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*Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
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**Parish
Newsletter**



**Framfield, Blackboys
and**

Palehouse Common

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

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

Vicar : **Revd Chris Lawrence**
01825 891090
(after hours 01825 890365)

Churchwardens : **Awaiting elections**

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

Treasurer : **Mr Ian Elliott**

**All communications for church matters should be directed to
the Church Office – 10.30 am – 5.00 pm (closed Wednesday)**

Email - rev.chris@btinternet.com

Post - Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane, Framfield TN22 5NH

Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090

From the Registers :



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

At rest:

21st November - Virginia Margery Few

13th December – Barry Graham Sutherland

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East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

Distribution: Derek Thorogood, Delia Gillies
and their teams of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

*A bi-monthly Newsletter distributed free to all homes
within the Parish.*

We are needing volunteer distributors of this Newsletter for three areas which are within the boundaries of the Parish of St Thomas à Becket, although they now lie outside the civil parish of Framfield. The areas are the new Fernley Park estate; Eastbourne, Lane, Halland and the Harveys Lane/Knole Lane area. There are seven deliveries to be made each year.

This is a piece of service which helps to keep the people of the parish in touch with each other, so if you could lend a hand, please contact Derek Thorogood on 01825 890487

New Year Resolutions

Well how's it going? A few weeks into the New Year and with it I would hazard to guess are many of the New Year resolutions. Whether it is the diet plan, giving up smoking or drinking or maintaining a commitment to the new gym programme it simply takes a lot of will power and determination to see effective change over a period of time. Even with the best of intentions, in our weak moments we often fail and when we do we mercilessly chastise ourselves.

This cycle of good intentions followed by failure is nothing new, its part of the human condition – the inner struggle between good and evil that St Paul speaks about in his letter to the church in Rome. He writes:

²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! (*Romans 7:21-25*)

Paul came to the point of realisation that he was virtually powerless to overcome his own evil intentions and desires, but through Christ's power – the power of the Holy Spirit, he could win the war and gain mastery over his struggles!

We can all relate to Paul's observations of the human condition but when it comes to seeking effective Godly help we shy away or perhaps we just don't know that God has the answer and lasting solution? It almost seems too good to be true so the natural inclination is to dismiss it from our consciousness. We would rather go it alone, give it one more try and spend a fortune on a diet plan a personal trainer or psychological counselling. God does have the effective solution whatever the problem or vice may be, but man's heart is predisposed to be prideful.

So here's my challenge for 2013. If you are fed up with going round the perpetual loop of good intentions and failure then give God an opportunity - put pride to one side and ask for His help and if you need a little guidance then ask your local church minister or a member of the congregation, or as David wrote in Psalm 34:8 -
Find out for yourself how good the LORD is. (*Good News Translation*)

Blessings to everyone in the parish for 2013 - Rev Chris Lawrence

Diary of Church Services

FEBRUARY 2013

03 Second Sunday before Lent

- 8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 am Parish Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

10 Sunday next before Lent

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

17 First Sunday of Lent

- 8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

20 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

24 Second Sunday of Lent

- 10.00 am Morning Praise
- 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

MARCH 2013

03 Third Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

10 Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 10.00 am Family Service – Mothering Sunday
- 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

17 Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

20 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

24 Palm Sunday

- 10.00 am Morning Praise – Palm Sunday
- 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

A great place for food and friendship!

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Club



Join us at our new club for the over 60s starting Wednesday 13th February



- With an emphasis on fun and friendship we meet fortnightly on Wednesdays at Hadlow Down Village Hall.

- Arrive at noon for a hot, freshly cooked two course lunch 12:30pm - 2:00pm (£4.50 payable on the day, pre booking essential).

- Transport can be arranged upon request.

Why not come with a group of friends?
Places are limited so to find out more or to book a place call Suzanne on **01435 661054**

website: www.engagesoutheast.org.uk
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ENGAge
South East

Cesi



Stage 2 children held a Carol Service at St Thomas a Becket church, which included confident Bible readings and a first for Blackboys; a song using sign language!

