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Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0845 6080193

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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**

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

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

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

Churchwardens : **Mr Peter Tomsett**
 Mrs Joan Burne

Secretary to PCC : **Mrs Diana Kentish-Barnes**

Treasurer : **Mr Norman Jones**

**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, Brookhouse Lane, Framfield TN22 5NH
Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090

From the Registers :



At rest:

18th October: John Llewellyn Andrews
1st November: Ida May Hills

**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.*

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Thank you to all of you who supported our Jumble Sale in October. We made just under £300 which will go to the Stroke Association and other charities.

Our A.G.M is in February and we always welcome new members. If you would like a copy of our programme for next year please ask our Secretary, Val Peaty on 890677.

PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL CAN SATISFY YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

**2 HEATED ROOMS WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 100 and 50
RESPECTIVELY.**

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**VERY COMPETITIVE RATES FOR BOTH REGULAR AND CASUAL
BOOKINGS.**

CONTACT ANN NEWTON ON 01825 890182 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Wealden Online Events Calendar

Find out about events held in and around Wealden. The **Wealden Online Events Calendar** continues to grow in popularity as more local businesses and community groups and organisations advertise their events for local people and visitors to the area to enjoy.

Add your own event, for FREE, to the event listings service on Wealden District Council's website, www.wealden.gov.uk. You can submit your event details online anytime of the day, and your details should go live within 24 hours. To add your event online, visit www.wealden.gov.uk/events.

Seek and you shall find

Christmas should be a happy time of year. Time off from work, time to rest, spend time with friends and family, the giving and receiving of gifts etc. However, I often find that time-out from our normal routines also allows precious time for reflection. As 2010 draws to close, what was the year like for you? Upbeat and positive, perhaps a new job, a few dreams come true or maybe life has been tinged with sadness, a broken relationship or the loss of a loved one?

Personally speaking I often find it difficult to keep a positive frame of mind when there is a lot of negativity and uncertainty around.

Over the past few weeks I have been pondering the question 'Is it possible to be a genuinely happy person with a positive outlook on life simply by making a rational choice?' I stand to be corrected, but I think the answer is 'no'.

If we are to believe statistics then apparently 80% of our thought patterns are negative. This may well be true. If we only watched the 10 o'clock news, by the time we got through the day to day killing in Afghanistan, natural disasters, road accidents and the myriad of other downsides then the remaining ten seconds attributed to Mrs Jones having her cat rescued from a tree was the one and only positive highlight that brought a smile to our faces. In this day and age it is difficult to remain positive when we are bombarded with so much negativity that often leaves us feeling upset and empty.

Whatever age we are, living in a world daily punctuated with bad news gets you down. Trying to cope as an adult can be difficult but what about children with a difficult home life or those who hate going to school? Unfortunately, negative experiences in childhood don't just go-away, they are carried into adulthood. The singer/songwriter Dan Hill who wrote '*Sometimes when we touch*' included the verse

*Romance and all its strategy
Leaves me battling with my pride
But through the insecurity
Some tenderness survives
I'm just another writer
Still trapped within my truth
A hesitant prize fighter
Still trapped within my youth*

I believe Dan Hill is an adult who found adult relationships difficult due to the negative experiences he had within his childhood. He is certainly not alone. But is there a way out, and what has this to do with Christmas?

Christmas is not so much about the razzmatazz associated with the season or doing the headless chicken bit looking for presents. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world and that includes you and me. Perhaps this year don't think so much about what you can get, but what you can get rid of, i.e. the unhelpful baggage that we pick up on our journey through life, the things that weigh us down and inhibit our enjoyment of life. From Jesus' birth thirty years was to elapse before He got up to say what his mission was all about:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus put a smile on multitudes of faces during His earthly ministry, sorted out their baggage, healed them physically, mentally and spiritually and gave them a real hope for the future. The good news is that He is still doing it today through His church. So is it time to let Jesus do the seemingly impossible for you?

When we think about the three wise men embarking on their journey to find Jesus then think also about the effort they went to. To find true treasure often takes some effort but if something is worth having then we owe it to ourselves to make that effort.

