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

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 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:

May 30th: **Stephen David Marchesi and Jacqueline Clements**

June 13th: **Peter West and Felicity Fallon**

At rest:

May 28th: **Erika Marlehn Marian Horscroft**

June 8th: **Hilda Brooker**

June 25th: **John Frank Sandercock**

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

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

When time runs out.

It has been as strange few weeks. The church seems to have been inundated with funerals. The usually busy time is directly after Christmas or after the beginning of the New Year but this year it has been different.

Don't take this the wrong way but I quite enjoy conducting funerals and helping the bereaved navigate through the process when life has been disrupted with the death of a loved one. Often it is the first point of stability when I sit down with members of the family to plan the funeral in detail.

In addition to reflecting on the life of the deceased the funeral service also serves to bring hope for those of us who are left behind. In Framfield Church the funeral address will always contain a proclamation of the Gospel - the Good News of Jesus Christ. For those who are not Christian or regular church attendees this can be quite a challenge, but the Word has to go out.

Statistically, women on average have to hear the message of salvation approximately twenty five times before a decision for Christ is made. Men take on average thirty times before the penny drops! Perhaps the fairer sex are more spiritually open than us chaps? Statistics are one thing but the important point is that a decision for Christ is made in this life; there is no opportunity after death.

Funerals or the death of a loved one have a habit of bringing us face to face with our own mortality. We may joke about our number coming up but at some point in the future it will be you or I in the coffin!

Within the hundreds of funerals I've conducted I have yet to meet someone who doesn't want to go to heaven. Again people may joke that the devil has all the best parties, but would you really want to spend eternity in the company of Satan and perpetual evil? So if the prospect of Hell doesn't sound very attractive how can you make sure you end up in the right place?

Firstly, taking God's word as absolute truth. If Jesus said 'no one comes to the Father except through me' He really meant it. Where Christianity differs from all other world religions is in the fact that for you or I to be in the company of God we have to be totally sinless. God is pure love my nature and as such cannot reside

with anything evil. So the \$64,000 question is how do can we get to heaven and reside with God?

Can we resolve to be good from now on? How about giving to charities, doing good works, go to church every week, being kind etc. All good things in their own right but by nature we are sinful human beings. In essence this is the epitome of religion; man's attempt to get to God. The sad fact is that God says you can never get to heaven on your own merit, no matter how hard you work at it.

When we think about our own mortality and the Good News of Jesus Christ the most quoted biblical text is probably John 3:16 - 18

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Personally, I have issues with 'religion'. I wouldn't even describe myself as being religious simply because Jesus never came to earth to start another religion, he came to save us from our sins so that all who believe this cross over from eternal death to eternal life. As this passage infers, believing in Christ is the key. It is a step of faith but it is a reasonable step, not a leap in the dark. As individuals when we realise that Christ has paid the price for all our sin, past present and future we are on the right track. Although, believing in Christ is not just a mental acceptance of a fact but a heartfelt realisation that Christ has done this for you!

With the approach of summer and perhaps a little more time as we enjoy the lighter evenings, may I be so bold as to encourage everyone who hasn't really thought about their own mortality and the person of Jesus Christ to do just that? If anyone would like to talk things through then please get in touch.

Abundant blessings 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
Twitter: @BlackboysPreSch
www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

EXTENDED HOURS AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB FROM SEPTEMBER

The Pre-School will be running a new after school club from September for children up to 11 with new opening times from 7.45am until 6pm and offering a range of fun activities. Drop us a line for more information.

WHAT'S ON?

On our allotment, the fruits of our labours are paying off. A big thanks to Blackboys resident Des for his generous donation of seeds. Our allotment is going from strength to strength! Forest school activities have included nature walks and natural collages. We've also tried our hand at t-shirt printing and were sporting our designs on sports day.

RECYCLE TEXTILES AT BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL

Look out for the textile recycling bin at Blackboys Village Hall, which allows us to raise money for our charity from unwanted clothes, textiles, soft toys and shoes. Next time you're having a clear out, please think of us – thank you!

WANT TO TRY US OUT FOR FREE?

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.

A little bit about Blackboys Pre-School

Open Monday to Friday during school term time from 8.45am to 6pm, we combine Montessori principles and practices and Forest School activities with our own allotment and a great outdoor area in a fabulous rural setting for children aged between 2 and 5, and an afterschool club for children up to 11. See our website at www.blackboypreschool.org.uk or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/blackboyspreschool.

