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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

FEBRUARY / MARCH 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:**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:    Robert Hugh Simmonds**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>:        Alfie Beau Doughty**

**FREE SMOKE ALARMS**

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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

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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.*

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### **If God is real, show Him to me!**

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone in the parish. My hope and prayer is we will all have a prosperous and blessed 2016.

Christmas seems a while ago now. It was a great time at the church with some marvellous feedback as to how many enjoyed the variety of services; thank you all very much for your support. However, the New Year has begun and time waits for no man. Traditionally, we are in the season of Epiphany where we celebrate the end the journey of the three kings (or wise men). It is a special ending, as when they see the child Jesus they know exactly who He is - the Messiah and Saviour of mankind. The knowledge we are speaking about here comes to them by Godly revelation. We speak about people having an epiphany; a sudden revelation about something or a 'light bulb' moment where something becomes clear. Interestingly, the three kings are not of Jewish decent but gentiles like you and I. This is an important point as it's part of the growing revelation that the salvation that God offers through Jesus is available to all men and women, worldwide.

Returning briefly to the Christmas services. Apparently, I was rather direct on a number of occasions, speaking about our perceived righteousness before God and the impossibility of making it into heaven by our own good deeds or simply by living a good life. Thankfully, many folk were up for the challenge and it does provoke some soul searching (hopefully in a good way) when confronted with a stark appraisal of one's life and our thinking about our eternal future. Any minister worth his or her salt should never water down God's word or be so politically correct that they risk being offensive. As Derek Prince used to say: 'The Bible comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable'. How true that statement is. The Bible can be an offensive document as it brings us face-to-face with ourselves and the world we live in.

As a young Christian (not that young I was 39 at the time!) I can remember reading the Proverbs at breakfast time; one after another, sayings that I knew were absolutely true hit me between the eyes. I was having moment-by-moment epiphanies, which left me feeling very uncomfortable! Never the less I stuck with it and hopefully some of the folk who came to church over Christmas time and found the talks challenging will stick with it, as a confrontation with truth is the stepping-stone to real change.

Moving on into New Year, we find Jesus attending a wedding at Cana in Galilee. It is a very well-known story, the one where Jesus turns water into wine (*I would like a pound for every time I have been asked to do the same at weddings I've attended!*), it is also Jesus' first miracle. The result is twofold. Firstly, the wedding celebration continues with a vast quantity of top quality wine and secondly, Jesus' disciples put their trust (faith) in Him. Seeing a miracle results in Godly belief. Miracles happen every day, which we take for granted. Flowers and fruit grow without a second thought. Our bodies are totally amazing but when you get down to the fine detail you will find many miraculous occurrences which defy explanation. Miracles are supernatural, things that occur which are outside of the range of human understanding. The Bible has a number of Jesus' miracles noted down. Marvellous as that is they also serve as a series of signposts pointing to Jesus. The old adage that actions speak louder than words still holds true. We live in a very sceptical age but in many respects nothing has changed since the first century, people will not believe what you say, they want to see the evidence to back it up. In John's gospel, Jesus has to say to his disciples - **'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. <sup>11</sup> 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'** (*John 14:10-11*). Teenagers are apparently very robust in wanting to find out about God from an experiential point of view i.e. If your God is real show Him to me? So is it possible to prove that the God of the Bible really exists? Some would say that you can't prove or disprove the existence of God but I believe there is a way. The vicar of Holy Trinity, Brompton, Nicky Gumbel says 'when I pray coincidences happen and when I don't they don't'. This is the acid test. In your everyday life speak to God, ask him to help you or guide you in everyday things and keep a record of your prayers. Answers will come from all directions e.g. you may want the answer to a particularly perplexing problem when you see the answer in a newspaper, on the TV, in conversation with someone etc, and you will know at that point that God is real and that He has answered your prayer; but don't stop there. Evidence needs to accumulate and a growing trust in God results in a growth in relationship. If prayer is not currently on your agenda then why not give it a go in 2016? God really is interested in all aspects of your life, the small things and the big ones and He loves to help. Only remember that He waits to be invited in, so the ball's in your court!

May God bless everyone richly in the year ahead - *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  
[www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk](http://www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk)

### **\*NEW HOLIDAY CLUB TO START\***

In addition to our fabulous after school club, which runs until 6pm, we will also start a holiday club in February half term open to children aged 2 – 11. If you are interested in finding out more or for a booking form, email [blackboys.asc@hotmail.com](mailto:blackboys.asc@hotmail.com). The after-school club for children aged up to 11 offers a range of fun activities and we offer some pickups from schools in the area. Give us a call or pop in to find out more.

