

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

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

DECEMBER 2022/ JANUARY 2023

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
LOCAL CHURCH**

**NEW CHURCH OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER
01825 891033**

**PLEASE, PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH OFFICE PHONE
NUMBER HAS CHANGED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT**

Note: The Church is now in interregnum.

**All communications for church matters should be
directed to the Church Office:**

Email: admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk
**Post: Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane,
Framfield TN22 5NH**
Telephone: Please leave a message - 01825 891033

**The Church Office is not staffed on a full-time basis.
Messages may be left on the Office answerphone.**

Churchwarden: Mr Graham Seldon
(for urgent matters) 01825 508758

**Secretary to the PCC
and Church Admin: Mr Barry Richardson**
Treasurer: Mrs Gaynor Robson



From the Church Registers:

At rest: 24.09.2022: Albert Peter Michael Jarvis
21.11.2022: Annabelle Marten

No Baptisms or Weddings registered

Service and Sacrifice – Remembering

We were all deeply moved by the death of our beloved monarch in September. The Church of England had plans in place (like most public bodies) for this eventuality. These documents appeared on the CofE website in the form of around 60 pages!

We, as a small village church, marked this "moment in history" as follows: The Church bell tolled from 12.00 until 1.00 on Friday, 9th September 2022. A book of condolence was available in Church, from Friday, 9th September to 20th September 2022. The Book was provided by the Parish Council and has now been safely returned to them. The Book will be passed onto Wealden District Council who will arrange for it to be sent to The Keep (ESCC Archive).

Our Flower Team worked very hard at short notice! A group, mainly ladies, organised/provided decoration and set up the church, and with abundant "common sense", to get things done.

Candles were available to light and there was a prayer page to take away. We provided two special services, one on 11th, (for the family) and one on 18th September (a more formal farewell) conducted with all due respect, which we hope was achieved.

We hope this was a respectful commemoration of The Queen's life.

Interregnum - Progress Report

So far, we have managed to provide a service each Sunday with the help of visiting clergy (thanks to Revd John Cleaver and Revd Nick Lamb for their part in this), without them we could not conduct a communion service.

Our own Graham Seldon, Christine Hayler and Peter Berry have kept us on track in the family and morning praise services, which can be led by laity. None of it would work without our churchwarden Graham Seldon who is always busy with church matters – so much for being retired!

We have now reached a stage where a job advert has been placed in the Church Times for the new Vicar. This has involved several meetings and working with our neighbouring parishes. Appointing a new vicar can be quite a lengthy process, with a few layers of bureaucracy involved – be assured we will keep you all informed as best we can.

Christmas services at Framfield:

Service of Lessons and Carols:

We plan to form a scratch choir for the Lessons and Carols service, which will be on Sunday 11th December at 6.30 pm.

Carols at the Hare and Hounds:

There will be carols at the Hare & Hounds at Framfield on Friday 16 Dec from 8.00 pm.

Crib and Christingle Service: Christmas Eve at 4.30 pm. This is a popular family service and for many marks the start of Christmas celebrations. There will be Christingles for all the children.

A Happy, peaceful, and restful Christmas to all in the parish
Graham Seldon, Churchwarden
Barry Richardson, PCC Secretary

Giving to the Church.

We are so grateful for any donations you are able to make. In a rapidly increasing cashless world, we are excited to announce that the church is now equipped with a cashless giving machine. Donations can be made easily using a credit or debit card. Simply select the cause you would like to donate to and the amount you wish to donate and tap your card on the top of the machine. We are currently collecting for the general church fund, the churchyard and our appeal for funds towards essential electrical works.

Contacting us

For urgent enquiries please contact the Church Warden, Mr Graham Seldon, on 01825 508758, email : warden@framfieldchurch.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss any baptism, wedding, funeral, visiting or help which is needed in the parish.

Please note that the latest notices and information are always posted on the church website. - www.framfieldchurch.org.uk.

