

# HAMMONDS GREEN FARM



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

# Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common

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 :**        **None at present**

**Secretary to PCC :**     **Mr Peter Tomsett**

**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:**  
**21<sup>st</sup> June: Trevor West and Maggie Sewell**  
**28<sup>th</sup> June: Toby Letton and Finola Lagden**

**At rest:**

**FREE SMOKE ALARMS**

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

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

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**USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOs.**

ESCC - General Enquiries: 01273 481000

Adult Education: 01273 481497

Bins and Recycling: 01323 443322 or 01892 653311

Education, general 01273 481000

Leisure centres, swimming pools and parks: 01323 443322

Planning, development, building control: 01323 443322

Road maintenance: 0345 6080193

Recycling sites: 01273 481000

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Trading standards (consumer issues): 01323 418200

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555111

Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0845 130 8855

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 1777 069

THE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE  
PUBLISHED IN GOOD FAITH. THE PUBLISHERS DO NOT,  
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: Barbara Trickey, Delia Gillies,  
and their teams of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

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### **Does everyone like a bargain? Trading-up.**

Do you like to get something for nothing or perhaps at a significantly reduced price? Personally, I believe we do. Car boot sales are very popular and internet sites such as Ebay or Gumtree thrive on the premise that you will find that special item at a bargain price, and when you do there is a certain 'feel-good' factor that accompanies it.

On the other hand when we are offered something too cheaply we become suspicious, the 'too good to be true' syndrome.

The world we live in has become more consumer orientated year-on-year and there is a strong connection between what you possess, your status and self-esteem as a human being. Our possessions are like advertisement boards that tell the world about who we are. The person who advances in their career will seldom be content to live in the same house once they can afford a bigger one. The person who drives the modest car will almost always be looking to trade-up to a model that tells their friends and neighbours that they are successful.

The problem with increasing affluence and consumerism is that it detaches us from reality and the things that are really important. Whatever you have in this life only lasts for this life, none of us will be taking anything with us when we die.

In Mark's Gospel - Chapter 10 Jesus meets a rich young man who is looking to 'trade-up'. Despite being wealthy he does have the foresight to consider life after death so he asks Jesus the question **'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?'** <sup>18</sup>**'Why do you call me good?'** Jesus answered. **'No one is good – except God alone.'** <sup>19</sup>**You know the commandments: "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother."**

<sup>20</sup>**'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these I have kept since I was a boy.'**

<sup>21</sup>**Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'**

<sup>22</sup>**At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.**

<sup>23</sup>**Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!'**

So what is going on here? Firstly I need to make it clear that there is absolutely nothing wrong with being wealthy (this just happened to be this young man's

Achilles heel). It's our attitude and actions with regard to wealth that matters. I personally have a number of wealthy friends who are amazingly kind, modest, and generous individuals. However, it is unfortunate that wealth can corrupt or at the least be seen as an attempt to buy your way out of any situation in this life, in a nutshell - self sufficiency with no room for God.

The young man in Mark's account is clearly religious - he has some knowledge of God and lives his life following the commandments. He refers to Jesus as Teacher but fails to see the divine (God) in the man who standing in front of him!

As C.S. Lewis made clear, Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. He cannot be only another teacher.

He is also unaware of his own failings - he claims to have kept the commandments but in reality like the young man we all fall short or as St John says 'If we say we have no sin the truth is not in us'.

He also misunderstands the plan of grace when he says to Jesus "What good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?" There is no good thing any of us can do to buy God's favour. Only to simply believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour. As wealthy as he must have been, he was spiritually bankrupt, and terribly poor of faith.

Finally, and this is perhaps his biggest mistake: He went away.

To quote Chris Green - A man can misunderstand the divinity of Christ, be blind to himself, and misunderstand God's grace and still be saved if he will commit to staying with God. Peter, Andrew, John, Matthew, and the other disciples did not fully understand the Lordship of Jesus, and they certainly did not fully understand the plan of grace, but they stayed with Jesus. They apprenticed themselves to Him, for the long haul. That is the way to be saved. If you are willing to launch out with Christ on the long journey from brokenness to wholeness, if you are willing to walk all the way, every step, however difficult that may be then you are indeed a wise person, even if you are not young or wealthy.