### **WHAT'S ON THIS TERM?**

The children are enjoying their dedicated forest school days on a Tuesday. Get in touch if you'd like to find out more about what this entails. We are also looking at Chinese New Year this term and have four new chickens in the allotment.

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.blackboypreschool.org.uk) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/blackboyspreschool](http://www.facebook.com/blackboyspreschool).*

## From your Wealden MP Nus Ghani

As Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People, I am determined to ensure that all Wealden's elderly people receive the care and support that they deserve. I am also an MP in the county with the most over-85 year olds in the country, and therefore it is not unusual for residents to contact me to express their concerns about the future of Adult and Social Care services funded by East Sussex County Council.

Therefore, I have sought reassurances about local government funding from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my neighbouring MP Greg Clark, ahead of his recent announcement of the Local Government Funding Settlement. I have also met with senior officials at East Sussex County Council to discuss the Council's budget and I will be meeting with ministers to discuss the formula used to determine each county's funding levels.

It has also come to my attention that elderly people may be particularly vulnerable to cyber-crime, and phishing in particular. Phishing is where fraudsters send emails where they pretend to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers. I'm working closely with the local Police and Crime Commissioner on this issue, and we would both encourage anyone who has suffered from phishing to come forward. I am also working with AgeUK East Sussex about this, and they are able to provide excellent advice to any elderly people on this, or any other issue. They can be contacted by phone on 01273 476704, or you can find their website here: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/eastsussex/>

The next few months will be pivotal for Wealden, as key decisions will be made on rail upgrades, improvements to the A27 and local development. I for one also hope that 2016 will finally see a conclusion to the debate about future airport capacity in the South East, not to mention making tangible progress on making Gatwick a better neighbour to local residents. I will continue to do all that I can to produce the best possible outcomes for Wealden, and to help make decisions that will have a positive impact on people's lives. If you ever want to contact me, my email address is [nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk)

## Diary of Church Services

### FEBRUARY 2016

- 07 Sunday next before Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 14 First Sunday of Lent**  
10.00 am **New Format** Family Service - All welcome  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 21 Second Sunday of Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
4.00 pm Messy Church
- 28 Third Sunday of Lent**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

### MARCH 2016

- 06 Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Mothering Sunday Service
- 13 Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
10.00 am **New Format** Family Service - All welcome  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer For Healing
- 20 Palm Sunday**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

PLEASE NOTE: There will be Meditations on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Easter week (21 -23 March) at 7pm for 30 minutes in the Gage Chapel.

**24 Maundy Thursday**  
8.00 pm Holy Communion in the Gage Chapel (CW)

**25 Good Friday**  
10.00 am March of Witness (meet at URC 9.30 am)

**27 Easter Day**  
10.00 am Family Festival Praise  
*No Evening Service*

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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**  
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**Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk**

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**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 11<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

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.  
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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](http://www.engagesoutheast.org.uk)

**e-mail:** [enquiries@engagesoutheast.org.uk](mailto: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 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](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk) or e.mail [rev.chris@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.chris@btinternet.com)*



## 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](mailto:framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com)**



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### **Roots and Resolutions**

I don't know about you but I like this time of year. Not for the wintry weather or the short days of course but for that sense of new beginnings and making a fresh start. When it comes to making resolutions for the New Year it will come as no surprise that losing weight is the most popular one. A recent survey listed the top ten resolutions as follows.

- 1 Lose weight
- 2 Get fit/Stop smoking
- 3 Eat more healthily
- 4 Save money/spend less
- 5 Get a new job
- 6 Spend more time with people who matter
- 7 Try new experiences
- 8 Get out of a rut
- 9 Visit a country you have never been to before
- 10 Read more

Although so many of start with good intentions the majority will have abandoned them within the month and judging by the queues for the January sales some resolutions go out of the window much sooner than others.

So what is going on here and why are we all seemingly trapped in this endless cycle year on year?

I think the main issue is that we are trying to treat the symptoms of our lifestyles rather than dealing with the problem at its root. It is a bit like going to the Doctor with lung cancer and being prescribed cough mixture. Whilst it may alleviate the cough for a while it won't cure the underlying cause.

