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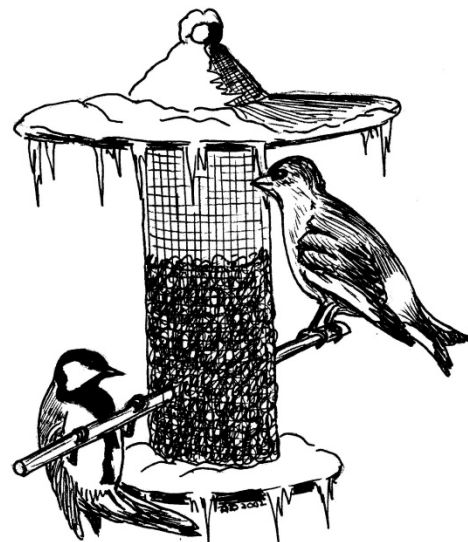
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Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

**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:

At rest: 26th November: Tracy Francis
8th January: Warren Thomas Rutherford

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For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

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Treasurer: Jan Riddle

Distribution: Barbara Trickey, Delia Gillies,
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Printers: "Print Matters"

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

Words, hope and faith

Firstly, a very happy New Year to everyone in the parish.

Christmas and New Year can be a fabulous time. Time to celebrate with family and friends and look forward in hope and anticipation to a New Year. However, as Tom Hanks said in that great film Forrest Gump – 'Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get'. For some Christmas will be a first time celebration as a married couple; a first Christmas in a new home; a first Christmas with a baby. To others, a first Christmas without a loved one or perhaps in circumstances that you would rather not be in.

Whatever position we may be in we can make a conscious choice to look forward in hope.

Throughout the past twenty years words have become increasingly more important. Since studying the Bible and discovering the true meaning of several key words that I had either taken for granted or I had simply misunderstood became the medium through which life would become richer and more meaningful.

Take for example the word 'hope'. From a worldly point of view, hope is no more than wishful thinking. Every week millions of people up and down the country buy a lottery ticket in the hope that they will be the winner of the big prize and become a millionaire. In reality the odds of winning remain at 14 million to one. So you may win or you may lose but considering the odds the expectation of winning is not that great. The mind wavers between the prospect of winning or losing and with it we lose the true meaning of hope! From a biblical point of view, hope may be defined as 'an earnest expectation of good'. I hope you can see that the biblical definition of hope doesn't waver in outcome but focuses firmly on the positive, that what is hoped for will come to pass. Consider the words from Isaiah 40:29-31

**He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
³¹but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.**

We all go through difficult times in life and there may be times when you are physically and emotionally worn down but God promises that through Him you will have your strength renewed. It's not a 'maybe' it's a promise that 'you will' have your strength renewed. The reason why I can affirm the above with absolute confidence is in the fact that God has made the promise and as St Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthian church - **For no matter how many promises God has made,**

they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' ('so be it' – my italics) is spoken by us to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 1:20).

I've never tried to count them but apparently there are over 3000 promises in the Bible and as God has made the promises you can be assured that they will be fulfilled. One of the questions I am often asked is how can you be so sure that God will be faithful and fulfil his word? In essence believing in God or trusting God is an act of faith. One of the problems is that mankind would like to bring the Creator of the Universe down to our level and judge Him accordingly but **'God is not a man, that he should lie.'** *Numbers 23:19.*

Within any relationship there has to be a basis of trust. Without trust a relationship is going nowhere. The bottom line is: if you want to find out what God is like then you have to put yourself in a position where trust can grow; you have to give God an opportunity. Many folk think that faith is limited to the sphere of spiritual belief but in reality we all exercise faith on a daily basis without giving it a second thought. Turning on light switch, sitting on a chair, turning on a tap are all acts of faith. There is an expectation that the light will come on, the chair will hold your weight and water will flow; if you didn't have faith then you wouldn't have embarked on the action in the first place. So if we can have faith in everyday things why do we seem to have a blockage when it comes to having faith in God?

