

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

M^{Sussex} 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

DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

**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:

At rest:

September 25th: Edwin Booth

October 2nd: Brenda Constance Patching

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.*

I have a problem with the Christmas story!

I have a problem with the Christmas story and I believe I am not alone. As our thoughts turn toward Christmas up and down the country clergymen and women of all denominations will be praying and fretting about how to deliver, or retell the Christmas story in a way that will be fresh and memorable.

In Framfield Church 2012 we had baby Jesus suspended on six blue helium filled balloons descending from on-high at the back of church into the chancel on a zip-wire. All very dramatic and judging by the response since, everyone loved it.

It was a visual illustration and a play on words from the carol, Once in Royal David's City - 'He came down to Earth from Heaven'. And here lies the problem, the visual image of baby Jesus on the zip-wire appears to be the only thing that was remembered! Exciting as it was I had effectively failed; the true message of Christmas had been lost in the drama of the visual.

The Christmas story is the beginning of the greatest story ever told, but what comes to mind when we hear the word 'story'? We all know about fictional stories, fairy stories, tales, yarns and amusing anecdotes which is fine, but when we hear the word 'story', we tend not to take it seriously. A story is generally viewed as something made-up rather than a real account.

The account of Jesus coming into the world and living as one of us is an undisputed historical fact. No historian would dispute this as there is far too much evidence to the contrary.

Never the less, what's the point of Jesus coming to earth or why do we celebrate His birth in the first place is a much better question. In church circles and beyond we speak about God becoming man or God incarnate, which simply means God in person or as some children say God with skin on! Interestingly, in the entire Bible there is only one general reference to Jesus' appearance which is found in Isaiah 53:2 **'He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him'**. In essence Jesus looked like your average Middle Eastern Jew.

Then we come to the virgin birth. Mary is chosen as a pure woman and it is the Holy Spirit who 'overshadows' her as the Bible puts it so that when Jesus is conceived and born He is fully human and fully divine. Not half and half but His humanity fused with His divinity.

The question often arises, why would God want to do that? If God wanted to reveal Himself why wouldn't he just show up as an all powerful celestial being? Personally

I think the answer is twofold. Firstly, in His humanity Jesus would have to experience a human life; He would know joy, pain, hunger, rejection etc so that when we experience the same things we have a personal God who totally understands our situation. In His divinity we see Jesus the all-powerful. The one who could drive out evil, bring sight to the blind, healing to the body, raise the dead, provide food and calm the forces of nature.

God is not aloof as some think, and God is not uncaring as some also think. Traditional views of God can be like figures from Greek mythology ruling from the heavens and throwing thunderbolts down in judgement when we mess up. These 'stories' are very unhelpful when we are trying to discern the true nature of God.

In Christ we see the true face of God, and the true nature of God, and we can be forgiven for not recognising Him. Even the disciples who had been with Him for three and a half years had the same problem. In John 14:8 Philip said, **'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'**⁹ **Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?'** ¹⁰ **Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.** ¹¹ **Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.**

The final piece in the Christmas story is that Jesus was born in order to die for us.

At the end of our lives I would expect that we would all like to go to heaven?

Prior to Philip's question Jesus speaks to the disciples about preparing a place in heaven for them and how they can get there. ⁵ **Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'** ⁶ **Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** That last sentence is vitally important!

Jesus is the bridge to Heaven and He is also the sin bearer. No one can stand in the presence of God who is pure and holy with their sins unforgiven. We are completely and utterly unable to do this for ourselves, no matter how good we think we are. God provides the way because Jesus is the way. When we are brutally honest about ourselves and understand and accept what Christ offers to us as individuals, as a gift of amazing love, then we are 'through' or as Jesus said **'Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life'** (John 5:24).

May God bless everyone in the parish this Christmas. *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

Looking for childcare after school? We now run an after-school club for children aged up to 11 until 6pm offering a range of fun activities. Some pickups from schools in the area. Give us a call or pop in to find out more.

WHAT HAVE THE CHILDREN BEEN UP TO?

