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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.

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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

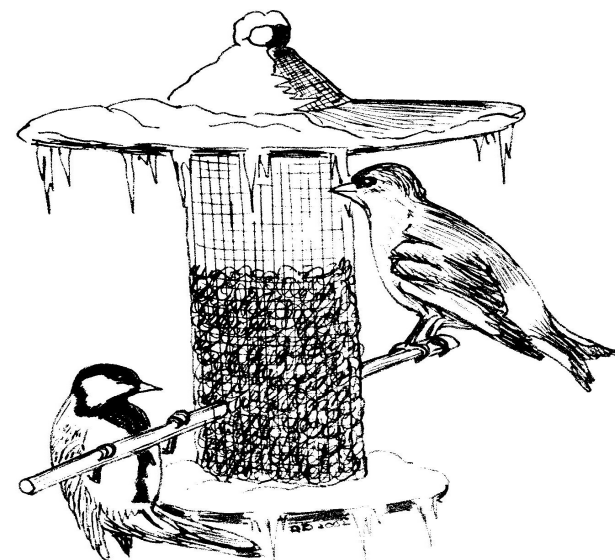
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

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**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 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 : **Please contact the Church Office**

**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 :



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

12th December 2009: Gareth Looker/ Karen Woodhouse

At Rest –

26th November 2009: William Peter Truman

9th December 2009: Daphne Parsons

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

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

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.*

22nd May
26th June
24th July
August - No Market
25th September
23rd October
27th November
18th December

ALL WELCOME

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

Sandy – 840648

Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club

1st February 2010 – Speaker: Nicola Begg of National Talking
Newspapers/Magazines.
2.30 pm, Framfield Memorial Hall.

15th February 2010 – Slides with John Proctor, “But I can’t speak
Russian”!.
2.30 pm, Framfield Memorial Hall.

Happy New Year to you all from our members.

New members welcome; transport available. For more
information, call Sandy on 01825 840648.

Knowing God – how cool is that!

I was reminiscing the other day on my own journey of faith. As an unbeliever I was converted to Christianity mainly through reading the first few chapters of ‘Questions of Life’ by Nicky Gumbel (the book form of the Alpha course). Friends and family reactions to the news were quite interesting, ranging from “I didn’t know you’d found religion” to “it’s a bit like taking up a new hobby, you’ll get over it”.

The religious reference was something that never seems to go away. If a couple call to discuss the possibility of baptising their child, somewhere within the conversation (if they are not regulars at church) will be the comment “we’re not very religious”. My comment is always the same, “thank goodness for that, neither am I”; next comes the quizzical look!

It is generally acknowledged that a significant number of wars and current global unrest can be attributed to religion or is being carried out in the name of religion. Is it any wonder that people don’t want anything to do with it?

However, in the uniqueness of Christianity the most misunderstood fact is that Christianity is not, and has never been a religion! Jesus Christ never came to earth to start another religion. He came to show us what God was like and to give us, fallen humanity, the way to get back into a right relationship with God.

Relationships are exciting; I love meeting different people, spending time with them and hearing their stories, but how cool is having God as your friend and constant companion? It’s the most fulfilling relationship you can have and one that will outlast all others.

In his book ‘Questions of Life’, Nicky Gumbel speaks about the ‘God shaped hole’ in every human being. Only God can fill it and when He does (or is invited to) life starts to make sense.

Perhaps some will remember the song by U2 ‘I still haven’t found what I’m looking for’. It’s a song that expresses a search to find the meaning of life and true fulfilment.

If you are living with the feeling that there is something missing in your life but you can’t quite put your finger on it, then check out David’s words from Psalm 61:1 – *My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.*

Blessings for the New Year

Chris Lawrence

FEBRUARY 2010

07 Second Sunday before Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

14 Sunday next before Lent

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise

17 Ash Wednesday

11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

21 First Sunday of Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Evening Service with prayer for healing

28 Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise

MARCH 2010

07 Third Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

14 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

10.00 am Contemporary Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

17 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET



Next market
23rd January 2010
Our fourth year of markets!
10 am - 12 noon

This is our fourth year, and I am pleased to say that to date
£6,003.17 has been raised for the Village Hall.

