

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

# Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**DECEMBER / JANUARY 2023**

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

**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.**

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<b>Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>Revd James Vine 01825 840270</b>
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	<b>Revd Janice Bartholomew 07955 754118</b>
<b>Churchwarden: (for urgent matters)</b>	<b>Mr Graham Seldon 01825 508758</b>
<b>Secretary to the PCC and Church Admin:</b>	<b>Mr Barry Richardson</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Mrs Gaynor Robson</b>

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### **From the Church Registers:**

**At rest:** 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Daphne Grace Berry  
9<sup>th</sup> October: Sylva Kathleen Marchwood  
23<sup>rd</sup> October: Bernard and Margueritte Hemsley

## From the Vicar's desk

'Christmas is all about the children' is a common mantra at this time of year, and one which is sometimes dismissed as vague sentimentality by Christians, so perhaps I'd like to tweak the mantra just a little bit and say that 'Christmas is all about the Child'.

A child who will grow and learn, and laugh and cry as our own children do.

A child who will go on to teach, and preach, and say and do the most astonishing things, so astonishing in fact that over 2000 years later we are still singing of him, re telling the story of his humble birth, and still striving to follow his example of selfless love, boundless compassion and limitless hope for our future.

This hope is real, it is not a rather nice idea that will never come to fruition, it is the reality of our faith.

In that reading from St. Paul's letter to the church in Corinth that we know so well from its use at weddings, we always focus on Love; but remember that last line; '*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love*'. We focus on Love because it is indeed the greatest gift, but we must never lose hold of our faith and our hope.

Our news is dominated at the moment by the war and violence in the Holy Land and many are putting the blame for this terrible conflict on 'religion'

But please don't be taken in by those who would want to convince us that this is a religious act, because it's not.

The darkness would like us to believe that it is, but it is simply not true. Such violence is about, greed, possession, power, extremism, and domination; the very things that both Jesus, and Mohamed spoke out against.

Let us therefore let *not* lose hope, let us turn once again to that Child in the manger and learn from Him.

Let us strive this Christmas, and in the coming year, to make a difference, and not just us but our children as well; let's encourage them, love them and value them.

How many more youngsters have to be sucked into gangs, die of stab wounds, and become easy targets for radical fundamentalist groups before we take them seriously? Before we listen to them.

God knows this. The bible is full of holy prophetic children: Daniel, David, Samuel, The Virgin Mary, and Jesus himself, speaking in the temple and putting the adults to shame.

Peace needs to be worked for, and it needs to start in our homes, in our playgrounds, on our streets, in the queue at the supermarket, in our schools and in our hearts.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if 2024 was the year in which things really began to change?

Wonderful if this was the year in which the church stopped arguing about the sex lives of the planet, and instead started showing the simple Christ light to the world.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if this was the year in which communities, re discovered community. Its members, regardless of race, creed, colour, gender, or sexual orientation, actually started listening to each other and learning from each other.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if this was the year in which politicians talked to the people that they serve, and to each other, and managed to agree on anything!

Let's pray that our Christian Hope might become a reality, and that evil, and corruption, and darkness will find themselves with a real battle on their hands, not fought with guns, knives, missiles, and bombs, but with compassion, truth, light and love.

A very Blessed, Holy and Happy Christmas to you all.

Fr. James

*Revd James Vine*

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Please note that the latest notices and information are always posted on the church website. - [www.framfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk).



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

**17th December 2023  
21st January 2024**

### 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.

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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](mailto:hoss.graham@outlook.com)

## Diary of Church Services

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

Please note there is no service at Framfield on 31<sup>st</sup> December or 14<sup>th</sup> January. There is a combined service for all three churches at East Hoathly.

### DECEMBER 2023

- 03 First Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am The Eucharist (CW) (Revd James)
- 10 Second Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist (Revd James)  
**6.30 pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight**
- 17 Third Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Family Service (Revd James Vine)
- 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)  
4.30 pm Crib and Christingle Service (Revd Janice)  
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion (Revd James)
- 25 Christmas Morning**  
10.00 am Christmas Family Service (Graham Seldon)
- 31 First Sunday of Christmas**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist Service at East Hoathly (Revd James)

### JANUARY 2024

- 07 First Sunday of Epiphany**  
10.00 am Eucharist (Revd James Vine)

- 14 Second Sunday of Epiphany**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist Service at East Hoathly  
(Revd Janice)
- 21 Third Sunday of Epiphany**  
10.00 am Family Service (Revd Janice)
- 28 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**  
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 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024  
TO**

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

Parish Council website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)

**CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE  
EMAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

[admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk)

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

**Help needed in the Churchyard**

Please contact Peter Berry (mobile 0781 545 9075) if you are willing and able to help, even a couple of hours a week, or email the church office ([admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk)).

