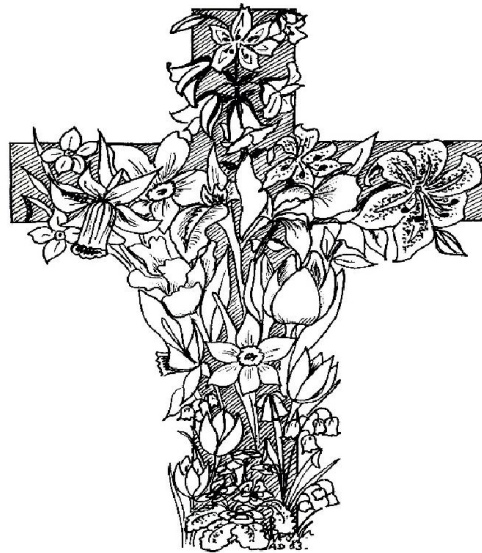


Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

APRIL / MAY 2023

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Note: The Church remains in interregnum until 8th June 2023.

**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: 4th April: Frederick James Pratt (Freddy)

5th April: Marshall Currell

No Baptisms or Weddings registered

Freddy Pratt:

Freddy will be remembered by many in the parish for the business he ran for many years – the shop he had on Framfield Road, and later for his mobile shop. He was also a talented singer.

As many of you will know Freddy had been ill for some time, and was unable to get to church in February. He was being well looked after at home by friends, neighbours and church members, and had daily contact by phone, and people checking in on him.

Sadly, I have to tell you Freddy went to be with the Lord around 6.00 am on a Friday morning (3rd March). Raymond and a neighbour, Brenda, were with him at the time. As Peter Berry has said, Freddy was a “one off” and will be very much missed by us all. He maintained a positive and sunny outlook even to the end. We should remember his can-do attitude and his deep faith.

Freddy’s funeral will be in church on 4th April at noon, followed by burial in the churchyard he gave so much of his time to maintain (*Si monumentum requiris circumspice*). Revd Chris Lawrence will officiate. We expect a large congregation will be there, and we will provide refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Interregnum - Progress Report – United Benefice

From June we will be part of a new benefice including Chiddingly, East Hoathly and Framfield.

The new incumbent, Revd James Vine, will initially be appointed as Priest-in-Charge of all three churches in the new benefice and will live in the Rectory at East Hoathly. This is a central location to work from. Revd James will also have the assistance of a Curate, Revd Janice Bartholomew. There will be a Licensing Service for both on 8th June at Framfield at 7.30 pm.

Look out for further details on the Church Website.

Framfield Vicarage:

The Vicarage at Framfield is now rented out, as Revd James will live at East Hoathly. The rental income, however, goes to the Diocese in Chichester. There will be some reduction in running costs, but we are still expected to contribute a substantial sum each month (as our Parish Share) to Chichester.

We will still have the Church Office at Framfield. All communications for the church should be addressed here and **not to the Vicarage**. We have access down the drive as far as the church office (in the barn), but no further – beyond that point is now a private access and parking for the tenants.

Recently, costs have risen sharply to where most parishes are being reorganised with shared clergy and this is the reason for uniting Framfield, Chiddingly and East Hoathly under the management of one vicar and a curate.

The costs of keeping a parish church running are high and we as a small rural congregation we are reliant on appeals for income for capital projects.

In this regard, we will soon have to extend the Garden of Remembrance in the churchyard, as we are getting short on plots for the interment of ashes.

Graham Seldon, Churchwarden and 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, and the churchyard.

Gaynor Robson, Treasurer

Wrap up well

We are all acutely aware of the rising costs of living – especially electricity. Unfortunately, we have an extensive electrical heating system in the Church and the Church Hall. Our electricity costs have risen by over 200%. The church is at the mercy of the economy, as we all are in this respect. We are running the heating system at a low level to keep our costs down as far as possible.

We hope the weather will not turn as cold as it did in mid-December. Please wrap up well when attending church!

