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

Parish Newsletter

USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

General Enquiries: 01273 481000

Adult Education: 01273 481497

Bins and Recycling: 01323 443322 or 01892 653311

Education, general 01273 481000

Leisure centres, swimming pools and parks: 01323 443322

Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0845 6080193

Recycling sites: 01273 481000

Street Lighting: 0845 6080193

Trading standards (consumer issues): 01323 418200

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555111

Police, non-emergency: 0845 6070999

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 1777 069



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

**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009

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

Priest-in-Charge : **Revd Chris D Lawrence**
 01825 891090
 (after hours 01825 890365)

Churchwardens : **Mrs Pat Tindall (01825 890761)**
 Mr Brian Champion (01825 765634)

Secretary to PCC : **Mrs Pat Herbert**

Treasurer : **Mr Richard Hill**

**All communications for church matters should be directed
to the Church Office – 9.15 am – 5 pm (closed Wednesday)**

Email - framfieldchurch@btopenworld.com
Post - Vicarage Barn, Framfield TN22 5NH
Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090

**Details of Operation Godsend are printed elsewhere in the
magazine.**

From the Registers :



Marriages – those whom God has joined together, let no one divide:

16th Aug 2008 James Frederick Mc Guinness / Sarah-Louise Abbott

At rest: 6th October Muriel Delahoy
 24th November Mary Hope Alderson Askew

**WHO'S WHO AT THE
St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER.**

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Eryl Thomas

Editor: Sue Whitehead

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Secretary and Advertising:

Ann Newton

Pat Herbert

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

Distribution: Derek Thorogood

and his team of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

OPERATION GODSEND

A SERVICE FOR ALL PARISH RESIDENTS

Examples of the services available are:

Transport

Essential journeys - Visits to doctor's surgery or hospital, essential shopping, collection of prescriptions
Changing library books

Resources

Small handyman/woman tasks - eg changing fuses, altering clocks etc.
Visiting/befriending.

Requests will be received on an answer phone
Tel. No: 01825 891072

Messages will be checked daily (evenings) and callers contacted within 24 hours

When OK! is not OK.

OK! Magazine may be regarded by some as harmless entertainment as it endeavours to 'raise our eyebrows' as it shares with us the latest in celebrity gossip. Certainly there is no shortage of demand. Despite the downturn in the economy the circulation of OK! in the first half of 2008 rose 9% to 607,048 copies and accounts for being the second most popular magazine in the women's weekly sector.

We know the word but what exactly is gossip? Gossip is defined as: ***Rumour or talk of a personal, sensational, or intimate nature*** and the one who gossips as: ***A person who habitually spreads intimate or private rumours or facts.***

For us mere mortals who do not aspire to mixing with the celebrities, the weekly dose of gossip may be relatively harmless, primarily because we are suitably detached from it. However, this is not the case when we live in close knit communities.

One the great benefits of living in a village community is the opportunity it offers to make deep and lasting relationships. A trusting and wholesome relationship with a friend or group of friends is a priceless blessing. In life, we all experience the highs and lows, but when life is particularly difficult a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on is often vitally important for our well-being and the well-being of others. What we don't need is the passing on of our most intimate discussions so they become village gossip.

In all relationships, trust and confidentiality go hand in hand and must be maintained. A 'friend' who betrays you is no friend at all. Taken to its logical conclusion the one who betrays ends up with no friends or close relationships, simply because they cannot be trusted. The juicy morsel of gossip, which enabled someone to be the centre of attention inevitably, rebounds in self-destruction.

The loss of a friend may be one thing but what of the gossip that is instrumental in the breakdown of a marriage?

Who's going to tell the children 'I didn't mean any harm' – is the gossip going to take the responsibility for their part in the destruction of a family and the future welfare of innocent children?

It has been said that ***'The most destructive force in the universe is gossip'***; and this is certainly the case in village environments.

There is an old Jewish proverb, which says ***'What you don't see with your eyes, don't witness with your mouth.'*** The problem with gossip is that there is often little truth in it but as most of us are aware, a half-truth is as good as a lie, but it does the damage all the same.

