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

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2019

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 Barry Richardson**

Treasurer : **Vacant**

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:

Baptisms: --

Weddings: --

At rest: --

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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. Keith Brandon

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Marie Owen

**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.**

CIRCULATION:

This magazine reaches over 1100 households in the parish.

It is therefore an ideal way to reach a wide customer area.

Contact the Clerk, Ann Newton for advertising details and rates.

clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

God cares about us, even when we don't.

Five years ago I went back to motorcycling, something that I enjoyed when I was a teenager and through my early twenties. However, my wife did make one or two provisos and the main one was that I should be visible to other road users. So if I'm out on the road you may see me wearing a red or white leather jacket and a white helmet. It may be 'cool' to be dressed in black but in the vast majority of cases where there is an accident involving a car and a bike the first words uttered by the motorist are usually, 'sorry, I didn't see you'. I was more than happy to comply with my wife's request; after all, I think we would all agree that whatever you ride or drive you need to be visible to other road users.

A couple of weeks ago I was driving from Uckfield to Framfield around 10am with one of my daughters along the familiar Framfield Road. Ahead of me was a young man on a mountain bike. He was dressed in black jeans and a black T shirt and he wasn't wearing a cycling helmet.

I wouldn't usually do it but I pulled over in the Hare and Hounds car park entrance and waited for the cyclist who I flagged down. I politely pointed out that as he was riding up the hill and particularly under the shadow of the trees he was virtually invisible. I just about saw him but someone else might not have done. His reply to me was 'what's your problem, its daytime and what's it to you if I'm wearing black and cycling without a helmet'. I was a little taken back as my point in stopping was to make him aware of his own vulnerability on the road, not to tell him off. Granted, that we all have a freewill choice but I wouldn't have liked to have on my conscience the injuries that I may have caused him if there had been an accident, simply because I hadn't seen him. Surely, sharing the road safely is a joint responsibility?

I asked him why he didn't seem to be bothered that drivers may not see him and that he could be injured or worse. He replied 'I don't really care and I don't really care about my life'! At that point, he said he was late for work and rode off.

It wasn't the reply I was expecting and it was upsetting to think that this young man really didn't care about his life. I could only imagine what may have gone on in his earlier years that had left him with this very negative view of life.

Even if we are not cared for by others there is still a call to care for ourselves.

Paul writes in Ephesians 5:29-30 **After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church – ³⁰for we are members of his body.**

Throwing caution to the wind when it comes to our physical and mental well-being is obviously not a biblical principle and even if we don't care, God does. Self-abuse or deliberately putting ourselves in danger is upsetting to God as we are made in His image and as Jesus reminds us **'I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10).**

Closely allied to a 'couldn't care attitude' is the one of identity and self-worth. The question of 'where do we get our identity from' is of major importance? The world will always disappoint us and if we compare ourselves to others we will always be disappointed. The account of Billy Bray's conversion illustrates the point.

Born in 1794 near Truro, Billy served the devil with all his might in his early years, often drinking and frolicking the night away. He rarely came home sober on pay-day. But John Bunyan's Visions of Heaven and Hell awakened him to his lost condition, and after a period of conviction for sin he experienced a marvellous conversion. He became a wonder to all who knew him. "They said I was a mad-man," recalled Billy in later life, "but they meant I was a glad-man, and, glory be to God! I have been glad ever since."

As he had once been the instigator and ringleader in merriment and frolic, Billy now became a fervent man of God. His liveliness of disposition, his power of repartee, and his mother-wit marked him out as an extraordinary preacher of the Gospel, and tales of the unique evangelism of eccentric "Little Billy" are legion in Cornwall. His favourite saying was, "I am the child of a King."

Billy could have been labelled as useless, a waste of space, a drunkard etc, but when he had the revelation that God cared about him and loved and accepted him just as he was, he became a 'Child of a King'. There can be no higher or life affirming accolade. If God says you are ok then frankly no one can say anything derogatory about your identity after that. After his conversion, God really made something of Billy's life.

If we think we don't matter or that life isn't worth living then God begs to differ. We may not see our potential but God has a marvellous plan for each one of us – we just have to let Him in.

May God's blessing be upon everyone in the Parish.
– Revd Chris Lawrence



Blackboys Pre-School
The Village Hall, Gun Road
Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5JL
Tel: 01825 891113
email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org
Twitter: @BlackboysPreSch
www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

We are a non-profit making pre-school registered with Ofsted.

