

FREE SMOKE ALARMS

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

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

USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

General Enquiries: 01273 481000

Adult Education: 01273 481497

Bins and Recycling: 01323 443322 or 01892 653311

Education, general 01273 481000

Leisure centres, swimming pools and parks: 01323 443322

Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0845 6080193

Recycling sites: 01273 481000

Street Lighting: 0845 6080193

Trading standards (consumer issues): 01323 418200

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555111

Police, non-emergency: 0845 6070999

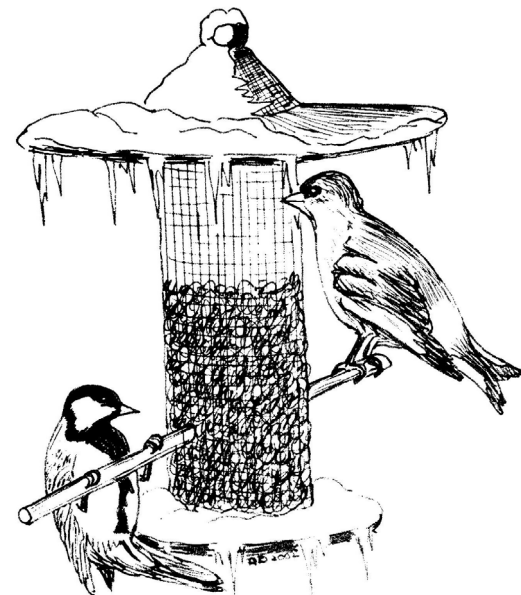
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 1777 069

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

Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 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: 23rd December 2010 - Betty Mary Davy

**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

The A.G.M. of the wives group was held in January. Our new Chairman is Ann Dawe. Treasurer and Secretary remain the same. Jenny Pratt and Val Peaty.

The new programme was given to members and includes eating out, painting pottery, walking, various speakers and our usual summer barbeque.

We always welcome new members and if you would like to join us give me a ring on 890677.

Val Peaty

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.**

SECURE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA FOR TODDLERS.

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

CONTACT SANDIE SMITH ON 01825 890644 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Happy New Year ?

The New Year has arrived and with it the opportunity to take stock of the last year and perhaps make some positive changes for the new. So how was 2010, what were the highs and the lows in your life?

It would great to live in perpetual bliss but as we all know life isn't like that. Many challenges meet us along the way but it is often in times of adversity that we find out the most about ourselves, others and the world we live in. The question is how do you cope when your world appears to be falling apart?

Personally, I don't find much solace in coming through a trying time as a stressed out nervous wreck, even if someone says 'It's character building'. So is there a better way, can you turn a 'glass half empty person' into a 'glass half full person' ?

This was my prayer and quest for the latter half of 2010. God had told me that this was going to be my 'turnaround year'. I wasn't quite sure what He meant but I recognised it when it came along! Almost losing all hope He finally came through on the afternoon of the 28th December while watching TV. God is never late, but boy does He sometimes hang you out to the last minute!

The answer I had been looking for came from the film adaptation of the story of Pollyanna, a children's' novel written in 1913 by Eleanor H. Porter. Pollyanna is the daughter of a missionary family who is orphaned and goes to live with her wealthy, but stern Aunt Polly. Pollyanna's philosophy of life centers on what she calls "The Glad Game", a positive attitude to life she learned from her father. The game consists of finding something to be glad about particularly in negative situations. It originated in an incident one Christmas when Pollyanna, who was hoping for a doll, received a pair of crutches instead. Making the game up on the spot, Pollyanna's father taught her to look at the good side of things—in this case, to be glad about the crutches because *"we don't need to use them."*

Many of the people in Pollyanna's town are miserable or grouchy mainly because they are holding onto minor grievances and had fallen out with each other. Others see themselves as victims of loss or disappointment. However, one by one Pollyanna befriends them with her sunny attitude to life and teaches them how to play the 'Glad Game'. As you might expect not everyone initially accepts her but to her credit she ignores the hostile attitudes and looks

to the goodness hidden within each of them. On a locket that Pollyanna wears around her neck is inscribed the words quoted by Abraham Lincoln -

"Those who look for the bad in people will surely find it." Pollyanna chooses to do the opposite and look for the good.