The reason for sign language, is a link we have with Chailey Heritage School. Our oldest pupils, class 4, visited this amazing school for children with varying disabilities, to join in their Christmas Crib Service. It was great to see our children mix in with the children from Chailey and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer was certainly enhanced by actions!

As I'm sure you can tell, Christmas really tests the stamina of staff, and I would like to praise every member of staff for all their efforts over the festive period. Everyone has returned from the Christmas break with renewed vigour. This term we are particularly looking forward to some collaborative projects with Framfield School.

Graham Sullivan
(Head of School)

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It only takes a minute

It only takes a minute to clear up after your dog. However it may make someone blind for a life time if you don't. Please think of others and clear up on the pavements and in the recreation ground.

PLEASE TAKE THAT MINUTE

- 25 Monday of Holy Week**
7.00 pm Meditation for 30 minutes) in the Gage Chapel
- 26 Tuesday of Holy Week**
7.00 pm Meditation for 30 minutes) in the Gage Chapel
- 27 Wednesday of Holy Week**
7.00 pm Meditation (for 30 minutes) in the Gage Chapel
- 28 Maundy Thursday**
8.00 pm Holy Communion in the Gage Chapel
- 29 Good Friday**
No service – Joining Churches Together in Uckfield - Walk of Witness - meet at the URC church at 10.00 am
- 31 Easter Sunday**
10.00 am Easter Day - Family Festival Communion (CW)

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

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th MARCH 2013**

TO

ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182

framfield.pc@virgin.net

**CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE SENT TO
CHRIS LAWRENCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE –
01825 891090**

**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.

Our committee held a very successful Christmas Bazaar in Buxted on 21st November. Despite the dreadful weather conditions, it was very well supported and raised just under £800. Our Morrisons collection in Crowborough was also very worthwhile and £1,433 was the total sum raised.

The Sussex police choir sang carols again at the Arndale Centre in Eastbourne just before Christmas, and we shared the proceeds from the collection with the Eastbourne committee, our share being £429. It is always a great pleasure to attend this event. We have also received a donation of £770 raised by children and staff at Manor Park Primary School in Uckfield on behalf of one of the members of staff.

Our Macmillan nurse Sarah Wheatley who is based at Uckfield Community Hospital gave a very comprehensive presentation at the AGM of Age Concern. She outlined details of a day in the life of a Macmillan nurse and it was interesting to hear that MCS now aims to support families and patients suffering from terminal illnesses other than cancer.

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 890400

performances were well attended and a retiring collection was made in aid of St Martin in the Fields appeal.

So many of the children at Framfield enjoy singing and this was demonstrated by their enthusiasm singing in Uckfield at the late night shopping event; their singing was recorded in school and played several times on Uckfield FM over the festive season. Well done to all who attended!

The children in Eagles also took part in the Big Sing at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne. This special event gave the children the opportunity to learn several new songs in school and then perform them in a massed choir of over 200 children in a big theatre. As well as this, many of the children enjoyed the evening beach stroll between the rehearsal and the concert.

At the end of term our very supportive PTFA raised enough funds for the Rainbow theatre group to perform Cinderella, the pantomime, to us all. We also had a lovely party lunch with a special visitor in a grotto! The children for the first time at Framfield had a shopping experience in which they could choose a present to buy for their parents and carers supplied by donations to the school and wrapped by the excellent PTFA wrapping service.

We finished our busy term with a Carol service at the church with Rev Chris Lawrence in which children led us in readings and prayers.

Jacqueline Davies
(Head of School)

Blackboys Church of England Primary School

Christmas is always an exciting time of year in primary schools, and this year at Blackboys it seemed busier, yet more exciting than ever.

Our PTA once more excelled themselves with a superb Christmas Fair, with close to £1500 raised. The children ran their own games room, the craft room was packed and turkey rolls were enjoyed by all while waiting for the arrival of Father Christmas. The money raised at the fair, along with other fund raising ventures such as Christmas wrapping paper, canvas shopping bags and Christmas cards, will be used in revamping our school library.

