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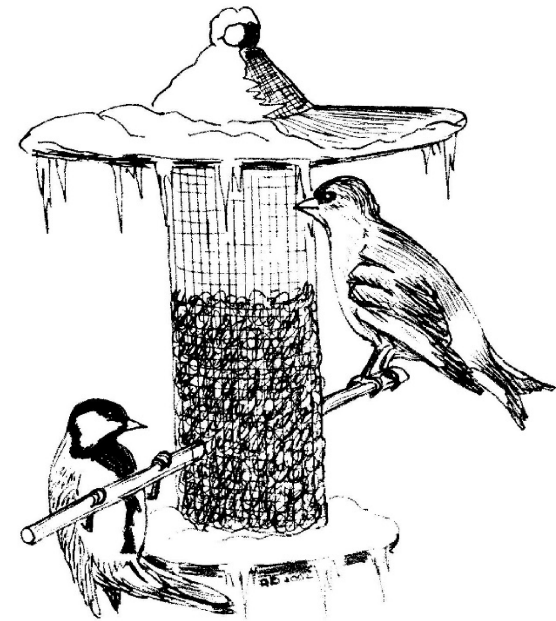
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*Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council*

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2021

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:

6th January: Gillian Rosemary Dunning

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

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

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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair:

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Keith Brandon

Co-ordinator and Advertising:

Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Marie Owen

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

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

CIRCULATION:

This magazine reaches over 1100 households in the parish.

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

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

clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

The Crisis of Christmas. Everyone seeks happiness. But are we searching in the right place?

Happy New Year.

How was your New Year's Eve? Just a guess, but I reckon the words on a lot of lips was - 'I'm glad that one's over'.

Obviously not a good thing to wish our lives away but there's something liberating about the 31st December. Drawing a line under the old year and looking forward in hope to the new.

I don't know about you but I have been planning! I had grand plans for 2020 from our silver wedding anniversary celebration in Nice, summer holiday in Greece and loading up the bike for a couple of weekends to watch World Superbikes and MotoGP in the UK. Needless to say all my plans went to rats and I expect so did yours. However, 2021 looks a lot more promising. As soon as Boris says we can go out to play we're off!

None of us are getting any younger and life is for living so let's make the most of it.

Life is full of mysteries and one of them is the perception of time. When we are young we can't wait to grow up, finish our education, get a job, pass your driving test etc. Suddenly, you're in your twenties with thirty looming. Forty sneaks up on you and its downhill to fifty although your brain is still telling you you're thirty something. When sixty arrives you're bordering on getting old. You can go to Greens DiY in Uckfield and get senior's discount but do you? No way, brain says your way too young for that! However, at some point you realise that all the old folk were right when they said - life is short; it's just that your brain was, and probably still is sending you a different message.

One of my favourite books in the Bible is Ecclesiastes. It's written by Solomon when he is an old man. If you've never read it may I encourage you to do so – its only ten pages and full of truth and humour.

Solomon reflects on his life. All the work he has put in, all he has learnt and earned, his search for meaning, but at the end he reaches the conclusion that it's all meaningless. Striving, pleasures, wealth, gaining wisdom and at the end leaving everything behind – all meaningless. The only constant in this mystery is God. In the last chapter (12:1) he writes:

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" –

and 12:6-8 Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, ⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

**⁸“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.
“Everything is meaningless!”**

Many search for meaning and happiness in this life but as Solomon observes we just can't figure it out and at the end we expend a lot of time and energy on this fruitless task. However, there is something really liberating in his words of wisdom. Happiness can't be earned, bought or created – it is God's gift! His summary to life is found in Chapter 3:9-13.

⁹What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Solomon acknowledges that despite some of the unfathomable mysteries of life, he came from God and was going back to Him and encourages us, before it is too late to – ‘Remember Him’. However, in keeping with any relationship we will only share our lives with those who we know to be trustworthy and dependable; those who have our backs when the going gets tough.

I can't speak for everyone but I do believe that some folk keep God at arm's length because they wonder if God is actually good? If that's you, how about joining us for the brand new 'Life Explored' course beginning on Monday 1st February @7pm to find out?

The duration of the course is seven weeks (1 hour per session).

It's an open invitation to all whatever your age and there's no charge to take part. Details are on the next page. I do hope you can join us.

