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

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

APRIL/MAY 2014

HAMMONDS GREEN, FRAMFIELD, UCKFIELD TN22 5QH

**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: 2013 - Violet (Nan) Gilbertson**
31st January: Norman George Packham
24th February: Beatrice (Betty) Mabel Batchelor
24th March: Alexander Francis (Frank) King-Mason

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Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0345 6080193

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Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Trading standards (consumer issues): 01323 418200

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Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

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HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
SPECIFIED

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.*

Understanding Easter

Writing the Easter message is one of the most challenging ones to write. In essence my thought processes are basically - what can I write about Easter that you haven't read before; the danger that with the familiar you may not get past the first few lines! Secondly, could I write something that everyone can engage with, that hopefully will leave a deposit in your hearts so that you can think it through and come to a reasoned decision as to whether you could accept Christ or not?

In my experience in this fast paced world in which we live we spend precious little time to think about things that really matter. I don't know about you but whenever I make a quick decision it is usually a wrong one. In the end it either costs me financially or emotionally or perhaps both. I have certainly discovered over the years that I have accumulated a vast amount of emotional baggage. Some due to my own shortcomings, ignorance or poor decisions, some due to outside pressures that have been put upon me. All of you reading this will have similar stories. The things you wish you had never done or the things that were done to you or the situations you found yourselves in that were neither wholesome nor healthy.

As life goes on how many of us wish we could just start again? Given the choice would you have worked harder in school; chosen a different career; married a different person or lived in another place etc - the list can be a long one, but it can be very hard to live with regret for what might have been. Hindsight can be a wonderful thing but it can also be a curse.

The majority of us are familiar with the story of Adam and Eve and that fateful day in the Garden of Eden when they ate the forbidden fruit. God had given them everything but the one thing they were told not to touch they did. Giving into temptation can have serious consequences. Despite God warning them that if they did 'they would surely die' it was not sufficient to keep them from finding out. It was not logical to the mind of Adam and Eve that eating fruit would cause them to die because they didn't yet understand that God meant spiritual death, not physical death. This was the point that sin entered the world. Man going his own way, making his own decisions and disregarding godly counsel. Ultimately, everyone since the time of Adam has been tainted with Adam's folly and continues to pay the price for being separated from the life of God. Life was not meant to be difficult or stressful. Life was to be enjoyed and celebrated, hand in hand with our Creator. Unfortunately, there was nothing that man could do to put right Adam's folly. Plenty have tried and continue to try through good works or religious observance. There may be a 'feel good' factor in this but it is no more effective than attempting to bail out the sinking Titanic with a saucepan. The logical question needs to be asked - how can the spiritually dead be brought back to life?

The dead cannot help the dead so another way must be sought. It is only in the loving kindness and mercy of God that the seemingly impossible is made possible and this is the point of Easter. The original sin of Adam has to be forgiven and in effect 'paid for' or redeemed, so that humanity can reconnect to the life of God. Additionally, our own individual sin, that we are justifiably responsible for also needs to be atoned for or as St Paul states 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'(Romans 3:23).

In scripture Jesus is contrasted with Adam - Don Stewart puts it like this:-

Adam, the first human, was created perfect from the dust of the ground. But Adam disobeyed and brought sin into the world. Jesus is the "last Adam" in the sense that He was the last man who did not have a sin nature. Although He was like Adam in that He did not have a sin nature He was different from Adam in that Jesus was from heaven. Consequently Jesus (the God-man) was able to offer himself as the sinless sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Perhaps we can now come to see and appreciate how much God loves the human race which he created for himself and the love that He has for each one of us. St John puts it like this:- 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16). Who else would allow themselves to go through the horror of crucifixion if it were not an act of pure love? There never was a 'Plan B' in God's economy - only a pure sacrifice would be acceptable and in this respect logic dictates that only God in his purity and self-sacrifice could get the job done.

The first Easter is associated with the symbol of the cross. It was the place of execution for Jesus but whenever I see it also reminds me of cross-roads. When we are driving around and arrive at a cross-roads we have to decide on which road we are going to take. Metaphorically, are we going to keep travelling in the save old direction or are we going to take a new road and see where that leads?