Thanks to some help from some local friends in the community, our chicken coop is nearly finished and the arrival of the chickens are imminent! The children are enjoying their dedicated forest school days. Get in touch if you'd like to find out more about what this entails. We have also started rehearsals for our Nativity and I think it's fair to say we're all getting very excited. Indoors, we've been trying our hand at felt making and baking biscuits and cakes in the kitchen.

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 7.45am 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.

I'm really looking forward to my first Christmas as the MP for Wealden! It's my job to serve my community, and Christmas is a time for community like no other. Whether we pay a visit to a lonely neighbour, welcome family into our homes or help a charity that protects the vulnerable – millions of us tap into the spirit of Christmas, which is all about coming together to support each other. My diary is already filling up with carol services and fayres, as well as markets and nativity plays.

Christmas has also come to Westminster; recently it was a privilege to attend a mini-concert at Parliament given by the Colchester Military Wives Choir. So many of our brave troops have spent Christmas abroad, and even though our military commitments are not as extensive as they were, there are still British soldiers who will spend this Christmas risking their lives for us. Having visited a British Army base in Canada this autumn, I know that there are many other soldiers who are also separated from their families, even when they're not in the front line.

I hope that we take a moment to think of all those who will spend Christmas away from their families, as well as those who work hard to make sure the rest of us can have a merry time. In particular, our local fire brigade will experience one of the busiest times of the year, and I will be spending a Saturday with them to better understand the vital and often dangerous work they do to serve the public. We can all do our bit to help them, and most importantly keep ourselves safe, by checking our smoke alarms before Christmas so they can quickly warn us should any accidents happen while we're cooking. Although working in a Royal Mail sorting office may be somewhat less perilous, the Christmas cards we receive that can bring us so much joy could not be delivered without their tireless work at unsocial hours, so it will be my honour to join them.

Christmas is also, sadly, a time where too many still go cold and hungry, and need help more than ever. Loneliness is also a terrible blight at Christmas time, something that I'm all too aware of given my work as chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ageing and Older People. I would urge everyone to join me in supporting Age UK's 'No one should have no one at Christmas' campaign to tackle this. If there's something on your mind this Christmas, as your MP I'm here to help you, so please don't hesitate to email me at nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours,
Nus

Diary of Church Services

DECEMBER 2015

- 06 Second Sunday of Advent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 13 Third Sunday of Advent**
10.00am **New Format** Family Service - All welcome
6.30 pm Lessons and Carols
- 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
No Messy Church
- 24 Christmas Eve**
4.30 pm Crib and Christingle Service
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion (CW)
- 25 Christmas Day**
10.00 am Family Festival Praise
- 27 First Sunday of Christmas (Holy Innocents' Day)**
10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)
No Evening Service

JANUARY 2016

- 03 Second Sunday of Christmas - Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 10 First Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)**
10.00 am **New Format** Family Service - All welcome
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

- 17 Second Sunday of Epiphany**
 8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
 4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 24 Third Sunday of Epiphany**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 3.00 pm Churches in Uckfield - Joint Service at Maresfield
(Concludes The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
- 31 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
 10.00 am Café Service in the Church Hall

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th JANUARY 2016**

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

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

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 10th December, Thursday 14th January

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



Bespoke *Financial Planning*, giving you clear
professional advice tailored to your individual needs

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from FGJ Financial Services



We can help **you** set, review and
achieve your financial goals.

With our excellent personal service, we will take our time to understand your individual financial requirements and find the right solution for you.



Savings & Investments



Pensions



Mortgages



Insurance



Retirement Planning

For more information and a free no obligation consultation
call **01892 732834** or visit **www.fgjfinancialservices.co.uk**



A great place for
lunch and friendship!



Join us at our friendly and welcoming clubs

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



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.

Looking for a local venue?

Looking for a local venue? Then look no further.

Framfield Church Hall is brightly decorated 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: £10.00/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



Global Tree Care

Tree Removals	Thinning and Pruning	Reductions and Shaping
Powerline Clearing	Hedge Trimming	Firewood

Fully Insured and NPTC qualified
07934 338217
andrew@globaltreecare.co.uk www.globaltreecare.co.uk

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Operation Crackdown

You will now find it easier to report incidents of anti-social driving in Sussex. Sussex Police has re-launched Operation Crackdown - a system that enables anyone to report anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles, either online or by phone.