As human beings we naturally want to trust one another but often we are unaware of the inner motives of those we may confide in and caution is needed. Edgar Watson Howe, *Country Town Sayings*, 1911 said: ***'When you are in trouble, people who call to sympathise are really looking for the particulars.'***

Jesus similarly warned about those with mixed motives - ***'Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognise them.'*** (***Matt 7:15-16***) These words were written ~2000 years ago but in today's world they are even more relevant. A trustworthy person produces 'good fruit' which is evident over a period of time. Fruit takes time to grow and likewise trusting relationships need time to grow, but the fruit whether good or bad will become evident!

In all our relationships our motivation should be the way of love and the desire of highest good of those around us. Jesus commands us ***'Love your neighbour as yourself'*** and ***'Do to others, as you would have them do to you'***.

There is a saying; 'If the hat fits, wear it' but when it comes to gossiping then it might just be time to reflect on the above and hang up the hat!

Rev Chris Lawrence

Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club



1st December: Christmas Party Tea
5th January: AGN/Subs/new 09 programme
19th January: Talk by Sussex Farmhouse Meals Co

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all from our members.

For more info ring 01825 840648.

Welcome Baptist Blackboys

On Sunday 26 October there was a good turnout to hear a talk, illustrated with slides, by Robin and Barbara Solly on "Bringing up a family in an Amazonian Indian Tribe". This was followed by a time for questions, tea and cakes. An additional talk on "Learning a previously unwritten language" was presented by Robin. These talks were well received and appreciated.

Future Events

Friday December 12 at 3pm The Crusaders from Blackboys School will be holding their annual "Follow the donkey" walk around the village – re-enacting the Nativity; visiting various Inns(!) and encountering kings and shepherds along the way – before discovering the newborn King!

Sunday December 14 at 5pm Join our Countdown to Christmas, see how the puppets from WBC Heathfield "Where puppets dare" are getting ready for the big day, then join in a relaxed Nativity tableau, with carol singing, followed by tea and cakes

We meet every Sunday at 5pm in the Blackboys Village Hall for informal worship, tea and cakes.

For further information Tel: Barbara Solly 01825 765178, or look on the website www.blackboys.org.uk

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET

10 am - 12 noon



CHRISTMAS MARKET 20th December (3rd Sat)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

No market in January

ALL WELCOME

Come and enjoy the Market stalls,
TEA/COFFEE/BACON ROLLS & COMPANY
Sandy – 840648

NO PARKING PLEASE !

We have recently been reminded that people are using the Southern Water drive to gain access to the Churchyard. May we remind you that there is no access via that route. The route must at all times be kept open for Southern Water and residents to obtain access. We would appreciate the courtesy to these parties by using the main entrance to the churchyard off Church Approach.

Thank you for your cooperation

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER

- 07 2nd Sunday in Advent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
4.30 pm Christingle
- 10 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)**
- 14 3rd Sunday in Advent**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 21 4th Sunday in Advent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Lessons and carols
- 24 Christmas Eve**
4.30 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion
- 25 Christmas Day**
10.00 am Family Festival Communion
- 28 Holy Innocents Day**
10.00 am Parish Communion
No Evening Service

JANUARY 2009

- 04 2nd Sunday of Christmas**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

- 11 **1st Sunday of Epiphany**
 10.00 am Holy Communion
 6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 18 **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
 8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Contemporary Service
 6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing
- 21 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 **3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
 10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
 6.30 pm Evening Praise

Church Services : BCP – Book of Common Prayer.
 CW – Common Worship 2001

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th JANUARY 2009
 TO
 CHRIS LAWRENCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE –
 01825 891090
 OR
 ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
 PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine). Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours. All communications for Parish Council matters should be directed to the Secretary.

Details of Operation Godsend are printed elsewhere in the magazine.