The fallacy of the human heart is that it likes to cling to the familiar. I've known men and women who have continued to live in abusive relationships because, bad though it is, it's familiar to them and in a weird way acceptable - you know what you are going to get! There is a fear that if you leave, you may get into a situation that is worse than your previous one. However, with God He always brings you to a place that is much better. If you allow Him too, He will heal the past and give you a fruitful future above and beyond your expectations. Reconnecting with God is not a 'leap in the dark' sort of faith but a reasonable step based on solid evidence. So my question is - this Easter are you willing to take a small risk and allow God into your life?

True love really is there for the asking!

Happy Easter and abundant blessings to one and all – *Revd Chris Lawrence*

Operation Crackdown

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
[Twitter: @BlackboysPreSch](https://twitter.com/BlackboysPreSch)
www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

Due to the popularity of the Pre-School, we now only have limited availability on certain days. If you'd like to have a look around, our next coffee morning and open day from 9.15am – 11.30am on 1 May is a great opportunity to have a look around. Or ring us during school hours and we'll arrange a time for you to visit.

This term's fun...

Now that spring is here we are spending lots of time up at our allotment. Our Forest School activities continue apace and we are managing to enjoy our lovely outside area. Like our Facebook page or visit our website to keep up-to-date with our fun activities and community-oriented events.

Our Gruffalo Walk and family fun day this year is on 17 May. Put the date in your diary. It promises to be lots of fun for all the family. Details of our events are on our website.

What's on for families in the area?

We include details of family-friendly events in our weekly email newsletter. To subscribe, click on the "get newsletter" link at the bottom of our website.

Recycle for Blackboys

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 Blackboys Pre-School

Open Monday to Friday during school term time from 8.45am to 3.30pm, Blackboys Pre-School applies Montessori principles and practices to activities and provides a nurturing environment for children aged between 2 and 5 in a fabulous rural setting. 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.

Diary of Church Services

APRIL 2014

06 Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

13 Palm Sunday

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

There will be Meditations on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week (14th, 15th & 16th) at 7.00 pm for 30 minutes in the Gage Chapel.

17 Maundy Thursday

8.00 pm Holy Communion (CW)

18 Good Friday

No service. We are joining the Churches in Uckfield (CiU) Walk of Witness up the High Street & Service in Post Office Square. Meet at 10.00 am in the URC for Hot X Buns & Coffee.

20 Easter Day

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Festival Communion (CW)
Please note: No 'Messy Church' this month

27 Second Sunday of Easter

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

MAY 2014

04 Third Sunday of Easter

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



- 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
 10.00 am Family Service
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
 4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)**
11.00 am Morning Praise (*followed by lunch 12.30pm*)
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th MAY 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

Dear Members – since I last wrote we have hosted the second Quiz Night, which I hope will become a permanent fixture – another successful and fun evening.

We have many interesting, and varied, talks each month, which are always well attended – however, there is always room for more people and guests are most welcome.

With the arrival of warmer, and drier, weather our gardens are showing welcome signs of growth. I do hope you are appreciating the lovely patches of daffodils throughout the Parish, which were supplied and planted by the Society last Autumn.

Another happy note (no pun intended) is the dawn chorus, as I write commences at 5.45 am – an absolute joy.

I wish you well.

ALAYNE JENKINS

Chairman

01825 890580

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

Call Sarah on: 01825 890943
www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who helped & supported the Jumble Sale in March.



Village Show 2014 World War One Centenary Project - Help needed

As this year marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War there will be a display to commemorate the fallen from this parish at this year's summer show.

A lot of work has been done to research the military history of the names on the tablet in the church and also on the memorial hall and this will be available to view at the show.

I am trying to gather as much information as possible about these men and would love to hear from anybody who has a personal link to them to help us to discover more about them.

If you have any mementoes, photos, letters or information about any of them, no matter how small, that we could use to add to their stories, please contact me and we will endeavour to include this in our display.

Please call David Smith on 01825 890391 (evenings and weekends) or 07980 791067 (daytime)

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: £9.00/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

Many of our fundraising committee attended a Musical Magic evening in March, held at Heathfield Community College and organised by Heathfield and Waldron Rotary Club. The evening featured the Uckfield Singers who, during their performance, sang songs from Les Miserables and Heathfield Silver Band who finished with a rousing "Sussex by the Sea"! The concert was a great success and at the end we received a cheque on behalf of Cancer Macmillan Support for £1000. A reminder that our Golf Day is on Friday 13th June and anyone interested in taking part, or able to provide a name of a sponsor, or an auction prize, should contact Ann Press.