**Garden of Remembrance:** The extension is now complete – and will provide for interments of ashes well into the future.

## Services over Christmas

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
**6.30 pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight**

### Christmas Eve

10.00am – Morning Praise (Peter Berry)

4.30pm - Crib & Christingle Service  
(Revd Janice)

*(Christingles for all the children)*

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion  
(Revd James)

### Christmas Day

10.00am - Christmas Family Service (Graham Seldon)  
*(A short service celebrating Christmas Day)*

### Sunday 31st December

10.00am – Combined Eucharist at East Hoathly  
(Revd James)

## Nature Notes

At 7 pm on 10th November, the temperature outside was 6.6°Celsius. It was pitch dark since before 5pm. Next morning it was 2°C. at 08:00 h. Frost decorated both garden and car. In New Zealand, folk were experiencing daytime temperatures of c. 23°Celsius. Their days are lengthening and warming and ours shortening and cooling as the globe tilts them further south towards the sun. Winter is surely upon us. Also, we are experiencing low pressure fronts swinging in from the Atlantic Ocean across these islands and giving us a frequent drenching. All this affects the living natural world in many ways. Humans are part of this, and many homes have been flooded already in parts of these islands. Homes of animals will have flooded too. Hibernating hedgehogs and lizards will have been disturbed. Many invertebrates will have drowned and be washed away as they hibernate for winter. Most birds will have been able to fly to dryer areas but will desperately look for food in new places to keep their tiny bodies warm through metabolic heat generation.

Fundamentally, there are 2 types of animals when it comes to keeping warm. These are 1. Endothermic animals like us and most other mammals, who keep their bodies warm by eating and 'burning' calories to maintain body temperature as we do at c. 36.8°Celsius. The body temperature of other endothermic animals may be different, for example, many birds maintain a temperature of around 40°C. The other type are 2. the poikilothermic (or exothermic) animals, whose body temperature is regulated by the external temperature. These are the invertebrates and primitive vertebrates such as fish, amphibians and most reptiles.

Animals that hibernate allow their body temperature to drop and fall into a kind of sleep, more accurately described as suspended animation, this includes some mammals such as dormice (dormir, French for to sleep). There are many dormice within the countryside around Uckfield. I used to monitor them in Lake Wood for many years. Even when they are sleeping, they sometimes squeak if they are disturbed, and can also be heard to snore on occasion. I know of no birds that hibernate, these little feathered animals must find extra food to keep them warm in winter. That is where we can assist by providing feeders and water in our gardens.

*Martyn Stenning*

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

Both schools in the St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation have continued to build upon the established links by working together in many different ways. This has been evident through joint staff meetings and an inset day where we worked on updating the curriculum overview documents. The residential trip in September was a great success; huge thanks to all the staff across both schools who supported the trip. The children across the federation have taken part in a multitude of sporting tournaments both as a federated team and as separate schools when appropriate. There have also been representatives from both schools who have participated in 'try it out sessions'; they have certainly 'Been the best that they can be.'

Both schools have received positive feedback from the prospective parents' tours for those with children who will start school in September 2024. The House Captains spoke confidently and passionately about their schools and this has been very well received by those touring the schools.

*The Year R children at Framfield also had an exciting trip to Uckfield: they travelled on the bus; they then visited Tesco supermarket where they searched for items on their shopping list and then had a fun session at 'Fun Abounds,' local Trampoline & Gymnastics Centre.*

*Those in Year 1 and 2 at Framfield (and Class 2 at Blackboys) visited the RNLI at Hastings which linked to the children's learning: focusing on Grace Darling.*

The children in Years 3 and 4 (at both schools) have recently visited Fishbourne Palace in Chichester to further their understanding of the Ancient Romans.

We have enjoyed worship sessions with 'Open the Book' and Father James; we are looking forward to more sessions with them. There have also been class assemblies where family members have been invited into school to learn about what fabulous things take place.

