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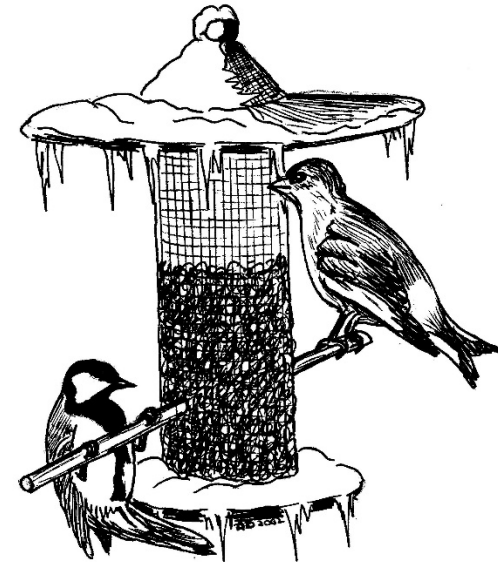
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HAMMONDS GREEN, FRAMFIELD, UCKFIELD TN22 5QH

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

# Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

**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:**

**26<sup>th</sup> November: Michelle Fallon and Stephen Giles**

**At rest:**

**20<sup>th</sup> December: Patience Russell**

**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.

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---

**USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.**

Our contact centres (ESCC)

Call our contact centres during normal working hours 8.30am-5pm (4.30pm on Fridays).

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Buses – 0345 6080194

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Library renewals – 0345 6080195

Library enquiries – 0345 6080196

Roads and paths – 0345 6080193

Trading Standards – 0345 6080197

Waste – 0345 6080194

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From overseas – +441273 336000

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

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Police, non-emergency: 101

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SPECIFIED

# *Life in a Nutshell*

## 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.



Some years ago we were enjoying a family walk across the fields on the outskirts of Rotherfield when we met two elderly gentlemen who engaged us in conversation. I can't fully remember everything that we talked about but the one thing that remained with me was the comment, 'There are only two really important questions in life'; 'Where have you come from' and 'Where are you going'? Needless to say, both questions landed with some gravity and as time and life moves on there has been a growing conviction that the words of these elderly men were both wise and true.

The season of winter appears to give us time and opportunity to reflect on our lives. There is an element of quietness and stillness in the countryside. The trees are bare, sunlight scarce and cold leaden skies signal the first falls of snow. Frankly, I can't wait for spring when brightness, warmth and colour return to the earth. However, let's not be too hasty to dismiss winter, it has its place and we can also use it as a metaphor to reflect upon our lives.

How was 2016 for you? Good, bad or indifferent our experiences of life make us the people we are today. Are there events that have triggered a lesson learnt, something never to be repeated or maybe a wonderful experience that brings joy to your heart and smile to your face? How about the people you share your life with; have they energised you or maybe left you feeling drained and unloved?

In the church calendar we are in the season of Epiphany. The Christian festival marking the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus where the divinity of Jesus is made known.

The revelation of who Jesus is was a defining moment for the wise men and for all of humanity. Those who have the eyes and heart to see Christ and His significance within human history and their own personal narrative are blessed indeed. Life without Christ could be compared to a jigsaw puzzle with the most significant part missing. Until the final piece is in place the picture remains unfathomable and we will always feel that there is something missing in life.

Life is indeed in many respects a mystery, but if we are to make the most of the life we have then I believe we need some godly help. In this season of winter life appears to be on hold. We can't go back to the richness of last autumn and we can't move forward until spring arrives. Unfortunately, many people live in a perpetual winter; emotionally shackled to the past and fearful of what the future may hold. Having said that, I've yet to meet anyone who exhibits total emotion freedom and lives life to the full. In reality we all have 'issues' of one kind or another, but whatever they may be through Christ we are promised true freedom; liberation from the past and a genuine and secure future. Jesus' self declaration of his mission is encapsulated in his statement recorded in John 10:10 "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full". However, the degree to which we achieve this freedom is dependent on how far we will allow Christ into our lives. Although, the turning point is often reached not through reasoned thought but rather desperation! The pivotal point when we throw the towel in and we give up trying to fix our own situation. To some this may be the worst day of one's life but on reflection it turns out to be the best day!

In past years Framfield church has run several Alpha courses which explored the meaning of life. The course ran over a period of three months and addressed the big questions e.g. What is the purpose of life? Why is there so much suffering in the world? What happens when we die, etc? Whilst interesting we acknowledge that a three month course is a big commitment but how about attending a one-day course?