Everyday 24 people in Sussex hear the devastating news they have cancer and 13 people die from the illness. This will see the country's population of people with cancer almost double between 2010 and 2030. Macmillan is working hard to raise £3.7 million to fund the Sussex Cancer Support Centre in Brighton, set to open in spring 2015. The Centre is a partnership between Macmillan Sussex Cancer Fund and Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

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

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

7th April - Chairbased Activities with Louise Knight
at Buxted Pavilion - 2.30 pm

28th April - Cream Tea at Barnsgate Manor - 2,30pm

12th May - OUTING - by Coach to Eastbourne, for Afternoon Tea 1 pm
Victorian Tea Rooms on the Pier

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



Messy Church! *Fun for all the family.*
SUNDAY 18th MAY @ 4.00 pm
(Please gather and register in the church)

***Messy Craft activities and Songs, followed
by the most filling and delicious afternoon
tea.***

***Don't miss out and do join us, with your friends too. We look
forward to seeing you!!!***

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Chris Macve from The League of Friends of Uckfield Hospital came to talk to us in February about the help that they give to the hospital and to accept our cheque for £350. They were meeting in March and will find out what is on the hospitals wish list. Most recently they have provided funds for a new x-ray machine, which is in use six days a week, and the lounge area for patients has been enlarged. They provide smaller up to date equipment for visiting consultants which is not available from the NHS. The hospital is well used. GP's send patients there for minor operations from as far as Seaford.

We have decided for our main charity this year, to support East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service.

In April we will be going out for a meal with partners and in May we will have a walk which will finish at a pub! If you would like to join us phone Val Peaty on 890677.

TN22 Club **TN22 Plus Club**

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Local charity, Engage South East, operates two clubs, both of which offer a freshly prepared two course lunch, and meet on Wednesdays at Hadlow Down Village Hall:

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- The new TN22 Plus Club provides tailored support for those with memory loss or dementia with the benefit of specially designed activities.
- Transport can be arranged upon request.

To find out more about the service, pricing details or to book a place please call: **07864 533884**

If there is no one available to take your call, please leave a message as we aim to respond to all calls within 48 hours.

website: www.engagesoutheast.org.uk
e-mail: enquiries@engagesoutheast.org.uk

LOTTERY FUNDED

The Henry Beal's Charity
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ENGAge South East
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I quite often receive enquiries from people trying to trace ancestors and have recently received an email from a lady in Australia who is going to visit Sussex in the Spring. She is a descendant of the Faulkner family who lived in Blackboys, and Framfield area in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of them worked as Blacksmiths and some went to Blackboys school. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows of any possible relatives/descendants, particularly if they still live locally

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st April and Chris McCooley will be talking about Kent and Sussex Rogues. Last year we had to cancel a speaker at short notice but those of you who were disappointed will be pleased to know that on 6th May David Martin will be our speaker and his topic is Sussex Timber Framed Buildings.

You might like to put a date in your diaries now about our November 4th meeting which will be a return visit by Ian Everest. This time his subject will be The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

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

Smartphone user? Scan the QR code for Framfield church website below



PS If you don't already have a QR reader app, don't forget it is free.

Nature Notes

What a contrast with last winter! In 2012/13 we had snow, ice and cold winds. In 2013/14 we had rain, rain and more rain accompanied by strong mild SW winds and hardly any frosts. Now we are getting temperatures of 18⁰C and more, when last year the temperature did not rise above 6⁰C until well into April.

I am seeing brimstone butterflies almost every day now; the male is bright sulphur yellow, and the female much paler and almost white. Their caterpillar food plants include buckthorn, spindle and privet. Another early butterfly that I am looking out for is orange tip. Again, it is the male that lives up to its name and has orange tips on its wings; the female has just black edges to its forewings. Both males and females have greenish speckled hind-wings. The food plant of this butterfly is ladies smock, also known as milkmaids. This is the lovely purple crucifer (cress) related to watercress. This flower is just appearing now, and is common in wet ground, indeed it is a sign of water underground such as a spring or drainage system. I am also frequently seeing peacock and tortoiseshell butterflies. These two species have caterpillars that feed on stinging nettles, and are two further harbingers of the reawakening of nature that is happening right now (mid-March).