Another area that faith and the promises of God come into play is when we are ill or infirm in some way. I don't know why but for many years I have been interested in the ministry of healing. I have personally witnessed many miracles and seen God at work bringing people back to health. Some ailments we may consider minor others where people have been in intensive care with life threatening conditions. But in response to prayer many of the 'no hopers' have recovered, left hospital and are leading normal healthy lives. God cares about the little things and the major things in our lives and seeks to provide the best for us.

At the end of Mark's Gospel Jesus said: **'Go into all the world and preach the gospel (Good News) to all creation. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they willplace their hands on people who are ill, and they will get well.'** *Mark 16:15, 17-18*

Yes it does take faith but the few faltering words directed toward God is often all that is needed to release the power of God into your life. To their loss many will not



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

Happy 30th birthday Blackboys Pre-School

At the end of last year we held a birthday party with the children to celebrate the 30th birthday of our fantastic Pre-School, complete with birthday cake. We look forward to many more years of providing a fantastic service to the local community.

Allotment revamp

As spring kicks in we are very excited about spending more time on our allotment, situated right next to our Pre-School. We are currently exploring ways in which we can transform our allotment to provide even better facilities for the children – watch this space for details of the revamp!

Recycle and raise funds for Blackboys

Having a Spring clean? Got any old clothes looking for a home? Look no further! As a registered charity, we do regular textiles recycling and bric-a-brac 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 be part of our Pre-School?

If you want to put your business 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 on 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.

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SUNDAY 15th MARCH @ 4.00 pm

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We look forward to seeing you!!!

even give God a chance, but to those that do the line is crossed and you enter into the realm of true hope; the earnest expectation of good coming your way!

Blessings to everyone in the parish for 2015 – Revd Chris Lawrence

Diary of Church Services

FEBRUARY 2015

- 01 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 08 Second Sunday before Lent**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 15 Sunday next before Lent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 22 First Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

MARCH 2015

- 01 Second Sunday of Lent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 08 Third Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing

- 15 Fourth Sunday of Lent**
 8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.00 am Morning Praise (Mothering Sunday)
 4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
 6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)
- 29 Palm Sunday**
 10.00 am Café Service in Church (or Church Hall)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th MARCH 2015**

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,
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Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

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DATES FOR 2015

JANUARY	24	JULY	25
FEBRUARY	28	AUGUST	No market
MARCH	21	SEPTEMBER	26
APRIL	25	OCTOBER	24
MAY	23	NOVEMBER	28
JUNE	27	DECEMBER	12

**For enquiries please contact
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Church restoration project

The 'Friends of Framfield Church' are pleased to report that the second stage of church renovation is now complete. This has included repairs and redecoration in the Gage Chapel and a fantastic 'facelift' for the tower clock.

Over the next few weeks we will be updating our subscription list and sending renewal letters out to current members. If you are not a member but would like to help support the work of 'The Friends', please contact Peter Berry 01825 890339/Dixon Press 01825 890400 for membership information.

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A very happy New Year to all readers of this column. The decorations have been dusted and put away for another year as we begin to look forward to spring.

Already there are early crocuses and snowdrops braving the elements – truly a joyful sight.

A reminder of the ever popular Quiz Night to be held on Wednesday, 25 February 2014 at Blackboys Village Hall. For further details see your programme card or visit www.fabhortsoc.org.uk. Do join us, it is such a fun evening.

I wish you well.

Alayne Jenkins.

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



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FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULE 2015

On each date detailed below, generally 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, 27 January (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 24 March (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 28 April (BB Trust) Annual Parish Assembly – 8 pm	Blackboys Village Hall
Monday, 18 May (no Trust or Planning) Annual Parish Council Meeting – 8 pm	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 30 June (FF Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 September (BB Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 24 November (FF Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk,
Ann Newton, on
01825- 890182/framfield.pc@virgin.net
'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.
Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website -
framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**WE ARE
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Our fundraising committee held a very successful Bazaar in Buxted Pavilion in November. We had a wonderful variety of stalls and the many people who came to support us were able to enjoy coffee, mince pies and homemade soup. We made a fantastic £800. On the last busy Saturday before Christmas we joined Eastbourne MCS committee in the Arndale Centre to again enjoy the police choir sing carols and take collections. Our share of the takings was just over £400. We feel very proud, that over the year 2014, we have sent £50,000 to the cancer centre appeal in Brighton.

