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Your local Fire Service personnel are happy to make an appointment to visit your home and discuss fire safety issues that are specific to you. They will also ensure that you have working smoke alarm(s) within your home and where you do not, they will supply and fit 10 year smoke alarms.

To request a **FREE** visit call **0800 1777 069** (call is free).

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

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

Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

JUNE/JULY 2009

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

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

Churchwarden : **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, let no one divide:

8th April 2009: Nicholas Gage / Alexandra Templeton

**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.

Parish Magazine: Deliverers needed

Since one of our Blackboys helpers is unable to continue with his round, we are in need of one or two volunteers to deliver magazines in Stonebridge Lane (10 houses) and Lewes Road (10 houses)

If you can help, please contact Pat Herbert on 01825 890247

Welcome Baptist Blackboys

As a fellowship we decided not to meet in Blackboys on Easter Sunday but to join in celebration with the Welcome Baptist Church in Heathfield. It was a very special time to join together celebrating with other Christians in the Baptist Church

Quite a few of our leaders at Blackboys have been away at Spring Harvest during most of April and we have really missed their input. Thankfully they are now all back and full of enthusiasm for the months ahead.

The Alpha Course, which met in the home of Andrew & Emma Doherty is now finished, but there are plans afoot to continue a similar course later in May.

Life2themax – our Young People's group that meet every Wednesday evening 6.30pm – 8.00pm have had some fun times recently including – making bird boxes, making pizzas, bowling, swimming, pottery party, woodland walks. They certainly have lots of fun and new members are always welcome (Suzanne Hammond 01435 868846)

We continue to meet every Sunday in the Village Hall for informal worship, tea and cakes. Everyone welcome. For further information Tel: Barbara Solly 01825 765178 or look on the website www.blackboys.org.uk

Why not try something from California?

Some years ago Rev Nicky Gumbel and the team at Holy Trinity Brompton were faced with a dilemma; should they invite American evangelist John Wimber to speak at the church in London or not?

John Wimber, based in California had become quite famous in the USA as an evangelist that God had greatly used in the ministry of healing. John had ministered in many large gatherings and God had performed through him what only can be described as some major miracles. The blind had regained their sight, the deaf could hear again and the crippled and lame began to walk; classic New Testament stuff!

Nicky certainly had some reservations. Despite John's reputation did he really want to be one of those responsible for letting loose a perhaps, brash outlandish American on the congregation?

Trying to discern God's will on this matter turned out to be a protracted process. For Nicky the answer came when he was passing a huge billboard in London, which was advertising Californian wines; the headline read 'Why not try something from California?' At that moment he knew what God's will was. John was duly invited and ministered in London and many other places in the UK, and yes he was the real deal. God did amazing things through this man who was not in the slightest bit brash, instead very humble. Sarah and I had the pleasure of meeting John at a conference in the Brighton Centre in 1995 and God did amazing things through him there.

The point of telling the story is that you never know whether you may like something unless you are prepared to give it a go. There are those who will only drink French wines, but wines from California, Australia and other parts of the world are now common place and very good.

The same analogy could be used in attending a church service. You never know if you will like it or not unless you are prepared to give it a try.

Prior to my conversion passing a church in a village or town was just like passing a shop that sold goods that I thought I had absolutely no interest in. I just walked on by.

Similarly, in every community there are folk that have never set foot inside a church, don't know anything about it or what goes on during a 'service'.

If church is not on your radar then it is simply dismissed.

However, to dismiss the church would be a gross injustice to the God who placed it there, as it is the place where people, more often than not, meet with the living God and over a period of time find their lives being transformed into something far more glorious than they could have ever imagined! It is indeed a place of challenge and a place where we can have our horizons stretched to beyond the bounds of mediocrity that we so often settle for. It is also a place where we come face to face with ourselves and sometimes that is scary! But the God of all forgiveness and grace is there accepting us just as we are.

Never been to church before?

'Why not try something from Framfield?'- You are assured of a warm welcome and you may just enjoy it!

Blessings

Rev Chris Lawrence

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET



NEXT MARKET: 27th June 2009

25th July 2009

10 am - 12 noon

ALL WELCOME

Come and see the Market stalls,
ENJOY 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



Do you understand the strain of being a parent?

