

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

# Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 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



### From the Registers:

**Baptisms:**

**Weddings:**

**At rest:**  
6<sup>th</sup> August 2020: Ruth Josephine Seldon

## Two important questions – Where have you come from and where are you going?

I do wonder sometimes if life will ever get back to how it was before we'd even heard of the Coronavirus or Covid 19. We often used the word 'normal' but now we're talking about the 'new normal'.

Go back only a few months, if you walked into a store wearing a mask it would have been naturally assumed you were in to rob the place, not doing your bit to keep everyone safe!

Across the pond there was further drama in the war against the virus. US President Donald Trump suggested that coronavirus might be treated by injecting disinfectant into the body. As ridiculous as it may seem at least 100 persons in Maryland took him seriously. What a crazy world were living in!

As we approach Advent the church lectionary focuses on the Apocalyptic texts. Advent looks forward to celebrating Christmas and Christ's first incarnation but the texts that refer to the 'last days' are about the shaking of the earth and the heavens just before Christ's second coming where human history as we know it will be wrapped up.

Biblical prophecy has often been regarded as either being too farfetched or simply nonsense. However, as global events unfold more and more of the scriptures do actually come to pass. In a nutshell man's sinfulness will destroy the planet despite the efforts of the relative few to slow the decline. Catastrophic events are definitely on the increase as our planet continues to warm up.

According to a new report from leading science organizations (*United in Science 2020*) climate change has not stopped for COVID19. The report concludes - Human-induced climate change is affecting life-sustaining systems, from the top of the mountains to the depths of the oceans, leading to accelerating sea-level rise, with cascading effects for ecosystems and human security.

According to the United Nations we have less than eleven years to halt the decline before the planet suffers irreparable damage. Should we not be fearful about the kind of world our children and grandchildren will grow up in?

This pandemic has taught us many things but the fact that life is uncertain must be at the top of the list and some decisions are too important to put off.

A few years ago, our family were out for a walk across the fields in Rotherfield where we stopped to chat to two elderly men. As the conversation continued, one remarked, "There are only two important questions in life; where have you

come from, and where are you going?" Since that time, I have often pondered those few, but very significant, words. Are we indeed the product of some evolutionary primeval soup or are we as the Bible describes us - created in God's image? The former hypothesis doesn't exactly fill one with a sense of intrinsic worth or dignity! Perhaps the psalmist is absolutely right when he writes '**for you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made**' (Ps 139).

And what of the other question "Where are you going?" Of the two, this has to be the most significant. Although we cannot see them, the Bible describes Heaven and Hell as real places. At the end of our lives we either go to one place or the other. Hell conjures up many unpleasant images in the mind but fundamentally it has to be a place that is totally devoid of any goodness or love. Simply because God (who is love) will be absent.

At the retirement service of Wesley Aiken (pastor for 30 years of the Rochester Baptist Church) he spoke about his experience of Hospice visiting. Wesley has shared the Gospel with many but to his knowledge only one ever came to faith even though many were dying. On one occasion when he presented the gospel and the offer of eternal life through Christ to an elderly lady of 93years - she replied, "I'll take my chances"!

Particularly in times of crisis either God or 'Religion' is blamed for the majority of things that we simply don't understand. Quite frankly it's a convenient cop-out but the end result is the same - we become hard hearted towards God and metaphorically speaking, we end up throwing the baby out with the bath water. God is not our enemy - He is our salvation! Through Christ He is offering us an eternal home, but it has to be on His terms, not ours.

Saint Paul reiterates what God offers to each one of us in his passionate plea in 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 - **God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

In this life we all have choices, some more important than others. However, fortunately, or unfortunately we have to live or die with the consequence of those choices; **Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart (Ps 95:8)**

*Blessings to all in the parish – stay safe. Revd Chris Lawrence*

## Diary of Church Services

***We are now open again for Services. Please check the Church Website for updates and on-line services each week - <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>***

### **OCTOBER 2020**

- 04 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing
- 11 Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Service
- 18 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 25 Last Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise

### **NOVEMBER 2020**

- 01 All Saints' Day**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing
- 08 Third Sunday before Advent**  
10.00 am Family Service

- 15 Second Sunday before Advent**  
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 22 Sunday next before Advent**  
10.00 am Morning Praise
- 29 Advent Sunday**  
10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020  
TO**

**ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**  
**Please note new email address:**  
[clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**  
**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,  
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**  
**Parish Council website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

## Framfield Church – Coronavirus Update

### Reopening the Church

We opened the church for our first formal service, a 10.00 am Parish Communion, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. This was the first service conducted since Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. We closed on 17<sup>th</sup> March, unfortunately just a few days short of the Mothers' Day Service scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

This service was a further milestone for the church as we also live streamed the event, which is the way we see churches heading in these very different times. The current restrictions may be the norm well into next year from the look of it. If you are still isolating or have limited mobility, our streamed services are for you. We hope to provide a viable church experience for the housebound.