Blessings to one and all in the parish - Rev Chris Lawrence

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Covid-19. We are back in lockdown again, please contact me with any concerns. All updates on help and advice during this time are on the WDC website but also please do contact me with any queries particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

Wealden is encouraging residents to take advantage of the Green Homes Grant Voucher scheme to reduce their carbon emissions and make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Grants of up to £5,000 are being offered – the scheme will finish on 31 March 2022. Visit <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant> or call 0800 444202 for more information.

You may have seen in the local news that Wealden is to end its lease of the Uckfield and Heathfield leisure centres, removing an unnecessary layer of management when the current period expires in 2022. The centres will revert back to the landlord, ESCC. WDC wanted to make this decision as soon as possible to provide certainty for both the colleges and ESCC who can now plan for the future and ensure a smooth transition of services.

East Sussex College is committed to helping local communities across Wealden recover from the Covid-19 crisis. Start a new career or level up your existing skills with free online courses. Further details are available via this link <https://www.grasplearning.co.uk/elearning-short-online-courses> or call 01424 458491.

Support for women and men who are at risk from domestic abuse is available from <https://theportal.org.uk/>. A 24-hour helpline is also available on 0808 2000 247.

Digital Waste Calendars for 2021 – once again the waste and recycling calendar for 2021 will not be sent out to residents. It has to be downloaded from the website. Residents can also receive weekly reminders by email through 'MyAlerts' which residents can sign up for on the WDC website. Anyone in any difficulty again, please contact me.

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



Framfield & Blackboys WI

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

With vaccinations already happening in our local area, we hope we can look forward to more normal second half of 2021. Some members have already been vaccinated, with others optimistically looking forward to their turn.

In the meantime, just to make sure we will all recognise each other when we next meet up, here is a photograph of our most enjoyable New Year lunch at the Hare and Hounds in January 2020.



A wonderful world where the word Covid was as yet unknown

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



LIFE EXPLORED

Monday evenings, for one hour. On Zoom.

Starts 1st February 2021 (7-8pm)

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-session course. It's for anyone who wants to find contentment and happiness in life. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any questions you like, or you can just sit and listen. Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, 'Life Explored' is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe.

- Session 1 The Good God**
- Session 2 The Trustworthy God**
- Session 3 The Generous God**
- Session 4 The Liberating God**
- Session 5 The Fulfilling God**
- Session 6 The Life-Giving God**
- Session 7 The Joyful God**

I hope you can join us for some lively discussion and find some answers to some of the most perplexing questions you may have. Anyone is welcome to join us and you can even take part anonymously if you wish. Zoom Log in details will be posted on the church website - Rev Chris Lawrence.

Diary of Church Services

NB – Currently all Church Services are postponed until further notice. However, a weekly service that follows the church lectionary is uploaded for 10am each Sunday.

There is a link on the church website

<https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>, Alternatively the service may be viewed via Facebook or YouTube (East Sussex Church Services). Latest information is always on the Church Website.

FEBRUARY 2021

07 Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am On-Line Service
Theme: Jesus calms the storm.

14 Sunday next before Lent

10.00 am On-Line Family Service
Theme: Are we willing to be changed by God?

21 First Sunday of Lent

10.00 am On-Line Service
Theme: We may know about Jesus, but do we know Him?

28 Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am On-Line Service
Theme: Just believe!

MARCH 2021

07 Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 am On-Line Service
Theme: Jesus makes a mess in the temple

14 Fourth Sunday of Lent

10.00 am On-Line Family Service
Theme: You must be born again!

silvery voices...The eastern sky changed from white to pink and from pink to gold. The Voice rose and rose, till all the air was shaking with it...The colours of the earth were fresh, hot, vivid. They made you feel excited; until you saw the Singer himself and then you forgot everything else. It was a Lion. Huge, shaggy and bright...'

That Lewis quote is so reminiscent of Job 38:4 'Where were you,' says God to Job, describing creation, 'while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?'

There is a stunning verse in the book of Zephaniah 3:17, and I leave it with you in these days of fear, danger and uncertainty:

'The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.'

As we sing lullabies to our kids at bedtime, as we sing in the kitchen or the shower, we are somehow connecting with the heart of God who created us; He who sings lullabies over us, songs of comfort, encouragement and love, as we trust in him.

With warmest wishes, Clive.

Clive Cernik

Leader, New Life Church Mid Sussex.

www.newlifemidsussex.com

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

All Good Wishes for Year 2021, from our Members and Helpers.

