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

# Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common

JUNE / JULY 2017

Oak Tree Barn, Lewes Road, Blackboys, East Sussex, TN22 5JL

**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:**

**28<sup>th</sup> April:    Nigel Ayres Braye**

**10<sup>th</sup> May:      Ian Malcolm Roy Hayler**

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

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Library renewals – 0345 6080195

Library enquiries – 0345 6080196

Roads and paths – 0345 6080193

Trading Standards – 0345 6080197

Waste – 0345 6080194

Switchboard – 0345 6080190

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Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0303 999 1000

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HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES  
SPECIFIED

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

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

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

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

### How's your Mental Health?

Last week (8th-14th May) was Mental Health Awareness Week. Personally I'm really encouraged that the whole subject is now much more out in the open. The stigma of struggling with mental health issues is at last being overcome and it's ok to speak openly about them.

The main problem when suffering with mental health problems is that from the outside there doesn't appear to be anything wrong with you. There is no bandage, no pair of crutches, no bruises; it's all on the inside, invisible to the casual glance.

It may come as somewhat of a surprise but God has a lot to say about mental health and how we can overcome mental health problems when they arise!

There can be a variety of complex issues matter surrounding serious mental illness - I don't wish to go there at this point. However, in general we will all suffer varying degrees of mental illness during our lifetime. It could be through bereavement, a failed relationship, a victim of crime or violence, the aftermath of an accident, redundancy, news of a life-changing illness or simply an unkind remark. All of these and many others are hurtful and produce stress which then affects our mental health and general wellbeing.

It used to be said that when we were suffering from mental problems we ought to get our heads examined. God begs to differ! Generally it's our heart that's the problem. Not the heart that pumps blood around the body but rather the centre of our being. Proverbs 23:7 says 'As a man thinks in his heart so he is.' Have we ever thought that our hearts have the capacity to think? Proverbs 4:23 says 'Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life'. It raises the question, why does my heart need guarding? Simply put, if you don't guard your heart it is likely to get damaged and if it does the spring of life within ceases to flow properly. This is one of the reasons why for example victims of abuse experience so much mental turmoil and find life and relationships very difficult. The unexpected event gets under our defences and injures the heart. Personally, I believe that childhood traumas are the most damaging because children in their innocence don't have the capability or awareness to handle challenging situations.

As you think back on your life can you identify any events which have been injurious to your mental well being? Do you still live with the sting when you reflect back? Memories (with all the attached emotions), good and bad are held in the heart. The good ones are fine, they engender happiness, joy and contentment, but what of the bad ones that we wish weren't there?

Have you ever thought about your heart in relation to a computer? Every so often we need to reorder the hard drive, get rid of any unwanted temporary files, delete the browsing history and empty the recycle bin. When we do so have you noticed how much better the computer runs. Rather than being sluggish in operation it gets a new lease of life; quick and responsive. So what about the painful stuff we've got filed away; can we really get rid of it?

Part of Jesus' mandate (Isaiah 61:1) was/is 'to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. The root meaning of 'broken hearted' is to cure those with fractured emotions. It was a few years ago that God showed me that we record everything in life rather like a movie film. The individual frames were not pictures though, but pockets of emotion (we record through our five senses). Suddenly I had insight into the mental problem of holding all this negativity in so I asked God how do you deal with it? The reply came back 'I'm the great film editor, just ask me to remove the bad frames and rejoin the good ones back together'.

On behalf of others I've asked God to do that on numerous occasions and it has been amazing how life transforming this simple prayer can be! God does indeed heal the broken hearted, you just have to give Him the pieces (that's your part).

Christianity used to be about 'is it true'. Today it's about 'does it work'.

If any of the above has touched a chord or you're suffering mentally do get in touch. It's free, confidential and it does work!

God bless - Revd Chris Lawrence



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

We are a non-profit making pre-school registered with Ofsted, and are celebrating our 33rd anniversary this year, having started back in 1984.