In Luke's gospel Jesus says⁹ ***“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.***

Jesus offers the hand of friendship and love to every man, woman and child. A relationship that will last into eternity. How about checking Him out in 2011? See you in church (it's not that scary!)

Have a happy and blessed Christmas.

Chris Lawrence

Horam & Heathfield Flower Club

Presents Demonstrator Robin White

Floral Demonstration

entitled

'Christmas'

***On Thursday evening 9th December 2010
7.30pm***

***at Heathfield Community Centre,
Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield***

Refreshments - Raffle - Sales Table

Visitors welcome £3 50

Ring tel: 01435 866026 for enquiries

***Optional competition:
'Christmas Sparkle –an
exhibit with or without accessories'***

ALL WELCOME!!

Wealden Citizens Advice receives funding to support older people

Thanks to a grant from the Nationwide Foundation of £4,450, Wealden Citizens Advice has appointed a part time grants application support worker to help older people in the Wealden area. Hilary McIntosh, who will be supported by volunteers in the bureau with general advice and information, will be helping older residents in the Wealden area who have utility debts, to apply for grants to help with their arrears and to help set up affordable, on-going payments towards their utility costs. Furthermore, she will carry out benefits checks to identify whether there are any additional benefits to which they may be entitled.

Said Caroline Mack, Chief Executive of Wealden Citizens Advice, "There is a higher proportion of older people (21.8% of population) compared to the average for England and Wales (16.1%) living in the Wealden District Council area so we are thrilled that Nationwide are supporting a specialist worker to help this group. We know that older people, in particular, under claim benefits to which they are entitled as they have feelings of pride, a fear that seeking help might mean a loss of independence, or are worried about stigma being attached to particular benefits.

"However, I would like to encourage anyone who thinks they may be entitled to benefits or are worried about utility debts to contact one of our bureaux as soon as possible. Our support worker can apply for special utility tariffs (if applicable) and provide specialist support to complete grant forms in a way that ensures the best possible outcome for the clients. If a client is unable to get to a bureau due to mobility problems, then our support worker may be able to arrange a home visit."

Lisa Suchet, the Nationwide Foundation's chief executive said "Every donation made by Nationwide Foundation aims to help people in need, with a focus on funding charities helping older people. We are confident that our grant will make a significant impact to Wealden Citizens Advice.

Wealden Citizens Advice have offices in Crowborough (01892) 655303), Hailsham (01323 842336) and Uckfield (01825 764940) and run outreach sessions in Heathfield, Wadhurst, Willingdon and Polegate. For further information please contact your local bureau.

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER 2010 BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW:Common Worship 2001

05 Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion & Healing Prayer
6.30 pm Evening Praise

12 Third Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service

15 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion
6.30 pm Lessons & Carols Service

24 4.30 pm Crib/Christingle Service
11.30 pm Midnight HC

25 10.00 am Family Festival Holy Communion

26 First Sunday of Christmas

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
No Evening Service

JANUARY 2011

02 Second Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Evening Praise

09 First Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service

- 16 Second Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Healing Service

- 19 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)**

- 23 Third Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Morning Praise

- 30 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
10am Café Style Service (Village Hall)
6.30pm Evening Communion

Please Note

- **8am BCP Holy Communion moves to 8.30am**
From October - February (inc)

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th JANUARY 2011
TO
CHRIS LAWRENCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE –
01825 891090
OR
ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**

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

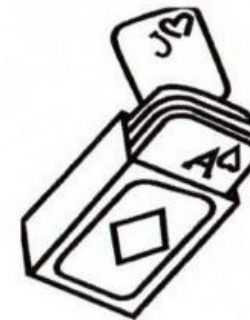
Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine). Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours. All communications for Parish Council matters should be directed to Ann.

The NEW "CLUB" PAGE

East Hoathly & Halland Tennis Club – Friendly village club - all standards welcome – club evenings Tues & Thurs (18.00 start) – social/competitive play.
More info: www.easthoathlytennis.co.uk or Jean Guest (01825 872675)



Heathfield Rubber Bridge Club Every Monday 6.45pm Cross in Hand Village Hall
Guests £1 Players of all strengths welcome. Tuition given if requested.
Phone:- Con - 01435 862472 or Brian - 01435 810426 for details or just turn up.