We are currently putting together a condensed course 'Life in a Nutshell' which will aim to answer the big questions but also give plenty of time to discuss any burning questions you may have. The course material is aimed at Teenagers upwards. The launch date will be mid May 2017. Do look out for the posters and publicity; it would be great to see you there.

Blessings to everyone in the parish - Revd Chris Lawrence

### *Discover and Celebrate Art.*

This year, Hospice in the Weald will be hosting its very first art exhibition: Art for Arts Sake.

The two-day event will feature up to 300 paintings from around 100 local artists and will give guests the opportunity to chat with exhibitors and purchase any piece of work on display, whilst helping to raise funds for Hospice in the Weald. The exhibition is being held at the Hospice on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March between 10.30am and 4.00pm and entry for adults is only £3 and children can come along for free.

On both Saturday and Sunday we will be offering you the chance to exercise your artistry skills learning from professionals in our workshop.

Saturday will be Family Day – the perfect family day out which will include a children's workshop. Children of all ages will have the opportunity to express themselves and have a go at creating their very own masterpiece!

For more information please visit the Hospice in the Weald Website: [www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk)

Or contact Ben Greenstreet at [ben.greenstreet@hospiceintheweald.org.uk](mailto:ben.greenstreet@hospiceintheweald.org.uk) or on 01892 820528.

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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)*



# Art for Arts Sake

## Discover & Celebrate Art

Come and see over 300 paintings from local artists and support Hospice in the Weald



Purchase fantastic art at our two day exhibition at Hospice in the Weald, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells

**Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th March 2017**  
**10:30am - 4:00pm**

For more information about this event please visit our website at [www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk) or call Ben Greenstreet on 01892 820528.

 /hospiceintheweald  @hospiceweald

Registered Charity No. 280276

## Diary of Church Services

### FEBRUARY 2017

- 05 Fourth Sunday before Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
(with prayer for healing)
- 12 Third Sunday before Lent**  
10.00 am Family Friendly Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)  
with prayer for healing
- 19 Second Sunday before Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
4.00 pm Messy Church for all the family
- 26 Sunday next before Lent**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

### MARCH 2017

- 05 First Sunday of Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 12 Second Sunday Lent**  
10.00 am Family Friendly Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing
- 19 Third Sunday of Lent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
COMMENTING ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**26 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017  
TO  
ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182  
framfieldpc@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: framfieldpc@gmail.com  
Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,  
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

**Parish Council website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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) cannot 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. Alternatively, applications can be viewed via the WDC website where a weekly list of new applications is provided –

[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).

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

If there are any queries please contact the Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825 890182 or [framfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldpc@gmail.com)

<u>For information</u>	
Framfield Parish Council c/o Mrs Ann Newton Parish Clerk 'Highlands' Blackboys East Sussex TN22 5LR  Telephone: 01825 890182 Email: framfieldpc@gmail.com	Wealden District Council Head of Building & Planning Control Council Offices Vicarage Lane HAILSHAM East Sussex BN27 2AX  Telephone: 01323 443322 Email: <a href="mailto:planning@wealden.gov.uk">planning@wealden.gov.uk</a>

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**Sunday 19th February**  
**Sunday 19th March**

**Messy** craft activities, followed  
by a short bible story, a song &  
then the delicious afternoon tea!

**STARTS @ 4PM**



**Our Family Friendly Service is a lively short  
happy service, where the children are actively involved.**

**Sunday 19th February at 10.00 am**

**Sunday 19th March at 10.00 am**

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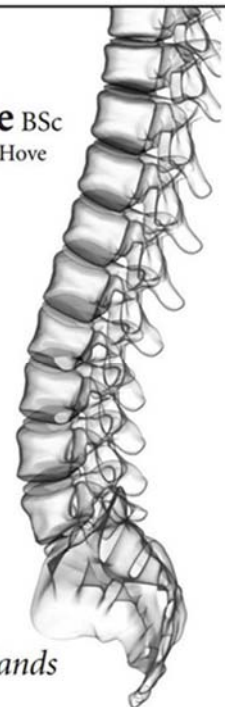
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*In good hands*



## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

6th February      Boccia (Bowls)  
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30 pm

20th February    Chairbased Activities with  
Louise Knight - 2.30 pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall

6th March        Visual Walk from Framfield / Uckfield  
With Michael Harker - 2.30 pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall

20th March       Buxted Pavillion - 2.30 pm  
To play Mexican Train also  
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Any further information contact Sandy Rogers  
01825 840647 - sandyrogers77@gmail.com

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





## Demelza Children's Hospice Services

Happy New Year to you all – it seems like we are off to a cold start to 2017!

