

# HAMMONDS GREEN FARM



## GT DEVELOPMENTS

- Building Contractors
- Listed Building Renovations
- Joinery
- Qualified Electricians (NAPIT Registered)

**Tel: 01825 891100**  
info@gtdevelopments.co.uk

## Welkin Osteopathy

Chris Fielding B.Ost

Back/Neck Pain - Joint/Muscle pain  
- Headache - Sciatica

Natural, Safe, Effective -  
Suitable for all  
01342 870904  
07903 767734  
Welkinosteopathy.co.uk

## PiLates

Joanna Barraclough

Mat Pilates Classes  
All levels and beginners welcome  
NEW class "Pilates for Men"

Monday - Thursday  
9.30am-10.30am, 11am - 12 noon  
07711 093337  
joanna.pilates@gmail.com  
www.joannabarraclough.co.uk

## GNL SOLUTIONS

COMPUTER  
SERVICE & REPAIR  
FOR HOME & BUSINESS

MICROSOFT-APPLE-ANDROID  
**01825 768548**  
gnlsolutions.co.uk

## MSussex MarQuees

Specialists  
in Marquee Hire

**01825 750276**  
sussexmarquees.co.uk

## Cater Hire Services

Contemporary China & Glassware  
Hire for the Art of Cuisine

- . China
- . Cutlery
- . Glassware
- . Table Settings

**01825 890022**  
caterhireservices.co.uk

HAMMONDS GREEN, FRAMFIELD, UCKFIELD TN22 5QH

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

# Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common

APRIL/MAY 2015

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

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

**Churchwardens :**        **None at present**

**Secretary to PCC :**     **Mr Peter Tomsett**

**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:**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>: Lisa Judge and Adam Prescott**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>: Philip Couzins and Olana Kasperuk**

**At rest:**

**FREE SMOKE ALARMS**

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

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

---

**USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.**

ESCC - General Enquiries: 01273 481000

Adult Education: 01273 481497

Bins and Recycling: 01323 443322 or 01892 653311

Education, general 01273 481000

Leisure centres, swimming pools and parks: 01323 443322

Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 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: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 1777 069

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

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

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

Distribution: Barbara Trickey, Delia Gillies,  
and their teams of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

---

## Feeling like an Easter egg?

Personally I am not much of a winter person. Short days and long cold nights, ice and snow are not my idea of fun especially when you have to get up early in the morning. The countryside has gone to sleep and everything looks dead and barren. In the depths of winter have you ever wondered whether the trees will ever have leaves on them again or will the shrubs in the garden ever produce new shoots when they just look like dead brown sticks? And then it happens, the sun reappears, spring arrives and with it the miracle of rebirth, green shoots appear and the bright yellow daffodils adorn the verges once again. The sunshine and the flowers certainly give joy to the heart and the hope of a great summer.

The seasons of the year and particularly the season of Easter have many parallels. The life of Christ in his last few weeks on earth is perhaps the most poignant. At the height of Jesus' popularity we see him riding on a donkey into Jerusalem thronged by crowds of people waving palm branches, shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" This was indeed the height of summer for Jesus. But how quickly winter came upon him; within four days Jesus was betrayed, arrested, given a false trial, and sentenced to death. Before the Roman Governor Pilate and an angry crowd the once joyous shouts of "Hosanna" are now replaced with "Crucify him!" Jesus is mercilessly flogged and crucified and by 3pm he is dead!

It was bad enough for Jesus, but what of his disciples? All their hopes had been dashed. They had left everything to follow him. He was the man who held so much promise for the future and now he is dead! For them this is the depth of their winter, the longest and coldest of nights.

Despite Jesus telling them on many occasions that He must die and be raised to life again they never really understood.

But spring was about to happen and despite the seeming impossibility of the situation Jesus was raised to life again.

Not in his previous battered body but in his new resurrection body. The first to be told and accept the good news are Mary Magdalene and Mary the

mother of James when they visit the tomb and find it empty. *'The women hurry away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell the disciples'* (Matt 28:8).

