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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 2014

**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 : **Miss Annie Sheldrick**

Treasurer : **Mr Norman Jones**

**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: **12th December: Nan Gilbertson**

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.

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East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 1777 069

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PUBLISHED IN GOOD FAITH. THE PUBLISHERS DO NOT,
HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
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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.*

So, what exactly is the Church?

In the last edition of the Parish Magazine we were living in expectation that the Church renovation project would be finished in time for Christmas. As many of you are aware it was completed to time and budget and reopened on Sunday 8th December and it looks absolutely fantastic! The quality of the workmanship is first class and feedback from the community and visitors over the Christmas period has been really positive. It only seems like yesterday that fundraising for the £70,000 project started. In fact it was the 25th March 2012, but by the beginning of December 2013 all the funds had been raised which is an excellent achievement especially in the current financial climate. The Friends of Framfield Church and the church family are very grateful to everyone who contributed financially and by giving their time and talents in order to get the job successfully completed. However, the renovation project is not for the specific benefit of select groups as the Church only really exists for the service of all within the community and further afield.

Some may ask, what exactly was the point in raising and spending a significant amount of money on a building that promotes a declining religion? It is a valid question, but in reality religion or what we have come to understand as religion has been in decline since the time of Christ, 2000 years ago.

In essence religious practice that we are often presented with either through the media or general misunderstanding has a justifiably bad name. Religion is often associated with intolerance, rules, hardnosed judgement, fanaticism and dictatorial practices. If that was what the church was all about quite frankly I for one wouldn't want to be a part of it! But there is a world of difference between religion and faith in God and where the church fits into this. Simply put, religion is man's attempt to get to God or to hopefully win God's favour particularly in the light that none of us live forever and that at the end of our earthy days we would rather go to heaven than hell. In reality there are very few people who really believe that at the end of our lives they just cease to exist. The Bible tells us that 'God has set eternity in the hearts of men' and as such there is an inner longing that at the end it will all work out ok. Fine in theory except for the fact that we are all sinful human beings. To be in God's presence in heaven requires us to be sinless and no matter how

hard we try to live good lives, do good deeds and keep the rules as we understand them we will never measure up. This is religion at its best and worst but in the final analysis none of us will get to heaven on our own merits or adherence to religious practices!

The beauty of God's plan fulfilled in Christ is centred on the crucifixion of Christ. Jesus never to earth to start another religion, he came to die; but His death was a substitution sacrifice. The sinless Christ dies in the place of you and I, our sins transferred onto Christ and dealt with once and for all. If we can accept what Christ has done for us and most importantly accept it by faith alone then you are almost there! When Jesus is asked by the religious Jews 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.' (John 6:28-29). Have you noticed how much 'work' you have to do to maintain a religious lifestyle? Again Jesus is asked by an individual "What must I do to inherit eternal life"; Jesus' reply: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:25,29) i.e. acknowledge and put God first and adopt a lifestyle that has love at its core. That last statement however can be a hard one to fulfil. In today's society many feel unloved or have never really experienced real love so how can they love as a lifestyle? Ask a few friends to give you the definition of what love actually is and you may be surprised at the variety of answers. All I can say is that if you are someone who has not been loved then first base is to allow God to love you. That may sound a bit scary but nevertheless ask God that you may experience His love and see what happens, for too experience the love of God is a life changing event that will envelope you and melt your heart.

As mentioned earlier religion has been in decline for 2000 years but in its place faith in Christ and the gospel of grace came into being and with it adoption into God's family, and God's family is the Church.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has contributed to renovating Framfield Church or should we more accurately call it the Family Home? As God operates by an adoption policy for everyone who would believe then the door is always open and you will always find a warm welcome from other members of the family.

Blessings to everyone in the parish for 2014 – *Revd Chris Lawrence*

Green on Mondays to Fridays and for a Saturday service between Uckfield, Heathfield and Hurst Green.

Please note that the Service 318 schooldays only journeys between Heathfield and Ringmer Community College will continue to be operated by Renown. The morning journey will, with effect from the beginning of January, depart Heathfield 16 minutes earlier to improve punctuality.