Open Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 6pm, we welcome children between 2 to 5 years old in the preschool and those between 2 to 11 years old in the After School and Holiday Clubs.

Our staff are trained in Montessori and Forest School principles and we have an allotment, located just next door to the pre-school, where our chickens are kept. We also use this space for our forest school activities. Our After School Club runs from 3.30pm to 6pm during term time, with a pick-up service available from local primary schools. We offer a variety of activities and access to age appropriate resources, including our very well resourced outdoor play area, and use of the allotment area.

The Holiday Clubs take place during each of the main school holiday periods and operate from 7.45am – 6pm, with the next running from 24<sup>th</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> August. Children aged 2-11 years can join us for fun in the holidays whether or not they attend during term time!

Our next event will be a Family Fun Day, which will incorporate the Pre-School Sports Day. This will be held at the Recreation Ground in Blackboys in June (date TBC). Come along and support the pre-school, meet the team, and maybe show off your sporting prowess by taking part in an event!

For more details, or to organise a visit, please contact us:

**Call Jenny on:** 01825 891113 / 01825 749820

**Or email us:** [enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk)

assisted in so many ways by parents and friends means that we are always going forward positively.

A big thank you to all parents, staff and members of the community who continue to be so supportive in so many ways. We look forward to seeing many of you at our various PTA and PTFA events as well as events at both schools over the coming Summer months.

Both schools will be holding their PTA/PTFA Summer Fairs on the same day this year, Saturday 17th June (11 - 2 at Framfield and 1 - 3 at Blackboys) Why not make a real day of it and come to both - I know I will!

J K King  
Executive Headteacher

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#### CAFE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Would you enjoy working in a busy and friendly Village Café? In order for The Grove Farmhouse Café in Blackboys to continue offering an excellent service within this community, we are especially in need of lunch time volunteers to help with washing up and some simple café jobs. Please contact us if you would like more information. Tel: 01825 890415

Email: [info@thegroveblackboys.co.uk](mailto:info@thegroveblackboys.co.uk) [www.thegroveblackboys.co.uk](http://www.thegroveblackboys.co.uk)



## Diary of Church Services

### JUNE 2017

- 04 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
(with prayer for healing)
- 11 Trinity Sunday**  
10.00 am Family Friendly Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 18 First Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Communion (Father's Day)  
4.00 pm Messy Church
- 25 Second Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

### JULY 2017

- 02 Third Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 09 Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Friendly Service  
6.30 pm Evening Service
- 16 Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

- 23 Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
 10.00 am Morning Praise  
 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 30 Seventh Sunday after Trinity**  
 10.00 am Morning Praise  
 (No evening service)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
 BY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017  
 TO  
 ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182  
[framfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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)**

Years 3 and 4 truly embraced their topic, Extreme Earth! This was generally a Geography and Science based theme, looking at natural disasters. The classes enjoyed Disaster Day together with an art focus.

Our older pupils took the overall topic of "Rivers", developing their skills in Geography, getting to grips with atlases and finding out about key geographical points like countries and continents. They then looked more closely at the different part of river and the ways in which rivers are used, comparing two very different rivers and finally visiting the Cuckmere.

The books studied in English have for the most part run alongside these topics and the enthusiasm with which pupils are reading and writing as a result of this creative push is heartening to see - it really shows the impact of the high quality teaching in both the schools - it is not mean feat keeping the pupils inspired at the same time as teaching these essential skills.

Our English and Maths leaders have also been very busy running various workshops for parents including Phonics, Reading, Spelling and Maths Problem-Solving. These have been very useful and parents have greatly appreciated them. Many thanks must go to both Mrs. Amy Clarke (English) and Mr. Russell Boorman (Maths) who have not only worked hard to support our schools in these subjects, but have also run twilight sessions for other schools in the area.