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Diary of Church Services

AUGUST 2015

02 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

09 Tenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am Family Service on the Rec; *breakfast served from 10.30am - bacon butties, donuts, tea/coffee and soft drinks etc*

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

16 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am No 8am service

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

23 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Morning Praise

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

30 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Café Service in the Church Hall

SEPTEMBER 2015

06 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

13 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am **New Format** Family Service - All welcome

6.30pm Evening Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

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 13th August, Thursday 10th September

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

- 20 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
 4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 27 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

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

my potatoes...) then please contact Terry Everitt on 891392 or terry.everitt@virgin.net. The schedule is downloadable from www.fabhortsoc.org.uk should you have misplaced yours.

One of the hidden gems of the show is near the end where there is the auction of exhibited produce. You can end up with vast amounts of food and flowers for a small auction donation to the show.

Yet all is not done by 5pm! At that point it is all hands to the deck to clear both the marquee and the field ready for the evening. The evening has a music show in the marquee featuring easy to enjoy music and a bar (Contact Graham Pope graham@gpmusicpromotions.com for tickets).

You may also like to join St Thomas à Becket Church for their special Sunday Service in the marquee on Sunday morning too.

Now we would really like some things from you. Yes we would love you to attend and spend your money of course. The Summer Show is put on for everyone to have a fantastic day BUT of course it does not happen by accident. There is a hard-working Show Committee who meet once a month to make the whole event happen. Would you like to return something to your community in this respect by joining us? Less than that is volunteering to help on the pre-show day (9am to 12pm Friday) or to help on a stall or area on the day of the show. We **do not** yet have quite enough people to cover every station required yet so **PLEASE...yes, you**, we need a little bit of you time. Please contact Caroline Penny on 890868 or by email on caroline@beggarsbarn.co.uk.

Most of all of course, BE THERE and ENJOY!

The Summer Show Committee 2015

Downlands Design and Surveying:

<<<<<<<< PLEASE NOTE: The email address for Downlands Design and Surveying has changed to ashley@downlandsds.co.uk.



Give A Little Bit – 8th August 2015

As we write this, our thoughts turn to the Summer Show 2015. For the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society and in particular The Summer Show Committee, this becomes our busy time. With the luck of the weather we will have yet again a fabulous Summer Show. With entry fees kept the same (£1 for adults and 20p for children, it is a wonderful day out for the family starting at 12.30pm. With a wide range of stalls and exhibitions along with the sequence of events in the central arena there just has to be something for all.

Central to the entire traditional side to the Summer Show is the 8 classes of exhibits in the Big Marquee and the Memorial Hall. These are something we would encourage you to just “give it a go”. People worry about the intimidation of what the standard might be but it isn’t the Chelsea Flower Show or an exhibition at Olympia! It is just us parishioners having a bit of a fun competition, nobbly bits, dents and bends all included! To see a First sticker is a great memory moment. And of course the Fun Dog Show continues to draw in dogs from the local area.

The children's entries are both a great way to occupy some time in the school holidays and a huge excitement for those who do enter. There is of course the actual Children’s Section with the craft style entries. There are specific children's cooking and plant entries BUT a child can actually enter the non-children sections too, accumulating points along the way towards the junior section cups, or even win the top trophies as well!

As for the adult sections, there is the Novice section for those giving it a go either for the first time or who have not achieved three Firsts in previous shows. BUT, as a novice you are not restricted to the Novice section, all sections are open to you (unless you are too old – see above!) Any enquiries about any aspect of entering the show (how to, where to enter or what do I do to prepare

Local charity, Engage South East, operates two clubs, both of which offer a freshly prepared two course lunch, and meet on Wednesdays at Hadlow Down Village Hall:

- The TN22 Club provides opportunities for fun and socialising in a warm and friendly environment.
- The new TN22 Plus Club provides tailored support for those with memory loss or dementia with the benefit of specially designed activities.
- Transport can be arranged upon request.

To find out more about the service, pricing details or to book a place please call:
07864 533884

If there is no one available to take your call, please leave a message as we aim to respond to all calls within 48 hours.

website: www.engagesoutheast.org.uk
e-mail: enquiries@engagesoutheast.org.uk

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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 or e.mail rev.chris@btinternet.com



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NO MESSY CHURCH IN AUGUST

THE NEXT MESSY CHURCH
SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER @ 4pm
(Gathering game and register in the church 4pm)

Messy craft activities and songs, followed by the most delicious afternoon tea.