The inheritance of eternal life is a pure act of God's grace, it is a gift and as such is totally free of any charge, an absolute bargain, but it cost Jesus everything! So it begs the question: Do you want to trade-up to eternal life and receive the biggest bargain of your lifetime?

I hope everyone in the parish has a great summer –

*Blessings to one and all in the Parish - Revd Chris Lawrence*



Blackboys Pre-School  
The Village Hall, Gun Road  
Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5JL  
Tel: 01825 891113  
email: [enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org)  
Twitter: @BlackboysPreSch  
[www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk](http://www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk)

Due to popularity, places for September are filling up quickly. If you are interested in sessions starting next academic year, we would recommend you get in touch now to avoid disappointment.

#### **Open morning – allotment/music/cooking taster sessions**

On Wednesday 17 September from 9.15am we are opening our doors to prospective children and their parents to give you a taste of what Blackboys Pre-School can offer. In addition to tours of our allotment, we're also running taster sessions so children can try their hands at gardening, cooking and music. Drop us a line by email if you're interested in coming along. Refreshments will be on offer!

#### **What's on for families in the area?**

Details of family-friendly events are included 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.

**Want to give something back to the community?** Are you a business person – retired or otherwise – wanting to put your skills to good use for the benefit of a local charity? We are always on the look-out for enthusiastic committee members. If you're interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear 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 can be found 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](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk).

## BLACKBOYS & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Society was held at our BBQ on Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>, to decide the future of the society. Current officers and committee members wish to resign and no members have come forward to replace them. There has also been a gradual drop in membership and the number of people at our meetings. It therefore seemed appropriate to hold a special meeting to decide if the society should close at the end of 2014. The motion was passed and the present committee and officers were given a mandate to remain in post to oversee the closure.

The September meeting will be a talk on Castles in South East England by Charles Harding. There will not be an AGM & Supper in October so there will be an ordinary meeting instead with a speaker, details to be announced later. The speaker at the November meeting will be Ian Everest talking about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Our Christmas Event will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, when Chris Butler will be talking about Barcombe Roman Villa, more details of cost and time etc will be available in October.

Meetings are usually 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. If you would like to know more about the above please contact the secretary on 01825890359 or email [bturner.18maple@btinternet.com](mailto:bturner.18maple@btinternet.com)

Meetings are usually 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 [bturner.18maple@btinternet.com](mailto:bturner.18maple@btinternet.com)

*Ann Turner, Secretary*

## Diary of Church Services

### AUGUST 2014

- 03 Seventh Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 10 Eighth Sunday after Trinity**  
**11.00 am** Family Service in the Marquee on the Rec with Guest Derek Heyman (AKA Mr Paintbrush)  
**Breakfast from 10.30am - everyone welcome**  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 17 Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)  
*Note: No 'Messy Church' this month*
- 24 Tenth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 31 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Café Service in Village Hall  
**With guests Bernie & Jean French - Everyone welcome**

### SEPTEMBER 2014

- 07 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 14 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

- 21 **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)  
 4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

- 28 **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
 10.00 am Morning Praise  
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
 BY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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**



**Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society Summer  
 Show**

**Saturday 9th August 2014 at 12.30**

A fantastic family show has been planned again this year! Masses on offer including horticultural, cookery, craft and photography classes, children's rides, Mrs Back to Front, falconry display, dancing displays and the Fun Dog Show with loads of exciting stalls and sideshows - so do come, tell all your friends and bring all the family! Lots of delicious food available and you can quench your thirst at the Tea or Pimms /beer tents.!

**We need YOUR help!**

Could you bake for the tea tent or help out on a stall?! Could you help set up on Friday or clear away after the Show?! Do lend a hand if you can - bring a friend and make it fun! Please call Caroline on 01825 890868 if you can help in any way.

Don't forget to **enter the Show** too - classes for everyone from novice to expert are only 20p to enter and all childrens' classes are free. For a schedule please call Terry on 01825 891392

**Children's fancy dress competition**

Entry on the day - to be judged in the main arena at 1.00  
 Two classes: under-5s and 6-12 years old

\*\*\*\*\*

**EVENING R&B CONCERT IN THE MARQUEE**

Everyone had such a great time last year that we're doing it again!! Watch this space for details of performers

**Licensed bar and BBQ**

For tickets: Graham Pope 01825 890685  
 Tracie Morrison 07951 129354  
 Straw bale seating or bring your own fold-up chair  
**BRING A TORCH!**

NB Ticket price does NOT include refreshments  
 www.fabhortsoc.org.uk



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

Breakfast & After School Club for 2-11yrs

Early Years Education Entitlement

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](http://www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk)

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported our South Downs sponsored walk on Sunday 6th July, we have raised a fantastic amount of money.

## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKETS

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.



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](mailto:framfield.pc@virgin.net)**

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### 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](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk) or e.mail [rev.chris@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.chris@btinternet.com)*

At the beginning of June our committee members attended a volunteers rally at Barnsgate Manor. The morning was spent learning about money that was raised last year and our expectations for this year. We hope to reach our target of £200 million nationally and £65.6 million in our region. Recommendations are for early diagnosis, a high level of dignity and respect as well as an improvement in end of life care.

Long Service Awards were presented to local committees, we were so proud to hear that Ann, our Chairman was to receive the prestigious Douglas Macmillan award in London the following week.

We are now well into our season of cake making and teas. We were very busy at Maresfield village Fete, Open Gardens at Hobbs Barton and Mayfield altogether raising £1,800. The Heathfield Street collection raised £450 and our Golf Day at Dale hill was great fun and a huge success, it raised in the region of £9,000 with more to come!

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](http://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*

## The Grove, Blackboys ~ Café and Village Stores

- \* A wide selection of ethically sourced teas and fresh coffees prepared by our barista trained staff
- \* Freshly prepared breakfasts and light lunches
- \* Morning coffee and pastries
- \* Afternoon tea and cakes
- \* Children's Menu
- \* Convenience supplies
- \* Locally-sourced bread, dairy, eggs, meat, fruit juices, beer and cider
- \* Fresh fruit and vegetables
- \* Fair Trade products
- \* Stamps
- \* Cards and wrapping paper
- \* Seasonal gifts and much more!

### What's on at The Grove?

- \* Community Coffee Morning
- \* Scrabble Club
- \* Business Networking Breakfasts
- \* Themed Evening Dining
- \* After-school Games Club
- \* Kids Craft Workshops
- \* Church Men's Breakfasts

### Also available...

- \* Bespoke Grove Platter for business or private functions
- \* Hire for Private Evening Functions
- \* Children's Tea Parties

## Summer Events coming up soon...

### \* Evening Dining Events \*

Themed cuisine from around the world

Last Friday of every month

Book early to avoid disappointment £15pp plus drinks

### \* Spectacular Summer BBQs \*

4.30-8pm June 14th, July 19th and August 16th

Adults £8 Children £4 plus drinks

Brownings Farm Workshops,  
Lewes Road, Blackboys,  
Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5HG  
01825 890415 [thegroveblackboys@gmail.com](mailto:thegroveblackboys@gmail.com)

Free Wi-Fi

**The Grove**  
Café and Village Stores



Opening Hours:  
9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri  
9am-3.30pm Sat

Find us on Facebook:  
'The Grove, Blackboys'



**NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST**

- 1st September - Birthday Lunch - FISH and CHIPS etc.,  
Buxted Pavilion - 1pm
- 22nd September - Watch/Laugh/and Learn  
Demonstration of the dance "Gay Gordons"  
and Learn other easy dances, with Walter  
and Jean White, from Eastbourne,  
at Framfield Memorial Hall at 2.30pm

We are an able bodied over 60 Group which meets every other Monday or so.  
We do interesting things, such as visit Local Gardens, Outings, Activities ,etc.,  
and have good fun together.

For more information ring: Sandy on 01825 840648 or email:  
sandyrogers77@gmail.com. We also need more Helpers please!

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**Next Messy Church!**

**SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER @ 4pm**

(We gather and register in the church)

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

***Fun for all the family.***

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



## The logo for Operation Crackdown consists of a stylized black letter 'A' on the left, followed by the words "Operation Crackdown" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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](http://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".

## Nature Notes

July has brought hot weather and thunder-storms. How great for nature that it is getting both warmth and moisture to make things grow. However, the heat seems to be outgunning the rain, and many streams have stopped flowing, and we are still having to water parts of our garden. If you have a bird bath, please remember to top it up, as lack of water in the summer is one of the most potent killers of birds and other wildlife.