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 our Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs.

Our friendly 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.

This term we are running our excellent Holiday Club from Monday 8th-Thursday 18th April. Open from 7:45am until 6pm, each day will be packed full of fun forest school, cooking, art and free-play activities.

For more details, organise a visit or book for our Easter Holiday Club:

Call us on: 01825 891113 / 01825 749820
Or email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

cuttings or plants that you have split please bring them along to the Society's plant stall- the more we have, the more we can sell. Finally, the Summer Show does need lots of helpers and if you feel that you can lend a hand please contact Sarah Hince (01435 863364). We particularly need many pairs of hands at the end.

The next Society talk is on 18th July at Framfield Village Hall when Ben Pope will be returning to tell us how to maintain herbaceous borders and achieve a soft and naturalistic appearance. Then on Tuesday 17th September (Blackboys Village Hall) Martin Duncan, the Head Gardener, at Arundel Castle will be talking about his previous work in the Royal Palaces in Jordan and the Botanical Gardens in Bermuda as well as the 'Collector Earl's Garden' at Arundel. Earlier in September, on Sunday 8th (2-4pm), there will be another 'Society Garden Forum' at Hammonds Green Cottage where Jenny and Jeremy Bacon will be showing us their 'cutting garden' from which they are able to produce brunches of mixed flowers for much of the year. We hope to see you at all these events!

All Society Events are free to members and £3.00 for non-members. For more information about the Society and its activities please contact either:

Fiona Fidler (01825 890719; fhbsmail@gmail.com)
or Trevor Hince (01435 863364; trevor.hince@gmail.com).

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

Dates for 2019

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

August – no market.

28 September

26 October

30 November

14 December

Diary of Church Services

AUGUST 2019

04 Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

11 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing

18 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

25 Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Morning Praise

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

SEPTEMBER 2019

01 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am **No BCP service today**

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

08 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Service

15 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)



22 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

29 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.00 am **'Back to Church Sunday' – All welcome**
i.e. *I used to go but something put me off, other things got in the way, it's been a long time since primary school or I've never been to church and I'm a little curious.*

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th SEPTEMBER 2019**

TO

ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182

**Please note new email address:
clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk**

**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.

Please note new Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

We are now well into summer and our gardens are responding well to the sunshine (perhaps a little more gentle overnight rain would be appreciated) and plants are in full flower. The Society has had two visits and a 'garden forum' in the last months where members were able to enjoy a variety of garden styles.

The RHS Hyde Hall garden in Essex, which we visited in May, showed various aspects of gardening on a large open site with highlights being the large (and still under construction) 'dry garden', the wonderful island beds mixing purple flowered alliums, whit fluffy 'Ravenswing' and blue-spiked salvias to great effect, and the magnificent vegetable greenhouse and 'global growth' vegetable garden with its exotic and edible plants from around the world.

Our next visit was to Hever Castle gardens with a conducted tour by the Head Gardener Neil Miller. In a magnificent setting of 125 acres of grounds and with the castle as a back-drop one can only marvel at the vision, expense and effort required to establish the gardens and maintain them. Largely created by Waldorf Astor the highlight is the Italian Garden with its roman statuary and 'Pompeian wall', but equally beautiful were the new herbaceous beds created by the lake and the walks through the Hosta beds. On the way home members were able to indulge in a little plant buying at 'How Green Nursery'! Visits to these grand gardens contrasted with a 'Society Garden Forum' in a small local garden with lovely views across the valley and a sense of 'place' in the Wealden landscape.

Now all our attention is turned to the Summer Show on Saturday 10th August. There are so many classes to enter in the 'flower and produce' sections, including novelty and children's items; so there is no excuse not to put in an entry or two. Don't be put off - some of the best entries are seen from first-time exhibitors in the novice sections and, anyway, it is just good fun! The Show Schedule was sent out with the Parish Magazine a while ago but if you have mislaid it or need an entry form please contact Fiona (details below). Entry forms need to be returned to Terry Everitt by Wednesday 7th August. Also, if you have extra pots of

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH FRAMFIELD THE CHURCHYARD

Blackboys Pre-School

Blackboys Village Hall
Gun Road
Blackboys
East Sussex
TN22 5JY

Tel: 01825 891113
Registered Charity 1026132
Email marta@blackboyspreschool.org.uk



Blackboys Preschool committee needs you

Blackboys Preschool is a committee run charitable preschool catering for 60 local children and running thriving breakfast, after school and holiday clubs.