Susan has just given birth to twins and has an autistic son. She is feeling lonely, exhausted and overwhelmed. Could you volunteer 3 hours a week to visit parents like Susan?

HOME-START SOUTH DOWNS

The next *****FREE*****

Volunteer Preparation Course begins

21 April, Tuesday (Crowborough)

9 September, Wednesday (Newhaven)

4 November, Wednesday (Heathfield)

for 10 weeks, *one* day a week 9.30 am - 2.30 pm

(excluding school and bank holidays)

Ring 01273 612025 or homestartsouthdowns@btinternet.com

for information

Registered Charity 1108855

Company 5368531

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICES

JUNE

07 Trinity Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

14 First Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

6.30 pm Evening Praise

17 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

21 Second Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Contemporary Service

6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing

28 Third Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Praise

JULY

05 Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

12 Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

6.30 pm Evening Praise

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

- 15 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 19 **Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing
- 26 **Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise

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

Our Saturday Second Team league fixtures are as follows:

09/05/2009 - Sat - Rye III 81-4 bt Blackboys II 80 by 6 wkts
16/05/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Heathfield Park 3rd XI
23/05/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Bells Yew Green 4th XI
30/05/2009 - Sat - Hellingly 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
06/06/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Seaford 4th XI
13/06/2009 - Sat - Willingdon 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
20/06/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Little Common 3rd XI
27/06/2009 - Sat - Newick 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
04/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Pevensey 2nd XI
11/07/2009 - Sat - Heathfield Park 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
18/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Rye 3rd XI
25/07/2009 - Sat - Bells Yew Green 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
01/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Hellingly 4th XI
08/08/2009 - Sat - Seaford 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
15/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Willingdon 3rd XI
22/08/2009 - Sat - Little Common 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
29/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 2nd XI v Newick 3rd XI
05/09/2009 - Sat - Pevensey 2nd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI

Other fixtures are as follows:

21/05/2009 - Thur - Blackboys v Heathfield Park – Oakshott Cup
12/07/2009 - Sun - Blackboys v President's XI – Friendly – TBC
16/08/2009 - Sun - Blackboys v The Invalids – Friendly

If you would like to get involved with Blackboys Cricket Club please do not hesitate to get in touch. As I have said before, we want some new players to help take our club forward.

**Colin Eade, Secretary. 01825 890507, colin.eade@gmail.com
www.blackboyscc.co.uk**

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th JULY 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 Ann.

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

Blackboys Cricket Club continued its good form in 2008. In our second season in the East Sussex Cricket League, we were runners-up in Division 4 and we gained promotion to Division 3.

Moving forward, due to lack of interest from our own players and our opposition we decided to all but scrap our Sunday fixtures.

We are going to concentrate on Saturday cricket and I can report that our first team got their season off to a cracking start by beating Robertsbridge by 4 wickets after chasing down the total of 195. Our seconds did not fare so well and were beaten by 6 wickets by Rye III. Early days as they say.

Our Saturday First Team league fixtures are as follows:

09/05/2009 - Sat - Blackboys I 201-6 bt Robertsbridge I 195 by 4 wkts
16/05/2009 - Sat - Wadhurst 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
23/05/2009 - Sat - Pett 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
30/05/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Herstmonceux 1st XI
06/06/2009 - Sat - Ringmer 2nd XI v Blackboys 1st XI
13/06/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Bells Yew Green 1st XI
20/06/2009 - Sat - Crowborough 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
27/06/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Plumpton 1st XI
04/07/2009 - Sat - Newick 2nd XI v Blackboys 1st XI
11/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Wadhurst 1st XI
18/07/2009 - Sat - Robertsbridge 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
25/07/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Pett 1st XI
01/08/2009 - Sat - Herstmonceux 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
08/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Ringmer 2nd XI
15/08/2009 - Sat - Bells Yew Green 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
22/08/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Crowborough 1st XI
29/08/2009 - Sat - Plumpton 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
05/09/2009 - Sat - Blackboys 1st XI v Newick 2nd XI

Framfield CE Primary School

End of the Framfield School Building Project 7 May 2009

As you probably know, on 10 March 2009, the new classrooms at Framfield School were formally opened, bringing to a glorious end our fundraising activities.

Those of you who attended the opening ceremony or have seen the new classrooms and library know what a difference this has made to the children's education, with more space and light for the children and the teachers.