The butterflies continue to be a treat, and it looks like being a great year for them. The honeybees also seem to be doing well, with bee keepers being able to extract copious amounts of honey from their hives. Bumblebees also seem to be doing well. Their life-cycle is rather different from honeybees, and generally gets completed by the end of August. The queens then go looking for places to spend the winter before starting their new nests in the following spring.

The ants went on their nuptial flights during mid to late July. This normally happens when the air is hot and humid. The males and queens fly up towards the sun, mate, the males die and the queens land, bite off their wings and seek a place to start a new colony. The black ants (*Lasius niger*) particularly like nesting under paving stones. The small yellow meadow ant (*Lasius flavus*) prefers to nest in the ground under long grass, and build a tussock. It often lives with a tiny white relative of the woodlouse called *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii* which wanders the tunnels that the ants make and cleans up any detritus material in the nest.

Lammas (or loaf mass) is the 1<sup>st</sup> August. This is the Celtic harvest festival. Look out for Lammas growth in the trees, especially oak, ash, beech, sycamore, yew, scots pine, and hawthorn. This is a second flush of leaves that the tree produces to compensate for the loss of leaves due to them being eaten by caterpillars or damaged in other ways during June and July. It does not occur in poplar, birch and willow. The old leaves become rich in tannins which makes the leaves bitter and inedible. The new flush is usually too late for the insects. The tannin is also passed to the bark of the oak tree to prevent damage there, but is used by people to tan (preserve) hide to make leather.

Martyn Stenning

## ART GROUP IN BLACKBOYS

Local Artist Ken Banfield has initiated a Life Drawing Class held during school terms every Tuesday from 11am to 2pm in Blackboys Village Hall, Gun Road. Some short poses are done for drawing practise and longer ones for more detailed drawing or painting.

Ken has run the Draw From Life classes for several years in the Forest Row Community Centre and the Church Hall in Ashurst Wood before moving to the local area. Ballet and costume poses were also popular and could be repeated here. All skills are welcome and instruction assistance given as requested. Own materials are required but refreshments are provided.

For further information contact Ken on 07747868802, or 01825 890361, or email on ken@drawfromlife.co.uk

The times are also on an information web page drawfromlife.co.uk

**TN22 Club TN22 Plus Club**

**A great place for lunch and friendship!**

**Join us at our friendly and welcoming clubs**

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:

- The TN22 Club provides opportunities for fun and socialising in a warm and friendly environment.
- 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](http://www.engagesoutheast.org.uk)  
e-mail: [enquiries@engagesoutheast.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@engagesoutheast.org.uk)

LOTTERY FUNDED The Henry Smith Charity Cesi **ENGAge South East** Charity No: 1119329

## NEWS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS.

### News from your Wealden District Councillor, Ann Newton

Further to my note last month with regard to the 'Community Dividend' fund which WDC have negotiated as a compensatory package after the debacle with the bins, I am still thinking about installing a defibrillator in both halls if the fund will stretch that far. WDC are investigating if they could make a bulk purchase of the machines to enable to keep the cost down which should make the project even more hopeful.

In June I sat through five days of a Public Examination of our Strategic Sites Local Plan. An interesting and frustrating time whereby the future of the District is mapped and decided before your eyes!

The Parish Council have recently taken part in a consultation exercise on a review of the Conservation Area in Framfield which WDC are conducting. If anyone wants to get involved or has any opinions could they please let me know.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on anything which you think I could help – and if I can't, I generally know someone who can!

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.

Telephone - 01825 890103.

Email – ann.newton1965@virgin.net.

### News from your East Sussex County Councillor, Chris Dowling.

I am pleased that East Sussex County Council has made a positive response to the requests from residents in Framfield for road safety measures. Following the road safety week in February, parents at Framfield School and residents presented a petition to the council with suggestions for extra road safety and traffic calming close to the school. I was pleased to support local residents, and at a recent meeting to discuss the petition, the County Council agreed to take the matter further. The Council will work with the Parish Council, residents and myself, as the local County Councillor, to look for possible solutions and the necessary funding to deliver them.

I am always pleased to hear from local residents on any County Council matters. I have dealt with many local matters over the years, including school bus services and road safety and traffic matters. I work closely with the Parish Council and regularly attend their meetings.

I live in Uckfield and can be contacted on 01825 767695 or email – [cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk).

