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

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

JUNE / JULY 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

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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

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

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

In or out of the EU ? - The lessons of history

I pondered long and hard over this one as the referendum to stay in or leave the EU looms.

I have been asked by members of the congregation for some definitive guidance as to how to vote on the 23rd June.

Some may say that the church shouldn't get involved in politics but I tend to disagree, we all have a right to vote and we have the freedom to express our opinions when asked. Whether people listen is entirely up to them. As to the question of providing guidance in the face of speculation and fear on both sides, I cannot give a definitive answer. However, history can provide a valuable tool when attempting to make a decision of this nature.

For the past month at the Tuesday morning homegroup at the Vicarage we have been studying the book of the prophet Hosea. Hosea whose name means 'Salvation' or 'Deliverance' was chosen by God to live out his message to his people by marrying a woman who would be unfaithful to him. His sensitivity toward the sinful condition of his countrymen and his sensitivity toward the loving heart of God fitted him for this difficult ministry.

The historical setting for Hosea is set between the dates 755B.C. to 715B.C. Israel had become a divided nation; the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel. The dividing of the nation is a result of Israel's sin and God's judgement. Israel are God's chosen people whose mandate was to become a 'light to the gentiles'. In essence Israel was supposed to be the greatest nation on earth under God and as such other nations would recognise the one true God and be drawn to Him. However, when Israel prospered its relationship with God diminished; self-sufficiency came to the fore and the recognition of God as the source of blessing faded like the morning mist. In addition, Israel was called to be a holy (set apart) nation but throughout its history, whenever it integrated with other nations it ended up worshipping false or manmade gods, despite God warning them against the practice. By nature God is a jealous God who expects loyalty. Throughout history Israel had (and still has) a roller coaster relationship with God. When they are with God they prosper but when they are disloyal God removes His hand of blessing and just like a naughty child a degree of discipline is metered out. In Hosea's time Israel is under God's judgement; peace and prosperity leads to anarchy which brought about the collapse of the nation. Hosea describes the characteristic social conditions of his day: corrupt leaders, unstable family life, widespread immorality, spiritual adultery, class hatred and poverty. As the kingdom is divided, Israel no longer enjoys self-rule.

Alliances are sought from Assyria and Egypt to strengthen the nation but Israel's condition goes from bad to worse. Due to the assimilation of the cultures of Assyria and Egypt, Israel loses its distinctiveness and its national worth. God describes Israel as a 'Silly Dove' (one open to deception, easily misled). Israel's foolishness was shown in their thinking that they could find help in any human resource, even powerful Egypt and Assyria.

God allows Israel to sink further into the mire but only up to a point. Restoration is on the horizon as God's love comes to the rescue. Hosea writes in chapter 14 :-

Return, Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall!

²Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: 'Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.'³ Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount war-horses. We will never again say "Our gods" to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion.'⁴ 'I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.

When we look at our own nation, once God fearing and immensely prosperous we see parallels with Israel's walk with God. Nevertheless, the question has to be asked; are we under God's judgement? Has our national identity been sucked out of us by our alliances with the EU? Have we committed spiritual adultery by accepting and imbibing the religious practices of other nations? Israel had to realise that true national strength and identity came from God alone, not manmade institutions or foreign religions with their associated spiritual practices.

As mentioned at the beginning the campaign for staying in or leaving the EU is fear based speculation by both sides. However, let us be reminded that 'perfect love drives out fear' (1 John 4:18). Our personal decision on which way we vote cannot be a fear based decision.

If you read the entire book of Hosea its quite frankly grim reading until the last chapter. Just when you think things can't get any worse they do!

I have been asked which way I intend to vote and you've probably deduced by now that I'm a Brexit man. Personally, I believe that our national situation will deteriorate further if we stay in and our national identity will be so eroded that in a few years Great Britain will be filed in annals of history and with it our sovereignty.