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www.uckfielddreesurgeons.co.uk

Please note our new PCSO:

PCSO Katie Breeds
26670
Uckfield Police Station
Tel: 0845 60 70 999 Ext: 26670
 Email:
 katie.breeds@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Collecting for the Red Cross:
 Have you got a little time each month to look after a collection box in your own local shop? It doesn't take long and will help raise vital funds to help the Red Cross continue their valuable work in Sussex. Please contact Hannah Rosalie on 01273 227805 or email
 hrosalie@redcross.org.uk

TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT ROAD CLOSURE – A26 CUILFAIL TUNNEL

To enable Contractors on behalf of East Sussex County Council to carry out essential tunnel refurbishment works it will be necessary to close the Cuilfail Tunnel to all through traffic.
 The A26 Cuilfail Tunnel will be closed 30 metres north of the tunnel, to the junction with the Cliffe Industrial Estate.
 The works will take place overnight Monday to Friday between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs. The closure shall be in force Monday to Friday evenings from Monday 5th January 2009 until Monday 6th July 2009.

The diversion route for northbound traffic is via A27 Southerham roundabout, A27 Lewes By-Pass to Ashcombe roundabout, the A275 Brighton Road, A277 Lewes High Street, A2029 Market Street, North Street, Little East Street and A26 Phoenix Causeway.

The diversion route for southbound traffic is from the northern end of Cuilfail Tunnel via A26 Phoenix Causeway, A2029 Eastgate Street, A277 High Street (School Hill), A277 Western Road, A275 Brighton Road, A27T Lewes By Pass. The contact for these works is East Sussex Highways, telephone 0845 60 80 193.

David Weeks - Network Manager



NORTH WEALDEN CARERS RESPITE

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Children in school? Retired? Time on your hands?
Are you looking for a way to support others in the
community?

Then you may be able to help us!

We are looking for caring and responsible volunteers,
to support Carers in the community. Full training will
be given, travel and out of pocket expenses are paid.

Volunteers can give as much or as little time as they
have to spare.

For further information on how you can become a
Volunteer for Carers, contact the Service Co-ordinator
on

01435 861100

Or

07709 406 472

Framfield CE Primary School

As I write this I can hear an intense discussion going on in the background as the builders discuss the progress of the building works. I am delighted to be able to say that the progress has been excellent and right on schedule. We are in the new classrooms, which are lovely. The whole has benefited from the additional space and we are now getting used to walking a little further to visit all the classrooms. I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the fund-raising in so many different ways. We are not so far off our target as the response from the community has been tremendous. We are in the final stages of the project and will soon add a new library to our space. This will be dedicated to the memory of Rosemary James and we are very proud to be able to do this. Jim James has been a wonderful support to us and we are looking forward to seeing him in the library with our children.

It has been quite a busy term for us as Ofsted visited at the end of September. The outcomes were very pleasing with the school being judged as Good overall with many outstanding aspects of our provision. As the head of this school I am very proud of all that has been and is achieved by the staff and children. There is a great commitment to doing the best we can and we are very well supported by our parents and governors. In addition to the Ofsted inspection, we had a very successful inspection by the Diocese as a Church School. The report from this will be available in the new few weeks. The next major event for us will be our Christmas production which is called 'Tinsel and Tea Towels'. No doubt the title will bring back memories for many of you!

Janet Wilde
Headteacher

Blackboys C of E School

The new school year has had a wonderful start to it at Blackboys Church of England School: our new Reception children have come in brimming with confidence; they had spent a number of mornings with us back in the summer term and with the help of their buddies soon learnt the ropes! They are a lively energetic bunch and we all look forward to watching their progress as the year goes by.

During the holidays a little building work has taken place and class 1 now have a covered area under which to play and get fresh air during inclement weather. New playground signs have been put up to liven up the playground and in our school hall the PTA have paid for a wonderful digital projector which is used during assemblies and acts of worship, as well as being a flexible resource for teachers. New playground equipment has included new dressing up clothes as a result of a generous contribution from a family of former pupils and others contributed to our gardening club by purchasing equipment to support this activity.