The result is that when they re-examine their way of looking at themselves, others and the circumstances surrounding their lives and finding something to be glad about they cheer up.

As a preacher Pollyanna's father found over 800 bible verses relating to being glad or having cause to rejoice. His conclusion was - that this is how God wants us to live our lives. Amen to that!

The great thing about playing the 'Glad Game' is that it really works. When you find a reason to be glad negative thoughts and attitudes simply disappear.

If you have never heard of Pollyanna and the Glad Game then may I encourage you to get hold of a copy; the book and the DVD versions are readily available and just brilliant.

When you think about it we have so much to be glad and thankful for despite the daily diet of doom and gloom fed to us by the media; but we do have a choice. The point is, why waste time and energy focusing on the negative aspects of life when you can focus on the positive and be happy? Terry Prince sums it like this in his short poem:

*Your life is your garden; your thoughts are the seeds.
If your life isn't awesome, you've been watering the weeds!*

St Paul writing to the church at Philippi says this:

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

2011 is likely to have many challenges but on a personal and collective level let's take it one day at a time, look for the good in each other, our community and the world around us and as the Psalmist writes -

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps 118:24)

May God richly bless you and bring you joy, happiness and gladness this year.

Chris Lawrence



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 CE Primary School

We finished the term before Christmas on a high note with the children performing extremely well in the two Christmas plays. It was a novelty to hold both on the same night and bring all the children together at the end – and it worked very well indeed. The children sang and performed beautifully and I was very proud of them. We held our Carol Service on the last day and I was glad that we had it in the morning. By the afternoon we were battling with the snow and Father Christmas had to make haste to get away before he was snowed in!

Since returning we have settled into a short topic called Happy Healthy Me. The aim here is to consider new targets for this year and think about how to keep ourselves healthy through exercise, a good diet and good organisation. Following this we will be studying life in Victorian Times. To start us off Rainbow Theatre will visit to do a workshop with the children and we will all dress in Victorian costumes for the day. We are also planning to take delivery of a Victorian classroom for a few weeks so that we get a really good idea of how different our life is today from then.

Janet Wilde
Headteacher

From PCSO Simon French

Happy new year to everyone, a few things to report and remain people about this month, we have received reports of a couple of shed breaks in the parish in the past month, think of your shed as your mini house, inside is where you probably store expensive equipment like a lawn mower, strimmer and tools always look to secure it with strong hinges and a good padlock and also consider a battery operated alarm.

People are still calling in suspect behaviour around the parish and I want to thank them and ask that more people became aware of what is happening around and about them at this time, if you see anyone acting strange or asking about scrap metal or heating oil deliveries, take the vehicle index and contact us asap.

Many Thanks - PCSO Simon French 0845 60 70 999 Ext 27400
Simon.french@sussex.pnn.police.co.uk

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2011 BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship 2001

- 06 Fifth Sunday before Lent**
10.00 am Parish HC Healing Prayer
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 13 Fourth Sunday before Lent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service
- 16** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 20 Third Sunday before Lent**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Praise
- 27 Second Sunday before Lent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Morning Praise

MARCH 2011

Please note Sunday BCP moves to 8.00 am

- 06 Sunday next before Lent**
10.00 am Parish HC
6.30 pm Eve Praise
- 09 Ash Wednesday**
- 13 First Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service

16 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

20 Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Parish HC

6.30 pm Healing Service

27 Third Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Morning Praise

Please Note

- **Sunday BCP Holy Communion moves to 8.00am**
From March - September (inc)

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

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

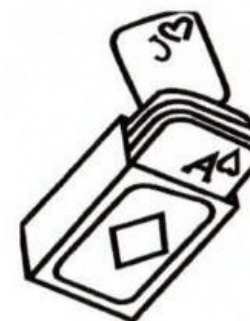
Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine). Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours. All communications for Parish Council matters should be directed to Ann.

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

PARISH SPEEDWATCH

This was set up over two years ago with a view to reducing the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit through Blackboys and Framfield.

Last year ESCC agreed to reduce the speed limit in Blackboys from 40 mph to 30 mph - introduction subsequently deferred - and therefore we concentrated our efforts on Framfield. In both villages we believe that we provided sufficient evidence of vehicles speeding to justify some action.