- THIS IS FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY -

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www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

**WE ARE
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CANCER SUPPORT**

The Uckfield MCS fundraising committee attended the annual volunteers' rally on 1st June at the AmEx stadium. We were very proud, when our treasurer Joan was recognised for her 40 years of service.

Once again, making and serving tea and cakes at NGS open gardens has proved to be very lucrative. So far, we have raised £3600. Our Heathfield street collection raised £286 and our lovely cuddly dinosaur, which had been donated to us as a raffle prize, raised £100!

MCS have many resources and publications, which one can order or download and listen to information. Research and evidence can help us and others improve the quality of life for people living with cancer. There are inspirational stories from people who have been there - what happened, how they coped and what helped.

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

Nature Notes

The first person to discover the existence of dinosaurs was Dr Gideon Mantell who lived in Lewes, and befriended the Streatfeild family who owned The Rocks estate to the west of Uckfield, and whose family plaques are displayed in Holy Cross Church. The following is a description by Dr Mantell of what we now call Lake Wood.

'Near "the Rocks," the seat of ---- Streatfeild, Esquire, about half a mile west of Uckfield, a group of sandstone rocks occurs, under circumstances of considerable beauty and picturesque effect. The path that leads to this interesting spot lies to the right of the road, and by circuitous route, conducts the spectator to the centre of a wood, where a beautiful lake, nearly surrounded by rocks, suddenly opens to the view. The cliffs, overhanging the water, are from twenty to thirty feet high, and are surmounted by forest trees and underwood. In some places the rocks are nearly perpendicular; in others, they descend with a gentle slope to the water's edge, the declivity being covered by a luxuriant vegetation. On the northern margin, a projecting point of high rock is perforated by a natural archway, that has been enlarged by art, and this leads to a recess in the sandstone on a level with the bosom of the lake. From this point the picturesque beauty of the scene is exhibited to particular advantage. On the opposite shore, the base of a rock that juts into the water is in like manner excavated into an arch, beneath which a shallop was moored at the time of my visit. In one of the vertical cliffs, some fine young birch trees had taken root between the thin layers that separate the strata, and in almost every fissure of the rock numerous plants had insinuated themselves, and by the beauty and variety of their foliage, relieved the monotonous and sombre appearance of the smooth grey sandstone. On the less elevated masses, lichens, mosses, and heaths were growing in great profusion and luxuriance. The strata are nearly horizontal, and partake of the characters of those already described.'

A description of Lake Wood "The Rocks" from: **The Geology of the South-East of England** (Mantell 1833 p.203).

For a little joy, why not visit this place sometime, and check out the above, it is now owned by the Woodland Trust who welcome visitors.

Martyn Stenning

and the season runs from April to October (inclusive). The Parish Council will also reserve the right to extend the contract for a further 2 years at their discretion.

Contracts will be awarded early in the New Year.

**ANN NEWTON
Parish Clerk**

(01825) 890182/framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL **MEETING SCHEDULE 2015**

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.**

Tuesday, 29 September – 7.30 pm

Blackboys Village Hall

Tuesday, 24 November – 7.30 pm

Framfield Memorial Hall

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk,
Ann Newton, on

01825- 890182/ framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com

'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website -
framfieldcouncil.org.uk

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

7th September Boccia (Bowls)
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

21st September BIRTHDAY LUNCH (54th Anniversary)
1pm - FISH AND CHIP LUNCH
at Buxted Pavillion

When you receive this Parish Newsletter, Monday Club will have had all their Outings and Gardens, and would like to THANK ALL the HELPERS, for their support over this time.

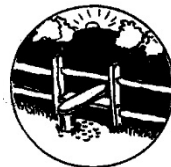
Any further information please contact Sandy 01825 840648 -
sandyrogers77@gmail.com

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL Grounds Maintenance

The Parish Council is seeking tenders for the annual grass/hedge cutting maintenance to the three Parish recreation grounds and allotments.

Anyone interested in tendering for the work should contact the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton. They will then be sent the works specification. A contractor may apply to tender for any one or all the areas. The deadline for receipt of the tenders by the Parish Council is 30 November 2015. Contractors must have their own public liability insurance up to the value of £5,000,000 and must include a copy of their current insurance schedule with their tender. Each contract is for a period of three years (2016, 2017 and 2018)

Framfield & Blackboys WI



Harry Pope, our recent guest speaker, gave a highly entertaining talk on his former career as a senior manager for an undertaking company in South East London. The theme was *Buried Secrets*, and enthralled members and guests alike.

