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HAMMONDS GREEN, FRAMFIELD, UCKFIELD TN22 5QH

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

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

APRIL / MAY 2016

**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: 19th March: Diana Maxine Ritchie

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).

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

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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: Barbara Trickey, Delia Gillies,
and their teams of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

Moving on from Easter – Who do people say I am?

One of the questions Jesus puts to his disciples is “Who do people say I am”? You could equally ask the same question of yourself to someone who has known you for some time and as Jesus did you will also get a variety of answers. Our perception and judgement of others depends mainly on two factors.

Firstly, we view others through a ‘personal lens’ based on our upbringing and experience of interacting with other human beings. Typically when meeting someone for the first time we make a value judgement solely on whether you received a smile or a cheerful hello; whether you were comfortable in their presence; or did they have defensive body language or ‘shifty eyes’!

Secondly, we judge over a longer period of time i.e. on what they say or do how they treat you and others, are they kind, trustworthy etc.

Through personal experience it has often been the case that my initial perception of someone has turned out in the long run to be exactly the opposite. The really chummy ones when you first meet them turn out to be not very nice at all, whereas the ones who you were not quite sure about end up as trusted, lifelong friends.

So much for human relationships, but what about God whom we cannot see yet we still feel the need to make a value judgement about his character; because it is on this judgement that we decide whether we are going to have any sort of relationship with Him.

When Jesus says “Follow Me” He asks us to pitch in everything with Him. To trust Him with everything in life whether it be for us, our family, health, housing, job, finance, food etc. For many that is a bridge too far and the chief reason for not trusting Him is due to the projection of failed or difficult human relationships that are transferred onto God / Jesus.

The result is that we are not quite sure that this perfect, all loving God, as described in the Bible and personified by Jesus is in fact all that He is cracked up to be. Sad but true. How often have you heard the comment that ‘religion is the source of all wars’, result, ‘I don’t want anything to do with religion’? The door is firmly closed in God’s face!

Thankfully, Jesus never came to earth to establish another religion; in fact God hates religion and pious religiosity for its own sake because it inhibits the intimacy of relationship and turns it into a lifeless performance.

God's heart yearns for a genuine relationship/friendship with each one of us. He is the source that meets our deepest needs that no one or anything else can satisfy and yet we still try to run away, but as the saying goes 'You can run, but you can't hide'.

In the parable of the prodigal son when the younger son has demanded his inheritance from his father, left home for a distant land and spent all his money on 'wild living' and is now destitute and hungry he finally comes to his senses. He realises that even the servants at the family home now had more than he did so he decides to return home and make a grovelling speech to his father in the hope that he will accept him back in the role of a servant. But what happens? - *Luke 15:11-32*

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

The son clearly misread the character of his father and the reaction he was likely to get when he came home. How many of us can identify with the son, put our hands up and say 'yes, I've messed up', done things and said things I shouldn't have and now have to live with the regret and the heartache of a broken relationship.

Clearly, the father in the parable is God. But note that despite the son's speech the father isn't really listening, there is no word or thought of chastisement (*he knows everything anyway*) he is just so happy to have his son home. In this light, like the son how many have given God a bad press based on faulty perceptions about His character?

The essence of God's character is unconditional love and as the bible says 'Love covers over a multitude of sins'. It is time for you to come home and let your heavenly Father greet you?

Blessings to one and all - *Chris Lawrence*



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

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB BOOKING NOW

Looking for childcare or entertainment for the kids during the Easter holidays? Our Easter holiday club, for children aged 2 – 11, will be running from 7.45am-6pm, from Tuesday 29th March to Friday 8th April, weekdays only.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The after-school club for children aged up to 11 offers a range of fun activities and we offer some pickups from schools in the area. Give us a call or pop in to find out more.

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM?

As always, there's so much going on at Pre-School but highlights include the dedicated forest school sessions that the children continue to enjoy, and the arrival of tadpoles in the pond on our allotment. We are looking forward to a visit from some bearded dragons and a snake as we learn about animals that lay eggs.