I'll close with the last verse from the book of Hosea:-

⁹ May those who are wise understand what is written here, and may they take it to heart. The LORD's ways are right, and righteous people live by following them, but sinners stumble and fall because they ignore them. (Good News translation)

Please pray before you vote. Blessings to one and all -Revd Chris Lawrence *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

HOLIDAY CLUB FOR HALF TERM BOOKING NOW

Looking for childcare or entertainment for the kids during the half term? Our holiday club, for children aged 2 – 11, will running from 7.45am-6pm, from Tuesday 31st May to Friday 3rd June. We are also taking bookings for the Summer Holidays, please contact us for more details.

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 our sports day on 22nd June and our leavers show in July.

RECYCLE TEXTILES AT BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL

We are still collecting textiles 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.

I always feel that our communities are at their best when celebrating traditional events, and this year's Groombridge Village Mayfair was certainly no exception. I particularly love the Maypole dancing, which I am told is in its 100th year! I only hope that I didn't generate too much controversy with my judging of the dog show – but unfortunately, in politics I have to make difficult decisions sometimes!

As always, my email address is nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk if there are any concerns or questions that you wish to raise with me.

Yours,
Nus

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Diary of Church Services

JUNE 2016

- 05 Second Sunday After Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing
- 12 Third Sunday After Trinity**
11.00 am Family Service with HM Queen 90th Birthday
Celebration - Lunch in Vicarage Garden after
the service - All welcome
No Evening Service
- 19 Fourth Sunday After Trinity (Fathers' Day)**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 26 Fifth Sunday After Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise with Baptism
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

JULY 2016

- 03 Sixth Sunday After Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 10 Seventh Sunday After Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing
- 17 Eighth 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

- 24 Ninth Sunday After Trinity**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 31 Tenth Sunday After Trinity**
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
No Evening Service

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th JULY 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 was delighted to be elected as a Parliamentary Representative for the Conservative Rural Affairs Group (CRAG), so as to be a strong voice for the farming communities of Wealden. It has been a tremendously active first couple of months in the role – after leading a delegation of farmers to meet the Farming Minister, George Eustice, I began preparing for a Parliamentary debate about tenant farming. In that debate, on Tuesday 10th May, I argued in favour of greater security for farmers who lease the land on which they work, as I strongly believe that every farmer should be allowed to have a lease of at least 10 years to encourage greater investment, diversification and good soil management. CRAG has also appointed a new chairman, Christopher Abergavenny, who I am delighted to welcome to the role, particularly given his connections to the Sussex farming community – we will now have two champions at the table!

I am determined to be a strong representative for all Wealden’s communities. I know how important local community services are, and so when I learned that Hailsham FM was threatened with not having its license extended, I wrote to Ofcom and the Culture Minister to see what we could do to save this excellent local radio station. I am delighted that Hailsham FM has now been granted a 5-year license, and so the threat of closure has receded.

Local charities also make such a difference to the local community, and I know that the Sussex Oakleaf Community Wellbeing Centre, a great local drop in centre in the middle of Hailsham, does in particular. I visited the centre in November, and was inspired by the support and therapy that they provide to people of all ages who suffer from mental health problems. However, they have recently been threatened with a cut in their funding, which would have placed their survival in jeopardy. I therefore raised this matter with East Sussex County Council, and we worked together in securing funding and am delighted that they will be keeping their funding in full. So I celebrated my first year as an MP in their courtyard with staff, volunteers and centre users.

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**Sunday 19th June
Sunday 17th July**

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FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

This is our 55th Anniversary Year

- 6th June - Tea with Valerie and Jeremy Clark,
Hobbs Barton - 2.30 pm
- 20th June - Garden Party at the Home of
Sun Hwa and Peter Griffiths
South Hill, Sandy Lane, Framfield - 2.30 pm
- 4th July - Tea with Caroline and Glen Swire,
Grange Farm House, Framfield - 2.30 pm
- 18th July - Meet at Buxted CE Church visit Church or walk
to see Lake at Buxted Park, then a slow walk
back to Buxted Pavilion for Ice cream and
Strawberries/Cream - 2.30 pm.