Diary of Church Services

Note: The latest church service information will always be on the Church website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

DECEMBER 2022

- 04 Second Sunday in Advent**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with Revd John Cleaver)
- 11 Third Sunday in Advent**
10.00 am Family Service
(with Christine Hayler)
6.30 pm Lessons and Carols by candlelight
- 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with Rev Nick Lamb)
- 24 Christmas Eve**
4.30 pm Crib and Christingle
(with Christine Hayler)
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion (CW)
(with Revd Nick Lamb)
- 25 Christmas Day**
10.00 am Morning Praise
(with Graham Seldon)

JANUARY 2023

- 01 Second Sunday of Christmas**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 08 Epiphany**
10.00 am Family Service

- 15 Second Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) (Revd Nick Lamb)
- 22 Third Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Morning Praise
- 29 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Morning Praise

(Everyone is welcome at any of the church services)

Note: The latest church service information is always on the Church Website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th JANUARY 2023
TO**

ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182
Please note new email address:
clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

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

**CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE
EMAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE:**
admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk

This bi-monthly Newsletter is distributed free to all homes (around 1100)
within the Parish.

Appeal for Church Office Re-organisation and Electrical Supply

The Church Diocese intend to rent out the Vicarage as from the 1st of December 2022 following our Vicar Chris Lawrence's retirement.

The church diocese will then terminate the electrical supply from the vicarage for the office on the 30th of November 2022. We are then required to arrange an alternative supply from our Church Hall to the office. This requires electrical and ground works to establish this new supply.

The total cost of these works amounts to £2100 which could not be planned within our budget.

This matter has come at a time close to Christmas and we appreciate our appeal is not happening at a good time.

If you are able help us raise the necessary funds, please either:

1. Sign up to the "Appeal sheet" in the church
2. The church is now equipped with a cashless giving machine. Donations can be made easily using a credit or debit card. Simply select the cause you would like to donate to and the amount you wish to donate and tap your card on the top of the machine.
3. Via our website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/giving.html>

4. Use the QR code:



<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b0aca34f-7696-4d7a-85a2-847ef236712a>

If you would like any more information please contact John Mordaunt on 01825 890443 or 07989 587459 or email: johnmordaunt1@gmail.com

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

11th December 2022

8th January 2023

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 children's birthday parties. Our rates are £11.00 per hour. For one off users (parties, wedding receptions etc), the hourly rate is £15.00.

For more details about the hall and its events please get in touch with Graham Seldon on 01825 508758, mobile 07973 685992, or email: hoss.graham@outlook.com

Nature Notes

Autumn and early winter has been exceptionally mild this year, with many meteorological records broken, e.g., the warmest Remembrance Day on record. We are still seeing insects such as butterflies, bees, ladybirds and flies well into November. Also, many trees and other plants are flowering when they should be dormant. We have a fine display of roses in our Uckfield garden. I have also seen fruit trees with just a few blossom flowers out as if their metabolic pathways are responding as if it is spring. Grass is certainly still growing. It is tempting to say, “isn’t this climate change lovely!” However, we had a flood in Uckfield last week and several homes and other properties were flooded and damaged. Nature is showing signs of disruption, notably delays in migratory birds flying south and green leaves persisting for longer.

The wonderful thing is that nature will adapt, and even lend a hand to us humans as we attempt to reverse the changes we see. Green leaves for longer means that more carbon dioxide will be absorbed and lovely oxygen released by the plants. More insects will survive in temperate climates and be food for the birds and other animals that eat them. Excessive rain will ensure that rivers are flowing again and reservoirs will be filling. However, these changes will be painful for many people and other organisms in the front line of these changes. These front lines are mainly in both the tropics and in the polar regions, north and south.

Drought will lead to the evolution of resilient adaptations such as the ability to aestivate. This word is derived from the Latin word *aestas* (summer). It is similar to hibernation (*hibernus* – winter). Both are animal strategies to survive extreme climatic conditions. Perhaps the most commonly seen aestivating animals are snails during hot summers. Other invertebrates that do it include beetles, crabs and mosquitos. However, there are vertebrates also that aestivate, including frogs, toads, tortoises and salamanders, even a type of lemur and hedgehog do it. The converse is that fewer animals will have to hibernate. In England, we are seeing dormice remaining active for longer and even breeding well into November. We also expect to see frogs, toads and other hibernating animals emerging and breeding earlier in the spring.