RECYCLE TEXTILES AT BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL

Look out for the textile recycling bin at Blackboys Village Hall, which allows us to raise money for our charity from unwanted clothes, textiles, soft toys and shoes. Next time you're having a clear out, please think of us – thank you!

WANT TO TRY US OUT FOR FREE?

To book your child in for a no-obligation, free taster session or to visit the Pre-School at your convenience, contact Pre-School Manager Jenny on 01825 891113 or email enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk.

A little bit about Blackboys Pre-School

Open Monday to Friday during school term time from 7.45am to 6pm, we combine Montessori principles and practices and Forest School activities with our own allotment and a great outdoor area in a fabulous rural setting for children aged between 2 and 5, and an afterschool club for children up to 11. See our website at www.blackboypreschool.org.uk or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/blackboyspreschool.

mesothelioma because of exposure to asbestos. Previously, I urged the Armed Forces Minister to review the current situation, and many other MPs joined me in campaigning about this issue. I am pleased to learn that our efforts appear to have paid off, as all veterans with mesothelioma will now be able to take a lump sum in compensation. We have a responsibility to look after those who have put their lives on the line in the service of our country, and I commend the Government for taking this decision.

If you have an issue you wish to raise with me, you are welcome to contact me, or to drop-in at one of my surgeries. It is not necessary to book a surgery appointment – however, you may wish to first send me an email at nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk to let me know what you wish to discuss. My next upcoming surgery will be in Crowborough (exact location TBC) between 2-3pm on Friday 22nd April, and more details of my upcoming surgeries can be found on my website.

Yours sincerely,
Nus

Waldron Country Market at Holy Cross Priory, (Possingworth) (on the B2102 between Cross in Hand and Blackboys, near the Tunbridge Wells turn)

Held every 2nd Thursday of the Month, **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**
Thursday 14th April, Thursday 12th May

All produce is homemade and includes, cakes, pies, preserves, local cheeses, honey, greetings cards, pottery, hand knitted items, hand sewn gifts, vegetables, plants and more.

Enjoy coffee or tea and cake in pleasant surroundings.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931

Diary of Church Services

APRIL 2016

- 03 Second Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 10 Third Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Family Service - All welcome
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 17 Fourth 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
- 24 Fifth Sunday Easter**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

MAY 2016

- 01 Sixth Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 08 Seventh Sunday of Easter (Rogation & Ascension Sunday)**
11.00 am Family Service at Highbridge Farm, Palehouse Common (followed by barbecue – *all welcome*)
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 15 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

- 22 Trinity Sunday**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 29 First Sunday After Trinity**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
No Evening Service

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th MAY 2016
 TO
 ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182
 framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com
 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: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com
 Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,
 East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

From your Wealden MP Nus Ghani

I would like to take this opportunity to express my hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter. This is a very busy and exciting time for our local communities; this month sees the 90th birthday of our Queen, who for decades has stood above party politics as not just our head of state, but as one of the strongest symbols of our national identity. She has led a remarkable life, devoted to the service of our country, and I am sure that the people of Wealden will make us all proud by coming together in celebration. I am delighted to support the Clean for the Queen campaign – I have received emails from constituents wanting to tidy up their local area, and addressing these concerns should benefit everyone who lives in Wealden.

Hopefully we can also come together to tackle the gender pay gap. New figures show that the difference between the male and female hourly wage in Wealden is 20.8% in favour of men, above the national average of 19.2%. I support the measures the Government is taking nationally to tackle this issue, and I have written to our local Chambers of Commerce to express my wish to work with them – both to raise awareness of this shocking statistic and to tackle its causes so that the gender pay gap is no more.

I am also proud to support our local farmers. I was recently elected as a Parliamentary Representative for the Conservative Rural Affairs Group, which campaigns on behalf of rural communities across Britain. My first act in this role was to lead a delegation of farmers to meet with the Farming Minister, George Eustice to discuss, amongst other issues, the cost of food production and the ramifications of planning regulations for farmers.