### **RICHARD AVIS** *Chimney Sweep*

Established 1997

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## The Great Starling Spectacular

By Mike Russell, Senior Wildlife Advisor at the Sussex Wildlife Trust

They are noisy, argumentative, some would say they are gaudy in their appearance and all over the UK, people stop and admire the fantastic aerial display of thousands and thousands of them as they flock together at dusk before heading for a favourite roosting site. We are of course talking about starlings.

It is hard to believe that ornithologists and conservationists are so worried about the decline in starling numbers that the British Trust for Ornithology has moved it up to the red list as a UK Species of Conservation concern, which means that the population has decreased by more than 50% across the country. It is still a very common bird, but if this rate of decline continues then it very soon won't be.

This loss is more evident in the south and west of the UK, while numbers seem to be stable in Scotland and are even increasing in Northern Ireland. The reasons for this decline are not yet fully understood, one of the possibilities being that the mortality rate amongst the fledglings is very high and increasing. This indicates that the parents are unable to find enough food for the youngsters and is a possible cause for the problems for many of our wild birds in the south.

The sight of the dusk aerial show we can observe in places such as Brighton, Eastbourne and Chichester, particularly in winter, is repeated in many areas of the country and to stand and watch is to see a living art display in front of your eyes. You can only marvel at the intricate patterns that they weave in the darkening skies and wonder how on earth tens of thousands of birds can seem to synchronise their movements in a split second. It really is one of the world's great wildlife spectacles. In Brighton, the flock also provides a virtual home delivery service for the resident peregrine falcon that can fly in amongst the flock and select its evening meal.

Starlings seem to delight and annoy people in equal measure. They can monopolise bird tables and feeders either through sheer weight of numbers or by intimidating smaller birds. However, they are fascinating to watch and listen to. A glimpse of sunlight on an adult starling reveals a glorious cascade of patterns and colours and makes them appear almost tropical.

At this time of year we too say goodbye not only to our year 6 children, but also to staff who are moving on; this year we wish all the best of luck to Mrs Andrews who is leaving to teach nearer to her home in Hailsham. We are also delighted to wish Miss Pemberton good luck for her wedding in August and hope that the weather is kind to her.

*Jacqueline Davies: Head of School*

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### The Framfield Playground Action Group (FPAG)

The Framfield Playground Action Group (FPAG) would like to thank all contributors & sponsors to their fund raising and have purchased a wooden adult picnic table, a child's picnic table & a bench from Oliver Beswick (<http://www.oliverbeswick.co.uk/>). The furniture has been installed in Framfield Recreation Ground with the assistance of the Parish Council who we thank for making it all possible. Any enquires in relation to FPAG to [kbrandonfpc@btinternet.com](mailto:kbrandonfpc@btinternet.com)

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farewell to our popular Class 3 teacher, Mrs Bains, as she looks to progress her career in teaching. She has had a big impact in our school and we wish her all the best.

*Mr Sullivan: Head of School*

### **Framfield Church of England Primary School.**

As we are approaching the end of another busy term, the Eagles children in years five and six are practising for their end of year play based on the idea of transition to secondary school in a light hearted manner. They are also enjoying their Memory Lane articles for the Leavers' service on the last day of term. We are sure parents will enjoy their performance and we all look forward to this culmination of their time here at Framfield School.

We have had a very successful term sports wise including both the VSA and Uckfield swimming galas, VSA rounders at Buxted school, Top Play for KS1 at UCTC as well as hosting a multi skills afternoon for the Ringmer Alliance schools. We also held our Sports afternoon with our competitive track and field events which was very well attended on a warm afternoon.

Our Summer Fayre in June was another very successful event with lots of things to see and do. This really is an important date in the calendar with regards to raising funds, and many thanks to our local community for supporting us so loyally.

In the early evening, they gather in small groups on my television aerial, where they sit for a while chattering to one another, perhaps just catching up on the events of the day, or just gossiping about the neighbours. This is happening on most of the houses in the neighbourhood, and at some given signal, invisible to us mere mortals, they all suddenly take to the air and head off to places like to Brighton, for a night in the city.

In Henfield, a survey of the birds of the parish is taken every five years and though still the most numerous bird, the numbers had dropped by nearly 30% over 15 years, a reduction of about 25%. This is lower than the national decline, but if this rate continues in less than 50 years there will be no starlings left in the parish.