Graham Seldon, Churchwarden

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>

APRIL 2023

- 02 Palm Sunday**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with Revd John Cleaver)
- 06 Maundy Thursday**
7.00 pm Meditation – the Last Supper
- 07 Good Friday**
10.00am Walk of Witness (starting from Cornerstone)
- 09 Easter Sunday**
10.00 am Family Service
(with Christine Hayler)
- 16 Second Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with Rev Nick Lamb)
- 23 Third Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Morning Praise
(with Peter Berry)
- 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Morning Praise
(with Peter Berry)

MAY 2023

- 07 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with Revd John Cleaver)
- 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Family Service (with Christine Hayler)

21 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with Revd Nick Lamb)

28 **Pentecost**
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)

(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 MAY 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.



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

**9th April 2023
14th May 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

By the time you read this, day-light will be longer than night-dark. The dynamic awakening of spring will be well underway. Leaf buds on most deciduous trees will have burst open, revealing the billions of little green oxygen producing solar panels that we all depend on and call leaves.

Deciduous (Latin *deciduus*) plants (decide to) cause their leaves to “fall off” ready for winter, and re-leaf each spring. This plant behaviour is confined to a relatively narrow band of global temperate zones. The alternative is to be evergreen, like our native Scots pine, juniper and yew. All other conifers are alien. Holly is the only truly evergreen British native broad-leaved tree. Box is native, broad-leaved and evergreen, but is generally considered to be a shrub. All other broad-leaved evergreen trees, such as holm oak, or bay (laurel) are alien. Bay is a true laurel and supplied the leaves that made up Julius Caesar’s laurel crown. The garden hedge-plant often referred to as laurel is a species of cherry in the *Prunus* genus. Its full name is cherry laurel. This species, like *Rhododendron*, has become an ‘Alien Invader’ and colonised many ancient woodlands with problematic consequences. All plants in Britain are either alien or native and invasive or non-invasive. An example of a native invasive plant is bracken. A non-invasive alien example is *Dahlia*, which is native to north and central America. A native non-invasive example is pyramidal orchid. Two examples of invasive non-native species are noted above. These inhibit and outcompete native species.

Ivy is clearly not a tree, but a native climbing vine. Being evergreen gives ivy a function similar to holly. Owls like to roost during daylight in ivy-clad trees. Honeybees and other insects feed on nectar from ivy during autumn, because ivy is one of the last plants to flower. The berries of ivy, yew and holly feed countless birds especially woodpigeons during the winter. The seeds of these plants pass through the bird’s body and are dispersed throughout the woodland to germinate and produce new trees or climb up old ones. Ivy-clad trees provide a roosting and hibernating habitat for many species of animals, especially invertebrates. Ivy rarely kills trees, but just uses them for support, may limit their branching ability, make them wind-opaque and may hasten their demise.

Martyn Stenning

Nature Notes

March 20th (2023) at 21:24 h. universal time, is the solar equinox. That day, globally, day-light equals night-dark in length, i.e. 12 hours of each across the whole of planet earth. After this date, daylight hours are longer in the northern hemisphere and shorter south of the equator. Hence, one global thing that does not change, with human induced climate change, is the cycle of day length variation. Earth will continue to orbit the sun and spin on its axis resulting in seasonal change. Meanwhile, down here on the planet surface, us enterprising and increasing humans are continually finding ways to make life easier for ourselves, such as better modes of transport, more and warmer houses, convenient plastic packaging, efficient waste disposal like landfill, combustion and the open oceans. Also, industrialised farming, better quality food, deeper open cast mines and oil wells digging out more valuable raw materials.

This is all very well, but where does oxygen to do it come from? Answer = nature. Where does our water come from? Answer = nature. Who deals with our waste products such as CO₂? Answer = nature. Who looks after nature? Answer = we are supposed to as stewards of our environment. Are we succeeding? Not really. Why not? Because we seem to have confused our priorities. This has resulted in 3 linked by-products of our technological revolution, namely, pollution, species extinction and climate change. So, how do we deal with those? That is difficult. In truth it has become a priority to have big airports with more aeroplanes so that we can holiday in more exotic locations. It has become a priority to make bigger, more intensive farms to produce more animal feed to make more meat for ‘luxury’ food such as beef, lamb chicken and pork. It has become a priority to dig out and burn more and more fossil fuels to service our desire for a more luxurious life. However, in doing this we are damaging the very land that feeds us and the very paradise that we desire to be part of. Sadly, the greed of the few is increasing the suffering of the many. In truth, many folk will migrate from hot countries to cooler ones like ours to escape the ravages of climate change. This migration is not confined to people, animals too are changing their locations as their home ranges become uninhabitable due to drought or starvation. As time moves on we are learning more about the consequences of our work. Hopefully, we will soon start to see the solutions making a difference.

