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St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council*

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020

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 : **Mrs Gaynor Robson**

All communications for church matters should be directed to the Church Office – 10.30 am – 5.00 pm (closed Wednesday)

Email - revchris.framfield@gmail.com
Post - Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane, Framfield TN22 5NH
Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090



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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

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For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Keith Brandon

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Newton**

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Freedom at last!

Greetings to everyone in the parish. I do hope everyone is getting along ok.

So how have you found lockdown? It all came upon us rather abruptly on the 23rd March. Suddenly our freedom was drastically restricted with the mandate to stay at home, one form of exercise each day, only travel to work if you couldn't work from home or if you were a key-worker. Only go out to buy food and essentials or for medical reasons.

Overall, it was a very short list of the things we could do in our virtual prisons. By far the greatest loss over the past few months has been the lack of human contact. Families and friends have really missed not being able to see each other and the closure of café's, restaurants and pubs have been a real blow to many.

There is so much we take for granted and it appears that until something is taken away it doesn't really dawn on us how valuable that something is. Thankfully, the Lockdown measures are gradually being removed and our freedoms are being restored.

Freedom and our perceptions of freedom mean different things to different people.

During lockdown we definitely knew what we could and what we couldn't do.

When we think about the law within the UK it begs the questions are we freer when there are laws or are we freer without them?

Fundamentally, UK law is based on the 10 commandments; particularly 4-10 as they affect our human relationships and society in general.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. Thou shalt not make to thyself any idol
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy
5. Honour thy father and thy mother
6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour
10. Thou shalt not covet

In Old Testament times the Jewish nation were bound by the 10 commandments (The Law) but also a whole host of religious laws until the time of Christ. Those who came to believe in Christ were in essence set free from the commandments from a religious perspective but the moral law was still honoured as it is today. Paul writing to the church in Galatia said this - **Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.** (*Gal 5:1 The Message*). The forgiveness of sin through the sacrificial death of Jesus brings spiritual freedom to all who believe. However, spiritual freedom is the catalyst to physical and mental freedom. We may not realise it but until the Spirit of Christ comes to dwell within us we are prisoners to sin and unwittingly controlled by our sinful nature. If we think a few months of Lockdown is

curtailing our freedoms then we need to grasp the bigger picture of what a lifetime of bondage really amounts to.

St Paul had a problem in Galatia in as much that the new converts didn't really know what they had been freed from until he pointed it out i.e. Galatians 5:13

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.

God gives us free will and it is possible to continue to indulge the sinful nature even after our spirits have been reborn. However, the propensity to sin has been overcome and we are no longer slaves to our previous corrupt nature. The inner witness of the Holy Spirit becomes our guide and empowers us from within so Paul is able to write:-

My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

²²⁻²³ **But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.**

²³⁻²⁴ **Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way.**

Lockdown has given many people the opportunity to take stock of life and the opportunity to ponder what lifestyle choices are to be changed and carried into the future.

Christ offers us the opportunity to trade in our old life for something brand new and altogether more wholesome. Paul writing in 2 Corinthians 5:17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

When you read the Fruit of the Spirit and what God longs to grow within us it really is a very good deal!

Abundant blessings to all in the parish – stay safe. Revd Chris Lawrence

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Wealden District Council is slowly getting back to what may become the new normal. We now have up to 24 officers in the Hailsham offices at any one time on a rota system with all the others working from home very well. Officers in different fields – Planning, Building Control, Environmental Health – are also now making visits again.

We are still having remote meetings to try and keep the democratic processes running – and until Government guidance states to the contrary we will continue to do so.

All the leaders of the Districts and Boroughs in East Sussex recently wrote a letter to the Secretary of State asking for some relaxation of the targets in the number of planning approvals we have to achieve due to the backlog during to the Covid 19 crisis – we await to hear. The same has been sent from West Sussex Leaders.