Unfortunately, after 17 months of operations, we realised that we were not having any meaningful effect on the actual speed of the traffic and also that ESCC were unlikely to be persuaded to do anything in Framfield - we already have a 30 mph limit and are therefore a low priority and ESCC do not have any money anyway.

We therefore arranged, at our expense, for ESCC to set up a 24/hour 7/day radar monitoring device at the Blackboys end of the village, which recorded the speed of every vehicle passing that spot for 7 days. Unfortunately, though the mean speed of the traffic coming from Blackboys was clocked at 32.7 mph, that is below the speed at which the local authorities are forced to do something. (Interestingly, 20.7% of vehicles travelling in the same direction exceeded 36 mph.)

The only thing that can change this is one or more accidents involving serious personal injuries, which is the very thing that we have been working to avoid. As many of you know, there were a series of accidents at that end of the village towards the end of 2009, but none of them involved serious enough injuries to count.

In light of all the above it is with sadness and not a little frustration that those involved have decided to cease Speedwatch operations in the Parish.

**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the life of Betty Mary Davy
will be held in Church at
2pm on Friday 25th February**

**STOP PRESS!
THE FRIENDS OF FRAMFIELD CHURCH
PRESENT THE ASHDOWN SINGERS
SATURDAY, 21 MAY 2011, 7 PM
PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!**

Church Spring Clean

We are asking for volunteers to come and help us give the church an annual spring clean. The date is Saturday 5th March from 10.00 am onwards. All cleaning things will be supplied. Any contribution towards cleaning the church will be very much appreciated. If anyone can spare just one hour that will be fine, or if they can give more time - they will all be welcome. Joan Burne - 01825 891037.

**FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
LARGE HALL WITH A CAPACITY OF 150.
VERY COMPETITIVE RATES FOR BOTH
REGULAR AND CASUAL BOOKINGS.
CONTACT MARY SHORT ON 01825 890854
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

We have really enjoyed our first term in our lovely new building; it's still very exciting especially being able to go outside whenever we want whatever the weather. All the children seem to love the new building settling in well, it also feels good being part of the school, the children are able to see their older siblings during the day if they have them; and the reception class get to visit us on a regular basis each week, which really helps the children moving up to school they get to know the teacher and their peer group.

The run up to Christmas was very busy for preschool; luckily we only just managed to have our Christmas party on Friday, 17th December, before the snow arrived!! Santa managed to visit bringing everyone a present; we joined the reception class enjoying a visit from a magician who entertained the children making balloon creatures.

Our theme for this term is 'Victorians', focusing on old and new. Looking at family trees, toys from the past. We will also be joining the school when they have a visit from The Rainbow Theatre Group, where the performance will be about the Victorians.

I would like to welcome all the new children who have made such a good start to the term: Archie, Deanna and Finley.

We still have a few places available for morning and afternoon sessions. Please telephone Sarah Ridley on 01825 890943 for further information, or to arrange a visit. We are open every day from 9 - 3pm, including optional breakfast club 7.45 - 8.45am (children age 2-11 years) and after school club 3 - 6pm, children aged 2-11 years.

OIL SYNDICATE

Some while ago when oil prices last escalated, an oil syndicate was organised for the Parish. This now seems to have gone into abeyance, but in view of the near monopoly of oil suppliers we need an organiser more than ever before.

If it is the wish of the group of residents who were involved previously to continue, is there anyone who would like to organise it? If not my neighbour and I would be prepared to step in.

There doesn't seem to be a list of Members available so if anyone wishes to once again take part could they contact myself ideally by email with their name, address, phone number, approximate yearly litres and if they wish a particular supplier to quote please..

Brian Dodd
 bdodd@Glawood.com
 01825-890916

FRAMFIELD STAGERS

PRESENT

PANTO AT THE OK CORRAL

23 – 26 FEBRUARY 2011

FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

PERFORMANCES 7:30 pm and MATINEE on SATURDAY 2 pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM BOX OFFICE ON 01825 890632

FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL WITH PRIZES FOR BEST OUTFITS



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

www.blackboyspreschool.co.uk

We This term at Blackboys Pre-school we are visiting the Forest School at the Mohair Centre with a group of children, so that they can explore the outdoors in a controlled environment. The children will benefit from being able to investigate the woodland, make collages from the things they find and handle small animals.