Assemblies

Several of the classes have already been on trips out to enrich their experience and add to the topic work they are carrying out: class 4 visited Newhaven Fort to take the part of Evacuees and get a real taste of life during WW"; classes 2 and 3 visited the Bluebell Railway for their project on Victorians. We have been entertained by class assemblies from classes 1 and 4. Class 4 produced a wonderful piece of work based on their topic which included a dance - it really contained the poignant as well as the amusing. Class 1's assembly was a first for all the Reception children and we were entertained with the story of Pete the Penguin!

European Languages Day.

We had a wonderful time on the 26th September when the whole school celebrated the diversity of language and culture in Europe.

The children were lucky enough to be able to experience and learn a little bit about the language and culture of 5 different countries including Spanish, German, French, Russian, Turkish and Welsh.

We are particularly grateful to Mrs Bolumburu and Mrs Truslove for their enthusiasm, expertise and willingness to come in and present something of their first language to our children—a very special thank-you goes to them both.

Activities included the completion of a European Passport, learning of songs and poems, simple greetings and experiencing some food from those particular countries.

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our AGM in October was brief as usual but 35 members enjoyed the Seasonal Supper beforehand. Our next meeting will be a Victorian Evening on Friday 12th December in the Village Hall.

Entrance is by ticket only at £5 each. We do not have a meeting in January so our next one will be on the first Tuesday in February. If you would like to know more about the society and our events or you are interested in joining us please contact me on 01825 890359 or email bturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Ann Turner

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING INCREASED AIRCRAFT NOISE?

If so, the first point of contact is Gatwick noise complaint line (free) on 0800 393 070.

Every 'phone call to this number is logged as a complaint and therefore it is important for residents to leave a message and subsequently write a letter to the address below explaining that there has been increased aircraft activity, flying at lower heights than previous years.

: NATS, London Area Control Centre
PO Box 100
Sopwith Way
Southampton SO31 7AY

Some specific details already received from Gatwick noise complaint department indicate that there has been a 50-100% increase in air traffic within 2km of Blackboys. Furthermore, in previous years there has been a maximum of 20% of aircraft below 7,000 feet.

This year, on the day a complaint was lodged, of the 43 aircraft, 24 (over 50%) were below 7,000 feet.

Early Notice

*Coming to a Church near you soon
21st February (Yes, next year, not long now!)*

The Framfield Big Sing 2009

All are invited to send us their favourite songs, hymns, love songs.

*We will put together an evening of your favourites. We will provide
the music and singers to lead but
you will have the fun and enjoyment of 'lifting the rafters' in song.*

*Return your requests by end of November and we can begin to plan
your evening.*

*Paper requests to be dropped into marked boxes in local Village shops,
our Village Pub our schools and our church porch,*

email requests to: bigsing@framfieldchurch.org.uk

Big Sing 2009 Return

*I look forward to being there and would like my favourite song to be
sung which is:*

.....
.....

**My reason is.....*

**My name is.....*

** Reasons and names are not necessary unless you wish to tell us*

Harvest Festival

We had a very successful Harvest Festival. Those of you who were unable to join us missed a treat with presentations from each class based on the theme of Harvest in other countries.

Class 4 gave us a presentation on Harvest in Tobago while Class 3 took us to China with a Chinese poem about Harvest. Mr Walsh's brother has made a contact for us in Uganda, so class 2 decided to make a presentation about the orphanage in which he has been working, class 1 gave us a wonderful rendition of the Grape Harvest in Italy. Our recorder ensemble and orchestra presented music from the UK. It really was a wonderful celebration combining local and global aspects of the festival.

A huge thank you goes to the teachers for all their hard work in preparing the children. Special thanks, as usual must go our music specialists for the excellent standard of the singing and instrument playing. And of course thanks go to Rev Chris Lawrence and his team for supporting and contributing to our celebration.

Takeover Day

The first ever 11 MILLION Takeover Day involving children taking over the running of a variety of organisations took place on 23 November 2007.

This year the children's commissioner wanted more children and young people to participate and with this in mind we are invited the children to make applications for the post of "Headteacher for a day."

We had eight applicants for the post all of a very high standard and it was really difficult to make a decision. In the end Amy Kedwards was the successful candidate. On the day, she shadowed me and had a timetable of meetings, phone-calls and other activities to complete. She did a really good job and was praised for her professional and polite attitude by staff and parents.