Macmillan has been voted The Marketing Society Brand of the year 2014. This is an incredible achievement for Macmillan and will enable us to reach even more people affected by cancer. No one should face cancer alone and we hope, one day, no one will.

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

Nature Notes

About 99% of the deciduous leaves have fallen from the trees, leaving just the evergreens adorning our countryside. The only native broadleaved evergreen true tree that we have in Britain is holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). There is also box (*Buxus sempervirens*) but this is considered to be a shrub. Also known as the holy tree, we deck the halls with holly at Christmas. We only have three native conifers and they are all evergreen. These are Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). There are other evergreens in the countryside, but they are either not trees, such as the lovely climbing ivy (*Hedera helix*), winter roost for birds. Or else they are alien invaders such as Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). Alien invaders will invade natural habitats and eventually wipe out native species.

Other evergreens will also be alien, but not necessarily invasive, such as the occasional Wellingtonia tree also called giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) from California, thought to be the largest living thing by volume in the world. This is often planted in large country estates, and we have several around Uckfield. There is also the closely related coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), thought to be the tallest single living tree in the world. Other evergreens such as the Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) is the tree most of us have as Christmas trees, grown commercially, but not native, and ought not to be planted in natural woodland. There are many other conifers that have been planted, especially by the Forestry Commission in the past because they grow quickly yielding a quick return on timber sales. However, most of our birds and other animals are poorly adapted to these alien trees, and will not use them for food or nesting. Therefore it is advisable when planting trees in gardens to plant native species as these will attract more wildlife such as birds, butterflies and moths. Good examples of native small garden trees include rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) which has beautiful dark orange berries and delicate light green leaves in the summer, but will never grow very large, but is favoured by many birds. Another pretty tree is the field maple (*Acer campestre*) whose leaves turn a beautiful yellow in autumn. Yew is slow growing, but trim-able, and, if you get a female, has lovely red berries favoured by thrushes.

Martyn Stenning

Framfield & Blackboys Wives Group

We would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy new year.

We are a small group of ladies who meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our new programme for the coming year has just been formulated and includes talks by the Wild Life Ambulance and Rescue Service, a lady who has recently visited the Gaza Strip and Dave Smith on our parishioners who were in the First World War.

We will also have our usual meal out, walk and barbeque. If you would like to know more about us Phone Val Peaty on 890677.

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

2nd February - Boccia (Bowls)
Framfield Memorial Hall - 2.30 pm

16th February - Games - Mexican Train
Framfield Memorial Hall - 2.30 pm

2nd March - Watch/Laugh and Learn
Dancing with Walter & Jean White and Co
Framfield Memorial Hall - 2.30 pm

16th March - Chairbased Activities - with Louise Knight
and Bring and Buy at Buxted Pavilion 2.30 pm

We are looking for someone to help our Mini Bus Driver on the Door with help opening and getting people on and off the Bus, for further info ring Sandy Rogers 01825 840648 - sandyrogers77@gmail.com

subjects and to support each other in trying out new strategies and procedures. It has been particularly useful for staff new to a particular year group to visit their partner class and share good practice. Support staff have also had similar opportunities to meet and discuss roles within both schools and of course we all get together regularly in staff meetings and INSET days.

We have had a number of staff changes and have again, taken advantage of our partnership to ensure a high quality of cover for some vacancies. We will shortly be sharing a Bursar across our two schools with Mrs Gill Lawday taking over the strategic work on the budget from Mrs Pam Marsh who left at Christmas and I am delighted to say that Mrs Sophie Levey will now be working a full day in each school from January in both our schools.

All staff have planned joint projects for the January term and term 3 began with an INSET day on Mindfulness - a technique used to help support focus and concentration and reduce anxiety within children in today's society. It was very useful and is something that both staff and pupils will be working on in the coming weeks.