Spring is turning out about as good as it could be at present, with long periods of blue sky and warming sun stretching each day a little longer, about half an hour per week. 21st March is the spring equinox when day equals night everywhere on the planet. Suddenly, our resident dawn chorus of blackbird, robin, songthrush, chaffinch, wren, dunnoek, blue tit, great tit, coal tit, skylark, green and great-spotted woodpeckers, carrion crow and woodpigeon birdsong will be augmented by our summer visitors from warmer climes, such as chiffchaff, willow warbler, blackcap, whitethroat, swallow, garden warbler, nightingale and cuckoo. In May the swifts will arrive, and these aerobatic aviators will be swooping around the houses of Uckfield screaming as they go. I had a report today (March 16th) of a probable juvenile red kite in the Framfield area, so please keep an eye out for that. This enigmatic and large raptor is not actually red, but mainly brown with a rufous tail in the adult. Juveniles are paler buff coloured, and tend to roam in first year.

Martyn Stenning

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

NEWS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS.

ANN NEWTON – Wealden District Council

As mentioned last month, I thought it would be a good idea to have a regular slot in the magazine, to ensure that if anyone has any issues or queries they know who to contact with regard to representatives on our local authorities.

This month I would like to let everyone know that following on from the debacle with the bins, WDC have negotiated with Kier a compensatory package. This year, each District Councillor is to receive an amount of money (in my case approximately £2,200) to spend on ‘good causes’ in the Parish. This can be via the Parish Council or not, as the case may be. If anyone has any ideas or knows of any Parish organisations which could do with some financial help please let me know. The money has to be allocated by the end of December 2014.

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

Chris Dowling, 89 Hunters Way, Uckfield, East Sussex
Telephone - 01825 767695
Email - cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - FRAMFIELD & BLACKBOYS BRANCH

Membership of the Royal British Legion in the Parish has been sadly depleted in recent years and we would welcome new members. Membership is open to all, whether or not you have served in HM Forces

We also need help with the annual Poppy Appeal. Could you spare some time in early November to cover a small area of the parish with a house to house collection? If you wish to be a member or if you can help with the Poppy Appeal please contact David Jenner on 01825 890632; 07881 786785 or davidjenner@supanet.com

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Homage to the Volunteer by Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

A much anticipated package arrived at Woods Mill for me the other week, something I have been eagerly anticipating since 2007 in fact. It was a book; *The Birds of Sussex* produced by the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) and is the result of four years surveying birds in Sussex. The surveying was carried out by hundreds of volunteers in the County, and I'm very proud to say that I made my own tiny contribution to this fabulous and informative book.

In fact, this mighty tome is just part of the UK Bird Atlas 2007-2011 a complete survey of the birds of this country and Ireland organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). This four year survey involved collating, interpreting and then producing a definitive Atlas for the birds of the UK at the present time. A staggering one hundred million plus individual records were submitted from over 40,000 volunteers to provide such a complete picture of our avifauna.

So this article pays homage to the wonderful contribution that volunteers play in the conservation of wildlife in Britain, not just with this project but right across the environmental movement. It is this volunteer involvement that underpins the whole of conservation in the UK and really sets us apart from most other countries in the world when it comes to the preservation of our wildlife. All the major conservation organisations in Britain began as volunteer groups and while they have all grown enormously during their lifetime, volunteering is still fundamental to all of them. There is now also a strong professional conservation input but this enables even more voluntary effort to be co-ordinated in the fight to conserve our precious wildlife. The Sussex Wildlife Trust is still very much a partnership of professional staff and volunteers with over 500 volunteers contributing to the work that we do throughout Sussex.

Back to the *Birds of Sussex* and the SOS. This is an entirely volunteer based project and publication, from the hundreds of people going out and surveying their 'patch' and then submitting their individual records,



Framfield & Blackboys WI

It was certainly an *Up-Beat* evening when **Neil Sadler** reported for duty to regale members with witty disarming humour as our monthly speaker. With 30 years on the force Neil, now retired, had many salutary stories to share involving the criminal fraternity. He shared examples of unusual and interesting objects employed during a career which ranged from Sussex to Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi and Bognor Regis. These included unwieldy old-style truncheons to unreliable handcuffs, and gave a fascinating insight into the high-tech gadgetry and protective clothing used by contemporary officers.