As I am sure you are all aware, the funding of schools is a contentious issue and on Friday 28th April, Mrs Katharine Rabson Stark, our Chair of Governors, and I attended a meeting with our local MP, Nus Ghani, to discuss the impact of the proposed new funding formula on our schools. This is a topic which is of great importance when we are making decisions for the future of our schools and we were able to present the impact on our schools of the proposed new formula along with a number of other headteachers and Chairs of Governors. Assuming the MP is re-elected, she will be taking the concerns back to the minister after the election.

As the climate within education continues to be challenging, our Federation is proud of the way it makes sure that it takes all these changes as opportunities and runs with them! Our hard-working and committed team of staff and Governors,



## Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.

### **Blackboys and Framfield Schools**

We have had a very busy couple of months in both schools with many, visits, sports events and of course lots of hard work in the lead up to our annual assessments.

At the end of term just before our break, we held the Easter Services for both schools - it did seem a little odd as it was some two weeks before Easter Day. As usual, both were different in focus, but equally thought-provoking and thanks must go to all our teachers for the super singing and music, and of course, to the team and the Church for allowing us to attend - the service really adds to our focus at this important time of the year.

As part of the Government initiative to support pupils' physical and mental health, the Federation, under the guidance of teacher, Miss Jess Stevens, has been very active in developing its Health Plan across both schools. This has involved all our pupils in developing their awareness and skills on how to keep healthy. Both schools have had visits from the Community Chef Robin Van Creveld who worked with the children with an hour of hands on cooking. Robin really inspired and engaged our children with his love of healthy cooking, making a number of delicious meals that tempted even the pickiest of appetites. He will be returning shortly with a focus on healthy lunchboxes! This alongside the Daily Mile and an increase in sports clubs and fixtures, means that our pupils are really thinking about how to keep fit and healthy.

All classes worked hard on their various topics for last term - enjoying their stunning starts which truly inspired the children to challenge themselves and "Be the Best they Can Be". Our youngest pupils had "An African Adventure" where the focus was mainly on Kenya. They learnt about the different animals that live there, the fruit that grows there and a little about the Maasai tribe. They then took part on a very exciting drumming workshop.

For years 1 and 2 the topic started with the appearance of a mysterious chocolate egg in each class room - for the term's topic was "Chocolate". They looked at the history of chocolate, how its consumption has changed and where it comes from with a focus on Fair Trade.

## **FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 5th June  | Sussex Village Quiz in a Sussex Village Hall<br>(At High Hurstwood v/Hall) 2.30pm                                  |
| 19th June | Visit to the Llama Park Wych Cross<br>Leave Framfield 2pm, Shop and<br>Cream or Savoury Scones, and see the Llamas |
| 3rd July  | Walk around garden and Tea with<br>Kathy and Jack Gore, Framfield Grange, 2.30pm                                   |
| 17th July | Cream Tea at Green Acres,<br>Halland Park Farm 2.30pm  |

We had a collection for Demelza one of our events in April and collected £128.10, plus a donation of £50 = £178.10, Well done to all our Members.

Any further information contact Sandy Rogers,  
01825 840648 - [sandyrogers77@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrogers77@gmail.com)

The Theatre Pipe Organ Preservation Society Proudly Present:

East Sussex National Little Horsted, Uckfield Sunday 11th June at 3pm  
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Sunday 18th June

Sunday 16th July

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

STARTS @ 4 PM



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

Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

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



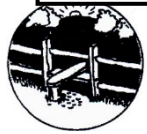
## **DIANA: HER FASHION STORY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**

Join us on a trip to Kensington Palace to see the major new exhibition of Diana, Princess of Wales' wonderful collection of clothes. The exhibition traces the evolution of her style from the demure romantic outfits of her early year in public life to the elegance and glamour of her later style. The exhibition includes the iconic velvet gown which Diana wore to a ball at the White House when she danced with John Travolta. There is also a chance to see the White Garden.