Our next outing will be our Salisbury trip on September 16th, for £21 coach fare only, £28 to include the Magna Flower Festival and pick-ups from Blackboys, Framfield & Uckfield. Do contact Gill on 01825 890459 to book your seat. A comfort break will be included at a Garden Centre.

We marked our **WI Centenary** at the Pashley Manor & Gardens on July 6th, an event attended by the Queen's representative for the **County Lord Lieutenant Peter Field** and his wife **Margaret**, plus both **Angela Sellick DL** and **James Sellick**, owners of this beautiful historic house and its award-winning gardens. This proved a wonderful occasion to support the community role of the WI and with many members from other local organisations attending.

On August 8th we will man a stand at the annual Horticultural Society Summer Show at the Framfield Recreation Ground and look forward to seeing you all there!



To join your local WI in 2015 contact
President Delia on 01825 830319

Bank Holiday Treat

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

May Bank Holiday and, taking advantage of the only little bit of sun that we have been allocated over the whole weekend, I'm standing in the middle of a wood somewhere deep in West Sussex and my jaw is just hanging open, staring incredulously at the most amazing sea of blue in front of me. I'm not going to tell you where this wood is in case you all want to go there, but will suggest if you missed them this year, make sure you find a bluebell wood next year and go and stand in it, smell the aroma, listen to the accompanying sounds and just breathe it in, one of the greatest experiences the natural world has to offer, and it was all free.

I have to admit my heart sank a bit when my wife and I arrived at this particular place as there were lines of cars along the road, everybody having the same idea as us. I wanted to see the bluebells in splendid isolation, but soon realised that this was a bit mean-spirited and that it was really encouraging that so many people had made the effort to enjoy the spectacle.

In this particular area, there are a number of different stands of woodland all subtly different in character. Walking down a public footpath, the first real eye-opener was a carpet of blue and white, the bluebells liberally interspersed with the small star-shaped heads of the lesser stitchwort, absolutely wonderful. Adding an aural element to the atmosphere, a cuckoo suddenly advertised its presence, my first for the year. A slightly more open area and the bluebells were not as dominant as there was a much greater variety of woodland plants on display, including a lovely clump of early purple orchids. So beautiful in fact a nightingale poured forth his exquisite song in approval.

Leaving this area behind, we wanted to get the next bit of woodland as we knew the treat that awaited us; we were not disappointed. This was the jaw-dropping experience. In front of us, a wall-to-wall carpet of blue as far as the eye could see. It was sublime. Interestingly I didn't notice any birdsong; perhaps the sight was so overwhelming that the birds were reduced to a hushed reverence. I found it such an emotional experience

However, perhaps the most important highlight of this term has been the confirmed agreement from both the Governing bodies of Framfield and Blackboys Schools, to federate. As explained in the previous Parish Magazine, there will be very little difference seen in the day to day running of the two schools. The main difference will be that the two Governing Bodies will become one, overseeing both schools. This will ensure the sustainability and security of both our local schools in the future without impacting on their individual ethos and character. The Federation will be known as the St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation and both schools will maintain their individual names within this federation. The Federation comes into being on 1st of September. Should you wish to find out further details, please see the website of either of our schools.

Both schools have been running a major Design Technology project this term; not only have the children learnt new skills but they have developed ones they already have eg measuring accurately, designing, planning, evaluating. It has been an exciting project and I know you will all be impressed with the work they produce which will be on display at the Agricultural Show in August.

Thanks so much to all the members of our community who have supported us throughout the year and we look forward to working with you all in an equally exciting year in September taking all the work we have been developing further forward. I feel very privileged to be the Headteacher of our two schools - two schools held very much at the heart of the one community. The future looks very exciting for us all!

J K King
Headteacher

The FAB Partnership! (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)

I can't believe how quickly this last term - indeed this whole year - has gone, and I know we always seem to be saying it, but we have just been so busy! What with our end of year assessments, class trips - locally and further afield - the lead up to our performances and of course our very full sporting calendar - there have just been so many highlights this term.