Martyn Stenning

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

We've had a busy time across our St Thomas a Becket Federation, Blackboys and Framfield Schools, since I last wrote. The children have all enjoyed school trips based on their History Learning. Lewes Castle has been a particularly popular destination, together with Anne of Cleves House, also in Lewes. We love getting our pupils out and about to learn.

As you can imagine, Christmas is a seriously exciting time for Primary School children and in our 2 parish schools we are gearing ourselves up for this festive period.

We are looking forward to Uckfield Late Night Shopping and the opportunity to perform festive songs on the Ashdown Radio Stage. Both schools love being involved in community events. We also have a Federation Christmas Tree at the Holy Cross Festival of Trees.

Both schools have very active Parent/Teacher Associations, both who are looking forward to running Christmas Fairs. We have two Christmas Fairs on Saturday 3rd December: Framfield from 12-3pm and Blackboys 12-2pm. There will be a well-timed visit to both events by Father Christmas together with all the excitement and games a Christmas Fair can bring. We would love to welcome members of the community to these events.

There has been already a lot of practise for our schools' Nativity plays. As Church of England Primary Schools, we like to tell a traditional nativity story, but with a fun twist. The children are sounding great and we know costumes will be a highlight.

Talking of traditions, each school will be holding a Christmas Carol Concert at St Thomas a Becket Church as we near the end of term. These services mix carols, contemporary songs and bible readings and prove very popular. This year, we are also sending a Federation Choir to the church carol concert on Sunday 11th December. We hope to see lots of you there.

The end of term will see us say a fond farewell to Mrs Vernon, our year 1/2 teacher at Framfield. She has taught at Framfield for just over 8 years and we wish her well in her new ventures.

Thank you for your interest in our two schools.

Graham Sullivan
Interim Executive Headteacher
St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation
Blackboys CE School
Framfield CE School

Remembering your Faithful Friend this Christmas

Christmas may be a time to remember family and friends - but Dogs Trust Shoreham is also asking local dog owners to remember their four-legged friends this festive time, with a *Canine Care Card*.

The *Canine Care Card* is a free service, which helps to ensure your dog's future, in the event of you either passing away, receiving a life-changing diagnosis, or moving into a care home. This can often be a great concern to some people, who perhaps do not have a family member or friend in a position to look after their dog, should the worst happen. Therefore, by signing up to the service, Dogs Trust can offer peace of mind, reassuring you that your faithful friend will be well cared for by the charity.

It is easy to sign up to the service, which simply asks for some information on your dog, including their likes and dislikes, as well as your dog's medical history and your vet details. It also asks for you to confirm who you would like as your Dog Guardian. This should be someone you trust, like a friend, family member, solicitor, neighbour, or vet, who can sign over ownership of your dog to Dogs Trust on your behalf, should you become seriously ill or pass away.

You can register online by going to www.dogstrust.org.uk and searching for 'Canine Care Card' - or if you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper version of the application form. Once the form is submitted, Dogs Trust will then write to you, to confirm when your application has been processed.

Once signed up, should your card ever need to be activated, Dogs Trust will then arrange with your Dog Guardian for your dog to come into the rehoming centre or into foster care. With a team of vets, trainers and behaviourists on hand if needed, your dog will then be welcomed, loved, and well cared for by the charity, who will work tirelessly to find a loving new home for your much-loved canine companion.

If you would like further information about the *Canine Care Card*, or to request a paper application form, please contact Dogs Trust Shoreham's Supporter Relations Officer, Jennifer Cruse, at jennifer.cruse@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01273 466971.

mor space morespacesolutions.co.uk 0800 00 33 55

**Is your conservatory unusable??
Then upgrade today!!**

Insulated Solid Conservatory Roof Panels
High-tech • Precision-engineered • Insulated solid conservatory roof panels

Tiled Replacement Conservatory Roofs
Completed in around 2 to 3 days • 40-year roof tile guarantee • Highly energy efficient

New! CorkSeal Spraycork Conservatory Roof Coatings
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Affordable conservatory roof insulation without the faff!