I am delighted to say that Framfield Stagers have generously chosen Demelza as the benefactor from the proceeds of this year's production of Jack and the Beanstalk. At time of going to press I believe there are some tickets left and you can find full details in their article in this edition. We will be in Uckfield Tesco foyer on Friday 17th & Saturday 18th February with an awareness stand, pop in and say hello!

Plans are afoot for some fundraising events locally later on in the year and, all being well, there will be news of them in the next edition of the Parish Magazine – watch this space!

As mentioned before, we are always very happy to come along to clubs and give talks about the work of Demelza within our community – if this is something that would be of interest to you, please contact Julie Brett (details below).

Your support is very important to us and we would love to see as many of you as possible at our events. If anyone feels that they have some spare time and would like to volunteer or to hold an event to support us please contact either myself :

Pat Dangerfield, Uckfield Friends of Demelza **01825 890646**

or :

Julie Brett, Community Fundraiser on **07917 603075**

[julie.brett@demelza.org.uk](mailto:julie.brett@demelza.org.uk)

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Our fundraising committee were very pleased with the marvellous support we had for our Christmas Bazaar, which was held in November in Buxted Sports Pavilion. We invited many stall holders with a great variety of articles for sale, and were very busy ourselves serving coffee, soup, mince pies and cake. Together with a raffle we made £ 809. The week before Christmas we supported Hadlow Down School at their Christmas Market, which followed their Carol Service. It was a jolly occasion and, yes you've guessed it, we sold more mince pies and cake and raised £66.

2016 has been another extremely busy year for Macmillan in the South East and despite an increasingly challenging external marketplace and lots of local competition throughout the regions the South East Regional Fundraising team has raised over £4.7m so far in 2016. The impact this has made on people affected by cancer will be and has been life changing.

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*

# FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2017

## Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

25 February  
25 March  
29 April  
27 May  
24 June  
29 July  
August - no market.  
30 September  
28 October  
25 November  
16 December

Please contact Ann Newton with any queries - 01825 890182 or  
email [framfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldpc@gmail.com)

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June 9th  
July 7th  
August 11th  
Starts at 7.30pm

Wine expert David Eiford from Crimson Gold hosts our  
informative yet informal and fun wine tasting event.

Each month you'll have the opportunity to taste and discuss a  
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£10 includes wine tasting & nibbles

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Please telephone for restaurant reservations  
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First Thursday of the month we have a breakfast club  
starting at 9 o'clock

Where you can meet friends and make new ones.  
Why not have your celebration whatever it may be over  
one of our delicious breakfasts, or  
Maybe a business meeting to start the working day.  
Whatever your requirements we can  
Provide the setting for you personally.  
Just give us a ring to discuss your needs

**Waldron Country Market** at Holy Cross Priory, (Possingworth) (on the B2102 between Cross in Hand and Blackboys, near the Tunbridge Wells turn)  
Held every 2nd Thursday of the Month, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.  
Thursday 9th February, and Thursday 9th 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.  
For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931



**Guy Partridge 07702 836057**  
**Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond**

New Life Church are pleased to be hosting two courses at the start of 2017.

Firstly the Alpha Course which now has been attended by over 27 million people around the world seeks to introduce the Christian faith through film based talks and discussion. The evening sessions which will start at the end of January and will take place in The Grove Cafe

Blackboys are designed to be friendly and informal and will include a free meal. if you would like to know more then contact Sarah on 01825 840020 or email [ajw\\_amw2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ajw_amw2003@yahoo.co.uk)

Secondly there is the Life After Loss Course.

Dealing with the death of a loved one can be one of life's most difficult and stressful experiences and during the grieving process many people find it helpful to meet with others who understand. A Life after Loss Group, led by Luci Partridge, local Hospice doctor, and Sarah Wheatley, retired palliative care nurse, will be running for two hours, once a week, over a five week period. This is not a counselling course but an informal and friendly self-help group giving the opportunity to share personal experiences with other in a safe, caring and understanding environment.

The aim is to help:

1. Understand the emotional and physical experiences of grief.
2. Decrease a sense of isolation through contact with others in similar situations.
3. Develop healthy coping skills and activities.