This Year 2021 is the 60th Anniversary of our Club.

Needless to say Monday Club has not meet since March 2020, and will not do so until it is safe for our Members.

So for us all to somehow keep in touch we have sent out a monthly Newsletter from March/December 2020, to our members and supporters, and from all the cards and phone calls etc, this has proved to be very popular, which is great News.

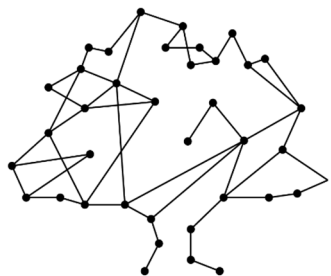
But unfortunately, this is now in hold as I may have to go in Hospital.

So Monday Club has been put on hold at moment until further notice, and God willing we will come through this time, and we can meet again.

In meantime we as said wish you all a Better 2021 than 2020 was,

and Good Health - Do Stay Safe and Take Care - Thank you All.

Sandy Rogers 01825 840648 sandyrogers77@gmail.com



NEWLIFE

NEW LIFE CHURCH MID-SUSSEX

Meets at East Sussex National Golf Resort

www.newlifemidsussex.com

FROM CLIVE CERNIK, CHURCH LEADER.

I hope you're singing during lockdown?

If there's one thing we can do to lift our spirits during these tense, stand-off days against the virus, it's to sing - in tune or tone deaf!

There's a good reason why Gareth Malone's 'The Choir' has been so popular as he attempts to teach choral music to people with little singing experience. The music, the community of singers together, the songs and lyrics themselves - all have huge power to touch the heart, to cheer, end loneliness and uplift even the weariest soul.

I've been fascinated by astrophysicists' research into the phenomenon known as 'The Universal Hum'. Pythagoras, the ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician wrote this some 2500 years ago: 'There is geometry in the humming of the strings. There is music in the spacing of the spheres.'

It's amazing to watch Ted Talks, where scientists play recordings of the extraordinary 'noise' coming from the universe, from pulsars, gravitational waves and deep space radio signals.

The ancient Natural Philosophers (what we would call scientists today) believed that the universe was in some way 'singing', although we couldn't hear it. The 'musica universalis' or 'the harmony of the spheres' described the concept that the movement of the cosmos, the planets and stars, all formed a beautiful music of their own.

There's something wonderful about the way music can touch our emotions. Music seems to be hard-wired in us, to affect us profoundly.

C S Lewis in 'The Magician's Nephew', part of the Narnia Chronicles, describes the time when Aslan, the great lion, creates Narnia at the beginning of time:

'In the darkness something was happening at last. A voice had begun to sing. It was very far away and Digory found it hard to decide from what direction it was coming. Sometimes it seemed to come from all directions at once...There were no words. There was hardly even a tune. But it was, beyond comparison, the most beautiful noise he had ever heard. It was so beautiful he could hardly bear it...The voice was suddenly joined by other voices; more voices than you could possibly count. They were in harmony with it, but far higher up the scale: cold, tingling,

21 Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.00 am On-Line Service

Theme: Earthly life or eternal life?

28 Palm Sunday

10.00 am On-Line Service

Theme: King Jesus rides into Jerusalem.

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th MARCH 2021**

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 Church – Coronavirus Update

We remain committed to live streaming services again as soon as regulations will allow us to do so. 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.

We are also hoping to stream all our main services in 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. 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.

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'm 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.

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 basic overheads. As the use of cash has curtailed we have set up an online giving page at: 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.

give
a little

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.

<<<< FRAMFIELD SERVICE STATION

Please note: Framfield Service Station has now closed.

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enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

Open term time only for 2-5 year olds, 8:30am - 3:30pm, Blackboys Village Hall

We relaunched in January 2020 with a new manager, Marian Brooke, who is an experienced, qualified teacher with an MA in Early Years Education.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2021 - These dates are provisional.

During the Covid 19 pandemic all meetings will be held remotely.
 Anyone wishing to attend a meeting should contact the Clerk once the agenda has been published.