The enquiries we have made so far with transport providers to replace the Mondays to Fridays service 54 journey from Nevill Road, Uckfield to Uckfield Bus Station at 09:05, indicate that it will not be possible to divert an existing bus service. It is therefore unlikely that this journey will be replaced. The next service 54 departs at 10:33.

Whilst the County Council investigates possible alternative links on service 355 (including taxibus facilities), Battle Area Community Transport will in January extend services to provide some journeys between Netherfield and Battle. These will provide a facility to visit Battle on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Mondays and Wednesdays these journeys will also serve Sainsbury's in St Leonards.

We hope you will appreciate that organising these new arrangements has added considerably to our work-load. This does make it difficult for us to be available to callers and to respond personally to individual concerns which are being raised by those who use these bus services. Our aim is, of course, to try to minimise the impact on service users of any changes. We expect to be able to announce the new arrangements in mid-December.

Neil Maguire
Team Manager, Public Transport Services

Looking for a local venue?

Looking for a local venue? Then look no further.

Framfield Church Hall has just undergone a major refurbishment programme and is the ideal venue for regular meetings, special occasions, corporate training, parties and village events. The hall typically seats up to 60 persons and has full kitchen facilities and facilities/parking for the disabled.

Hire Rates: £8.00/hour with reductions for regular users and church members.

Tel the Church Office for further details 01825 891090; visit the website www.framfieldchurch.org.uk or e.mail rev.chris@btinternet.com

BUS SERVICE REVISION - SERVICE 31

From East Sussex County Council 25.11.2013:

At the end of October we wrote to many of those on our distribution list for bus service information to say that Renown Transport Services had given notice on the contracts with East Sussex County Council to provide the following Rider bus services:

7/27/29: Hastings town services

54: Manor Park Estate – Uckfield Bus Station (09:05 journey only)

317: Heathfield town service

318: Uckfield – Framfield – Blackboys - Heathfield – Broad Oak – Burwash – Etchingham - Hurst Green

355: Heathfield – Cade Street – Punnett’s Town – Rushlake Green – Three Cups Corner - Brightling – Netherfield – Battle

Renown Travel Services has now informed us they will also be withdrawing two of their commercial services, from 5th January 2014:

95: Little Common (Cowdray Park) – Bexhill – Sidley – Ninfield – Catsfield – Battle – Conquest Hospital – St Leonards Sainsbury’s. This is the removal of their Mondays to Fridays service as service 95 on Saturdays already runs under contract to the County Council.

320: Upper Barnhorn - Little Common – Cooden – Bexhill High School – Ninfield – Ashburnham – Claverham Community College schooldays service.

As a result of our previous letter, a number of individuals and organisations have already made their views known to the County Council about the importance of public transport to their communities. I can confirm that following the latest decision by Renown, the County Council is now pursuing ways to replace all the above services. The costs of providing these replacement services will have to be affordable within the limits of our current budget, so it may be that the new services are not as comprehensive as those that they replace.

In efforts to provide replacement services, the County Council has been helped by a decision by theSussexBus.com to provide a service between Uckfield and Heathfield on Mondays to Fridays on a commercial basis. This will be to an hourly frequency as an extension to Service 31, which currently runs between Uckfield and Haywards Heath. Their new timetable is on the SussexBus website at: <http://www.thesussexbus.com/pdfs/service-31.pdf?v=6> and on the Parish Council website: <http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk/31%20Sussexbus.pdf> and will commence operation on 30 December. As a result of this development the County Council is seeking prices for a replacement to Service 318 between Heathfield and Hurst

Diary of Church Services

FEBRUARY 2014

02 Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

09 Fourth Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

16 Third Sunday before Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

4.00 pm ‘Messy Church’ for all the family

23 Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Morning Praise

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

MARCH 2014

02 Sunday next before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

09 First Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

16 Second Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

4.00 pm ‘Messy Church’ for all the family

- 23 Third Sunday Sunday of Lent**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 30 Fourth Sunday Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**
 10.00 am Café Service in the Memorial Hall
 (No evening service)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th MARCH 2014
 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 –
 FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk)
 Telephone/fax: (01825) 890182.
 Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net**

**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,
 East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk



You will now find it easier to report incidents of anti-social driving in Sussex. Sussex Police has re-launched Operation Crackdown - a system that enables anyone to report anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles, either online or by phone.