Transport by luxury coach with various local pick-up points.

**Cost: £35.** Includes coach and exhibition entry but not lunch.

Tickets available from Gill Roberts, WI. Tel: 01825 840459



## **FRAMFIELD & BLACKBOYS WI**

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

Over 70 people attended our quiz night in March. Quiz master, Terry Everitt included several quirky and unusual rounds which challenged and amused contestants in equal measure. During the interval quizzers were served generous portions of delicious, home cooked lasagne made with beef from Bird in Eye Farm kindly donated by Peter & Cathy Berry, with a choice of desserts and tea and coffee to follow. The evening ended with an excellent raffle. We managed to raise just over £500.00.

### **APRIL**

At our April meeting at Blackboys Village Hall, our speaker, Michael Wynn-Jones tied us up in knots with her Scarf Tying Magic. The competition for the month was a Flower Arrangement in a Mug which was won by Sheila Wilkins.

### **RACE NIGHT**

Our race night at the Hare & Hounds was a fantastic evening. Over 50 people had bought supper tickets and about another 30 people joined in from the bar. Racing was shown on two large TV screens and everyone enthusiastically joined in. Supper of sausages and crispy melt in the mouth chips was served, piping hot in the midst of the bedlam. The horses in the last race were auctioned and the bidding was fast and furious. The evening raised approximately £600 for the pre-schools in Framfield and Blackboys. We'd like to thank Annie & Phil at the Hare & Hounds for co-hosting this event with us, and a big thank you to everyone who attended for their generosity.

### **JUNE MEETING**

We will be enjoying "Afternoon Tea In The Garden" on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. It's still not too late to join the WI or come as a visitor to enjoy this meeting. Please telephone our President, Philomena on 01825 890216.

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

With the weather beginning to pick up and our gardens showing signs of life again, it must be spring and time for our committee to start making and selling tea and cakes at numerous open gardens. Many of our team were doing just this on Easter Day at Penns in the Rocks, Groombridge. They were rushed off their feet and took an incredible £845 in one day! A couple of weeks later we had two enjoyable days at Banks Farm, Barcombe, amidst the most beautiful gardens and the weather was kind.

Macmillan volunteers give their valuable time to help those who need it most. They are often able to make a massive difference to the life of someone living with cancer. They are not only able to discuss what Macmillan does and why they do it, but to spend time explaining what other sources of support are available. These could be support by telephone, or online community, which enables a cancer patient to speak with someone else who has had a similar diagnosis. There is also the option to share experiences with others, within a local support group.

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

Continuing with the marine theme, sea-birds are moving along the coast; generally, from west to east during May. They are following the fish and heading for breeding grounds. These birds include Sandwich Terns, Common Terns, Arctic Terns, Little Terns, Pomarine Skuas, Arctic Skuas, Black-throated Divers, Red-throated Divers, Great-northern Divers, Bar-tailed Godwits, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Scoters Velvet Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, Whimbrel and Gannets. They have spent winter at sea and on coasts in warmer latitudes. Some of these birds may be understandably unfamiliar to some readers; because in order to see these birds it is usually necessary to be on a suitable beach at about 6:00 am on a sunny calm morning in May with a pair of good binoculars and a telescope. This can be rather cold and frustrating, but when the birds start to appear, it can get quite exciting. Observers often post their sightings on the Sussex Ornithological Society on-line web-pages. Popular beaches include Selsey Bill, Splash Point in Seaford and the beach at Rye Harbour.

These and other sea-birds are heading for their breeding grounds, a few of these birds breed on Sussex beaches, but such sites are very rare. Others are heading for North-West Europe, and in the case of some of the Arctic Terns – the Arctic Circle and the Svalbard archipelago.