Anti-social driving can be driving that is careless, deliberately aggressive or dangerous. If you see this type of behaviour it is important that you report it, so it can be dealt with in the most appropriate way.

Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative supported by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP), Sussex Police and all local authorities in the county. It was first launched in 2002 as a way of reporting abandoned vehicles in Sussex, and was expanded in 2007 to cover anti-social driving reports.

The system for reporting anti-social driving has now been made simpler, to encourage members of the public to easily and quickly report this type of incident and users can now keep track of the progress of their case with a specific reference number provided.

Incidents can be reported, either via:

www.operationcrackdown.org, or by calling 01243 64 22 22, for those who don't have access to the internet.

Members of the public who are reporting incidents must remember, where possible, the registration number of the vehicle, the make, model and the colour, so the police can identify the vehicle concerned and make contact with the offender.

Every report received through Operation Crackdown is viewed and a decision is made against set criteria on how best to deal with it. In the majority of cases a letter of advice is sent to the driver or rider, but a report to Operation Crackdown can also lead to arrest and possible conviction, depending on the seriousness of the offence".



FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKETS



Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

30 January
 27 February
 19 March
 30 April
 28 May
 25 June
 30 July
 August – no market.
 24 September
 29 October
 26 November
 17 December

We have over 20 stalls, including a raffle and cake stall, both of which all proceeds go towards the Hall refurbishment fund.

Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a bacon roll.

Please contact Ann Newton with any queries – 01825 890182 or email framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for MCS was held all around the country on, or around 26th September. So far almost £22 million has been raised. Our committee held a very successful event at Uckfield Pizza Express and together, with other similar events in the area, we raised £3540.

We were also delighted to receive a cheque for £700 from Framfield Stagers.

A further reminder of our Golf Day event at Dale Hill Ticehurst, which is on Friday 10th June 2016. Any interested golfers, please contact Ann.

Chairman Ann recently accepted an invitation to visit the new Macmillan Horizon Centre in Brighton and was very pleased and impressed to see its progress. Thanks to all the donations, the building is now in full swing and is due to be completed early next year. The Centre will provide cancer support and services for people living throughout Sussex.

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

Two striking facts were on the news this evening. One was that we experienced the hottest July day ever in 2015, and the other that we are likely to experience the mildest November weather ever during this month. I write my Nature Notes about a month before it comes out, so you are likely to know if they were right by the time you read this. The fact remains that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at its highest level since records began. This is likely to have profound consequences for nature. I was reading my earlier Nature Notes yesterday so that I could avoid repeating myself too much, and even in 2002 and 2004 I was writing about how extraordinarily mild it was in November and December. What seems to be happening is that the trapped heat from the greenhouse effect caused by carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere is warming the oceans and large land masses causing more moisture in the atmosphere in some places leading to heavy rain and flooding in some places and drought and forest fires in others. Ice is melting in the Arctic and mountain glaciers, and all this is leading to changes in the ranges of plants and animals. For us humans the consequences are often disastrous with flooded or burnt homes, crop failures, hunger, thirst and heat stroke. In short – it is rather depressing.

So, what can we do? First, we should try to refrain from doing anything that will make things worse. Second, we could watch nature and read the signs and report them where we can. Then for ourselves, we should think positively and live well with nature in the knowledge that all things are interdependent. We depend on nature for all our oxygen, water, food, warmth and shelter. Even our transport systems derive originally from natural things. Nature tells us one thing more than anything else, that is - adapt and survive. This is not as selfish as it sounds. It actually means that organisms that fit in with the rest of nature fill a niche that keeps them healthy by keeping others around them healthy. Animals that eat other animals mostly take those that would not survive in any case. Plants that produce fruit do so to get animals to eat the fruit and the animals disperse the seeds contained therein to places where the seeds can grow. Honeybees collect nectar for their colony and carry pollen between flowers that leads to good fruit and so on. Only by caring for nature will it return the favour.