The library was dedicated by Reverend Brian Wilcox from Holy Cross Church, Uckfield; also in attendance were Reverend Chris Howarth, Reverend Frank Fox-Wilson and members from my Church at Holy Cross. Many thanks for their attendance in loving memory of my wife, Rosemary.

After the dedication of the Library, I was surprisingly asked to open the new classrooms. Never having done anything like this before, I found it rather daunting, but as I only had a day's notice, not too much time to worry. The two school children, Yazzmyn Funnell and Dominic Ferrari, who assisted me in cutting the tape, helped a bit with the nerves. I had to lift Yazzmyn up to cut the tape and both the children were very excited and happy carrying out their duties. My speech was rather short, but having my two daughters, Maria and Laura in the large crowd who attended the opening, I managed to say "As Maria and Laura attended Framfield School until aged 11; the ground-work for their later university studies played a good part in their initial education."

After the opening, the older children entertained us all by using their laptops, telling us their thoughts for a better future at school.

I would like to thank you for the final time for your generous donations and other fundraising activities for the £30,000 raised in so short a time - it shows Framfield have caring people who rally around those most important projects.

As I have said before, Framfield has a School to be proud of.

I have now started a gardening session for the older children at Framfield School. We have got three beds altogether for flowers and vegetables and so far, the children seem to be enjoying the classes. I hope this will start them growing their own seeds and who knows, showing them in the Framfield Horticultural Show.

Just a small reminder to the large attendance at the opening of the classrooms, please pop in to sign the Visitor's Book in the School Reception area anytime the School is open and we can have a permanent record for the future.

Jimmy James

Further details:

In a peaceful pastoral setting, typical of rural Sussex and well removed from the noise of traffic, this is a mature garden on Wealden clay, which has been developed gradually by the present owners over the past 34 years. Wide sweeping stretches of lawn lead naturally to areas planted with HT, rambler, floribunda and English roses, interspersed with shrubberies and herbaceous borders. In the total of a little over 2½ acres various buildings, stone walls, yew hedges and several water features create further interest. Shade, height and additional colour are supplied by the wide variety of specimen trees including a fine Metasequoia glyptostroboides, Dawyck beeches, giant prostrate junipers, acers, Liriodendron, fastigate oaks, a huge old pedunculate oak and a number of individual conifers. Behind the 300 year old house (not open) and the range of former farm buildings lies the partly walled productive vegetable and fruit garden. A warm courtyard adjoining the house and surrounding the swimming-pool provides the ideal home for an array of colourful plants in pots. Additionally, there are temptations in the form of delicious Teas (in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support) which are served in the handsome 17th Century barn room attached to the house, and an excellent Plant Stall. There is ample parking in the meadow immediately adjoining the garden where visitors are welcome to picnic beforehand and also to exercise their dogs. Just beyond the garden boundary on the northern side is a pretty walk by the lake with mallard and Canada geese."

ngs gardens open
for charity

Garden Open

Hobbs Barton

Streele Lane

Framfield, nr Uckfield

Sat, Sun, Mon

6, 7, 8 June

2 - 5.30pm

Adm: £5 (Mon £4)
Children: free

Plants for Sale



The National Gardens Scheme 01293 444444

www.ngs.org.uk

Big Blackboys Lunch

The team behind the famous Eden project have come up with a great idea to get communities coming together on July 19th, all around the UK, for a “Big Lunch”.

“Imagine a summer's day on which millions of us, throughout the UK, sit down to have lunch together, with our neighbours. The food, entertainment and decorations we will have either grown, cooked, or created ourselves. This will be a day to break bread with our neighbours, to put a smile on Britain's face.” Tim Smit, founder of the Eden Project.

I thought this would be an opportunity for Blackboys residents and friends to get together, to share the food we like to grow and make, at a casual, fun picnic for all ages – perhaps at the rec ground, or by the village hall. And for those with musical talents to share, it would be great to have you as the entertainment.

We are of course going to have a fabulous summer this year (!) – but if not, I do have a large gazebo at the ready!

If you'd like to find out more, visit www.thebiglunch.com, where you can sign up to register your interest. I have set up a “Big Lunch” on the website for Blackboys – just put in your postcode into the Big Lunch finder, and click “Attend this lunch” to register your interest.