Build It AWARDS 2020 WINNER
GREEN HOME AWARDS 2021 HIGHLY COMMENDED
CorkSol is one of KEVIN McCLOUD'S GREEN HEROES

Help grow the East Sussex Queen's Green Canopy

East Sussex gardeners and tree lovers are being urged to get busy planting this autumn and winter, to create a living legacy in The Queen's memory.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) was launched as a Platinum Jubilee year initiative but, at the King's request, has been extended until the end of March 2023 to allow people to pay their respects by planting trees.

To take part just follow the four simple steps below and find out more at www.queensgreencanopy.org

1. PLAN: Acquire a healthy tree.
2. PLANT: Once you've got your tree the next stage is to plant it!
3. PROTECT: With your tree planted, it's time to give it the best chance of flourishing with some aftercare.
4. QGC MAP: Add a photo of your tree to the digital record of trees planted in the Queen's name across the country: queensgreencanopy.org/qgc-map/
After the summer's drought, the wetter autumn ground conditions are right for tree planting, giving people the chance to help make the UK greener. This initiative was said to be the one closest to the late Queen's heart in her Platinum Jubilee Year.

'The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people,' said The Marquess of Abergavenny who Chairs the East Sussex QGC Working Group.

'As well as planting trees in their own gardens, on farms and with community groups, people can also gift a tree in memoriam in honour of Her Majesty, with trees to be planted in schools and deprived urban areas across the UK.

Planting trees in the right places is valuable to help reduce climate change, and the interactive QGC map is showcasing the planting across the country, giving people an opportunity to be part of a special legacy. Lord Abergavenny urged people with gardens of any size to find room for some type of tree - including fruiting and ornamental varieties. He said, 'Any species of healthy tree counts as long as it is nurtured and preserved for the future. Please get planting, upload a photo to the digital map and let the East Sussex team know.'

For information on the QGC in East Sussex see [Queen's Green Canopy | Action in rural Sussex](#) and to get involved see www.queensgreencanopy.org To gift a tree in honour of Her Majesty see <https://shop.queensgreencanopy.org/>

Bevern View News



Times of Celebration

Sharing special times of celebration is so important for our wonderful eleven residents at Bevern View. Our ethos is to provide more from life, whether through celebrations, activities, or outings which many of us might take for granted.

Celebrating a **birthday** at Bevern View involves everyone from family and friends, to support workers. Our activities team create parties according to each individual resident's interests. We've had parties with themes of spa and pampering, animals, musicals, chocolate wonderland, and even a cocktail bar!

In June, our residents joined with the welcoming Barcombe community to share in the **Jubilee festivities** and enjoyed the street party, races, stalls, games, and a disco! Through the Barcombe Bonfire Society, many of our residents get a chance to join in with the bonfire **processions**. We are also very grateful for their fundraising support.

Our annual fundraising **Dinner & Auction**, hosted by our Patron, Natasha Kaplinsky, was a wonderful celebration of residents and staff and our generous supporters raised a fantastic amount which will help us continue to provide 'more from life' for our residents.

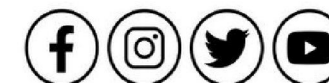


Bevern View is a purpose-built residential home in Barcombe providing life-long care for 11 young adults with profound disabilities.

Donate: www.beverntrust.org

Follow us on social media:

@thebeverntrust



We have so many  Christmas traditions and events which our residents love!

Please do get involved with our amazing fundraising **Christmas Hamper raffle**. Tickets are on sale for £1 each from 1 December on our website - beverntrust.org.

We'd love to invite you to our fundraising **Christmas Cake Sale at St Francis, Barcombe on Friday 9th December at 3pm**.

Tickets will be on sale for our Christmas Hamper Raffle and Children's Christmas Stocking Raffle!



JOIN OUR TEAM

We are looking for Support Workers to join our friendly home in Barcombe

- Welcome Bonus £950
- Salary from £11.00-£11.34
- Flexible dawn and twilight shifts available

Make a difference to someone's life today!