Review of the Housing Allocations Policy – Cabinet has approved a number of changes which will make it easier for older people to live near their families and for people to remain in their village. Residency requirements have been lowered and the threshold for savings or capital has been increased – this is particularly aimed to help older people. Full details are available from WDC.

'Call for Sites' (SHELAA – Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment). Some of you may have heard me on Uckfield FM answering questions about the recently re-opened SHELAA. The SHELAA forms an early part of the Local Plan process asking landowners to put land into the call for sites for development. This does not mean that every piece of land will be used – some is deemed suitable, some unsuitable. It just gives WDC a broader perspective when putting together the Local Plan enabling more cohesive planning rather than something which can be rather hit and miss.

I am very happy to speak to anyone with concerns about Planning and can talk about the Local Plan.

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

Telephone - 01825 890103.

Email – aenewton1965@gmail.com



Framfield & Blackboys WI

LADIES IN WAITING

Waiting to find out when we can begin meeting again.

Meantime, we're keeping in touch and supporting each other in any way possible within the lockdown guidelines.

Some of us have been knitting blankets for Alzheimer's sufferers. Others have been meeting in a socially distanced way to applaud for the NHS. Some members have been working hard to keep foodbanks operating and delivering supplies to the vulnerable. Some have simply been at the other end of the 'phonenumber for anyone needing a chat. Every member who's had a birthday during lockdown has received a birthday card from her WI.

We're learning to love our longer hair and untinted roots and hoping to be able to visit our hairdressers before we meet again! But the main thing is, we all believe that we will meet again.

Waldon Country Market

Waldon Country Market is cancelled until further notice.

For more information contact Graeme Mackenzie 01435 866419. There is also a Facebook link - @WaldonCountryMarket.

Diary of Church Services

NB – Currently all Services are postponed until further notice. Please check the Church Website for updates and on-line services each week.

AUGUST 2020

- 02 Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing
- 09 Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 16 Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 23 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 30 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise

SEPTEMBER 2020

(In the hope that the church may be given the go ahead re-open on the 5th)

- 06 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing

- 13 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 10.00 am Family Service
 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with
 Prayer for Healing
- 20 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 27 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 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 10th SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

Our members /helpers send greetings to you all,
 And hope this finds you being able to cope with this crisis,
 I'm pleased to say although difficult time, our members are well,
 and am in touch with them often. To help with this time we have
 been doing a monthly newsletter, which consists of a Club letter,
 funny page, poems, and word search, crosswords etc, this time a
 page in memory of Dame Vera Lynn. Also our front page shows
 one of our members, Doug Burchett who will be 100 on 2nd
 August - I recently rang him and he said "Any news on restart
 of Monday Club ? Cause I'll be back"

Amazing ! Also we must not forget another member, Cynthia
 Foregard who will be 99 on July 18th, we are so blessed to have
 these members, In fact all our 52 members.

But no news on our restart, we are having a Committee meeting
 in August, but we can only go back when its safe for our members
 to return as ages from 64-100yrs, their Safety comes First.

May be this year, may be next year !

Best Wishes to you All

Sandy Rogers - 01825 840648 sandyrogers77@gmail.com

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thousands and thousands of tiny dots of colour and brush strokes, visible only when you're close up to the painting ('Pointillisme'). Only when you step back can you figure out the actual painting. Close up, the dots don't make sense.

This pandemic has made so many fearful and confused, wondering where the world is headed. Looking at the thousands and thousands of stars in the night sky can also make us ask what the big picture is. We often struggle to make sense of our lives. It's like looking just at the 'dots' and being unable to work it all out.

Yet the same God who made the stars has promised to help us in our distress, in these days of fear and loneliness. The stars point to an underlying beautiful, coherent picture where the dots all join up in the canvas of the greatness and love of God.

If brokenhearted is where you are just now, these Psalm verses are special for you. God deeply understands broken hearts (witness Jesus' terrible suffering on the Cross), and can heal our hurting, dislocated lives, as we place our trust in him.