You may be wondering what all this has to do with feeling like an Easter egg? Easter eggs all look roughly the same from the outside yet some are full of sweets or chocolate and others are just empty. Human beings all look roughly the same from the outside yet some are full and others are empty.

From a spiritual perspective the human condition cannot tolerate a void. There is a constant desire to be filled with something that satisfies and people try various ways to fill the gap e.g. money, possessions, shopping, drugs, alcohol, food, sex etc; the list goes on, yet none of these give long term satisfaction. In his book 'Questions of Life' Revd Nicky Gumbel describes this void as the God shaped hole. Only in relationship with God do we find the inner void totally filled and experience lasting satisfaction.

The death and resurrection of Jesus was the turning point in history that enabled every human being to cross over from death to life. We are by nature sinful people separated from God, but through Christ we can have our sins forgiven and cross over from death to everlasting life and begin again, that's the good news of the Gospel. However, the choice is ours; the promise is there for everyone who will respond, but we have to ask God to come into our lives as He never pushes His way in.

Spring turns to summer and the trees produce fruit and likewise the Spirit of God begins to produce fruit in our lives. The Apostle Paul tells us about the fruit we can expect to be growing when we are in relationship with God. *'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control'* (Galatians 5:22-23).

Our Easter eggs will give us a degree of satisfaction on Easter day but if you're looking for something that will last a lot longer then look to Christ, after all Easter would not be Easter without Him!

*Happy Easter to all in the Parish*  
Revd Chris Lawrence



Blackboys Pre-School  
The Village Hall, Gun Road  
Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5JL  
Tel: 01825 891113  
email: [enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org)  
Twitter: [@BlackboysPreSch](https://twitter.com/BlackboysPreSch)  
[www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk](http://www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk)

### **What's on?**

Spring is in the air – the mild weather is allowing us to go on spring walks as part of our Forest School activities. In the kitchen we are making chocolate nests, while the music we are focusing on this term is Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. We're also designing and making our t-shirts for sports day..

### **Allotment revamp**

Parents and staff came together recently to put a redesign of our allotment into practice. The new space features lots of opportunities to nurture wildlife as well as different zones for fruit, veg, herbs and flowers. Come and have a look and see what's growing.

### **Thinking about Pre-Schools for your child?**

Choosing a pre-school is a very personal decision and at Blackboys Pre-School, we pride ourselves on making the transition as easy as possible for children and parents alike. We provide a wonderful, nurturing environment for children ages between two and five in a fabulous setting at the heart of a rural village community. For our dedicated team, it's all about developing the self-confidence and self-esteem of our children in a small, caring setting.

To book your child in for a no-obligation, free taster session or to visit the pre-school at your convenience, contact Pre-School Manager Jenny Novkovic on 01825 891113 or email [enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk).

### ***A little bit about Blackboys Pre-School***

*Open Monday to Friday during school term time from 8.45am to 3.30pm, Blackboys Pre-School combines Montessori principles and practices and Forest School activities with its own allotment and great outdoor area in a fabulous rural setting for children aged between 2 and 5. More details can be found on our website at [www.blackboypreschool.org.uk](http://www.blackboypreschool.org.uk).*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 10th - 16th

This year's Christian Aid Week confronts one of the great injustices of our times: discrimination against women. Consider Loko, who lives in Ethiopia. With an absent husband and no livestock, Loko is shunned by her community. To make money she has to sell firewood, which she collects by going on a dangerous, back-breaking, eight-hour walk – four times a week. Thorns puncture her thin plastic shoes and she fears being attacked by hyenas at any moment. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

Christian Aid is providing the practical help that women like Loko need to take back control of their lives. Loko dreams of owning a cow – its milk would nourish her children and provide income, and it would give her recognition and a voice in her community. The money she makes may even allow her to open her own shop. The gift of a cow can do something amazing. Just two years ago, Adi was in the same position. Now, thanks to Christian Aid, she is a thriving business woman with big plans for the future.

Those familiar red Christian Aid envelopes will be dropping through our letter boxes again this year. What you put in your envelope and take to one of our collection points will go to help Loko and many women in similar, impossible, situations, not only in Ethiopia, but across the world.