The youngest children in our school provided great entertainment in the performance of their school nativity, this year billed as The Wriggly Nativity. We have some budding actors and actresses in key stage 1, with the traditional retelling of the most famous story ever told being set to catchy modern songs. On a more traditional note, our Key

The FAB Partnership! (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)

As you can imagine, this last term was a particularly busy one for the partnership: although we started the year with a joint harvest Festival, we felt that there were just too many parents and pupils to squeeze in safely to the Church and so we kept our Christmas celebrations as separate schools however, that did not detract from the enjoyment of these events.

Both schools held Nativity Plays which were very well attended, and both schools had a Carol Concert in Thomas A Becket Church with thought-provoking but entertaining talks by Rev Chris Lawrence! Many thanks to all those who were able to attend.

The staff in both schools are beginning to get to know each other very well now as we have organised several joint staff meetings as well as a joint INSET where we discussed the ethos and vision of both schools. We have a number of exciting joint events taking place this coming term including shared assemblies, visits and even an art gallery! Our older children are also using their ICT skills to share communication on a number of joint projects via e-mail and blogs. They all look forward to further developing their friendships and sharing their learning, as do our staff.

Perhaps one of the most exciting and pleasing events to take place last term was our Takeover Day: this is an annual event where pupils are invited to "take over" some of the running of the schools. Children completed application forms and organised lessons, helped lead lunchtimes, reviewed policies, discussed timetables etc in both schools. Two pupils accompanied me as Executive Headteachers for the day, visiting each others' schools and commenting on data, policy as well as meeting Governors and Steering Committees. You can imagine that we were particularly pleased when we heard that both the schools had won awards from County Hall who highlighted in particular our partnership work. Well Done to everyone who took part, and a special thank you to the effort that all staff put in to making this such a success.

Many thanks to all staff, pupils, parents and friends who support both schools so well and work to making the two schools so successful.

Jonquil King
(Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)

Framfield Church of England Primary School

Here at Framfield we were very busy over Christmas as usual! All the children performed in a production of The Magical Christmas Jigsaw, a wonderful play with many songs in which the true meaning of Christmas was shown in the importance of Jesus as the central and most important piece in the jigsaw puzzle. All three



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2012

The 2012 collection this year raised £1733.17, which is again less than Nigel Drew achieved for many years. There are various reasons, including the general economic situation and my failure to find enough collectors to cover the parish.

For over 30 years Nigel achieved amazing results by his superb organisation and energy, which helped to raise far more than anyone would expect from a small parish.

To try to increase the amount in 2013 I need more collectors. This involves a house to house collection covering a small area in late October or early November. Some new collectors have come forward for next year but several more will be needed to cover the parish properly.

If you are not able to do a house to house collection perhaps you could have a Home Collection box. This is simply a Poppy Appeal box for you to put your loose change in and it is surprising how much this can amount to over the year.

If you could spare a little time for the Poppy Appeal or if you would like a Home Collection box, please contact me. I particularly need more cover for Blackboys and Palehouse Common

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Appeal and I hope that you will be able to help again next year.

David Jenner 01825 890632 or 07881 786785

Healthy walks are starting in Uckfield

Right on cue for all those New Year's resolutions, a new free healthy walk will start in Uckfield. The first walk will take place on Friday 18 January 2013, 10.00-11.00am, setting off from the Civic Centre. From then it will run every week. All ages and abilities are welcome. The walks are free and last no longer than an hour. There is no need to book, just turn up. The walks are organised by conservation charity The Conservation Volunteers, and are part of the national Walking for Health scheme. Paula Hubens, Healthy Walks Project Officer at TCV, would like to hear from people who are interested in leading healthy walks in Uckfield. For more info about the walks or volunteering opportunities contact Paula on 07740 899559/p.hubens@tcv.org.uk



FRAMFIELD



STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE

In aid of MacMillan Nurses

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Framfield Starry Christmas Tree. Especially the following

Framfield Parish Council – For the use of hall

Stavertons Nursery – For the Christmas tree

Rob Newton – For collection of tree and putting up tree

Amy Clark – For arranging all the carols

Peter Berry – For leading the service

W.I. Ladies – For supplying all mince pies etc and serving drinks

You all helped raise £243.20 for Uckfield Macmillan Nurses. I handed the money over and they were very grateful so a big thank you to everyone.