We thank you all for your support, and if anyone would like to
do the teas once a year this would be a great help – contact
Sandy on (01825) 840648.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

LIST OF MARKET DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd January
27th February
27th March
24th April

The Royal British Legion (Women's Section)
East Hoathly & Halland Branch

are holding a fund raising lunch on
SATURDAY 13th MARCH
In East Hoathly Village Hall
12.30 - 2.30pm

Ploughman's Lunch
Sweet trolley
Glass of Wine or Fruit Juice

LUNCH £5 per head. RAFFLE

You are most welcome to join us but it
would be helpful if you could let us know by
phoning either
Rosemary 01825 840708
Or Sue 01825 840411



- 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 28 Palm Sunday**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion
- 29** 7.00 pm Holy Week - Evening Meditation (1)
30 7.00 pm Holy Week - Evening Meditation (2)
31 7.00 pm Holy Week - Evening Meditation (3)

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

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th MARCH 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.**

OPERATION GODSEND

It is with regret that, due to lack of demand, it has been decided to discontinue the service of Operation Godsend after Easter – at the end of April 2010.

It has been running for over ten years, and during that time has helped many people, but it seems to have run its course.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have participated in the scheme over the years, very warmly for their help in many ways – driving, answering the phone, being on call for assistance etc. Operation Godsend would not have existed without you.

For the few who *have* used the scheme recently, arrangements will be made on a personal basis.

Marian Filtness

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

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

East Sussex Cricket League - Division 12 - Fixtures

08-May Blackboys 2nd XI v Seaford 4th XI
15-May Sidley 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
22-May Blackboys 2nd XI v Hellingly 4th XI
29-May No League Fixture
05-Jun Blackboys 2nd XI v Bells Yew Green 4th XI
12-Jun Tunbridge Wells Borderers 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
19-Jun Blackboys 2nd XI v Little Common Ramblers 3rd XI
26-Jun Rye 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
03-Jul Blackboys 2nd XI v Willingdon 3rd XI
10-Jul Blackboys 2nd XI v Sidley 3rd XI
17-Jul Seaford 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
24-Jul Hellingly 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
31-Jul No League Fixture
07-Aug Bells Yew Green 4th XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
14-Aug Blackboys 2nd XI v Tunbridge Wells Borderers 3rd XI
21-Aug Little Common Ramblers 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI
28-Aug Blackboys 2nd XI v Rye 3rd XI
04-Sep Willingdon 3rd XI v Blackboys 2nd XI

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.

Our AGM takes place at the end of 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**

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, the second eleven finished second from bottom. Definite room for improvement.

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. We now start planning for 2010 season.

East Sussex Cricket League - Division 3 - Fixtures

08-May Bells Yew Green 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
15-May Blackboys 1st XI v Laughton 1st XI
22-May Polegate & Stone Cross 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
29-May Blackboys 1st XI v Rotherfield 1st XI
05-Jun Wadhurst 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
12-Jun Blackboys 1st XI v Herstmonceux 1st XI
19-Jun Pett 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
26-Jun Blackboys 1st XI v Robertsbridge 1st XI
03-Jul Tunbridge Wells Borderers 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
10-Jul Laughton 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
17-Jul Blackboys 1st XI v Bells Yew Green 1st XI
24-Jul Blackboys 1st XI v Polegate & Stone Cross 1st XI
31-Jul Rotherfield 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
07-Aug Blackboys 1st XI v Wadhurst 1st XI
14-Aug Herstmonceux 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
21-Aug Blackboys 1st XI v Pett 1st XI
28-Aug Robertsbridge 1st XI v Blackboys 1st XI
28-Aug Wadhurst 1st XI v Rotherfield 1st XI
04-Sep Blackboys 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells Borderers 1st XI

Church Finances - an open letter to all Parishioners

This is a letter that has been sent to all members and supporters of St Thomas à Becket describing the financial position of the Church in the future, Parishioners of Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common who have not received the letter and would wish to contribute to the Church may do so by ringing the Office on 01825 891090 for further information.

November 2009

Dear Parishioner,

For seven hundred years successive generations have worshipped at St Thomas à Becket Church in Framfield. The Church has marked the milestones of their lives - baptisms, weddings, funerals - and has been the voice of the local community at times of national grief and rejoicing.