Something that is so common and familiar to us now can very soon become scarce, so it is essential not to take our common birds for granted. We need to find out why these declines are happening and take measures to halt it. If we are not careful the spectacular Brighton starling show, could soon be nothing but a memory.

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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### **Framfield Church - Garden of Remembrance**

The Garden of Remembrance in Framfield Churchyard is now in need of urgent restoration. A number of years ago work on improving the look of the Garden was undertaken. However in the intervening years the weather and the establishment of an invasive weed known as Mares-tail has made maintenance of the area difficult. The only effective solution to the problem is to completely remove the existing gravel covering, install a membrane to inhibit weed growth along with concrete edging sections and to provide a new stone finish to the area.

The PCC has obtained an estimate of £1600 for this work and would be grateful for any financial contributions towards the cost. Donations can be sent to Framfield Church PCC at the Church Office, Framfield TN22 5NH

*Rev. Chris Lawrence – Vicar*

# LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

## BUMBLE BEES AND BABY BIRDS.

By the time you read this the flurry of activity in the bird world will be over in our garden. The residents who live here must think they live in bird heaven. All through the spring and summer I watch their behaviour, either through the windows in the kitchen, or as I work in the garden. Watching all the excitement, drama and occasional confrontation is far more interesting than any of the popular soaps. At meal times my patient husband puts up with my constant commentary while I watch the latest development at the feeding stations.

In the spring I went down to the cellar and put my head down into the freezer so I could rummage around at the bottom for something for dinner. Suddenly I heard a funny noise, what was it? I looked around, couldn't see anything, so put my head down in the freezer again. 'Tweet'. I straightened up and looked again. Was it the boiler? No the odd sound was not from that. I walked all round peering in the corners and around the old stone walls and the damp brick floor, carefully avoiding tiny leaping frogs, nothing unusual. 'Tweet'. I heard it distinctly this time, it must be a bird. I glanced at the dirty old window and behind the metal grille was a small bundle of feathers and fluff. How did it get there? It was in a very narrow gap between the grille and the window which faced a deep bricked area. Neither the window nor the mesh would open. At one end was a very small gap in the window frame that the baby bird must have squeezed through. As it was impossible to open the window I had to think of another method. The holes in the mesh were very small. I suddenly had an idea, went up to the kitchen, tipped out my cereal packet and cut up several strips of cardboard and folded them over to make very narrow, flexible spills. Armed with my invention I gently poked them through the gaps, just behind the fledging. I gently nudged it along towards the gap in the frame. Being surprised it smartly jumped back over my obstruction. Starting again I used several bits of cardboard to make a higher barrier. Using this method I very gently moved it along and nudged it out past the window into the area. I was thrilled with my ingenious method of rescuing this baby bird; but then worried in case the parent could not find its offspring, now down in the area, thick with ferns and tangled grass. I went up to the kitchen. Lying on the floor I could just

Many thanks to all of you who are so supportive of your local schools - it really is very appreciated.

*Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher)*

## **Blackboys Church of England Primary School**

As is the traditional fashion, Blackboys School year ends with a musical production. This year our year 5 and 6 children entertained parents and friends of the school with a unique version of *Alice in Wonderland*. The songs were performed with gusto and the actors were word perfect. Once again parents did a brilliant job with costumes. Thanks must go to our music teacher Mrs Bayman and to props coordinator Mrs Peck.

Other year groups have also finished the year with a flurry of activity. Class 1 finished their topic of *The Seaside*, with a charity "waddle-a-thon" raising a considerable sum for *Surfers Against Sewage*. Class 2 joined together with their colleagues from Framfield School to enjoy a *Space Day*, having previously visited *Herstmonceux Science Centre*. They have produced some stunning artwork related to this popular topic. Class 3 kept their eyes peeled for icebergs as they donned authentic costumes to enjoy a *Titanic Day* to end their exciting topic. Led by Captain (Mrs) Bains, they enjoyed role-plays, high tea and manning the lifeboats.

At this time of year we say goodbye not only to our year 6 children, but also to staff who are moving on; this year we wish a fond

## **The FAB Partnership (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)**

I really cannot believe how quickly time has flown this year - it seems like yesterday that we were welcoming the new reception pupils into our school and now here they are approaching year 1! Of course, we have also attended our Leavers' Service for our Year 6 children where the FAB choir were praised for their singing; this alongside performances and celebration assemblies in both school mean that we are also saying good-bye to our year 6 pupils as they spread their wings and leave us. As always, we are incredibly proud of them all - they are a real credit to us all.