TO APPLY

Email HR@beverntrust.org
Call 01273 400 752
Visit www.beverntrust.org

Church Office Furniture

We are looking for a few pieces of office furniture to allow us to update our church office. We could do with an office chair swivel type, small cupboard and a small table for meetings. Please contact John Mordaunt if you can help on 01825 890443 or 07989 587459

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Hare & Hounds, Pub & Restaurant
The Street, Framfield, TN22 5NJ

Festive Menu AVAILABLE NOW

Lunchtime & Evenings
1st to 24th December
(except Mondays)

Normal menu also available
throughout December

BOOK NOW

01825 890118



2022

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December 2022

Open all day for drinkers
Food Served 12-2.30pm & 5.30-8.30pm

Christmas Day *

Sunday 25th December 2022

12-3pm for drinkers only (No Food Served)

Boxing Day *

Monday 26th December 2022

Open for drinkers 12-6pm (No Food Served)

New Year's Eve

Saturday 31st December 2022

(No lunch time food service)

NYE PARTY

Music – Large Buffet – Lots of Fun
See in the New Year at the Hare & Hounds
TICKET ONLY – £12 per person

New Year's Day

Sunday 1st January 2023

Open for drinkers 12-6pm
No Food Served (Free Bar Snacks)

Monday 2nd January 2023

4-8pm for drinkers only (No Food Served)

MY LIFE WITH FUR AND FEATHER

LIVESTOCK ON ASHDOWN FOREST

It was August bank holiday and I decided to take some of the family for a walk on Ashdown Forest, as my brother particularly wanted to visit the enchanted place from the Winnie the pooh stories. Unfortunately being a bank holiday and being a lovely warm sunny day it was literally swarming with people, I have never seen it so busy. In October I went back again with a friend. It was lovely, so very peaceful, and we had the place to ourselves, then rounding a clump of trees I suddenly saw some ponies and sheep. Over the years I have often seen white woolly sheep that seem to enjoy wondering along the roads and cropping the nice green grass on the verges. However these sheep were completely different being small black Hebridean sheep. Apparently they are very hardy and are used for conservation grazing so are ideal for scrub control on the forest. As well as these sheep there were some really lovely Exmoor ponies that looked in beautiful condition. They were in a large area enclosed by electric fencing. I gather both the Exmoor and Dartmoor ponies are now used by the other organisations. I have now joined the Rare Breeds Survival trust and was surprised to see both of these breeds are on their priority list so it is nice to know they can be used for conservation. They belong to the Ashdown conservators. I gather another advantage is that livestock can clear areas that machinery cannot reach. I think there are also Galloway cattle but I have never seen any.

Recently I have heard that Bison are now being used in Kent to restore woodland by grazing, foraging, wallowing and stripping bark off trees. Years ago I planted young oak trees in our wood and the squirrels stripped off a lot of the bark that ruined them leaving them stunted, so I am puzzled as to how this activity improves woodland? I gather a baby bison has now been born. I do not know whether the general public have access to the woodland, if so I wonder what they will think if confronted by a large strange animal! As they are particularly suited for improving woodland I do not think we will see bison on Ashdown forest.



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Lunchtime & Evenings
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I gather there is talk about visitors having to pay to park cars on the Forest and I have recently noticed some of the parking places are now blocked off. I presume from that there will be fewer places to leave your car while you have a walk and you will have to pay. If this is the case I think many people will park in unsuitable places that could cause a lot of damage, block access to driveways and churn up the verges etc.

I have enjoyed the forest for more than fifty years with the beautiful views and a variety of weather conditions. I remember one day the weather was perfect so I decided to enjoy a walk on Ashdown Forest but was very surprised when I arrived to find it was covered in snow and ice. It was a wonderful sight and very unexpected as there had been no sign of snow when I left home.

I am writing this at the beginning of November there has been torrential rain; huge terrifying hail stones I thought would smash the windows and flooding. As you will be reading this in December I wonder what the weather will be like then. I think the livestock on Ashdown Forest stay out all year round and I'm sure are well adapted to winter weather.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas.