It is wonderful to be working with two such super communities and to see the members - staff and pupils - flourish and develop even further. Many thanks must go to the staff, pupils and governors of both schools for being so supportive to the partnership and the senior management teams. But perhaps even more important, huge thanks to the local community who are so supportive in so many ways: the partnership would not be the success it is without the commitment of both our villages.

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)

Graham Sullivan (Head of School Blackboys)

Jacqueline Davies (Head of School Framfield)

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The Extraordinary World of Insects

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

When it comes to the natural world, it has to be conceded that insects do not figure highly in terms of wildlife that we admire. Yes, we can appreciate and marvel at the dragon and damselflies in their aerial dexterity and enjoy the butterflies that visit our garden, but perhaps not the moths that fly around our lights at night. Bees we know are vitally important and are fine if they keep their distance and we all love ladybirds, except those horrible invasive harlequins that arrived on our shores a few years ago.

Generally, we don't like insects. They invade our homes, buzz annoyingly around our heads and at worst sting us, eat our wood, flowers and vegetables and can ruin an alfresco lunch. However, they are perhaps the most important layer in the food chain, and are great survivors, long after human beings have disappeared from our planet insects will still be around.

Putting our prejudices aside, when you look at some of our more familiar species there are some fascinating insights into their world to be discovered. Take aphids for example, probably the most destructive of garden pests and something you really don't want to see on your roses. It has been calculated that a single aphid can produce about 10 million tonnes of progeny during a single summer season, a figure beyond comprehension! Of course most end up as food for all sorts of other wildlife and therefore this overwhelming number is never reached. They produce so many offspring as they don't have the messy business of having to mate.

Earwigs on the other hand are far more caring parents; at least the females are as they tend to their young throughout the winter deep in the soil. The mythology surrounding earwigs is, as the name suggests, that they are thought to enter people's ears which is probably unfounded, though Stefan Buczacki in his book 'Fauna Britannica' cites the story of a Cornishman who was so distracted by the pain in his head that he asked the local butcher to chop off his ear, and as he lay his ear down on the chopping board an earwig fell out and the pain ceased from that day. Such is the stuff of myths and legends!

Insects are at the bottom end of the food chain and so life is a battle to prevent being eaten. Some devise devious colour schemes to warn predators

The FAB Partnership! **Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools.**

Christmas is always such a busy time of year in our schools and this year both schools were hit heavily by the various illnesses that were doing the rounds at the end of last term. However, we all rallied round, and our usual Christmas events took place and everyone enjoyed themselves enormously.

Although we always work hard to do things together when possible, we also work very hard at ensuring that both schools retain their own individual character and chose not to combine for our Christmas events which were fantastic each in their own way. Although both schools took part in the local late-Night Singing event in Uckfield they were with a different focus and at different times. Framfield School performed a wonderful Nativity play which really brought home the true Christmas message, whilst Blackboys retained their KS1 nativity - an absolute triumph - and KS2 Carol Service. The term finished at Framfield with our traditional Carol Service and at Blackboys with the Cup Assembly which is so much part of the tradition there. There are some things that just work better as individual schools!

Children at both schools enjoyed wonderful Christmas parties and Pantomime performances too, as well as visits from the Great Man: Father Christmas! All the enriching events could not take place were it not for the support of both the PTFA at Framfield and the PTA at Blackboys - they really do work hard and support both schools not only with fund-raising, but in many other ways too.

Working as partners has benefited both schools in so many ways - especially from the point of view of staff development - it can be a lonely job planning in a small school on your own! However, this year staff have been able to meet up to support the leadership of many of the curriculum

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that they might be distasteful or provide large false eyes to make the attacker think that their potential prey is much bigger than it really is. One of the most ingenious methods is that of the frog hopper which, when in its larval stage produces a frothy liquid that conceals it from hungry foes. You are probably familiar with this as it's commonly known as 'cuckoo spit', on account that it appears about the same time as the cuckoo returns from Africa.

The next time a fly or wasp buzzes around your head or woodlice invade your home try and think about the amazing way this life form has evolved over millions of years and that is just much part of the intricate web of life as we are, which may then just curb your natural instinct to carry out their wholesale destruction.