Martyn Stenning

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

By the time this issue of the magazine hits the doorsteps, the consultation will just about have closed on the Wealden Issues, Options and Recommendations of the Local Plan, the first stage of the Core Strategy Review. This will include the housing numbers for the District and recommendations as to where they could go. The documents are available on the WDC website (www.wealden.gov.uk). Included is a recommendation to extend the Conservation Area in Framfield.

Unfortunately, there have still been some refuse bin issues around my Ward. Anyone who does have a missed bin should contact Wealden in the first instance by telephone (01892 653311) or email and also let me know.

Still on the subject of refuse, although of the recyclable variety this time – the owners of the 'bring' site (recycling area) in Blackboys (Blackboys Inn) have asked Wealden to remove it as they have another use for the area. A replacement will not be found because in fact all of the types of recyclables are now collected on the door step.

Lastly, if anyone wishes to know what planning applications are currently live, they are all listed on a weekly basis on the Wealden website. If you follow this link http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Leaflets_And_Publications/Weekly_List_of_Planning_Applications/Planning_Weekly_List.aspx - you will find the current and previous lists.

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

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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

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



Guy Partridge 07702 836057
Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond

LIGHTS of LOVE

We sometimes sing a song during our Sunday morning services entitled 'Here I am to Worship'* which includes the following words:

*Light of the world
 You stepped down into darkness
 Open my eyes, let me see
 Beauty that made this heart adore You
 Hope of a life spent with You.*

*"Here I Am To Worship" was written by Smith, Michael W. / Smith, Debbie / Baloché, Paul.

This song reminds me of some words in the Bible. They are written by the disciple John about Jesus and his coming into the world.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

(John Chapter 1 verse 4-5)

In numerous ways the darkness spoken of continues to impinge upon our lives. One such way which affects us all at some time or another is death and bereavement. So we all need ways of reminding ourselves of the hope of the light that shines for all of us.

I would like to take this opportunity therefore to mention the Lights of Love candle lit services run each year by St. Wilfrid's Hospice in Eastbourne. These events are hosted around East Sussex and provide a chance to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died.

Our nearest event will take place at All Saints Church in Waldron on Thursday 17th December at 7pm. If you would like more information then please feel free to contact me.

I went to see a wonderful production of the Railway Children in London with my family yesterday. The Father in the story is taken abruptly away by the Police from his family to be wrongly imprisoned. As he leaves he says to his children 'There is always hope!' How true that is. May you have a joyful and hope filled Christmas.

Revd Guy Partridge Minister New Life Church Blackboys Tel: 01825 891133 or guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com.



Framfield & Blackboys WI



Of great interest on our recent trip to Salisbury Cathedral was the spectacular **Magna Flower Festival** presenting flowers from all around the world, 30,000 stems used, and the skills of over 500 flower arrangers. The event marks the 800 years of Magna Carta and coincides with the WI Centenary.

Next stop is London on **Wednesday December 2nd**, with our visit to a Christmas market, bluebell badge guide to the Christmas lights and Carvery meal at the Strand Palace Hotel.

On **Friday December 11th** we hold our Carol Service in **St Thomas a Becket**, Framfield Parish Church at **2.30pm** and all are welcome, with refreshments including mince pies served afterwards.

We reflect on the past years of activities ranging from the centenary celebration at Pashley Manor, visits to the Royal Albert Hall, Ashdown Forest's Police Training Centre and many varied speakers – a programme to suit all interests. Trips are always open to members and non-members on a First-come first-served basis so **check this magazine for the latest details**

Our January our New Year Dinner will be at the Highlands. **New members and visitors are always welcome. Contact Delia on 01825 830319 for information about membership**



Red Revolution in Hastings

by Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

During September the Sussex Wildlife Trust's WildCall Officer, Jess Price, received a number of calls from people in the county saying that they had seen red squirrels, with a few providing photographic evidence to back up their claim. Now it is well-known that red squirrels have disappeared from the South of England apart from small remnant populations on the Isle of Wight and Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, where constant battles are being waged against the invasive grey squirrel to keep them out.