*Thank you.  
Derek Thorogood*

---



### Next Messy Church!

**SUNDAY 19th APRIL @ 4.00 pm**

**SUNDAY 17th MAY @ 4.00 pm**

(We gather and register in the Church)

Messy Craft activities and Songs, followed by  
the most delicious afternoon tea.

### ***Fun for all the family***

Don't miss out - join us,  
of course with your friends too.

-----  
We look forward to seeing you!!!

## Diary of Church Services

### APRIL 2015

#### **02 Maundy Thursday**

8.00 pm Holy Communion (CW) in the Gage Chapel

#### **03 Good Friday**

10.00 am Walk of Witness - Uckfield

#### **05 Easter Sunday**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Family Festival Communion (CW)

#### **12 Second Sunday of Easter**

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

#### **19 Third Sunday of Easter**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

#### **26 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

10.00 am Morning Praise

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

### MAY 2015

#### **03 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

#### **10 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

10.00am Family Service

6.30pm Eve Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

- 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.00 am Morning Praise  
 4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 24 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**  
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 31 Trinity Sunday**  
 10.00 am Café Service in Church (or Church Hall)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**PLEASE NOTE REVISED COPY DATE:  
 COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
 BY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2015  
 TO**

**ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182  
 framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com**

**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 –  
 FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk)  
 Telephone/fax: (01825) 890182.  
 Email: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com  
 Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,  
 East Sussex TN22 5LR.  
 Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk**

**FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET**



**MEMORIAL HALL**

**10am to 12pm**

*COME AND LOOK AROUND THE 20  
 DIFFERENT STALLS*

*HOMEMADE CAKES, LOCAL PRODUCE, JAMS,  
 PLANTS CRAFTS, BRIC-BRAC AND MANY MORE.*

*ENJOY A CUP OF TEA/COFFEE AND BACON ROLL*

**DATES FOR 2015**

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>No market</b>		

**For enquiries please contact  
Ann Newton on 01825 890182.**



We are a community village Pre-School with our own purpose built premises, which are spacious, well-appointed and registered with Ofsted

The Pre-School is open weekdays from 07.45-6.00pm operates in line with the schools terms allowing for inset days where applicable.

Full Time Day Care for 2-4yrs  
Breakfast & After School Club for 2-11yrs

Early Years Education Entitlement

Also now accepting Early Learning places for eligible 2yr olds

**Thank You everyone who attended the Jumble Sale on Saturday 14th March, we raised over £450.00 for the pre-school**

For details or to arrange a visit to discuss your individual requirements:  
Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

[www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk](http://www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk)

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



**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING SCHEDULE 2015**

### Summer Show – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015

As we write this, the show seems so far away but all too quickly the days warm, the sun shines and the exhibits begin their journey towards entry in the show. It seems we are in a cycle of “can we top last year’s show?” Many thought it even better than last years. Certainly when we look back at show day, the Recreation Ground and Memorial Hall were buzzing with events, activities and a throng of visitors from near and far spending money and time in equal amounts during the afternoon. Whatever happens, it would be hard to beat the perfect weather from 2014. We can but hope for the same again but rest assured, the show goes ahead whatever the weather throws at us.

So what of 2015? While we are still awaiting confirmation of some of the arena acts, we can promise a many and varied sequence of events, some familiar, some different. There will be those traditional and quintessential Summer Show events to try your hand at such as hoopla, bowling but also a wide range of stalls selling and providing entertainment and interest. It would be hard not to find a whole afternoon’s entertainment there providing you break for tea, cake, Pimms or other refreshments.