The preschool is a real asset to our community and we would hate to lose it.

We are urgently seeking new committee members, as without a functioning committee we are unable to keep the preschool open.

We are keen to recruit committee members from the wider community: local residents, after school club parents, grandparents and parents.

A variety of skills are required for a successful committee, so even if you feel that this is not for you because you do not have knowledge of early years education, this is by no means a prerequisite... you have more to offer than you think!

Please get in touch via phone or email (see above) if you would like to discuss joining us. We would love to hear from you.

With kind regards, Blackboys Preschool Committee

Many hands make light work ..

Love gardening? Love the smell of new mown grass? We would really appreciate some extra help. Often on a Saturday afternoon around 2pm we meet up to do some strimming and tidying. Will you please join us? Even a one-off would be unbelievably helpful and so appreciated.

If so, please contact Jerry Pryke on 01825 760787 or Freddy Pratt on 07791 731021

Or perhaps you would like to help by a donation to upkeep your wonderful churchyard?

This can be done either with a direct payment to our **HSBC Bank** marked "**Churchyard**"

Sort Code: 40 45 32

Account : 91456369

Or by cheque payable to **Framfield PCC** delivered or posted to the Church Office

And if you would like any further information on any of the above please contact me anytime.

John Mordaunt our Chairman of the Fabric Committee
01825 890443 or 07989 587459.
Email: johnmordaunt1@gmail.com

Please respect your Churchyard

We have recently seen an increase in dog mess being left in the churchyard. This is very distressing for visitors in general, and especially for those with family buried in the churchyard. It is also unpleasant for those who volunteer to keep the churchyard maintained.

Please be prepared to clean up after your dog, and keep it on a lead, so you are aware of what it might be up to! Thank you.

Charcoal Burners Concert

Save the Date - Saturday Evening - 28th September. The 'Charcoal Burners' will be performing at Framfield Church. We are hosting this social event in conjunction with the PTA of Framfield CE Primary School. Proceeds will go to the School Roof Fund.

The Charcoal Burners are a folk/fusion group.
Visit <http://www.thecharcoalburners.com>

Event details to follow - please see Church website.
framfieldchurch.org.uk

Framfield Parish Council

MEETING SCHEDULE 2019

On each date detailed below, generally two meetings will be held plus an informal Trust update.

(Planning Committee may be cancelled if not essential):

Planning Committee – commencement time will vary (6/6.30 pm)

Trust update - commencing at 7 pm

Parish Council - commencing at 7.30 pm.

24 September (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

26 November (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825- 890182 / clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

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



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Framfield Parish Council now has a social media account with Facebook (www.facebook.com/framfieldparishcouncil) where useful and pertinent information will be posted. This method proves very useful in today's technological society and can often be a rapid way to disseminate information rapidly. The Parish Council are trialling this for 6 months but would like to stress that if residents have any concerns or issues, they should contact the Parish Council either by phone or email in the first instance. We also have a website for those that are unaware, which can be visited at www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk



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

11th August 10.00 am
8th September 10.00 am



Building through Blessing in
Blackboys and Beyond

New Life is a small thriving Church with a desire to grow both in depth and number. At our heart we are a family of people, young and old, who are seeking to deepen our relationship with God, one another and with the people we come alongside in our day to day lives. We are a new congregation formed just over 5 years ago but are part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain a network of over 2000 churches which has its roots back in the 17th Century.

We gather together for a weekly service on Sunday mornings at Blackboys village hall starting with coffee and cake at 10.30am. The last Sunday of the month is always an All Age Service often followed by lunch. We also have a Sunday evening prayer meeting and Life Groups which meet during the week.

We hope that you will find our church family relaxed, informal and friendly yet with a desire to live our faith in a way that is authentic and real. It would be great to meet you sometime and if you have any queries don't hesitate to contact me, we could always meet in the Grove for a coffee and a chat.