With my very best wishes as we continue to navigate these difficult days,

Clive, New Life Church, Blackboys.

Framfield Church – Coronavirus update

Reopening the Church

We are still in the decision making process on restarting formal services, but it is unlikely that the church will re-open this month, and possibly remain closed for services through to the end of August.

We are hoping to be open for individual prayer in the near future – see our website www.framfieldchurch.org.uk for further details.



You can also visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/framfieldchurch> for updates.

In the meantime we will continue to deliver online services.

Support us during the Coronavirus crisis

In the light of the current world situation and the subsequent need to suspend all services and close all churches, we are looking at ways in which we may mitigate the financial loss to the church.

We now have an online giving page at:

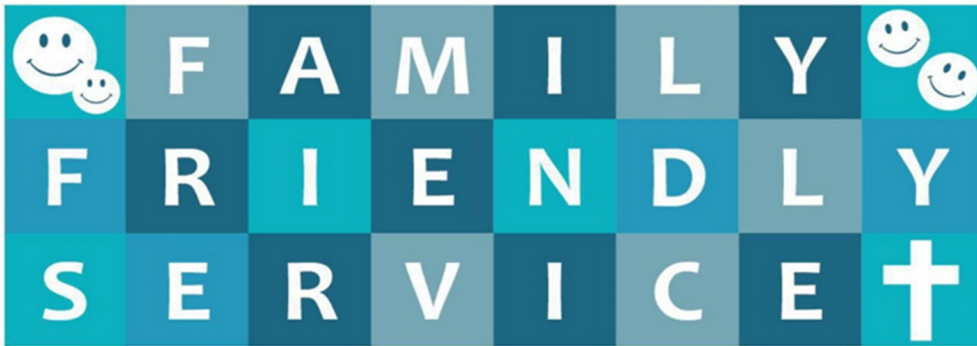
www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/donate.html. We would be very grateful for your help – like all organisations our costs continue, but income has shrunk.

Supporting you during the Coronavirus crisis

As a church we have a list of folks who are willing to shop for those who are self-isolating. Points of contact will be on the noticeboard and on the church website. I'll be on the Church Office telephone number (01825 891090) if you need to contact me or leave a message. If it's urgent please ring the Vicarage (01825 890365).

Hopefully, we can all stay well during this challenging period and help each other out where it's appropriate to do so.

May God bless One and All – Revd Chris Lawrence



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

9th August 10.00 am
13th September 10.00 am

Looking for a local venue?

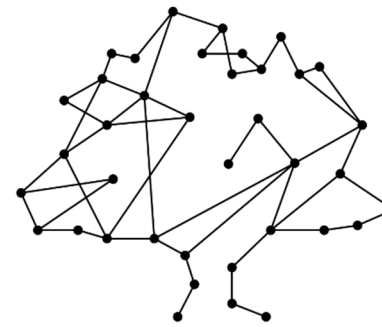
Then look no further !

Framfield Church Hall is well placed in the village next to the Church. It is ideal for regular meetings, social & other events, special occasions, keep fit, exercise groups, birthday parties and other activities.

The Hall can be used as an open space or with tables / seating for up to 60 persons. There is a fitted kitchen with catering equipment & crockery etc, a large AV screen, sound system, two loos (one with disabled facilities) and two disabled parking spaces directly outside the Hall.

Currently it is used for Art classes, Pilates, Exercise groups, Drama, Singing, Presentations, Training events and birthday parties. Further Mother and baby fitness classes start on the 22nd of March. Our rates are £10.00 per hour.

For more details about the hall and its events please get in touch with John Mordaunt on 01825 890443; mobile 07989 587459 or email: johnmordaunt1@gmail.com



NEWLIFE

NEW LIFE CHURCH MID-SUSSEX
 Meets in Blackboys Village Hall
www.newlifemidsussex.com

Here are two biblical images that don't seem to go together - Psalm 147 verse 3: 'God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds'. Straight after that comes: 'God determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name...Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.'