Tickets are available for sale End of May to the following:

Available to ALL

19th September 1.30pm for 2.00 pm -East Sussex National
To hear Michael Wooldridge on the WURLITZER ORGAN To Celebrate
our 55th Anniversary of Framfield and BLACKBOYS Monday Club
Tickets £3 each, Thanks to the generosity of some Framfield People.

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



The image contains a collection of logos for various organizations involved in the road safety initiative. From left to right, they are: Safer Wealden Partnership (Working Together to Keep Wealden Safer), Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, Operation Crackdown, and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.

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



Demelza Children's Hospice Services

May is upon us and, since the last issue, we have very busy across our area.

April 16th saw the annual Heffle Cuckoo Fair and, against all odds considering the dreadful weather, it was a success and our Heathfield Friends' Group managed to raise in the region of £3000 which was an amazing amount of money given the fact that it rained practically non-stop all day!

May 5th & 6th we were at Bates Farm during their annual opening for the Bluebell Walk. Each year the owner invites local charities to run the refreshments. It was exceptionally beautiful weather this year and we saw in the region of 1000 visitors over the two days. This was organised by our Hailsham Friends' Group and it was a case of all hands to the pump from Friends' Groups across the South East. Once again we raised a phenomenal £2,400.

At time of writing this, our Quiz Night on 13th May has yet to be held but it has been sold out for some time and our intrepid team is researching some devilishly difficult questions!

A date of Saturday 23rd July has been set for our Open Garden at Hammonds Green Cottage, Framfield TN22 5QH (thank you to Jenny Bacon for kindly letting us look round her beautiful garden). The gardens will be open from 2pm, there will be parking on site and there will be charge of £3 per person (no dogs please and wheelchair access is limited). Refreshments will also be available. Please make a note in your diary and come along – we would love to see you.

Your support is very important to us and we would love to see as many of you as possible at our 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, Pat Dangerfield, Uckfield Friends of Demelza 01825 890646 or :

Julie Brett, Community Fundraiser on 07917 603075

julie.brett@demelza.org.uk



Our committee has now begun making cakes in earnest in preparation for the many open garden tea venues. We have already raised £2,225 at three such venues this year. The third venue at Banks Farm in Barkham was new. The gardens were open for two days, the first of which was bitterly cold and our team were dressed in many layers of clothing! In spite of this, just under an amazing £1,000 was raised.

A date for the diaries - a concert is being held on Sunday afternoon, 3rd July, at St Margaret's Church, in Buxted. We shall be serving cream teas.

Despite the last few months being a relatively quiet time of the year, MCS Sussex fundraising teams have already, collectively, raised over £300,000 in 2016. The Horizon Centre will be officially opened in June and many of the fundraisers will be invited to attend and see first-hand the facilities, services and support that will be offered. The centre will be opening its doors for cancer patients in October.

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

How lovely are the fresh new green leaves on our deciduous trees in the spring time! How extraordinary too are the animals that live among them. Each tree is an ecosystem in its own right. Full of the web of life and each animal is using the tree as its home. First there is the water drawn up from the roots and filling the veins of the leaves making them turgid and juicy. Much of this water is then secreted from the stomata holes on the underside of the leaves. Many hundreds of litres can be moved by one mature tree in a single day. This is a reason why trees are so useful in a flood-plain, also why flood-plains devoid of trees flood so badly. The animals in the trees make use of this moisture and many of them, like moth and sawfly caterpillars, eat some of the juicy leaves. Many of these caterpillars will be eaten by larger insects, spiders and birds such as blue tits, which in turn, un-fit blue tits will be eaten by other animals such as meat eating birds such as sparrowhawks.