The course will be held on Monday from 10.30-12.30am at The Space, next to the Grove Café in Blackboys and will start on February 6th 2017. If you are interested in attending, or would like more details please contact Luci on 01435 864080 [luciperdix@gmail.com](mailto:luciperdix@gmail.com)

New Life Church 'Building Through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond.'  
'Love is not love until you stop expecting something back'. R.Rohr  
Revd Guy Partridge  
Tel: 01825 891133 or [guy\\_newlifechurch@btinternet.com](mailto:guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com)

## Nature Notes

I nearly missed the deadline for these Nature Notes. The reason was that I was too pre-occupied with writing my book, due to come out later this year on Blue Tits. I am embarrassed to say that NN had slipped my mind until the all-vigilant Editor contacted me to see what had happened. Therefore, I hope you will forgive another note about Blue Tits? It is winter, and Blue Tits are on my mind, so let's think for a moment about what Blue Tits do in the winter, and how they survive.

Blue Tits are described as partial migrants. That means that part of the Blue Tit population migrates and the other part is sedentary. There are good reasons for that. All but four native trees in Britain are deciduous, so woodlands become bare and draughty and food for small birds is hard to find. Beech nuts are a favourite food for Blue Tits at this time, but these can be scarce. Additionally, Male Blue Tits have often already selected the cavity in which they would like to breed during the following summer, so they stay behind and defend it vigorously from other animals. Meanwhile, female Blue Tits are free to search for food wherever they want to. Most territorial male Blue Tits are more than one year old and dominant to yearlings. Therefore, the Blue Tit yearling males and females of any age disperse south and west, to find milder and safer places to spend the winter. These are often Reed-beds and people's gardens. So the marauding Blue Tits that you see at your feeders are mostly females and some yearling males.

The Blue Tits that end up in Reed-beds do so because insects like to hibernate in the hollow stems of Reed and other large grasses. Blue Tits can be seen peeling them open to find lunch. The Reed-beds are also dense and sheltered from winter weather and provide some protection at night for roosting. Older males, meanwhile, are lurching on such things as insect eggs, spiders and seeds. In order to cope with the switch from insects to seeds, the winter beaks of Blue Tits become shorter and wider, more like the seed-eating Finches. Male Blue Tits that have obtained a breeding cavity, sing loudly from the beginning of January to declare their ownership of a territory. Their song can sound like 'see – see – tu-tu-tu' or something similar, it can be quite variable. You can hear it right now in Lake Wood, a focal location for the natural history I am writing about in my book – to be called 'The Blue Tit'.

*Martyn Stenning*

## POPPY APPEAL 2016

The collection this year raised £2,093.81, which is just a few pounds less than in 2015. It has been a great effort by everyone who collected or contributed.

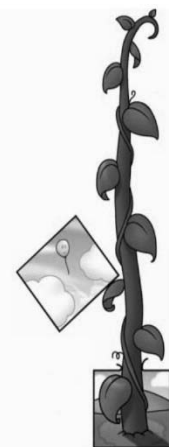
To try to increase the amount in 2017 I need more collectors. This involves a house to house collection covering a small area in late October/early November. With just a few more collectors we could cover the whole parish.

Perhaps you could consider having a Home Collection box. This is simply a Poppy Appeal box for you to put your loose change in and it is surprising how much this can amount to over the year.

If you are able to spare a little time to collect for the Poppy Appeal or if you would like a Home Collection box, please contact me.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Appeal in 2016 and I hope that you will be able to help again next time.

David Jenner 01825 890632; 07881 786785; [davidjenner@outlook.com](mailto:davidjenner@outlook.com)



The Framfield Stagers present...

### JACK AND THE BEANSTALK!



Mark your New Year calendar now, for the Framfield Stagers are back during February half term week, 2017...

The ever-popular Framfield Stagers will be entertaining the village with this family favourite, bringing laughter, surprises and mad-cap shenanigans that will have everyone rolling in the aisles!

Evening shows will be at Framfield Memorial Hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm, with a matinee performance on the Saturday at 2.30pm. All seats are just £5.

To avoid disappointment you can reserve tickets by calling 01825 761233.

[www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com](http://www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com)

## From your Wealden MP Nus Ghani

Spring is almost upon us and, in this season of transformation, I hope to see a shift in the way we deal with mental health. Last month, I was pleased when the Prime Minister announced a comprehensive package of reforms to improve mental health services across Britain.