The main Sunday service is now available live at: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/live.html>. The live stream begins from 9.45 on Sundays - watch the service online if you can't make it to church.

We are fortunate to have some very capable people in the church, who were able to set all the technical stuff up for us. Now we need the congregation back!

We are hoping to stream all our main services in future – see our website [www.framfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk) for further details. You can also visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/framfieldchurch> for updates. All services are archived so that they remain available after the stream finishes. They will be stored on the Vimeo service, which you can access for free, to allow us to revisit old services.

### A new kind of Church

We have had to adapt the way we conduct services to ensure we keep everyone safe from Covid-19 during the current pandemic, we have put robust measures in place to provide for this:

- We provide hand sanitiser for use on arrival and departure. We also can provide a mask if you've forgotten to bring one.
- You will also be asked for basic contact details, to complete our Track and Trace information.
- As in shops and many public places, it is now mandatory to wear face coverings in church. This is now a legal requirement.

- Singing is not allowed at present, but it is permissible to hum along to the hymns and songs!
- Please remember - social distancing is still important!

### Seasonal Services

**Remembrance Sunday** - We are hopeful that we can go ahead with the service on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Christmas** - At the moment we have little information as to what we will be allowed to do at Christmas. If the current measures are still in place it will be very difficult to hold the traditional Lessons & Carols Service and Family Christingle. Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve should be fine as well as the Christmas Day family service.

### Supporting you during the Coronavirus crisis

As a church we are committed to supporting you, the parishioners of Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common. The pandemic and its effects pose a physical health risk as we all understand but times of isolation and uncertainty can significantly affect our mental wellbeing. If anyone would like a chat then do please call. I've usually in the Church Office Monday to Friday 10am-5pm (except Wednesday) on the office telephone number (01825 891090). If you get the answer machine, do please leave a message. If it's out of office hours and really urgent please ring the Vicarage (01825 890365).

### Support us during the Coronavirus crisis



In light of the current world situation and the subsequent need to suspend all services and close all churches, we have been looking at ways in which we may mitigate the financial loss to the church and at the very least cover our overheads. As the use of cash has curtailed we have set up an online giving page at: [www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/donate.html](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/donate.html), look for the 'Give a Little' icon We would be very grateful for your help – like all organisations our costs have continued, but our income has diminished significantly.

Hopefully, we can move forward from here and 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.**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 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](mailto:johnmordaunt1@gmail.com)

### Nature Notes

Humans need houses. Of that there is no doubt. But what about the millions of living things that make up nature's biodiversity with which we share the planet and which provide us with the hidden ecosystem services upon which we all depend? Do these living things need a home also? If they exist near our dwellings, does this mean we always have to sacrifice them to make way for more brick boxes and tarmac roads?

For more than 30 years, I have been privileged to expedite ecological research in a woodland of exceptional biodiversity which is part of an even larger ecological unit in the NW of Uckfield. This unit is known as Downlands and The Rocks. It was here that I collected ecological data for my University research and eventually my book called 'The Blue Tit'. However, it seems that because it is so close to Uckfield, this land and all it contains must be considered a prime site for yet another housing estate. From Downlands, it is possible to see the South Downs National Park and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which, in my view, Downlands should be part because of its own scenic beauty and high biodiversity. This was part of the old Streatfeild country estate preserved by this local family since about 1780 but then sold in packets of land during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Downlands, Lake Wood and The Rocks are all that remains of this English heritage landscape. A quiet refuge for over 70 species of birds, 20 species of mammals, more than 140 species of butterflies and moths, thousands of other tiny animals and plants of all sizes from the liverworts of the ghyll valleys to mighty ancient oak trees of the woodland forest. There are 5 species of amphibians including great crested newts and 4 species of reptiles.