Representatives of the Governing Bodies of both schools continue to meet regularly over the year to assess and evaluate the impact and success of this partnership and both schools have had many opportunities to work together on a variety of projects. This has not only had a positive impact on our pupils, but has also enabled our staff to see good practise in both schools and to network and learn from each other. One of the very few disadvantages of working in a small school is the small number of staff each school has, but in partnership of course this increases and so we end up with advantages all round!

There are new staff starting in both schools which is always exciting and brings fresh ideas renewing everyone's enthusiasm and I know that together, we will truly make a FAB team for 2014/15.

We all hope that everyone has a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing some of you at the Horticultural Show where work from both schools will be on display.

see the cellar window and eventually caught a glimpse of a bird flying down to its youngster. Doing my usual commentary during our next meal I spotted a robin, a regular visitor, who picked up a tasty morsel, flew round the cottage and fed it to my rescued baby bird. So that's who it belonged to. I was delighted.

There were more dramas to come during the season. For once I was sitting on our so called patio that had flooded in the winter. Surprisingly, loads of flowers surrounding it had survived. I was enjoying watching masses of bees, mainly bumble bees working busily on all the plants. Suddenly my eye was caught by a glimpse of a furtive creature creeping behind the plants. Eventually I realised it was a blackbird secretly gathering material to make a nest. She had decided to build it in a bush on the side of the patio under the window right by the french doors. She had chosen rather a busy place to do this. She was quite a flighty bird but laid her eggs and sat tight most of the time. Birds are so clever, she obviously knew Chloe, our Newfoundland, who would stroll out to lie in the shade near the bush, that did not worry her, but when our son's spaniel came for a visit she would immediately fly off. She hatched her eggs and then was busy feeding them. I was so worried at this stage I banned visitors both human and canine from the back garden until they were successfully fledged.

After the very wet winter our two fields were much too boggy to cut until well into summer. By then the grass was knee high. Now dry, my husband decided he could cut it using his old Ferguson tractor. This relic resides in a corner of the field, its metal work full of holes. He went to make a start, lifted the bonnet, only to disturb another blackbird who had made a nest in the empty battery box and hatched five eggs. He could not disturb them. We worked out roughly how long it would be before they fledged and decided to have a holiday with dog and caravan in the New Forest while she was busy rearing her family. It worked perfectly. We had a lovely holiday. The youngsters had flown by the time we returned and the fields are now cut.

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

## Framfield Church embarks on second phase of restoration work

Thanks to wonderful support from the parish the major renovation of Framfield Church was completed last December and, after a three-month closure, was re-opened in time for the Christmas services. If you have visited the church over the past few months you will have seen for yourself how the redecoration, new lighting, and restored windows and stonework have enhanced the lovely building.

However, in a 13<sup>th</sup> century church there is always work to do. That's why 'The Friends' are now embarking on a second phase of internal and external works.

A priority task is the repair of damaged plasterwork and the complete redecoration of our fine Gage Chapel. The tower and clergy vestries will also be repainted.

The tower clock is, literally, in for a facelift! The renovated clock will have numerals and hands detailed in gold leaf on a black painted background. Also in the tower, the louvres will be repaired or replaced.

The final task in this second stage of works will be the repainting of all the gutters and downpipes that were not painted during last year's renovation.

The cost of these works will be around £17,000, most of which will be covered by the remaining money in our Restoration Appeal fund. However, we still need to raise some additional funding so, if you would like to support this second stage of renovation, 'The Friends' would be delighted to hear from you.

Lastly, the Council has been running the Framfield Village Market now since the beginning of the year. Most of my family come along to help, along with Gill and Jeff Goggin and Selina Allen from the Council and Peter Friend has taken his turn making the tea. We have gained some new stalls and each time the Hall really looks fabulous. There is one problem – we need customers! The money raised from the Markets goes directly into the fund for the refurbishment of the Hall which not only the School but many other local and non-local people use for clubs, meetings and one-off events. If you want to help the Hall to survive, come to the Market – it's only once a month.