Anti-social driving can be driving that is careless, deliberately aggressive or dangerous. If you see this type of behaviour it is important that you report it, so it can be dealt with in the most appropriate way.

Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative supported by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP), Sussex Police and all local authorities in the county. It was first launched in 2002 as a way of reporting abandoned vehicles in Sussex, and was expanded in 2007 to cover anti-social driving reports.

The system for reporting anti-social driving has now been made simpler, to encourage members of the public to easily and quickly report this type of incident and users can now keep track of the progress of their case with a specific reference number provided.

Incidents can be reported, either via: www.operationcrackdown.org, or by calling 01243 64 22 22, for those who don't have access to the internet.

Members of the public who are reporting incidents must remember, where possible, the registration number of the vehicle, the make, model and the colour, so the police can identify the vehicle concerned and make contact with the offender.

Every report received through Operation Crackdown is viewed and a decision is made against set criteria on how best to deal with it. In the majority of cases a letter of advice is sent to the driver or rider, but a report to Operation Crackdown can also lead to arrest and possible conviction, depending on the seriousness of the offence".



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

2014 promises to be a very exciting year for us as we prepare to celebrate our 30th anniversary! Like our Facebook page or visit our website to keep up-to-date with our fun activities and community-oriented events.

This term's fun...

To celebrate Chinese New Year (the Year of the Horse, in case you're wondering), there has been an oriental theme to some of our activities this term. We've been playing Chinese instruments, and trying Chinese food. At the allotment, our bug hotel is taking shape nicely. We're also pebble painting, string gluing and cooking.

What's on for families in the area?

We now include details of family-friendly events in our weekly email newsletter. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, click on the "get newsletter" link at the bottom of our homepage at www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk. Don't forget to come along to our next coffee morning and open day. Details on our website!

Recycle for Blackboys

Having a sort out of old or unwanted clothes, textiles and pairs of shoes? As a registered charity, we do regular recycling collections to raise money for our activities. You can drop any donations off to us during school hours at Blackboys Village Hall. Call or email us if you'd like us to pick up from you.

A little bit about us

Blackboys Pre-School is open Monday to Friday during school term time 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 practices to activities and has a Forest School coordinator. More details in our prospectus, available to download from our website. To book your child in for a no-obligation free trial or to arrange a visit, call Jenny on 01825 891113 or email us at enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk.

PARISH CHURCH RESTORATION COMPLETED

In the Spring of 2012 we made a personal appeal to the residents of Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common, requesting your support for the Framfield Church Restoration Appeal.

Having lived and worked in this lovely parish all our lives, we share with you a love of our historic church building and an appreciation of the role it has played in parish life down through the centuries.

As explained at the launch of the appeal, work was needed in four main areas:

- Replacement/repair of the eight high-level nave clerestory windows
- Installation of an energy-efficient lighting system and replacement of outdated wiring
- Complete internal decoration of the church
- Renovation of the high level gutters on the church building and bell tower

The parish responded magnificently to the appeal and, after 18 months of fundraising, we met our £70,000 target. The restoration work began in September and was completed in early December, in good time for the Christmas services.

The church, re-decorated and with new lighting and restored windows and stone work, looks truly beautiful. However, this would not have happened without the financial support of many friends throughout the parish who so generously contributed to the appeal fund. So, on behalf of The Friends of Framfield Church, we would like to say a huge thank you for all your gifts, which have helped us turn a very ambitious project into reality.

Our renovated parish church is now a bright, welcoming place for services, concerts and community events over the coming years. But, just as importantly, the restoration also means that this historic building at the heart of our community can be handed on in good order for future generations to use and enjoy.

Do call in to the church and see the transformation for yourselves!

Peter Berry & Dixon Press

The Friends of Framfield Church

Uckfield MCS fundraising committee wish you a very Happy New Year.

2013 ended with a very successful week of collecting donations at Morrison's in Crowborough, where we were able to raise a grand total of £1500. On the last Saturday before Christmas, two of our team joined members of the Eastbourne group at the Arndale Shopping centre to collect money, while listening to the police choir singing carols. The festive spirit was fantastic with many people joining in the singing, and our share was £480.