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Friday 20th February & Saturday 21st February 2015 @ 7.30pm
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LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

THE VISIT

As a child I had always wanted a pony. Eventually, when I was about fourteen, my grand-mother offered to buy me one; my mother insisted that I had to find somewhere to keep it. I was very shy, but was determined to find somewhere. I set off optimistically on my bike and went to the nearest farm. "Please can I keep a pony in your field" I said, expecting the busy farmer to welcome my request. "No" he replied. I set off to the next one. No I could not keep one there. Undeterred I tried other farms and country houses set in several acres of grassland. I was quite frightened when a rather cross lady was not pleased to see me. She made it quite clear I was not welcome and smartly closed the door. By now I was getting disheartened, I had tried all the most likely places close to our village with no luck. It had not occurred to me that people would not want the bother of a girl and a pony on their land.

I decided to look further afield, but it had to be within cycling distance. We had no car and the pony would be my responsibility. I cycled towards the next village and noticed a gate leading to a large field. I stopped, leaned over the gate for a better look, and glimpsed a large house in the distance. I decided to cycle up the adjacent drive that must lead to the house. I arrived at a farm, and the house I had seen. Screwing up my courage I walked up the garden path to the imposing Georgian house and knocked timidly on the huge door. A lady answered and kindly asked what I wanted. "Please can I keep a pony in your field?" I said glancing over my shoulder and gesturing towards the beautiful tree lined field. She asked who I was and a few questions. I was stunned when she said yes I could keep a pony there. She explained that the farm was let but the arrangements were that the family could keep one horse. Also as well as the grazing there was a stable, tack room and small hay store in the farm yard. I was thrilled.

So eventually I had my Dartmoor pony Prince, who I wrote about when my friend Judy and I rode to the sea. I remember one snowy winter we managed to attach a sledge to the saddle and galloped up and down the long drive with one riding and the other lying precariously on the sledge.

I was grooming Prince one day in his stable and kept hearing a clanging noise. Crossing the yard I realised the banging was coming from the stable where the bull was kept. The banging was getting more frantic. I looked over the stable door to see the bull, very distressed with his metal feed container jammed on his head, covering

NEWS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS.

News from your Wealden District Councillor, Ann Newton

The two defibrillators should be fitted shortly, one for each Parish Hall. There has been a delay in obtaining the machines – I currently just have the cabinets! These are being given free of charge by the ambulance service courtesy of a local resident. I have passed over a donation of £1,000 as part of my allocated Community Dividend to the Parish Council. This has covered the cost of the cabinets and electricity connection. We still hope to also arrange some training for anyone interested. As mentioned previously, the remainder of my portion of the Community Dividend has been allocated to various other local organisations across the Ward – Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club, Friends of Framfield Church, Access Films (a locally based organisation making films for the disabled), Friends of Waldron Churches and Heathfield & Waldron First Responders.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on anything which you think I could help.

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.

Framfield road safety measures. The Council is currently working 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 live in Uckfield and can be contacted on 01825 767695 or email – cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk.

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Memorial Hall, Framfield. It is hoped to start work soon on the much needed make-over of the Hall. Any local contractors who would like to be involved please contact me – painters, decorators, plasterers, plumbers, carpenters etc.

Blackboys Pavilion. Following lengthy discussions, the Council is to shortly submit a revised planning application to rebuild and re-site the Pavilion on Blackboys Recreation Ground. The building will be exactly the same footprint as the current one but will be positioned inside the gate from John Dann Close. This is in a better position to access mains services. The Cricket Club have the task of raising the funds to build the Pavilion and once built, the current Pavilion will be demolished.

Road Safety in Framfield. Work is continuing on the provision of two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) outside Framfield School and a further VAS in Blackboys Road, Framfield.

Guideposts – the two replacement posts were in place before Christmas and we hope to have the third post (at the junction of Blackboys Road and Pump Lane) up very shortly. A list of repairs/replacements will be prioritised for next year’s budget.