Jesus likened himself to a Doctor who came to bring a deep, lasting inner healing to us all. Why not add him to your resolution list this year? He might just make all the difference you have been looking for. *'Our hearts God are restless until they find their rest in you'* St. Augustine

Revd Guy Partridge Minister New Life Church Blackboys Tel: 01825 891133 or [guy\\_newlifechurch@btinternet.com](mailto:guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com).

During the month of December, Uckfield Lions took their Santa Sleigh to different parts of Uckfield, with presents for children and making door to door collections for charity. Members of our committee were invited to join in and money that we collected was given to MCS. A total of £350 was raised and it was fun, despite the weather not being always "clement"! Then, on the Saturday before Christmas, some of us joined Eastbourne committee at the Arndale Centre to collect money, while enjoying carols from the Sussex police choir. Our share of the total raised was £435.60.

We were delighted to receive a very generous donation of £2,000 from Stumblett's Clay Pigeon Club in memory of one of their members.

All kinds of fundraising events, organised by our Sussex area committees during 2015, have resulted in an amazing £491,451 and this will almost certainly increase. This income combined with other fundraising activities across Sussex has contributed to a staggering £2 million, that has been raised to date in our county.

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*

## Nature Notes

I am writing this on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. However, walking in the countryside this morning I would be forgiven for thinking that it was March or April. Most noticeable was the birdsong. I awoke to the clear tones of a song thrush singing in my back garden. The song could be heard clearly through the closed double glazing! There was a frost on the grass and roofs, which was the first for months, but the sky was bright and the sun came out briefly. On my walk I was amazed to see expanded hazel catkins dangling and swinging in the breeze. On close inspection the tiny red female hazel flowers were also out. These will receive pollen from the catkins and make a hazelnut in due course. But to see these on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the Sussex countryside is really unusually early. I saw violets in bloom yesterday, and other herbs were growing in the hedgerows already. I almost expect to see frog spawn appearing in the pond any day. This usually turns up during late February or early March. I have also seen daffodils in bloom in some places already.

There is an old saying that as the days lengthen the cold strengthens. I am expecting some cold weather in January and February. I fear that many plants and animals will suffer as a consequence, but we will see. Nature is very resilient, and left to itself will always find a way to mend damage and fill a gap. It is right for humans to care about nature and to attempt to right the wrongs caused by human excess. My team and I spent 15 years reversing an invasion of aliens in Lake Wood. The aliens were *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Prunus laurocerasus* also known as cherry laurel. We worked every first Saturday of the month from October to March carefully cutting out and burning these two plants that had effectively swamped about 4 hectares of this beautiful woodland. These plants from the European continent were introduced during the mid-nineteenth century, and took over when management was relaxed during the Second World War. *Rhododendron* poisons the soil and transmits a disease to oaks. Both plants prevent natural regeneration of young trees and ground flora effectively eradicating plants such as bluebell and wood anemone. The result is that that these native plants are returning *en force* and young native trees are replacing the alien evergreen shrubs. The biodiversity of Lake Wood has probably never been higher.

Martyn Stenning

## NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Happy New Year to everyone.

Issues with speeding vehicles on our roads seem to be top of the agenda at the moment. Please do contact myself or the Parish Council with any concerns, but also Councillor Chris Dowling, our County Councillor – [cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk). East Sussex County Council are responsible for the highways and Chris has worked with the Parish Council in the past on such issues. We are in the very early stages of looking at possibilities for the Lewes Road in Blackboys.

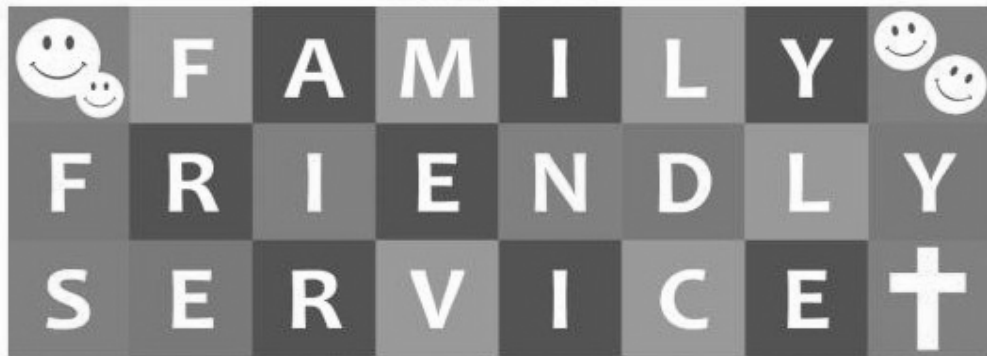
Unfortunately, there have still been some refuse bin issues around my Ward. Anyone who does have a missed bin should contact Wealden in the first instance by telephone (01892 653311) or email and also let me know.