*We are getting ready for the upcoming Christmas events: the 'Carol Concert', 'Nativity performance' and of course the 'Christmas*

Lunch.' Blackboys' PTA are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December- all are welcome. Framfield's PFA are organising a Popcorn and PJ Night on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, pupils of the school only. Both schools will be sending a choir to the Uckfield 'Late Night Shopping Event' on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and will also be attending the evening carol concert at St Thomas à Becket Church, Framfield, 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you for your continued interest in our schools. You can keep up to date on news via our school websites.

Mr Sullivan and Mr Bradbeer  
Blackboys and Framfield Schools

## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2024

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

**16 December 2023**

**27 January**

**24 February**

**23 March**

**27 April**

**25 May**

**29 June**

**27 July**

**August – no market**

**28 September**

**26 October**

**30 November**

**21 December**

**Please contact Ann Newton with any queries**

**01825 890182 or email [clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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**Holly** by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm sure you'll agree that these are crazy times, folks. Back in Ancient Rome they had a festival – Saturnalia – which saw their society turn upside down for a week each December. It seems Saturnalia's traditions of chaos and mayhem are now the daily norm for us Brits but, as we career towards Christmas, we have another thing in common with Saturnalia. We will soon be paying our respects to the Holly tree.

Holly has been celebrated in many traditions over the centuries because, as a native evergreen, its vibrancy in the dead of winter could easily be mistaken for immortality. Holly was the sacred tree of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. In pagan tradition, the Holly King ruled over the Oak King from Midsummer to Midwinter. Holly was easily adopted by Christians, who saw many links between the tree and the life of Christ. Today, Holly remains a centrepiece of our Christmas decorations, cards and cakes.

Each Holly tree is either male or female. While both produce delicate white flowers in May, it's only the female Holly that bears a berry as red as any blood. When these berries are produced in profusion, it's taken to be a sign of an oncoming hard winter -although in reality it's the outcome of a successful spring. Holly's prickles provide protection for nesting birds, their flower buds are food for the Holly Blue butterfly's caterpillar and their ripe berries are essential for thrushes.

If you're after a tree filled with folklore then Holly must take a bow. So if you're planning to deck your halls with boughs of the stuff this Christmas, here's a quick user guide. First off, *never* cut down a Holly tree – that's guaranteed bad luck, a superstition which has spared many Holly trees from the woodsman's axe. And make sure you leave Holly trees in your hedgerows to prevent witches from running along the top. If you bring Holly into your home at Christmas, it'll help protect you from those pesky festive faeries. Only female Holly leaves under your pillow will allow you to predict your future in your dreams. Oh, and don't forget to get rid of your Holly decorations before Twelfth Night (but don't burn them, that's bad luck too). Holly trees will protect you against lightning strikes (I'm not sure if this has been scientifically


proven so don't blame me if you still get zapped). And don't eat the berries, they're poisonous, but if you have smallpox you can drink an infusion made from the leaves.

Stick to those rules folks and you'll have a peaceful Christmas. Me? I've had enough of the state of the world today. I'm going to pour some wine, put on my toga and pretend I'm in ancient Rome. Somebody pass me my fiddle.

**Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in 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. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)**

**COMPUTER PROBLEMS ?**



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## 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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)





Hello all,

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

I am pleased to report that the 2024 programme is virtually in place thanks to the hard work of Jackie Argyrou our Events Secretary. We are starting with our quiz on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and this year it will be a "fun quiz" to hopefully attract and entertain those with and without horticultural knowledge. Jackie has planned talks and there is a proposed spring visit to Arundel Castle "Tulip Festival" and Chris and Vivienne Blandford have invited us back to see their stunning garden – this time in the summer. We will have our Social at Hope Springs Smallholding in August and GQT will be returning in the autumn.

We will publish more details on our website shortly.

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

**Here is a roundup of our 2023 events from Jackie:**

*"We started on a high with a record-breaking attendance for our annual Horticultural Quiz in February. The inaugural "Gardener's Question Time" event in March also proved popular. Chris and Vivienne Blandford kindly opened their stunning garden "Greenbank" for us in April and small group of us enjoyed a visit to "Clinton Lodge Garden" in June. In July we learnt a lot more about our local cidery "Bignose and Beardy" and had the opportunity to sample their delicious ciders. Following the highly successful Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Show in August, a social evening at Hope Springs Smallholding hosted by Denise Taylor, it gave us an opportunity to de brief and celebrate the show's success.*

*In anticipation of wide interest on the hot topic of "Rewilding and You" our October meeting was a community event arranged in partnership*