We would like to thank you for your part in this. Your past financial support has enabled the church to be kept in good repair and provide a spiritual focus for the Parish. Sadly, however, there is now a very real threat that this ancient church will not be able to continue in its' current form unless we can ensure its' financial stability.

The major part of our expenditure is our annual Parish contribution. This is paid to the Diocese of Chichester to cover clergy stipends, clergy working expenses and pension costs (particularly those of our own vicar). Our contribution in 2010 should be £60,149.00 but for several years we, along with some other Parishes in our Deanery, have been unable to pay the full amount. Next year we have budgeted to pay £30,000 but this is still only 50% of the requirement and the Diocese has made it very clear that this situation of underpayments **will not be allowed to continue.**

In addition to the Parish contribution, there are running costs (heating, lighting, insurance, repairs and maintenance). By next year, our total weekly income will exceed expenditure by £100 per week but if we are to pay our Parish contribution in full, it will need to exceed expenditure by at least £700 per week, and this still leaves very little for emergencies/improvements. Over the past few years, our costs have been pared to the minimum possible commensurate with keeping the church running.

So the financial facts are stark - if St Thomas à Becket is to survive as a single Parish with its' own Parish priest, and provide a full service for future generations, we have to improve our financial situation.

The above outlines the financial practicalities of running the Church; however our giving should not be seen solely from this perspective, as what we give is part of our worship to God in appreciation for all He has done, and continues to do, in our lives.

When times are hard there can be a certain "fear" that comes upon us that encourages us to withdraw and reduce our giving just in case we run out of money ourselves. This ungodly "fear" needs to be resisted and we all need to continue to move forward in faith that God will supply all our needs just as He has promised.

The spiritual law that says **"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"** always holds. The remainder of the verse is also vitally important when considering what to give i.e. **"Remember this: Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"**. (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)

Hence the need to ask God prayerfully what the right figure is for you to give as an individual, as God knows our individual financial circumstances. As you do this and ask God to confirm the figure then you will give from a right heart, and cheerfully. God is not interested in money that you feel has been prised from your hand. This can never be an act of acceptable worship.

We are sure that both the church and local communities will wish to see St Thomas à Becket remain at the heart of village life. We are therefore asking everyone on the church Electoral Roll, those who have recently joined our congregation and those who are connected to the church to review their giving with some urgency. Giving by Bank Standing Order is the most useful way, as it enables us to plan ahead and we thank you for giving in this way. **If you have not reviewed your Standing Order recently, please would you consider doing so.**

A Bank Mandate is available on request from the Church Office, which may be used to increase your existing commitment. (*Mandates should be returned to the Church office address*). If you pay Income Tax please also complete the Gift Aid section, because the value of your giving is then

Framfield Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting Schedule for 2010 (all meetings commence at 7.30 pm)

Tuesday, 26 January	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 23 February	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 30 March	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 27 April	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 25 May (AGM)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 June	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 27 July	Blackboys Village Hall
August	No meeting
Tuesday, 28 September	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 26 October	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 30 November	Framfield Memorial Hall
December	No meeting

Planning Committee Meeting Schedule for 2010

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

January	13 (RC)	
February	3 (EC)	24
March	17 (RC)	
April	7 (EC)	28
May	19 (RC)	
June	9 (EC)	30
July	21 (RC)	
August	11 (EC)	
September	1	22 (RC)
October	13 (EC)	
November	3	24 (RC)
December	15 (EC)	

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

The Friends of Framfield Church

Invite you to an informal evening on

FRIDAY MARCH 12th

at

The Wok Inn, Halland

with supper and an after supper speaker who will talk on

‘MY LIFE IN FILMS’

David Batty is a highly acclaimed Producer/ Director of films
For Television and the Cinema.

7.30 for 7.45

Tickets :

£12.50 non-members

£11.00 members

Tickets in advance may be obtained from

The Church Office: 01825 891090

Hon. Sec. 01825 890400

.....
Further information about the work of the Friends and membership
application forms may also be obtained by phoning the numbers above or
by completing this slip and sending it to the Church Office.