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](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.

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.  
Telephone - 01825 890103.  
Email – [aenewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:aenewton1965@gmail.com)

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



We have a super new Friendly Family Service on every 2nd Sunday in the month.

It is a short, happy and rather lively service;  
very inviting and where absolutely everyone feels relaxed.

We look forward to you joining in with us!

**Sunday 14th February at 10.00 am**

**Sunday 13th March at 10.00 am**



**EVERY THIRD SUNDAY  
OF THE MONTH @ 4PM**

Messy craft activities,  
followed by a short bible story and song.  
Then the most delicious afternoon tea.

**Sunday 21st February**

**Sunday 20th March**



**Framfield & Blackboys WI visit to:**



**THE ROYAL GARDENS  
AT HIGHGROVE**



Wishes for a happy 2016 starts with an invitation to Highgrove, with a group visit planned for June. Early booking is essential to secure Group Tickets by the February deadline so **call Gill on 01825 890459** if interested. As always, guests and husbands are welcome to join our coach trips. Something to look forward to with sunnier lighter days ahead!

Our Spring events start on **February 9<sup>th</sup> at Framfield Memorial Hall** at 7.30pm with new President Philomena Whittle and a Bring & Buy. Much took place in December – our London trip to see Christmas lights, the Carol Service at St Thomas a Becket and our New Year Dinner at the Highlands Inn. The coming year is set to be equally interesting.

Guest speaker David Goldsmith of the **Andean Medical Mission** will talk on **March 8<sup>th</sup>** about how the organisation helps prevent and treat blindness with inspiring stories about changing lives for local people.

**PS:** Archives show our WI started in September 1926 and we plan to mark this 90<sup>th</sup> by celebrating generations of local dedicated members, perhaps your family has a story of successive membership to share with us? Do let us know.

\* \* \* \*

We always 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 Philomena on 01825 890216 for more information and membership details.**

## Warm Winters Not So Hot for Wildlife by Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

With editorial deadlines far in advance of when this article will actually appear in front of you, it is a bit of a gamble to predict as to what is happening to our wildlife in February, but that is not going to stop me from having a go. Of course what you see depends on the weather in the preceding months as well as what is being inflicted on us at the time, plus the impact that climate change has on how our wildlife behaves makes the whole business unpredictable.

Over the last 20 years I have kept a record of when the frogs arrive at my garden pond and when the first frogspawn emerges and it is notable that the average date has become earlier in that time. With a couple of exceptions with the cold winters of 2010 and 2011, the frogspawn usually arrives in the first 2 weeks of February now whereas initially it was towards the end of the month. It is now not uncommon to see butterflies on the wing on a warm February day, the likely candidates being red admiral, peacock or the butter-yellow brimstone. If you see one of the first two of these species, it is likely to be an overwintering insect rather than a freshly emerged adult, again a sign of a slight increase in the average temperature.

In early December it was notable that song thrushes were already setting out their territorial preferences which, though not so unusual as they are usually the first of our resident species to brighten up a winter day with their beautiful song. Of course robins sing throughout the winter but their song has a different purpose, it is to establish and maintain a feeding territory which, as I am sure that many of you have witnessed, they defend very vigorously. Much more unusual though was to hear a blackbird in full song in the first week of December. In my experience blackbirds only get going at the back end of February and the beginning of March, though in contrast to that, I have known a pair of blackbirds to be feeding young at Christmas!

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## **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.**

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

From mid-November, bats should be hibernating, but the incredibly mild autumn we have just experienced saw many bats foraging out in the afternoon, hoovering up the still plentiful insects that were flying. Two of my colleagues were enjoying watching a pipistrelle bat flying around the Woods Mill garden early in December when there was a whoosh and blur of feathers and they watched it disappear in the claws of a sparrow hawk. Meanwhile a number of reports of swallows were being received just before Christmas.

Mild winters can be a problem for our resident wildlife, as over thousands of years they have evolved to cope with dealing with the cold. For example small tortoiseshell butterflies are affected in mild winters as they rely on sharp frosts to kill off parasites, so while we exalt at the thought of warm February sunshine, our wildlife is struggling to cope with the changes to their life cycles due to our more erratic climate.