Parish Magazine – I will have sent out the renewal letters to advertisers in January. If anyone new would be interested in advertising please contact me for the details.

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

his eyes. He was naturally very upset. Not feeling very brave I leant over the door to try and release him, with no success. I decided the only option was to open the door a few inches and pull it off. Nervously I slid back the bolts, reached in, and managed to pull off his metal head gear. The bull was pleased. I was relieved.

Riding through the woods, over the Downs and along the country lanes it was lovely. One day Mother decided to take a photograph of me on Prince, in my jodhpurs and riding hat, in the field in front of the house before my ride. Eventually I had to leave home to go to college and Prince was sadly sold.

Fast forward over sixty years. Last summer my brother phoned to say he had the open gardens scheme booklet which covered the village where we used to live, including the house and grounds where I had kept Prince. Was I interested in going? I was undecided, knowing that it is often a mistake. However I agreed to go with him. “Bring that old black and white photo Mum took of you on Prince” he added. “They might like to see it” Not likely I thought.

It was a lovely hot day when we drove over the Downs and through the village to the farm, the aged photo in its frame, carefully wrapped in layers of plastic bubble pack. We parked the car and went and knocked on the back door. A gentleman, about my vintage, came to greet us and sell us a ticket and point out the way through to the gardens. At this point I mentioned who I was. He was most interested and putting away his tickets, insisted on us going in to meet his wife who was a member of the same family that had let me keep a pony there. Strange after all those years seeing the inside of the house for the first time, the flagged hall, the cosy sitting room, and views over the field that I had known so well. His wife was thrilled to see the photo and pointed out slight changes to the front of the house. She chatted about the dogs and horses she remembered when she was also young. After reminiscing for a while her husband kindly showed us all round the exquisite gardens full of flowering plants and shrubs and beautiful trees. I had no idea the house had such extensive and lovely gardens. I had only glimpsed a small part at the front as I rode round the field all those years ago.

The mellow traditional farm yard and buildings including the stable had all changed into housing, very attractive and I could still see outline of my stable in one of them. Sad, but tastefully done, preserving the rustic charm of the farm that I had known so long ago.

It was not a mistake going back on this occasion and I had thoroughly enjoyed my visit.

Hazel Carter
01825 830477
info@hazel-carter.co.uk
www.hazel-carter.co.uk



New Life Church
Blackboys

Christmas has come and gone. All the decorations and presents sorted and put away. Thankfully the real meaning of Christmas remains and we pray that 2015 will be a good year for you and your families, one of peace, comfort, joy, fruitfulness and healing.

We are looking forward to our New Year's Party on January 10 with The Revelators band – should be fun.

Our service on a Sunday morning at 10.30am is open to all, children and adults (almost more children than adults sometimes!) We spend the first half an hour with tea, coffee and cakes and chat, before Worship (approx 1 hour) commences at 11.00am. We would love to see you there.

Guy Partridge 07702 836057

Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond

Email: guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com M: 07702 836057

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- 10 -



Framfield & Blackboys WI

Our ever popular fundraising Race Night is back on Saturday 21st March at the Framfield Memorial Hall. Tickets are £10 each and selling fast, and numbers are limited. So book your ticket which includes race card and tasty ploughman's supper.

We're back in Victorian London with our Guest Speaker for the March 10th meeting with a talk about Street Life by Delia Taylor.

On the same theme, our next outing on **April 15th** will be to London's Royal Albert Hall for a guided Grand Front of House Tour, with a few tickets left at £28 per head with free time for shopping and exploring! **Contact Gill on 01825 890459.** Coach pick-ups in Blackboys, Framfield and Uckfield.

**To join your local WI in 2015 contact
President Delia on 01825 830319**

FRAMFIELD & BLACKBOYS WI RACE NIGHT



Saturday 21st March 2015

At Framfield Memorial Hall

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Fund Raiser

Admission includes A Race card and Ploughman Supper

BYO soft drink, beer or wine (and glasses too)

Admission £10 by ticket only

**Tickets available from 'Hair by Us' The Street, Framfield
Or Telephone Gill on 01825 890459**