Last year we had a bigger than ever entry into the show classes with many familiar names returning to present again as well as many new names enjoying the buzz of that first try. We hope those people return, with a fierce desire to win! It will, as always, be a pleasure to see the wide range of garden produce on display that forms the centrepiece of the show along with the creative output from the residents of the parish in the village hall. In particular we would encourage you to have a go with the flower arranging. We have a number of Novice Classes so you can just try out against those of a similar standing but remember, anyone can enter any non-Novice class. Once again, the schedule is packed with numerous classes and creative challenges for newcomers, older and young parishioners alike. We promise you, winning is easier than you think and such a highlight of the afternoon if you arrive back to

On each date detailed below, generally three meetings will be held as follows (although the Planning Committee may be cancelled if not essential):

- **Planning Committee - commencing at 6.30 pm**
- **Trust - commencing at 7 pm**
- **Parish Council - commencing at 7.30 pm.**

<b>Tuesday, 24 March (FF Trust)</b>	<b>Framfield Memorial Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday, 28 April (BB Trust)</b> <b>Annual Parish Assembly – 8 pm</b>	<b>Blackboys Village Hall</b>
<b>Monday, 18 May (no Trust or Planning)</b> <b>Annual Parish Council Meeting – 8 pm</b>	<b>Framfield Memorial Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday, 30 June (FF Trust)</b>	<b>Blackboys Village Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday, 29 September (BB Trust)</b>	<b>Framfield Memorial Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday, 24 November (FF Trust)</b>	<b>Blackboys Village Hall</b>

---

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk,  
Ann Newton, on  
01825- 890182/ [framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com)  
‘Highlands’, Blackboys TN22 5LR.  
Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website -  
[framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://framfieldcouncil.org.uk)



## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

- 13th April - Cream Tea and Shopping at  
"Hilliers" Leave Framfield 2.15pm
- 27th April - Blue Bell Walk & Tea - Kathy and Jack Gore  
at Framfield Grange - 2.30pm
- 18th May OUR OUTING = to Birling Gap  
By Coach for Afternoon Tea and  
Look at Shop and the History of Birling Gap  
Coach Leaves Framfield 1.15pm

Happy Easter to you, from all our Members, and any further information  
please contact Sandy 01825 840648 - sandyrogers77@gmail.com

**Flintfield Gardening Services**

Friendly and reliable gardening services  
based in Uckfield.

- Grass Cutting
- General Maintenance
- Border Weeding
- 'Jungle Clearance'
- Odd Jobs

**No job too small**

**Call Stephen Olliver**  
on  
Tel: 07979 690791  
or  
Email: Stephen.olliver22@gmail.com

see a prize has been awarded to your entry or maybe even a much sought after cup.

Returning for a third year is an Evening Music Event in the marquee on the day of the show, the details of which will be published nearer the time.

The show organising team would also 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 or clear up – all help gratefully received. Please contact the show team on 01825 890075.

**So ensure you keep Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> clear in your diary – you won't want to miss it!**

*Phil Day & Alayne Jenkins (for the Show Organising Team)*

---

### Looking for a local venue?

Looking for a local venue? Then look no further.

Framfield Church Hall has just undergone a major refurbishment programme and is the ideal venue for regular meetings, special occasions, corporate training, parties and village events. The hall typically seats up to 60 persons and has full kitchen facilities and facilities/parking for the disabled.

Hire Rates: £9.00/hour with reductions for regular users and church members.

*Tel the Church Office for further details 01825 891090; visit the website [www.framfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk) or e.mail [rev.chris@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.chris@btinternet.com)*

The last couple of months have been very quiet for our Uckfield fundraising committee, after a busy time leading up to Christmas. This is the "lull before the storm" as we are now approaching the time, when we shall be frantically making cakes in anticipation of many tea functions at open gardens and other venues. We are also taking over many fundraising activities from Lewes MCS, as their committee sadly dissolved at the end of last year.

The Sussex Macmillan Cancer Support Centre is now called The Macmillan Horizon Centre. So far, £3.2 million has been raised towards the appeal and another £500k remains to be found in order to complete the project. Macmillan has released new data which has been collected over the last five years, this highlights that there are now 2.5 million people living with cancer in the UK. In 2015 the campaign will continue to focus on isolation and loneliness, but this year the idea that "cancer can be the loneliest place" will be introduced.

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

*Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 890400*

---

Our Heads of school along with the youngest and eldest pupils from both schools. attended the grand unveiling on Thursday 5th March. Why not pop along to view the work yourselves. Many thanks to Mrs Emily McLennan for supporting and organising this in both schools.