I have also been campaigning for fair compensation for our servicemen and servicewomen who have contracted the cancer disease

We will be visiting homes in your local area soon



East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service working in partnership with Action in Rural Sussex

Safe & Well Visits

Our safe & well visits enable us to identify any existing and potential risks within your home, these include any fire safety and wellbeing issues that may impact on your personal safety and comfort, and the safety of others within your home. As part of the package to keep you safe in your home you will receive advice and guidance on all identified risks and where appropriate free smoke alarms.

Let us work with you to keep you safe in your home.

Please call us free on **0800 1777069**

Please quote ref: AIRS Partnership



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
e-mail: enquiries@engagesoutheast.org.uk

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Charity No: 1119329

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CONTACT MARY SHORT ON 01825 890854
FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

This is our 55th Anniversary Year

- 11th April - Mexican Train - and BRING and BUY
At Buxted Pavilion 2.30pm
- 25th April - BLUEBELL RAILWAY Train Ride and Picnic
Further info - told at Monday Club.
- 9th May - Coach OUTING to EASTBOURNE PIER
VICTORIAN TEA ROOMS for Afternoon Tea
Further info - told at Monday Club.

Details of our Special Event at East Sussex National Michael Wooldridge on the Wurlitzer Organ on 19th September Open to all - will follow in the next Parish Newsletter

Any further information contact Sandy - 01825 840648
sandyrogers77@gmail.com

“Imagine a Wealden area where serious road crashes were at a much reduced level, lower than the national average, rather than 63% higher.”

Dr. Jeremy Leach, Principal Policy Advisor, Wealden District Council – 2015

Reducing the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on Wealden’s roads is a critical issue and a top priority for the Safer Wealden Partnership and the Wealden Road Safety Action Group.



Nothing ventured, nothing changed.

The partners tackling this key prevention and protection agenda bring together district, county and pan-Sussex expertise in the “3 Es” of road safety - engineering, education, enforcement - plus community engagement experience. Informed by insights from the behavioural sciences, an approach proven to work on a national scale, the Wealden partnerships are launching and piloting a new, innovative community campaign to improve compliance with the law and make all our road users safer.

“We’re Keeping an Eye on YOU”

Initial contacts for this project -

Behavioural Insights work in Wealden - Dr. Jeremy Leach, Principal Policy Advisor, Wealden District Council
jeremy.leach@wealden.gov.uk

Wealden road safety initiatives - Kate Graham, Community Support Advisor (Road Safety),
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service kate.graham@esfrs.org




Looking for a local venue?

Looking for a local venue? Then look no further.


Framfield Church Hall is brightly decorated 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: £10.00/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



Details and video on our website



ST THOMAS À BECKET
FRAMFIELD

Sunday 17th April
Sunday 15th May

Messy craft activities, followed by a short bible story and song then the delicious afternoon tea!

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH STARTING AT 4PM



Demelza Children's Hospice Services

2016 is well under way now and we have some events in the diary plus some still in the planning process! Listed below are the ones already planned:

- 16th April **Heffle Cuckoo Fair** in Heathfield
5-6th May **Bates Farm, Arlington** -we will be serving teas at their annual opening for the bluebells.
13th May **Quiz Night** at the Alma Arms, Uckfield (teams of up to 6, £5 per head) for details or to book a table call me on:
01825 890646
email: pat.dangerfield@btinternet.com

We are also planning an **Open Garden** in Framfield and, hopefully, a **Barn Dance** (dates and details to follow in the next issue).

Your support is very important to us and we would love to see as many of you as possible at these events. If anyone feels that they have some spare time and would like to volunteer or to hold an event to support us please contact either myself or :

Julie Brett, Community Fundraiser on **07917 603075**
or email julie.brett@demelza.org.uk

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Our committee was delighted to receive an amazing cheque for £6214.87 from the Lady Captain at Crowborough Golf Club. Macmillan Cancer Support has been their chosen charity of the year. We have also been given a cheque for £100 from Uckfield Bonfire Society and are so grateful for their continued support.