All planning applications are dealt with under delegated authority.
 On each date detailed below, an informal Trust update will be held at 7 pm followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 26 January	Tuesday, 27 July
Tuesday, 30 March	Tuesday, 28 September
Tuesday, 25 May	Tuesday, 30 November

Changes at Brownings Farm – Please see website for details >>>>>>>>>>
<https://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk/ads/brownings.html>

office@gmapartnership.co.uk 01825 840932

Bookkeeping & Accountancy

<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bookkeeping - Management accounts - Invoicing - Budgeting - VAT services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CIS control & reporting - HMRC liaison services <p>Systems used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sage - Quickbooks - MS Office
---	---



Business Support & Administration

<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative services - Business start up - Typing & secretarial duties - Client correspondence - Diary & task management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery & collection services - Digital & physical archiving - Basic design work <p>Systems used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MS Office - Adobe
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Find us on Facebook: GMA Partnership



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

**14th February 2021 10.00 am
 14th March 2021 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 & business 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, Karate Presentations and Childrens' birthday parties. 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

Important Note: We are currently in Tier 5 and not able to provide use of our hall at this time.

Nature Notes

New year – new life! Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is the present and the present is a gift! One thing I recorded about blue tits, when researching for my book on the subject, was that blue tits rarely sing between the longest (c. 21st June) and the shortest (c. 21st December) days (solstices) of the year. However, nearly every year, the first blue tit song I hear is on or about the 22nd December when the daylength is about 1 minute longer than the 21st. Blue tits are surprisingly intelligent for an animal so small and live short lives (mostly less than one year), so the gift of a new day is especially valuable to them. They seem to be keenly aware of any positive changes such as day length. My local ones have even been scoping the nest-box that I have for them in the garden in late December.

Trees are essential for blue tits, no trees – no blue tits. Indeed, trees are essential for any organism that uses oxygen in respiration. Since the invention of the timber chainsaw in the early 20th century, humans have been felling trees at a phenomenal rate, an activity that contributes to climate change and reduces the sustainability potential of life on Earth. Allowing trees to grow is one of the best things that any human can do for the planet. Sadly, 3 diseased ash and 1 (non-native) unsafe cypress trees had to be removed from Framfield churchyard recently. However, these have been replaced now with 4 different new, native, healthy saplings, namely crab-apple, whitebeam, juniper and rowan. All of these are highly suitable for the churchyard as they never get too large, grow slowly and support the lives of many other species, especially insects and birds. When planting a tree near buildings, it is advisable to locate it at least 7 metres from the building so that the tree does not affect the building's structure or function.

Even small trees or hedges are important. There is usually a correlation between the number of trees and the number of birds in a garden or other location. A hedge will last longer than a fence, but will need maintaining in a different and sympathetic way with regular clipping (instead of expensive painting). Trees will even remove particulate pollution from the atmosphere and act as natural air conditioners.

Martyn Stenning



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Sun: 10am – 4pm



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The dogs being trained at the Charity Medical Detection Dogs are not kennelled, that is nice to hear, but live with staff or helpers. Some dogs are from rescue centres or from other assistance dog charities.

Claire Guest who started the charity has written a book called Daisy's Gift It is about her dog detecting her breast cancer. I think it would be an interesting book to read. I have a book called Molly The Pet Detective Dog by Colin Butcher who had his dog trained at MDD. This dog unusually finds lost cats.

Best wishes to everyone.

Hazel Carter 01825 830477

Info@hazel-carter.co.uk

www.hazel-carter.co.uk

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Hello everyone.

I do hope you are all keeping well and safe. I know some of you have had your vaccine jabs which gives us a bit of hope that things can return to some sort of normal later in the year.

Also, let's hope the weather improves so we can start getting our gardens ready for the spring which won't come soon enough!! I think we can all do with some sunshine now. Perhaps we will be able to meet in gardens if not indoors sometime in the not too distant future.

Anyway, in the meantime keep safe and well,

Love Ann

01825 890506

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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.

Yew by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' famed donkey ride into Jerusalem. Recreating that palm-branch-strewn journey in Britain has been botanically challenging, since palm trees don't grow in our climate. Instead, churches gathered sprigs of native yew to provide the ceremonial décor and in some areas, the Sunday before Easter became known as Yew Sunday. And that's why every churchyard has a yew.

Well, actually the yew's churchyard connection is because yews are evergreen and can miraculously regrow from a dead stump. The trees were planted as a symbol of everlasting life and a reminder of the Easter resurrection. But, hold up; how come over 500 churchyard yews in England and Wales are older than their churches? It must mean that the yews themselves were pagan places of worship and the churches were built around them. Or they were planted on the graves of plague victims to purify the dead. Or it could be something to do with long bows. Or keeping the waiting congregation sheltered and dry each Sunday.