*with Framfield Church and attended by around 80 people. My thanks to Jenny Bacon especially this year for her vision and hard work in making "Rewilding and You" such a successful community event and to Margaret McSheehy for her help on the night.*

*The 2023 programme ended with a talk on "Exotic Plants and Climate Change" by Graham Blunt from the fabulous "Plantbase Nursery"*

I also hope you had a chance to read Terry Everitt's Summer Show 2023 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 and we have had some really good feedback. We have started our Summer Show Committee meetings and planning is in the pipeline for our 2024 Show in August. We made a record-breaking profit which goes back into next year's show and also into our community fund. This stands at £900 this year; we would love to share this fund with the local community so please see our website for full details on how to apply for some funding.

Our 2022 Summer Show featured on the TV this year; it was shown as part of the Marcus Wareing's BBC2 Show "Tales from a Kitchen Garden" when Marcus Wareing (Michelin Starred Chef) entered his scarecrow "Marcus Gummidge" into our competition. It is on the iPlayer and is featured in Series 2, Episode 10. It is a lovely positive piece about our community village show and you may even spot yourself on the TV.

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

Denise Taylor  
Chair, Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

For more information, please see our website [www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com](http://www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com) we are also on Facebook [www.facebook.com/framfieldandblackboys](http://www.facebook.com/framfieldandblackboys)

## **NEWS – from County Councillor Chris Dowling**

As we move towards the end of 2023, I am pleased to give you an overview as your local County Councillor.

Most of the County Council matters residents contact me about relate to roads and road safety. Whilst matters reported are important to the residents who raise them, two matters have kept me particularly busy: Gun Road bridge and the problem with water on the Framfield to Blackboys Road near the Pump Lane junction and the associated drainage problems. With both of these, I am critical of the poor response by East Sussex County Council Highways.

### **Gun Road bridge –**

I fully recognize the inconvenience caused to residents by the closure of the bridge since autumn 2022. Since the bridge was damaged, I have been in contact with the council many times. At first, I was told that little could or would be done until the spring when the water level would fall. In the spring of this year, I was told that the repair work would be done in the summer – I was optimistic. As we moved through the summer, I kept chasing and asking for news and seeking answers to more questions. In the middle of August, together with a representative of the parish council, I had a site meeting at the bridge with council officers from the highways team. At the meeting, we were told that work on a watercourse or river requires a permit from the Environment Agency (EA) – neither myself or the parish council had been told of this previously. The permit application was expected to take some 6/8 weeks to work its way through the EA process, but the application was not due to be made until mid to late September. At the time of writing, the permit has not been obtained. I continue to chase for news about the permit and a possible start date for the work. The work will involve the demolition of the old bridge, to be replaced with a new structure. I have repeatedly said to the council that I doubted if the work would be finished before the end of the calendar year. As time has moved forward, my doubts have increased and I can't see the work starting in the near future, let alone being completed. I fear that the work will not be done until the spring. I regret the inconvenience caused to residents, but I will continue to apply pressure on the council and demand action and a conclusion to this long-running matter. I have kept the parish council advised throughout.

### **Water on the main road near Pump Lane and associated drainage matters**

This matter was first reported to the council in the autumn of 2021. After

many requests to investigate the reason for the water on the road, some work was done but the problems continued. Back in January, further investigations were carried out and finally the necessary repair work was identified. In August, I was advised that the repair work was programmed to start on 6th November – the parish council was also advised. However, a week before the scheduled start date, when enquiring and checking, the council told me the work was delayed as their contractor had not obtained the necessary highways permit to carry out the work – I was dismayed and disappointed. Although both the parish council and myself received an apology for the problem and the delay, this does not get the work done. I have now been given a new start date for the first week in January.

Potholes – East Sussex County Council recognizes the problems with road maintenance, especially potholes. In the summer, the council allocated extra budget for maintenance and pothole repairs – some £15 million extra. This is in addition to the extra funding provided last year. More money was recently announced by the government for road maintenance - I am waiting for more information.

After the above negativity, I am pleased to mention two positive matters. Firstly, the new bus service which brings the Brighton & Hove 29/29a service through Framfield and Blackboys. Extra government funding for bus services has enabled this extended service to be provided. Secondly, it was good to see the repairs and re-laying of pavements in Blackboys during the summer. This work was welcomed by many residents.

I receive a steady flow of requests from residents in Framfield and Blackboys and the parish council on general highways and road matters. All of these are passed to the Council, and I chase up for answers and solutions – not always easy.