Martyn Stenning



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Happy Spring to you all – hopefully when this is published, we will all be enjoying some warmer and drier weather.

I wanted to share with you some of our events that are coming up, non-members are welcome to join us at any of the events – full details for contact are listed in the descriptions.

Tues 13th June, 2pm, Visit to Clinton Lodge, Fletching

www.clintonlodgegardens.co.uk

A great opportunity to visit a fabulous 6-acre garden of formal and romantic planting, including a small knot garden, potager, wisteria alley, a wildflower meadow and a wonderful enclosed old rose garden. Entry £15pp payable in advance, which includes a private tour and refreshments. Please email Emma at abhs.membership@gmail.com. Reference for bacs payments 'CL + your name'.

Weds 26th July 7.30pm 'Droughts, Deluges & Dust Devils', a talk by Ian Currie, Meteorologist, Broadcaster & Speaker - Framfield Village Hall

A very topical topic!

Our weather has always made the headlines, whether through the great storms of 1703 and 1987, severe winters of 1947 and 1963 or temperature records broken in 2019.

Ian will take us through several centuries of weather, with a focus on the south-east of England, including hailstones bigger than cricket balls, the Straits of Dover blocked with ice and a tornado ripping through Guildford.

Entry free for Members, £5 for non-members

Saturday 19th August: SUMMER SHOW!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the planning, setting up and running the show so please do contact Lin Lucas on linlucas203@btinternet.com or 0777 6291446 if you are able to help in any way.

The Summer Show schedule is winging its way to the printers as we speak so will be available well in advance of the show – we would love to see more show entries from the community – “if you are not in it – you can’t win it” so why not give it a go this year. Its great fun and very rewarding when you see your efforts on display.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates

www.facebook.com/Framfieldandblackboysshow

Community Fund from 2022 show: Despite last year’s heatwave, we were delighted that our show did make a small profit and we have Community Funds to disperse of £100. If you know of a worthy local cause, please see our website: <https://framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com/community-funding>

Denise Taylor

Chair, Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

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

COME AND HAVE A SING!

Have you ever thought about trying something different but lacked the nerve, woomph, or whatever to do so? You are not alone! Many, many years ago I was the lead alto in my school choir. I could not read music (I still find it hard), but had a reasonably 'good ear', so learning new pieces was not that difficult (as long as they were comparatively easy). Unfortunately (for me) my voice broke in the middle of a concert – the conductor cued me in and out came this odd croak – I moved from alto to bass with no warbling in between! The embarrassment was profound and that was the end of my school singing career.

And so it remained for nearly 50 years – I never thought my voice was good enough to sing with other people, let alone a choir and certainly not a 'choral society'! Then one day a friend persuaded me to come to a rehearsal of the choral society they were a member of – just try it out they said. So I did and, at the risk of making this all sound a bit like an advert, I found it really good. I was no worse (and no better) than other singers in the society. We all found it hard to sing some of the pieces we were rehearsing, but the support from other choral society members and the musical director was amazing. After a while my confidence and, dare I say it, my abilities grew and I looked forward to both the rehearsals and the small performances we gave. Indeed, as far as the latter was concerned I was quite proud I was doing something that others could not / did not do, and which (I hoped) was bringing pleasure to others and, at the same time, fulfilling the aims of the choral society. And this last point is important.

The object of the society is to further the advancement, improvement, development and maintenance of public education in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, the art and science of music, particularly choral music, in all its aspects. As a choral society we truly believe it is vital to acquaint people with music from the past and present that might otherwise be outside their experience, otherwise the enjoyment of that music will be lost forever. Yes, we tend to concentrate on choral music of one sort or another. No, we don't do rap, or much popular music – our friends in the Uckfield Singers do that. So we have sung things such as the Faure Requiem, the Vivaldi Gloria and pieces by Bach, Stainer and Beethoven. But we have also sung extracts from

G&S, songs by Ivor Novello, and songs from the Great Wars. So, it is not all 'high faloutin' stuff.

