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

Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010

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

Priest-in-Charge : **Revd Chris 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 – 10.30 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 :



At Rest –

23rd October 2009: Ivy Alexandra Jarvis

**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.*

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET



CHRISTMAS MARKET:

19th December 2009
10 am - 12 noon

Next market
23rd January 2010
Our fourth year of markets!

ALL WELCOME
Do come and support us...
Come and enjoy the Market stalls,
tea/coffee/ bacon rolls and 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

Good things come in threes.

Time seems to accelerate on the run up to Christmas. As in keeping with many families Christmas takes a lot of organising, presents to buy, cards to write and post, and an abundance of food to buy. By Christmas Day the majority of us are looking forward to a good rest but then there is the planning of the post Christmas diet and the promise that you will use that gym membership in the New Year. Oh, you made that promise last year? Never mind, New Year resolutions; why bother? None of us keep them and if you don't make any then you can start the New Year guilt free; problem solved! But then again it is good to have some aims in life.

I was mulling over the Christmas story the other day and what came to mind was the part played by three wise men. We are told in Matthew's gospel that they journeyed from the east and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived they asked **"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."** Simple question you may ask but it had huge repercussions. Matthew records that **When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.**

Herod was not a pleasant individual. He was also prone to a little paranoia on occasion and the three wise men had unwittingly just pushed him over the edge. Perhaps in his own mind if they had come to worship the King of the Jews what place was there for him? So Herod seeks some advice.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

I always find this the most amazing part of the story. The three wise men had taken the trouble to travel a great distance following the star to worship the child Jesus, the King of the Jews, yet the chief priests in Jerusalem who knew exactly where He was yet couldn't be bothered to go and see him - perhaps they had eaten too much turkey?

⁷Then Herod called the wise men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

'Go and make a careful search for the child'. That was the best piece of advice Herod could have given them. So the search continued following the star until it stopped over the stable in Bethlehem. This was the moment of great joy. ¹¹**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.** Gifts indeed fit for the true King.

The point of the story is that, if something is worth having then often it takes some effort. The majority of Jews in Jerusalem just didn't recognise Jesus for who He was and is. As Jesus grew up he would demonstrate that He came from heaven and through His death and resurrection that he holds the keys to life and death. Eternal life for all who believe in Him.

And what of the three wise men? Well, their journey in one respect was complete. They had met with the true King and worshipped Him; their careful search had paid off, wisdom had prevailed. Perhaps the words found in the book of Jeremiah could be applied directly to the three wise men and us: **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 29:13-14).**

One branch of wisdom is learning from our mistakes. But as I often tell the children, true wisdom is learning from other peoples mistakes. Not finding God has eternal consequences.

It is perhaps the saddest of mistakes when Jesus is just disregarded or just glossed over as a figure from history, an excuse for having a time of feasting and a few days off at the end of another year. So if you don't know God or have never considered looking for Him how about making your own search in the New Year?

May God's blessing be with you all this Christmas

Rev Chris Lawrence

A very big "THANK YOU" from The Royal British Legion (Women's Section)

East Hoathly & Halland Branch

To all who supported us at our Annual Coffee Morning
On Saturday 24th October.

We were delighted to see so many of you and do hope that you had an enjoyable time. We look forward to seeing you next year.

With your help we were able to raise £285 towards
The Poppy Appeal

Rosemary Akehurst, Chairman of East Hoathly & Halland Branch R.B.L.
(Women's Section)



BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

The East Sussex Cricket League – Division 12 – Final Table

	P	W	L	D	T	A	Bat	Bowl	Pen	Pts
Newick 3rd XI	18	12	4	2	0	0	41	120	0	431
Pevensey 2nd XI	18	9	2	6	0	1	67	95	0	402
Heathfield Park 3rd XI	18	9	3	5	0	1	43	137	0	360
Hellingly 4th XI	18	8	7	2	0	1	42	98	0	334
Seaford 4th XI	18	6	7	4	0	1	60	94	-5	308
Rye 3rd XI	18	7	6	4	0	1	30	102	0	301
Little Common 3rd XI	18	3	8	6	0	1	50	124	0	263
Willingdon 3rd XI	18	4	10	3	0	1	32	92	0	243
Blackboys 2nd XI	18	4	9	4	0	1	54	78	0	242
Bells Yew Green 4th XI	18	3	9	6	0	0	59	92	0	241

Off the field, we have managed to secure a £5,000 grant from the Grassroots Sussex Community Foundation. We are a small club run by volunteers and this grant has been awarded to help cover our running costs. This grant is most welcome indeed and we of course cannot thank enough the foundation for their generosity. It is not easy task running the club and it is quite surprising how quickly the money gets swallowed up. We are most grateful.