Sparrowhawks are what we call top-predators. Nothing much can catch and eat them. They fly and perch, often in dense woodland, and frequently take small birds on the wing. They too will have a family of 3 – 5 nestlings to feed at this time of the year.

The pyramid of numbers is startling. In some years, one mature oak tree can lose all of its thousands of first flush of leaves to caterpillars. One family of blue tits can consume 18,000 caterpillars in about 20 days. One family of sparrowhawks will consume about 10 blue tit sized birds in one day, and do so for about 28 days! However, when you think of the sheer quantity of lettuce, chickens, sheep and cattle that we humans eat, it kind of puts it in context. Also, the oak trees always produce another flush of leaves (Lammas growth), many caterpillars do survive to become beautiful moths each of which lay large numbers of new eggs on the trees, and sufficient blue tits survive to make this bird one of the most successful species' in Europe. However, sparrowhawks will always be rather thin on the ground and rarely seen.

Meanwhile, if you happen to walk through oak woodland during a warm sunny day during May and early June, and the woodland floor is covered with dry leaf litter, listen carefully for a sound like softly falling rain. This is the sound of thousands of caterpillar droppings falling on the dry leaves.

Martyn Stenning



Framfield & Blackboys WI

With thanks to Framfield Quizters! We are most grateful to the many people who contributed, attended and supported the WI's 90th Anniversary event on April 16th which raised £500 which will help the organisation undertake community activities throughout the year. Such was the response we are already planning a repeat for 2017.

In keeping with the celebratory theme, don't forget our trip to **HRH Prince Charles' Highgrove Gardens** on **June 20th** and tickets @ £42 – **some seats still available**



Midsomer Murders country is the setting for our summer trip, with a private guided tour of **Mapledurham House & Mill** (used in many films including "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.

Our April speaker on **Gongoozling** in Blackboys Village Hall turned out to be a most entertaining guide to pottering about on canal boats.

Bridge Cottage in Uckfield is the venue for the June outing at 7.30pm on 28th – learn more about its heritage and the Lottery project that restored it. For more details contact Gill as above.

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.

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

A New Voice Graces the Sussex Countryside

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

A new voice has been added to the Sussex avian chorus over the last few years, emanating from a shy, difficult to see little brown bird whose explosive song belies its reticent nature. Cetti's warbler, first recorded in the UK in Kent in 1961 can now be heard all over our county.

Named after an 18th Century Italian Jesuit naturalist Francesco Cetti, this little bird has marched relentlessly north-westerly across Europe, expanding its range from the core of the population in South-east Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia. Having hopped over the English Channel in 1961, it was ten years later before breeding was proven to have taken place, all the time they were spreading westward along the south coast. In the early 1970s they suddenly disappeared from the south-east due to some pretty cold winters, but in the 1980s their numbers began to recover and due to our winters becoming warmer, it was enough to establish a viable breeding population. Now, they have become a good news wildlife story; increasing numbers and continuing to expand their range northwards and westwards.

Their arrival in the UK coincided with another species that initially colonised in south-east England, the little egret, but whereas this striking white water bird is very visible and easy to see, the Cetti's warbler isn't. To describe what it looks like, it might be best to say it looks like an over-sized wren in that it is basically brown and often sits with its tailed cocked upwards, but you have to be lucky to actually see it all. They like to live in damp places, close to water that has dense low vegetation in which they can skulk away to their hearts content.

It's the song that is most striking about the Cetti's warbler. An almost machine-gun like burst that just lasts for a couple of seconds and then you don't hear it again, which is most frustrating as you search the dense vegetation with your eyes in a vain attempt to try and see it. About five minutes later it will belt out the call again from somewhere else. It is the male that does all the singing, and it moves about its territory belting out the song to try and convince other males that there is more than one bird there and thereby reducing competition for territory and females.