On a musical note, **John Cave** of Seaford Folk Club serenaded members in March with his take on the songs of Jake Thackeray, Terry Garoghan and Richard Stilgoe, interspersed with his own material including jokes and poetry. John is a regular at Folk Clubs, Festivals and Eastbourne's Underground Theatre where his new CD was produced from a live performance.



Themes for future speakers include expert gardening advice (April 8th) and a stimulating presentation about the nature of time on June 10th. You can also learn about the exciting new range of educational courses available at the WIs **Denman College** - everything from Italian cookery to Tai Chi - from which members can benefit. **Why not join as a visitor to our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm? You'll be most welcome to join for 3 months at only £1 a meeting – contact our President Delia on 01825 830319. Cathy McDermott**

assembly. Class 3 are a little closer to home, learning about Sussex and Blackboys and becoming expert map readers. Their parents will thank us on those long drives in the summer holidays. Are oldest pupils, in Class 4, are studying India and are looking forward to a trip to Café Rasoi in Heathfield to sample some authentic Indian cooking.

During half term, our popular Class 3 teacher Miss Neill, was married. The school community wished her and her husband Christopher a happy day, while the class practiced getting used to calling her Mrs Bains.

We have some very exciting events planned between now and the Easter break. World Book Day will be celebrated with the children dressing as their favourite book character, Sport Relief will see a tough match between the school netball team and the staff team and we end the term with an Easter Service at St Thomas a Becket.

Thank you for your continued interest in Blackboys School. Should you wish to contact our school office then please email office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk or phone 01825 890423.

Mr G Sullivan: Head of School



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year Christian Aid Week begins on 11 May, and once again we are inviting everyone to put a little money into that red envelope which will drop through your letter-box. Christian Aid is an organisation that works globally to eradicate the causes of poverty, trying to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. Usually, Christian Aid works with local partner organisations. For example, in Lebanon, Association Najdeh is working with families who have had to leave their homes in Syria and are left with nothing. There are 900,000 refugees in Lebanon now. Christian Aid has raised £2,182,007 so far to provide food, health and hygiene kits along with social and psychological support.

Christian Aid is thankful that in 2013 our Parish contributed £198.24 towards Uckfield and District's £3,310. You can share in the effort this year by filling your envelope and taking it to one of our collection points which you will find listed on the label.

Thank you - *Derek Thorogood*

to the people inputting that data, interpreting its meanings, comparing it with information from previous surveys and then producing the maps and text to provide a very informative and meaningful summary of each species recorded in Sussex. In addition, there are also chapters on habitat and landscape, climate change, migration and ringing records and conservation of birds throughout the County. The book has been co-ordinated by a dedicated band of SOS members, and then drawn together superbly by the editor, Adrian Thomas.

It is a book with a much wider appeal than just to birdwatchers. The individual style of the authors and the clear presentation of the information make it very readable, though it is one to dip into rather than read from cover to cover. Just before the book goes into the summary for each individual species, there is a chapter highlighting the winners and losers regarding birds in the county. Not surprisingly, the science confirms the declining species that many of us were aware of, tree sparrow, lesser spotted woodpecker, turtle dove and willow tit that looks to be extinct in Sussex now. To balance things out though, we have gained little egret, marsh harrier, siskin and Mediterranean gull in the last 30 years.

The Birds of Sussex is a fantastic achievement and well worth getting hold of a copy, which you can do by visiting the SOS website at www.sos.org.uk or ringing their Treasurer on 01903 745166.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



MISSING TORTOISE ! Name: Jon Jon - Lost on Christmas Day!

I thought you might like to hear our good news! Jon Jon turned up on Friday 21st February in the next door neighbours' garden, basking in a patch of sunlight! He has now warmed up and is eating and drinking, so happy days!

Many thanks. Kim Wills

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

KEEP FIT FOR THE OVER SEVENTIES

If you want to be fit, flexible and slim in your mature years, I know the answer. There is no need to go to the gym, or slimming club. You do not have to attempt complicated exercises to music at the local fitness class, which are demoralising and embarrassing.

There are just a few requirements. Ideally you need to live somewhere hilly, surrounded by mud, soggy fields and wild woodland. The most important piece of equipment is a very large hairy dog, I can recommend a Newfoundland. This canine coach will demand that exercise is taken every day whatever the weather. With clubs there is always the temptation to sneak off to devour a cream cake and coffee instead of going to the keep fit class.