I'm hit by the clash of these two images, side by side in this psalm. Broken hearts and stars? The stars when seen in a dark sky are breathtaking, revealing God's power and glory. The brokenhearted suffer so deeply. These two verses are deliberately linked together by the psalmist. Why?

Because the God who made the heavens is the same God who has the power to help us in our suffering and pain, which may be your experience during these days of Covid19. The author, Derek Kidner, commenting on these verses said, 'The One who marshals the host of stars is more than equal to the problems of his people.'

In a Chicago art museum is a painting by Georges Seurat, called 'Sunday afternoon at La Grande Jatte' - a scene of Parisians picnicking by the Seine. It's a canvas 2 metres by 3 metres - remarkable, as it is composed simply of



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Nature Notes

So, where have we got to in the process of saving the planet? I heard a saying this morning at the on-line funeral of Uckfield's wildlife Ranger Geoff Pollard. The minister said that it is not what you own that is important but how much your life matters. We have heard much recently about "black lives matter". My feeling is that all life matters in some way; from the humble oceanic green plankton cells that make about 70% of our oxygen to the giant top predators, such as lions and polar bears that control populations of the prey that they eat. Every living thing is part of a food web, and we humans are blessed with the intelligence to manage life on earth. So how are we doing?

Geoff Pollard was the Ranger managing Uckfield's 2 Local Nature Reserves and other wild places such as Boothland and Nightingale woods. Geoff was doing something professionally that maybe we could all be doing in aspects of our lives. Sadly, he died suddenly at work. When we choose our purchases, we can try to see if they are from a sustainable source. We can avoid using pesticides unless it is truly essential. We can manage our gardens sympathetically for wildlife.

I am writing this from France, at a Bergerie Landaise, which is essentially a shepherd's house in a field with a small copse of elm trees. We are trying to manage this site as a sanctuary for wildlife, which made it difficult when we arrived here this week after 6 months without human intervention, 3 of which were in lockdown due to COVID-19. The outcome is that the field has grown a fine crop of hay, the harvesting of which I am taking a break from to write these notes. Hay making is a sustainable way of interrupting natural succession from grassland to woodland which humans have been doing for thousands of years. Many animals, such as earthworms, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, bush crickets, lizards and snakes, moles, mice and voles, house sparrows, buntings and herons (yes herons love to hunt moles on grassland when they cannot find a fish), harriers, owls and kestrels, hares, rabbits and foxes have adapted to this practice and adjust their lives accordingly. Having trees nearby allows many more species of bird, such as blackbirds, thrushes, doves, finches, several species of titmouse, treecreepers, woodpeckers and orioles to join the throng

Martyn Stenning

I'm a huge fan of sci-fi B-movies and they don't come any better (or worse) than 1957's *Beginning of the End*. It's the usual story; overeager government scientists intent on increasing crop yield inadvertently create giant irradiated grasshoppers the size of double-decker buses, which set about destroying Chicago. There are some similar creatures lurking around Sussex. OK, they're not going to come stomping around Sompting any day soon but they're still mighty impressive.

The Great Green Bush Cricket can claim to be Britain's biggest insect. Yet this Godzilla of the undergrowth is surprisingly hard to see. Its long, leaf-like body blends in amongst the brambles rendering it almost invisible. Bug eyes, impressive jaws and twirling antennae give it some monster movie credentials but there's nothing to fear from this harmless native.

There are about 35 species of crickets and grasshoppers (Orthoptera) in Britain. Crickets differ from grasshoppers by having much longer, thread-like antennae and they 'sing' by rubbing their wings together (while grasshoppers rub their legs against their wings). This song, or stridulation, is the male's way of romancing a female – who, if interested, will reply. The best chance of finding the Great Green Bush Cricket is to head out on a warm August evening and listen for their downland duets – a loud, incessant rattle. Imagine an enthusiastic maraca player.