To advertise your club ring Sue Whitehead

01825 840411



Don't Tolerate It... Report It!

By working together in Sussex we can crackdown on

Anti-Social Driving

How does it work?

Operation Crackdown provides the opportunity for members of the communities within Sussex to report incidents of dangerous, careless or anti social driving or riding on the road. This information allows Sussex Police and its Partners to focus on those who present the greatest risk.

What happens with the information I supply?

The information supplied will be checked against a number of databases depending on the severity of the incident that has been reported. We will look to see if the vehicle has been reported within the last 12 months and if the driver fits into one of our Special Priority Groups (Young Drivers, Motorcyclists, Drink Drivers or Occupational Road Users).

What are the potential outcomes?

There are a whole range of outcomes which can be utilised in response to the information supplied depending on the result of the research.

The most frequently used intervention is a letter sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle from the Superintendent of the Road Policing Unit, however other options include a visit to the driver by a member of the Road Policing Unit, or for the most serious offences a targeted intervention which can lead to arrest and conviction at court.

What have we achieved so far?

Since August 2007 Crackdown has received over 20000 reports, this has generated over 1800 letters of advice, over 500 intelligence reports which have been disseminated to the Road Policing Unit. 132 uninsured vehicles have been seized. 221 warnings/seizures have been made using S59 of the Police Reform act and 43 drivers have been arrested. Over the last three months we have achieved an intervention rate of 1 in 4.

www.operationcrackdown.org

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership PO Box 2094 Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 6XT
Web: www.SussexSaferRoads.gov.uk

FRAMFIELD PARISH LUNCH CLUB

We have a happy Lunch Club group which meets every third Wednesday in the month at the Church Hall. Numbers can range from 18 to 30. We are non-profit making and any money that may be left over is given back for Church Hall funds.

I have been helping and running it for 21 years and so now my team of volunteers along with myself would like to retire.

Is there anyone who would be prepared to take over from us? It really needs a team of 5 or 6 to share baking, cooking and the washing up. We are happy to carry on until the end of the year. I'm afraid the Club will fold if no one is found to take it on.

EVELYN WICKERSON
01825 890481

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



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



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

Finally we are in our fabulous purpose built premises on the Framfield School site. We opened on 1st November under the new name of Framfield Pre-School. Prior to the 1st November we had an open day on 29th October to show the children and parents our new facilities. Our proposed official open day is scheduled for Friday 29th November. We would like to say thankyou to the local community who have had to endure the disruptive building works.

We would like to welcome all the new children who have started this term and hope you continue to enjoy your time learning with us. All the children have adapted to their new environment like ducks to water, and are busy exploring their new setting, especially our enclosed purposefully designed outside space.

Our theme for this term is 'Magical, Mystical Me', our focus being how unique we all are. Being attached to the school via a corridor we are now able interact with the school allowing the children experience at close hand the school environment making the transition to reception class smoother.

We are now open all day from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Breakfast club open to all children aged 2-11 from 7.45am to 8.45am. After school club open to all children aged 2-11 from 3.00pm to 6.00pm.

If you would like any information about the pre-school or to arrange a visit, please ring Sarah Ridley on 01825890943

Accommodation to Share

Required - Single retired active lady to share cottage with single retired active lady. Non-smoker, must like dogs. Share rent and bills. Own sitting room and bedroom; share bathroom, kitchen and garden.

References please. 01825 890569.

Framfield CE Primary School

Now that Bonfire Night is over it seems that the winter is fast approaching. This is always a very busy term full of special events relating to Christmas. However, even before we start on the Christmas events, our year 6 children are very busy as they prepare for the Bikeability Test to make sure that they understand how to keep themselves safe on the roads. In addition to usual curriculum activities, some of the year 6 group are working with the New Sussex Opera and children from Blackboys School preparing to perform in 'Hugh the Drover' - an opera written by Vaughan Williams. This is very exciting indeed and we are looking forward to seeing our children perform in Lewes, Eastbourne, Worthing and Sevenoaks. I would strongly recommend going to a performance - tickets are available through the NSO website. It promises to be a great event, and we are really pleased to be working with Blackboys.