Revd Guy Partridge

guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com
01825 891133 or 07702 836057

*And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)*

Nature Notes

It is now high summer, mid-July as I write. I have just returned from a 1100 km eight week walk in the wilds of southern France and northern Spain along the pilgrimage routs of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The habitats and wildlife that I encountered along the way were frequently amazing. We started by walking across the very flat and sandy forest of Landes de Gascogne in Aquitaine, just a few metres above sea level. This is reputed to be the largest forest in Europe, and has been a source of French timber for several hundred years. Much of the forest is planted maritime pine, but the natural ecosystem is oak dominated woodland, with strawberry trees and heathers, which still persist in much of the area. I was amazed at the number of nightingales that I heard singing, not only in the French forests but also along Spanish sections of the Camino. There were also many wood warblers, both of the afore-mentioned species are increasingly rare in Britain.

A very rare plant that I have studied in Sussex because of its rarity called the spiked rampion was also frequently encountered along the French part of the Camino. Similarly, I studied the very rare early spider orchid on the South Downs near Brighton, but these were also frequently encountered along both the French and Spanish sections of the Camino.

Once out of Aquitaine, we were in the Pyrenean mountains where we quickly encountered vultures, black and red kites and other birds of prey. However, the weather was so challenging with rain, wind and cold that it was not very conducive to nature study. Once over the Pyrenees we were on the high plains and further mountains of Northern Spain, encountering altitudes up to 1500 metres above sea level. The wild flowers in these areas were truly amazing, along with further rare birds such as the red-backed shrike, crested larks, cetti's warblers and circl buntings. One of the most remarkable encounters was at the many churches along the Spanish Camino, the majority of which had one or more pairs of white storks breeding on the roofs and spires. Most of these were seen during May and June after arriving from their African wintering quarters, and had quite large nestlings. The adults, which are very mate faithful and long-lived, greeted each other frequently with clackering of their beaks sounding like the banging of a hollow log with drumsticks.

Martyn Stenning

At a time when some trees and bushes are producing berries I think it is worth thinking about why this happens during Autumn and Winter. We celebrate the holly, ivy and mistletoe at Christmas, but these berries are not appearing now by accident.

Winter is a difficult time for birds, and a time when mortality is high, and the individuals that are best adapted to survival will get through to Spring and attempt to reproduce.

However, the berries are there at this time, not specifically out of altruism to provide food for these birds, rather they are enrolling the birds as seed dispersers and winged conveyers of the plant's offspring. A bit like the proverbial stork delivering babies.

The three plant species mentioned could not look more different. Holly is our only evergreen broad-leaved tree (if you do not count box which is really a shrub). In fact, all three are evergreen. Also, Holly like the other two is dioecious – has male and female plants and only females have berries of course. Ivy is an evergreen liana climber and mistletoe is a parasitic plant that taps into a host tree's vascular system. All three produce berries during the autumn and winter.

Many birds overwinter in Britain because of our temperate climate, but also because there is food to be had in the form of a bribe offered by the above plants and others like hawthorn (haws) and rose bushes (hips). The berries are eaten, often whole, and the tasty nutritious coating is digested. However, the seeds pass through the bird's body and emerge in a tiny packet of compost, often while the bird is roosting in a bush at night, but just as often when flying or looking for more food. The seeds then germinate in the spring and a new generation of the plants is produced in a new location..

This relationship has persisted because all members of the partnership benefit. Moreover, the benefits lead on to successful reproduction meaning that the tradition is perpetuated into future generations.

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Heathfield, TN21 0DZ

Email: graceannand@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

At the time of writing the new waste contractor has just begun the contract and so far, I haven't had a call! I am hoping that remains the same but as always please do not hesitate to contact me if you experience any problems.

As you are all no doubt aware, the new contract means that glass recycling can now be mixed in with the rest of the household recycling which I think makes recycling easier for everyone. Also, with the new arrangements which are between ESCC and Viridor, we will no longer be able to take waxed Tetrapak type drinks cartons as recycling. These should now be placed in the household waste bin and will be sent to the local energy recovery facility in Newhaven which creates power for the National Grid.

Street Learning – as part of Street Learning, East Sussex College is running 11 distance-learning courses. Successful students are awarded a Level 2 Certificate Qualification. Courses cover a range of health issues including Dementia Care, Mental Health, Nutrition & Health and Understanding Safeguarding and Prevention.

Wealden's latest tourist guide, 'We do the Best Attractions 2019', can be downloaded from the Wealden website (www.wealden.gov.uk). It features over 80 attractions, including information on available walking and cycling routes, and details of 9 golf courses and 15 vineyards. There are 16 special offers to take advantage of on presentation of the coupons printed within the guide. Offers available this year include: 2 for 1 discounts off entrance prices, produce and wine sales.