Signs of Spring are appearing around both villages and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and the outside opportunities that this will bring. Term 5 and 6 are likely to be as busy as ever with Sports Days at both schools and we have no doubt that both the Blackboys PTA and the Framfield PTFA will be as energetic as ever in organising lots of fundraising events. If you can attend any of these, you will be very welcome.

*Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)*

---

## **Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group**

We have decided to support the charity HEADWAY this year which is based at Hurstwood Park.

They give help and advice to people with an acquired brain injury as well as support for carers.

Our next meeting is a meal at The Highlands in Uckfield and in May we will be having a walk which also ends at a pub!

If you would like to know more about us you can contact Val Peaty on 890677.

## Nature Notes

Both schools are of course very keen to further develop both the standard of and engagement in reading in both schools - which is already at a high standard - however we are always looking to improve, and with this in mind, we are keen for anybody in the Parish who might perhaps have some time to spare to offer their services in hearing pupils read - it really does make such a difference! The sessions can be organised in a very flexible way to suit the individual - several short sessions on a weekly basis for a period of 3 - 4 weeks, or a regular spot once a week. We would be very grateful for your support - it could really help open up the world of books to some of our children. Please contact either school locally - either by phone or e-mail.

### Sport

Our year 5 and 6 Partnership netball team played in a tournament last month at Uckfield Community College. The children were split into two F-A-B teams and played against four other schools. Both teams got through to an exciting semi-final, where the two teams played against each other for 3rd and 4th places. The children all played really well, working as a team and supporting each other. Well done to all involved!

Both schools have also taken part in Tag Rugby events at UCTC and further developed their skills working as a team.

### BRIDGE COTTAGE MURAL

During the week before the half term break our pupils were lucky enough to take part in adding a little bit of Blackboys and Framfield history to Uckfield High Street. As some of you may know Bridge Cottage, located at the bottom of the High Street, is currently under renovation. All local schools were asked to paint murals representing their school which will be displayed and used around Bridge Cottage for all too see.

March has brought longer days, sunshine and some welcome flowers such as crocuses and daffodils. There are also some subtler ones like speedwell (*Veronica* spp.), little blue flowers in the grasslands. The reason these flowers are out is so that they can get pollinated by the first insects which are usually bumble bees and hover flies, and maybe a few butterflies such as peacock and tortoiseshell. You will probably be reading this in April; I must bear that in mind. By mid-April the first migrants will have arrived and many more insects will be available for them to eat as all our inland summer migrants are insectivorous. As soon as the temperature is often more than 10 degrees Celsius there will be an explosion of insects. There has already been an explosion of frog spawn in my pond, and I will be watching it develop with interest.

The spring equinox is about 21<sup>st</sup> March, when day-length will equal night-length. The chain of events that this triggers starts with flowers, insects and birds already mentioned, but there is a huge amount of other consequences, such as the flood of fish and sea-birds heading east and north for the cold water of the arctic as the long days up there trigger the planktonic blooms that the fish depend upon, who in turn feed the birds, seals, whales and polar bears (who mainly eat seals). I went to the arctic last summer and experienced 24 hours daylight and temperatures as high as 30 degrees Celsius. There were also large numbers of insects, most of them bite, and seemed to find me rather tasty.

If you are interested in watching migrating seabirds such as skuas, terns, petrels and scoters flying up the channel, the best place is the eastern end of the beach at Seaford at about 06:00 hrs. in the morning armed with a spotting telescope and binoculars, especially during May with a wind from the west. You will also see the large colony of kittiwakes which nest on the chalk cliffs nearby, unmistakable as the only gulls with black feet and legs. You are also likely to see gannets out to sea at almost any time of year from that location.

April is when frenetic nest-building will be happening by blue, great, coal, long-tailed, marsh and willow tits. These and all the other insectivorous birds will be anticipating the caterpillar bonanza mostly during in May. Look out for your first swallow and note the date!

*Martyn Stenning*

## Support From On High

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

One of the great advantages of being able to fly is that you can get to watch great sporting events for free! This season at the Amex Stadium, home to Brighton and Hove Albion, a peregrine falcon has used its aerial prowess to get a real birds eye view of 'The Seagulls' home games by regularly perching on the North Stand and observing the antics taking place on the pitch below and remains totally un-phased by the raucous sound of 30,000 supporters at the regular home games.