A transformation of the way we deal with mental health is long overdue. For too long mental health issues have been shrouded in stigma and brushed under the carpet. Left untreated, mental health problems can have a destructive effect on the individual, on families and on our society as a whole. We must dispense with the idea that such problems are somehow secondary to physical problems; rather, I firmly believe that the needs to be true parity in the treatment of mental and physical health.

If we are to improve the treatment of mental illness it is important that we change not only the availability of medical resources, but also the way that mental illness is perceived. This must begin with ensuring that young people are given the support that they need and by increasing awareness in schools. In October last year I spoke on this issue in Parliament and I was able to share the story of Jed Dwight, a Sussex Councillor who lost his brother Daniel to suicide in May 2013. It was my hope that, in sharing his story, I would be able to remind any young person suffering that they are valued and there is help out there if they need it.

Sadly, I hear many heart-breaking stories about mental health from school children and adults alike, on my visits across Wealden. Many of the people I meet have rarely, if ever, felt able to speak openly about their experiences. Given that discussion is a crucial tool in combating mental health issues, it is so important for people to talk and to listen about mental illness and to extend the availability of professional talking services for those who need them. As such, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February please consider joining me in supporting 'Time to Talk Day', a nationwide opportunity to speak about mental health. Please do have your say or take the time to listen, we all have a role to play.

If you would like to contact me about this issue, or any other, please do feel free to email me: [nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk).

Kind regards,  
Nus



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## Love is in the Air

By Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sussex is beginning to bloom and, in the absence of pollinating insects, hazel, one of our first flowering plants, is depending on a February breeze to deliver its Valentine's message. You'll all know male hazel flowers. They're the catkins; those droopy 'lambs tails' which cast their sulphur clouds of dusty love into the countryside. These clouds are made of a multitude of lonely pollen grains; each cruising on the wind hoping to find the female hazel flower. Look closely on the branches and you'll see her desperately trying to grab a grain with her bright pink tentacle tassels.

This windswept romance has occurred ever since the end of the last Ice Age when our defrosting land was a botanical blank canvas. There were rich pickings for any plant that ventured way out west and hazel was one of the first pioneers. In an empty landscape, under open skies, it established its vast nutty empire becoming our most abundant tree species. But therein lies the problem. Hazel's just not very good at being a tree. It doesn't grow very tall. So, when the big boys started muscling into Britain, its claim to the canopy crown ended. Giant oaks blocked the sun and banished hazel to the shadows – an understory underdog.

And there, Gollum-like, hazel waited, until we showed up. Mesolithic man, foraging around for food, acquired a taste for hazelnuts. If you've ever witnessed me poking around with a spoon in the bottom of a Nutella jar it's clear that this love of hazelnuts, and our table manners, have changed little in the last 10,000 years. Hazelnuts were a vital protein source for our ancestors and each nut is individually packaged in a little container for easy storage.

## LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

### TWO SENIOR CITIZENS WORK IN THE WOOD

I hope you all had a good Christmas and steered clear of all the nasty bugs. I lost my voice which was very peaceful for the family, but frustrating for me. Chloe happily worked with no audible commands. She watched me carefully to see what I needed and brought me my reading glasses, socks, shoes and cooking ingredients. She is always especially attentive before her dinner!

After all our Christmas guests had gone and my bug had improved, I thought it would be nice to do some clearing in the wood. Our middle son had done a fantastic job taking out some semi dead willow trees, well past their best, that were over shadowing my two young weeping willow trees. All I needed to do was to clear the tangle of brambles. The only problem was this area was on a steep slope leading to the outlet of our woodland pond, a small but deep muddy pool. Chloe carried my garden trug with various tools in it, including a sickle and sharpening stone, while I carried the fork. We have a very good system; I go ahead clearing the undergrowth while Chloe stays with the trug. When I need a different implement she picks up the trug and brings it to me. Before I trained her to do that I was always losing the odd tool or would put it down and have to walk all the way back to pick it up. Occasionally I still put down my secateurs and forget where they are so Chloe has to go and find them.

I eventually reached the steepest part of the bank with its tangle of brambles and rotten tree stumps, all hidden under leaves and fallen timber waiting to trip me up. Being a tottery old age pensioner I tried using the garden fork to stop me sliding down the slope into the water. Gripping the fork I slashed away with my sickle with my free hand. Standing still was fine but then realised I could not move without slipping and sliding further down the slope. I decided reinforcements were needed, something big that I could hang on to; something that would move slowly and carefully or keep still exactly where I wanted as I worked. A large Newfoundland dog would be just the job. It worked perfectly. Chloe stood still or moved a step at a time while I grabbed a handy handful of fur to support me. With Chloe's help the job was soon done without me finishing up in the muddy pool. A bright eyed robin had watched as we worked. I am hoping in the spring the cleared area will be covered with bluebells and other wild flowers. There is still there a big pile of old timber left for the wild life.