We are also beginning to prepare for our Christmas events - children in years 4 and 5 are rehearsing for the Big Sing in Eastbourne. All of the children will be involved in our Christmas productions and Carol Service. There is a great deal of singing going on!

You will probably know that the Pre-school is now completed and we began to admit children from 1st November. It is a very beautiful space and the children and staff are enjoying it very much. It has also been a great addition to the school as our youngest children and those attending Breakfast and After School club are able to use it as well. I would like to thank the community for the support we have had as we prepared for the build and throughout. I know it presented some inconveniences and I do appreciate your patience. We will be holding open events throughout the year so please keep an eye out for these and come along to see what we do.

Janet Wilde
Headteacher

Future events

Our PTA is working very hard to raise money towards a project to replace the wood-chip area and equipment in the playground. We have a very enthusiastic committee and lots of ideas are being developed including our Christmas Fair which takes place on 4th December. Everyone is welcome - we hope all our neighbours will come and take this opportunity not only to visit the school, hear some of our recorder players and help us raise money towards this project but also to celebrate the arrival of Father Christmas himself!

There are many other events planned for the next few weeks including our Christmas Service in the Church and Senior Citizens' Party. We do hope that many of you will be able to join us at this special time of the year - it always adds to the celebration to have so many of our neighbours with us at this important time of the year.

J K King
Headteacher

The Companions.

Are you over 55 and single? "The Companions" is a local group who meet three or four times a month to enjoy each other's company over a pub lunch, afternoon tea or other social activity. **WE ARE NOT A DATING AGENCY!** The group was founded so that single people of a certain age, who might sometimes feel a sense of isolation when in gatherings almost entirely of couples, or be reluctant always to go out on their own, could go out and relax with others in a similar situation.

Members are free to attend as many or as few events as is convenient to them.
To find out more, please ring **01825 749585**

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FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET
LIST OF MARKET DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



18th December 2010 - 10am - 12noon.

22nd January 2011 -10am - 12noon

ALL WELCOME

Do come and support.

**Come and enjoy the market stalls,
tea/coffee, bacon rolls and company.**

**Thank you all for your Support during 2010, and wish everyone
a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR**

Contact: Sandy 01825 840648.

story-telling sessions, learnt about armour, had a tour of the castle and of course visited the shop! The following week they had a medieval theme day where the children dressed up in medieval costume made shields and wrote recounts of their visit to the castle - excellent work from our youngest pupils. Class 4 entertained us with a super class assembly based on their topic of World War Two. They presented a great deal of information using slides and pictures from their visit to Newhaven Fort as well as research from the internet. Class 2 have been working hard and using our local environment as a basis for a lot of their learning.

Opera Workshop

An opera Workshop was organised between several small village schools and New Sussex Opera. We were all introduced to the opera Hugh the Drover by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The children then had to take the part of the chorus of villagers and learnt how to move and breathe as an opera chorus.

The experience was quite a challenge and tiring too as there was a lot of standing and walking involved as well as singing in groups. The children also had the opportunity of hearing a professional opera singer. A number of pupils have joined children from Framfield Primary school to take part in the New Sussex Opera's actual production of Hugh the Drover and many thanks must go to Mrs Janet Wilde at Framfield for organizing such a wonderful opportunity.

Parking.

Our **healthy Schools Steering Committee** is working hard to encourage as many pupils as possible to walk up from the Inn and so reduce the parking problem at the start of school. Please do not hesitate to let us know should further problems arise.



Blackboys Pre-School
Blackboys Village Hall,
Gun Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex, TN22 5JY
Tel: 01825 891113

www.blackboyspreschool.co.uk

We held a Halloween Party for the children at the Pre-School at the end of the last term. Fun was had by all the children who attended. They all dressed up and took part in spooky themed games, enjoyed party food and some went home with spooky tattoos and face paintings. A massive thank you to everyone that helped.

Our theme this term is 'Autumn, Bonfire Night / Christmas and the Nativity'. We will be having a Nativity Show towards the end of term.

The committee are planning a Christmas Shopping Event in the next few weeks so look out for adverts in the Friday Ad and around the village.