We now start planning for 2010. Our AGM takes place in January, followed by indoor net practice, before the season starts in May. 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 (especially local) players to help take our club forward.

**Colin Eade, Secretary. 01825 761028, colin.eade@gmail.com
www.blackboyscc.co.uk**

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER

- 06 Second Sunday of Advent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 09** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 13 Third Sunday of Advent**
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 20 Fourth Sunday of 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
- 27 First Sunday of Christmas**
10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

JANUARY 2010

- 03 Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

In 2009 Blackboys Cricket Club entered two teams in the East Sussex cricket League. Our first team played in division 3 and held their own to finish mid-table in sixth place. A good result in what is the probably the highest standard of cricket that the club has played in.

In their inaugural season in the East Sussex Cricket League, it was always going to be a learning curve for our new second eleven. The aim right from the start was not finish bottom of Division 12 and this was duly achieved thanks to the five points that were gained in the last match away to Pevensey II. The second eleven finished second from bottom by one point but also only one point away from finishing third from bottom.

As the club moved away from friendly cricket, we have demonstrated that we can run two sides and hopefully we can now take this forward to the seasons ahead. A satisfactory season all in all.

The East Sussex Cricket League – Division 3 – Final Table

	P	W	L	D	T	A	Bat	Bowl	Pen	Pts
Plumpton 1st XI	18	13	0	3	0	2	34	135	0	459
Crowborough 1st XI	18	11	4	2	0	1	37	90	-8	389
Wadhurst 1st XI	18	8	6	3	0	1	45	86	0	340
Pett 1st XI	18	7	6	4	0	1	48	110	0	337
Robertsbridge 1st XI	18	5	6	6	0	1	89	113	0	332
Blackboys 1st XI	18	5	5	7	0	1	82	129	0	320
Bells Yew Green 1st XI	18	5	6	6	0	1	68	114	0	311
Herstmonceux 1st XI	18	4	8	5	0	1	78	115	0	302
Newick 2nd XI	18	3	11	3	0	1	66	99	0	245
Ringmer 2nd XI	18	2	11	3	0	2	66	74	0	218

- 10 First Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 17 Second Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing
- 20** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 24 Third Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 31 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Holy Communion
No Evening Service

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

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th JANUARY 2010
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.

Cricket Club have been unsuccessful in their application to Sport England which was vastly oversubscribed.

- **Environment:** David Andrews reported that a session on Community Transport would be held at the next available slot prior to a PC meeting – hopefully November 2009. Discussion arose on the state of some of the hedges within the Parish – Maria commented on those in Brookhouse Lane. The Clerk stated that she would contact Steve Wilkinson who deals with such matters at ESCC and put him in touch with David Andrews. An ongoing list could be compiled for regular reporting to ESCC.

Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall: Eryl Thomas reported that Fred Thurston has stepped into his shoes as Chairman. Fred gave thanks to Rob Newton for his help with the lights and commented that the external painting had now been delayed until the end of the year – weather-permitting.

Memorial Hall: A meeting was scheduled for mid-November.

Schools

Framfield:

- Nomination of replacement School Governor Representative. This was deferred to the next meeting.
- Eryl Thomas reported that following on from a meeting he had with the School it was likely that a skip would be required on the Memorial Hall car park during the period of the construction works.

Blackboys – The Clerk stated that there had been a large intake at the School – 17 into reception, but also 18 elsewhere in the School, many from outside the Parish. Councillors commented that this was causing continual parking problems and parents appeared not to be using the offer of the pub car park. The Clerk stated that the School was doing it's best to address this.

Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Maria Naylor asked if consideration could be given to making the bridge down Brookhouse Lane single traffic. It was thought the suggestion could be passed to Chris Dowling.
- Thanks were given to Esther Eade for all her help with the Memorial Hall in Brian Short's absence. The PC wished Brian a speedy recovery.