Work done, Chloe carried the trug back home for me. She had her seventh birthday in December so she is now a veteran dog. Before long I expect us two senior citizens will be working in the woods again.

BEST WISHES AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Hazel Carter 01825 830477

info@hazel-carter.co.uk www.hazel-carter.co.uk



## Framfield & Blackboys WI

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We ended our 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations, and the Year, on a high note with a trip to London featuring the West End's magical Christmas lights plus a carvery meal at **Rubens**, a 4\* hotel.

The Christmas party in December, included visitors from other local WIs, with thanks for the great musical entertainment provided by Ian Hayler.



Our New Year kicked off with a wonderful evening dinner at the **Hare & Hounds**. Annie, Phil & the team made sure it was special: great atmosphere, good food & attentive service. A good way to begin 2017.

As usual, we have a very varied

programme coming up and look forward to seeing you at our events. For example: our popular Quiz Night is back on **Saturday March 25th** at Framfield Memorial Hall and the evening includes supper and a great raffle.

**Stop press!!** Why not join our coach trip on **Thursday June 15th** - a trip on the **Wey & Arun canal** in the morning and onto **Arundel** for the **Carpet of Flowers**. Prices & more details available next issue but there are limited places. As always we welcome readers to this magazine on any of our events/trips so contact Gill Roberts on 01825 890459 or [gilli.roberts@btinternet.com](mailto:gilli.roberts@btinternet.com)

We welcome visitors to our meetings so ladies please come along. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month Meetings start at 7.30pm. You can come along as a visitor for 3 months at £1 a meeting before deciding to join. Do call to find out more.

To join your local WI in 2017 contact President Philomena on 890216

But hazel took care of us in other ways too. It has a magical power of regeneration. Whatever doesn't kill it just makes it stronger. Hack down a hazel and, like the Hydra, it'll bounce back mob-handed, sending up an army of new shoots. Cutting hazel and allowing it to regrow (the art of coppicing) gave us a crop of strong, flexible poles. Coppiced poles have a multitude of uses; firewood, fences, fishing rods, shepherd's crooks, walking sticks, water diviners and magic wands. Hazel poles were the wattle in the 'wattle and daub' that held together our early homes. Hazel helped us build Britain.

And it built a Britain full of burly men with axes who marched into the wild woods and cut down those big oaks. And as our woodlands were cleared hazel rose again and regained its place in our developing countryside. Perhaps we were part of its comeback plan all along? the soil. To a robin we're just big pigs in gardening gloves.

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



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## **NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Plans have been approved for a **crematorium** south of Horam – the first crematorium in the District. The plans have been put forward by Wealden District Council (WDC). When it opens, which is expected to be in 2018, it will be able to allow an hour for each service and will include a garden of remembrance and an online book of condolences.

At the Full Council meeting on 23 November, Wealden **District Councillors** **unanimously called on the rail unions and Southern** railways to find a solution to the current dispute as a matter of urgency.

Following the success of the Clean for the Queen campaign last March, which saw some 19 groups of litter heroes in Wealden take action and collect over a tonne of waste, WDC is again supporting Keep Britain Tidy with the Great Wealden Spring Clean 2017. **The Great Wealden Spring Clean** will take place over the weekend from **Friday to Sunday March 3 to 5, 2017**. WDC is providing free litter picking kits, on a first-come-first-served basis, to those groups who register and add their event to the official website at [www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk](http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk) The Council will also be distributing special edition waste sacks to registered groups from its offices in Vicarage Lane and Wealden libraries as well as providing waste collection. Anyone can register an event. No group is too big or too small. Parishes can organise their own event. To claim litter picking kits, request waste sacks, campaign posters, or arrange collection of waste, please email [pr@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:pr@wealden.gov.uk) or telephone 01323 443268.

A new range of free **Street Learning courses** has been announced for 2017 offering training and advice opportunities to anyone from Wealden or Eastbourne aged 19 or over. They are a fantastic opportunity for anyone wanting to learn a new skill, get some expert advice or improve their lives. To download the new year programme, just search for *Street Learning* on the Wealden website, or request a copy by emailing [streetlearning@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:streetlearning@wealden.gov.uk).