No-one seems sure where this association started but, whatever the reason, yews look right at home in churchyards. Dark, dense and unmoving they solemnly preside over the sad ceremonies held underneath their boughs and have seen generations come and go (but mostly go). Yews themselves deliver death and every part of them is highly poisonous; their leaves, their bark, their seeds. Only the fleshy red arils around the toxic seeds are harmless, encouraging birds to feed on them and disperse the poisonous cargo within. Yet death itself does not seem to inconvenience the yew.

Two rival British yews are advertised as the oldest living thing in Europe, at an alleged 5000 years old. Not many yews in Sussex can rival these great evergreen granddaddies. Most of our whippersnappers are probably just a couple of hundred years old. The problem is it's hard to accurately age a yew. As they get older, their blood red heart-wood rots, leaving them hollow inside and without traditional growth rings. Its heart may no longer be in it but that won't stop the yew from growing.

One of the oldest yews in Sussex can be found in Stedham churchyard near Midhurst. It's estimated to be a mind-boggling 2,500 years old. Over in Wilmington, at the foot of the Long Man, a monstrous yew dominates the churchyard. At a reputed age of 1600 the tree is 600 years older than the church. Supported by wooden props and straining against rusting chains, it's as if a travelling circus is exhibiting an aging dinosaur. It's worth a visit to both these old timers. For me, standing in the shadow of a plant that is 40 times older than you is humbling and a reminder that for us mere humans, life is brief.

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 sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join



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LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS

When Isla our Son's Cocker Spaniel came to stay recently I came into the kitchen to see her lying down staring at the dresser, there was nothing to interest her there. I was busy in and out of the kitchen but casually noticed she was still in the same position. This behaviour went on for over half an hour. Eventually I went to investigate. The dresser is virtually flat on the floor so I could not see underneath but Isla was definitely indicating there was something there. I managed to slide a long ruler under the dresser and eventually flicked out a tiny piece of desiccated dried dog food covered in dust and cobwebs. Isla was delighted and immediately eat it. This shows that the combination of incredible scenting ability and determination make dogs, particularly gun dogs so very useful.

For many years dogs have been used to detect all kinds of things, drugs, bombs, Banned plants, bed bugs dry rot and even leaky water pipes underground. The list is endless. Dogs have also been trained to detect diseases such as Cancer, Parkinson's and Malaria. Alert assistance dogs have been trained to warn their owner before a serious medical condition occurs giving them time to react to the situation.

This last year has been dominated by Covid with all the restrictions and worry about the disease. I am writing this at the beginning of January so hope things will improve with the roll out of the vaccines, however testing for Covid is still ongoing. The test to see if anybody has the virus is invasive and could be very worrying for people in old people's homes and probably some children. However the charity, Medical Detection Dogs, have been training dogs to detect the virus in about six to eight weeks. The second phase will be in live situations and the dogs will eventually be able to check up to two hundred and fifty people an hour. The advantage of using dogs is it is non- invasive and I am sure most people would much rather see a friendly dog who could tell whether someone was positive or negative rather than have someone taking a swab from inside their nose!

leaving gates open allowing livestock to roam. Could residents please make sure that they stay on the proper routes.

Footpath maps are available from the Parish Clerk or accessed on line via this link:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/map/>

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 are still being sprayed with an anti-bacterial agent, Zoonax, on a monthly basis.

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.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182/

Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

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](#)



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021.

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society, my name is Denise Taylor and an active and enthusiastic member of the Horticultural Society and the Blackboys Allotment Society. I took over as Chair following our AGM held over Zoom in December 2020.

Trevor Hince is taking a break from the Horticultural Society together with his wife Sarah and I know everyone is very grateful for all their hard work over the past few years in pushing the Horticultural Society forward and helping to keep it as a thriving society for the community.

We have also welcomed new members to the committee and the current committee is made up of the following members:

President: John Rider

Vice President: Kathy Gore

Chair: Denise Taylor

Minutes Secretary: Claire Dennis

Treasurer: Emma Page

Committee Members: Jenny Bacon, Richard Chapman, Alice Chapman, Terry Everitt, Margaret McSheehy, Rachel Willcox and Jackie Argyrou.

Thank you to all committee members for your valuable contribution to the Society.