It remains that marine habitats are fragile, and when they are close to Human populations, they get disturbed by visitors, boats, fishing, dredging and other Human activities. It is often difficult for these birds to find a quiet spot to lay their eggs and raise a family. This is why such places as the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve exists and volunteers protect the habitats from too much disturbance. However, it is often possible to watch from special hides strategically placed to protect the birds but allow visitors to see them nesting and raising their young. Entry to Rye Harbour is free, but a good level of fitness is required to walk around the site which takes a minimum of about 3 hours for a reasonably fit person. There is a visitor centre where information can be obtained and simple refreshments and souvenirs can be purchased.

Understanding and protecting nature has never been more important as the Human population continues to increase beyond 7.5 billion.

*Martyn Stenning*

## Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

Interested in horticulture? Love gardening? Or just simply want to get involved in a local, friendly and social group? Whatever your motivation, the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society brings together people united by their interest in a wide range of garden activities in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

Full details of our events can be found on our website at [www.fabhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.fabhortsoc.org.uk). 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.

### Calendar of events, June – August 2017

Unless otherwise stated, talks are free to members and £3 to non-members, which also includes a glass of wine on arrival and coffee/tea and biscuits later in the evening. There's no need to book, just turn up!

#### **Thursday 29th June - MEADOWS**

Robert Bradshaw returns full of enthusiasm with a talk that explains his love of meadows in both a natural and garden setting.

*7.30pm, Framfield Memorial Hall*

#### **Thursday 20th July – BARCOMBE NURSERIES VISIT**

An evening visit to Barcombe Nurseries to see how they grow organic vegetables for their weekly box scheme. 6.30pm

#### **12 August -SUMMER SHOW,**

#### **From 12.30PM, FRAMFIELD RECREATION GROUND & MEMORIAL HALL**

In addition to some great entertainment and family fun, this year there's more opportunity than ever before to get involved with 124 different classes for all ages and standards across 8 different categories including plants, flowers, cookery and photography and specific competitions for children. Full schedule and entry details at [www.fabhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.fabhortsoc.org.uk). Deadline for entries - 9 August. This year's evening event is a family barn dance starting at 7pm with a bar and food available.

We are also looking for donations of cakes for the tea and of plants to sell on the plant stall. Got a bit of time to spare? How about coming along to help set up, run a stall or clear away. Please contact Sarah Hince 01435 863364 or by email at [sarah.hince@btinternet.com](mailto:sarah.hince@btinternet.com) to volunteer your help. See you at the show!



## Demelza Hospice Care for Children

We are only just over four months into the year as I write but what a four months it has been!

February saw the Framfield Stagers producing an excellent panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, at the same time supporting Demelza and raising a whopping £1000! A huge thank you to the very talented and hardworking members of the Stagers. Also in February, Tesco Uckfield kindly invited us to do a two day bucket collection and that raised a fantastic £860!

March saw the newly formed Uckfield Belles WI holding a ball at the East Sussex National which raised a phenomenal £3960 – a truly amazing amount for which, we are extremely grateful. They have very generously chosen Demelza as their charity this year which we thank them for very much.

In April we were treated to an evening of music in Framfield Village Hall, presented by Graham Pope, featuring Joel White and Maddie Broad, two local talented musicians, which raised £56. Once again, many thanks to all involved. The work of Demelza depends very much on the generosity of the community we serve – it costs £1600 per day to send our nursing and support team out into the community and only 10% of our funding comes from the government.

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 you feel that you have some spare time and would like to volunteer or to hold an event to support us please contact :

Pat Dangerfield **01825 890646** or Jean Pidgeon **01825 890658**

Uckfield Friends of Demelza

or :

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

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

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**A: Freedom Leisure Centre  
Downsview Crescent**

**Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 1UB**



**Never Mind Coldplay, Here's the Cuckoo**  
**By Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust**

Is it me or are rock bands today getting less and less offensive? I sometimes find myself harking back to a simpler, happier time when young punks were lining up to shock us. Nowadays, when I feel the need to be outraged, I turn to a bird whose scandalous behaviour still embodies the filth and the fury of The Sex Pistols in their prime.