If anyone requires a full copy of the meeting minutes please contact me via the details below.

Eryl Thomas (890360); David Andrews ((07826 835295); Myran Eade (890507); Peter Friend (01435 867126); Brian Hodge (890199); Maria Naylor (890946); Rob Newton (890103); Ian Paisley (890904); 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.

LIFE IN THE RAW

"Your sparrowhawk is eating my blue tits, what are you going to do about it?" A question I was asked once on picking up the telephone at the Trust many years ago. It took me a little while to recover my poise and to reply in a measured and reasonable way, firstly to point out that technically that it wasn't 'our' (i.e. the Trust's) sparrowhawk and nor was it really 'their' blue tit. Having painstakingly explained that it is a natural process and that, although it was unfortunate for this individual blue tit, predation by sparrowhawks and other raptors do not have an overall impact on their numbers. I hear my heroic defence was not believed and that I should still do something about it!

It is an argument that I am hearing more often, to the extent that there has been a Society set up to promote the conservation of song birds, the main aim I believe is to remove all birds of prey from the protected list. Once again as soon as predatory species show any signs of recovering or doing well the calls go up for their control; "they are decimating our wildlife", "there are too many of them", "you conservationists are only interested in big spectacular birds". All these phrases come to the fore in such a discussion.

They are spurious arguments. In terms of science and ecology they don't make sense. There is always a biological balance in numbers between predator and prey species, the former is lower than the latter and it is their interest that it remains that way. Should predator numbers ever exceed that of its prey, then it is doomed; no species would ever eat itself out of existence.

We also impose our human values on this situation as well. If we go back to the sparrowhawk and blue tit scenario, I understand no one likes to see the birds they see in their garden being killed and eaten, but that blue tit has killed and eaten hundreds if not thousands of caterpillars in its time but we don't make a fuss above that, we place a higher value on the life of the bird over the insect. The process our caller witnessed is called the food chain.

During the breeding season, the blue tits time the hatching of their eggs to coincide with the emergence of the tortrix moth caterpillars on which it feeds its young. The tortrix moth lays its eggs on the oak tree and in the Spring can play host to over a million caterpillars, providing a bonanza for the blue tits. Using Woods Mill as an example, there can be up to 50 pairs

of blue tits during the breeding season, each with anything between 6 and 12 hungry mouths to feed. The parents feed all the hours of daylight for about 14 days or so, consuming tens of thousands of caterpillars, but in the great scheme of things, having no impact on the moth's overall population.

Woods Mill holds one pair of sparrowhawks, which can contain up to 4 young in a good year. Blue tits are just one source of food for them so they won't have a critical impact on the overall population. In fact out of a single blue tit nest of 10, the likelihood is only one will survive to breed the next spring, which is enough to maintain their general level of population. A very general rule is that the lower down the food chain you are, the more there are of you. You are basically a potential meal for those further up the line! In a 'natural' system, if there is a healthy number of top predators then the whole system is functioning properly.

So, if you see a sparrowhawk devouring a blue tit in your garden, a) please don't ring the Trust and complain, b) take a deep breath, c) admire the fantastic agility and presence of such a majestic bird. They are an integral part of the web of life and without them we would be in serious trouble.

Mike Russell
Sussex Wildlife Trust

November 2009
www.sussexwt.org.uk

BUXTED PARK BRIDGE CLUB

We are a friendly duplicate bridge club playing at Buxted Park Sports Pavilion every Tuesday from 1.45 pm.

If you play rubber bridge at home and would like to join us, we would be very pleased to introduce you to duplicate in a sociable atmosphere.

Please call Joan Harding on 01825 733179

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

The news was announced that Mark Moore had unfortunately resigned due to pressures at work so there are now two vacancies on the Council. If anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor please contact myself or anyone else on the Council for information.

Extracts from the September and October meetings are detailed below.

PSCO Simon French reported on the following items:-

- Framfield School had reported an incident of a youth looking into the windows of the ICT suite very early one morning. Both Parish Schools had been put on their guard for further incidents.
- There has been a spate of cold calling from a company wishing to tarmac drives who then do a dreadful job and charge a great deal of money.
- The landlord at the Blackboys Inn has agreed to allow parents to park in the overflow car park of the pub before and after School to free up School Lane. A mum is to instigate a park and walk plan to get from the pub to the School.
- Discussion arose on the ongoing problems with the Cysleys roundabout and the fact that many drivers still go over the roundabout instead of around it!