NAME :

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

TEL:

increased by 20% as we can, quite legitimately, reclaim part of the Income
Tax you pay.

Asking for money is always uncomfortable but the truth is that, without your
generosity, and the ability to raise a further £30,000 per annum, the
continued future of St Thomas a Becket as the spiritual focus of our
community is looking very bleak indeed.

Yours sincerely

Revd. Chris D Lawrence
Priest-in-Charge

Framfield & Blackboys WI

Our New Year 2010 began with an enjoyable Dinner at the East Sussex
Golf Club. The very seasonal weather brought a heavy snowfall during the
meal and, by the time we were ready to leave, everywhere was blanketed in
white. Several of us have stories of intrepid but magical homeward
journeys.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th February, 7.30 pm at Blackboys Village
Hall, Gun Lane. Stella Mitchell will present her entertaining talk “Minarets
to Mission Bells” and there will also be a ‘Bring & Buy’ Sale in aid of our
Treasure Chest Fund which enables us to send cards and flowers to bring
cheer to those who are unable to get out and about. A good way to recycle
those unwanted gifts !

At our meeting on 9th March, Mrs Annabel Marten will be demonstrating
“Flowers for Easter” - 7.30 pm at Blackboys.

We would very much like to welcome some new members this year.
Please just come along – or contact our President, Frances Brinkhurst
(tel. 01825 890759), or myself (tel. 01825 890416).

Margaret J. Bennett

Royal British Legion Poppy Collection 2009

At this time I try to make public the details of our annual parish collection and I am very pleased, and proud, to be able to say that our total this year came to £4023 compared with £3318, £3641 and £2536 in the previous three years.

As many of you know we deploy sixteen house to house collectors to cover the Parish and in addition static trays are placed in businesses but with closures and change of management these were less successful.

The particular success has been the achievement of "home collections" by those who have a collecting tin, which I provide, at their homes throughout the year. The number of such collectors in the Parish now stands at thirty six and their achievement was a splendid £929.

In the present dangerous situation for our troops in Afghanistan I ask for more home collectors. If these would contact me (890208) then I will deliver tins to them for the coming year.

Please help us to increase the Royal British Legion's vital support for the families of those being killed in action and the large numbers of those wounded, many losing limbs at such a young age.

THEY DESPERATELY NEED OUR HELP

Lt. Col. CNS Drew

01825 890208

Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society News

This is the first news letter I have written as the new Chairman of Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society. As you all know the Society has grown enormously over recent years under the careful hands of Kathy Gore and for the last two years Jenny Bacon has continued the sterling work. Jenny has overseen the last two Summer Shows with great success but the job has become too arduous for one person to manage on their own, in spite of the assistance of a very hard working committee.

As explained in the last Parish News we have divided the work between Jenny, who will organise the show and I who will concentrate on keeping the Society active for the rest of the year. Several events have already been published in last month's news but there are more excitements being planned.

Don't forget joining the Society is good value for money and we are always pleased to welcome new members.

As I am writing this the snow is lying thickly in my garden, more is forecast and the pleasure we gardeners enjoy seems very far away. However, by the time you are reading this we should be seeing those first glorious signs of Spring and our horticultural enthusiasm will be brimming over again! I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Best Wishes,

Jennifer Graham.

Tel: 01435 812711

email: jennifergraham@f2s.com

Visit our website www.fabhortsoc.org.uk



FRAMFIELD PLAYGROUP
The Memorial Hall, The Street,
Framfield, TN22 5NR



OFSTED Registration No: 511222
Charity Commission No: 1040794
PLA Member No: 29899

Saturday 20th February 2010

Join us at the Luxford Day Centre from 9am to 4pm
Members of East Sussex Federation of WIs will be
teaching some of the lost skills such as Knitting,
Crochet, Sewing and Embroidery.



Come along and have a go
- plenty of needles for the
knitting
- learn cross stitch and
basic sewing

Open to WI Members and
non members
refreshments available



It has been a very snowy start to our new year at playgroup. We only managed to open for one day, and then the snow came and closed us for the rest of the week. Sadly it also closed us for the last day of term, all the children missed the Christmas party that was planned for that day, but we are going to have a new year's party so no-one misses out. Luckily we had planned on an outing to Monkey Buziness on Wednesday 16th December with the police property fund we received from PC Simon French. The children had a fantastic time climbing, sliding and they got to meet Father Christmas as well.