The cuckoo creates avian anarchy in the UK every summer. If you delight in watching the honest, hard-working attempts of birds to build a home and raise a family then the cuckoo sticks two feathers up to you. Its non-conformist lifestyle is "a monstrous outrage on maternal affection", "a blight on creation".

The male cuckoo doesn't hide his contempt for society. Each spring he announces his arrival by shamelessly shouting his name across Sussex. It's the one bird call in Britain which everyone recognises. Two simple chords (just like all the best punk songs). Cuckoos also utter a callous cackle that would make any panto villain proud. It's almost as if they can't stop the evil within from bubbling out; 'Mwah-ha-ha-ha-ha'.

But save your boos and hisses for the female cuckoo. She coldly targets a couple of unsuspecting love-birds, patiently stakes out their nest and then strikes. After snatching one of their eggs in her beak she fires her own replacement egg into the nest and scarpers. It's over in ten seconds. The parents return to the same number of same-coloured eggs; they suspect nothing. This perfect crime can be re-enacted in a further twenty nests.

With baby cuckoos there's no nature or nurture argument. They're simply born bad. Upon hatching the evil infants first instinct is to eject all other eggs from the nest. Once alone this bully incessantly screams 'feed

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**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.**

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

**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 PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

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The Parish Council is still involved in discussions over a scheme to provide a morning Saturday bus service provided by the North Wealden Community Transport Partnership. The funding has been agreed but there is still some fine-tuning to be done.

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. Since the Parish Council took the market on two years ago £4,000 has been raised – thank you to all of those involved.

The new sports pavilion on Blackboys recreation ground is now complete. This is 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. If anyone has a sporting event that when they believe they could use the Pavilion please contact me in the first instance.

Recreation grounds, play areas etc. If anyone believes they have discovered a fault or problem with in particular one of the play areas, could they please contact me immediately. Although the areas are inspected on a weekly basis by one of our contractors, any additional notification is important to the Council.

Six new benches have been ordered for Blackboys recreation ground and a new seat for the grassed area at the top of Becketts Way. New noticeboards are also in the process of being sourced. The Council has also formally adopted from ESCC seven of the historic white guideposts so that they can be kept in a good state of repair. The number should gradually increase, finances permitting.

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

All agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website. The full minutes of all meetings are also on the website.

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).

me, feed me' at its bewildered surrogate parents who are so busy finding food they don't have the time to stop and say 'Hey, wait a minute...'. The imposter grows bigger... and bigger...eventually outgrowing the nest until it resembles a coconut in an egg-cup.

As you read this the parent cuckoos will already be on a carefree cruise back to Africa. Yet despite the trail of chaos and outrage they leave in their wake our cuckoos have recently started doing something that has really upset us all - they've stopped coming back. That distant two-chord call is becoming more and more distant each year. Cuckoo numbers are dropping, possibly due to a lack of food in England, in Africa and on the migration routes in-between.

Could it be possible this wonderful bird with its songs and bad behaviour may, like punk rock, be consigned to a lost era of our history? Now that really would be an outrage.

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

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**Sussex Wildlife Trust** is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, *Wildlife* magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join) or over the phone on 01273 497532.







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# FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2017

## Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

- 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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## Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Our March meeting at the Fire Station turned out to be exciting as well as informative. They had a shout whilst we were there, so we stood to one side while the Firemen came dashing in.

One had to leave his dinner on the table! Fortunately it was not serious, a smoke alarm going off. They pressed the point that they will come out free of charge and give and fix smoke alarms.

We are now looking forward to our Barbeque in June and a visit in July to Lewes Little Theatre where we will see how it is run and visit the wardrobe department. Let us hope that summer has arrived by then.