We will be holding a Valentine's Day Raffle in February – prizes include chocolates, flowers, etc! If you would like to enter the raffle please call into the preschool between 9.30 and 3 for tickets.

We still have a few spaces available in the morning and afternoon sessions. Please telephone (01825) 891113 for further information on these – Monday to Friday mornings, lunch clubs, and afternoon sessions.

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



FRAMFIELD STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE

In aid of MacMillan Nurses

I would like to thank everyone who got involved in the “Starry Christmas Tree” this year. Thank you to Staverton's Nurseries who helped with the tree, WI who kept everyone in tea & coffee and the Parish council for the use of hall etc.

Uckfield MacMillan Nurses were very pleased that we handed them £177.00.

So thank you to everyone who came to the lighting up service and all of you who brought a star.

I wish you all have a happy and healthy new year.

Thank you

Selina Allen

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.

*The 400th
Anniversary of the King James Bible
1611-2011*

Queen Victoria was once asked by a foreign visitor: 'What Is the secret of the 'greatness' of Great Britain?' She replied by pointing to a book on the table close by: that book was the Authorised Version of the Bible first published in the reign of King James the 1st .

But Britain is now no longer so great, and its people fearful of walking the streets at night, family relationships fail, and many are looking for hope and certainty. Yet sadly most in this 'land of the Book' have laid it aside and say that it is old fashioned and that they do not understand it.

Yet today this old King James Bible is preferred in most of Africa, India, and many other nations, whose first language is not English. Why? Because these people recognise it is a book like none other. Already this year secular TV and radio presenters are telling us that it is a unique book that has influenced this nation like no other book.

Why is it unique? How did we get our King James Bible?

Who gave it? Why was it given? How can I understand it?

Is it relevant to me today? Is it true in every word ?

To answer these questions and more, it is proposed to hold a series of Bible studies during 2011 using the A.V. Bible at Blackboys Village Hall, Gun road. The first meeting to be held (God willing) on:

Wednesday February 2nd 2011 7.30pm- 8.30 (then each Wednesday)

All will be welcome of whatever belief - or non-belief.

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

7th February - "Getting to Know you", and Uckfield Tour with Sandy Rogers
2.30pm- Framfield Memorial Hall.

21st February - "Buckingham Palace Garden Party with Mr. & Mrs. K Rogers"
Halland Park Farm - 2.30pm

7th March - Boccia (Bowls) - Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

21st March -" Show and Tell" with the Ouse Valley Quilters
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

2011 is the 50th Anniversary of Framfield and Blackboys Monday Club.

Ring: Sandy for more information 840648.

Framfield & Blackboys WI

In December we had our Christmas party. This was followed in January by a wonderful New Year Dinner at "The Peacock" in Piltdown.

The new programme for 2011 was distributed to our members and at our next meeting on 8th February at the Memorial Hall Framfield the subject will be on yet further feasting "Eating through the Ages", a talk to be given by Mrs Vernon. This is sure to ruin all our New Year Resolutions!

Visitors are always welcome. Please come along at 7.30pm or give me a ring on 01825 890422

Happy New Year.

Corinne

Your Churchyard Needs You.....



Framfield is blessed with a wonderful churchyard, a special place for many people. Being protected from development it's also retained much of its wildlife, in harmony with its original purpose for burials. We're all becoming more aware of the decline in UK wildlife habitats. But ancient churchyards like ours present a real opportunity to offset this decline locally, and promote it as a community resource.

In order to manage the churchyard in a way that best supports all its functions, including burials and commemoration, public access for reflection and peaceful recreation, conservation of important wildlife and historical resources, and as a setting for the various uses of the church building, a Churchyard Management Plan is being prepared. You can see this draft Plan at:

<http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/yardplan.html>

There will be a presentation and discussion of the Plan, to which everyone is welcome, on Saturday 26th February at 7.00, in the church hall, nibbles provided. This will be a chance to ask questions, raise concerns, help shape the Plan and find out more about offering your services.

In short, the Plan 'zones' the churchyard to take account of its different functions. 'Amenity' areas (nearest the church, around newer graves, and paths) would be regularly mown to keep them neat and tidy, while the best wildlife areas (largely coinciding with older gravestones) would be allowed to grow longer, and to flower and set seed (also avoiding harm to Slow Worms and other wildlife).