Our fundraising season will start shortly when we sell tea and cakes at numerous open gardens in the area. Our main event this year will be our biannual golf day at Ticehurst Golf Club on Friday 10th June. This will be a great day, so please support if you can and stay for a dinner and auction in the evening. Ring Chairman Ann for details.

The Macmillan Horizon Centre will be opening in Spring 2016. It has been designed with input from people affected by cancer to make it the best place to offer the support and services that people in Sussex need. The centre will offer all round support from a team of specialists in a calm, friendly and welcoming environment.

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

Meteorological spring has arrived! However, I think it is colder now than it was in January. The frog spawn has arrived in my pond but some of it looks as though it has suffered in the cold and is not developing. However, there are plenty of full stops changing into commas within the jelly, so there should be sufficient tadpoles to produce a new generation of frogs.

I saw the first hawthorn and elder leaves breaking bud recently in the hedgerows, and the dunnock or hedge sparrow was singing his head off this morning, so he is pleased as well, probably because he and his mate can soon get on with nest-building without being too visible.

The honeysuckle is also leafing up in order to catch the early year light before the tree canopy shades it out. It is a striking ecological phenomenon that the small understory herbs, climbers and shrubs produce their leaves well in advance of the trees so that they can use the spring sunshine to get a growing head start on them before the tree canopy closes up above them. It is rather kind of the large trees to let that happen really.

Our commonest tree is probably oak which breaks bud on or about 23rd April on average. Within about four weeks of this date the leaves of the oak have closed the canopy, but not before the wood anemone and blue bell has grown and flowered. However, there are moth caterpillars that hatch out when the oak leaves break bud and eat them as they are growing. If the caterpillars waited, the leaves produce tannin which makes them inedible and the caterpillars would die. Sometimes caterpillars can be in such profusion that you can hear their droppings falling like rain on the leaf litter below. Also, the caterpillars can sometimes eat so many leaves that the oak tree is almost completely defoliated. However, the caterpillars soon pupate if they are not eaten in turn by blue tits and other birds; so then the oak trees produce a new growth of leaves called Lammas growth because it coincides with the feast of Lammas Day or loaf-mass which is the 1st August and the festival of the wheat harvest. On this day it was traditional to bring to church the first loaf of bread made from the first harvest of wheat of that year, and is an early harvest festival.

Martyn Stenning



Framfield & Blackboys WI

For all who like a good Quiz, the date for your diary is **Saturday April 16th** when we will be holding a celebratory event to mark our 90th Anniversary Year in the Framfield Memorial Hall. Join us for a two-course home cooked buffet supper with family and friends. Team tables of six can compete for spot prizes and tickets are only **£10** available from **Hair by Us** or ring **01825 890216** or **01825 890459**. We are grateful for the generous donation by Peter & Cathy Berry of Bird-in Eye-Farm for their wonderful meat for the dinner. Bring your own favourite tippie and glasses.

We shall be enjoying HRH Prince Charles' Highgrove Gardens on **June 20th** and tickets @ £42 – **some seats available**

VISIT
MIDSOMER



The country village of Wallingford, as seen in **Midsomer Murders**, is the setting for our summer trip, with a private guided tour of **Mapledurham House & Mill** (used in “The Eagle has Landed” and Sharpe TV series, on **July 14th @ £30**. Non-members welcome as always, contact Gill Roberts on 890459 or email **gill.roberts@btinternet.com**. Coach pickups from Blackboys, Framfield & Uckfield.

STOP PRESS: Learn how to predict the weather with expert Dave King on our **May 9th** Country Walk in Edenbridge. **[www. Weather without Technology](http://www.WeatherwithoutTechnology)** provides the introduction. Dave advises Buckingham Palace in planning future Garden Parties, and is a mine of information. Again book by phone as above.

April 12th: we have an introduction to **Gongoozling** in Blackboys Village Hall. For the curious, we welcome visitors to meetings so ladies please come along. We start at 7.30pm. For membership details contact our **President Philomena** on **Tel:890216**



FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET



Framfield Village Market – please do come and support the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall by attending our monthly market. There are all sorts of stalls, a raffle and enjoy a cup of coffee and a bacon roll. A list of the market dates for 2016 is detailed below. The market opens at 10 am and runs until about 12 noon.