When 15 people have registered, I'll be in touch, and we'll get the ball rolling....

Hope to see you there

Fiona Quinn
Southwood, High Street, Blackboys
fionaekquinn@gmail.com

Blackboys Church Of England Primary School

It has been a hugely busy time here at Blackboys School.

At the end of the last term we were visited by OfSTED: we were expecting this, but it still came as a surprise. However, everyone pulled together in typical Blackboys style and with a little tidying up we were soon ready.

We were extremely pleased to be judged by the end of a very intensive day as outstanding!

The report highlights:

- Pupils' excellent progress and attainment of well above average standards. The inspectors note that, by the time pupils leave at the end of Year 6, "progress compared to their attainment at the end of Year 2 places the school in the top 2 per cent nationally."
- The outstanding teaching, which ensures that "all pupils, including the more able, are suitably challenged and supported."
- The school's very clear direction which is successfully driving forward improvements in all areas
- The very well enriched curriculum and the school's strong musical and sporting traditions
- Excellent provision for pupils with special needs
- Outstanding pastoral care
- The pupils' outstanding personal development and well-being is characterised, says the report, "by pupils' exemplary behaviour, highly enthusiastic attitudes to learning and their growing confidence and independence as active members of their school and local communities"

As you can imagine we were delighted! Many thanks to everyone who supports the school including the PTA, the Governing Body and members of the local community. All your goodwill is very much appreciated.

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society has some extra events for June and July this year, as well our regular meetings. On June the 2nd Bob Draper will be giving us an update on the restoration of the Upper Ouse Navigation. On Saturday 13th June we will be having a "Members Only Workshop Day" in Blackboys Village Hall with Geoffrey Mead. The aim is to discover more about the local area, particularly the landscape, and how and why it has shaped our village into what it is today.

On July 7th we will be having an evening guided tour of Nutley Windmill, and a picnic, weather permitting. There will be a coach outing on Saturday July 11th to the village of Cobham in Kent. The coach will pick up in Uckfield at 9am and at Blackboys a little later. There are a few spaces left on the coach if anyone would like to come along, at £13 each. Lunch can be arranged at a local hostelry if wished.

Our meetings take place in Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8pm start. Visitors are welcome, entrance costs £2 and includes tea or coffee and biscuit. If you would like more details about the above or would like to know more about the society or have information that you think we might be interested in, or if you think we may be able to help you, please contact me on 01825 890359 or email bturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Ann Turner

to contain these costs mainly because we have fixed price 3-year contracts with our grass and hedge cutting contractors. At this point perhaps it is worth mentioning that despite paying out £1,100 for dog bin emptying we still have parishioners who do not clear up after their pets to the detriment of us all, especially young children.

Street lighting will be an issue for discussion this year as a reduction in lights and/or hours of usage is considered. Last year the street lights in the Parish cost £3,300 for light, maintenance and repair. EDF who have maintained our lights for some years announced last autumn that they were going to withdraw from such work although they would continue to supply the electricity. At the time of setting the budget we obtained a quote from East Sussex County Council which increased our costs by £850.

We managed to trim some £370 off our miscellaneous costs which cover benches, bus shelters, notice boards etc. and also reduced our contingency element by £700. Finally we have made an increased provision of £3,000 for staff costs as there has been a considerable extra workload on our Clerk dealing with even more missives from various government bodies and ensuring our activities are fully supported and recorded. At this point it is probably worth mentioning that whilst Parish councillors are entitled to draw an annual allowance we in Framfield have chosen not to draw this thus avoiding a further cost of £1,200 to the overall budget.

I hope this has helped to explain in general terms but if you wish to know more or query anything please do contact our Clerk or myself, our accounts are audited by our Internal Auditor and again by external auditors appointed by government and are available on request.

Eryl Thomas

However, our hard work will continue of course and we have lots of exciting work planned for the last months of this academic year including a Local Study Week when you will see many of our staff and children discovering more of the delights of our locality. Keep your eyes open and be sure to say hello!

Distraction Burglary – a warning

On 13th May an elderly resident was a victim of a distraction burglary in Gatehouse lane, 2 males claimed to be from the Water board and said they needed to carry out work inside the house, the victim let them in and as one male escorted her into the kitchen to check the taps, the other male went upstairs, money was taken from the property and the upstairs of the property ransacked, the strong advice we always give is, 1. Don't open doors to strangers straight away, see what they want first, 2. Always ask for ID 3. Make appointment times with tradesman and services, if you are in any doubt about the person, close the door and ring 0845 60 70 999.