I recently went for a walk through the flower-rich meadows of Sussex Wildlife Trust's Southerham reserve. I was blown away by the wall of sound created by hundreds of crickets and grasshoppers but it became apparent that not everyone could hear this orthopteran orchestra. The sad truth is that as we get older our ears can't tune in to the higher frequencies produced by these insects and species by species they fall silent. I have a compilation CD of the chirps and buzzes of Britain's crickets and grasshoppers – a sort of 'Now That's What I Call Stridulation'. I played it this morning and track 24 had gone. It was there a few years ago but now... silence. I've started to lose my crickets. The beginning of the end.

It isn't just me who will be hearing less wildlife in the future. Our countryside is becoming quieter as crickets, bees and birds vanish. Wildflower meadows, the home to crickets and grasshoppers, have been lost and the wildlife that depends on them have silently disappeared. The 'Silent Spring' predicted by Rachel Carson

Covid 19 – with the ever-moving feast of daily updates on the national situation, we are working hard to re-open the play areas and halls. Indeed by the time this is being read, I would expect the play areas to be open.

Village signs – in case anyone has noticed, the village signs in Framfield and Palehouse Common have been removed for repair. We hope to have them both back in place in September.

Bus shelters – now that the bus timetable is more or less back to normal, could I ask that items do not stray from the storage cupboards to the seating area or floor. People need to be able to shelter from the rain and sit down if they wish to do so. If any items are left in either place they will be removed.

Framfield Village Market (usually the last Saturday in the month) – please be advised that there will be no market until further notice. The situation will be reviewed in September. Please keep an eye on the local press, website, Facebook for news – the usual banner will also be put up so keep your eyes peeled!

All Parish Council meetings have been cancelled until further notice although we will have held a remote meeting in mid July.

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, any additional notification is important to the Council. The play areas will be re-opened when Government guidelines allow.

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.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182/

Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

and had put in place rigorous procedures to keep everyone safe. When the next school year starts in September, we are delighted to report that all year groups will be open and a sense of the "new normal" can be seen. It will be an exciting time.

During this challenging time, children, parents, Governors and staff have been excellent in both schools and as Headteachers we are grateful for the support that has been offered. Thank you.

Mrs Lisa Pestell, Headteacher at Framfield CE School and Mr Graham Sullivan, Headteacher at Blackboys CE School.

Graham Sullivan
Headteacher
Blackboys CE School
School Lane
Blackboys, Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5LL

01825890423
@blackboysschool

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.

in 1962 has seeped across every season. This August, get out and listen to the sounds of summer before they fade.

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



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I can be contacted on lerrynfarm@btinternet.com- 07752098849

Let me know if you would like to see the latest catalogue

Ask to join my Facebook Group for the latest news

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thebodyshopwithdawn/>

[We will be back at Framfield Village Market when it resumes](#)



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As this strange summer goes on, gardening and being outside continue to be a source of comfort and 'reality' to many. Plants have not been in 'lockdown' and with the warm sunshine, have grown, flowered and/or are producing the vegetables or fruit we want to harvest – weeds keep growing too! With the easing of restrictions there is the opportunity to visit some larger gardens where social-distancing can be maintained but the smaller intimate gardens which we all love pottering around remain closed.

As you all know, very sadly, we have had to cancel the Summer Show this year because of the Covid 19 pandemic and the associated restrictions on people gathering together. However, that does not mean that you will not have the opportunity to show off the results of your efforts in the garden or allotment. The Society will be holding a 'Just for Fun' Virtual Summer Show based on your photographs displayed on the Society's Website. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of Terry, Denise and Emma who have put together a show schedule of 12 classes there will be lots for all the family to get involved in, including the ever popular display of scarecrows. Details of the Virtual Summer Show including the show schedule and deadline for entries can be found elsewhere in this on-line Parish Magazine, also on the Parish website and Facebook pages. Of course, details are also on the Society's website (address below) and Facebook pages so there is no excuse for you all not to get photographing and helping to make the 'Just for Fun' Virtual Summer Show a celebration of your efforts and achievements in 'lockdown'.