Peregrines are now becoming a regular sighting in our towns and cities and tall buildings are ideal for these birds as it gives them a high advantage point to observe what is going on around them. Stadiums can be ideal as they often attract lots of feral pigeons that seek out the dark shelter high up in the roof, but this is what also attracts the peregrines as, in urban environments, pigeons make up a substantial proportion of their diet. The presence of a peregrine will really unsettle the pigeons so it is in fact doing the football club a great service by reducing the number of birds that can make a mess around the stadium. I'm sure it is also impacting on the number of gulls as well, though that's not such a good thing for a team that's nicknamed 'The Seagulls'.

When Brighton used to play at the Goldstone Ground I occasionally took my two young sons there and was surprised by how many different birds that I saw there over the years. Perhaps the most surprising was one wet autumnal evening, Brighton were playing local rivals Portsmouth, and at a crucial point when Portsmouth were attacking, a woodcock flew very low across the penalty area. Now, I think I was probably the only person in the crowd to notice and as I possess every birdwatchers inability not to shout out the name of a bird when you see it; this I duly did much to the embarrassment of my offspring. It is highly likely that the woodcock was a disorientated migrant from Northern Europe having just arrived from over the channel.

## The FAB Partnership! (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)

I constantly seem to be saying how busy the terms are, and term 3 and 4 have been no exceptions! Both schools have been working very hard with the new curriculum introduced in September and teachers have spent staff meeting time planning together for joint projects and events.

Our youngest pupils enjoyed a wonderful trip to Drusillas this term as part of their project on Africa. Further joint events are planned this term and we know that the children will soon be the best of friends with these friendships following them throughout their time in both schools.

The older pupils in years 5 and 6 from both schools braved the elements to visit the Seven Sisters Country Park earlier in the term; although the weather remained dry and the sun shone, the wind was bitter! The pupils learnt about the history of the landscape of the area and were able to get a wonderful view of the river as well as gaining valuable fieldwork experience for their Rivers Project. You can't beat hands-on experience! It was a tiring day but highly enjoyable.

### WORLD BOOK DAY

Both schools organised wonderful events to celebrate World Book Day: anyone visiting either school that day would have thought they were entering into the world of make-believe as pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite characters from classic novels. Miss Trunchball was seen - with some trepidation- at Framfield, while at Blackboys Farmer Bean was seen lurking at the school gate. Thank you to all parents and pupils who sent in 'shelfies' - images of pupils in front of their own book-shelves at home. We were genuinely overwhelmed with the wonderful pictures sent in. Displays of these can be seen in both schools. Many thanks to all staff for the enthusiasm and hard work in organising this event and especially to Mrs Amy Clarke for leading it across both schools as literacy leader.

## **DEFIBRILLATORS** **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

The two defibrillators previously mentioned have now been installed, one at the Memorial Hall, Framfield and the Village Hall, Blackboys.

These are for anyone to use who unfortunately needs them in the case of an emergency.

Training is not essentially required to use the machines because the minute the machine is activated (by pushing a red button) instructions are automatically issued at every stage in the proceedings. However, I am arranging some sessions run by the Ambulance Service to demonstrate not only how to use the machines but on CPR etc which is also required if trying to save someone's life.

**There are to be two sessions (morning and afternoon) at each Hall. 9 May 2015 (Blackboys) and 30 May 2015 (Framfield). Each session can accommodate up to 30 people. Please contact me preferably by email on [aewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:aewton1965@gmail.com) (please note new email address) or telephone me on 01825 890103 and indicate if you have a preference for venue or session, although if we don't get enough interest we will have to reduce the number of sessions.**

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries.

ANN NEWTON

Another time, again at The Goldstone, I raised my eyes to the skies only to see a sparrowhawk gliding serenely over the stadium; again I shouted out at the very time the crowd had gone unusually quiet, attracting quite a few odd looks from fellow supporters. A barn owl was also seen there many years ago, perched on one of the floodlights.