So where have these red squirrels come from? The majority of the records that Jess received were from a small area in Hastings. They came from quite a few different people but we're not sure how many actual squirrels there were, whether people were all seeing the same individual or there was more than one of them. However many squirrels there were, it would be interesting to know how they got there. It is highly unlikely they escaped from their island fortresses, while the nearest mainland populations are in the Northern England and Anglesey so again they are not going to be from either of these.

There are some that have been captive bred in Sussex and there are occasional escapees that are reported so this could be the source of the Sussex animals. Or there may be someone who has been captive breeding squirrels then deliberately releasing them into the wild. This does happen quite regularly for a range of animals, plants and birds, usually by well-meaning but sometimes misguided individuals.

Red squirrels are a native species and were once widespread throughout Sussex but the introduction of the grey squirrel and the subsequent expansion of the population has driven the red squirrel further and further north. Conservation organisations are involved in a number of projects in trying to maintain the red squirrel population while curtailing and reversing the spread of the grey.



Groundlands Ltd. Tel: 01435 812052

- Landscape Design
- Paving & Patios
- Fencing & Decking
- Extensive Portfolio
- Quality Assured
- Retaining Walls
- Artificial Grass
- 25 Years Experience



www.groundlands.co.uk

Registered Address: unit 8, Silver Oaks Farm, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN210RS
Registration No. 08919868 Registered in England & Wales

Logos: BALI, FMB, TRUST MARK, Which? Trusted trader, ROSPA, CHA



THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

SUNDAY 17th JANUARY @ 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 -

A warm happy invitation for you join us, of course please bring a friend.

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

7th December 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm Framfield Memorial Hall
Christmas Party with Entertainment from
Framfield CE Primary School Children and
Uckfield Community Orchestra.

Our Members and Helpers wish All Readers of the Parish Newsletter
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

2016 IS THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS
MONDAY CLUB

As the year goes on, we will have some special Events to Highlight our
55th year so watch this space, as some will be open to non Members.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OUR MEMBERS AND HELPERS

18th January - AGM and New Programme for 2016
and Collection of Subscriptions (£12)
2.30pm at Framfield Memorial Hall

Any Further Informarion contact Sandy 01825 840648
sandyrogers77@gmail.com

Do you need a cleaner for a couple of hours a week? £10 per hour – flexible
hours. Call Karen on 07946162583

Releasing or re-releasing species back into areas where they were once
resident and common can be a very complex and sometimes costly operation.
You really have to know why they disappeared in the first place, you have to
assess whether the habitat is still there, with all the ecological constituents are
there for it to at least survive but preferably flourish. With the red squirrel,
there is no point in trying to bring it into places where the population of grey
squirrels is still high. As well as out competing them for breeding sites, they
also pass on a disease to the reds, so they will then just die out again.

There is an interesting public relations issue also to contend with. While
everyone would like to see red squirrels around again, to achieve this would
entail removing the greys and we have become so used to seeing greys around
that removal would instigate a public outcry.

So, for the people of Hastings, it has been nice to see the squirrels, but we are
still a long way from a population gaining a permanent foothold in the town.

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



To the readers of this column may I wish you, on behalf of the Committee, every good wish for the coming year.

We have planned another excellent programme for 2016 and look forward to seeing you at some of the events – commencing with our ever popular Quiz Night in February.

Seasons greetings.

ALAYNE JENKINS
Chairman



J.G. WILKINS
FORESTRY, ESTATE
& GARDEN SERVICES

Offering a wide range of Garden & Land Based Services to Residential & Commercial Customers, Land Owners & Tenants.

- ✓ Hedge Cutting/Reduction/Removal/Planting
- ✓ Tree & Shrub Work
- ✓ Strimming / Brushcutting
- ✓ Jungle / Scrub / Garden / Site Clearance
- ✓ Access/Footpath Clearance & Maintenance
- ✓ Ditching / Culverts / Streams / Ponds
- ✓ Stock Fencing / Gates / Stiles
- ✓ Forestry / Woodland Management / Coppicing
- ✓ NPTC Qualified & Fully Insured Professional, Friendly Service

Please visit our website for full details of all the services we provide or contact us to discuss your requirements.