Twentieth Century bird photographer and author George Yeates tried somewhat unsuccessfully to describe the bird's song in words:

What yer.....What yer.....what yer.....come-and-see-me.....bet-you-don'-bet-you-don't

I think that probably leaves you none the wiser as to what a Cetti's warbler sounds like, but it does show how difficult it is to describe bird song in general to people who have no idea of what you are talking about! So, the best thing to remember that if you are standing near water surrounded by dense vegetation and you suddenly hear a short but loud outburst of song from deep within, you may well have just heard your first Cetti's warbler, and I'm sure Signore Francesco Cetti would have been very pleased.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

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NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

FREE Business start-up Workshops and Clinics in Wealden.

eDEAL continues to work in association with Wealden District Council to deliver start-up workshops and 1-2-1 business clinics throughout the district. The start-up workshops are aimed at those who live in Wealden; who have a business idea to turn into a reality; who need help creating or strengthening a business plan; who want help to identify the legal issues relating to a business start-up; or who want some marketing tips. The workshops are free and interactive.

Workshops run from 10am to 4pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 21st June - Hailsham
- Wednesday 17th August - Crowborough
- Monday 10th October - Heathfield
- Monday 12th December - Uckfield
- Thursday 19th January 2017 - Hailsham

Business clinics (1-2-1) are available for free as well on a one hour appointment basis. The clinics are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday 7th July - Hailsham
- Monday 12th September - Crowborough
- Tuesday 8th November - Heathfield
- Tuesday 10th January 2017 - Uckfield
- Wednesday 8th March 2017 - Hailsham

Workshops and clinics can be booked directly with eDEAL on 01323 641144. Or for further information, please contact Sarah King, Community & Regeneration Officer on 01892 602884 or email: sarah.king@wealden.gov.uk

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

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

NEED SOME SPACE?

Some eight months ago the New Life Church family began renting out an old converted cowshed on Brownings Farm in Blackboys. The building has a lovely feel to it retaining all of the original cow stalls with their hay feeders complete with a bull pen which is now home to my office. The building has been completely decorated both inside and out, with new electrics and heating installed, plus a new carpet has been fitted. Being adjacent to the wonderful Grove Café it is an ideal venue for groups to meet in. Indeed this was always our intention to provide a space for the local community hence naming it The Space. It is already used for an assortment of groups including;

- Mens and Ladies Breakfasts
- A Scrabble Club.
- A Church leader's day away.
- A daily prayer and meditation group.
- A Circus Skills club.
- And most recently as a venue for The TN22 Club a lunch club for seniors run by a charity called Engage.

If you would like to know about the existing groups or if you are a local community group, charity or small business that would be interested in using The Space then I would be delighted to speak with you further. The best way to contact me is via my email guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com

Revd Guy Partridge
New Life Church Blackboys



Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

The society is a friendly group bringing together people united by their interest in a wide range of garden activities. An in-depth knowledge of horticulture is by no means a prerequisite to joining! For many members, it's as much about the talks, garden visits and social aspects of the society. Take a look at our list of events in the calendar over the coming months. If you see something that takes your fancy, feel free to simply turn up.

Calendar of events, June – September 2016

Wednesday 22 June, 7.30pm - GARDENING FOR BEES TALK
Taking place at Blackboys Village Hall, Michael Lynn's talk will focus on tips and tricks to creating 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.

Saturday 13 August, 12.30pm - FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS SUMMER SHOW

A reminder to all local residents about the Framfield and Blackboys 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. Details of all the show classes together with entry forms are available to download from our website at www.fabhortsoc.org.uk. We would also be hugely grateful for any donations to the plant stall. If you can help, please contact Fiona Fidler, contact details below.

Saturday 10th September, 9am - WISLEY FLOWER SHOW VISIT
We are organising a coach trip to RHS Wisley on Saturday 10th September to enjoy not only the gardens but also talks, specialist nurseries and more. Places are limited and must be booked and paid for in advance. We will leave Blackboys at 9am – the cost of the trip to

members is £10, and any available tickets will be made available to non-members after 1 June, priced £15. Please contact Fiona Fidler for more information by calling 01825 890719 or by email at fhbsmail@gmail.com

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.