We are now looking towards plans for 2014. We have at least 8 venues booked for providing tea and cakes during the summer. Our main event will be a Golf Day on Friday 13th June at Dale Hill, Ticehurst. If anyone is interested in taking part, could provide names of sponsors or auction prizes, please contact Ann Press. A Porsche with a full tank of petrol and insurance for a weekend has already been donated!

The Macmillan team provide high quality, up-to-date cancer information for cancer patients, their families and carers. All of their information is reviewed by people who have been affected by cancer and who understand what you are going through.

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



A very happy New Year to all who read this column and, indeed, to those who do not! I will not mention the events of the festive period, this is to remind you of our first event of 2014 – one of many interesting talks and visits, arranged by Fiona 'for your delight'.

On Wednesday, 19 February 2014, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, we will be hosting a Quiz Night - the first one last year proved to be a tremendous success that we felt we had to repeat it. Please join us for a fun, and informative, evening, either make up a table (6 maximum) or join others who are looking for partners – you will be given a warm welcome. Bring your supper, wine, cake etc, the Committee provides nibbles, tea, coffee and biscuits.

I look forward to seeing you at 7.30 pm.

ALAYNE JENKINS
Chairman
01825 890580

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May we at this stage say a big thank you to Parker Ceilings for donating ceiling tiles for the Village Hall, Blackboys.



FRAMFIELD
STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE
In aid of MacMillan Nurses

I would like to thank everyone who supported the “starry” Christmas tree and those who came to the service.

Special thanks to the following people:

Rob Newton for sorting out the Christmas tree
Stavertons Nursery for the tree
Peter Berry for taking the service
WI ladies for tea coffee etc
Mrs Davies for help with music etc
Framfield Parish Council for the hall

With everyone’s help we raised:
£196.00 for Uckfield Macmillan Nurses

Thank you for your support
Selina Allen



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**ADVERTISING IN THE
PARISH MAGAZINE**

It’s that time of year again when we will be renewing the adverts in the magazine. We only do this annually as we have a one-off print which keeps our overall printing costs down.

I will be sending letters out shortly to all current advertisers, but if you would be interested in placing an advert and haven’t done so before, could you please contact me, preferably by email.

ANN NEWTON – Parish Clerk
(01825) 890182
framfield.pc@virgin.net



MISSING TORTOISE ! Name: Jon Jon - Lost on Christmas Day! If you happen to find him in your garden, or under a pile of leaves can you please contact the Wills family on 01825 890115 or 07796002268. Thank you - he is greatly missed!
He is about 7 inches in length and is a Hermans Tortoise. As a pet he does not hibernate but may well do now he is roaming. Many thanks. Kim Wills

Nature Notes

We are experiencing a rather mild January this year. This is thanks to the tropical air whisking across the north Atlantic Ocean and picking up a great deal of moisture on its way. This moisture is being dropped on the British Isles making us all feel rather damp.

This offshore group of islands sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean protecting countries such as Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway from the full force of Atlantic winds and tidal surges. There are advantages and disadvantages to this. The advantages include good irrigation and generally mild weather that rarely gets too hot or cold. The disadvantages include the potential for floods and wind damage. In short we have a Maritime Temperate Climate, which has served us well in the past and generated a successful seafaring nation with fertile farms. No-one in this land is more than about 70 miles from the coast.

However, our close neighbours on the continent have a Continental Climate, and because of the enormity of the land mass from France to China, the sea has little influence on it. The consequence of this is that less moisture and wind get into the interior. This leads to greater heating in the summer with temperatures in some areas approaching 50⁰ Celsius and cooling in the winter, when the planet tilts Eurasia away from the sun and temperatures in some places drop to -50⁰ Celsius in the winter. Sometimes, the wind changes, and the continent has a greater influence on us than the ocean. When this happens we get a temporary heat wave in the summer or a rather cold spell in the winter as we did last year, and this carried on until well into April, during which the temperature did not exceed 6⁰ Celsius for several weeks.