SIMON FRENCH

Police Community Support Officer

Sussex Police

Wealden District

New Town | Uckfield | East Sussex | TN22 5DL

Telephone 0845 60 70 999 Ext. 27400

www.sussex.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.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

120 people turned up to our St George's Day fund raising evening and we would like to thank you all for your support. You helped to raise the wonderful sum of £2,350. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, including the committee who managed to cook a three course meal and serve it hot!! The English country dancing was great fun and so was the demonstration of clog dancing - all in all a very English evening, especially when we finished with Land of Hope and Glory, and Jerusalem!

We hope by now that the majority of people are aware that not only does Macmillan support people, and their families, living with cancer but it puts its weight behind pushing the government on a number of cancer related issues, ie hospital parking charges, free prescriptions, extra winter fuel payments. If you live in England and are undergoing treatment for cancer you are entitled to free prescriptions from 1st April. You need to apply for an exemption certificate from your GP surgery or oncology clinic.

Future fund raising events include Afternoon Teas under the auspices of the National Gardens Scheme. These will take place at
HOBBS BARTON, FRAMFIELD 6TH/7TH/8TH JUNE 2.00PM
100 HOUSE, FRAMFIELD SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2.00PM

Also we are holding a Concert and Cream Tea Afternoon with music from the Shows in the State Hall, Station Road, Heathfield on Saturday 11th July at 4.00pm. We would love to see you at any of these events.

For help or advice on matters relating to cancer please ring the Freephone Macmillan Cancerline on 0808 808 2020 or visit: www.macmillan.org.uk.

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

Lastly, the three-year maintenance contracts for the three recreation grounds and allotments will be re-tendered in the Autumn. Would anyone interested in tendering for the work please let me know. There will be a further advert on this later in the year.

Eryl Thomas (890360); David Andrews ((07826 835295); Myran Eade (890507); Peter Friend (01435 867126); Brian Hodge (890199); Mark Moore (890166); Maria Naylor (890946); 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.

AEN/19 May 2009

Budget Increase – Framfield Parish Council

In the last magazine I reported that the Parish element of your council tax would increase significantly because of a larger budget requirement and that further depletion of our reserves was not sensible. In this edition I thought that it would be helpful to briefly explain the major elements where the year on year budget increases have occurred.

The total budget went up by £4,000 on the previous year. Our income from interest is expected to fall by about £350 because of the reduction in bank interest, which I am sure has affected us all. Our administrative costs have been trimmed by about £400 but an extra £600 has had to be allowed for legal costs as a comprehensive check on Parish land issues is undertaken. We have also allowed for £800 to obtain a laptop computer and projector to ensure our Planning Committee is well equipped to deal with applications, which increasingly will be electronically processed.

Our 3 recreation grounds cost in the region of £9,000 and allotments approx £2,500 to keep in good and safe order. We have managed

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Our new PCSO Simon French attended the April meeting and reported on all that he had done in the Parish the previous month. He has not only made many patrols, but attended the Village Market in Framfield armed with leaflets and advice (something he will endeavour to do every month) but he has also been involved in a couple of the Speedwatch sessions with the other Parish volunteers. His role within the community paid off earlier in the month when he became suspicious over a house in Framfield. This culminated in a full 'raid' by the Police, which uncovered an active cannabis factory. Without that local contact this wouldn't have happened. Thanks should be given to Simon for his hard work and dedication to the Parish.

With my District hat on I reported on the forthcoming public consultation on WDC's Core Strategy, which is the next 'phase' in the progress of the Local Development Framework. Residents were invited to comment on the Issues and Options paper some two years ago; this latest consultation will focus on six main options or spatial strategies for the house-building in the District. Everyone who commented before will be automatically contacted by WDC and invited to comment again but I ask that as many people as possible should make their feelings known. The consultation will be advertised in local papers and put on the WDC website. If anyone has difficulty accessing either of these, please let the Parish Council know. The consultation should commence in June/July for at least six weeks, possibly longer if the school holiday period is taken into account.