We also had a very successful sponsored walk around the village, visiting everyone house. We took pictures of outside everyone's front door, thus tied into our theme of "all about me" where we live. We raised £159 for the playgroup fund.

We have now got the official go ahead for the building plans to build a purpose built building for the pre-school in the school grounds. This is great news for the playgroup.

So if anyone is interested in visiting us or finding out about the new pre-school which hopefully will be open in September '10 please feel free to call in or contact a member of staff.

Framfield Playgroup offers children a warm, friendly pre-school environment. We have a longstanding team of staff who are dedicated to the children's learning and development. But don't just take our word for it – if you are preparing to enrol your child at a pre-school please call us to arrange a visit! We accept children from the age of 2 years old and they do not have to be potty/toilet trained.

For more information or a copy of our prospectus, please contact:
Jo Rayner (Supervisor) on 07975 567766
Selina Allen (Committee Secretary) on 01825 891110

*Sessions run from 9.00am to 12.00pm (11.30am for under 3 year olds). We also offer an optional Lunch Club – for children aged 3 years and over – which runs from 12.00pm to 12.45pm. The Trial Week offer is limited to one week per child.

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 talking about "Basque Refugees in Blackboys". If you are not familiar with the story, it involves the building that is now the Youth Hostel. In 1937 many refugee children from the Spanish Civil War were brought to the UK and accommodated at various sites all around the country. Sally has delved into why and how some came to live in our community and will be telling us about her research.

On Tuesday 2nd March we will be welcoming back Johnnie Johnson, one of our most popular speakers, this time his subject will be Sussex Superstitions. Last February we had to postpone a talk about Tunbridge Wells by Mr Beavis, due to the weather, this is now re-scheduled for Tuesday 6th April.

Our meetings take place in Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8pm start, (unless stated otherwise). Visitors, and prospective new members are always welcome, entrance costs £3. (£1 for members) 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

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 CE Primary School

I am very pleased to be writing this from inside the school building. The snowy weather has certainly challenged us all but I am very glad to say that we 'weathered' it without serious incident and have returned to school with renewed vigour. I am also glad to be able to report that we continued with learning during our closure days, as we now have a great new electronic facility linked to the school website called a Learning Platform. This is an interactive kind of website which is accessible to teachers, wherever they may be, on which they can post tasks and resources for the children to use at home. Teachers learned very quickly how to make good use of this, and the children were able to get on with tasks which kept them in touch with class work.

I did an assembly last week on how difficult times can actually bring out some of our best human qualities. This was brilliantly demonstrated one Sunday afternoon when a team of parents, staff and friends arrived at the school armed with shovels and brushes to clear away the deep ice and snow which surrounded the school and car park. In addition one dad brought his tractor which meant that the clearing was quicker and easier. As a result we were able to open the following day and have some access to the playground. It was one of the best things about this difficult time - many thanks to all those who came along.

Now the term has actually got under way we are studying artists and musicians from different periods and parts of the world. Children are looking at the work of Andy Warhol, the Surrealists, L. S. Lowry and aboriginal art just to get started. They are listening to different music each week and carrying on with lots of singing. The snowy weather has given us a great resource and there has been a lot of drawing done. We plan a musical concert at the end of term and have invited parents as well as children to show case their musical skills. Our Christmas productions gave an opportunity for all the children to learn a vast number of songs and perform them to the Monday Club, parents and friends as well as to the town on the late-night shopping evening in Uckfield. We enjoyed it all very much and I am very proud of our children, who perform with great joy and skill.

Janet Wilde
Headteacher

Welcome Baptist Blackboys

Friday December 4 was a cold day, but it did not deter children, parents and teachers joining in with the Crusader's Donkey Walk around Blackboys village. Many thanks to the Blackboys Inn for providing the "stable" and also refreshments afterwards.

Christmas came early to Welcome Baptist Blackboys on Sunday 13 December with a well attended Carol Service. We were blessed with an "orchestra" of flutes, violin, trumpet and keyboard. The "tinies" nativity added to the celebration time.