We will be having a Jumble Sale in October so please think of us if you are clearing out. Our main charity this year is The Hospice in the Weald. For information on the group contact Val Peaty. 890677



**Our Family Friendly Service is a lively short happy service, where the children are actively involved.**  
**Sunday 11th June at 10.00 am**  
**Sunday 9th July at 10.00 am**

## NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A few items which might be of interest:

The East Sussex Joint Waste Partnership has agreed a mutual exit with Kier in relation to its waste collection, recycling and beach cleansing services contract, with the contract now due to end on 28 June 2019.

Following significant change in the recycling market, Kier and the Partnership have mutually agreed to end the contract although they will continue to work closely together to provide a high quality service for residents during the transition.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me and WDC (through the formal channels) if you have any missed bins or other bin problems.

Business Rates. Further information about a range of measures to help those Wealden businesses affected by the recent revaluation of business premises will be available online on the WDC website once nationwide guidelines have been finalised.

Street Learning, who provide FREE courses for anyone aged 19 or over from Wealden or Eastbourne, has announced a new programme for featuring a variety of new courses as well as returning favourites. Please contact WDC for details.

It's good to know that Wealden's biggest attractions are its countryside, heritage and scenery – that is the conclusion from visitor research carried out by NGI Solutions, a business research company. Tourism brings in some £250 million a year to the District and provides jobs for 7,000 local people.

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

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Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.

Telephone - 01825 890103.

Email – [aenewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:aenewton1965@gmail.com)

## LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

### A FISHY TAIL

I am writing this in early April. I have just returned from my early morning walk with Chloe. It is a beautiful day. The banks along the lanes were covered in primroses, violets, wood anemones, and early bluebells.

We have a pond in our wood. A few years ago we had some grass eating carp to keep the water clear of weeds. Over time they gradually vanished and the weeds came back so I ordered some more. A couple of weeks ago we went to collect them from a fish farm in Kent. As I was driving along a bendy narrow lane, very carefully, as my husband was watching me rather like a stern driving instructor, a car coming towards me smashed our wing mirror which spoilt my day. I had not realised how often I looked in the mirror until it was not there. We had a walk round then enjoyed lunch in the restaurant overlooking the lovely lakes. The five fish were placed in a big plastic bag, obviously in water. They looked rather surprised as they swam round their temporary home in the back of the car. They also did not like the bendy lane as we could hear lots of fishy tails flapping about, a strange sound in the back of a car. I drove as slowly as possible for our rather nervous passengers.

Back home the heavy bag was carefully loaded into the wheelbarrow which was pushed up through the wood to the pond. We had been instructed to carefully lower the bag into the pond, keeping it closed for about twenty or more minutes so the water in the bag would be the same as the pond water. I was left in charge while the broken mirror could be investigated. I bent precariously over the edge hanging on to one end of the bag. At first it was quite fun watching the new arrivals swimming around in their miniature bag pond, while floating on the big pond. After a while I shifted my position as I was getting stiff; that was better for a while. I twisted round to look at my watch. Another fifteen minutes to go. I moved again slightly, now my arm was aching. I needed to relax my hand holding the bag. I cautiously flexed my fingers. Suppose I let the bag slip? Off would go the bag, across the pond, like a small boat with its fishy cargo. The minutes dragged slowly past. My elderly back was really aching. The twenty minutes was up, but where was my husband? I twisted my stiff

neck round to see if he was coming through the wood. It was time to undo the knot securely keeping the bag water tight so the fish could be slowly released into the pond. At last he arrived and the fish all swam out of the bag then promptly all vanished into the depths of the pond. I staggered to my feet and tottered off to the cottage for a nice cup of tea.

It was an expensive day, buying the fish, paying for lunch and a big bill for a new mirror. I have not seen the fish again, but it is a good excuse to sit peacefully by the pond enjoying all the wild life.

Hazel Carter 01825 830477  
info@hazel-carter.co.uk  
www.hazel-carter.co.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 8th June, and Thursday 13th July.

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