If you would like to just try things out, or plunge straight in, come along and join us at the Uckfield (Holy Cross) Choral Society. You do not need to be a Pavarotti or Callas to join. We meet every Thursday evening at 8:00 pm at Holy Cross church, Belmont Road, Uckfield, TN22 1BP and you will be assured of a very friendly welcome with no strings attached! Parking is easy – members tend to use the top left corner of the ten hour Luxford car-park, as the walk from the car-park to the church via the exit into Belmont road is only about five minutes.

Hope to see you soon!

Brian Redman Chair U(HC)CS

Volunteers Needed For Delivering Parish Magazines:

We have a number of magazine rounds available on the following routes:

1. Blackboys Rd (opposite the telephone exchange), the Oaks, Pound Lane, Moody Sewage, Hidden Place (next to New Place) and all points in between.
2. High Cross Lane, Crockstead, up to all houses opposite the speed camera, Crockstead Farm Homes, Bradford's Lane, the Bentley Estate and all points in between.
3. Fearnley Park, part of Baxendale Way, Teelings Drive and Larch End. Someone will gladly escort you on the rounds to acclimatise you to the routes. It is only six times a year and helps to bring the community together.

We can't manage without our loyal volunteers- please see if you could spare some time to deliver parish magazines.

Please ring Barbara on 01825 891172.

**INJURED? STRESSED? ACHES AND PAINS?
SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPY CAN HELP!**

Mike Churchyard is a Sports & Massage Therapist based in Blackboys, East Sussex. Mike can help with;

- Treatment and Prevention of Injuries
- Reduction of Stress and Tension
- Improved Sleep
- Reduction of Scar Tissue
- Postural assessment and improvements
- Muscle Maintenance
- Improved Movement
- Reduction of Chronic Pain



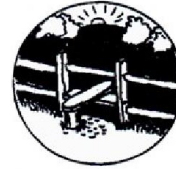
Christian Aid Collection 2023



A Christian Aid Collection envelope is included with this magazine.

Christian Aid Week is 14-20 May 2023

Please give generously. Thank You.



Framfield & Blackboys WI

RETURN OF OUR NEW YEAR LUNCH



After a gap of two years, we kicked off the New Year with lunch at the Hare & Hounds. It was great to catch up after Christmas. As ever, the food was delicious and the service friendly and attentive. The pictures tell their own story - a most enjoyable afternoon.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We have an interesting and varied programme planned for the remainder of the year including a talk on the Wildlife Rescue Ambulance Service, details about the Battle of Lewes which took place in 1264, a talk on the Lumberjills of the Land Army and a magic lantern show featuring hop picking, plus an outing in July, details to follow later.

Date of Next Meeting: 14.00 on 14th April - Framfield Church Hall

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

ALLOTMENT RENTS

**Emails will be sent out in March to current tenants to renew their tenancies. Rents need to be paid by 1 June 2023 or an extra levy is applied. Please check your spam boxes.
Ann - Parish Clerk**

Enjoy Summer at Home



**With a Firepit
from
sussex-forge.com**

**Free local delivery
0797 3327314**

In February the Council Tax was set for the 2023/24 year with an increase of 2.99% or £6.05 per year to a Band D household. Wealden DC is the lowest amount on your Council Tax bill next to the Parish Council – the bulk of the total amount is made up from levies from ESCC and the Police and Fire Authority.

WDC has also brought into play a revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme whereby residents can now qualify for a zero charge in Council Tax dependent upon their income.

I am privileged to have been asked to open next week a new Changing Places unit in Pevensey – we need more of these across the district.

Last month, I chaired the inaugural meeting of the Southern Water Local Authority Stakeholder Group to hold Southern Water to account for delivering vital infrastructure which communities need. This was followed by a motion to Full Council condemning the Government’s Stormwater Overflow legislation which doesn’t act soon enough to stop foul water authorities allowing sewage to be emptied into our seas and rivers.

The Community Lottery was launched in February so if you fancy a flutter the proceeds are used within our District. Local organisations can sign up to the lottery to receive funding to benefit local causes.

As always, if you have any problems or queries please don’t hesitate to make contact.

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

Community Governance Review – I can now confirm that the number of councillors has been reduced to 9 from 11. And some good news, we have a new parish councillor, Trishia from Framfield. It's the elections in May – please contact me for details.