Best wishes from Hazel Carter

01825 830477



FRAMFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 3rd December 12 - 3pm Framfield Village Hall

Stalls / games / food & drink / meet Santa & more



Polecat by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

For most of us, our only encounters with British mammals are spotting them on the roadside as we hurtle past at 55mph. I'm sure many people these days believe that lying motionless on a road verge with its feet in the air is natural behaviour for a Badger. Our road trips may be macabre safaris but roadkill can tell us a lot about the state of our island's mammalian fauna. Hedgehogs, a squashed staple on the roadkill menu a few decades ago, are now hard to find flattened on the highway, reflecting their dramatic fall in numbers in the wider countryside. And recently an unfamiliar corpse has appeared on the tarmac: the Polecat.

Before being killed by cars, Polecats already had a long history of persecution in England – mainly for eating poultry and notoriously stinking to high heaven. To Shakespeare, and many others since, 'Polecat' was an insult. The species was exterminated from Sussex around 1890. Indeed, the entire English population was banished to the wilderness of Wales. Yet we were happy to welcome their watered-down, domesticated form – the Ferret – as cuddly pets and ruthless Rabbit hunters.

After a century in exile, purebred Polecats are making a comeback. This re-colonisation was the basis for a recent investigation by the Vincent Wildlife Trust who requested roadkill Polecat corpses for DNA testing to verify their pure Polecat lineage (as opposed to Polecat/Ferret hybrids). I was soon dodging traffic on the Steyning by-pass and excitedly picking up a dead Polecat. Being mustelids, Polecats naturally smell but, take my word for it, they smell a lot worse when they've been dead for a few days. Despite discharging a whole can of Glade, my wife smelt that something was up seconds after I set foot in the house. Putting a dead Polecat in your freezer will test even the strongest of marriages.

Thankfully, after some smooth talking, my marriage is still intact but there are still some fish fingers that neither of us are brave enough to eat. Next morning a package arrived from the Vincent Wildlife Trust containing heavy duty bags, some cool BIOHAZARD stickers and printed instructions for posting Polecats.

After an interesting exchange at the post office counter, my roadkill casualty was posted. A few days later, it was declared 100% Polecat; further evidence that Polecats have returned to Sussex. It's great to have them back and many farmers are welcoming them too, as they do a great job of dispatching Rats and Rabbits. Look out for them in your headlights.

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



Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - if you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone.

Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control.

Calls are free and confidential. **Call us on 0808 801 0688 - we have time to talk**

Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

TRAFFIC ISSUES IN BLACKBOYS – FROM CHRIS DOWLING

LEWES ROAD

I have lobbied and pressed East Sussex County Council to review the 50mph speed limit in Lewes Road, Blackboys. However, despite my repeated requests and pressure from the local community, the council refuses to review the limit. Comparisons with the speed limits in other local villages have been made, but unfortunately to no effect.

In the spring of this year, following requests to the Sussex Safer Road Partnership (SSRP), which includes Sussex Police, temporary signs were installed in Lewes Road. These were refreshed and re-positioned in the autumn.

In my time as the local county councillor, I have always worked closely with Framfield Parish Council. The route now being pursued with Lewes Road is an application by the parish council to East Sussex County Council for their Community Match Fund. Subject to feasibility, cost and agreement, the parish council would share the cost of a suitable scheme. The matter is now in process, but it is time-consuming. Furthermore, the Community Match Fund process is competitive, with other communities and parishes applying.

In the early months of 2022, East Sussex County Council brought forward draft proposals for their Route Survey of the B2192, including Lewes Road. I have kept in touch with the council on the progress of the plans, but I am still waiting for the final details. However, the work that will be done will only be signs and lines. Again, I have been told repeatedly that the Route Survey does not include a review of the speed limit.

HIGH STREET

My thanks to the residents who volunteered their time to help with the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team in the High street. Some of the roadside sessions have been supported by the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who work in the local area. New volunteers are always being sought for the CSW, so if you have an hour or two available and want to help the village, please contact Framfield Parish Council – training is provided.

There is a glimmer of hope with the issues in the High Street. As a result of the planned housing development just off the Framfield Road, the developer will have to pay Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Wealden District Council, part of which will go the parish council. The parish council is in the early stages of negotiations with the developer about possible traffic calming in the High Street. I am supporting the parish council with this matter and East Sussex County Council is being consulted.