We had an Ofsted visit earlier this year, and we are all very proud as overall the quality of the provision is good. They commented that:

"Most children are making extraordinarily good progress in all areas of their development as a result of high quality adult input and an impressive range of resources and activities"

"Children's safety is given extremely high priority within the pre-school" and
"Children play and learn in a very attractive, stimulating environment. They enter happily and very enthusiastically take part in activities"

You can view the whole report by visiting www.ofsted.gov.uk.

We still have a few places available for morning and afternoon sessions. Please telephone 01825 891113 for further information on these. We are open every day until 3.30pm, including optional early birds club and lunch club.

CLARA' S BOOKS

*Books bought and sold
Including all CTR
Publishing books about
East Hoathly and Halland*

**Always interested in
East Hoathly and
Halland ephemera,
photographs, postcards
01825 840263**

e-mail:
jane@claras.eclipse.co.uk

Welcome Church Blackboys

Welcome Church Blackboys continues to meet at Blackboys Village Hall at 5.00pm on Sundays for an informal family service followed by tea and cake at 6.00pm. All are welcome to come and visit.

Email: welcomchurchblackboys@googlemail.com
Tel: 01825 840 020

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

Framfield & Blackboys WI

Framfield & Blackboys WI have an energetic new Committee and have some exciting events coming up for the New Year.

Throughout this year we have had some very interesting speakers, everything from minarets to mission bells. We listened to a fascinating talk on 'nature at a Sussex reservoir' and another on a 'slow boat in China', we tried our hand at making a tapestry of flowers and in June Mr Richard Hill came on behalf of the RNLi and gave us a wonderful account on the work of the lifeboat and showed us a very good DVD. Following up on passing the resolution on 'labelling of country of origin on all meat, poultry and fish products sold in the UK' we wrote to our MP and MEP and subsequently received replies showing their interest.

We have been active in many other ways. Supporting our Group this year we hosted a successful autumn meeting. We sent a delegate to the Federation Annual Council Meeting. We also cooked for the Housebound Club and provided cream tea for a visiting group. We again entered the South of England show with some success. A new venture has been ten pin bowling which was great fun and hopefully will become a regular event.

We will be having our Christmas party in December and a New Year dinner in January.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th February at 7.30 in Blackboys Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome so please come along or give me a ring for more details (tel: 01825 890422)

Gaining new members has given us a new lease of life and we look forward to the New Year with great enthusiasm.

Corinne G Urben



FRAMFIELD STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE

In aid of MacMillan Nurses

The lighting up service for the starry Christmas tree will be SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER at 5pm outside the Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome. Stars will be £3.00 each and proceeds will go to Uckfield Macmillan Nurses. The stars will be available at Hair by us, Framfield Pre-school and School and Blackboys School as from Monday 22 November.

Please write your message on star with a permanent pen and either bring along to service or return back to where you brought them

Please help us to raise more money for a worthy cause, and remember people how are no longer with us or can't be with us during the Christmas season.

Thank you

Selina Allen

Man's best friend

I am one of the many good dog owners who clean up after their dog. To those who cannot be bothered to take the minute to clean up their dog's mess I say - how would you like to tread into another owner's dog mess - Not much!!!!

*Also do you realise that dog mess can lead to illness in children and can even cause them to go blind. Would you like that on your conscience - I think not!!!!
Please take that minute and clean up after your dog and make our parish recs a safe and clean place to be and for everyone to use.
Thank you*

***BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

Time really does fly by faster nowadays than it used to. The society is now into its fourteenth year and it seems like only a short while ago that a meeting was held for all interested people in the Parish to attend in order to set up a local history society. Members have come and gone in those years but our current membership is still as high as when we started, and our meetings are usually very well attended both by members and visitors.

In November we had a last minute change to our speaker and instead of a talk about Dickens, we were treated to a talk by David Lester about the Southdowns Battalions of the Sussex Regiment, during the First World War. David has been researching details of the various battalions for more than twenty years and presented an interesting, and sensitive, glimpse into the lives of the soldiers involved. We were able to make good use of our new Digital Projector which we purchased thanks to a Grassroots Grant of £746 from Sussex Community Foundation, based in Lewes. This will be a very valuable asset available for future speakers.