PSCO French was thanked for his ongoing diligence for the Parish

Finance

- **Formal approval of the accounts by external auditors, Mazars.** The Clerk reported that the formal approval had been received with one matter for attention. The Council as sole managing trustees of the various charitable trusts must remove any reference to income/expenditure from the charities which are currently included in the Annual Return. The Clerk stated that her only concern was that this would then mean that the trust accounts would not be audited and perhaps the Internal Auditor could take on this role.
- The total expenditure for August/September was £9,283.28
- The total expenditure for October was £4,742.15

Committees (minutes of Committee meetings are recorded individually as and when they occur).

Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees): Myran Eade reported on the following:

- Myran Eade commented that he felt Mark Moore's resignation was a great loss to the Committee and in particular with the implementing of the actions of the ROSPA report. He asked the Clerk to report to ESCC that the gate leading to the twitten between Blackboys recreation ground and School Lane as it is in need of repair/replacement.
- **Framfield Allotments.** Eryl Thomas thanked everyone who has got involved with the project so far.
- **Freedom on Information Act – Internal Review.** The Clerk reported that the Reverend Chris Lawrence had carried out the Internal Review and found that the PC had acted in a wholly honourable manner in line with the legislation.
- **Pavilion Project:** Myran Eade reported that there had been a meeting of the Steering Committee which Eryl Thomas was now chairing as Rob Newton had resigned. The

Framfield Memorial Hall

For many years a 200 Club has financially supported the Hall whilst also giving us all the opportunity to 'have a flutter'. But last year the Club did not contribute any surplus funds as there was insufficient income to match the prize money. Added to which, no one has volunteered to actually run the Club so unfortunately the Hall management committee has decided that for this year at least there will be no Club draw.

A few people had already paid advance subscriptions for this year and refunds will be made as soon as possible. Should anyone reading this feel they could take on the role of Club co-ordinator would they please get in touch with Eryl Thomas (890360) or Ann Newton (890182) please. It is mainly looking after the collection of money and organising the draw, some of the existing collectors would probably still be willing to continue.

Hall Management Committee

Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club

7th December 2009
Christmas Party with entertainment by
Framfield CE School children singing
2.30 pm Framfield Memorial Hall

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM OUR MEMBERS

18th January 2010
AGM – New programme for 2010 and subs (£5)
2.30pm Framfield Memorial Hall

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

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

The annual Macmillan Coffee Mornings held in a number of places in our area all went with a swing. The one held in the Pizza Express in Uckfield was particularly successful, run by a number of our Committee, and with great support from the owners and members of the public. Altogether we raised over £850.

In a recent survey it was found that almost 60% of people with cancer are still paying full price to park at hospitals in England. This is despite guidance from the Department of Health telling hospitals they should provide free or reduced parking for people with conditions requiring regular treatment. Also even when hospitals do have certain schemes these concessions are not always widely publicised. Macmillan are stepping up their campaign to **BOOT OUT PARKING CHARGES IN ENGLAND**. You can help by going on to macmillan.org.uk/parking and **signing the petition** to show your support.

If anyone has worries about cancer, if they've just been diagnosed with the illness, or even if their treatment has ended, from 1st October CancerLine, benefits helpline, cancer information nurse helpline and YouthLine have all been brought together under one number: **0808 808 00 00** or you can always visit the website www.macmillan.org.uk.

Don't forget **CARD FOR GOOD CAUSES** at the Uckfield Volunteer & Information Centre - there are hundreds of Christmas cards for sale for numerous charities where over **75p in the £ goes to your chosen charity**.

Finally - a big thank you to all who have supported Macmillan during 2009. We hope you have a good Christmas and very happy and healthy 2010.

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

The playgroup has had a great start to the new school year, with some really exciting news. The plans have been accepted for the building of a purpose built premises within the school grounds, which if all goes as planned we will be up and running by Sept 2010, this is great news for us at last we will be able to offer full day childcare Mon - Fri, we have been working towards this for a long time now.

In Sept we were visited by Ofsted, we are very pleased with the judgement of GOOD as this demonstrates the very good progress made from the last inspection and our capacity for further improvement.