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



Framfield & Blackboys WI

FANTASTIC DAY AT KEW



The centre section of the Temperate House

Members and friends had a wonderful day at Kew Gardens 25th June. On arrival everyone boarded the Kew Explorer for a whistle stop tour around the gardens before splitting up to see whichever features captured their imagination. The Great Broad Walk Borders were a riot of colour and the newly refurbished Temperate House complete with Dale Chihuly glass sculptures was stunning. The day was not nearly long enough to fully explore these historic gardens. 'When can we go back again?' was the question going round the coach on the way back.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show - Saturday, August 10th

We look forward to welcoming you to our stand

Quiz Night - Friday, October 4th - Framfield Memorial Hall

Tickets: £10 - includes two course super

Family Treasure Hunt - Sunday, October 6th - Uckfield

£2 per family or group of 5 - Details to follow

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 10th - Blackboys Village Hall

Ros Black will give a talk on the

Duxhurst Farm Colony For Inebriate Women

**If you would like to join us, please contact Philomena on 01825 890216.
Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI**

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

- 2nd SEPTEMBER Boccia (bowls) 2.30pm
Framfield Memorial Hall
- 16th SEPTEMBER 1PM BIRTHDAY LUNCH at
Buxted Pavillion
Fish and Chips /Quiche / Trifle

Any queries, please contact Sandy Rogers
Tel -01825 840648 | Mobile - 0759 284 1275 | sandyrogers77@gmail.com

Sundays at the Grove

**If you live alone and would like to enjoy
Sunday lunch in the company of others,
why not join us at the Grove?**

**Every third Sunday of the month
at 1.00pm
A two course lunch with tea or coffee
for £6**

To reserve your place or for more details
please contact Gillian on 07729 478797
or email 3rdSundayLunch@gmail.com

The Grove Brownings Farm Workshops
Lewes Road
Blackboys TN22 5HG



Hosted by New Life Blackboys



We are a community village Pre-School with our own purpose built premises, which are spacious, well-appointed and registered with Ofsted

The Pre-School is open weekdays from 07.45-6.00pm operates in line with the school's terms allowing for inset days where applicable.

Full Time Day Care for 2-4yrs
Breakfast & After School Club for 2-11yrs

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Also now accepting Early Learning places for eligible 2yr olds

Rated OUTSTANDING by Ofsted May 2017

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

Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Community Fund Projects for 2019/20

The Framfield and Blackboys Summer Show is supported and enjoyed by many in the villages and two years ago it was decided that one third of the profit should be used to fund deserving projects in the community. Last year the money, together with funding from the Parish Council, was used to plant a Red Oak on each of the recreation grounds to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

This year, following a call for applications, it has been decided that the money will be divided between 'The Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club' and 'The Framfield Stagers'; each will receive £200. Both these deserving causes will be known to villagers.

'The Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club' with a membership of over 50, including helpers, provides a varied programme of events for senior citizens in the parishes ranging from talks, quizzes, visits, craft activities and even indoor games. Perhaps the highlight of the year is the 'Big Christmas Party' and the money will be put towards this event in 2019.

'The Framfield Stagers' are a vibrant amateur dramatics group who have been performing for over two decades, entertaining families from the local area with their pantomimes, cabaret shows and, of course, their annual appearance at the Summer Show. The funding will be put towards their 2020 pantomime. Rehearsals start in the autumn and I know that they would welcome new recruits!

Funding for groups like these two worthy recipients is only possible if the Summer Show is a success and that depends on support from you, the local community, so please do come along on Saturday 10th August and enjoy the fun! With your help we hope that the Show will generate more funds for distribution in 2020 and that these two awards will give other groups/activities in the parishes the stimulus to put in their own applications next time – it really is very simple! A stand at the Show will give more information.

Trevor Hince - Chair Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

Christian Aid Collection

The recent Framfield Parish Collection raised £205.95. Thank you to all our magazine distributors who took out the envelopes, and to the collection points.

BLACKBOYS PRESCHOOL – JOB VACANCY

Blackboys preschool are looking to recruit a Deputy Manager for their thriving Preschool. Candidates must have a relevant level 3 qualification, at least 2 years' experience in childcare, good knowledge of the EYFS and sound knowledge of safeguarding. For more information and an application form please contact Jo on 01825 891113 or email jo@blackboypeschool.org.uk

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FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

The Parish Council has a new member – Bob Bather. He was welcomed on board in June. If anyone else is interested please let me know.