Also, we would like to remind you that we are holding our "Just for Fun" Spring Show this year, and as we are having to spend more time at home again, this could be a good way for us to use some of the extra time we have. Photos can be taken now and then sent in from 10th April 2021. The full schedule can be found on our website www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com together with helpful gardening advice and useful tips.



The “Just For Fun” Spring Show 2021

It seems that in these difficult times, our Just For Fun Summer Show last summer captured the imagination of a wide range of people in the parish.

In the past, the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society ran a Spring Show that over the years has drifted into memory. So following a discussion about what next after the summer for the society, the idea of resurrecting the Spring Show was mooted.

We hope that you would like to join us in celebrating the “Spring of 2021” with a similar type of entry by photograph.

There are 18 classes of entry.

The idea is that there will be no monetary prizes with winners for all classes decided by public voting.

You can take the photograph when you think things are at their best and submit the photographs during the entry window. The photograph should be a .jpg file and sent as a full size attachment with your entry details as set out below.

You can enter each of the classes up to 3 times.

The window for entry starts on Saturday 10th April 2021 and ends at 6pm on Monday 3rd May 2021.

Your photographs will be posted on the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society website <https://framfieldandblackboys-hot-soc.com/> (with no names visible this time) and they may be selected for use on the society’s Facebook page.

Details of the voting will be on the above website from the 4th May to the 11th May with notifications made on social media.

Entry Classes – *All entries are by photograph and the winner decided by a vote.*

1. **A Display of Winter 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!
2. **A Vase of Mixed Spring Flowers from My Garden or Allotment – Adult only**
A collection of flowers picked and displayed in a vase of your choosing. It is the flowers not the arrangement that are important.
3. **A Jam Jar of Mixed Spring Flowers from My Garden or Allotment – Children only**
A collection of flowers picked and displayed in a jam jar. It is the flowers not the arrangement that are important.
4. **A Container with Spring Flowering Plants**
A container planted and in bloom with a range of spring flowers.
5. **A Succulent or Cactus in a Pot.**
An indoor succulent or cactus in a pot.
6. **5 Daffodils in a Vase.**
These can be all the same variety or different varieties.
7. **3 Tulips in a Vase.**
These can be all the same variety or different varieties.
8. **3 Leeks.**
These should be cleaned but look best left untrimmed and set on a dark background.
9. **5 Broad Bean Pods on a Plate**
These should be wiped clean, one should be opened and displayed on a plate.

10. **3 Garlic Bulbs**
These should be wiped clean, and have white papery skins with a long top stem.
11. **3 Onion Bulbs**
These should be wiped clean, and have a dry outer skin with a long top stem folded over and tied down.
12. **A Wooden Spoon Decorated As A Flower – Children only**
Convert a wooden spoon into a flower by adding petals, leaves and anything else you think it needs using materials you have at home.
13. **A Decorated Cake for Spring – Children only**
A cake (you can buy the cake or make it) decorated with Spring items. You could do this at Easter and make it a cake to celebrate Easter.
14. **A Decorated Cake for Spring – Adult only**
A cake you have made and decorated to represent Spring. You could of course do this at Easter and make it an Easter cake!
15. **Signs of Spring**
A photograph taken in 2021 that highlights Spring and the changes that take place at this time.
16. **A Lamb Made of Any Material – Children only**
A lamb created using any material. It could be a model or a painting or any other way you feel suitable.
17. **Something I Made in 2021 – Adult only**
A craft item made in any medium (artwork, handicraft or anything creative) that you have made in 2021.
18. **Something I Made in 2021 – Children only**
A craft item made in any medium (artwork, handicraft or anything creative) that you have made in 2021.

It will be so great to reinstate the Framfield and Blackboys Spring Show, albeit under a very different guise. We hope to continue with a Spring Show of this type in the years ahead.

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 Saturday 10th April – Deadline is **6pm** on Monday 3rd May.

Please email your entries including the photographs attached as **.jpg** files to Denise at fabhs.info@gmail.com by 3rd May, 6pm. (Please contact Denise if you are having difficulties with this method of entry and we will try to help out.)

Include:

- Your photograph(s)
- Class no(s) (from 1 to 18) – 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 13th August 2021. I understand that I may be contacted in connection with the Summer Shows in 2021 and 2022. Your information will **NOT** be passed on to any other parties by the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society.