My work as a County Councillor is not solely about highways and road matters. East Sussex County Council provides many other services, including home to school transport, blue badges for disabled drivers, registration services for births, deaths and marriages, footpaths and rights of way, trading standards and libraries – plus others.

As I have indicated above, I am pleased to have a very good working relationship with the parish council. The collaborative relationship works well for the benefit of all residents.

Please feel free to contact me about any County Council matters.

I wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Dowling  
County Councillor for Uckfield South with Framfield  
[Cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk)

# Bevern View News



# 100%

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
INCREDIBLE  
SUPPORT!

We're delighted to share the exciting news that we have reached our Minibus Appeal target! Through a combination of generous personal donations, sporting personal challenges, fundraising events and charitable grants we are thrilled to be able to purchase our minibus!

## THANK YOU!

- to all who have so kindly offered individual or family donations.
- to our amazing supporters who undertook huge personal physical challenges to raise funds.
- to everyone who took part in our fundraising events.
- to the Trusts and Foundations who have so generously supported this appeal - The Gerald and Gail Robson Family Foundation, Jaspar Foundation, Beatrice Laing Trust, Marsh Charitable Trust, Golders Green Foundation, Mary Alice Harris Trust and JC Robinson Foundation.

**We couldn't have done it without you!**



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



## Framfield & Blackboys WI

### INTO AUTUMN ON A HIGH NOTE QUIZ NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Quizmasters Terry & Rich gave us another evening of brain scrambling questions ranging from which of these substances can we eat/be poisoned by, to popular songs in another language (translate without the tune), to questions on the periodic table and all manner of other brain teasers besides. Not for them the list of questions downloaded from the net! As ever, Hayley kept track of the score with amazing accuracy and speed.

We owe a huge vote of thanks to the Hare & Hounds who helped with sourcing some of the food, to Staverton Nursery for their generous gift tokens, to Boots in Uckfield for a selection of covetable beauty products, all of which were used as prizes in our raffle, and to Waitrose for supplying us with some delicious cheese. Finally, thank you to our members who produced a wonderful range of home made cakes for dessert, and to the guests who contacted us with such kind comments afterwards.

#### October Meeting

We were treated to an informative account of the Battle of Lewes by Major John Hamill MBE. The battle, in 1264, in which Simon de Montford defeated the forces of King Henry III, resulted in the Mise of Lewes, believed to be an agreement for future governance, although no copy survives.



The battle is commemorated by a monument in the form of a giant helmet which stands in the grounds of Lewes Priory.

#### Coming Up Next

Dec 8th Christmas Party & Quiz with Beryl Venables  
Jan 12th New Year Lunch and the Hare & Hounds

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



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**Makers Market at Christmas:**

Saturday November 25th (10am-3pm) & Sunday 26th (11am-3pm) - Brownings Farm Workshops, Blackboys, TN22 5HG - Free Entry - Family Friendly - Parking Onsite - Disabled Access - Charity Raffle - A finely curated selection of your friendly, local Makers...Artists, Ceramicists and Florists have joined together to create a new Christmas Market: on your doorstep! Pop along to meet your neighbourhood craftsmen, and purchase unique Christmas gifts.



Image by <https://www.freepik.com>

**Palehouse Cattery**

Friendly, family run, cattery now open in Palehouse Common, Framfield

For booking call: 

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**Delivering Parish Magazines:**

We are very grateful to those volunteers who have recently come forward to fill vacancies for delivery of the Parish magazines.

**THE FRAMFIELD STAGERS PRESENT**

BY PAUL BARRON

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AND THE BAD  
AND THE PANTO**



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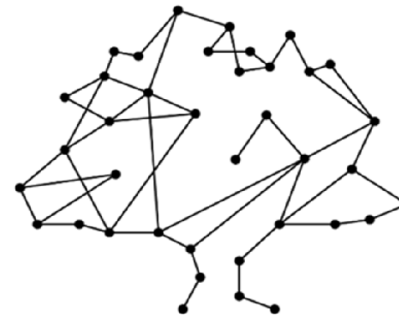
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# NEWLIFE

## NEW LIFE CHURCH BLACKBOYS

### I miss my Grandads

As I'm writing this - we are going through a season of Remembrance .. the gunpowder plot, remembering the martyrs and the fallen from conflicts from the First World War onwards. Both my grandads fought in the Second War - both very different men, one hardly ever spoke of it, the other more willing to tell me stories, in fact it wasn't until about the age of 9 that I realised he didn't do it on his own - he had help! I miss them both very much and I feel this nation has almost lost that reassuring hand on the shoulder as this generation pass away. I have fond memories of Remembrance Day at Framfield Church - when I picture it in my mind, it is always a bright, crisp morning and I can hear the dulcet tones of Colonel Drew reading out the names of the parish dead. My grandads both had mixed emotion about the phrase 'sacrifice' as they maintained they had no choice - and those that lost their lives had it taken from them.