Nature needs a home as much as humans. We are actually part of nature because we contribute to it and take from it. Nature provides us with air, water, food, it recycles our waste and provides natural therapy for our troubled minds. I believe that we have a duty of stewardship to protect those places that are home to a rich diversity of non-human living things with which we share the planet and on which we have a mutual dependence. It is sometimes difficult to understand that we depend on some animals such as mosquitos and wasps, even rats and venomous snakes. However, each one has its place in the web of life. *Martyn Stenning*

## September

The first sounds to be made by an animal on planet Earth probably came from an insect, more than 400,000,000 years ago. These were probably primitive cicadas or crickets. In England, we have a few insects that make noises such as grasshoppers, they do this by rubbing parts of their chitinous exoskeleton against another part, e.g. legs against wings. Insects also often make a noise when they fly, such as mosquitos, bees and wasps, warning us of their presence with a buzz.

Boris, Emmanuel and COVID-19 have finally allowed us to visit our nature refuge in France. Here, the insects have gone mad and there are vast numbers of them singing in chorus, especially during warm nights. The old barn is full of wooden cavities. These in turn are used for reproduction by a huge variety of ants, bees, wasps and sawflies. Collectively, known as Hymenoptera, Latin for membranous wings, describing their incredibly fine thin flying apparatus.

We have seen carpenter wasps and bees, paper wasps, grass carrying wasps, masonry wasps, both solitary and social wasps and bees, semi-social wasps and ants that are almost always social, also European and Asian hornets that are really very large social wasps. The other day, I was amazed to see what looked like a very large fat green caterpillar flying into a hole in a timber pillar. It was apparently being carried by a female grass carrying solitary wasp, which had paralysed it with its sting, was a fraction of the size of the caterpillar and was mainly black with transparent wings. The wasp took it into its wooden hole and laid an egg on or inside the caterpillar, then it spent about two days carrying many single blades of dried grass into the hole and finally arranged the grass into a closely woven nest around the caterpillar. The wasp's egg will eventually hatch out and eat the hapless caterpillar and grow for a while before metamorphosing into an adult solitary grass carrying wasp. It will then emerge from the cavity and will carry on the tradition.

By day we also see many species of butterfly including scarce swallowtails, fritillaries and varieties of blues. Also, preying mantids and huge crickets, even an Egyptian locust! We also hear the diurnal cicadas endlessly zizzing their stridulation song high in the elm trees. *Martyn Stenning*

## July

We should never forget that we are part of nature. Everything we do is an interaction with the natural world around us. We take and we give back. Every molecule of oxygen that we breathe has come from an organism that excretes it as a by-product. These are not only plants, but also algae such as seaweeds, which, incidentally, are not plants. They do not have a vascular system or roots. Also, there are photosynthetic bacteria and other planktonic organisms such as euglena and paramecium. The latter actually has a symbiotic relationship with a green alga that lives in its cytoplasm where it produces oxygen.

While we are on the subject of symbiosis, it is likely that each one of us has more bacterial cells in and on our bodies than human cells. We cannot live without them. However well we clean ourselves, they are still with us, actually looking after us in different ways. Good bacteria in our digestive systems are particularly important. Everything that dies becomes part of the planet's soil, atmosphere and new life thanks to the amazing water and carbon cycle and the ecosystem services provided by mini beasts such as insects, molluscs, crustaceans and myriapods (millipedes and centipedes), annelid worms and of course, bacteria.

Ecosystem services come in so many other forms, such as pollination by insects of most of our edible fruit and vegetables. Fish to eat from the sea and other animals we use such as sheep, fowl and cattle. All our building materials all ultimately come from the ground, even those used in manufacturing cars. Our clothes are formed from plants and animals, or else from the 'synthetic' fibres manufactured from fossilised oil, which itself is a decay product from life that existed millions of years ago. Glass is sand, wood is trees, bricks are clay, screws and nails etcetera are metals refined by crushing and cooking rocks that contain them, allowing us to extract and make new useful things with them.

Having laboured the point, we must pay back nature's bounty by preserving natural places for it in our world, both locally and globally. If we fail in that and exploit it too much, e.g. burning excess fossil fuel and destroying too much natural habitat, nature's response is to follow the laws of physics and change many aspects of life as we know it.