My best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Dowling,
East Sussex County Councillor for Uckfield South with Framfield – including Blackboys
cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk

SPEEDING TRAFFIC IN BLACKBOYS

There are concerns amongst residents in Blackboys about speeding traffic in the High Street and on Lewes Road. Local County Councillor Chris Dowling is working with Parish Council and a community group to press East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police to review the speed limits and take action.

To help address the speed issues in the High Street, a Community Speed Watch (CSW) group of volunteers could be set-up. The CSW system is a Police project and it is robust, with speeding motorists who are 'caught' by the CSW team reported online to the Police. The system has a rising level of contacts and warnings sent to offending motorists. Motorists who offend repeatedly and are reported can face Police prosecution.

Unfortunately, due to Police procedures and insurance cover, CSW cannot operate in Lewes Road.

The Parish Council would like to see a CSW set up in the Parish again, but a group of volunteers is needed- approximately 6 people. Training, equipment and support is provided.

Interested and want to help with road safety in Blackboys? Please contact the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton - 01825 890182 email - clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

As I write, it is still raining! One of the major problems when there is excessive rain is surface water and where it goes! Every householder should try to find out where their surface water goes – does it go into a soakaway or the main sewerage drain? If the latter, this could cause the foul drain to overflow. I understand that Southern Water will give out free water butts to help residents dispose of their own surface water. I will be looking into this further and will report back when I have more information.

There never seems to be a quiet moment in Government at the moment! With some of the recent announcements I believe very strongly that as local government for local residents, Wealden should set down it's views so I issued a statement.

“At a local level our actions to date within the District are excellent with regard to the climate change agenda and there is much more to come going forwards. We have a sound climate action plan in place and through prudent management of the Councils finances, the resources necessary to deliver change at the scale required, as a Council and to help enable our communities to follow our lead.

We also work very hard on the protection and enhancement of our environment even with some of the difficult decisions which have to be made. As we have made clear, our new local plan will have the strongest possible protections for our environment and heritage assets, with polices to deliver biodiversity net gain, protect our most valued landscapes and ecologically sensitive sites to name a few.

We have taken a clear and principled stance on issues related to foul drainage and the discharges into our rivers and coastline. Through positive, but challenging dialogue we are leading the conversation with Southern Water, bringing in new planning powers and developing new processes to encourage Southern Water to deliver on their promises.

We have a strong track record of support for our local businesses and help and house those in need. We understand the pressure of government housing targets on our community and have publicly made clear our lobbying efforts to government to reduce this pressure and deliver a sustainable level of housing growth for our community, together with the necessary infrastructure investment. We are already lobbying the new Ministerial team at DLUHC on this issue.

With regard to the Retained EU Law Bill, I am meeting with the Sussex Wildlife Trust soon and am also supporting the Conservators of the Ashdown Forest in their lobbying of Government on that as well as Investment Zones, ELMS and fracking.

Government has been clear that fracking will only proceed with local agreement and although WDC would only be a consultee, under this administration, support would not be provided. [Government have now backtracked on their views on fracking but I think it is still worth noting the view of WDC].

We are not seeking an Investment Zone in Wealden. We are focused on the things we can do locally to conserve the environment and nature, while ensuring that Wealden is a good place for our residents to live and work. So as a Council we will focus on the needs of Wealden, this is what our residents would expect us to do as a responsible local authority whilst continuing to lobby Government”.

As always, please don't hesitate to me with any queries. It's only left for me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

A Very Merry Christmas to you all !

THE COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS OF FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL WISH EVERYONE IN THE PARISH A HAPPY, HEALTHY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.





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**FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Hello all,

I can't believe we are coming to the end of another year.

We have been working hard to get together our Events and Talks for 2023. Our committee member Jackie Argyrou is our Events co-ordinator and is putting together an exciting schedule which we will publish on our website shortly. www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com

The Horticultural Society arrange talks, visits and events throughout the year, we are a friendly bunch and welcome new members with open arms so if you're not a member why not come along to one of our talks or events and see what you think, we charge a small fee of £3.00 to non-members, talks are free to members and we provide an interesting talk, refreshments and a novel way of meeting your fellow villagers.