Sadly the Society's programme of events remains suspended and we are very sorry that we were not able to visit some lovely local gardens, - but there will be next year! On a positive note, the planned visit to Laurence Hobbs Orchid Nursery (Wednesday 30th September) is still scheduled to go ahead but, of course, in line with social-distancing guidelines. Please keep an eye on our website for precise details of the visit.

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

Clearly the academic year of 2019/20 will be long in the memory.

In an unprecedented action, along with all schools nationally, both Blackboys and Framfield CE Schools closed for the majority of their pupils on 20th March. That said, during school closures, both schools worked extremely hard for the parish and community as a whole. Both schools were open the following Monday (23rd March) to welcome in the children of Keyworkers. Staff in both schools volunteered to supervise this valuable group of children. With up to 15 keyworker children a day, school was still a hive of industry, just on a smaller scale. Also during the time of closure, both schools provided daily "home learning" for the pupils, making use of our online presence. Children rapidly filled up their home learning exercise books with some great work as parents slipped seamlessly into the role of teacher! We also learnt a new communication tool: Zoom. Quite how we would all have managed 20 years ago if this pandemic had happened we do not know, but utilising the flexibility of Zoom was instrumental in keeping the school community in touch. Lessons, parent meetings, music lessons, assemblies, parent teacher meetings and staff meetings have all taken place thanks to this.

It was always essential to try and replicate school as much as possible. This was recently evidenced by both schools running virtual sports days and taking part in a super competitive initiative called the Sussex Schools' Games. The interaction, despite being of a remote nature, has been vital for children to keep up their social and emotional wellbeing.

On 1st June children in years R, 1 and 6 were permitted to return to school along with children deemed as vulnerable and Keyworker pupils. Both schools were thrilled by the numbers of children returning

12. Scarecrow – Family Entry

Make a scarecrow and display it outside your home from the 8th to the 21st August.

Send the address to Denise (details below) and we will organise a photograph to be taken.

Entry by sending your details. (See below.)

*Winner decided by **Vote**.*

It will be very odd not to have our regular community show this year, but we hope you will embrace our Virtual Show and participate in the spirit intended.

Most of all we hope you will have fun taking part and please stay safe.

We hope to be back with the full, real Summer Show on 14th August 2021.

Entry Details:

Photographs to be sent from 8th August – Deadline is **6pm** on 15th August.

Please email your entries to Denise at fabhs.info@gmail.com by 15th August, 6pm.

Include:

- Your photograph(s)
- Class no(s) (from 1 to 12) – make it clear which photograph is for which class
- Name (and age if under 16)
- Your contact details, including your postal address and a telephone number

We are really looking forward to seeing your entries!

By sending your details to the email address above, you consent to your information being stored until the 14th August 2021. I understand that I may be contacted in connection with the Summer Shows in 2020 & 2021.

Your information will **NOT** be passed on to any other parties by the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society.

With no meetings taking place the regular society plant sales have also not been able to happen but since Fiona had maintained her wonderful plants all through the winter and had a lovely collection waiting for new owners we had to find a way of uniting the two! We therefore decided to e-mail members with a list and sell them that way. It worked very well thanks, firstly to Fiona for having such a great selection of marvellous plants and packaging them so well; to Emma who organised the 'on-line' sales and with Sarah ran the collection service! It was a great success, members and others got some wonderful plants and the Society made over £500!

For the latest information on Society events, helpful gardening advice, useful tips and information please go to the Society's website – www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com. If you would like to contact the Society about events please get in touch with Sarah Hince at fabhs.events@gmail.com ; or for membership then e-mail Emma Page at fabhs.membership@gmail.com . For other enquiries please contact, me, Trevor Hince (01435 863364; trevor.hince@gmail.com).

Trevor Hince (Chair)

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Hello members.

We have decided to cancel all meetings for the foreseeable future as it's so uncertain what will happen with this dreadful virus.