07889 338620 / 01825 508951
info@jgwilkins.co.uk
www.jgwilkins.co.uk



*Problems receiving benefits? Low Income?
Unexpected bill? Unemployed? Sickness?
Debt? Delayed wages? Family breakdown?*

Do you skimp on your meals to feed the children? (1 in 4 people do)
Are you juggling money to pay bills and buy food? Robbing Peter to pay Paul?

If you are finding it difficult to feed your family Uckfield Foodbank can help. Visit Uckfield CAB and ask for a food voucher.

Uckfield CAB, The Hub, Civic Approach, Uckfield, TN22 1AL
(The hut near the Civic Centre, in Luxford car park)
Tel: 01825 764940

Follow us on



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/uckfieldfoodbank

Twitter:

@uckfieldfoodbnk

Our website: www.uckfield.foodbank.org.uk

Contact Us: Telephone: 01825 745489 Email:
admin@uckfield.foodbank.org.uk



Registered charity number: 1153505

National Trust Sheffield Park and Garden Volunteer Recruitment Fair

Saturday 16th January 2016 10.30am- 3.30pm
Would you like to know more about volunteering at Sheffield Park and Garden? Come and join us at our recruitment fair and learn what is involved in becoming a member of our dedicated volunteer team. For further information please email; Rick Boulding at Rick.Boulding@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01825 790231

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULE 2016

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, 26 January (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 22 March (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 24 May (BB Trust) Annual Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm Annual Parish Meeting – 8 pm.	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 28 June (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 27 September (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 November (FF Trust)	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



LITTLE FOXES
DANCE COMPANY



CHILDRENS' DANCE CLASSES
Ballet, Contemporary, Street Dance and Little Dance for pre-schoolers
at the Church Hall, St Thomas à Becket Church, Framfield
Classes and times vary depending on level of ability. For more details contact:

01825 891238
info@littlefoxesdance.co.uk
www.littlefoxesdance.co.uk



Harrietts Dog Parlour & Walking Services
07803 426116
harriettsgrooming@outlook.com
Find me on Facebook 'Harrietts Dog Parlour'

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Many thanks to all of you who supported our jumble sale in October. We made over £250 which will go to our main charity this year.

This is Headway Hurstwood park which offers support and rehabilitation for people with brain injuries and their carers. We will be having a talk from them in the new year.

Our Christmas Party is in December and our AGM is on Wednesday 21st January.

If you would like to join us give Val a call on 890677. We'd love to meet you.

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.

Memorial Hall, Framfield – an update: the external paintwork, front lobby, side corridor and WC's have all had a make-over and the kitchen has just been completed. Thank you to the School for their patience over the few days we had to close the Hall. The next 'project' is the conversion of the rear urinals into a unisex WC which will be done over Christmas. Then onto the rear corridor including a new boiler, tanks and general hot water system which should help with the hot water in the kitchen and other WC's.

Framfield Village Market – please do 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. We have one further market left this year where we would love to see as many people as possible – 12 December. Chairman of Wealden District Council, Councillor Barby Dashwood-Morris, will be visiting us again, so it would be a good opportunity to meet Barby and discuss any issues you have. A list of the market dates for 2016 is details elsewhere in the magazine.

Bird-in-Eye Hill – speed limit reduction. The Parish Council has applied to ESCC for match-funding for the provision of a reduction in speed limit on a section of Bird-in-Eye Hill (running down from the Farm to the Bridge). We should know by the beginning of the 2016 if we have been successful or not.

Allotments – I still have a few vacant plots on both allotments – Gun Road, Blackboys and Gatehouse Lane, Framfield. There would be no charge for the remaining months of the season.

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

Email: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

building, zipwire, rock climbing, rifle shooting and abseiling. For many children, a lot of these activities were either scary or challenging, but they all showed great perseverance to have a go at them all.

Framfield children went to Bowles Outdoor Adventure Centre: all the children had an excellent time despite the heavy rain at times. They took part in a range of activities including skiing, abseiling and climbing, kayaking on the River Medway and orienteering. They found out things about themselves that they didn't realise as Maria said "I learnt about myself in ways that I thought I wouldn't. I found out that I am quite messy but can be well organized. I tried new things that I was afraid of. I think I showed great courage."