However, Remembrance Day now holds an added meaning, as last year on the 11th November - my dearest friends lost their daughter/granddaughter aged 8 - so this will now be an added poignancy for me every year.

On a more joyful note - we are moving into a time of remembering Jesus' birth at Christmas. Yes folks - Christmas is Jesus' birthday despite what the

world may tell you! One thing I have noticed is this year's Royal Mail stamps depicting the Nativity story - however much I enjoy watching Elf - this is so refreshing to have the reminder of what it is all about. I wonder what your overwhelming memories are of Christmas? I hope they are good.

My prayer for everyone reading this is that you know how valued you are. Jesus entered this world because He cared for every single person and this all powerful God knows you intimately, put you together and all He wants you to do is turn to Him. That is why the angels proclaimed in the Luke 'Do not be afraid (because we all are at times if we're honest) I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people, today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you, He is the Messiah.' Familiar words but I pray they will have new meaning for you this Christmas.

*(Brendan Hammond - one of the leaders of New Life Church Blackboys)*

You are warmly invited to our **Christmas Services** - Christingle on Sunday 10 December and Family Carols on Sunday 17 December.

**We currently meet every Sunday at Blackboys C of E Primary School 10.30am**

**Email : [newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com](mailto:newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com)**

**Call: Suzanne Hammond on 07794 869384 or 01435 661054**

**Website: [newlifeblackboys.com](http://newlifeblackboys.com)**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
6.30 pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight**

After The Exhibition.....Uckfield Art Group

Thank you to the two hundred and twenty six people who visited the Autumn Exhibition on 11th November and for all the lovely comments!

The Artist with the most votes for the same picture (thirteen) and the winner of the Tom Broad Trophy was Annie Mills with "A Rainy Stroll In Luxembourg". Joint second was Annie Mills with "Winter Birch Trees" and Samantha Bromley with "Yellow Labrador Study" (eleven votes). Two of Samantha Bromley's pictures came joint third (ten votes) "Hare Study" and "Owl Study".

There was a steady stream of sales and exclamations of "Successful Christmas Shopping!" Lots of poppies were made on the Craft Table and attached to the large canvas "Lest We Forget". It was a joint project to commemorate Armistice Day.

The venue was enhanced this time with a selection of fabulous plants from local online company Plants4Presents. The Camelia had glossy leaves and was bursting with buds, as was the Topiary Azalea. Stunning too were the white Cyclamen with the delicate pink fringed petals and the Lemon Tree. Lucky visitors were invited to take home a complimentary lemon! Lemon trees are in fact one of their best sellers. To find out more about buying plants as presents, or as a treat to yourself, visit [www.plants4presents.co.uk](http://www.plants4presents.co.uk)

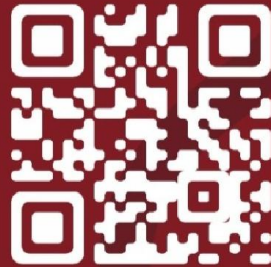
Thank you everyone who has chosen to support Uckfield Art Group while playing the Wealden Community Lottery. At the time of writing Uckfield Art Group has received £196.50 from 50% of the ticket price. There is a top prize of £25,000 [www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk](http://www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk)  
The Luxford Centre has been booked on 1st June for the Summer 2024 Exhibition so please make a note of the date!  
[www.uckfieldartgroup85.com](http://www.uckfieldartgroup85.com) [www.facebook.com/uckfieldartgroup](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldartgroup)

*Fiona Flower*

# **BUXTED SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREES**

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## **FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MEETING SCHEDULE 2024**

At the time of issuing this notice, all meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, at 5.00 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.

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30 January

26 March

28 May

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

30 July

24 September

26 November

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Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on

01825- 890182/clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

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

## WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

**Joint Chair:**  
**For the Church:**        **Revd James Vine**

**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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