal onto the cellar floor. Life was very stressful and time consuming as the newts apparently liked to play king of the coal heap where they would lurk disguising themselves with coal dust making it almost impossible to see them. I was terrified of inadvertently scooping them up on the shovel, putting them in the hod, then tipping them into the Aga. Because of this worry it took ages to fill the large hod every day as each single lump had to be inspected to see if a sooty newt was playing dead thinking that would keep it safe.

Over the years the cellar has been very useful for storing wood, coal and surplus Wellington boots. These are kept upside down in case an odd mouse falls in and can't

get out again We could also call it the wine cellar as I spotted a lone bottle of wine in the wine rack the other day. I am also frequently visiting the freezer which has to be done carefully to avoid squashing any visiting creatures lurking there. The other problem I have is that the cellar steps have become strangely much steeper as the years have passed! The first step down from the kitchen is much deeper than the rest. As you descend the steps become shallower. Young children and puppies are never allowed near this hazardous staircase. However I decided that when the family were not around to help take food to the freezer or bring it up again I would train Connie my last Newfoundland to help me. And now Chloe my present Newfoundland has taken over. She carries in the shopping, then if it's going down to the cellar I climb down the first step or so first, then Chloe carefully leans forward and passes me the bag of chicken etc. If she hears me unlock the cellar door as I go down to collect something for dinner, she immediately goes to the open door peering down at me waiting to help. As I get nearer the top she reaches forward so I can pass her the bag. She then backs off while I negotiate the deep step into the kitchen. It is quite a sight looking up and seeing a huge ten stone dog towering above me, I must be trusting!

Hazel Carter
www.hazel-carter.co.uk
info@hazel-carter.co.uk
0182583047

*[Apologies for the omission of Hazel Carter's article last issue which was due to extreme pressure on editorial space. We have additional space for advertisers from this issue onwards and as a result should have more space to work with...
BR – Technical Editor]*

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.