As pointed out in the Ofsted report we organise good opportunities for the children to find out about the world around them, one of them being a trip to Archies farm on Pump Lane in Sept, so the children could see where milk comes from and how the cows are milked, we were lucky enough to try some delicious milk from some local cows so a big thank you to Claire and Anthony Renwick who made us so welcome.

We continue to organise lots of fundraising events our latest being a cake and toy sale where we raised £55, thank you to everyone who baked and bought cakes, we are also planning a sponsored walk around the village, and holding a Quiz night, of course we have a chocolate tombola stall every other month at the village market too.

If you are looking for a preschool for your child and would like any more information please feel free to visit us any time we are open Mon, Tues, Weds 9 -12.45pm at the memorial hall and Fri at the church hall 9 - 12.45pm we would love to see you, or call Jo Rayner (supervisor) on 07985567766 or 07960131798 (playgroup hours only).

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Framfield Allotments

Yes, they do exist although for many years now the only users have been an organic gardening group and much of the site in Gatehouse Lane has not been cultivated. The Blackboys allotment site is rather more conventionally established and is completely full with a waiting list.

The Parish Council has initiated a project to more formally manage the Framfield site whilst not losing the support and involvement of existing occupants. This will mean a variety of users but the expectation is that the organic nature will be preserved. Water supplies are being laid on and it is intended to fence the whole site particularly in the area where a pond has been established.

If you or anyone else you might know who would be interested in taking an allotment would you please let the Parish Clerk know on 01825 890182, we hope that some new plots will be available in the spring.

Country Fare – Closure

We would like to thank everybody for the bouquets of flowers, bottles of wine, boxes of chocolates and all the other presents we received when we closed the shop. Also many thanks for all the cards with such lovely messages inside. It really was a very nice ending to our 24 years running the shop.

Thank you once again everybody. –

Cheryl and Mac.

Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society News

We have a few changes to the current committee which we would like to share with you all. As the Summer Show continues to grow, we have decided to set up a separate Show Committee although this will still come under the umbrella of the Horticultural Society. I am moving across to set up the new team and Jennifer Graham who is currently Vice Chair has kindly agreed to step in and take over the role as Chair of the Society.

This change will enable the Society to become more proactive and arrange more garden visits and talks. The show team can concentrate on ways to improve the show, and we are currently looking for people within the Parish who would like to get involved so please contact me direct on 01825 890236 or email j.bacon@zen.co.uk if you can offer any help.

Events Planned so for 2010:

Thursday 18th March - 'The Magic of Lake Wood'
Talk by Dr Martyn Stenning 7.30pm Framfield Memorial Hall

Sunday 25th April - Visit to Lake Wood
Meet 2pm Sport Pavilion at West Park it should be good for anemones and bluebell and an ideal afternoon for all the family - sorry no dogs.

Saturday 14th August - Summer Show
1.30pm Framfield Recreation Ground

Tuesday 9th November - Annual General Meeting
7.30pm Framfield Memorial Hall

We are always looking to encourage more people to join the Society so why not join?

Our annual membership fees are £3.00 for an individual and £5.00 for a family and will entitle you to 10% discount at Staverton Nursery and a loyalty card at Paradise Park.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Jenny Bacon – For more information about the Society please visit our web site www.fabhortsoc.org.uk

New contact details for Chair Person Jennifer Graham
Tel - 01435 812711 or email - jennifergraham@f2s.com

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our AGM and seasonal supper took place on Tuesday 6th October and was enjoyed by all. Our AGM is one of the real highlights of the year for members, since we introduced the idea of providing supper. The rival main highlight is the Christmas Event which this year will be “a Victorian Evening - Part 2” with Timespan, who entertained us so enjoyably last year. Numbers are limited for this special evening and tickets are only available in advance.

We do not have a meeting in January and our first meeting for 2010 will be on Tuesday 2nd February when Sally Pearce will be telling us about “Basque Refugees in Blackboys”. Our meetings take place in Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8pm start, (unless stated otherwise). Visitors are welcome, entrance costs £3, 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: baturner.18maple@btinternet.com.

Ann Turner, Secretary

Welcome Baptist Blackboys

On Friday 4 December we will be holding our annual Donkey Nativity walk from Blackboys school . The children and some parents and teachers will follow Mary and Joseph and the donkey around Blackboys village, ending with refreshments and the singing of carols around the crib. The walk will commence between 3pm and 3.15pm and all are welcome to join us.