A special service of dedication on December 27 rounded off the year beautifully. Many family and friends gathered to support Andrew & Emma Doherty, Rebecca, Jacob and Martha, as they gave thanks to God for their baby Evie Violet. Guy Partridge, our pastor led the service.

The name Urban Saints was felt to be unsuitable for our community, so we have returned to the familiar name of Crusaders, which will commence weekly at 5pm Sundays in the Village Hall from Sunday 17 January. The service will commence with altogether worship, then Crusader and Adult groups, followed by refreshments altogether at 6pm.

THE FRAMFIELD STAGERS

present

A Family Pantomime

MOTHER GOOSE

Framfield Memorial Hall

Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Friday 5th March 2010

Saturday 6th March 2010

-7.30pm-

Saturday 6th March (matinee 2pm)

(Adults £6.50 / Children £3.50)

Please Call Box Office 01825 890931

Blackboys Church of England Primary School

The lead up to Christmas was very exciting this year. We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at Thomas a Becket Church in Framfield where the whole school contributed to a nativity that will go down in Blackboys records for a variety of reasons: Key Stage One did us proud with their version of the Very Hopeless Camel. The singing was wonderful and our orchestra and recorder groups were led by Mrs Bayman and Mrs Turbett; everyone agreed that the standard of music was very high. Many thanks to all the staff for their support and to parents who helped provide costumes etc as well as the team at Thomas A Becket Church.

The rainbow Theatre came and performed a terrific version of Dick Wittington to entertain the children with some of the children themselves taking part; the children were also lucky enough to have a super school Christmas Lunch as well as KS1 and KS2 parties where Father Christmas was guest of honour!

Class 4 - our oldest pupils - organised a wonderful Christmas tea-party for the older people in our community. They made sandwiches and cakes and entertained them with singing from our nativity. We have received many letters and cards of thanks and appreciation and hope to be able to organise another visit before too long. The children enjoyed themselves as much as our visitors!

The PTA ran a very successful Christmas Fair during which time we were visited by Father Christmas; they worked incredibly hard and managed to raise a fantastic £1,500 for our school. Many thanks go to Mrs Caroline Peck and her team.

We were unfortunately closed on the last day of term which meant we could not have our usual Cup Assembly. This exciting event has had to be postponed twice now due to the weather!

Although the start of the new school term has been disrupted by the heavy snow, we have managed to open every day except for two. Our staff have made huge efforts to get in – getting lifts, walking etc. and children have enjoyed the opportunity to play with their friends in the snow – the school field is littered with half made snow-men and igloos.

Many thanks to parents and staff alike for their support and understanding during this difficult weather.

Jonquil King
Headteacher



**Hello From Poppy
and George, and
we both hope you
will have a good
year in 2010**

Well we both had a scrumptious time over Christmas, George overate as usual and I think I partied a bit too much. We met up with friends old and new and also had to get used to two new toys that we were given by the young master for Christmas presents. One was a white dog with huge teeth which has completely overawed George and mine was a tiny emaciated rubber chicken which (though popular amongst our friends) did nothing for me. I must be getting old! We were both happy to hear that we have three new friends in USA Bijon/poodle crosses called Little Miss Teddy (Mum of)"Cowboy" and "Sonny Boy". They should be very spoilt and much loved. We hope to see them on U Tube in January with Richard their "Grandparent" as he calls himself.



FRAMFIELD STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE

In aid of Macmillan Nurses

I would like to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who helped make the "Starry Christmas Tree" a success.

Parish Council for the tree and the use of the Hall.
Staverton's Nursery for their generosity in helping with the cost of the tree.

W.I. for arranging all the refreshments.

The Schoolteachers and pupils who sang beautifully
Most of all the villagers who gave and came to the lighting service.

We all raised £223.88

Thank you all for your support

Selina Allen

Hello Boys and Girls,

This month we have someone new to introduce to you. He, or rather they, have just moved into the area with their mistress. On second thoughts, I will let them introduce themselves.