All this influences our wildlife, and we have a biodiversity that is unique. Sea-birds and other wetland birds love the British Isles, and millions come to our shores and wetlands for the winter to escape the ice, which is one reason why an airport in the Thames Estuary would be a bad idea as the risk of bird-strikes would make low level flying there rather dangerous. The mild often damp summers mean that we have plenty of insects which attracts insectivorous birds such as swifts and swallows from Africa to come to our islands to breed. In short, in general, we have a rather interesting green and pleasant land!

Martyn Stenning



We are a community village Pre-School with our own purpose built premises, which are spacious, well-appointed and registered with Ofsted

The Pre-School is open weekdays from 07.45-6.00pm operates in line with the schools terms allowing for inset days where applicable.

Full Time Day Care for 2-4yrs
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Also now accepting Early Learning places for eligible 2yr olds

For details or to arrange a visit to discuss your individual requirements:

Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

The Friends of Framfield Pre-School will be holding a Jumble sale to raise funds for Framfield Pre-School on Saturday 15th March 2014 at 10.30-12.30 in Framfield Memorial Hall. We would be grateful to receive any donations of jumble from 8.30 am on the above date.

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

3rd FEBRUARY - Boccia (Bowls) and a further Visit from PCSO Police Woman Hannah Parks Framfield Memorial Hall – 2.30 pm

17th FEBRUARY - Talk from Sussex Wildlife Trust Speaking on the work that they do Framfield Memorial Hall – 2.30 pm

3rd MARCH - Games Afternoon = Mexican Train and Snakes and Ladders etc., etc., Framfield Memorial Hall – 2.30 pm

17th MARCH - Magic Lantern Show - Peter and Delia Gillies Framfield Memorial Hall – 2.30 pm

We are an Able Bodied over 60 Group that meets every other Monday or so, that does interesting activities, visits Local Gardens, has Outings, and generally has a fun time together. For more information ring: Sandy 01825 840648 - sandyrogers77@gmail.com

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BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our meeting in November with a talk about the Titanic proved to be extremely popular, with almost 60 members and visitors enjoying a very special evening.

In December members and guests again experienced a very different type of meeting. After a superb meal cooked in the village hall kitchen by our caterers we were treated to traditional Sussex musical entertainment, including a step dancer, as well as an informative talk about Scan Tester.

We do not have a meeting in January but for the next few months our meetings are as follows.

Tues 4th February – Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance

Tues 4th March – A Sussex Farm in the 50's – Ian Everest

Tues 1st April – Kent & Sussex Rogues – Chris McCooey

Our meetings are held in Blackboys Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 for 8pm start, unless otherwise stated. There is a charge of £3 for visitors and £1 for members. If you would like to know more about the above or are interested in other activities of the society, please contact the secretary on 01825890359 or email baturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Ann Turner, Secretary

FRAMFIELD STAGERS

Are you wondering what has happened to the Stagers this year? Well you are not alone. Unfortunately we have not been able to put on a show this year and we all miss it as much as anyone. We all feel very lost without all of the fooling around. Don't worry, we are still here and there will be a pantomime next year. Most of the old faces will be there, being as daft as ever, with some talented new ones. Look out for announcements later in the year and next February we will be back with a bang!
David: 01825 890632 (home); 01444 443030 (work); 07881 786785 (mobile)



Framfield & Blackboys WI

This is the time of year to meet up with family and friends. We held our second **Race Night**, which was so well supported it got the festive season off to a flying start. It was wonderful to see so many people from Framfield & Blackboys and surrounding villages joining in the fun. Many commented it was a great night, with a tasty Ploughman's Supper and the chance to win lovely raffle prizes.

Everyone who helped with organisation and setting up deserves a **really big thank you!** Our MC for the evening was Dave Jenner who again played a great role in the event's success.

We are so grateful for generous members, friends and local businesses who donated prizes and we raised over £450 for funds so we can make a donation to the Memorial Hall and Pre-school group and pay for guest speakers throughout the year.

In December members supported the Starry Christmas Tree Appeal Macmillan Nurses, serving refreshments after the lighting-up ceremony.

By the time you read this, we'll have had our New Year's Dinner at Blackboys Inn – a chance to catch up with everyone over a lovely meal.