Sunday December 20 is the date of the joint Carol Service with Welcome Baptist Church in Heathfield this will be held at 4pm. Therefore there will not be a service in Blackboys.

Tel: Barbara Solly 01825 765178 for further information. Or look on the website www.blackboys.org.uk.

Blackboys Church of England Primary School

Residential Visit - It was very quiet here at Blackboys Primary School at the start of the term! Our older children spent a very enjoyable week at Hindleap Warren so the school was only half full and I have to confess to missing their help and support around the place—as well as the noise that always accompanies them!

I managed to spend an afternoon at Hindleap Warren and saw for myself exactly what the children managed to achieve. We really do see a different side to each individual when they are out of the everyday classroom context. Some children achieve things neither they nor we would ever dream of! There are of course all the stories about the rain and the mud, but alongside those are the story of the child that showed fantastic leadership skills, or courage or amazing determination. I know it is an experience that will remain with each of the children for their school life.

Many thanks must go to all the staff, especially Mr Sullivan for all the effort and time they have put in to making this a successful trip.

Harvest Festival - We had a wonderful Harvest Festival in St Thomas a Becket Church in Framfield on Thursday. The focus for our celebration was Farm Africa, a registered UK charity who provide the training and support that poor rural communities in East Africa need to identify and implement appropriate solutions to many of the key problems they face. Families are directly supported to help work themselves out of poverty through improved ways to manage their crops, livestock, forests and access to water

All classes took on their campaign to “Give Poverty the Boot” and presented work on the themes that Farm Africa are focusing on this year.

The singing was wonderful as usual: KS1 sang a delightful song about farmers sowing seed while KS2 performed a rather wistful song on Autumn and its meaning.

We were entertained with a “Balloon Plant” from Rev Chris Lawrence which intrigued many of the children and, of course, our orchestra and recorder group entertained everyone with the high standard of their playing.

Visiting Teacher - Earlier in the term we were fortunate enough to be able to host a visitor: Monsieur Philippe Mercier is a headteacher from Londinieres near Dieppe. He runs a school of a similar size to ours and came daily to work in all week with us. Monsieur Mercier taught in all classes, had lunch with the children and joined in with lots of different activities.



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

This autumn at Blackboys Pre-school we welcome two more children to our setting. We are looking at “Bonfire Night and Christmas”, and had a fabulous visit from the fire fighters from Uckfield Fire Station – thank you Paul, Rick and the rest of their crew. In readiness for our Christmas Nativity the children are making life-size paper models of themselves in the character they will be playing.

In addition to our current sessions we will soon be offering Wednesday afternoons in addition to the three we already offer. Please telephone (01825) 891113 for further information on these and availability on other sessions.

We are holding a Christmas Shopping Evening on 2nd December commencing at 7.30pmm, to be held at Blackboys Village Hall. Please phone (01825) 891113 for more details or look out for the posters in the village.

All children from the age of 2 to 5 are welcome (they don't have to be potty trained), so why not come along to take a look at what Blackboys Pre-School has to offer. If you would like to book a visit, please give Jenny a call on (01825) 891113. We are open 5 days a week, with afternoon sessions on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Framfield CE Primary School

This has been an interesting term for us as we have given the children the opportunity to work on their own chosen subjects in our topic on Homes and Houses. We have two brilliant art days, funded by NADFAS when Carol Havard a local artist worked with the children to produce some spectacular sculptures around the topic theme. The results are a castle in class 1, the Magic Faraway Tree in class 2 and a collection of different kinds of dwellings in classes 3 and 4, including an ice igloo, traveller caravan and celtic roundhouse. Class 4 bravely exposed their sculptures to the outside weather to see what happened and to find out which materials were most effective in withstanding our weather. Not surprisingly perhaps they all finally succumbed to the wind and rain, but it was interesting to watch the progress of decay. The children in classes 1 and 2 have had great fun using their art work to create different environments and 'lands' from the Faraway Tree.

It's quite shocking to report that we are already getting ready for Christmas! We have chosen two Christmas plays to perform and have already begun rehearsals and prop-making. This year keystage 1 and 2 are holding different performances and these have come to us through the charity Shelter. We plan to invite our audiences to make a contribution to this charity, remembering that when Jesus was born, his family were homeless and in need of support from friends.