**Yellow Meadow Ants** by Michael Blencowe  
of the Sussex Wildlife Trust  
**South Downs Skyscrapers**

If you're feeling boxed-in by buildings and overwhelmed by architecture, I've found the perfect escape route. Head up onto the South Downs and let the developed world be stripped away with every step. Yet here, in this ancient landscape, towering above the thyme and trefoils in the turf, you'll find some of the most impressive buildings in Sussex.

Ant hills are mini miracles of design and construction, the visible tip of the ant's underground empire. Soil is mined and carried, grain by grain, to the surface to construct this metropolis of mounds some of which can be centuries old. Every ant hill represents a separate colony of Yellow Meadow Ants – respected as the finest architects amongst Britain's 42 ant species.

Ant hills are high-rise heat-traps built to harvest the sun's warmth. This soil solarium houses a series of chambers; the colony's nursery. Here, worker ants tenderly tend to eggs, pupae and larvae – moving them around within the ant hill to keep them always on the sunny side.

With a strong division of labour, each colony is a 'superorganism' made of thousands of hard-working individuals serving a common cause – their colony and queen. But life is far from peaceful. Every ant hill is a miniature kingdom at war with its neighbouring ant hills. Epic battles are fought daily on these downs, and every summer squadrons of winged ants take to the skies in an attempt to establish new colonies. It's a perilous mission – certain death awaits them if they land in occupied territory.

Down under the ant hill, other ants work on the aphid farm. Root-feeding aphids are herded and 'milked' for their honeydew – a hi-energy drink which helps fuel the colony. Ants also obtain a similar sugary syrup from the caterpillars of Chalk Hill Blue butterflies. When these caterpillars are ready to pupate they are carried underground and adopted by the ant colony. Upon emergence, the subterranean homesick blue butterflies scramble back to the surface and escape to the summer skies.

Ant hills don't just benefit ants; their angles and aspects create a unique micro-habitat on chalk downland. Their sun-baked slopes are great for basking

butterflies, grasshoppers and lizards and their soft, sifted soil is loved by mosses, grasses and flowers. This softness is also their vulnerability. Every ant lives in fear of the great winged terror from the sky – the green woodpecker. Its brutal bill and sticky harpoon tongue can cause carnage in a colony. Winged monsters, kingdoms at war – it's a veritable Game of Thrones out there on the South Downs in September.

---

**Tawny Owl** by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust  
**Not what they seem**

Once upon a time, we were terrified of Tawny Owls. They were a portent of evil in fairy tales, folklore and just about every scary story, film or poem that needed a creepy cliché. But in today's crowded marketplace of international terrorism, climate change and saturated fats the owl's powers to scare us are fading. Recently, it appears this spokesman of the supernatural has got itself a new publicist. Its modern image is one of a cuddly pin-up, more Harry Potter than Hammer Horror.

But stand in the woods on a moonlit night and listen for an unseen owl's ethereal call. It's an ancient, unnerving sound that still speaks to something buried deep within us and ignites a primeval fear. The Tawny Owl is the largest and commonest of our island's five owl species, typically nesting in holes in old trees in our remaining woodlands. But what is it about this bird that has given us the willies throughout history? Let's start with those huge, lifeless black eyes that seem to stare into your very soul. An owl's eyes are not spherical but tubular like two telescopes and give amazing vision at low light levels. However, the eye's stretched shape and position on the owl's face presents a narrow field of vision. To compensate, a Tawny Owl has special bones and blood vessels in its neck so it can perform that freaky, Exorcist-like head twist. This gives the bird the ability to scan all around without having to move their bodies and arouse detection by prey.

And in the world of a nocturnal hunter, silence and stealth are everything. Special serrated feathers slice the air, allowing it to fly as silently as a phantom and aerially ambush its victims. Incredible hearing achieved by asymmetrical ears allows them to accurately pinpoint the rustle of a nervous vole below. They can hear fear.

And then there's that disembodied voice arising from the darkness. The male's far-carrying baritone 'hooo-huhuhuhooo' and the female's squawky 'kerr-wik' response are like a mis-matched duet between Johnny Cash and Janet Street-Porter. These calls help establish, maintain and defend a breeding territory and from October the birds are at their most vocal. Of course, Tawny Owls really couldn't give two hoots about scaring us but throughout history these spectral calls have provided a soundtrack to our deepest fears. In a society which is becoming increasingly detached from nature, it's time to get out into the woods this Halloween and allow ourselves to be unsettled once again by these mystical birds.