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

FRAMFIELD and BLACKBOYS WIVES GROUP

Whilst writing this we are looking forward to our annual walk which will start at The Gun and will finish there for some well-earned refreshment. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

June will be a barbeque and in July we will be having a tour of the newly refurbished Bridge Cottage with Mick Harker.

Our Jumble Sale will be held in October so if you are clearing out over the summer please bear us in mind. Our charity this year is Cardiomyopathy.

We always welcome new members. Val Peaty. 890677

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WINE TASTING



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Next Wine
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June 9th
July 7th
August 11th
Starts at 7.30pm

Wine expert David Eford from Crimson Gold hosts our
informative yet informal and fun wine tasting event.

Each month you'll have the opportunity to taste and discuss a
variety of our stunning wines as well as guest and specially
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Tel : 01825 890118

Is now under new ownership of the family:
Phil, Annie and Ross.

We have left the lovely old bar the same as it was,
creating a new exciting restaurant as well.

Food starts with breakfast at 8 AM for a meal,
or just a coffee and carries on throughout the day.

Find us on Facebook : hareandhoundsframfield

As usual we have had a very busy couple of months in both schools with visits, competitions, sports events and of course lots of hard work as our pupils complete their Statutory Assessments Tests. It is always very gratifying to see how very positively all our pupils approach these from the youngest to the oldest. Teachers and leaders make great efforts to ensure that these assessments are completed in a low-key and stress-free manner! In fact our oldest pupils were actually relishing the chance to show off what they had learnt!

Easter Services

At the end of last term just before our break, we held our Easter Services for our schools; these were different in tone and content, but equally thought-provoking. As usual, many thanks to all our teachers for the super singing and music, and thanks too to the team and the Church for allowing us to use the Church for our services so regularly - it always adds to our focus at this important time of the year.

Building and repair

After many years of leaks and other problems, the roof to the school hall in Blackboys has been replaced along with a state of the art upgrade to the sound system within the hall. During the Easter holiday break the final phase of this upgrade took place with the installation of an additional door which not only helps with fire exits, but will bring a much needed airflow to the hall which does tend to get very warm during summer months!

We are also happy to report that Framfield school have made a successful bid for funding to repair the school's roof and to make it more energy efficient and we look forward to a similar upgrade coupled with an upgrade of site fencing, to the school during the school summer holidays.

Joint Projects

We have had several opportunities to bring our pupils together over the past few months including sporting opportunities for the Federation football and hockey matches and other sports. The two schools continue to develop the very positive relationship working on joint topics and visits and in some cases studying the same book for example, our youngest pupils have written letters to each other in the style of the well-known book: *The Jolly Postman*. Years 1 and 2 from Framfield visited Blackboys during their Rainforest project, while years 3 and 4 visited Plumpton College together and were also lucky enough to have a visit from Mr Peter Berry to talk about farming. Our oldest pupils have all been working on the East Sussex Library Challenge and attended a local school together to meet the author of one of the books.

Staff Development

It is not only our pupils who have the opportunities to meet and share their experiences! The teaching staff in the Federation have been working very hard over the year with a particular focus on engaging pupils in reading: we have had some excellent *In Service Training* which has supported all staff in using quality books as a stimulus to support and improve writing as well as introducing our pupils to some challenging texts. We are delighted with the impact that this work is having and look forward to continuing this strategy next year. This alongside other strategies has meant that pupils have approached both their reading and writing in an even more engaged and positive attitude. This positive attitude is also to be seen in the quality of maths work taking place in both schools, again, as a result of some innovative and engaging Professional Development for our staff alongside working with the Teaching School in Newick. All our partnership work goes from strength to strength always with the children at its heart.