This term always sees the annual Leavers' Service at Crowborough; this year both sets of our year 6 pupils performed a dramatic reading based on Matthew 14: 22-33 Peter the Rock and on the theme of Stepping Forward in Faith. It went down very well and we were very proud of all of them! This is always an important event in the lives of our pupils and we are very grateful to be able to share the occasion with many other local Church Schools.

Our year 6 pupils also all travelled to Chichester Cathedral where they were treated to a Cathedral tour and also took part in a drama adaptation; again, part of a number of events that make up our traditional end of year 6 transition.

Science week was a real highlight in our calendar: both our science leaders worked very hard to make the event engaging and exciting. The highlights of the week at Blackboys were the Blast Science day and Miss Bodfish's quiz. While at Framfield Mrs Tsapparelli organized some wonderful events including pond dipping, mini-bug hunts and many other fascinating activities. Many thanks to both Science leaders for working so hard to make the week so successful.

though I'm not sure why. Without getting morbid, but perhaps it's because my opportunities to experience this event is reducing with each advancing year.

The treats weren't quite over yet. We came across another piece of woodland where a stream snaked along its edge and from the bank a swathe of white rose majestically up until the ground levelled out and it emerged once more into a sea of bluebell. A familiar smell told me that this was the wild garlic or ransoms.

For me, this experience just highlighted how important the environment is to our overall health and wellbeing and I challenge anyone not to have their spirits lifted by just standing and absorbing this magnificent natural and totally free display.

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COMMENTING ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council (PC) is a statutory consultee on planning applications and as such is invited to make comments along with the public during a specified 21-day consultation period. Due to the requirement to determine applications as soon after the 21-day deadline as is reasonably possible, Wealden District Council (WDC) can no longer be guaranteed to be able to allow an extension of time for comments to fit in with Committee meeting dates. As applications are sent out by WDC at any time, the deadline for comment might be before the next Parish Committee meeting.

The Chairman/Vice Chairman will therefore give his permission for applications to be discussed and commented upon under delegated authority in line with the terms of reference of the Committee. Subject to there being no additional information coming forward within the 21-day statutory consultation period, the comments will be passed onto WDC in the usual way.

If any member the public, whether the applicant in an application or an interested party wishing to make representation to the PC, please contact the Clerk at the earliest opportunity once they are aware the application is live or the yellow site notice has been put up on site.

Letters of support or objection should be addressed to WDC in the first instance and copied to the PC for information.

Firstly I must say a very big thank you to all of those who voted for me at the District elections in May. I had an 83% majority. I am extremely pleased to be returned to my seat and am very proud to represent the Parish, and Waldron, at District level. I have also retained my Cabinet post as Planning Portfolio Holder.

The District will have a challenging four years ahead including the review of the Core Strategy Local Plan which will see revisions in the allocated housing numbers across the District. This will also include a review of all the Conservation Areas, Development Management Policies and allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites.

I hope the re-arrangement by Kier of the waste and recycling rounds has not proved too difficult. Anyone who does have a missed bin whilst the new system is settling down should contact Wealden in the first instance by telephone or email and also let me know.

We had two training sessions on the use of defibrillators and an update on CPR in May – they were well attended and well worth doing. My thanks to the Sussex Ambulance Service for providing the training free of charge. The defibrillators (one at the Memorial Hall and one at the Village Hall in Blackboys) are for general use should a situation arise where they are needed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on anything which you think I could help.

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.
Telephone - 01825 890103.
Email – aenewton1965@gmail.com

I would like to thank Ann Newton on behalf of my family for a brilliant and most educational morning of learning an incredibly important skill of saving a life. Well done Ann from Paula Bradley.

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Co-option of Parish Councillors - following the uncontested election in May, there are some vacancies on the Parish Council. If anyone would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact me.

I must also comment on the sad death of Ian Paisley. Ian was a Parish Councillor for over 20 years and did a great deal for the Parish. His pragmatism was missed when he had to step down last year. The Council sends their thoughts to Jean and her family.

Memorial Hall, Framfield – we hope to refurbish the internal lobby, corridor and toilets, plus the redecorating the outside of the Hall in the School summer holidays. We may be also fit in a refurbishment of the kitchen.

Framfield Village Market – please come and support the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall by attending our monthly market. There are all sorts of stalls, a raffle and enjoy a cup of coffee and a bacon roll. The dates are detailed elsewhere in the magazine.

Road Safety in Framfield - two flashing lights have been placed in The Street in the vicinity of Framfield School and will activate for around 20-30 minutes around school in and out times.