**30 April
28 May
25 June
30 July
August – no market.
24 September
29 October
26 November
17 December.**

We would also appreciate it if anyone could donate homemade cakes, savouries or biscuits for the cake stall. At the moment they are supplied by just a few kind residents. Please let me know if you could bring anything along or to arrange collection.

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

Email: framfeldeasthoathly@gmail.com. Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR. Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

The Changing World of the Blackcap

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Some of you may have been lucky enough to have been visited by a small greyish bird about the size of a robin with a prominent black cap, taking advantage of the food you provide in your garden. This is the appropriately named blackcap, though the females may not agree as they have brown caps, and the reason you may have seen one is because of what you are doing, feeding birds in winter.

Blackcaps are a migratory species, coming to Northern Europe to breed in the summer and then returning to Southern Europe or Africa to spend the winter in warmer climes where they can feed, as they are essentially insectivores. But the last 50 years, because of the huge increase in the development and usage of commercial wild bird food and the changing climate to warmer winters has seen a continuous increase in the number of blackcaps reported throughout the year, particularly in gardens.

It is easy to assume that these wintering blackcaps are the breeding birds that have just decided to stay over, why take that long hazardous journey south when there is enough food available here and it seems to be a lot warmer than it used to be, but research has shown that this is not necessarily the case. Analysis of data collected by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) shows that the blackcaps recorded in the UK during the winter months have likely come from Central Europe, mainly from Germany and Austria, while our own breeding birds still head south at the end of summer.

By analysing BTO Garden Birdwatch data and ringing recovery records over a number of years, it is not surprising that the majority of records come from the southern half of the UK where winters are milder and were more frequent where supplementary food was provided. Where there have been particularly warmer periods in winter there were fewer sightings of blackcaps illustrating that they still have a preference for more natural food when it is available.

There is also increasing evidence that these little birds as well as changing their migratory habits they are changing genetically a well. Blackcaps wintering in Britain have relatively narrower and longer beaks to those that winter in Spain, suggesting that they are becoming more generalist feeders. As these changes can continue to evolve it is possible that eventually they may split into separate species.

These changes have been initiated through actions by us, directly by providing supplementary food during the winter months and then indirectly through our actions that are having an effect on the climate. Most of our birds that migrate to the UK are insectivores so they have to make the long journey south to survive. If they had enough food to survive here in the winter they wouldn't need to leave but genetically they are pre-disposed to eat insects, but this new research shows that we, through our actions, may be speeding up the evolutionary process and who knows, other species may follow in the wake of the blackcap.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL CAN SATISFY YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

**2 HEATED ROOMS WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 100 and 50
RESPECTIVELY.**

SECURE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA FOR TODDLERS.

VERY COMPETITIVE RATES FOR BOTH REGULAR AND CASUAL BOOKINGS.

CONTACT JILL GOGGIN ON 01825 890691 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A few District news items from Wealden District Council –

WDC has agreed to increase the Wealden share of this year's council tax by 1.9 %. This is the first increase after five years, and it will see Wealden's share of resident's council tax bills increase to £3.41 a week for a Band D property. The increase will be 6.5 pence a week for that Band D property."

WDC has welcomed the High Court ruling which overturns a Planning Inspector's decision to grant planning permission for 103 homes within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty at Steel Cross, Crowborough. It's very rare for the Council to take this serious step but sometimes it is a real matter of sticking to your principles and it paid off.

WDC's Wealden Do Sussex 2016 tourist guide was launched in February. An extra 20,000 guides have been printed this year to help build in the District's reputation as a day trip destination. In 2014, Wealden received 5.6million visitor day trips, an increase of 1% on the previous year – but the total amount of money tourism brought into the District rose by 2.5% to nearly £300 million.

Missed bins – if anyone does have a missed bin should contact Wealden in the first instance by telephone (01892 653311) or email and also let me know.