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

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Full Time Day Care for 2-4yrs
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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

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

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

Memorial Hall refurbishment, Framfield – along with the other improvements the Hall is to be fitted with a telephone and wifi. There will be regulations for use – further details will follow in due course.

Bird-in-Eye Hill – speed limit reduction. We are still awaiting the decision from ESCC which we understand will be made in September when the request is to be re-considered.

School Lane, Blackboys. Various meetings have now been held with the residents, School and ESCC and it has been agreed to apply for planting licences for the grass verges directly affected by the parking – outside of the School and opposite. Hopefully the sight of flowers blooming will indicate that cars should not be driven over them.

Speed limits, Blackboys. The Parish Council is considering looking into the provision of village gateways at strategic points in the village to clearly indicate to drivers that they are entering a village ‘zone’ and that they should slow down.

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

Email: framfieldeasthoathly@gmail.com.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

As we enter the Summer term, life is about to get even busier with Sports Days, Summer Fairs, Performances and Services already in our diaries. For your information Blackboys Summer Fair takes place on 18th June while Framfield’s takes place the following week, the 25th June. We all look forward to seeing you there!

J K King (Executive Headteacher)

Graham Sullivan (Head of School Blackboys) Jacqueline Davies (Head of School Framfield)

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 9th June, Thursday 14th July

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

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

TROUBLE IN THE CHERRY TREE

Last year I wrote about the great tits that had always nested in a hole in the trunk of our very old cherry tree and how the entrance was exposed due to the rotten bark gradually falling off. I suffered extreme stress as the pair reared their young, closely watched by the visiting woodpecker. This bright eyed bird perched on the trunk and peered into the nest, probably seeing how many plump and tasty dinners were in there. I kept this curious bird well supplied with nuts to distract him. I could not relax during meal times as I was constantly jumping up and down to watch the nest, terrified the persistent woodpecker would rip off even more of the rotten timber and eat the babies. It had been a great relief when the youngsters fledged and flew away.

Early this year I noticed as usual the great tits made several visits to their nest site, checking it thoroughly inside and out. I eyed the entrance critically; it was not at all safe from any predators wanting a tasty snack. I could not go through the stress I had experienced last year. I discussed our options with my husband. Should we just block the entrance up to stop them using it? Could the nest be adapted in some way to make it safer? This would be very difficult on the rough and bent old trunk. I could not think how it could be done. I continued to worry about the situation. One day I returned from a shopping trip and glanced at the tree. My clever husband had been busy. The gaping hole was now covered with a piece of thick curved bark leaving a small bird sized hole; in case the great tits did not like the repair, he had thoughtfully hung a wooden nest box higher up the trunk that they could use instead. I was delighted with the new arrangements and hoped the birds would be too.

I waited for the great tits next visit. They arrived to have a quick check to make sure all was well. They took one look at the beautifully restored property with its alterations and flew off in a huff, horrified at the changes. Occasionally they came back for another look and also did not like the look of the newly attached nest box higher up the tree and refused to even consider it.

All was quiet for a while at the cherry tree until one day I noticed a pair of blue tits examining the wooden nest box and before long they took possession of this desirable property. The poor great tits made a few half-hearted visits to their tree; they then noticed the wooden nest box had tenants. I imagined their disgruntled conversation, "Look at that, we could have moved up there, nice condition, sound roof, just right size, now it's occupied"

I am writing this in late April, the blue tits still in the wooden nest box and excitedly, I have recently seen glimpses of birds going in and out of the original hole in the tree, I think they are great tits, I do hope so. I will give you an update later this summer.

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



Details on
our
website



**This is a much shorter service where absolutely everyone
of every age can feel relaxed...**

**12th JUNE Family Service is our celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday
and will start at the later time of 11am. The service will be followed by
BBQ lunch in the Vicarage Garden - All welcome.**

10th JULY Family Friendly Sunday at 10.00 am