Dialogue is still and always will be ongoing with ESCC on the many and varied Highways-related issues within the Parish. An advisory sign is about to be installed inside the boundary of Squires Farm industrial estate asking HGV drivers to only turn left out of the estate. The same has already been installed at Enlightened Business Park. Let's hope this will make a difference.

A very kind resident has donated a bench to replace the seat outside the Hare & Hounds and has indeed also discovered what should be inscribed on the back in the way of a dedication – 'The Ancient Order of Foresters'. The seat will be installed shortly and grateful thanks go to the resident for his generosity and knowledge.

New fencing has been erected around the play area on Framfield recreation ground thanks to a grant obtained for over £7k.

At the Village Hall in Blackboys, it is very sad to have to state that casual hirers will no longer be able to use the outside play area (owned by the Pre-school) due to vandalism.

Parish Magazine. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact me. It gets more and more difficult to find new advertisers due, I think to the use of online advertising, but many residents still find the magazine a useful directory when looking for professional help.

Framfield Village Market (usually the last Saturday in the month) – 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 Memorial Hall. Doors open at 10 am.

Recreation grounds, play areas etc - If anyone believes they have discovered a fault or problem with play equipment at 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.

All agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website. The full minutes of all meetings are also on the website. Please do not rely on the contents of this magazine for meeting dates etc as the website and noticeboards are more up to date, particularly if you have any queries regarding potential or live planning applications.

They'll pass Rye, Shoreham, Exceat, Newhaven and Littlehampton and head out over the great Atlantic Shelf and into darkness. Here's where the silver eels vanish. Exactly where they go and how they get there is unknown. Yet each year the Sargasso will mysteriously spawn a new cloud of transparent tourists hell-bent on holidaying in Sussex by the Sea.

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 or over the phone on 01273 497532.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

I hope everyone is enjoying the lovely weather this summer.

We are holding our annual jumble sale at Framfield Hall as usual this year. It will be on Saturday 12th October. Proceeds to the Salvation Army.

We will be very grateful for donations of any clothes, bric a brac etc. I know this is an early reminder but please can you save your items for us!

Many thanks,
Ann Dawe 01825 890506

European Eel by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Alternating currents

In August many of us migrate towards the sea; exchanging our familiar habitats for a few weeks in someplace sunnier and sandier. As we leave our county a mysterious creature, born in the dark depths of a distant ocean, is heading towards Sussex for a holiday of its own.

Let me take you 3500 miles west to the wide Sargasso Sea, an area of the North Atlantic known to superstitious seamen (and Barry Manilow fans) as The Bermuda Triangle. Today the once mythical Sargasso is infamous for being the North Atlantic's waste dump where surface currents deposit our non-degradable floating flotsam. But the Sargasso still holds one last mystery. Each year millions of transparent slithers, like a blizzard of tiny polythene leaves, rise from its depths. It's almost as if the seaweed and the spirits of sunken sailors have merged with the PVC and plastic to create the leptocephali; the larval stage of the European Eel. These see-through seafarers go with the flow and slowly drift across the North Atlantic on a three-year Gulf Stream cruise.

Upon reaching Britain's coastal waters their appearance changes. They are now wriggling transparent tubes with black eyes; 'glass eels'. Riding the Rother, Ouse, Cuckmere, Arun and Adur they swim upstream. In these brackish waters their bodies darken; a tidal tan. They are now elvers. They finally make it to their Sussex holiday homes, exchanging saltwater for freshwater in the myriad of streams and brooks that feed our county's rivers. Yellow-bellied and small-eyed these are yellow eels and will holiday here for around 15 to 30 years. But, as with all holidays, the day comes when you have to return home. In the depths of the eel's mind a primeval urge is awakened. The Sargasso is calling. Their bodies harden, their eyes widen, their stomachs shrivel and yellow eels become silver eels and start their epic journey home. Nothing gets in their way. Land, traditionally an inconvenient barrier for a fish, does not stop them. On dark, wet nights the silver eels crawl out of the water, slithering snake-like across fields and back into the river system.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182.

Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Churchyard Regulations

It has become apparent to myself and the PCC that we need to bring everyone up-to-speed regarding the Churchyard Regulations. There is an expectation by the Diocese that the graveyard should be a place of dignity and order. We are not at liberty to remodel gravesites after initial permissions have been given. To this end I have placed a précised copy of the regulations in the blue notice board by the lych-gate.

The most emotive issue appears to be the addition of garden kerbing (concrete or wood) infilled with small stones or slate chippings. These are not allowed by the Chancellor and I haven't given anyone 'special permission' as it would be refused. Ideally the ground around the headstone should be level and grassed to facilitate easy maintenance by the team of volunteers and preservation of the machinery used. Additionally, the use of jam-jars to hold flowers is inappropriate. They are undignified, unstable and hazardous. Purpose made freestanding grave flower holders are available via local memorial masons or funeral directors.

Some folk may not be happy with the regulations but myself and the PCC haven't written them. However, we are required to ensure that they are abided to.

Revd C Lawrence on behalf of Framfield PCC.

Waldon Country Market

Waldron Country Market is held at Holy Cross Priory, TN21 0DZ (Possingworth) (on the B2102 between Cross in Hand and Blackboys, near the Tunbridge Wells turn). Next markets Thursday 8th August, and Thursday 12th September.

For more information contact Graeme Mackenzie 01435

866419. There is also a Facebook link - @WaldronCountryMarket.

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

ELEPHANTS.

I have just finished reading a book I was given for Christmas. It is called the Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony. It is about a herd of troubled and wild elephants that the author agreed to take on to his game reserve called Thula Thula in Zululand South Africa

This is an incredible book about the relationship between a herd of unpredictable elephants and the author who gradually gained their confidence and friendship. The book is full of information about the different elephants in the herd and how they behaved. I was fascinated to learn that they can communicate over vast areas by their stomach rumblings and how tactile their trunks are.

There is a terrifying account of one of the elephants charging the Land Rover and turning it over. The reason for this is explained in the book. Reading this reminded me of a holiday my husband and I had many years ago when we had a holiday in Kenya. Our son Michael, who went to Blackboys School, was teaching out there and arranged a wonderful holiday for us staying in various game parks. Because Michael and his partner were residents he was able to drive us in his car round the game parks to show us the wild life, a very different experience to the organised safari tourist excursions. We had just booked into a tented camp site when Michael suggested he could take us for a drive to see if we could see any wildlife in the area. Driving carefully along we saw a herd of elephants ahead of us, crossing the track. Michael's partner was driving at the time and stopped the car but left the engine running which is a recognised safety precaution. The elephants looked so peaceful and completely ignored the car as it was some distance away. It was wonderful to just sit quietly in the car and watch them. Suddenly a noisy Land Rover appeared going very fast. It rushed past us and startled the elephants as it swept past them. In a moment the situation had changed and we were in danger as one elephant started to charge towards our car. We accelerated away but still the elephant continued its charge. I remember sitting in the back looking

out the window and saying, "It's still coming It's still coming" It was a terrifying experience. Eventually the elephant gave up.

The Land Rover had come from the camp we had booked into. The owners were told most forcefully that they had put us in great danger. They were most apologetic and explained that they were in a hurry to retrieve a dead animal that could be fed to some orphan lion cubs. The only good thing to come out of that incident was our accommodation was upgraded to the most expensive and luxurious tent which even had a hot water shower. We were treated like royalty and had a super free dinner. There were lions on the site and we were escorted by an armed guard to the restaurant after dark. Lying in bed at night it was quite exciting hearing the eerie "cough" of the lions and there was nothing to stop them wandering into our tent. Sitting by the camp fire at night we could see them on the far side of the site, occasionally one would come nearer the tents and a guard would quietly watch it till it wandered off again.

We had other drives around the game parks. Our son explained that the most dangerous wild animals were the Buffalo. Guess what we encountered round the next bend? Yes, Buffalo! What I enjoyed most of all was just watching all the wildlife. At one camp it was possible to go down some steps into a secret rocky viewing area where you could watch the elephants scratching their bottoms on the rocks and interact with each other without interference from human beings. Sadly a lot of television focus is on the wildlife being caught, darted, tagged, and transported etcetera, probably because it is easier to film.

While writing this in July I have had my own bit of wild life come to visit me. A little Robin has hopped up the step, walked through the utility room, come into the office and perched on the chair to watch me write this.

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