Lastly, if anyone wishes to know what planning applications are currently live, they are all listed on a weekly basis on the Wealden website. If you follow this link

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Leaflets_And_Publications/Weekly_List_of_Planning_Applications/Planning_Weekly_List.aspx - you will find the current and previous lists.

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 – aenewton1965@gmail.com



Guy Partridge 07702 836057
**Building through Blessing in Blackboys and
Beyond**

SHEDS and SHUTTERING

One of my mottos in life is to learn something new every day. Today I learnt about shuttering. Do you know what that is? At the end of March I am having a new shed delivered and in preparation for that a Blackboys based builder is coming to lay a concrete base. He texted me this morning to say 'Is it Ok to come over tomorrow to get the shuttering ready, then I can work out how much ballast and cement I need and order it.' To which I responded 'Yes that sounds good although I have no idea what shuttering is!' and he replied 'Bits of timber to stop the concrete going everywhere.'

It occurred to me then that our lives could do with a bit of shuttering as well. Without a solid foundation and framework to hold it all in place the ever changing world can often feel like quite an unstable and therefore potentially unsafe place.

As I write this, Easter is fast approaching and I am mindful that my Christian faith provides that foundation and that the death of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection to new life some 3 days later provides the framework or shuttering to my life and to my faith.

What does your life rest upon I wonder and is it strong enough to withhold whatever is thrown against it?

*Revd Guy Partridge New Life Church Blackboys
guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com*

P.S. If you want the name and number of the builder then let me know.



Much fun was had by all at our recent quiz night, a closely-fought event testing the horticultural knowledge of members and friends alike. But fear not if you missed it, we have plenty of great events in the calendar over the coming months. Please feel free to join us.

The society is a friendly group with an interest in a wide range of garden activities. You needn't feel as if in-depth knowledge of horticulture is a prerequisite to joining! For many members, it's as much about the talks, garden visits and social side.

Calendar of talks, April-June 2016

If you're interested in saving money on the seeds for your garden, you may be interested in the next talk in our busy calendar of events for the year at Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th April, where our speaker, Vanessa Sutcliffe, will be talking us through how to collect and store your own seeds.

If cut flowers are your thing, put Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm in your diary and come along to Framfield Memorial Hall to hear Bek Bibby from Blooming Green near Maidstone spill the beans on the tricks of growing a regular supply of long-lasting cut flowers, from sowing to picking to conditioning your stems.

On Wednesday 22nd June, 7.30pm at Blackboys Village Hall, Michael Lynn will be showing us how to create a garden that will encourage bees and other insects all year round.

All talks are free to members or £3 to non-members, and include a glass of wine on arrival and coffee later in the evening.

About Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society
The Society's main aim is to promote horticulture and to try and encourage and support as many people as possible to grow their own flowers, fruit and vegetables.

We also organise the village Summer Show, which this year will take place on 13 August at Framfield village hall and recreation ground. Put the date in your diary – it's a great day for all the family. Find out more at www.fabhortsoc.org.uk/ where you can download a membership form. For any enquiries, please feel free to email our vice chairman Fiona Fidler at fhbsmail@gmail.com or on 01825 890719. To the readers of this column may I wish you, on behalf of the Committee, every good wish for the coming year.

ALAYNE JENKINS
Chairman

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

We have been able to give two donations so far this year. The first was to Headway at Hurstwood Park who gave us a very informative presentation of their work. They have recently opened a new gym. They also do Outreach Support working with people in their own homes. We know that our donation will be put to good use.

Our next donation will be to Demelza House. Who are speaking to us in March.

We have our annual dinner in April and will be going for a walk to a pub in May.

If you would like to join us give me a ring. Val Peaty 890677

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FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULE 2016

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, 22 March (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 24 May (BB Trust) Annual Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm Annual Parish Meeting – 8 pm.	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 28 June (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 27 September (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 29 November (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall

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

St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation: Framfield and Blackboys Schools.