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



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**FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB**  
**Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club 55th Anniversary year**

1st February - Boccia (Bowls) 2.30pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall

15th February -Chairbased Activities with Louise Knight 2.30pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall

7th March - Afternoon Tea at New Place farm with  
Tanya and Ray Edmundson -2.30pm

21st March - Dancing with Walter and Jean White -2.30pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall

Details later of our special event in September Any Further information  
contact Sandy 01825 840648 sandyrogers77@gmail.com



## Uckfield Friends of Demelza

There may be some of you out there who know of the work of Demelza but, equally, I know that there are quite a number of people who don't. When we have been out and about in the community, people have seen the word Demelza and associated us with dementia care. We would like to take a moment to explain who Demelza are and the service they provide within the community.

The full title is Demelza Hospice Care for Children, with the emphasis on 'Hospice Care'. Within East Sussex, the Community Nursing Team supports the whole family by going directly to the home to provide specialist care, giving the family a break. If families face a crisis they know that Demelza will be there to help and support them. Many of the families are able to take advantage of respite care at one of the two Demelza Hospices situated in Sittingbourne, Kent and Eltham, South East London.

**It costs £1600 per day to send the nursing teams out and about in the community and only 10% of that is funded by the Government.**

This is where you come in! We are a small team of volunteers who run various events throughout the year in the Uckfield area to help raise these much needed funds. If you have a few hours to spare, perhaps you might consider joining us? We urgently need some willing pairs of hands to help so that we can accept as many fund raising opportunities as possible – it may be helping on a stall, serving teas, washing up, car park marshalling or maybe you are a 'Bake Off' contender and we could occasionally call on you to make some cakes?

Alternatively, if you belong to a group who regularly invite speakers along – we would be more than happy to come and talk about our work.

If you think this could be you – whether you can help regularly or just 'as and when' we would love to hear from you. Contact details are below.

Pat Dangerfield - 01825 890646 [pat.dangerfield@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.dangerfield@btinternet.com)

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we look forward to hearing from you!



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**Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group**

We are about to have our AGM when we will find out what speakers we will be having this year and what charity we will be supporting.

In our programme will be a walk, a BBQ and a visit to Bridge Cottage with Mick Harker.

We will have speakers from Headway, the Foodbank and the Fire Service.

We always welcome new members so if you would like to give us a try phone Val Peaty on 01825 890677 We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.

## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

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**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. A list of the market dates for 2016 is detailed below.

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**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.**

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**We would also appreciate it if anyone could donate homemade cakes, savouries or biscuits for the cake stall. At the moment they are supplied by just a few kind residents. Please let me know if you could bring anything along or to arrange collection.**

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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).**

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already being seen in other schools in East Sussex. Well done to them for the support and time they are giving to the wider community of schools in the area.

Earlier this year we made a successful bid for diocesan money to replace the present roof to the school hall at Blackboys which is leaking very badly; the work has been booked to take place over the February mid-term break and will also involve time both before and after this week. We hope the disruption will be minimal and are looking forward to using the hall towards the end of February.

A similar bid for funds to repair the roof at Framfield has been made, but is yet to be confirmed.

As you know, our Governing Body has now federated and has had two Full Governing Body meetings: these went very well and several projects were discussed to take our schools even further forward and information was presented on the changes to the National Curriculum and Assessment that are taking place nationally. Many thanks to Mrs Katharine Rabson Stark (Chair), Mrs Pat Herbert (Vice-Chair) and the team for all their hard work.

We are so well-supported by our local community, but a local benefactor has really gone over above! We are delighted to let you know that a Victorian sampler picturing Framfield School has been saved for the community and will shortly be hanging in the reception area of the school. It is a wonderful piece of history and will remain part of our community's history from now on. If you would like to see this lovely piece of work, you are very welcome to ring on our door-bell and pop in.

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher)  
Jacqueline Davies (Head of School, Framfield)  
Graham Sullivan (Head of School, Blackboys)

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Emma is looking for cleaning work or childcare – she has very good experience with young children. Please call her on 07548 195573.



**Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.**

**Blackboys and Framfield Schools**

This last term was a really busy one and of course the highlights of the term were our various Christmas celebrations; the children finished the term tired but very happy!