Our PTFA are holding a Fair on 4th December between 2.30 and 4pm. The school choir will be entertaining us with Christmas songs, and they are also performing on Uckfield FM at Late Night Shopping on 11th December. It is quite early to be wishing you all a Happy Christmas, but as we won't be writing again before the festival we do send you all our good wishes, and hope to see at our Christmas events. The key stage 2 play will be performed on 9th and 10th December in the Memorial Hall, and the key stage 1 play will be performed as our nativity in Church on 18th December.

Janet Wilde
Headteacher

It is hoped that a similar visit can be arranged for staff from our school.

Blackboys Children now have the chance to write letters and e-mail children in France and our plan is that both schools work on a particular project together; this will not only support the children's development in learning the French language, but also make them more aware of the world outside our own country. Further activities may possibly involve our pupils visiting Dieppe and meeting up with the French pen-friends. It was fascinating discussing the different educational organisations—their similarities and their differences. We look forward to a long and interesting relationship with our new French friends.

Parking - Parking outside the school continues to present us with problems and rest assured, we are trying to solve these! Parents are being encouraged to park in the Blackboys Inn carpark and walk up the road to school – thanks very much to Mr James for his support in this. A few parents have taken up this offer, but we are at present trying to organize a "Park and Stride" group to take further pressure off School Lane and surrounding roads. We are working closely with the PSO and the project is being worked on by our School Council too.

Christmas Celebrations

Each year here at Blackboys School, the Key Stages take turns in hosting and Christmas service and celebration and this year it is the turn of the younger children supported by the rest of the school. We look forward to a wonderful rendition of the Christmas story called "The Very Hopeless Camel".

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 am sure this will make our celebrations very special.

J K King
Headteacher



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Poppy and George. We are having our own reunion with Phydeaux, beloved Ben, Daisy and Buddy and lots of other new friends who have contacted us recently - We'll tell you all about it in the New Year.
Love and licks P&G.

Framfield & Blackboys WI

We were delighted to welcome three visitors to our October Meeting, during which members gave short accounts of their war experiences.

Our President, Frances Brinkhurst, then residing in Eastbourne was transported with her younger brother to Wick in Scotland by train with lots of other evacuees.

Margaret Carter, our Secretary, at school in Halifax helped the Land Army fill palliases with straw and picked pears and potatoes. Only one bomb fell on Halifax. Betty Davy described how she started nursing training in London in 1938. As war broke out she was moved to Dartford hospital, where she scrubbed wards to prepare for war casualties. Her first patients were soldiers returning by ship from France. Later she joined the Queen Alexandra's Nursing Unit where she excelled in treating the wounded, mainly in France-Three of our members joined the East Sussex Federation of WIs on their weekend at the WI's Denman College in Oxfordshire.

Delia Gillies and Corinne Urben joined the singing & dancing course, which featured an "Appreciation of the Music of Cole Porter" Margaret Carter showed us trinkets she had made in the "Silver Clay Workshop".

Corinne also entered classes in the South of England Autumn Game Show at Ardingly (3rd-4th Oct). Her decorated cake gained her First Prize.

Pauline Walters came Second with her Autumn Display Flower Arrangement and Corinne another second with her Trug of Garden Vegetables. Well done both of you! Our November Meeting will be our A G M when we elect our President and Committee for 2010. We also review the many events which we have enjoyed since this time last year. Our Committee has served us well and we thank them for all their efforts and enthusiasm making our meetings informative and enjoyable.

Our December 8th Meeting will again be in the Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Peter and Delia Gillies will be thrilling us with a variety of old slides, many with that Christmas feel.

On this evening we hope to welcome several visitors including some from neighbouring WIs.

If you would like to know more about what we do at our WI please get in touch:
Frances Brinkhurst 01825 890759 or Margaret Bennett 01825 890416



FRAMFIELD STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE

In aid of Macmillan Nurses

We are having a **STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE** outside the memorial hall.

You can buy a **STAR** for £3, write a message (with permanent pen) to loved ones that are no longer with us or loved ones that cannot be with us at Christmas due to distance. These will be put on the tree throughout December.

Money raised from this will go to Uckfield Macmillan Nurses.