In December we will be holding our Christmas Event on Friday 10th, and this year Ray Sparks, Magician, will be our speaker/entertainer. Visitors are welcome and tickets cost £5 each but are selling fast. We do not have a meeting in January and on February 1st Vivienne Blandford will be talking about the Woodland Archaeology of Pounsley Furnace, Waste Wood and Shepherds Hill.

If you would like to know more about any of the above, or the society's activities in general, please contact the secretary on 01825890359 or email baturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Ann Turner

The Macmillan committee has, once again, been very successful with fund raising. The Book Sale in Buxted, organised by Dr Rob Harrison, plus an additional sale in Uckfield, raised £672. Many Coffee mornings were held in support of MCS World's Biggest Coffee Morning and together Uckfield raised well over £2,000. The committee were delighted that £770 was raised with our tins outside Tesco's and grateful to receive so much support from the general public. Please make a note that our ***Christmas Bazaar will be held at the Luxford Centre, Uckfield (Old Library) on Wednesday 17th November from 10am until 2pm.***

2011 is a very important year in our charity's calendar. It is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Macmillan Charity, which does so much wonderful work in helping people affected by cancer. In 1911 Douglas Macmillan established the Society for the Prevention and Relief of cancer, after watching his father die from the illness. Since then the Society has provided grants for convalescent breaks, clothing, treatment and care. It is supported by our patron, The Duchess of Kent, and is the leading cancer care charity in the UK.

If you or anyone you know has worries about cancer, if they've just been diagnosed or even if their treatment has ended, the Cancerline, Benefits Helpline, Cancer Information Nurse Helpline and Youthline have all been brought together under one phone number: **0808 808 0000** or the website can always be visited on **www.macmillan.org.uk**. Information can be had over the telephone, or you can request any number of relevant booklets.

Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 840441

We have been fortunate with the weather this autumn, certainly one of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness'. However as I write these few lines it is pouring with rain outside and blowing a strong gale. Mostly our gardens have been put to bed for the winter and we are left to dream over brochures and catalogues while we plan next year's flowering glories.

With this in mind, the Horticultural Society has, or is still planning, interesting talks and trips in 2011 to inspire us. We start with the well known journalist and renowned gardener Helen Yemm. This will be a second visit to our Society from her and judging from the turnout last time we expect a full hall. We hope to see you there.

The villages turned out in strength for the meeting to re-organise some aspects of the Society. The Committee was delighted by the enthusiasm and expertise that came to light and we are now moving forward to restructuring the Society. This is an exciting and challenging time for us and don't forget there is always a welcome for new members to join in this process.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

JENNIFER GRAHAM

Happy Christmas to all our friends.

Well it's been a funny old year and we are both glad we are not humans. The young Master came and went, Mistress had her holiday cancelled but let us go on ours and now she's to-ing and fro-ing between Lydfords Care Home where she is secretary to the new WI there for ladies in wheelchairs. Our last mistress was in a wheelchair so we cannot go round as we are used to being lap-dogs and would probably fight over the comfiest! We've done the Hallowe'en bit and got over Bonfire Night so now looking forward to a really quiet Christmas. Just food, telly and cuddles then more foodwhat more could dogs want?

Happy Christmas from Poppy and George

Two items for your attention this month, in mid October a large amount of heating oil was taken from a tank in Gatehouse Lane, Framfield, the theft occurred in the middle of the night, so please check your tank as often as possible and report any suspect vehicles or persons around to me at 0845 60 70 999 EXT 27400 with a vehicle index so we can check our records, we need to know who is in our area.

Police and the RSPCA are investigating the death of a horse in a field at the top of Kings Ride, Alfriston, which occurred sometime between Friday, 22 October and Sunday 24 October. The horse suffered multiple injuries deliberately inflicted by a person or persons, if you have any information surrounding this incident please contact us, quoting serial 490 24/10/10. If you have any concerns surrounding your own horses or stables please contact me on 0845 60 70 999 Ext 27400 for a chat.

**Simon French - Police Community Support Officer
Uckfield Police Station Tel 0845 60 70 999 Ext 27400**

Flood information from The Environment Agency

Floods can happen anywhere at anytime, caused by rising ground water levels, burst water drains, hillside run-off from sudden rain as well as flooding from rivers and the sea.