Both schools held Nativity Plays which were very well attended, and both schools had a Carol Concert/Service at Church with thought-provoking, but entertaining, talks by Rev Chris Lawrence! Many thanks to all those who were able to attend. We are always so lucky to be able to celebrate this wonderful time of the year in our Parish Church.

The older members of our community were entertained at both schools at Christmas Parties. The pupils sang a range of songs and everyone had a wonderful time. Both schools also took part in the Late Night Shopping Christmas entertainment in Uckfield which was a very well-attended event.

We have very active Parent support groups in both our schools and we need to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Christmas Fairs! They were hugely successful and the money they bring in really supports our schools in enabling us to develop resources that we would otherwise struggle to provide. At Framfield the PTFA have supported the school in contributing to the purchase of ICT equipment, and at Blackboys the PTA have contributed towards resources for developing our Forest School project. Their support and enthusiasm is very much appreciated and we really could not do without them!

Another big highlight of the term was the Ofsted Inspection of Framfield Primary School: we were judged as being a good school with particular strengths in our Early Years. The staff have worked extremely hard and the whole school team is to be congratulated on this achievement.

At Blackboys School, two members of staff are now working alongside both the Local Authority and Newick Teaching School, and the impact of their work is

**Parish Magazine**

**It's that time of year once again when I will be renewing the advertisements in the Parish Magazine.**

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**The annual rates are as follows:**

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**Please contact me for full details.  
Ann Newton, [framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com).  
01825 890182.**

## LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

### EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

As it is New Year's Eve I am thinking about New Year's resolutions, perhaps mine should be avoiding any more embarrassing episodes.

It all started as a young child as I couldn't read, or understand "sums" I was also quite plump so wasn't good at games. I was very worried and embarrassed by my failings and retreated from them finding comfort and company with the family pets and chickens.

As a teenager I joined the local Young farmers club which I really enjoyed until I recklessly took on the post of club secretary which I did very badly. One evening we had an important speaker and it was my job to thank him for his interesting talk. I had been told what his name was earlier in the evening and then took my seat on the stage, next to the other club officials and speaker. After the talk I stood up confidently, turned to our guest to thank him, and then my mind went blank. There was a horrible silence as I frantically tried to remember his name. I was mortified. In desperation I turned to him directly, giving him my best smile saying, "Thank you so much for coming and giving us all such a very interesting talk". There was an audible sigh of relief from the expectant Young farmers and my ordeal was over.

Later I went to Sparsholt agricultural college, or farm Institute, as it was called many years ago. I was on the dairy course which meant being ready to start milking at 5am. There was a group of us students, the cowman and his assistant, just waiting for the churns to arrive. Suddenly there was a clatter of churns and unusually fast clip clop on the cobbled yard. Round the corner came the cart horse pulling the cart, but it was the driver who caught everybody's attention, particularly mine. Standing up, holding the reins was one of the students, tall and handsome with a shock of dark curly hair. He looked just like a Roman driving his chariot clad in his long yellow robe. I looked more closely at his outfit, draped across his sun tanned chest. It looked familiar. I nearly died of shame and laughter. It

was my best yellow nighty. I never did find out who had aided him in this college prank!

After college I applied for a job with the Animal Health trust and went for an interview at their poultry research station in Huntington. Surprisingly I was interviewed by the director in his prestigious office. On his immaculate desk was a fountain pen and glass ink well. Answering a question I enthusiastically gestured with my hand and to my horror knocked over his ink well. The ink went all over the antique desk. I nearly died of embarrassment. Strangely enough he still gave me the job with the grand title of junior scientific officer.

I have always enjoyed working and showing my dogs which has occasionally caused some embarrassing moments. One young enthusiastic lively Newfoundland leapt up at the judge, nearly knocking him over and on another occasion jumped up at the refreshment kiosk knocking over drinks and scattering plates of food. I also had a beautiful miniature long haired Dachshund that I wanted to show. The trouble was she was rather reserved and took a while to get to know people, but then was very friendly. I optimistically entered her in a show where the judge was a very well-known dachshund judge and breeder. I placed her on the table for examination and to my horror she bit the judge. I did not show her again but later decided to have her mated. I arranged to take her to the gentleman who had judged her to have her mated to his top wining dachshund. I do not think he remembered my name, but did recognise me when we arrived which was embarrassing, but he was so welcoming. It was near Christmas time and he provided tea and delicious hot mince pies. Meanwhile my perfectly happy well behaved dog was delighted to meet her suitor which resulted in some beautiful puppies nine weeks later.

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