I always seem to be saying how busy the terms are, and terms 3 and 4 have been no exceptions! Both schools have been working very hard not only embedding the more demanding curriculum but also developing a robust system of assessment now that the old system of levels has been removed. Staff have spent staff meeting time planning together for joint projects and events as well as supporting each other and colleagues from other schools as all the changes are introduced.

Staffing News

At the end of Term 4 we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Holbrook after 23 years of teaching at Framfield School. We are fortunate, however, that Mrs Holbrook will continue to be our Modern Foreign Languages expert for one hour a week at both schools with our KS2 children. She will be much missed and we are pleased that she will continue with this reduced role.

At Framfield we welcomed back Mrs Clarke to work on a part-time basis across both schools. Mrs Clarke teaches in Puffins class on Mondays and works with the Year 1 children on Wednesdays at Framfield. She spends Thursdays at Blackboys leading literacy and teaching across the school.

At Blackboys, we welcomed Mr Gavin Toms to teach computing across the school and supported Ms Clare Bodfish in her work developing phonics with the local authority as well as Mr Graham Sullivan in his role as a Senior Leader of Education. Both these teachers have had excellent feedback on the work they have carried out to support other schools.

World Book Day 3rd March 2016

Both schools celebrated national World Book Day this year, marking the occasion with each school writing a story contributed to by each class. The results were shared with parents via websites and copies sent home or made available in school. In addition to this, at Blackboys, members of class

4 were tasked with choosing a book to centre the word 'egg' around, for eggs-ample; 'Harry Poacher and The Order of the Fried Eggs', while at Framfield book characters were brought to life by the pupils using fruit and vegetables! The results were very interesting in both schools!

As you know, we have high expectations of reading in both our schools but are always keen to improve this, and with this in mind, we are looking for volunteers 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.

UNICEF

As a Federation we annually support the Unicef Day for Change. All the classes learnt more about the plight of refugees across the world and much thanks must to all those parents and children who contributed their money to this project. In total the two schools raised £186.70 - well done and thanks to everyone involved.

Sport

Netball

Pupils from both schools have taken part in a variety of sports fixtures this term including yr 5/6 and year 3/4 netball tournaments - Blackboys successfully winning the 5/6 competition overall.

Football at Firle

Framfield and Blackboys went to play a football match against Firle Primary School but although we had a tough game, the team won 1-0.



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.

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www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Co-option of Parish Councillors - there are some vacancies on the Parish Council. If anyone would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact me.

Memorial Hall refurbishment, Framfield – an update: the current ‘project’ is the conversion of the rear urinals into a unisex WC. We are also investigating the possibilities of a new boiler and general hot water system and therefore some changes to the rear corridor. A huge amount of effort goes into organising the works to the Hall, therefore, it is extremely disappointing to find that new items from the kitchen disappear and one of the new work tops has been damaged. If anyone can shed any light on any of these things please let me know.

Bird-in-Eye Hill – speed limit reduction. The Parish Council has applied to ESCC for match-funding for the provision of a reduction in speed limit on a section of Bird-in-Eye Hill (running down from the Farm to the Bridge). We have heard that ESCC have delayed the decision until September when the request will be re-considered.

School Lane, Blackboys. Residents have approached the Parish Council because the situation with discourteous parking has reached an intolerable level during school drop off and pick up times. A site meeting has been held with representatives from the School, Parish Council, residents and Councillor Chris Dowling to see what could be done in an attempt to stop the damage which is occurring to the grass verges and driveways.

Speed limits, Blackboys. The Parish Council is to look again at what can be done to try and reduce the speed of traffic on particularly the B2192 in Blackboys.

Precept. The Parish Council has decided to raise the precept by £1,000 for the year 2017/18. This was done with some reluctance but bearing in mind that the cost of additional highway measures as detailed above will have to be in the very least part funded by the Parish Council, they felt that this increase was justified. It represents approximately a 2% increase.

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

Email: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com.

Postal Address: ‘Highlands’, Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Hockey Tournament:

We were able to host a hockey tournament at Blackboys in the first week of March. It was attended by teams from Framfield and East Hoathly and was well supported by parents and staff alike.