Thank you

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FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

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Framfield Memorial Hall

25th February 2.30pm - MAGIC LANTERN SHOW
By Peter & Dellia Gillies
Framfield Memorial Hall

4th March - 2.30pm - Learn about Computers – What's an iPad ?
By: Edward, Sandy and Keith Rogers
at Green Acres, Halland Park Farm.

18th March – 2.30pm - BOCCIA (Bowls)
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For further info ring Sandy: 01825 840648

Email: sandyrogers77@gmail.com

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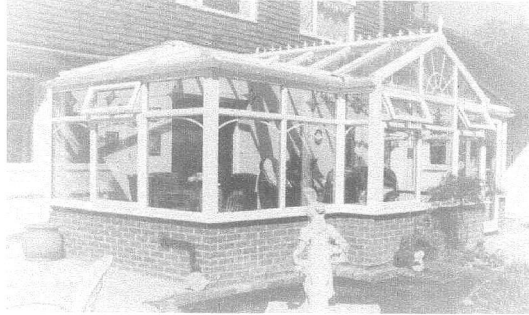
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Nature Notes

With the lengthening of days, signs of the coming spring are beginning to appear. Expanded hazel catkins can be seen, and the young cow parsley is showing its verdant green new leaves. Song thrushes are singing on territory, and the young viridian blue/green daffodil shoots are beginning to push through the soil. It will not be long before we see the first snowdrops in flower.

A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, and it is usually dangerous to generalise, especially about what can be seen in January and February. I went for a picnic on the South Downs (dunes) at Beachy Head on Friday 11th January, and it felt quite warm in the bright sunshine. I was delighted to see a hover fly land on my binoculars; it proceeded to explore this novel surface in the warm sun. There were also dung flies on a cow pat, and it felt like spring. Meadow pipits flew up from the closely grazed turf with “see see see” calls, clearly glad to find some insect prey in the depths of winter. We watched as a pair of ravens, whose diagnostic “kronk kronk” call had given themselves away, were being mobbed by a pair of peregrine falcons. There was a constant stream of lesser black-backed and herring gulls gliding along the front of the cliffs, but there was a more unusual bird gliding back and forth just below, and sometimes just above the edge of the cliff. This was a fulmar petrel. These primitive, enigmatic birds resemble gulls, but are not even in the same or close taxonomic order as gulls, but are more closely related to albatrosses and shearwaters. These birds are often referred to as tube-noses, which describes the strange tube like structure along the upper mandible which is indeed the nose. However, this nose tube is also used to excrete excess salt as these birds spend months at sea away from fresh water, so have to drink the sea, and they get rid of the excess salt through their specially adapted nose.

The cliffs had been collapsing at regular intervals along their length, and there were fresh piles of chalk rubble on the shingle below the clean white cliff-face. These falls are probably exacerbated by the recent heavy rainfall. 2012 turns out to be the second wettest year since records began, second only to 2000. Remarkable, considering it started with a drought that persisted at least until March.

Martyn Stenning

- 12 -

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www.framfieldpreschool@gmail.com

The children all settled well after their Christmas break, you may see them walking round the village on a welly walk.

We have been looking at different cultures and languages following the children having visits from families over Christmas and New Year. Everyone is looking forward to our Chinese New Year celebrations in February, we will be cooking, making a Dragon and dancing to music

The current total on the Local giving page stands at £579.67 and they still have money available that can be doubled up, so if you haven't had a chance to make a donation you still have time to do so. If you have many thanks it really is much appreciated: <http://localgiving.com/charity/framfieldpreschool>

We would like to welcome our new children and their families this term, Harry, Billy, Georgia & George we hope you enjoy your time at Framfield Pre-School. We are open 7.45 - 6pm daily, including a breakfast club 7.45-8.45 and after school club 3-6pm for 2-11yrs.

We still have some availability for morning and afternoon sessions, if you would like to arrange a visit or for more information please telephone Sarah Ridley on 01825 890943.