It is important that you learn how to prepare for and be safe in a flood. It could save your life.

You can find out if you are at risk of flooding by visiting www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth where you can also download an easy template to complete and register a **Personal Flood Plan**. You can also phone **Floodline** on 0845 988 1188.

You can sign up for our FREE **Floodline Warnings Direct service**. This provides a flood warning direct to your telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message and fax.

Be warned

New and improved flood warning codes will come into force from November 2010. The new codes will be simpler to understand, provide an earlier alert for the possibility of flooding, provide more local information and are clearer on the actions people need to take.

The Untamed Shrew

by Mike Russell People and Wildlife Manager Sussex Wildlife Trust

It is always a great thrill to see wild mammals in the UK; they are largely hard to see, often nocturnal, and not surprisingly do their best to avoid any contact with the human race. I know we would rather not see some animals too closely. Rats or mice in your house and garden are generally unwelcome sights and there are probably too many rabbits. Sadly hares are few and far between in Sussex these days.

When we do see them it is usually the briefest of glimpses as a deer disappears into a wood, or a fox or a badger's red eyes show up in car headlights or sadly, dead by the side of the road. A bat might swoop into view for a second then melt into the twilight gloom, while hedgehogs are becoming a rarity.

What prompted these thought processes is that around Woods Mill at the moment a number of people have been watching one of Britain's smallest mammals, the water shrew. I haven't seen one here for many years, but recently the 'leat', which is a channel of water that supplies the mill wheel, has been cleared of vegetation and so we have a clear view into the water. Hence, we have been able to observe this busy little animal going about its daily life.

Water shrews, although very small, are in fact the largest of the British shrews. They are jet black on top but lighter underneath and with a good view you can see little white tufts at the ends of the ears. As they are semi-aquatic the fur is very short, dense and velvety in texture, which provides the insulation they need to swim underwater. If you see them in the water a silvery bubble envelops their body creating a very interesting effect.

Like all our British shrews they are carnivores and their main source of food is freshwater shrimps, caddis fly larvae and water slaters, though they are not adverse to the odd frog or small fish. They will also eat terrestrial fare as well such as worms, snails and beetles.

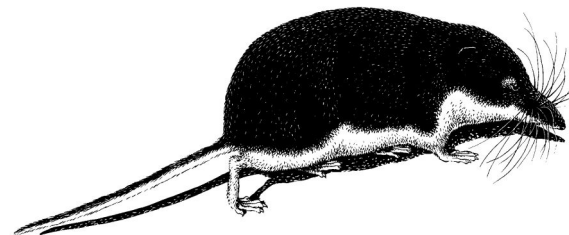
Carnivores tend not to taste very nice, although they are prey for some predators such as tawny or barn owls. Thankfully, apparently cats find them particularly distasteful.

They are equally at home on land and water but need dry, safe conditions to breed, so they look for places under logs or in burrows where they make a little nest of dry grasses. Water shrews breed two or three times in the

summer, sometimes producing up to fifteen in a single litter. After breeding the adults usually die leaving the youngsters to find their own territories for the winter, as they tend to be solitary until the breeding season comes around again.

Shrews are renowned for very short but extremely active lives, so it has been a great pleasure and a privilege to be able to just stand and observe these delightful little creatures undisturbed. Although I haven't seen them for many years it doesn't necessarily mean that they have not been at Woods Mill. In the past I came across a few corpses around the reserve, but I think the more likely explanation for their return is the clearing of the leat allowing the animals to forage amongst the roots and vegetation along the edge and just under the water. Whatever the reason, it is very good to see them back.

Mike Russell
People & Wildlife Manager
Sussex Wildlife Trust
www.sussexwt.org.uk



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

6th December 2010 - CHRISTMAS PARTY & Entertainment from: Framfield CE School Children. Framfield Memorial Hall - 2.30pm

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL
FROM: The Members of Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club...

24th January 2011 - AGM and New 2011 Programme and Collection of Subs (£6) at the Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm.
2011 is the 50th Anniversary of Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club.
Ring: Sandy for more information 840648.