A couple of unpleasant elements, which keep cropping up – garden bonfires and dog fouling. There is a note elsewhere in the magazine asking residents to think before lighting a fire. On the subject of dog fouling – the relevant WDC Officer has been asked to patrol around the Parish again and she will fine people if anyone is caught allowing their dog to foul the area. The dog warden can always be contacted on 01892 653311 and is willing to come out at very short notice.

We had two comments this year about the seemingly large raise in Parish Council Tax this time around. The details of which were included in the last magazine but the Chairman, Eryl Thomas, has also written a further article detailing how the money is spent and this is elsewhere in the magazine.

Street lighting – the Parish Council is still trying to investigate the possibility of reducing the amount of public street lights that we have in the Parish. If anyone has any further views please let me know.

Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club

1st June – 2.30 pm

Tea with Eryl & Sue Thomas, Scaines Farm

15th June – 2.30 pm

Tea with Tanya Edmondson, Newplace Farm

6th July – 2.30 pm

Tea with Caroline and Glen Swire, Grange Farm House

20th July – 2.30 pm

Buxted Pavilion, Boccia - Tea/Cakes etc

New members welcome. For more info ring Sandy on 01825 840648.

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

A VERY BIG “THANK YOU”

To all the local lads who helped to make me
such a nice home ! Chris, David ,Ian (1) and (2),
Kevin ,Martin

and everyone at Village Carpets East Hoathly.

I am glad I took your advice, even though in
some instances I doubted the outcome, you
were all right!

Sue Whitehead (Ed.) George & Poppy.



Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society News

As many of you might know we have a Horticultural web site www.fabhortsoc.org.uk which was set up by Sylvia Fresson. Sylvia will remain on the committee but is no longer able to run the web site due to private commitments, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work and welcome Terry Everitt as the new custodian. Please take a look when you have a moment and if you would like to see more or have any suggestion please contact Terry via email terry.everitt@virgin.net

Last year I was offered a greenhouse from a friend who had himself obtained it second hand from the Friday ad. With a little hard work and sweat from a few willing helpers it was swiftly erected and I have not looked back. So if you are in two minds as to whether to get one my recommendation would be yes go for it, you will not regret it. They can be used all year round, for storing those not so hardy plants, for planting and potting on your seedlings, a safe haven for tomato plants in the spring and summer and will help stop them getting blight when it's a wet one! You will also have somewhere light and dry offering you the perfect shelter from the elements. Ours has also been used as a hospital wing for a poorly chicken, whom I am pleased to say, is now fit and well.

We are usually at the monthly Framfield Market. We try to have a few plants for sale and seeds to either swap or you can make a small donation. There is still time to grown things and plan for the summer show so please do have a go and if you are unsure about anything come and ask us at the market.

Summer Show - Saturday 8th August 2009 1.30 - 5.00 pm

Sorry to mention this again, but If anyone could offer any help before, during or after the show we would love to hear from you so please contact Edna Abrams on 01825 890976.

Jenny Bacon, Chair 01825 890236 email j.bacon@zen.co.uk
or visit us at www.fabhortsoc.org.uk

crescent behind the head, whereas adders have an obvious diamond shape pattern down the length of its body. Adders are also widespread but tend to prefer dryer places in the south, particularly heathland and downland.

Being our only venomous creature of any note, adders come in for a hard time but the likelihood of one of them inflicting a fatal bite to a human is extremely remote to the extent that there has been no known case for over 100 hundred years.

Early April is a good time to go looking for these reptiles as they will all have just emerged from hibernation and are busy looking for mates. One thing that all reptiles do have in common as well is that they are all protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act so it is illegal to kill them and in fact there is absolutely no need to either as, with the exception of the adder, they are all harmless, while even the adder is likely to disappear on your approach and you will be lucky even to see one.

Mike Russell Sussex

**Wildlife Trust
May 2009**

Framfield and Blackboys WI

If you would like to know more about *joining our WI or just attending as a visitor*, call Lynn Malyon.

Contact No: 01825 890759

FOCUS ON SUSSEX REPTILES

If your interest in the natural history of Britain is confined to the reptile family then you can have a pretty frustrating time; there are only six native species to be found in the UK and even then only four, two lizards and two snakes, occur in Sussex. Our climate is simply too cold for them to survive.