Wealden Community Lottery – the Parish Council acting as sole trustee has signed up to the scheme looking to raise funds to expand on the play equipment already provided to encourage a wider variety of users including those with disabilities. This could be towards the more 'gym-style' equipment for all ages.

Two new goal-posts have been purchased to replace the posts at Palehouse Common and Blackboys recreation grounds.

Tenancy agreements have been sent out for both Framfield and Blackboys allotments generally by email so please check your spam boxes if you haven't received yours. Please contact me preferably by email if you haven't received anything.

Blackboys Sports Pavilion – works to provide a ramp which is DDA compliant will commence in late February.

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.

All agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182

Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Church Lunch at Chiddingly and East Hoathly

Chiddingly and East Hoathly churches hold a monthly Church Lunch. We would like Framfield people to join us. It's very informal and come as you are as you're able.

The next first Sunday of April, church lunch is planned to be on 2nd April at Burchetts Farm, Whitesmith BN8 6HA, either outdoors or undercover depending on conditions ... so you may need to wrap up warmly

Everyone is welcome.

The 7th May clashes with a Coronation Street Party - so we have moved that lunch to 30th April (the previous Sunday) instead.

To book please email Peter and Faith - pf@zereg.com. Please state any dietary requirements.

Bible Study Group

It may also be of interest to your parishioners that we have a Bible study each week of a Thursday evening to which all are welcome either in person or on zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4563211258?pwd=dTVreXJLQXFzdVNrTUp0aVpZUzdJUT09>

at Burchetts Farm, Whitesmith BN8 6HA

We usually look together at the readings for the coming Sunday but during Lent we expect to be following the Chichester Diocesan Lent Course. We look forward to seeing and hearing some of you if you're able to join us.

Framfield School Quiz Night
Saturday 22nd April 2023
Framfield Memorial Hall

Please come and join us for a fun night out..test your brains, enjoy a drink from our licensed bar and help support Framfield Primary School.

To enter please transfer funds for all team members using "yournameQuiz" as reference

Sort code 60-22-05

A/c 63225425

Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd April 2023

Framfield Memorial Hall

8pm – 11pm

Tickets £5 pp

Raising money for Framfield CofE Primary School

Head & tails
Snacks available
Raffle
Bar

Teams (6 min -8 max)
Transfer to PTFA

Grey Squirrel by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm crouching behind my sofa, hiding from a squirrel. While I'm here, peering angrily out of the patio window, it has given me time to reflect on the emotional journey that led me to this place.

There was a time I was nuts about squirrels. As soon as I could walk, I was out shrieking through the autumn leaves, trying to grab a squirrel's bushy tail as it nimbly skedaddled up the nearest Sycamore. Looking back now, I'm not sure what I planned to do with a squirrel, had I ever caught one. It's actually illegal to release a Grey Squirrel once caught because, despite their cute appearance, they can be extremely destructive.

The main problem is that they shouldn't really be in Britain. The Grey Squirrel is a North American species and we can blame Herbrand Russell, 11th Duke of Bedford, for inviting them. Herbrand's hare-brained plan was to import Grey Squirrels to embellish his estate at the start of the last century. Distributing squirrels as gifts, he and his landowner chums assisted their spread across England. Our wildlife and landscape just weren't designed to accommodate this brash new American and the native Red Squirrel, already in decline, was hit particularly hard. Attempts have been made over the years to control Britain's Grey Squirrel population and protect the remaining Reds, and the battle continues, but across most of England it seems the Greys are here to stay.

In the last few weeks the battle has arrived in my back garden. I recently purchased a bird feeding station, an elaborate chandelier draped in peanut feeders, fat balls and coconut shells. Yet the Nuthatches, tits and finches are being usurped by a Grey Squirrel. I'm paying pounds and getting peanuts and it's the squirrel who is packing his cheeks. It feels like I have laid on a buffet for my friends, only to find some American bloke (who I don't particularly like) has turned up to scoff the whole lot. For weeks, we have been locked in an ongoing arms race. I don't want to hurt him – I just want him off my new bird feeder. I've deployed Vaseline, peppers and counterbalances but each time I've been outwitted. He is agile,

acrobatic and very clever. Today I cracked. I purchased a squirrel proof baffle: a large Perspex dome, 100% guaranteed to make my peanut feeder impregnable. I installed it as the squirrel watched curiously and, with a confident laugh, I returned to my front room...to find the squirrel was already back on the peanut feeder. I have no idea how he's doing it and he's too smart to climb there if he's being watched. So here I am, behind the sofa, trying to find out his secret. Whether trying to beat them nationally or just in our own back gardens, it really isn't reassuring to know we're being outsmarted by a rodent.