Thank you
 Teresa Howell
 Pre-School Manager

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New Life Church Blackboys

(Previously Welcome Baptist Church Blackboys)

It has been said that we are a very young church, young in age that is. Certainly children and young people are very much part of our fellowship. On a Sunday morning at 10.30am we now have 4 groups.

Little Stars Babies and toddlers
Sparklers Under 5's
Rockets Over 5's
Shooting Stars Secondary school age

Any children or young people are welcome, with or without adults.

At Crusaders after school club this term we are going to be SUPERHEROES! We have 4 teams of superheroes and will be learning about the Greatest Superhero Ever - Jesus ... as he went around doing amazing things called Miracles and Saving people every day. We will be learning that not only can WE be superheroes by helping others, being kind, sharing and loving in our own lives but that Jesus can still be our Superhero today! Jesus loved children and we are starting the term with a party on Thursday 17 January, 3.15 - 4.25pm.

New Life Church Blackboys meet every Sunday 10.30am
The Village Hall, Gun Road, Blackboys. All welcome.

Little Stars Baby & Toddler Group: Fridays during term-time
10.30 am – 12.00 at the Village Hall
Contact Emma Doherty on 01825 890029

Crusaders: Thursdays after school 3.15 – 4.25 pm
Blackboys Primary School Hall
Contact Suzanne Hammond on 01435 661054

Life2TheMax: Wednesdays 6.30 – 8.00 pm
Youth Club for 11 - 16yr olds
Contact Suzanne Hammond on 01435 661054

Find out more: guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com or find us on Facebook

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We begin our year with a visit to Jenny Homewood's garden on Thursday, 28 February 2013 – Acorn Cottage, Bird in Eye. Telephone 01829 705002.

Her garden is quite small but full of unusual plants – her passion being snowdrops – hence the date.

Jenny is opening her garden on behalf of the UK charity, The Daisy Garland. This is a family run charity for children with severe epilepsy. There are about 60,000 children under the age of sixteen years with this illness. They are resistant to drugs but can be helped with diet. All monies raised go towards funding specialist dieticians within the NHS.

The garden will be open from 10 am to 12.30 pm and again from 2 to 4.30 pm. Tea and coffee will be served, no admission charge to be made, however, a box will be available for anyone wishing to make a donation. In case of severe weather, please telephone Jenny for advice.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy New Year.

ALAYNE JENKINS
Chairman

“Babybeats” is a new singing group for mums with their babies and toddlers, this term runs from Wed 7 Nov to Wed Dec 12.

Come to the Framfield Church Hall for a 9.15 start.

Enjoy an uplifting 45 minutes of singing nursery rhymes, followed by informal tea/coffee.

Drop in: costs £4 – contact Anne for more info on 07768 770911



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

email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk
www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

A huge welcome to Jude, Kate and Ruby and their families who have recently joined Blackboys Pre-School.

The mild weather has allowed us to spend plenty of time outside, both on the allotment where our two hens are continuing to lay and in our newly-refurbished outdoor area. We desperately need a shed for our allotment. If you have an old one you'd like to get rid of or a new one you'd like to donate, we'd love to hear from you!

What's happening this term?

Forest School activities continue apace; over the next few weeks we will be making bird feeders and learning about feeding our feathered friends over the winter. We will be spending plenty of time in the kitchen and among our many and varied arts and crafts, will also be trying our hand at papier mache.

Leavers are busy preparing for their move up to big school with focused activities including writing their names and reading books, while our younger children are enjoying learning songs and rhymes. You can keep tabs on all of our activities by checking out our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/blackboyspreschool. Our website: www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk includes updates on event, and bags of information about us. Go on, check it out.

Recycle for Blackboys

If you're having a clearout and have any unwanted clothes/textiles to get rid of, please drop them off at Blackboys Village Hall during school hours and help us raise money for the Pre-School's allotment project. Give Jenny a ring on 01825 891113 to arrange a collection.