As the term progresses I am very much looking forward to my very first Christmas here at Blackboys. There are many things planned including a Christmas Fair, Christmas Service in the Church and Senior Citizens' Party and I hope that lots of you will be able to join us at this special time of the year. I know that the school is very much at the heart of the village and the village at the heart of the school and sure this will make our celebrations very special.

J K King
Headteacher

Framfield Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting Schedule for 2009 (all meetings commence at 7.30 pm)

Tuesday, 27 January	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 24 February	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 31 March	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 28 April	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 19 May (AGM)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 30 June	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 28 July	Blackboys Village Hall
August	No meeting
Tuesday, 29 September	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 27 October	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 24 November	Framfield Memorial Hall
December	No meeting

Planning Committee Meeting Schedule for 2009

All Meetings to be held in Framfield Memorial Hall on Wednesdays at 7 pm as listed.

January	7 (RC)	28 (EC)
February	18	
March	11 (RC)	
April	1 (EC)	22
May	13 (RC)	
June	3 (EC)	24
July	15 (RC)	
August	5 (EC)	26
September	16 (RC)	
October	7	28 (EC)
November	18 (RC)	
December	9 (EC)	

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825-890182.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

A number of Coffee Mornings in this area were held at the end of September raising money for MCS - the social side is part of the fun of holding them and, of course, the money raised is a wonderful outcome. At Pizza Express in Uckfield we raised £381 and at East Hoathly village stores another £643; these sums were apart from those raised by so many other individuals in our villages, including Framfield School who held their own Coffee Morning.

These sums go towards so many people suffering, and living, with cancer in East Sussex. More than 750 people in Sussex rang Macmillan's Cancerline last year for information and advice and so far in 2008 £88,276 has been given to 262 people in Sussex helping to cover costs of clothing, household items, fares to and from hospital and heating bills.

For many of you who usually support our Burns Night in January, please note that in 2009 we will be holding a *St George's Day* event instead on *Saturday 25th April at Ringmer Community College*. Having had Burns Night celebrations for 10 years we have decided to go 'English!' We do hope you'll still come along and enjoy the event.

Meanwhile, if anyone feels they need personal help or advice on matters relating to cancer or just general information on Macmillan Cancer Support, please ring the Freephone Macmillan Cancerline on 0808 808 2020 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk. There are also a number of booklets available providing information to help anyone who is suddenly confronted with cancer.

Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 890400
Maureen Byford, Secretary 01825 831882



FRAMFIELD PLAYGROUP
The Memorial Hall, The Street,
Framfield, TN22 5NR
OFSTED Registration No: 511222
Charity Commission No: 1040794
PLA Member No: 29899



We are Framfield playgroup situated in the memorial hall on Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri in the church hall our hours are 9 - 11.30 pm for two year olds, and to 12pm for three year olds with an optional lunch club running till 12.45pm. We have four highly trained staff, the supervisor and deputy both have the N.N.E.B. qualification, with over fifteen years experience each, the two other members of staff, one has the D.P.P. the other will finish her D.P.P. at Christmas, we are Ofsted registered and work from the guidance set by the early years foundation stage, you are most welcome to visit us on any of these mornings, a free trial week is available.

It has been a busy year for the playgroup, we have a stall at the village market every other month to raise funds for the playgroup, and thank you for all your support at the bird - in -eye farm open day where we were selling tickets for a balloon race, first place went to Callum Hall and second place went to Oscar Rasson-Stark. Both balloons went as far as France.

To kick off our Christmas celebrations the whole playgroup is taking a trip on the Santa special train on the Bluebell Line, at the beginning of December, to meet Father Christmas, this should be lots of fun, lets hope everyone has there Christmas lists ready to give to Santa.

If you would like any information about the playgroup or to arrange a visit please call Jo Rayner (supervisor) on 07975 567766.

The playgroup committee are now running a parent and toddler group at the church hall on Thursdays between 9.30 -11.30 am, everyone is welcome so please come along for a chat, cup of coffee and let your children have fun and make new friends.