I hope you read Terry Everitt's Summer Show 2022 report in the last Parish Magazine. If you couldn't join us in August, you missed a cracker. There was an amazing atmosphere with lots of smiling faces despite the heat and we have had some really good feedback. We have also started our Summer Show Committee meetings and planning is in the pipeline for our 2023 Show in August.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the planning, setting up and running the show so please do contact me if you are able to help in any way. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates www.facebook.com/Framfieldandblackboysshow

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Denise Taylor
Chair, Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

PS if you are looking for a gift that keeps on giving why not gift a year's membership to the Horticultural Society with zero waste and hours of enjoyment.

For more information, please see our website www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com we are also on Facebook www.facebook.com/framfieldandblackboys

Gardening tips from Jenny Bacon

Winter may have arrived but if you can, make the most of any dry days and go outside for some fresh air, there are always stray leaves in the garden to tidy up, but rather than putting them into your brown bin why not make some leaf mould. It's very simple to do, just collect as many leaves as you can into old refuse bags or a builders bag (if the refuse bags don't have any holes make some to let the rain in and out), they can then be stacked up out the way but don't cover them with a waterproof sheet as they need moisture to break down, and in approx. 18months you will have beautiful leaf mould and the more leaves you collect the more leaf mould you will have to use in your garden.

On those rainy days which I am sure we will have many, make some plans on what you would like to achieve in your outdoor space next year. There are many seed and plant catalogues around so with a mug of tea and a notebook to hand take some time to plan, this will take the pressure off when you next visit your local garden centre or nursery and keep you focused so you don't make too many impulse purchases.

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2023

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

(Last market of 2022 will be 26 November)

28 January
25 February
25 March
29 April
27 May
24 June
29 July
August – no market
30 September
28 October
25 November
16 December

Please contact Ann Newton with any queries
01825 890182 or email clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

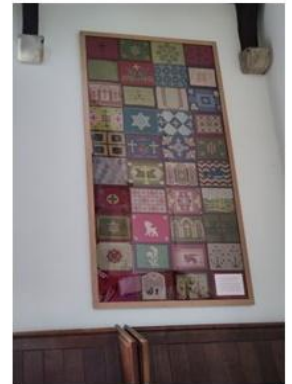
Litter bins – our Parish litter bins have become targets for fly-tipping mainly of domestic waste. If anyone has any information could they please me know. Everyone is entitled to a bin collection paid through their Council Tax. No one should have to use our Parish bins for their own waste.



Framfield & Blackboys WI

NEW ROLE FOR OLD KNEELERS

The bases of some of the kneelers at St Thomas à Becket Church had become worn and very fragile and members of the congregation wished to find a way of preserving the lovely embroidery and cross stitch on the tops of the cushions. Two WI members, Margaret Bond and Delia Gillies, came up with a creative solution by sewing the tops together to create a beautiful wall hanging. The results of their many hours of work can now be seen on display in the church in Framfield.



QUIZ N CAKE

After a gap of two years, we were delighted to be able to run our ever popular Quiz Night again. Quizmasters Terry & Rich treated us to another creative and off-beat quiz with rounds like 'Wordsmash', 'Who's Behind the Sandcastle' and the fiendishly difficult 'Three Faces in One Photograph'. They were ably backed up by scorekeeper, Hayley, sporting a stunning new hairstyle. A big thank you to all who joined us on the evening. We would also like to thank Lorraine and her team at the Hare and Hounds who helped with sourcing some of the food and slicing industrial quantities of ham. We also very much appreciate the ongoing support we received from Staverton Nursery and Waitrose who generously donated prizes for our raffle. And finally thank you to our members who produced copious quantities of cake for dessert.

COMING UP NEXT

Christmas Party	Church Hall Music by Rosie Page	Friday, 9th December
January Lunch	Hare & Hounds	Date TBA

If you would like to find out more about our WI, why not come along to one of our meetings as a visitor. Please contact Delia Gillies on 01825 890825 or Jackie Samways on 01825 890417. Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI

WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair:

**For the Church: Mr Graham Seldon
(Churchwarden)**

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 volunteers**

Printers: "Print Matters"

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Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0303 999 1000

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