A Lighting up service will be held at the hall on Thursday 3 December at 6pm. All Welcome. Children from the school will sing some carols and refreshments will be available in hall afterwards.

STARS can be brought from the School, Hair by Us and Hare and Hounds.

Stars need to be returned back where you brought them or to: Selina Allen, 4 The Bungalows, Framfield. Tel: 891110

Wordsearch of Jesus' Birth

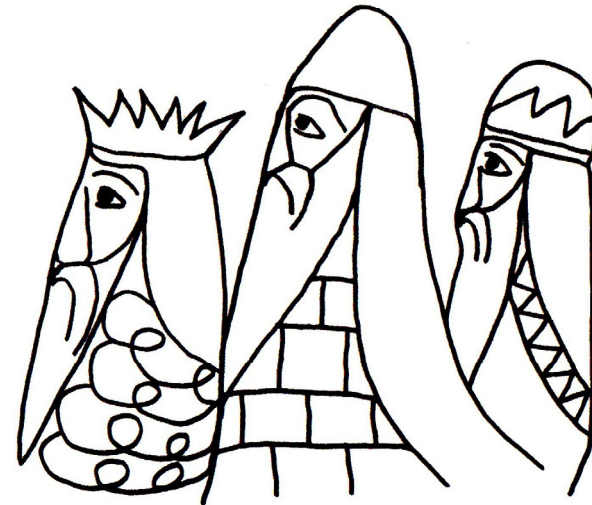
Jerusalem, Baby, Mary, Joseph. Three Wise
Men, Presents. Christmas, Father, Tree,
Journey

E	B	Y	S	E	J
E	A	P	D	O	U
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T	Y	E	J	R	S
T	P	S	E	E	T
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E	O	T	S	H	S
E	U	S	A	W	E
C	R	I	L	I	R
M	N	R	E	S	P
G	E	H	M	E	N
A	Y	C	L	O	B
K	M	A	R	Y	S
F	A	T	H	E	R
L	F	A	M	Y	W

KIDS CORNER

When Jesus was born three wise men
came from the East.
They brought him presents of Gold,
Frankincense and Myrrh.

COLOUR THE PICTURE

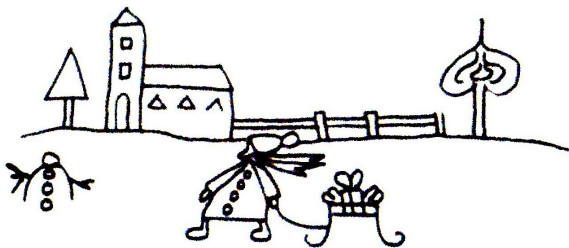
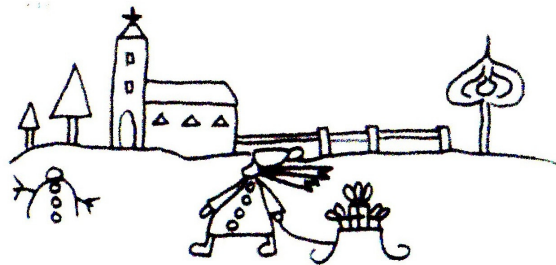


Father Christmas brings presents to us at
Christmas.

Everybody is busy at this time, so please
help me to remember this prayer.

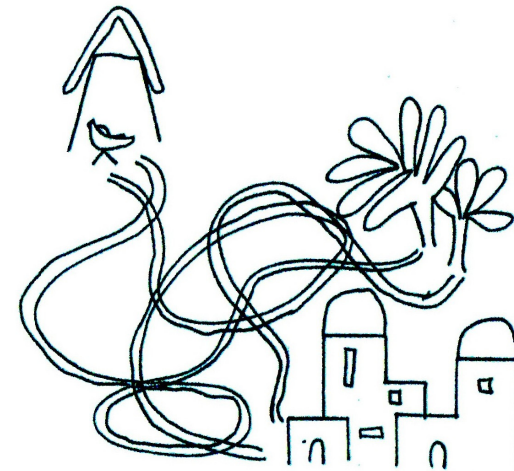
O Lord you know I am busy this day.
If I forget you—please don't forget me.

SPOT 6 DIFFERENCES



A babe is born

There was no room anywhere in
Bethlehem for Joseph and Mary to stay,
so they found shelter in a stable— where
Jesus was born



Try to find the way from the town to the
stable