At other times I have seen hobbies and common terns over the old Wembley Stadium and I know that there are other birdwatchers around that combine their love of football and birds by keeping a stadiums list!

To have a peregrine falcon, the king of the skies, as a supporter really shows the pure class of team, so perhaps I should suggest they change their name from 'The Seagulls' to 'The Falcons'!

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



**PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?**

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

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

**SECURE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA FOR TODDLERS.**

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

**CONTACT JILL GOGGIN ON 01825 890691 FOR FURTHER DETAILS**



**Guy Partridge 07702 836057**

**Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond**

Spring is here and with it the promise of good things. Warmer days, more blossom and flowers, more time outdoors to admire and benefit from the wonderful countryside we are blessed to live in. A time to appreciate the wonderful creation God has made for us to enjoy.

As a church we are looking forward to a weekend away in Norfolk, another area of natural beauty. The Spring Bank holiday weekend May 22 – 25 will see us all heading off to Shipdham in Norfolk to stay at Letton Hall a late 18<sup>th</sup> century house and now a Christian Community Centre. So far we have 50 people booked in, but expect to be up to 70. It should be an exciting time of fun and getting to know God and each other better. Some of the facilities offered are go-karting and archery!

Should you hear singing coming from Blackboys Village Hall on a Sunday morning at 10.30am -that is us – do join us, we would love to see you. You would receive a warm welcome and a cup of coffee and a piece of cake on arrival!

Email: [guy\\_newlifechurch@btinternet.com](mailto:guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com) M: 07702 836057  
New Life Church Blackboys, a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain,  
Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NewLifeChurchBlackboys](http://www.facebook.com/NewLifeChurchBlackboys)

## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

**Precept** – the Parish Council this year has decided not to increase the budget requirements so the precept (the amount residents pay in their Council Tax to the Parish Council) will remain the same.

**Elections** – elections are due to be held on 7 May 2015. Anyone interested in standing for the Parish Council should contact me. The deadline for the receipt of completed nomination forms to Wealden District Council is 9 April 2015.

**Memorial Hall, Framfield.** Work should start to the main hall over the Easter school holidays. We will then progress to the other areas of the hall, hopefully completing the works in the school summer holidays.

**Blackboys Pavilion.** A revised planning application to rebuild and re-site the Pavilion is now live. As mentioned previously the building will be exactly the same footprint as the current one but will be positioned inside the gate from John Dann Close.

**Road Safety in Framfield.** Work is still continuing on the provision of two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) outside Framfield School and a further VAS in Blackboys Road, Framfield. I will be meeting up with a representative of ESCC to site the signs outside the School in early April.

**Guideposts** – the third post (at the junction of Blackboys Road and Pump Lane) will be installed very shortly. A list of repairs/replacements will be prioritised for next year's budget.

**Parish Magazine** – If anyone would be interested in advertising please contact me for the details.

**New email address** – please note the Parish Council's new email address – [framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com).

---

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine).

Email: [framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com).

Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

**Website:** [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk).

---

round with the bottles in a carrier on the front of her old wobbly bike. I was with her one day as we passed an enclosure. I noticed a cow and a big bull in there. I asked my aunt what they were doing. She obviously thought it was a good opportunity to carefully explain the facts of life to me. I gathered that the bull put a kind of seed into the cow that would grow into a calf. I watched the pair carefully, at that moment the bull and cow rubbed their heads together. I now understood how this strange act was performed; they just had to rub their heads together. I believed that for years!

I can't remember any heavy horses on the farm and I had no interest in farm machinery or the arable fields. I do remember my uncle taking me to see some beautiful horses. It was a well-known Arabian stud nearby. The icing on the cake was being taken to see the foals. I have never forgotten how thrilled I was. Recently I went to my aunt's ninety fifth birthday party with all the family and chatted about my holidays on the farm. All these years later I gathered they did have cart horses, one with only one eye. I did not see them as they were on their other farm. Pity I missed them!

All these years later I still think about the wonderful holidays I spent on the farm.