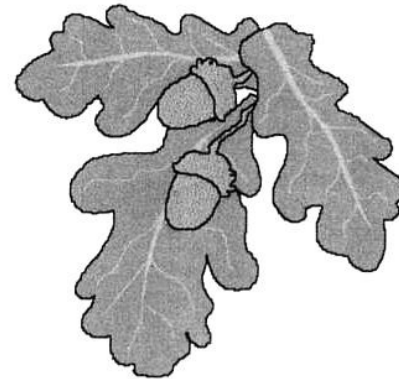
Hello, my name is Toebee, that is pronounced Toby, the middle 'e' is silent as in Giraffe. I have an identical twin brother who is called Knot, (pronounced not). That is not his real name, but he gets so tongue tied that everyone calls him Knot. At least everyone did until we moved here from Stratford. My mistress's house was going to be demolished because someone said that people would be running through her back garden in a few years time. I couldn't see why we had to move, because people had always run through our back garden on the way to the shops. It was, what my mistress called, a short cut. Anyway we are here now and enjoying all the new sights, sounds (and smells!) of the countryside.

Knot and I are looking forward to making new friends, we would really like to meet all the interesting pets we have heard about since we've been here. George sounds quite a character. We had a friend called George in Stratford who had a sister called Win; they had a funny surname, it was Alot. Ours is bad enough - well it's not actually ours, you see we belong to Miss Shakespear.

I think I ought to finish now, but before I go I must just say that I am a little deaf so that's why, when you see us out for a walk, sometimes Miss Shakespear, who gets my brother and I so mixed up, often has to shout Toebee or Knot; Toebee. I usually hear the second time. Why did we come here of all places. Well that's another question.

Bye for now from Knot and me.

THE CHILDRENS NEWSLETTER



Dear Boys and Girls,

This month I want to tell you about two very special pets who live with their two young mistresses in a nice house in a village on the edge of the countryside. If there were ever two dogs who had so much love, and attention paid to them it was these two. So perhaps to protect their identity I had better call them Harry and Tom.

Harry is quite large, and is much given to flopping; whether it be on the floor, in a chair, or if he gets a chance, in the arms of anyone completely overcome by his charms. There is no doubt that turning on the charm has become one of Harry's specialities.

Tom on the other hand, although much smaller, is always alert, and happy to sit up and watch the 'world go by' - he seems to want to get involved. I met them both sometime ago, in a church of all places. I didn't know why they were there at first, but then they were introduced as a 'visual aid'. I don't think Harry was really bothered, but Tom sat up and looked all around. I think he quite enjoyed the occasion. As for Harry I think eventually he went to sleep on the floor!

Seeing Harry and Tom that day made me think whether I was floppy or alert in my own life. I know it's good to relax, (even Jesus did that when he was tired), but the Bible also teaches us to be alert and to watch out for those nasty thoughts and unkind actions.

So perhaps I need to be a bit of both Harry and Tom. What do you think?

*Somewhere
Sunday August*

Dear Mistress Sue, Poppy & others

I thought I would write as soon as I arrived somewhere. It is very comfortable here and my new master seems very nice and is very happy to have me.

In fact I have settled in like a duck house to water. Sorry, I shouldn't make remarks like that at someone else's expense.

I will of course miss you all (except George) but I wish him well (and I hope he falls in it). Poppy, the love of my life, will forever be in my custard creams, sorry dreams.

I will let you know how I get on in my new home.

Keep your tails where they should be. (Not you of course Sue - sorry).

*Love Ben
(Pedigree number applied for)*

Dear Ben,

I am quite bereft without my "pillow" but now I know who you are staying with I am very happy for you. I met your Master some weeks ago and both George and I thought him very nice, and what is more important, quite easily trained into the ways of us dogs! George and I have a very good manual on how to deal with humans which you may borrow should the need arise, but I am sure you will soon have him enslaved to your wishes. Having mentioned the manual, I think it must be years since George read it as it certainly does not mention "biting the hand that feeds you" as a way of getting what you want!

Do let me know how you are getting on, especially the important details like cuddles, own private snooze area, and how often your Master "drops" appetising tit-bits whilst cooking or carving the joint.

Every happiness, love and licks. Poppy & George. (Sorry Ben, but it was you or me and I do not think my reception would have been as good as yours - don't you agree?)