PARISH FOOTPATHS

East Sussex County Council is conducting a network survey of the condition footpaths throughout the Parish. If anyone has anything to report please contact me and I will pass the information on.

Whilst on this subject, may I please remind walkers that the route of a path should not be deviated from. Landowners have contacted me with concerns that they have found people wandering all over their fields. Dogs should also generally be kept on leads. Even if a footpath goes across an open field the general direction of the path must be followed – there should be waymarkers indicating the route. There are also Parish footpath maps available for purchase if anyone requires one.

ANN NEWTON – Parish Clerk

TRAFFIC ISSUES CONTINUED!

As detailed in the main report from the Parish Council, now that we have the ear of the Police and County Council we want to keep it trained on us!

There may be some solutions to traffic issues, which we could put forward for consideration. I don't mean enormous expensive 'traffic calming' engineering solutions, which urbanise our villages but more simpler measures.

In this regard, the Parish Council has decided to draw up a 'wish list', which will be put to the County Council for consideration. We would like to involve the residents in this and would like to hear from anyone with any ideas they might have – more signage, flashing warning signs if a vehicle is speeding, chevrons on dangerous bends?

Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

AVIAN CHRISTMAS CHEER

In August I attended a meeting with the Police (Neighbourhood Policing Panel) to set three priorities for the Parish, namely problems with speeding traffic, people's fear of crime and anti-social car parking. I have asked that the Police make sure they 'walk the beat' around the villages finding out if there are any issues and problems.

The issue of the amount of street-lighting which we have in the Parish was discussed. We are one of the most brightly lit rural parishes in the District. The Parish Council is going to conduct a review of the street-lighting and would like residents opinions on various points. An article is detailed separately in the magazine on the subject.

The planning applications for the two pavilions have been approved and quotations are now being obtained for their construction. Fundraising efforts are also underway.

A new car park has been completed at the Village Hall in Blackboys. This is primarily for allotment holders but is to be used as an overflow car park for hall users as well. I hope there wasn't too much disruption caused in the few days when the work was being carried out.

The news that Framfield School had an outstanding Ofsted inspection report was reported at the October meeting. Congratulations must be given to Mrs Wilde and her staff for all their efforts in this regard. The school building work is also almost complete and there will be a grand opening day some time before Christmas.

Which only leaves me to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year from everyone on the Parish Council.

The next meeting will be held on 27 January 2009 at the Village Hall in Blackboys.

Full copies of the minutes are available from the Clerk. Please contact any of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton.

Eryl Thomas (890360); David Andrews ((07826 835295); Myran Eade (890507); Peter Friend (01435 867126); Brian Hodge (890199); Maria Naylor (0780 1230835); Rob Newton (890103); Ian Paisley (890904); Rita Redman (890276); Fred Thurston (890071).

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine).

Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours.

Well, it is December and images of the Country's favourite bird will start appearing through your letterbox, or beaming down at you from an advent calendar or concealing a long hoped for Christmas present as you tear at the wrapping paper. At this time of year, the robin is everywhere.

Robins have featured on Christmas cards ever since the practice of sending them began in earnest in the mid-19th century. Why this was the case has been mused upon by many people and over many years, one thought being that their redbreast reflected the colours of the fledgling postal service especially as they were often depicted as delivering cards in their beaks, but long before this, robins were already embedded in the nation's affection.

Their link with churches and religion go back further in time and there are many stories of robins entering churches and sharing this habitat with the parishioners. In 1637 there is a tale of a theologian, Dr John Bastwick based on the Isles of Scilly, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for an attack on local church leaders. As he began his incarceration, thousands of robins arrived on the islands, an event never recorded before and causing the populace to believe this to be a vindication of the words of the prisoner, who was incidentally released at a later date. Of course, we now know that falls of migrant robins from Europe occur occasionally in the UK.

Other church related robin stories include one that, during the reign of Charles 2nd one regularly entered and sang in Canterbury Cathedral apparently shaming the Puritan community of Kent by its regular attendance while in the 19th Century one was reported as living in Bristol Cathedral for 15 years.