**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 guidebook, *Discovering Wildlife*.**

It's easy to join online at: [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)

---

### **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*



## **FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The current autumn weather is glorious and our gardens and allotments together with the wider countryside responding to the sunshine (perhaps a little rain would be welcome too). The reds, oranges and yellows of the late summer flowers bring some cheer in what could be a depressing time with the resurgence of the coronavirus and winter not too far away but as gardeners and growers we have to be positive as we plant some seeds, take cuttings and plan for next year.

The Virtual Summer Show was a great success thanks to you all who embraced the idea and put in such wonderful photographic entries for the various classes. The 'exhibits' are still available to see on the Society's website:

[www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com](http://www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com)

together with the 'just for fun winners' in the various classes. In reality, everybody who sent something in was a 'winner' by keeping alive the spirit of the Summer Show in these difficult and strange times - so a huge 'thank you' to all. Within the Society's Committee the 'drivers' behind the virtual Summer Show were Terry Everett, Emma Page and Denise Taylor and in recognition of their work and enthusiasm it was agreed that they should jointly be awarded the RHS bronze Banksian Medal (the RHS having allowed Societies some latitude in the criteria for its award this year) – so many thanks and congratulations to them.

The response to the virtual Summer Show was so positive, and the likelihood of being able to stage our 'traditional' events so remote, that the Society will almost certainly be putting on another web-based show – the 'Virtual Spring Show' in April/May 2021. Details are currently being worked out and when decided and the classes refined we shall be publicising this new event, so do keep an eye on the Society's website and the Parish Magazine. We intend to do this early so that there is a long



lead-time to the show itself so that potential entrants can take advantage of the fact that, for a virtual show, flowers and produce do not have to be at their best on the day of the show so can cover a wider time frame and photographs can be taken at the prime time! Expect some of the traditional classes for a Spring show – Daffodils, Tulips and winter vegetables together with cookery, craft and photographic classes reflecting springtime.

I am afraid that all of the Society's planned talks and events for the remainder of the year remain cancelled and hopes of some sort of return to normal further dashed by the introduction of the most recent restrictions on gatherings. We shall be considering the best way to hold the Society's AGM (restricted to the formal business that we have to do) which will most likely be by some form of conference telephone system or electronic means. The Committee will also be considering other things that we can do to provide some activities/events for our members and keep the Society 'alive'; if you have any suggestions please let us know.

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](http://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](mailto:fabhs.events@gmail.com) ; or for membership then e-mail Emma Page at [fabhs.membership@gmail.com](mailto:fabhs.membership@gmail.com) . For other enquiries please contact, me, Trevor Hince (01435 863364; [trevor.hince@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.hince@gmail.com) ).

---

## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK:



Framfield Parish Council now has a social media account with Facebook:([www.facebook.com/framfieldparishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/framfieldparishcouncil)) where useful and pertinent information will be posted.

---



## **BLACKBOYS PRE-SCHOOL** (Charity number 1026132) **NEEDS YOUR support -** **and that of our lovely community!**

Blackboys Pre-School like many others has been hit hard by the Covid 19 lockdown. This has also coincided with many of our children moving on to primary school. In January we had a new inspirational manager join us, who was establishing an exciting approach to early years learning, with much positive feedback from local families. Then lockdown struck. Our aim is to provide a beautiful and enriching experience for young children, spending as much time outdoors as our setting allows. We use aspects of Forest School, Kindergarten, and In the Moment planning. Visitors often remark how calm the children are-- they are busy, busy, busy! building, exploring, creating, climbing, singing and socialising. We emphasise relationships with each other, our natural world, and our own selves.

We also believe every child deserves access to this kind of provision so our fee structure allows parents to use childcare vouchers with no additional charges anywhere. Families without vouchers are not required to book a minimum number of sessions. We love this approach and it is workable, but we need to grow in order to have a viable future. Although much of our time is spent outdoors we still need to hire the village hall for cold and inclement weather and even at a temporarily reduced rate, this means we are still running at a considerable loss (over £1200 per month) until we can increase our child numbers. Both our Manager and Deputy donate additional hours to the preschool, and the Committee undertake a number of administrative and other roles, for free.

However, we currently have insufficient children registered to make ends meet and we need time to promote our exciting approach and to attract more families. We have minimised our expenditure to that of hall hire and the salaries of two staff members. WHAT WE NEED ARE LOCAL SPONSORS to get us through this difficult period.