If anyone wants to contact me, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My details are below.

---

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.  
Telephone - 01825 890103.  
Email – [aewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:aewton1965@gmail.com)

Both our PTA/PTFA do fantastic work and this year Blackboys saw the great man turn up in a rather snazzy open topped sports car, while at Framfield, the Christmas Market was a new and very exciting departure. Both successfully raised a substantial amount of money for the schools and many thanks to all of you who managed to attend and supported us and of course, so much thanks needs to be given to the parents and friends who organized both events.

Both schools celebrated Christmas Jumper day this year raising money for Save the Children and Blackboys were particularly delighted to welcome MP for Wealden, Nus Ghani, to the school to help us! Nus spoke with each staff member and toured the school; she also attended out spoke to the whole school during our weekly Friday assembly and gave out the merit badges for that week. She hopes to visit Framfield School shortly.

At Framfield we had to say a fond farewell to Mrs Draper who has been with us for 9 years. She has been a very valuable member of staff and she will be very greatly missed by staff, parents and pupils alike. Her departure created a vacancy and we welcomed Mrs Katy Orme to join our excellent team

This New Year has already started off with a bang with some special themed days which have given our topics and wonderful kick start and really engaged the children. We look forward to seeing some fantastic work from this in the future.

As ever, we are always looking for people to help in lots of ways in both schools. If you have some time and would like to help in any way, please do contact our school offices - you really would be most welcome.

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher St Thomas A Becket CE Federation: Blackboys and Framfield Schools)



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

This last term is always a busy one: although we have shared staff meetings and other activities, there are just too many parents and pupils to squeeze in safely to the Church and so we tend to keep our Christmas celebrations as separate schools. All of us always appreciate being able to celebrate Christmas in our Church and Rev Christ certainly made the services ones to remember this year!

Both schools held KS1 Nativity Plays which were very well attended. A KS1 nativity was a first this year for Framfield, but they rose to the challenge and I know that parents and friends in both schools appreciated all the hard work that went into both performances.

A number of our KS2 pupils sang at Uckfield's Late Night Shopping which took place in December. The Blackboys Choir sang Divine, Midnight and Star Carol: the singing was of a high standard and they made us all very proud. Framfield School took a different slant to their singing and went for, Deck the Halls, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Silent Night which went down very well. Framfield also took part in the Big Sing at the Winter Gardens to perform "Bang!" in front of parents and families. It was really great fun as they sang alongside lots of other schools and while they were on a walk on the seafront, they became caught up with BBC Sussex Radio and More FM and sang the first song "Welcome to our Factory" live on the radio! However, not to be outdone on the singing front of course, members of the Blackboys Glee club, alongside School Council representatives, visited the local retirement home, Holy Cross where children read 'Twas The Night Before Christmas' and sang four Christmas songs. The residents were very welcoming and everyone enjoyed this new community event.

As has become Federation tradition, all pupils were invited to help decorate our Federation Christmas Tree which was part of Holy Cross Church's Festival of Christmas Trees. There were over 80 trees on display in the church, of which our Federation tree was one. This year all pupils in class either decorated the front of a replica bible or chose a sentence to write within an open replica bible from the Christmas Story.

## Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

At our AGM our programme for the coming year was circulated to members. Apart from our usual BBQ, meal out and walk we will include the following speakers.

A talk on cardiomyopathy when we will give them a cheque.

A fireman speaking about safety in the home.

A rotary member telling us about the village they support in Rwanda.

We welcome new members so if you would like to know more about us phone Val on 890677



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Happy New Year to everyone!

Bird-in-Eye Hill – as mentioned last time, we have been asked to apply again to East Sussex County Council for community match-funding for the changes in speed limit on Bird-in-Eye Hill. This has now been done and we await to see if we will be successful.

Framfield Village Market – please do come along and have a look at local craft wares and produce and have a cup of coffee. All proceeds go towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. I detail elsewhere in the magazine the dates for this year.

The Parish Council acting as Trustees to the Framfield Trust have agreed to enter into a 25-year lease on a very small piece of land on Framfield Recreation Ground to enable the installation of a telecommunications mast.

The new sports pavilion on Blackboys recreation ground is part way through completion. This will become a Parish asset in a similar way to the Village Hall and Memorial Hall, although it will only be available for sports activities and will not have a premises licence for music etc.