To those of you who are considering this new beneficial activity I will give you an idea of how I keep fit. The day starts with a healthy walk, puffing up hills and across the fields. Having ones feet sucked down into the mud at every step, I am sure, helps the leg muscles. Deep snow has the same effect. Ice helps with balancing skills as you slip and slide precariously down the hill. Just walking is obviously not enough, so I do some stretching and bending, climbing stiles and gates and crawling under barbed wire fences. One of my favourite places is a fence where I have to lie on my back and slide underneath. I sometimes wonder what will happen if I get my coat caught and find myself trapped, unable to move.

The local woodland provides an excellent assault course where I have to scramble over or under tree trunks and avoid boggy patches. This also has the added thrill of a water logged tree crashing down, excellent for speeding up the heart! Winter weather is of course ideal for a good work out, but summer can still provide some challenging opportunities. Rabbit holes, craftily hidden under grass or bracken, and the rampant brambles that sneak across the woodland paths are ready to trip up an unsuspecting walker.

Do not imagine that your exercise session has ended when you get home. Thoughts of relaxing with a nice cup of tea and something to eat must be strictly banished. The canine coach is covered with mud and needs washing and drying, the long thick Newfoundland fur provides an excellent opportunity for lengthy spells of bending twisting and stooping. On a really good day your exercise coach will stand patiently until the cleaning is completed, then quick as a flash, will leg it off through the wood

Many thanks for all the continuing support you give both our schools – it is very much appreciated

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)

Framfield Church of England Primary School

All the children have been busily learning about different cultures and places this term: for example Peacocks and Kingfishers have been learning about the “Frozen Cold” . In Puffins class the children are becoming experts on Ancient Egypt as well as Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius, and Eagles have learnt a range of Asian folk dances, and made self -propelled rickshaws and snake charmers as part of their “Bollywood and Beyond” topic.

We have said goodbye to Mrs Emerson who has been enthusiastically teaching in both Kingfishers and Eagles classes since last May. We wish her well in her new post and hope she will return for supply cover to continue her love of DT and playing the pennywhistle!

We are currently preparing for our Road Safety Week which we hope will make a real difference to the problems that can develop when mixing traffic and children at the start and end of the school day. We will also be celebrating World Book Day as part of our Book Week in March and are looking forward to a variety of exciting activities that will further develop our pupils' love of reading.

Thank you for all your support from us all at Framfield School. Should you wish to contact our school office then please email office@framfieldcep.e-esussex.sch.uk or phone 01825 890258.

Mrs J Davies: Head of School

Blackboys Church of England Primary School

The children at Blackboys School returned from the Christmas break keen and raring to go and have been hard at work learning new things. Our youngest pupils in Class 1 are learning about cold places and have been spellbound by heroic stories of Scott and Amundsen racing across Antarctica. In complete contrast, Class 2 are learning about tropical rainforests and recently entertained their parents with an informative

The FAB Partnership! (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)

I constantly seem to be saying how busy the terms are, and term 3 has been no exception! Both schools have been working very hard with their Alliance colleagues on further developing teaching and learning as well as organising events with neighbouring schools that enrich our pupils.

We have had some very successful joint information workshops for parents including one on bullying – what it is and how it presents itself – as well as some curriculum workshops run in each school to help parents to support their children's learning at home. These have all been well-attended and it was good to see parents from both schools discussing issues of mutual concern.

Our youngest pupils have worked very successfully together this last term; their project culminated in a joint presentation and workshop at Blackboys School where a variety of activities were shared by pupils and parents and our pupils took on the roles of teachers for a while. Refreshments were available including ice-cream made by the children themselves. It was a really enjoyable event and made especially so by the obvious enjoyment of the children developing their relationships with their partnership friends.

Both schools are of course very keen to further improve the standard of reading in school; with this in mind, we are asking anybody in the Parish who might perhaps have some time to spare to offer their services in hearing pupils read – it really does make such a difference! The sessions can be organised in a very flexible way to suit the individual – several short sessions on a weekly basis for a period of 3 – 4 weeks, or a regular spot once a week. We would be very grateful for your support – it could really help open up the world of books to some of our children. Please contact either school locally – either by phone or e-mail. The details will follow updates from the Heads of School below.