Well done to all of them and many thanks to all the staff and governors who supported and helped the children.

Our new governing body met for the first time this term and are working hard to support both schools and streamline systems for our Federation. The schools are now in a much more sustainable position as we move towards the future.

Christmas will be upon us before we know it and we would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to our Christmas Fairs: both on 28th November - they promise to be exciting events so please come along and support both if you can.

Our Carol Service for Framfield takes place on 18th December at 9am, while the Carol Concert for Blackboys is on 16th December at 6.30pm. Again, we would all love to see you there.

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher)

Jacqueline Davies (Head of School, Framfield)

Graham Sullivan (Head of School, Blackboys)

St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation: Blackboys and Framfield Schools

A highlight of this term so far has got to be our Harvest Festivals: pupils celebrated this special time of the year in the traditional way with hymns and readings in St Thomas a Becket Church. Many thanks to the team there for ensuring that we are able to celebrate in such lovely surroundings.

We have already had many interesting and enriching experiences this term: our older pupils visited Glyndebourne to see the opera Don Pasquale. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had the opportunity of seeing the opera house and gardens too.

Many of the classes have got together and completed joint projects while several have managed to make joint visits for example: our year 3 and 4 classes went to Fishbourne together to support the learning about their Roman topic, while years 1 and 2 have visited each other and made some good friends.

Sainsbury's Games Mark

The Sainsbury's School Games is a programme developed to motivate and inspire millions of young people across the country to take part in more competitive school sport. Both Blackboys and Framfield CE Schools are now registered with this recognised sporting mark and we are delighted to let you know that they have both been awarded the Bronze certificate for this academic year (based on last academic year's results). Well done to our PE leaders: Mrs Davies at Framfield and Miss Stevens at Blackboys.

The Residential trip is always an important date in the calendar for our oldest pupils.

Class Four at Blackboys headed off to Windmill Hill to spend a week at PGL. Although the weather was rather wet at times to say the least, the children all had a great time having a go at a range of activities including raft



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

For details or to arrange a visit to discuss your individual requirements:

Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

CHRISTMAS TIPS 2015

I thought this might be useful for anybody with a young inquisitive dog this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TIPS.

Keep to your pet's normal routine, feeding, walking and bed times. This will help to keep them relaxed and contented during the excitement of the festivities.

Feed their normal diet. It is tempting to give lots of rich goodies so they can enjoy Christmas, but you may not enjoy Boxing Day cleaning up the results of upset tummies! Just add a few tiny tasty morsels to the food.

Stick to your usual house rules. If your dog does not normally sleep on the bed or sofa, do not allow him to do it for a special treat for Christmas. He could be very confused by this and not want to revert to the normal routine afterwards. Conversely if your dog always has the entire sofa to lounge on, he will be a bit fed up if he has to share it with houseguests. The same rule applies to feeding titbits at the table, if your family do not do it, tactfully tell the guests that it is not allowed.

Do not forget regular toilet trips, especially for the young or old dog. Provide a quiet retreat where your cat or dog can rest in peace.

With lots of people coming and going do be extra careful that doors

and gates are not left open for the dog to run off or even worse be run over by a guest coming up your drive.

Even a well-trained dog might seize the opportunity to steal the turkey if it is left out on the kitchen unit while everybody is partying at the other end of the house. So check everything is put away.

Rubbish bins. Watch they are not overflowing with rubbish with the lid not fully closed, especially if it has turkey bones in it. One, the bones are dangerous, and two, when a dog has had the reward of raiding the rubbish bin just once, he will go on doing it.

The Christmas tree. Another target for the inquisitive pet. Lots of presents to rip open and investigate. Chocolates for humans are dangerous for dogs, do not let them eat it. Only give them dog chocs. It is now known that dried fruit and grapes can be lethal for dogs so do not be tempted to give them any Christmas cake.

Jealousy between two dogs can escalate with the excitement of having presents, or even watching their humans opening presents. This can result in a fight. Separate the dogs while they open their presents if you think it might happen.

A little thought and planning beforehand should mean that both the pets and owners all have a super Christmas.

BEST WISHES AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

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