And in April we visit **Highclere Castle**, as part of a varied events programme. We welcome visitors to meetings so ladies do come along on the second Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm – you can be a visitor for 3 months at £1 a meeting before deciding to join – or call our President **Delia for more details 01825 830319**

Cathy McDermott

2014 is already proving to be a fulfilling year. We are currently planning a 'How do we teach maths here at Blackboys School?' workshop for parents so that they can come and try out some of our resources and learn new strategies and techniques to support their child. We are also excited about raising funds for The Savannah Education Trust. The trust specialises in providing education for some of the poorest children in West Africa, as well as providing a school meal each day and funding for a number of teacher scholarships in an attempt to attract teachers to the remote and poor areas of West Africa. Finally budding footballers are excited by the weekly visits we will be receiving from a Football Association coach. Whether parents' washing machines are similarly enthusiastic remains to be seen!

Graham Sullivan (Head of School)

Bridge afternoon and tea in Framfield

Calling all bridge players!
A Bridge Afternoon and Tea will be held in
Framfield Church Hall on **26 March 2014**.

Time: **1.30pm** for **2.00pm** start. £30 per table, tea included in the price. There will be prizes and a raffle. Tables and score cards will be provided, but please bring your own playing cards.

To reserve your table and purchase tickets in advance contact Mary Short on 01825 890854.

Proceeds from this event will go to The Friends of Framfield Church.

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Woods Mill Pond is Back!

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Through the whole of last year the pond at Woods Mill, the headquarters of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, lacked a certain essential ingredient....water! Visitors to the reserve were surprised and disappointed as a dry arid former wetland came into view where a shimmering pond used to be and a number of disgruntled comments came our way.

We did do a lot of pre-publicity about why we drained the pond and once the reasons were explained many people understood but others remained disgruntled and no amount of explanation would pacify them, we had ruined the place! Well, I'm now pleased to announce that the pond at Woods Mill is now back to its former glory and contains that essential ingredient of water again; in fact it is looking a whole lot better than before as it no longer contains an un-essential ingredient, fish!

The pond had been stocked with fish way back in the late 1940s and was used for mainly carp fishing up to 1966 when the Trust acquired Woods Mill. Since then the carp population grew and grew until there was room for very little else so we finally decided to bite the bullet, drain the pond and remove the fish.

Now, one of the highlights for many people visiting the reserve was to come armed with loaves to feed the fish so one area of the pond became like a liquid bread pudding and the carp got more numerous, bigger and more demanding, leaving the pond largely devoid of any other wildlife.

Carp, for that is what they mainly were, are a non-native species and have been here since the Middle Ages. They are bottom feeding fish that can grow very big, they Hoover up much of the vegetation and any invertebrate life attached to it and take great delight in stirring up the mud at the bottom, leaving a muddy, murky vegetation sparse pond. In the past, the Trust has drained the pond down to the silt level but, amazingly, for such big fish, many managed to survive until the pond refilled, so this time the decision was made to bake it dry over the summer to ensure that nothing survived.

Last autumn, when the rains came, it slowly started to fill up. The muddy margins immediately attracted some birds and often a green sandpiper and a grey wagtail were seen picking off insects at the edges and by the end of the

successful performance of Camel Hot. This was an alternative version of the Christmas story performed alongside several other schools in the Big Sing at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne.

After much preparation and rehearsal all the children participated in "The Stars Come Out For Christmas". This gave all the children a chance to perform as well as remembering the true story of the first Christmas.

A huge thanks to all members of the local community for supporting all our events including the PTFA Bazaar. Thanks must also go to our PTFA for providing such an excellent party and contributing towards the cost of the pantomime Aladdin which was enjoyed by us all. They all work so hard and help us with providing all these wonderful enriching extras for our pupils.

This term has started well with the children learning about their new topics, ranging from the frozen cold, Ancient Egypt and India. If you have been fortunate enough to visit any of these places and could share your experiences with the children please do contact the school office.