**COULD YOU OFFER INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP of £2, £5 or £10 per month or BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP of £10, £20 or £50 per month** to enable this precious local asset time to recover?

If so please contact: [treasurer@blackboyspreschool.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@blackboyspreschool.org.uk) for a sponsorship form or ring the pre-school on 01825 891113 and they will get back to you.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ANYONE ABLE TO HELP**  
**(Blackboys Pre-School Committee)**

# Gardening Services

Honest | Reliable | Friendly

- ✓ Lawn care and mowing
- ✓ Hedge cutting
- ✓ Strimming
- ✓ Pruning
- ✓ General garden maintenance
- ✓ Edging
- ✓ Exterior painting
- ✓ Local
- ✓ Competitive prices
- ✓ All work left clean and tidy

Call James for a quote on 07979 321696

---

**DAVID CLARKE**  
**Watchmaker**

**3 Willows Rise, Framfield**  
**TN22 5PH. Telephone 07751 383709**

**Batteries supplied and fitted to most makes of watches. Just call round or phone first. I'm in most of the time.**

---

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

Both Parish Schools have made exciting starts to the new academic year, despite grappling with what people are calling "the new normal".

After nearly 6 months of school closures and partial school closures due to Covid-19, we have all been reunited at Blackboys and Framfield Schools! We are delighted to have welcomed back all our pupils and there is a real sense of purpose, a warmth and vibrancy about the Schools. All children have settled well into the 'new normal' and it seems apt that the Christian value for this term is Perseverance!

A special warm welcome must be extended to all our new starters be it in Reception or in other years. They have all made starting a new School in exceptional circumstances look incredibly easy. Well done.

As is often the case at the start of a new year, we have new members of staff to welcome. At Blackboys School we welcome Miss Sanderson who will be teaching Class 3 and Miss Mayhew who will teach Class 4. We are excited to have increased our classes from 4 to 5 with Class 3 being located in the Jubilee Barn and Class 4 upstairs in the main School building alongside Class 5. At Framfield School we welcome Miss Black who will be teaching Puffins Class. All new members of staff have made an instant impact and their classes are extremely well settled.

Academic year 2020/21 will be a special year for reading in both schools. Federation Literacy Leader, Miss Norvell, has already run some training for staff on an exciting new initiative called Whole Class Reading, which guarantees pupils more "eyes on text" time and will facilitate the reading of a wider range of high quality, challenging

books. With the brilliant mini libraries in the bus stops of both villages, there will be plenty of reading material available!

The mind is currently turning to Harvest and both schools are working with Rev Chris in how to conduct a "virtual" Harvest Service this year.

Thank you for your continued interest in both Blackboys and Framfield Schools.

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.



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

### POPPY APPEAL 2020

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 regulations don't permit door to door collections this year, but static collecting points are permitted. I hope to have such a point at Framfield Memorial Hall car park on Saturday 24 and 31 October. Social distancing will be observed and poppies and collecting box will be sanitised after each use. Anyone manning a collecting point will have PPE. Poppies will also be available from most supermarkets. If you have a Home Collecting box I will collect them as usual and if you would like to make a donation to the poppy appeal then please do so to Head Office in Aylesford or to me. Either way you will get an official receipt.

*David Jenner*

*10 Cleve Close Framfield 01825 890632 07881 786785*



The Body Shop at Home  
We are still taking orders  
Hand Soaps and Gel Cleansers  
are available\*

\*when preparing this ad.

**WE ARE STILL OPEN!**

I can still take your orders as The Body Shop at Home warehouse is still working and following strict hygiene procedures.

Many orders placed will have discounts!

You can still collect your orders from me and I am still able to deliver locally.

The ONLY thing that has changed is I can't do physical parties

If and when this changes I will update you but for now I want to thank you for your continued support.

I can be contacted on [lerrynfam@btinternet.com](mailto:lerrynfam@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 PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Covid 19 – as mentioned last time the play areas were opened within a couple of weeks of my last report. The equipment is being sprayed at the moment on a monthly basis with an anti-bacterial agent which has a 30-day life.

The village halls have not been opened to anyone other than the School (Framfield) and Pre-school (Blackboys). This will continue until the end of the year unless Government guidelines change. This means that unfortunately Framfield Village Market has been cancelled until next year.