A little bit about us

Established almost 30 years ago, Blackboys Pre School is open Monday to Friday during school term times from 8.45am to 3.30pm and provides a wonderful, nurturing environment for children aged between 2 and 5 in a fabulous rural setting. The Pre-School applies Montessori principles and practice to activities as well as employing a Forest School coordinator. To book your child in for a no-obligation free trial or to arrange a visit, call Jenny on 01825 891113 or email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk



Framfield & Blackboys WI

In November we held our first Race Night. We would like to thank our MC Dave Jenner who certainly kept the evening "going", and our friends and families from surrounding villages for their support

Some of the comments included "a real village get together with a party atmosphere", "great food" and with the generosity of our members a "brilliant raffle".

The evening raised over £500 which enabled us to give donations to the Memorial Hall Repair Fund and both our Village Schools. It also helps pay our speakers for this coming year.

In December we held our Christmas Party welcoming new members and during January we held our annual dinner at the Blackboys Inn where Amanda and team provided us with an excellent meal.

Now that the Lions have taken over the Lunch Club in Uckfield our association over many years has come to an end. A Big thank you is due to Rose Wilcox for all her Love, Hard Work and Dedication.

Once again we were invited to serve coffee and mince pies at the Starry Christmas Tree Service in aid of MacMillan Nurses. The seasonal festivities were rounded off with a WI Carol Service in Uckfield.

Visitors are welcome at all our meetings. Happy New Year to you all.

Gill Roberts and Delia Gillies (01825 830319)

- If you think a tree is infected with *Chalara*, report it to the FC *Chalara* helpline
Tel: **08459 33 55 77**
- The Forestry Commission may send out an inspector to take samples and confirm the disease. Please do not do anything to a tree that has not been confirmed as infected
- If a tree is infected, the Forestry Commission's inspector will tell you what to do next. This will probably follow the Action Plan set out by the Government at the beginning of November:
 - Newly-planted diseased trees and diseased trees in nurseries will be traced and destroyed. This is because once young trees are infected they succumb quickly.
 - Mature trees will not currently be removed, as they are valuable to wildlife, take longer to die and can help us learn more about genetic strains that might be resistant to the disease.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust website also has some excellent video footage showing the life cycle and symptoms of ash dieback disease.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Dog fouling in the church yard.

The church yard has traditionally been a place where the adjoining fields are accessed by dog walkers. However, I have received a complaint that there is a considerable amount of dog excreta around the gravestones. May I politely point out that this should not be the case, the graveyard is a consecrated public place and not a dogs toilet and it is distressing for persons visiting graves of loved ones or when conducting a burial service.

All dogs must be on a lead in the church yard and if your dog has an 'accident' please come prepared with a plastic bag to pick it up.

Thank you - Rev Chris Lawrence

Ash Dieback

By Jess Price of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Jess Price, is always happy to answer your questions about ash dieback disease or any other environmental or wildlife issues on her dedicated information hotline: Wild Call Tel: 01273 494777, or by email wildcall@sussexwt.org.uk

What is Ash Die Back

Chalara dieback is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*. It has already affected 90% of ash trees in Denmark. First identified in Great Britain in February 2012, it has now been found across the country, including Sussex and Kent.

Ash trees make up a huge part of our woodlands so losing large numbers would have a devastating effect on our wildlife and landscapes. It is clear that ash dieback is here to stay and there is no hope of stopping it. Now we must use scientific evidence to minimise the impact.

What can I do?

Sussex Wildlife Trust has researched the problem and advises people who are concerned about the trees in their garden or woodland not to panic and start cutting them down, but to get expert advice:

The situation is still developing, but for now we recommend:

- Leave healthy ash trees well alone. Ash trees are a vital habitat for birds and insects. Some ash trees may have a natural resistance and seeds from surviving trees could be used for replanting schemes
- Visit the Forestry Commission's (FC) website www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara to check their symptom guides and videos.
- Check the tree is an ash rather than a rowan (also known as mountain ash). Rowan trees are easily mistaken for ash but are **not** susceptible to *Chalara*



OPENING SOON!

YOUR new Café and Village Stores will be opening in Blackboys **this February!**

* Convenience supplies * Locally-sourced bread, dairy, eggs, meat, fruit juices, beer and cider * Fresh fruit and vegetables

* Fair Trade coffee, tea, sugar and snacks

* Beautiful range of cards and wrapping paper * Gifts and much more!