Dog waste bin(s) – we have various dog waste bin in the Parish. Please use them to clear up after your dogs. There is a new name and shame scheme underway whereby individuals can take up the role of reporting offending owners.

Allotments – I have a few vacant plots on both allotments – Gun Road, Blackboys and Gatehouse Lane, Framfield.

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

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

Email: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

If there are any queries please contact the Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825 890182 or framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com

For information

Framfield Parish Council
c/o Mrs Ann Newton
Parish Clerk
'Highlands'
Blackboys
East Sussex TN22 5LR

Telephone: 01825 890182
Email: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com

Wealden District Council
Head of Building & Planning
Control
Council Offices
Vicarage Lane
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LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

DIET FOR DUCKS

Writing this in early June I have been on a roller coaster of emotions, stress, excitement, worry, contentment and humour. By the time you read this in August I hope I shall once more be calm and relaxed.

Earlier in the spring we had a holiday on our boat on the Norfolk Broads. It was very peaceful with few boats out. When the temperature plummeted to near freezing at night I thought the holiday makers were wise to wait till later in the season. However when the early sun lit up the sparkling frost it was beautiful. While on the boat we usually read the boating magazines and an article caught my eye. It was about the correct diet for ducks. Usually when a boat moors a couple of ducks will come up, the braver female will come aboard, waddle round the decks until it reaches the galley window where it will pathetically peer in begging for food. About to throw a few pieces of wholemeal bread to the waiting duck, I hesitated and remembered the article on food for ducks. It said that bread was very bad for them. They should have a healthy diet of chopped up grapes, unfrozen peas and carefully shredded lettuce. I did wonder how many people visiting waterways or ponds in parks carried in their pockets melting peas, wilting lettuce or the odd squashed grape or two? As it happened we did have frozen peas and some grapes. I cut up the grapes to make suitable bill sized pieces and took out a handful of frozen peas, warming them in my hands to speed up the thawing process. Stepping out into the cockpit I threw some quartered grapes onto the key heading. The duck, drake and some of their friends were delighted to see me toss some treats to them. The duck rushed up to claim her food and quickly picked up a piece of grape. A look of complete disgust spread over her face as she spat it out. The drake then came up, picked up the healthy offering, spat it out then tasted it again in disbelief before rejecting it. Their friends surprised that the food had not been consumed rushed up to grab some, with the same result. I then tried with the peas which were again rejected. By now the key heading was strewn with squashed up debris where many webbed feet had trampled. I cheered up the dejected water fowl with some bread that they really enjoyed. Now we didn't have many peas left for our dinner and I was looking forward to those grapes!

On the front lawn we have a very old cherry tree. It has been gradually dying off for years but we keep it as each year we have a pair of great tits who make a nest in the hollow trunk. They go in and out through a gap in the trunk. This entrance has become wider over the years making it more vulnerable to predators. Returning from our holiday we noticed that the great tits had hatched their eggs and were busy feeding their young. I so enjoy watching the parents fly in and out which is easy to see from the kitchen window. As time went on I became concerned. We always feed the birds and one of the regular visitors is a great spotted woodpecker. Unusually he often had a drink from the bird bath which is situated quite near the cherry tree. He then started to perch in the Cherry tree, before flying over to the front porch where the nut feeder hangs. He became more and more curious which was upsetting the great tits who became very wary when returning to the nest. One day, to my horror, I saw him perch on the side of the gap and look in. I rushed out to frighten him off. I could not relax and was constantly looking out of the window to see what he was up to. Knowing they eat baby birds made me very worried. We wondered what to do. We could not protect the nest as the parents would probably desert it. We decided to keep all the feeders well topped up, hoping an easy source of food would be more inviting than raiding the nest. One day he was on the tree a bit nearer the nest and both parents went for him aggressively and he flew off.

As well as the woodpecker there were magpies and crows. Would my great tit family ever survive? It was not only them I was getting stressed about but the other small birds nesting in the garden. My husband used his binoculars to carefully watch the entrance and eventually saw a baby bird peeping out, ready to fly. Soon after that they fledged, what a relief. I checked the nest after they had gone. Everything was fine. The nest was beautiful. It was made of soft looking fur, black with white bits carefully woven in. I wondered for a moment what it was made from. Then it dawned on me it was Chloe's black fur. The white decoration was from Chloe's white patch on her chest. Newfoundland fur must have made a very warm and cosy nest

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