We held our first remote Parish Council meeting in July and will do the same at the end of September. All comments on planning applications have been done by consensus by email. All minutes etc are available on our website.

We also had a first meeting with the Police as part of the Uckfield Community Safety Action Group which feeds into the Safer Wealden Partnership.

During the last few months we said goodbye to Brian Short, who for many years as been our halls' caretaker and now to Lisa Parsons who has cleaned the Memorial Hall for a long time. Rob Newton has taken over as Grounds Manager looking after all of the Parish assets.

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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)  
Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.  
Website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)



**Holmes Hill**  
— Furniture —

Holmes Hill Estate  
Whitesmith East Sussex,  
BN8 6JA



[www.iwantfurniture.co.uk](http://www.iwantfurniture.co.uk)  
01825 873607  
[sales@iwantfurniture.co.uk](mailto:sales@iwantfurniture.co.uk)

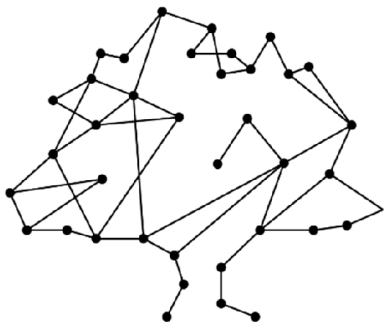


### Opening times:

Mon, Weds to Fri: 9.30am – 5pm  
**CLOSED ALL DAY TUESDAY**  
Sat: 10am – 5pm  
Sun: 10am – 4pm



Just off A22 between Uckfield & Eastbourne / Free Parking / Free delivery in East Sussex over £500 / Instock items to take away



# NEWLIFE

NEW LIFE CHURCH MID-SUSSEX  
Meets at East Sussex National Golf Resort  
[www.newlifemidsussex.com](http://www.newlifemidsussex.com)

Hello dear readers,  
What a year it's turning out to be - full of uncertainty, as we carefully avoid as best we can, the perils of a virus, which, at the time of writing, doesn't seem to be going away. I hope this finds you safe and well.

Our church now meets at the East Sussex National Golf Resort. We meet every other Sunday from 20th September onwards (regulations permitting), in the Roundall room, from 10.45am for coffee etc. You are very welcome to drop by. Please check our website for further details ([www.newlifemidsussex.com](http://www.newlifemidsussex.com))

We're working through the series of statements by Jesus when he uses the enigmatic phrase '*I am*' about himself:

'*I am* - the Bread of Life'  
'*I am* the Light of the World' etc.

In the Greek, '*I am*' is translated '*ego eimi*' and is hugely significant, referring to the name for Israel's God, who discloses himself as '*I am who I am*' to Moses in Exodus 3.

Jesus uses this phrase about himself provocatively. He tells the Jewish leaders, 'Before Abraham existed, *I am*!' Bad grammar, but

so revealing about the true identity of Jesus - He is telling them to their faces that he is God in human form. Quite extraordinary.

One of my favourite moments when Jesus uses the phrase '*ego eimi*' is in John 6.

It's dark. The disciples are in a boat. Jesus isn't with them. A strong wind starts to blow, the waters are very rough, and they're four miles from land, in real trouble. Suddenly they see Jesus walking on the water towards them. It scares them witless. What does Jesus say? 'It is I! (*ego eimi*) don't be afraid.' In other words he's saying, 'I am God. I can rescue you, whatever storms come at you. Only I have this power, who made the wind and the waves. So don't fear.'

Maybe you're feeling far from land during this pandemic? It's dark and you're on your own. You're rowing hard against the storm but getting nowhere. Take heart - don't be afraid. God commands the forces of nature. If he's God, he's in control, and he can certainly walk on water, reach your boat, rescue you.

My prayer during this Covid-19 pandemic is that we experience the supernatural help of the one who calls himself '*I am*', the Eternally Present One.

With my best wishes to you all -  
Clive Cernik, Leader, New Life Church Mid Sussex

---

## 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 - [@WaldronCountryMarket](https://www.facebook.com/WaldronCountryMarket).

## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

Hi Everyone, and greetings from our Members and Helpers. Its been, and is going to be, a long time with this Virus, but if we can all try and keep well, we shall God Willing, meet again at the end of this. Keep Smiling.