For information: website – our website is currently under review so will unfortunately not be available at all times.

There is also a list of meeting dates for next year and a reminder that all agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website. The full minutes of all meetings are also on the website. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182.

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

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

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

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*Framfield Memorial Hall, The Street*

**Saturday 11 March, 7.30pm to 11.30pm**

## Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

The Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society brings together people united by their interest in a wide range of garden activities in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Take a look at our list of events in the calendar over the coming months – full details are on our website at [www.fabhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.fabhortsoc.org.uk). If you see something that takes your fancy, feel free to simply turn up. And if you'd like to join, membership is just £5, or £8 for a family, which gives you some discounts at selected local garden centres.

Exciting times at the Society as we consider ways in which we can help offer some financial help to local good causes with a horticultural slant. Watch this space for details of that interesting project.

### Calendar of events, February – April 2017

Unless otherwise stated, talks are free to members and just £3.00 to non-members and include a glass of wine on arrival and coffee/tea and biscuits later in the evening.

#### **Tuesday 21st February 2017 – QUIZ NIGHT**

Our fun quiz covering a variety of horticultural-themed questions is a regular fixture in the Hort Soc calendar for teams of up to 6. Bring your own refreshments and we will supply nibbles and coffee. Contact Fiona Fidler if you know you'd like a table. Or just turn up and we will put you in a team. Framfield Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.

#### **Tuesday 21st March 2017 – THE TALE OF THE TULIP**

In his talk, freelance garden historian Russ Bowes takes us on a journey following the rise and fall of this beautiful garden flower. Blackboys Village Hall. 7.30pm

#### ***About Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society***

*The Society's main aim is to promote horticulture and to try and encourage and support as many people as possible to grow their own flowers, fruit and vegetables.*

*Find out more at [www.fabhortsoc.org.uk/](http://www.fabhortsoc.org.uk/) where you can download a membership form.*

*For any enquiries, please feel free to email our vice chairman Fiona Fidler at [fhbsmail@gmail.com](mailto:fhbsmail@gmail.com) or on 01825 890719*

## The Future of Bus Services 31 and 231 Message from East Sussex County Council

The following information has been obtained from East Sussex County Council regarding the 231 bus service between Hurst Green, Etchingham, Burwash, Heathfield, Blackboys, Framfield and Uckfield and the 31 bus service running between Uckfield, Maresfield, Piltown, Newick, North Chailey, Scaynes Hill, Northlands Wood and Haywards Heath.

Seaford & District are currently providing the 231 service as a sub-contractor to Compass Travel whilst Compass Travel have continued to operate the 31 themselves.

Compass Travel have informed East Sussex County Council of their decision to cease operation of both services. The reason is that the amount of fares income and, in the case of the 231, funding for the service, is not sufficient to cover the cost of operation.

ESCC have had discussions with Seaford and District about them taking over the 231 service in their own right, with the same level of funding support as provided to Compass Travel and previously theSussexBus.com. However, Seaford and District have now also stated that the combined income from passengers and the County Council is too low.

ESCC are working hard to find a solution to ensure that as comprehensive a service as possible continues within the level of funding that can be provided by the County Council. In the case of the 31, they are liaising closely with colleagues at West Sussex County Council. Whilst the future service may not be as comprehensive as the current provision, it will provide for most current users including school children, shoppers and those with medical appointments.

Any potential changes will be passed onto the Parish Council and are likely to take place from 5<sup>th</sup> February. In the meantime, please note that there will have been some changes to the 31 from 9 January 2017.

**MEETING SCHEDULE 2017**

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, 28 March (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 23 May (BB Trust) Annual Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm Annual Parish Meeting – 8 pm.	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 27 June (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 26 September (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 28 November (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall

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Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk,  
Ann Newton, on  
01825- 890182/framfieldpc@gmail.com  
'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.  
Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website -  
framfieldcouncil.org.uk



FRAMFIELD  
STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE  
In aid of MacMillan Nurses  
&  
Sussex Heart Charity

Thank you everyone who supported the “starry” Christmas tree and those who came to the service.

Special thanks to the following people

Rob Newton for sorting out the Christmas tree  
Stavertons Nursery for the tree  
Peter Berry for taking the service  
WI ladies for tea coffee etc  
Mrs Davies for help with music etc  
Framfield Parish council for the hall

With everyone's help we raised  
**£87.50 for Uckfield MacMillan Nurses**  
**£87.50 for Sussex Heart Charity**

Thank you for your support  
Selina Allen