Common Frog by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

My friend Alf passed away a few years back. He loved Sussex and he loved wildlife but Alf's real passion was amphibians: newts, frogs and toads. Alf loved them so much his funeral service ended with that Paul McCartney Frog Chorus song. That's commitment for you. I spent the rest of the week with that annoying 'bom-bom-bom-aye-e-aye' tune rolling 'round my head. I'm sure Alf was laughing somewhere. While I was helping Alf's family clear his house I was honoured to be given one of his prized possessions: a clock that chimes each hour by playing a variety of frog croaks. Long ago Alf's wife Iris had made him take the batteries out because it was unbearable.

But there was no silencing Alf's pond each spring. Each year it would come alive with the sound of a real frog chorus. Alf was proud of his pond. Creating a garden pond, no matter what size, is one of the best things you can do to help wildlife in your garden. If you're lucky, in March it will turn into a hotbed of activity as Common Frogs return to mate and lay their eggs. After spending the winter hidden away in the garden, it's time to go a-courting.

Approach the pond quietly with a torch and you can observe the mating frogs. Look closely and you may be able to identify the male frog (darker with a bluish tinge to his throat) and the female (white granulations on her flanks). But if you can't notice these features then the males are on top and the females are on the bottom. The

lustful male will hop on the female and grasp her as tight as he can. He even develops special extra-grip pads on his forearms and he'll use those powerful back legs to boot off any rival males who try to muscle in. In theory, the males with the longest and loudest croaks are the most attractive, but with females sometimes outnumbered ten to one by males the pond party can get loud, chaotic and confusing. Amorous male frogs will grasp anything: a log, a fish, even another male (males have a special croaking signal which politely informs other males there has been a misunderstanding). Female Common Frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs, although 1,000-2,000 is more normal. These are fertilised by the male as they emerge and form into those familiar clouds of jelly spawn.

So, in tribute to Alf I decide to restore his croaking clock to full working order. I re-installed the batteries and nailed it proudly on my office wall. After two hours I turned it off. That croaking was unbearable! I'm still sure Alf was laughing somewhere.

Wasps by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Legendary protest singer Woody Guthrie had the slogan 'This Machine Kills Fascists' emblazoned across his guitar. The lead singer of John Peel's beloved Half Man Half Biscuit had 'This Machine Kills Wasps' across his. Fascists and wasps. Equally hated and despised. But while one are a bunch of loathsome invertebrates that should be slapped every time they start to agitate us, I have to confess I have some empathy towards the wasps.

The wasps' world was created way back in April. A single pregnant queen emerged from her winter-long hibernation, flew, fed and founded a new colony. She single-handedly constructed 30 hexagonal homes from chewed-up wood, laid an egg in each and lovingly tended to her new babies which, when grown, became her workers. Through sheer determination, spit and sawdust they enlarged the colony, constructing an impressive suspended structure. Other workers collected food – caterpillars,

flies, spiders – to feed the now-flightless Queen as she produced more eggs.

June was the golden age of the Empire. The colony swelled to almost 6000 wasps. There was a real buzz about the place. An entire self-contained Utopian society in matching yellow and black uniforms working together to serve their illustrious leader. Inside the dome, the temperature was maintained at 32 degrees. When the temperature rose on hot days, the workers united and the whole colony whirred their wings creating a community-powered air-conditioning unit.

But dark rumours started. The Queen was becoming crazy for power. Workers' eggs were being destroyed to ensure only the Queen's offspring were raised. She had started to create other Queens in her image. With no more workers being born, work levels in the colony increased. The wasps were slaves to a tyrant.

Then came the news. The Queen is dead. Her mesmeric hold over every wasp was lost. Revolution! The virgin Queens fled to mate, hibernate and start a new colony next year. Meanwhile the colony falls into anarchy. Paper walls are torn down, the temperature plummets. Rome burns. There is fighting and cannibalism. Those that stay face death from cold and starvation. One wasp manages to escape. Alone, betrayed by his leader, without family, without purpose he is confused and lost in an unfamiliar world. Like so many he turns to alcohol to quieten his pain and the fermented fallen fruits of Autumn provide temporary relief. Intoxicated and hungry he stumbles around searching for sugar.