We believe the churchyard would become an even better place for enjoying the natural world, for workers, walkers, and thinkers. But the Plan will only work if enough people can spare some time, however little, to help the very small number of very committed folk currently doing it. We need:

- a few more experienced 'mowers' (people) for a rota to keep the amenity areas neat and tidy (those nearest the church, around recent burial areas, and along the access paths);

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

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**

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Schedule for 2011 (all meetings commence at 7.30 pm)

Tuesday, 25 January	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 22 February	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 March	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 5 April (Annual Assembly)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 17 May (AGM)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 28 June	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 26 July	Blackboys Village Hall
August	No meeting
Tuesday, 27 September	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 25 October	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 November	Framfield Memorial Hall
December	No meeting

Planning Committee Meeting Schedule for 2011

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

January	12	
February	2 (EC)	23 (BVH)
March	16 (BVH)	
April	6 (EC)	27
May	18	
June	8 (EC)	29
July	20	
August	10 (EC)	31
September	21	
October	12 (EC)	
November	2	23
December	14 (EC)	

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

- one-day work parties to tackle the 'conservation' areas, about three times a year.

The work parties would not be all 'work' – they would end with a BBQ/meal, and should be a fun way to get to know others with shared interests. Tasks range from (experienced) strimming to raking, to carrying cuttings to the compost heap (no experience needed), to organising food. Families welcome!

In recent years we have offered a number of churchyard tours, both on church Open Days and for community groups on request, including Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group. Even people familiar with the churchyard have enjoyed discovering the variety of its wildlife: flowering plants, butterflies and moths, slow worms, bats, nesting birds, and much more. (How many bird boxes can you count?)

The gravestones themselves also represent an invaluable historical resource, including unusual iron headstones, memorials of the local iron industry. The internet also records two 'Harmer' terracotta plaques, which we haven't found yet. (Does anyone know of their whereabouts?)

So please do browse the Draft Churchyard Management Plan on the website, give us your feedback (there's an interactive bit for this), and put **Saturday 26th February** in your diary.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Looking for a local venue?

Framfield Church Hall is available for regular meetings, special occasions, parties and village events.

The hall typically seats up to 60 persons.

Full kitchen facilities are available.

Costs - £7.00/ hour with reductions for regular users and church members. Tel the Church Office for further details and bookings - 01825 891090

BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ever since the society was started it has been the intention to organise a walk around our Parish Boundary. Some members have decided that 2011 will be the year to tackle this project which has been “put off” several times due to the distance involved and the lack of safe public rights of way, in the right areas. To help solve one problem there will be 5 or 6 shorter walks through the spring and early summer months. To solve the other problem we would like some help from local people. If you live on or own land that is near to the boundary or where it actually runs through, would you be prepared to allow a small organised group of walkers access to your land, and/or to park up to 4 or 5 cars for a day? I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to help.

As usual we have a varied programme of talks arranged for this year. Our speaker on February 1st is Vivienne Blandford and she will be talking about the Woodland Archaeology of Pounsley Furnace, Waste Wood and Shepherds Hill. On March 1st the subject will be Family History, with Judith Kinnison-Burke. In April our speaker will be Richard Alum who will be telling us about the History of Ashdown Forest. Meetings are held in Blackboys Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 for 8pm start, unless otherwise stated.

If you can help, or 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

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



Sue Starnes
FdSc Couns, MBACP

**Person-Centred
Counsellor**

I offer counselling on
a wide range of issues
from my rooms in a
peaceful rural setting
in Blackboys

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Back to Nature at Woods Mill

For over twenty-five years now Woods Mill has been my spiritual home, indeed for the first eight of those it was my actual home. So for a quarter of a century I have seen the reserve evolve and develop, species disappear and new species arrive and thousands of people visit and enjoy what, in the past, we understatedly called 'an ordinary piece of countryside'.

Three years ago the Trust purchased additional land next to Woods Mill almost doubling the size of the reserve to 48 acres and transforming the nature of the reserve - for the better it has to be said. Since then we have been working on a project to re-instate the natural course of the river that flowed across our new meadow and last month that work was completed.