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* Freshly prepared breakfasts and light lunches * Morning coffee and pastries
* Afternoon tea and cakes

Please look out for our 'Open Now' banner as you drive past the Brownings Workshops.

A warm welcome awaits!

The Grove, Brownings Farm Workshops, Lewes Road, Blackboys. Tel: 01825 890415/07908828659

thegroveblackboys@gmail.com Find us on Facebook: "The Grove, Blackboys"
Andrew & Emma Doherty and Andrew & Sarah Wright

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

FILMING FUN.

Connie, my last Newfoundland suddenly became a celebrity canine after I trained her to help me when I had a severe back problem, which caused a flurry of interest from the media. This resulted in talks on the radio, articles in the press, photographic sessions and filming for television.

As an old age pensioner with a quiet uneventful life, with family, dog, and a weekly trip to the co-op my life suddenly changed briefly for one of excitement and new challenges. It was all hard work but great fun.

On one memorable occasion I was doing a short session for ITV news, with two charming men. Connie as usual worked impeccably doing everything I asked. At one point she had to carry a rug into the sitting room then sit close up to the presenter holding the rug while he did his piece to camera. His assistant had to film this but could not hold the microphone in the right place at the same time. This resulted in me holding the mike above the presenter's head, out of sight, while he talked. At the same time I had to silently control Connie keeping her in the right position and while still holding the rug. Unfortunately the producer, who was probably distracted with me bending over him, forgot his words half way through so we had to start all over again. Connie had to go out of the sitting room, come in again and sit in exactly the right position and hold the rug carefully. Once more I held the mike while the presenter started his talk. Half way through the same thing happened, he forgot his words. This was getting very funny. I took the rug from Connie and let her relax while he reread his notes, then we had another go. Connie as good as gold behaved perfectly. This time he hesitated so we had to try once more. By now Connie was getting rather fed up with repeating this exercise. I held my breath as the presenter once again started his talk. Would Connie remain in position while holding the rug yet again? The talk was going well, but by now, very bored, Connie tossed her head and I was convinced she would drop the wretched rug. Much to my relief she hung on to it. Success at last! When I saw the programme I laughed again as I saw her toss her head as much to say "what not again" and remembered what fun it had been.

Another visit to film Connie was from an American TV company. We live in a very small cottage with limited space, so I was a bit worried when all the crew arrived and squeezed themselves into our tiny kitchen. I was surprised there were so many of them including a small girl. Puzzled I enquired who everybody was. I gathered that one was the camera man, another was the sound chap. One lady was going to be in the

programme with me and she had brought her little girl who wanted to see the big dog and play with her. I had to explain Connie could not work if she was distracted by invitations to play. But I kindly said she could have a game when we had finished filming. There was another rather large chap who kept getting in the way. I could not understand who he was. "Oh he's our taxi driver and he just wants to watch us filming the dog!" As well as all the people milling about, there was loads of stuff everywhere, trailing cables, cameras, sound equipment and a confused jumble of other things piled up in the corner of the kitchen.

Connie was always very excited when people arrived so to start with I would shut her in the utility room so she could see the newcomers through the dog gate while things calmed down a bit. I would then let her in to greet the visitors. After five minutes of leaping about and tail wagging she would be ready to work and totally ignore other people. Confidently I gave her the first command, thinking smugly how impressed they would be. It was very difficult with the room so crowded, but I knew she could do it. To my surprise she refused to obey me and made for the corner of the room and started rummaging around in their heap of stuff. I called her back and had another go. Still she refused to work and again headed for the pile of bags, embarrassingly she then thrust her nose into one of the holdalls. I began to get suspicious. "Excuse me what's in that bag?" I enquired. "Only sausage rolls for our lunch" someone replied casually. No wonder Connie was not interested in working! I tactfully suggested that they removed their lunch from the kitchen floor. Temptation gone she was then happy to work.

This was the most difficult filming I had done. I had to instruct Connie, talk to the producer and take directions from the camera man all at the same time, without tripping over all the cables or the taxi driver who kept getting in the way! Still Connie and I managed it and it was later shown on American TV. Luckily with not a glimpse of the taxi driver!

HAZEL CARTER

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