Hazel Carter  
01825 830477  
info@hazel-carter.co.uk  
www.hazel-carter.co.uk

---

**Waldron Country Market** at Holy Cross Priory,( Possingworth) (on the B2102 between Cross in Hand and Blackboys, near the Tunbridge Wells turn)

Held every 2nd Thursday of the Month, **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**  
**Thursday 9th April, Thursday 14th May**

All produce is homemade and includes, cakes, pies, preserves, local cheeses, honey, greetings cards, pottery, hand knitted items, hand sewn gifts, vegetables, plants and more.

Enjoy coffee or tea and cake in pleasant surroundings.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931



## **Framfield & Blackboys WI**



The WI Centenary Rose

Three special plants have been presented to Pashley Manor to celebrate the WI centenary and mark our special event on **July 6th** when we host our exclusive luncheon there. The specially commissioned rose is a Hybrid Tea which produces a profusion of large well-formed blooms and the colour is light salmon orange with contrasting pale yellow on the petals' reverse with impressive dark green foliage. For more information and to get tickets for the centenary event contact **Gill on 01825 890459**

\* \* \*

Forthcoming events also include a London visit including a tour of the Albert Hall this April. We are also organising a coach trip to Salisbury in September to see the Magna Flora Flower Festival in the Cathedral and spend time exploring the town. If spare seats are available non-WI members are always welcome to apply.

\* \* \*

We welcome visitors to meetings on the **second Tuesday of the month** from 7.30pm – you can be a visitor for 3 months at £1 a meeting – call our President **Delia for details Tel; 01825 830319. Meetings held either at Framfield or Blackboys**

- **Cathy McDermott**

## LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

### CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF A FAMILY FARM

*The Friends of Framfield Church invite you to a*

### *SPRING CONCERT*

*presented by the*

### *ASHDOWN SINGERS*

*at*

*St Thomas à Becket Church, Framfield*

*Saturday, 16 May 2015 at 7.30pm*

*This talented and popular group of local singers will present a varied programme of music with something for everyone to enjoy*

*Tickets £12 (Friends of Framfield Church £10)*

*Ticket price includes a glass of wine and 'nibbles'*

*For more information and tickets contact:*

*Dixon Press (01825 890400), John Mordaunt (01825 890443),*

*Ann Newton (01825 890103) or Pat Herbert (01825 890247)*

I have many happy memories of holidays staying with my uncle and aunt on their farm in the 1940's. I was about eight or nine. It was a traditional farm with livestock and arable. There was a comfortable farm house set down the garden path, a short distance from the hustle and bustle of the farm yard. The kitchen had a tiled floor and an Aga for cooking. I remember the sitting room where the evenings were spent. My uncle sat one side of the fireplace, puffing on his pipe, while my aunt sat on the other side. She would open the big cupboard and take out a huge pile of mending that always needed attention. It was a peaceful scene, the firelight and wireless for company. One room served as the farm office where my uncle caught up on his paper work. The garden surrounded the house, sunny flower beds and a large vegetable plot where my uncle would work on the long light summer evenings after the farm work was done.

My cousins were much younger than me. I do remember being allowed to take them in a pushchair along the farm drive and then the main road, I think to a little shop.

What I was interested in were the animals. Gyp was the family German Shepherd. A sweet tempered dog. My uncle would take him to the bank to act as guard dog when he was carrying money. He did have one very bad habit. A railway cutting ran alongside the fields. As soon as Gyp heard the sound of the steam train approaching he would run off and chase it along the track. This dangerous game did lead to problems with the railway officials. The driver must have been terrified. There were the farm cats who earned their keep by keeping down the vermin in the farm buildings. They could be quite wild although it was lovely when they had kittens and my aunt let me have my own special kitten while I was there.

There were chickens, ducks and geese. I was allowed to hold a gosling and have never forgotten the feel of its soft downy body. Another attraction was the young calves. They were kept in a big barn where soft light gently filtered through. The sounds of tractors and clanging farm implements were muffled by stacks of sweet smelling hay and straw. I loved it there with the company of the calves who would let me stroke them while they gently licked my hands.

They had a herd of dairy cows. It was hard work. I remember my aunt busy in the dairy clad in a big rubber apron as she washed all the milk bottles. She also did a milk