We realise that parking and traffic is a problem at both villages: the two schools are very aware of these issues and are working hard with local authorities and businesses to try to ease the problem. We never just ignore concerns and are doing our best to make life easier for both villages; please do not hesitate to contact either school should you have any problems, or indeed if you have any ideas on how we can work together to solve these problems.

near the house to chase something. She then saunters back happily oozing mud so the whole operation has to start again. This has another advantage of teaching rage control!

The daily workouts continue indoors, washing filthy floors and walls that the dog has helpfully provided. Carrying many buckets water is very good for the arm muscles.

Ahh, I can imagine you thinking, you must have a nice relaxing time in the evening when all the work is done. Don't you believe it! Exercises continue until bed time. It does help to have a cottage with very small rooms, lots of doors and a tiny hall. Chloe, the helpful Newfoundland, likes to lie in the kitchen where she can block off all the doors. Crafty tactics are needed to move this heavy rather stiff dog so we can access the pantry etc. After dinner we retire to the sitting room and log burner. There is no slouching on the sofa for long. I sit on the floor while Chloe lies beside me, pinning my legs down with her huge head. Soon she gets too hot so I struggle up and let her through to the hall. She cools down by lying upside down, all four paws in the air. She completely blocks off the kitchen, stairs and dining room. You should try carrying a tray full of plates from the dining room, down a step, then climbing over a sleeping dog to reach the kitchen! These final exercises for the day are the most complex, requiring thought, balance and dexterity to avoid falling over the canine obstruction; but I'm sure she keeps me fit!

Hazel Carter

01825830477
info@hazel-carter.co.uk
www.hazel-carter.co.uk

Horam & Heathfield Flower Club
presents a floral demonstration
by Mrs Susan Tausig
'Magical Musical Moments'
On Thursday evening 8th May 2014
Commences at 7.30pm at Heathfield Community Centre,
Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield
refreshments - raffle - sales table
Visitors welcome £5 Ring tel: 01435 810452
Optional competition: Portrait of Spring

Changes to the concessionary bus pass scheme Effective from 1 April 2014

On 10 December 2013 East Sussex County Council's cabinet voted to press ahead with a series of changes aimed at reducing the authority's transport budget over the next three years. This includes changing the start time at which concessionary bus pass holders can use their pass on weekdays. From 1 April 2014 this will move from 9am to 9.30am, in line with national rules. A concession which allows concessionary pass holders in Lewes district to travel for free on dial-a-ride services, a legacy of former district funding, will also be removed, bringing Lewes into line with the rest of the county.

The entitlement to free travel for elderly and disabled residents is set by the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 ('CBTA'). The CBTA defines the minimum travel concession that must be provided, although local authorities may offer concessions beyond the minimum if they wish. The national standard concession enables journeys to be started between 9.30am and 11pm on normal weekdays and at any time at weekends or on public holidays, between places in England and on eligible services. Most local transport authorities use the 9.30am national standard start time; however the practice in East Sussex has been to permit free travel from 9am. Moving the start time to 9.30am brings practice in East Sussex in line with our neighbouring authorities of Kent and West Sussex.

As you may be aware, the County Council has already seen a £31 million reduction in funding since April 2010 and is facing a further £78.5 million reduction over the next three financial years. The scale of this financial challenge means that the County Council needs to do things differently and become more tightly focused on our priorities. The decision to change the start time from 9am to 9.30am has not been taken lightly and has been consulted on twice in the last 3 years; between November 2010 and January 2011 and again in July and August 2013.

As part of the latest consultation in 2013 we asked respondents to tell us about the impact a change to the start time would have on their lives. Respondents told us that they were more concerned that the bus services were still available to them rather than that they started half an hour later and that they would be prepared to pay a contribution towards the fares.

the Parish which may be included under this bracket – houses/areas of historical interest etc. If anyone would like to get involved in this work please let me know.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Lastly we have three vacancies on the Parish Council, so if anyone would be interested in becoming a parish councillor please, again, contact me in the first instance.