Even one of the lizards we have is often mistaken for a snake or a worm, as the evolutionary processes have decided that this species can get by quite happily without legs; it is of course the slow worm. These legless lizards are probably the most familiar of our reptiles and the one you are most likely to come across anywhere in the country, except Ireland. Gardens are a good place to find slow worms as they will particularly make use of compost heaps for breeding purposes and should be welcomed by gardeners as slugs and snails form a big part of their diet.

For such a relatively small creature, slow worms have a long gestation period, some 4-5 months while it takes a full 3 years for youngsters to reach sexual maturity. Emerging from hibernation in March, mating takes place in May and in late August or September the young are born, involving any number between 3 and 26. Slow worms are ovi-viviparous which means that they neither lay eggs nor live young, but the young are born in a membrane sac.

Our other lizard is a much more regular looking animal and is the viviparous lizard although it is better known by the far less imaginative title of common lizard. It is not truly viviparous as the young break out of the membrane sac as soon as the females give birth.

Common Lizards are also widely distributed throughout the UK and can be found in a wide variety of habitats. In Sussex it is worth exploring the heathlands such as Ashdown Forest and Iping and Stedham Commons particularly on a sunny morning in early spring as they bask in the sun to warm up. They can be quite difficult to see as they are very sensitive to noise and vibration and are likely to disappear long before you approach them. The best way to see them is pick a likely looking basking spot and wait for them to emerge out of the vegetation.

The two native snakes we have, the grass snake and the adder can easily be told apart, providing you get a reasonable view. Grass snakes are more widespread and like to be in or near water as frogs make up a big part of their diet. It is usually a uniform olive green colour and has a distinct yellow

A Plea to all parish residents:

It would be lovely if those of you who like to have garden fires would refrain from doing so during the warm weather months when fellow residents have their windows open, have washing on the line and are attempting to enjoy their own gardens in the nice weather.

There has been a spate of local garden fires recently (one of which caused burning embers to leave holes in neighbouring trampolines) and each time the polluted air in Framfield has caused local residents to run around closing windows and doors as their homes become smoke-filled and the air becomes difficult to breathe! This is especially unbearable at bed-time when some fires are still smouldering and fumes have reached bedrooms with open windows. It's a no-win situation when closing windows in the summer heat is equally unbearable. By then, of course, the smoke is already in the room and nothing can be done to clear the air. Please also consider that some of your neighbours may be asthma sufferers.

If residents are forced to report offenders to Wealden District Council the problem may be treated as a statutory nuisance. You can avoid this by adopting any of the following methods of garden waste disposal:

- You can make compost from your garden waste - the following website provides tips on how to make compost - www.gardenorganic.org.uk
- You can take your garden waste to any of the 6 household waste recycling sites within the Wealden District. These include the one in Heathfield and the mobile site available on Sunday mornings at Uckfield.
- You can use a shredder to reduce small branches and twigs to chippings which you can spread on the garden as a mulch to reduce weeds as well as maintain soil moisture.
- Store your garden waste until the weather turns colder when the majority of people will have doors and windows closed. All it takes is a little consideration and thought for others.

Many thanks,

Framfield resident.

Childrens' Page

Hello, this time it's Poppy writing to you all.

I'm afraid George is in trouble again. He said it was an accident and that Mistress put her hand in his mouth to check his teeth but when he said he was checking my ear yesterday I have my doubts !!!!



We had some more sad news the other day. Our other american friend Lady Basha joined Lord Snuffels in our dog heaven on Maundy Thursday. We think she just pined away in sorrow, Lord Snuffels had been her constant companion for many years. Their poor master is very sad.

We have finally got our house how we want it. Mistress has finished her travels as well so now we get down to more peaceful living. We were getting a little tired of people disrupting our well-ordered lives, especially meal times.

I do not know who will be writing the next note, but love and licks.

Poppy

HALLO BOYS AND GIRLS

of Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common

Are you aged between 5 and 11 ?

Would you like to join us on Sunday mornings at The Church Hall for Sunday Club?
We will be meeting on these dates:

Sundays:- 14th, 21st & 28th June & 12th, 19th July.

We have all sorts of activities and hear stories about Jesus and paint and draw and cook and play indoor games.

Towards the end of the hour we join the people in church for a short time.

Mums and Dads if you want more information ring

The Church Office on 01825 891090