We will revise it later on in the year and hope to get back to some form of normality in the not too distant future.

Meanwhile keep well and safe and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Ann

01825 890506



.....*the place to meet*



It is with a mixture of sadness and hope that we have had to make the difficult decision to permanently close The Grove Farmhouse Café and Community Hub. Running The Grove has been incredibly hard work and at times very challenging. Despite all our best efforts, and now with the challenges of the C-19 health crisis, we have had to make this decision.

Since we opened in February 2013, our vision for The Grove was for it to be a hub for the community. Since then the café has provided a space for friendship, laughter, peace and comfort, with many long lasting friendships being built. We know that the closure of The Grove cannot take away from these precious relationships and memories. In fact we are confident that these roots can grow and in time there will be new opportunities to build upon this foundation in our community.

We take away many fond memories – Andrew’s Robbie Burns impression on Burn’s Nights, flapjacks made to Andrew’s mum’s secret recipe, the wonderful themed dinner evenings, making pizzas in the outdoor oven, BBQs in the courtyard and just sitting in the courtyard on a beautiful summers day enjoying a coffee and the amazing flower displays in the hanging basket that Sarah tended so well.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported The Grove over the years - friends, customers and suppliers. The Grove would not have been the success it was without you. We pray that you will all remain safe and well and we look forward to seeing you in and around the community.

With love,
Andrew, Emma, Andy, Sarah and the team.

3. My Show Stopping Decorated Cake (Adult or Child)

A homemade cake decorated in a style of your choosing to be spectacular (and hopefully tasty!) Maybe have a slice cut from it if there are important internal features!

Adult and children’s cakes judged separately.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

*Winners decided by **The Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society Committee.***

4. I Made This Item (Adult)

A craft item made in any medium at all (artwork, handicraft or anything creative).

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

5. I Made This Item (Child)

A craft item made in any medium at all (artwork, handicraft or anything creative).

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

6. Lockdown Photograph (Adult or Child)

Any photograph summing up the “lockdown of 2020”.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

*Winners decided by **Vote.***

7. Produce Arranged As A Face (Children only)

Make a face using only vegetables and fruit.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

8. A Decorated Vegetable (Children only)

Starting with a vegetable, add whatever you need to decorate the vegetable.

Most end up looking like animals but maybe yours will be different!

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

9. A Picture of Me and My Pet (Children only)

Most likely a photograph (but it doesn’t have to be!), of the owner and the pet.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

10. A Photograph Of You With Something(s) You Have Grown

A photograph of you, proudly showing something(s) you have grown in your garden and/or allotment.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

11. Tallest Sunflower

A photograph of your tallest sunflower. The height needs to be measured and sent in with the picture.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

The “Just For Fun” Summer Show 2020

As our real Summer Show for 2020 has been cancelled due to the unforeseen events related to the Covid-19 infection, we are going to have a “Just for Fun” Show instead.

The idea is that to celebrate your efforts, both your normal ones and those created under lockdown. We therefore hope you will join us in having a fun photograph based Virtual Summer Show.

There are 12 classes of entry.

Some will attract a “people’s vote”, others are just for fun.

Your photographs will be posted both on the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society website:

<https://framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com/>

and they may be selected for Facebook.

There is a window for entry starting on what would have been the date of our Summer Show 2020,

The 8th August 2020. Entries close by 6pm on the 15th August 2020.

The whole idea is that there will be no monetary or trophy prize for winning this year. However, there will be a “public vote” for 6 of the classes after the closing date for entries after which certificates will be awarded.

Details of the voting will be on the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society website:

<https://framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com/>

shortly after the 15th August deadline with notification on social media.

Entry Classes.

1. A Display of Fruit and Vegetables from My Garden or Allotment

A collection of any edible produce from your garden and/or allotment displayed in a way of your choosing, perhaps a plate, trug or even a wheelbarrow!