Uckfield Schools Swimming Gala

Organised via our sporting link with Uckfield Community College, some members of Years 5 and 6 took part in a Swimming Gala at UCTC. Everyone swam their independent races well, with the relays being hotly contested. Both schools did really well and showed a good sense of perseverance. In addition to this, both schools attended benchball and gym/ dance activities with our Alliance colleagues at Ringmer - as you can see we have really increased the number of different sports and fixtures that we attend.

Many thanks to all the staff and parents who support the children at all these events. As always, we continue to be impressed by the level of commitment shown by everyone involved. Our schools pride themselves on the good sportsmanship shown at all events and the pupils are always a credit to us.

Signs of Spring are appearing around both villages and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and the outside opportunities that this will bring. Term 5 and 6 are likely to be as busy as ever with Sports Days at both schools and we have no doubt that both the Blackboys PTA and the Framfield PTFA will be as energetic as ever in organising lots of fund-raising events. If you can attend any of these, you will be very welcome.

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

MICE IN THE CARAVAN.

We enjoy our holidays either on our boat on the Norfolk Broads or in our caravan that we keep at home. After a caravan holiday all the food is taken out and the bed linen and kitchen cloths, in fact anything that has been used; is washed and returned. The caravan then has a good clean. It is then ready for the next trip away as all we have to do is put in our provisions and clothing. Periodically it is checked to make sure all is well. One day my husband discovered signs of mice. When I went to have a look, my heart sank. Mouse droppings were everywhere, over the upholstery, all over my clean tea cloths and pillow cases. They had even chewed open new packs of plastic bags and kitchen paper. I then had to clean and wash everything again. Meanwhile my husband jacked up the van to inspect the bottom and blocked the one possible entry point. After that all was fine with no sign of mice.

A while later there was another invasion so a trap was set in the caravan and regularly checked by my husband. He then decided it was time to check the boat and stay for a couple of days to do some work on it. It was a wild wet and windy morning when he went. After he had gone I remembered the trap. I hate the idea of them and had not asked him if it was still set. I rather reluctantly thought I had better go and see. I opened the cupboard where the trap was set, hoping any livestock would be neatly dead or not there at all. I peered at the trap, no mouse, then I looked in the opposite corner and there sat a little mouse. It looked at me and I looked at it. I then needed a plan of action. I could not leave it there near the lethal trap so decided to catch it.

I needed a cunning plan. I arranged a box over one bolt hole and armed myself with an assortment of possible mouse catching equipment. It was sitting there so still, so sweet, with its big eyes looking at me – then like lightning it bolted out of the cupboard and raced along the floor, but I foiled its escape by blocking its exit with a handy breadboard. It then tried to run up the slippery side of the bunk but fell back to the floor. Then, quick as a flash, it ran under a small rug that was on the floor just by my legs. This gave us both time to recover and make our plans. I craftily worked out my tactics. The mouse decided to play dead in a fold of the rug. I decided to lift the rug very, very, gently and slowly to make a mouse sized tunnel. I then blocked up one end with a table mat. The next part was crucial to my success. I very carefully inserted a roll of kitchen paper into

the rug tunnel then blocked the open end with a handy fly swat (that is never used for killing anything)

The moment had come. I tapped the far end of the tunnel. The mouse seeing an inviting escape route ran along the rug tunnel straight into the kitchen paper roll. Quick as a flash I had both ends of my improvised mouse tunnel blocked. I then had a slight problem, how could I get up holding both ends securely closed when I was very stiff from crouching on the floor for ages? I staggered with difficulty to my feet and took my captive outside. I found it a new home on the edge of the wood and released my mouse. Not as comfortable as a dry caravan, but a sheltered place under a hedge. I came back indoors rather tired, stiff and wet. I was just about to make a hot drink and recover in front of the warm Aga, but then thought about the mouse and went out in the rain again to give the poor creature some nourishing nuts to cheer it up!

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



Details on
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