Two major attributes that this species has over others that has made it so popular, it was officially recognised as Britain's national bird in 1960, the first being it's ability to co-exist with people. Pictures of robins sitting prettily on garden forks is no myth, it certainly has happened to me as I'm sure it has with many of you and as soon as you go outside one will miraculously appear. Without wishing to shatter any illusions this is because the bird sees you as a meal ticket, your endeavours providing them with food especially in winter when food is harder to come by, rather than any emotional attachment to you.

Secondly, they are the only one of our resident birds that sing throughout the winter, their melancholy outpouring brightening up the cold dark days. Other birds do sometimes sing during the winter months and thrushes begin in earnest early in the New Year, but the robin provides a musical backdrop throughout. Sadly, I have to again dispel any ideas that they might be singing for our benefit. While most of our resident birds forego any feeding territories after the breeding season is over, robins vehemently maintain one, often quite violently and both the males and females maintain territories at this time.

This association with people seems a peculiarly British phenomenon, their continental cousins remain steadfastly woodland species, and I'm sure you'll agree that our lives are much enriched by their presence. It is good to know that robins in the UK are doing alright in what is generally an increasingly hostile environment, finding ways to benefit from the relationship with ourselves and hopefully that will continue way into the future.

**Mike Russell Sussex Wildlife Trust
December 2008 www.sussexwt.org.uk**



BLACKBOYS PRE-SCHOOL
BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL, GUN ROAD,
BLACKBOYS, EAST SUSSEX, TN22 5JY

Tel: 01825 891113

Mobile: 07931 978071

Email: blackboyspreschool@googlemail.com

Website: www.blackboyspreschool.co.uk

We can hardly believe we are into the second term and preparing for a nativity play on the 17th of December. Last term the children learned all about farm animals and did some really creative art around that theme - all on display in the pre school entrance. We had a visit from a local farmer on his tractor and the Mohair centre brought in various small farm animals and pets. The children had fun holding chickens!

Socially the pre-school were active and parents and staff had a brain testing evening at the quiz night. We raised nearly £500 for new outdoor resources at the pre-school. The children are now enjoying a new train and Wendy house, new trampolines, see - saw and various games. Although in this weather they are not being used so much unfortunately.

This term we start with an Open day on the 12th of November. The pre-school will open it's doors to prospective new parents. If you have missed this opportunity please do not wait for the next one but give us a call and arrange to come and look around. During the open day the children will be having a teddy bears picnic to follow the theme of Children in need.

Then on the 13th of November we are holding a Christmas shopping evening - again to raise funds for the pre-school - so mums and friends can enjoy an evening of child free shopping ahead of the Christmas rush.

The pre-school is going from strength to strength with good children numbers. All the staff are currently undergoing training to build on their current NVQ levels. All our friendly staff are either NVQ level 3 qualified and above or undertaking this qualification. We have high staff to children ratios and can take children from the age of 2 years and they do not have to be potty trained. So if you would like to know more please make an appointment to come and see the pre-school in operation.

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - OCTOBER 2008

A lot seems to have happened since my last report - we have lost another councillor and gained two! Keith Riddle who joined the Council in 1995 resigned due to other commitments. His 'hands on' approach will be greatly missed.

The good news - Brian Hodge from Blackboys has joined the ranks. There is however still one vacancy so if anyone would be interested please contact either myself or any of the councillors listed below.

These changes have necessitated a re-allocation of committee positions so I detail a revised list as follows:-

Finance: Eryl Thomas (Chair), Rob Newton, David Andrews*, Myran Eade* and Maria Naylor*. This also includes Jan Riddle (book-keeper) and Arthur Makepeace (Internal Auditor).

* David as Chair of the Environment Committee, Myran as Chair of the Recreation Grounds Committee including allotments and Maria as Chair of Planning.

Planning: Maria Naylor (Chair), David Andrews, Peter Friend, Brian Hodge, Rita Redman and Fred Thurston.