Jacqueline Davies (Head of School)

Blackboys Church of England Primary School

The Christmas period in school is always a busy, yet rewarding time. The children all made a variety of gifts and cards to take home. I am sure parents received a delightful surprise on Christmas morning with all the hard work that went on—hammering noises, glitter and glue in places you would find it difficult to believe! Our KS1 pupils were amazing with their fantastic singing and acting! The story of the Nativity was told with the theme of journeys to mind. A special thank you to Miss Stevens and Miss Bodfish and the KS1 team and all our staff who always manage to make this time of year so special for both children and parents.

Many thanks to our wonderful PTA for all their support and fund-raising throughout the year; the Christmas Bazaar was a huge success and will support our work with fund-raising to refurbish our library.

The FAB Partnership! (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)

This last term was a really busy one for our partnership: although we have shared lots of staff meetings, and activities, 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. And how lovely to be able to celebrate this wonderful time of the year in our newly refurbished Church!

Both schools held Nativity Plays which were very well attended, and both schools had a Carol Concert at 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 old friends by now and have attended several joint staff meetings as well as a joint INSET with a number of other local schools as part of our Alliance work. We have a number of exciting joint events taking place this coming term including shared activity sessions, and visits! The Governing Bodies of both schools are also working closely together and meet regularly to discuss issues that are of interest to both schools - this saves time during Governors' meetings in individual schools and also supports joint activities.

We successfully established a joint choir with pupils from both schools under the leadership of Mrs Catherine Bayman; this choir has been established in memory of Rod Trickey who was so important to both villages and schools. We hope that the choir will continue and flourish and look forward to hearing them in their practices! Another successful joint event was the singing during Uckfield Late Night Shopping: although the schools sang during separate slots, pupils and staff and governors remained to support each other.

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

At the end of term 2 Christmas was celebrated in many different ways both in the school and the local community. Eagles class enjoyed entertaining the Monday Club at their Christmas party. They sang a range of songs from their very

year the pond was full. With the warm sunny days of October and November, there were still plenty of dragonflies about, mainly common darters and migrant hawkers of which dozens were paired up and deposited eggs in the water.

So the water is now crystal clear and I'm sure that, come the spring, the pond will be buzzing with activity and the overall diversity will be so much greater now there are no carp. We will, of course, be monitoring the growth to see what colonises the water and, as well as the much increased number of aquatic plants and insects, we hope to see a lot more amphibians as well and undoubtedly small native fish like sticklebacks and minnows will find their way in.

We have even managed to win over some of our detractors who have been back and seen the pond and now understand why we went through this process. However, we might still have one unhappy visitor should he come back next summer, the osprey that visited us in 2012 that I think helped himself to one or two of our carp! www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



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Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond

Christmas has come and gone and with it many memories of Christingle service, donkey walk around Blackboys, carol services and carol singing around the village. It all seems to pass so quickly and yet what a blessed time it was, we trust it was for you too. As a church we rejoice that the Jesus of Christmas is still with us.

New year, new term. Crusaders at Blackboys school continues on a Thursday after school, this term using the film "Tanglewood Secret" by Patricia St John as a basis for the club time.

Following the success of our very enjoyable men's breakfasts, which we launched last year, please find details below of our forth coming Saturday breakfasts.

As before these will take place at the Grove in Blackboys starting at 8.30am, with a delicious full cooked breakfast, orange juice, coffee/tea and toast all for £8.00. We then adjourn next door to Browning's Farm to listen to our guest speaker, and with questions afterwards we look to finish around 10.00am.

February 22nd with Mike Mckenzie. Until his retirement in 2003 Mike worked in the Higher Criminal Courts of England and Wales for over 42 years. For a number of years he was head of the Old Bailey where he was responsible for well-known trials of people like Jeremy Thorpe and the Yorkshire Ripper.

On March 29th we will be joined by Chris Siggs who was formerly in the Police but now runs and manages a local country estate.

We continue to meet every Sunday at 10.30am in Blackboys Village Hall.

For more information about the church or to book a place for a breakfast, please contact our pastor Rev Guy Partridge.

Email: guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com M: 07702 836057
New Life Church Blackboys, a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain,
Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NewLifeChurchBlackboys

NEWS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS.

ANN NEWTON – Wealden District Council

I thought it would be a good idea to have a regular slot in the magazine, particularly after the debacle with the refuse bins (!) to ensure that if anyone has any issues or queries they know who to contact with regard to representatives on our local authorities.