And now in his dying days he bumps into us: giant creatures with sweet drinks and snacks. Our reaction to this 15mm political refugee? To swat him away with rolled up copies of The Daily Mail. So this Autumn, have some sympathy for the lowly wasp.

Hobby by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Recently I've spent a lot of time on the beautiful West Sussex heaths, where I've been lucky to encounter an animal which always gets my heart beating as it speeds past; the Hobby. Around about now, high in a twiggy tree-top nest, two eggs will be laid. The proud parents have flown all the way from the Congo Basin to raise their family in the Sussex countryside.

Hobbies look debonair and dashing. With their black 'eye mask' and drooping 'moustache' there's a touch of Zorro about them. And, like that enigmatic swordsman, Hobbies are famed for their speed and dexterity. Superficially the Hobby looks similar to the Peregrine, which along with the Kestrel makes up the trio of falcons that breed in Sussex. But Peregrines are very different birds. They started raising their families way back in April and adult Peregrines are up to four times heavier than a Hobby. Peregrines hunt by putting their weight behind their attack, whereas Hobbies use aerial agility and acceleration; the ninja to the Peregrine's sumo. The Hobby's slender scimitar wings slice the air as they twist, turn and tumble to pluck their victims from the sky in their talons.

These victims are the reason for the Hobby's 4,000 mile journey from Africa, and for their late egg-laying. The birth of the hungry Hobby chicks is perfectly synchronised with their food supply, which is most abundant in Sussex skies in July and August. Hobbies specialise in catching the uncatchable; swallows, martins, swifts and dragonflies - all accomplished aviators themselves, who probably thought they were invincible whilst airborne. Watching a Hobby hunting is watching an accomplished predator at work.

If you've been on a wildlife walk with me you've probably already heard my favourite piece of Hobby trivia. In 1946 Mr Adolph of Langton Green, Kent had an idea. Presumably, with a name like

that, the preceding seven years had been a tough time for Mr Adolph, but now he was free to unleash his incredible invention upon the world; a game which involved flicking wobbly model footballers up and down a tabletop. This game, he insisted, would be a great hobby for boys and he named his invention just that: 'Hobby'. But when it came to registering the name, the Patents Office said that 'Hobby' was too general a term. Instead, Mr Adolph took the scientific name from his favourite falcon. And so the agile Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) became forever linked to wet Saturday afternoons flicking headless Crystal Palace midfielders around the dining room.

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



time to Talk
FREE NATIONAL HELPLINE
0808 801 0688

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.

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.

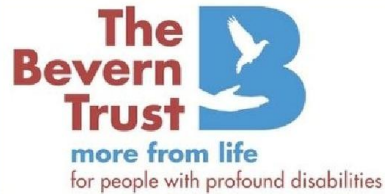
To help address the speed issues in the High Street, a Community Speed Watch (CSW) group of volunteers could be set-up. The CSW system is a Police project and it is robust, with speeding motorists who are 'caught' by the CSW team reported online to the Police. The system has a rising level of contacts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

Bevern View News



Banks Farm Open Garden

We would like to invite you to join us in the beautiful gardens of Banks Farm, Boast Lane, Barcombe, BN8 5DY on Sunday 23rd April, open from 10am - 4pm.



Wander around the nine acres of stunning gardens, with extensive lawns, shrub beds and a natural woodland garden set around the lake. An orchard, vegetable garden, ponds and a wide variety of plant species add to an interesting and very tranquil garden. Homemade refreshments will be available for purchase. Ticket prices: £7 per person, children under 16 free.



Donate: www.beverntrust.org
Follow us on social media:
[@thebeverntrust](https://www.instagram.com/thebeverntrust)



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

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2023

At the time of issuing this notice, all meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, at 4.30 pm due to a regular booking in the Memorial Hall.

If there are planning applications which require the convening of a Planning Committee meeting these times may vary.

29 March

16 May
(Annual Parish Council meeting [5 pm]
and Annual Parish Assembly [6 pm] only)

25 July

26 September

28 November

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

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

**FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET
2023**

Memorial Hall, Framfield
The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

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.

**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"

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