Recreation Grounds/Allotments: Myran Eade (Chair [special responsibility Framfield Allotments]), Peter Friend (special responsibility Blackboys Allotments), Brian Hodge, Ian Paisley and Rita Redman.

Environment: David Andrews (Chair), Myran Eade, Maria Naylor, Ian Paisley and Fred Thurston.

Eryl Thomas and Rob Newton are ex-officio members on the last three committees.

The Summer Show was branded yet another success even with the appalling weather. Chairman of the District Council, Chantal Wilson, attended and was impressed with the community atmosphere apparent at the event. Well done to the team at the Horticultural Society.

The ongoing problems with HGV traffic and speeding issues in the villages were discussed and in October the Police along with Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) attended a meeting to see if the subject can be moved forward. The Police suggested becoming involved in Community Speed Watch - a similar scheme to the one carried out in Ringmer. Also the suggestion of a 'wish list' from the Parish on what we would like to see on our roads in an attempt to slow traffic down. An item is detailed separately in the magazine on these topics.

On another good note, the owner of New Place has written to all the tenants in the industrial units asking them not to use or accept large HGV's for deliveries etc. We should be seeing a great improvement, particularly with the absence of the daily TNT lorry!

Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society News

Welcome to this month's newsletter, now is the time on a wet & windy afternoon tucked up in the warm and armed with a hot cup of something, to give some thought to what you fancy growing next year either floral or vegetable. The seed catalogues are out so while you have the time, brows at your leisure and choose next year's best varieties to provide something good to eat and colour in your garden.

With this in mind we have started a seed swop albeit very small. All spare seeds welcome just pop them into a small envelope and label with as much information as you can, including the variety, colour and the date. This could include free seeds from magazines or half packets if you have more seeds than you need. Please also include any spare seed you have collected from your garden in the autumn. We try to attend the Framfield Market each month so either come and see us there or drop them off with one of the committee.

We are all aware of the "credit crunch", Christmas decorations can be expensive so why not make your own. To decorate your front door, gather some conifer (2/3 pieces approx 12-18" long) add some holly on top perhaps slightly shorter than the conifer, plus some twiggy material & tie up with garden twine like you would a bunch of flowers. Add some colour with any of the following: hips, berries, walnuts, small apples or small clementine's, pine cones, & or cinnamon sticks by thread some thin wire either through or round to secure, attach near the twine then tie with some festive red ribbon ensuring the bow is on the front.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Jenny Bacon, Chair 01825 890236 email: j.bacon@zen.co.uk

PS. Change to 2009 Show Schedule, due to the lack of Damsons this year we have amended the show entry to any Fruit Gin.

'COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH'

Concerns have been raised by a number of parishioners at the level of traffic passing through the villages within the Parish and at the number of vehicles that appear to exceed the speed limits. Following a meeting with the Police Liaison Officer for our Parish it is clear that the police do not have the resources to do very much about it. However, they can make equipment available to enable parishioners to conduct their own speedwatch programmes. There are already conducted by a number of villages within the local area and involve the use of volunteers being trained by the police in the use of a speed checking device as well as a risk assessment conducted by the police to ensure that appropriate and safe speed check locations are identified.

Motorists identified as exceeding the limit are reported to the police who then send the motorist a warning letter. If a second speeding occurrence is observed then a second warning is sent by the police, effectively advising them that they have been identified as a persistent speeder and thus likely to be a target for the traffic police.

Reports apparently indicate that such schemes have had some degree of success and it was suggested that the Parish might wish to adopt a similar approach. Clearly there will need to be sufficient support from within the community for a scheme to work as it will require volunteers from within the villages to operate the device etc. If villagers are willing to support such a scheme and prepared to offer their time to operate the system would they please contact **Councillor Brian Hodge on 01825 890199**. It is not a task that will require a huge commitment but clearly the larger the pool of volunteers is, the more effective the system will be and therefore the less time required from each volunteer. As a minimum we will need 6 volunteers.

If there is sufficient support and response then it is likely that we can get a scheme off the ground in the not too distant future and to hopefully cut down on the number of vehicles speeding through our villages. Over to you!!

BRIAN HODGE