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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.  
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Play Areas – by the time you read this, the play areas should have been up and running for a month in good time for the school summer holidays. I hope everyone is pleased with the results. The project didn't go without its hitches (!) but I had an enormous amount of help from my handyman and his team and Stavertons Nursery who provided the woodchip who kept their sense of humour at all times! Dave, Charlie and Deena have been worth their weight in gold, overseeing all the remedial works to the play areas which were not part of the main contractor's remit. Matt and his team at Stavertons were always available to deliver the woodchip with a smile even when they had to 'baby-sit' a mountainous pile in their yard at Halland. I would like to extend a very big thank you to all of these good-natured people.

Following on from Road Safety Week at Framfield School, and the petition presented to ESCC by the School, a report has now been received from ESCC on the situation. The results of which we will need to work with both the Fire Service, Police and ESCC to see what action can be taken.

School Lane, Blackboys. The problems with parking at the start and end of the school day seem to have escalated again with many parents parking in inappropriate places including on the grass verges which not only looks unsightly but ultimately damages them. The Council are going to discuss with the School any possible action that they could take to try and stop this happening as it isn't very safe or pleasant for the residents. Any parents particularly with children at both the Pre-school and School are welcome to park in the overflow car park at the Village Hall and walk up to get their children from School – a reasonable walk on a dry day.

Guideposts – I now have licences to replace three guideposts in Framfield and the Parish Council is expected to go-ahead with the initial replacement of two in this financial year which will be with funds within the allocated budget.

Please contact Peter Berry (01825 890339), Dixon Press (01825 890400) or John Mordaunt (01825 890443).

Thank you for all your kind comments on the restoration work so far and for your continued support of the work of 'The Friends'.

**Peter Berry**  
**Chairman, The Friends of Framfield Church**

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Sunday 29 June was a special day for us, as we were joined by the congregation from Uckfield Baptist Church. It was so good to have them worship with us and to host them to the picnic afterwards at the Hammonds home in Blackboys. Thankfully the weather was beautiful and all had a great time in the garden, with children enjoying the bouncy castle. It is good to have fellowship with other church groups and we look forward to more of this in the future.

After the summer break we will be resuming regular activities and would love anyone to join us, who would appreciate what we have to offer. Our main emphasis is worship and discipleship and aiming to be a blessing, by showing the love of Jesus to all.

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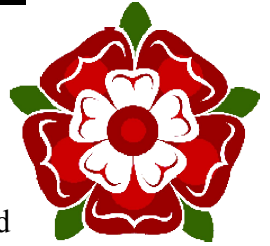
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## **Framfield & Blackboys WI**



The Elizabethan Manor House of **Chavenage** in Tetbury was the setting for an exclusive private view for WI members' summer outing. It was a wonderful setting and the Lowsley-Williams family proved to be thoroughly entertaining and informative guides introducing us to the "**Legend of Chavenage**" and its headless coachman, the Cromwell connection, famous Mortlake tapestries, stories from World War 1 & II when the house was pressed into secret military action, a beautiful private Chapel and a host of very humorous family anecdotes. Watch the new **Poldark TV** series to enjoy this fabulous house and gardens. En route Malmesbury and its fine Abbey was another stop. Altogether a stunning Cotswolds Away-Day!

Earlier this month we visited the c16th **Butlers Farmhouse**, a B & B in Herstmonceux as guests of owner Irene Willson whose gardens feature rainbow herbaceous borders, a subtropical poison garden and themed mini-beach – highly recommended for a repeat visit with cream tea!

**The trip to the Brighton Dome** in June gave a behind the scenes tour of this Grade 1 listed theatre and arts centre used as a makeshift hospital in WW1, which was bombed in 1943 but still served as a dance hall for allied troops in WWII. Our guide explained current outreach work for the local community – a "hidden gem" in the heart of the City.

Our latest **WI Walk** left Brownings Farm and crossed scenic countryside followed by a lunch at the Grove Café. News of the next walk to follow.

Do remember the **August 9<sup>th</sup> Framfield Summer Show**: Bring your collectibles to the WI staff for valuation and appraisal – small items please. A Fun Prize Quiz will test your antiques knowledge!

The **Afternoon Tea in the Garden is August 12<sup>th</sup>**. So ladies do drop in on second Tuesdays of the month from 7.30pm – you can be a visitor for 3 months at £1 a meeting before deciding to join – **call our President Delia for more details 01825 830319.**

**Cathy McDermott**