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

*Winner decided by **Vote**.*

2. A Vase of Mixed Flowers from My Garden or Allotment

A collection of flowers picked and displayed in a vase of your choosing. It is the flowers not the arrangement that is important.

Entry by photograph. (See details below.)

*Winner decided by **Vote**.*

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (3 YEARS - 2021, 2022 and 2023)

The contract for the grounds maintenance of the three recreation grounds will be going out for tender in late summer/early autumn.

Please contact me if you would be interested in entering into the tendering process by 10 September 2020

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182/

Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Postal Address: ‘Highlands’, Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Website: www.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.

MY LIFE WITH FUR AND FEATHER

THINGS THAT GO BUMP - BUMP IN THE NIGHT

We had been enjoying the warm sunny days with all the doors and windows open but then we began to notice strange things happening. I couldn't find my glasses that I keep handy for watching television. I hunted upstairs and down and eventually found them on the floor. I was convinced I had left them on the chest next to the sofa where I sit. The next strange thing was a tea bag with a big hole in it. The tea bags are kept in a pot on the bed side cabinet ready for our early morning drink, but this one was in the middle of the unit. How did it get there? My husband then remembered he had noticed the tea cloth that had been on the tray had a couple of times been on the floor.

The next evening we were relaxing in the sitting room when we thought we heard footsteps coming through the dining room. It could not be our son who would sometimes pop in, as the doors were all locked. Was it an intruder? My husband went to look but there was nobody there.

We went to bed, lights off we went fast asleep. In the middle of the night I woke up terrified as I was convinced that something was beside me in bed. I woke my husband and we put on the lights, there was nothing there but I know it was not a dream. My husband apparently had felt something pulling the bed clothes by his feet, but he didn't like to tell me! We put off the lights and tried to relax and go back to sleep. CRASH! It sounded as though someone was banging at the window. Again there was nothing there. After that we shut the bedroom door and left the lights on, but could not sleep. We lay there very quietly four eyes peering over the duvet wondering what would happen next. Then we heard something coming up the stairs followed by a strange loud scratching noise then all was quiet. It was all very creepy.

Being very brave, my husband, clutching a torch, crept down the stairs to investigate, there was nobody there. He then went into the sitting room and could not believe his eyes. Everything on the chest by the sofa, including pictures, photos and ornaments had all been knocked over. It was a terrible mess, but

nothing broken. He came back to bed but I could not relax and decided to risk it and went down to the kitchen to make a cup of tea and grab a biscuit. I turned round, did I hear something? I then froze in terror as the kitchen door started to move. I could not shout for help as the intruder would know I was in there. There is a little window by the door that looks into the hall so I crept silently up to it and peeped through and could not believe my eyes. I had found the culprit- it was a baby rabbit!

We then spent some hours trying to carefully capture the little rabbit so we could put it outside but it evaded all our attempts streaking off at high speed and hiding under various pieces of furniture. It eventually ran under the chest where all the things had been knocked over and wedged itself in the far corner that was impossible to reach. I was now very worried about the baby rabbit and worked out it must have been indoors for more than two days without food or water which was very worrying. Wearing my rather flimsy night clothes I decided to go out to try and find it something suitable for it to eat. It was very black out there and felt a bit creepy as I searched around clutching the kitchen scissors and a margarine container. It was too dark to find any really nice wild rabbit food so I chopped up some grass. Indoors I added some digestive biscuit and a pinch of bird food and placed this with a dish of water, close to the chest, hoping when it was all quiet it would come out to eat, we then staggered back to bed wondering if it would even be alive by morning? It was, and had eaten some grass, nibbled some biscuit and had a drink, then retreated back into its hiding place.

We now had the mammoth task of unloading fifty years of stuff from the chest before we could move it. We planned our strategy with military precision so when the chest was moved the prisoner could make its great escape straight through the French doors into the garden. It worked!

Having kept rabbits I was amazed the agility of this baby rabbit!

Hazel Carter 01825830477
info@hazel-carter.co.uk
www.hazel-carter.co.uk