Meeting dates for the rest of the year

On each date detailed below, three meetings will be held as follows (although the Planning Committee may be cancelled if not essential):

- Planning Committee - commencing at 6.30 pm
- Trust - commencing at 7 pm
- Parish Council - commencing at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 25 March (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 April (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 27 May (BB Trust) (PC AGM) and Annual Assembly (8 pm)*	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 24 June (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 29 July (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
August	

No meeting

Tuesday, 30 September (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 28 October (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 25 November (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
	No meeting

December

*The Annual Assembly (Annual Parish Meeting) will be held at 8 pm after the PC AGM on Tuesday, 27 May 2014.

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 and noticeboards.

ANN NEWTON/March 2014

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

Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT



PLAY AREAS

In January Councillors set the budget and precept for 2014/15. This took into account the increase necessary to pay back the loan required to refurbish the three play areas. Borrowing approval has been granted by the DCLG.

Detailed below is the budget required to cover a loan of £80,000 with a payback period of 20 years. The Parish Council agreed a precept of £50,198. This equates to an increase to a Band D Council tax payer of £6.80 per year far less than originally anticipated.

	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
Ordinary Precept	46,200.00	46,200.00
New Loan (£80k)		5,865.00
Total Budget Requirement	<u>46,200.00</u>	<u>52,065.00</u>
Council Tax Support Grant	<u>2,196.00</u>	<u>1,867.00</u>
Precept	<u>44,004.00</u>	<u>50,198.00</u>
Council Tax Base	869.1	874.1
Band D parish Council Tax	50.63	57.43
Increase £		6.8
Increase %		13.4%

Wicksteed Playscapes have been chosen as the preferred contractor. Their price was the best and they offered a 'package' if the Council chose them for the three sites. Wicksteed have an excellent reputation and I have worked with them before. If all goes according to plan, we could have the play areas complete by the summer – this will be weather dependent of course. All the details and illustrations of the proposals are on our website.

FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL CAR PARK

The Council has received many complaints about non-users of the Hall parking their cars in the car park. This is not a public car park and only for those using the Hall. Please don't put people off using the Hall because of lack of parking space.

Wealden District Council – DELIVERY AND SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN

At the February PC meeting Planning Policy Officers from WDC gave a presentation on the next phase of the Local Plan. A general overview of the work to be carried out was discussed and most importantly what the implications for Framfield Parish will be. Countryside policies prevail over all areas of the Parish, although this involves business policies, protection of community facilities, potential gypsy and traveller provision, tourism policies, renewal energy provision and relevant infrastructure to name but a few. One of the main items for Framfield is a review of the Framfield Conservation Area and potential identification of any other areas in the Parish which may be included under this bracket – houses/areas of historical interest etc. If anyone would like to get involved in this work please let me know.

In 2011 the County Council decided not to make any changes to the 9am concessionary start time. However, changes to the County Council's financial situation have meant that the County Council must now remove this discretionary concession from 1 April 2014. The change to the start time of the concessionary fare scheme means that from 1 April 2014 concessionary pass holders will need to pay for any journeys taken before 9.30am.

In 2012/2013 over 8 million bus journeys were made by concessionary pass holders in East Sussex. The County Council has to reimburse bus operators for the cost of the journeys travelled by concessionary pass holders, at a cost to the County Council of over £7.0m per annum.

Councillor Carl Maynard Lead Member for Transport & Environment

Phone: 0345 60 80 194 Email: publictransport.pts@eastsussex.gov.uk
National bus information Traveline Phone: 0871 200 2233 Website: www.traveline.info

Heathfield & District Horticultural Society

MONDAY 14th April 2014

Commencing at 7.30pm

at St Richard's Church Hall,

Park Road, Heathfield presents

an illustrated talk by Melvin Smith

'Countryside Calendar'

Visitors welcome £3 to include tea or coffee

Competition: - (optional) - A vase of polyanthus or a specimen bloom.....

Tel: 01435 830725



BYG
Blackboys youth group

BYG on FUN
BYG on FAITH
BYG on FRIENDSHIP

Come along every other Wednesday
26 March - 23 April - 7 May - 21 May
4 June - 18 June - 2 July - 16 July

**For fun games and activities, a tasty tuck shop and time
learning about God.**
6.30 – 8.00pm
School years 6 – 10
£1 subs

For more information contact: Sarah Wright 01825 840020
or
Guy Partridge 07702 836057

Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond
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

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKETS

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.



26 April
24 May
28 June
19 July
August – no market.
27 September
25 October
22 November
13 December

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

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.