I am your Wealden District Councillor – my contact details are below. My Ward covers the civic Parish of Framfield (including Blackboys and Palehouse Common) and also Waldron. WDC covers many aspects of the District including refuse, planning, housing, benefits and licensing to name a few. Although the refuse service has been contracted out residents should contact me with any ongoing problems. Having chaired the Planning Committee in the North of the District for over three years, I am now the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development across the whole District – as you can imagine quite a daunting task.

I work closely with Chris Dowling on issues such as speeding through our villages and anti-social parking. Chris will be writing something for the magazine next time.

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.
Telephone - 01825 890103.
Email – ann.newton1965@virgin.net.

Chris is happy to be contacted on the details below -
Chris Dowling, 89 Hunters Way, Uckfield, East Sussex
Telephone - 01825 767695
Email - cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKETS

Sandy and Keith retired from running the Market in December – the total they raised over some seven years was £10,700.00 – all of which will go towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall.

We gave them a small send-off in December and they would both like me to convey their thanks to everyone concerned.

The Parish Council has taken over the running of the markets so that we can continue the process of raising funds for the Hall and to keep this social event going. Nothing will change and anyone wanting a stall or any other details should contact me.

I detail a list of meeting dates for 2014 below and would ask everyone who has been attending to continue to do so and we also encourage and welcome any newcomers.



January – no market.

22 February

22 March

26 April

24 May

28 June

19 July

August – no market.

27 September

25 October

13 December

Please contact Ann Newton with any queries – 01825 890182 or email framfield.pc@virgin.net

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Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Our AGM was held in January and a varied programme was introduced for the coming year which includes:

A talk by the league of friends of Uckfield Hospital.

A visit to the Ashdown Forest Centre.

Paint your own pottery

A recipe evening.

We will also have our usual meal out, a walk, barbeque and party.

We are a friendly group that like to raise money for various charities as well as having an enjoyable time. To find out more phone Val Peaty on 890677.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal.

The collection was £1,881.98, which is almost 10% more than last year. That is a great achievement, considering the general economic situation.

I am still very short of collectors and again have not been able to cover the whole parish. Two new collectors did come forward this year but two others were lost.

If you know of anyone who could spare a couple of hours to help next year perhaps we could get to every house in the parish.

I would also like to increase the number of home collecting boxes. These are simply boxes kept at home to collect your loose change. If you or any of your friends and neighbours would like a box please contact me. It is surprising how a few coins now and then can add up through the year.

Thank all again for your continued support and I hope that you will be able to help again next year.

David Jenner davidjenner@supanet.com 01825 890632 07881 786785

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

The Parish Council wishes everyone a happy New Year.

I thought I would give you an update on the borrowing approval/loan to enable the Council to update the three Parish Play areas.

I am still waiting on a Government decision as to whether parish councils are to be capped this year and the possible need for a referendum. By the time you read this article we should have a clearer idea and the Parish Council will have agreed to push ahead for a loan or not.

As mentioned previously a loan is available through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This mechanism has been used before by the Council and indeed is used by many other local authorities across the country.

Three quotes for the works have been obtained and the most suitable will be chosen. The amount of money required will be based on the scaled cost for the complete refurbishment of Framfield play area (the oldest and in need of most attention and serving the most residents) and partial refurbishments of Blackboys (which already has a more modern set of swings) and Palehouse Common (which serves fewer residents). The total monies required will then be calculated over the period of repayment (preferably 25 years) including interest accrued, and the amount of extra council tax this will cost each household annually – this now only looks like to be less than £10.00 a year, less than 25p per week and might in fact still be significantly less.

Play area equipment is now so prohibitively expensive, the Parish Council will not be able to sustain any of the sites much longer without the facility of a loan and they will have to sadly be decommissioned.

The Framfield Playground Action Group (FPAG) are also continuing to raise funds to buy any little extras to help enhance the refurbishment of Framfield play area so they should be thanked for their efforts on behalf of the people of Framfield.

If anyone requires a full hard copy of the minutes for any of the Council meetings please let me know. All our meeting details are available on our website – www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine).

Messages will be picked up during office hours.

Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net.

Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