While the work was going on it has to be said it looked a bit of a mess and was quite a shock to witness. But, given a year to recuperate, it will look like it's been there for decades. One of the main benefits is that the meadow will be restored as a naturally functioning flood plain, the banks will be allowed to vegetate and change as the river takes in a natural course and in times of high rainfall the meadow will flood. As well as creating a better habitat for wildlife it should help alleviate flooding downstream which will mean that the road alongside Woods Mill is less likely to flood.

Periodic winter flooding will then create a wet grazing marsh which will add to the diversity of plants, in turn attracting dragonflies and other insects which will then attract birds to eat them. Since the work has been completed I have already seen a lapwing on what is essentially still a mud plain - the first time this bird has actually landed on the reserve, where usually they are noted flying over. Other wading birds that should be attracted to inspect the new habitat are green sandpiper and snipe, while the one bird we really hope to encourage back as a breeding species is kingfisher, last known to have nested on the reserve in 1990.

Sea trout have also been noted making their way back upstream to their spawning grounds. Just off our land, but part of the same project, a fish pass has been constructed to ease their passage up river.

We will continue to graze the meadow at low level to increase the variety of plants and who knows, perhaps once the new habitat has become established we may well get otters back on the reserve. In February 1971, an otter was recorded at Woods Mill when a set of tracks were clearly visible in the snow, and with otters now re-colonising Sussex, the possibility of seeing them back here is not such a fanciful dream.

The Trust's approach to conservation is all about trying to get back to naturally functioning systems, a living landscape approach is how it is promoted, and this stream re-alignment project at Woods Mill is a small but significant contribution to helping wildlife in the future.

Mike Russell
Sussex Wildlife Trust

www.sussexwt.org.uk

[Given the harsh winter weather we have had so far I am including a second and important article from Sussex Wildlife Trust – BR]

Hard Times in the Snow

This time last year I was extolling the virtues of the snow that had descended upon us and low and behold as I write this we have just had another blanket covering; and to think when I arrived in Sussex in 1985 I was emphatically told that it never snows here!

Birdwatchers get very excited in this sort of weather though for the birds themselves it makes life far from exciting. Birds start to do unusual things; they become disorientated and have to start moving about more to look for food, therefore increasing the chance of something unfamiliar turning up in your garden. This winter everyone has been hoping that waxwings, Viking invaders from Scandinavia that came into Northern Britain in October and November will, over the coming months, make their way south, feasting on the remaining berries as they go. As I write they have yet to reach Sussex in any numbers, but by the time you read this they may be here in force.

Another colourful northern winter migrant is the brambling which started to appear before Christmas, with reports coming in from gardens in Henfield and Worthing. Bramblings are finches and are similar in appearance to chaffinches but are more orange in colour than pink and if you see one on your bird table you will realise that you are looking at something a bit different to your usual birds.

Birds that readily come to gardens and visit bird feeders are able to survive these cold, snowy winters better than other species. During the cold spell before Christmas many people were reporting seeing snipe and woodcock even in the most suburban of gardens. Sadly, many of them were starving and there were some reports of dead birds. They are waders with very long beaks which they use to probe deep into mud and grass to look for food, so when the ground becomes frozen and covered in snow, finding something to eat becomes more difficult. They then have to expend even more energy travelling longer distances in the search for food. If they are unsuccessful they end up exhausted, emaciated and soon die.

Searching for food can cause what are known as 'cold weather movements' when vast number of birds are pushed further southwards or westwards and it is not unusual to look up in the skies and see flocks of birds heading in that direction. Lapwings are particularly noticeable for this behaviour - they seem to know that food will be easier to find. In such conditions Southern Ireland has large influxes of birds as it tends to stay warmer throughout the winter, but should it experience a really cold prolonged spell then the birds are in real trouble as there is really nowhere else to go.

Cold weather then provides a quandary for birdwatchers. You do get a chance to see species that are rare or but then you know that these birds are really struggling to survive.

It is of course part of the natural cycle, our bird species have evolved to cope with fluctuations in climate but as life generally gets more difficult for them to cope, these prolonged cold spells can be more of a problem than they once used to be.

Mike Russell
Sussex Wildlife Trust

www.sussexwt.org.uk