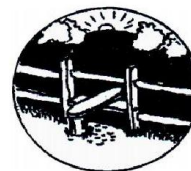
We have had our Committee meeting, as said previously, on the 17<sup>th</sup> August in the Garden at Green acres, 2 meters apart, at which we discussed at many lengths, different ways perhaps that Monday Club could reopen, considering the ages and the wonderful amount of Membership - 52, plus 3 awaiting to be Members, it was decided with transport and venue difficulties etc, at the moment, to be sure of keeping all safe, not to open and review this again after Christmas.

In the meantime we still do our Newsletter, each month, for all our members, friends and supporters, who all seem to enjoy it and it keeps us all in touch, and I ring members frequently. It's slightly worrying the longer this goes on - all our helpers including myself (laugh!) are getting older, ageing does not stop, (laugh!), as to what age we will be when this is over, we would always welcome more helpers, or a shadow leader, get in touch, it's a job we all love, and so rewarding, and I know we are so much appreciated.

So our best wishes to you all,

Stay Safe and Take Care,

Sandy Rogers - 01825 840648 [sandyrogers77@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrogers77@gmail.com)



## Framfield & Blackboys WI

MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2020

For the first time since 10<sup>th</sup> March we managed to have a meeting. Due to the pandemic we were unable to use The Memorial Hall, but we were able to meet on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at the Church Hall. In accordance with the guidelines in place at the time, numbers attending were limited to 25 people and we all wore masks or visors.

It was lovely to see old friends again, albeit in a socially distanced way and just before the Rule of 6 was introduced.

REMEMBERING CAREFREE TIMES



This picture was taken at our August lunch last year shortly after our wonderful trip to Kew Gardens and just before we took part in the Framfield Summer Show. Let's hope we can return to the same freedom in 2021.

**If you would like to find out more about our WI, please contact  
Mary Short on 01825 890854**

**Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI**

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

Wealden District Council is slowly getting back to what may become the new normal. Not only do we have officers back at Hailsham Offices but also the reception is now open although the public are still encouraged to ring into the Contact Centre or use the website if at all possible.

WDC has published their 'Restart & Recovery Plan' which includes additional financial support for creditors who are experiencing hardship, temporarily lifting some planning restrictions to help stimulate the local economy, fast tracking taxi driver licences to help those seeking new income and much more.

Over £38m has been paid out to more than 3,200 businesses under grant schemes. Over 1,098 people have been supported through the Community Hub.

WDC are teaming up with local charity Furniture Now! to offer an alternative solution to bulky waste collections. Furniture Now! provides all donated items they collect at a discounted rate to people who need them. This includes people who qualify for welfare assistance, students and those earning less than £17,000 per year.

Our waste/recycling service has hardly faltered during the crisis which can only be second to none. Residents should be reminded to put all batteries and small electrical items in a separate bag on top of either your rubbish or recycling bin for collection.

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.

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

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

## **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*

---

## FREE SMOKE ALARMS

Your local Fire Service personnel are happy to make an appointment to visit your home and discuss fire safety issues that are specific to you. They will also ensure that you have working smoke alarm(s) within your home and where you do not, they will supply and fit 10 year smoke alarms.

To request a **FREE** visit call **0800 177 7069** (call is free).

## USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

ESCC contact centres

Call our contact centres during normal working hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (4.30 pm on Fridays).

Adult social care – 0345 60 80 191 - [HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Buses – 0345 60 80 194

Children and families – 0345 60 80 192 (see latest news above)

Library renewals – 0345 60 80 195

Library enquiries – 0345 60 80 196

Roads and paths – 0345 60 80 193

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Trading Standards – 0345 04 05 06

Waste – 0345 60 80 194

Main Switchboard – 0345 60 80 190

From overseas – +441273 336000

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555 111

Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0303 999 1000

THE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE PUBLISHED IN GOOD FAITH. THE PUBLISHERS DO NOT, HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES SPECIFIED



**PAYNES**

The only call you ever need to make for:

- Heating & Plumbing
- Oil Heating Systems & Tanks
- Installation, Repair & Maintenance
- All Boiler Types & Heating Systems
- Renewable Energy & Solar

## EXPERT & RELIABLE

Your Local Family Run Business, serving our community for **over 35 years**.

For a **FREE** quote call: **01825 891720**

[paynes-heating.co.uk](http://paynes-heating.co.uk) | [sales@paynes-heating.co.uk](mailto:sales@paynes-heating.co.uk)  
Oak Tree Barn, Blackboys East Sussex TN22 5JL