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Anrish

Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

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:

30th September: Robin Leslie Knight

21st October: Stephen Edward Patching

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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.

Baby Jesus on a zip wire!

Christmas is rapidly approaching and with it the tension of finding inspiration for the Christmas talks and sermons. I am sure every church minister goes through the same cycle when facing the seemingly eternal question, 'how can I illustrate the message of Christmas in a perhaps new and dynamic way that the congregation will really engage with?'

Over the years there has been considerable variety within Framfield Church.

In 2008 we had Speedy Christmas which told the story in a drama using contemporary characters. Mary was Cameron Diaz (from the film There's something about Mary), Joseph was depicted as Joseph Stalin (a bit risky that one!) and one of the wise men was Albert Einstein.

In 2014 we had a welcome return of Sweetie Christmas which told the Christmas story using well known chocolate bars, sweets and biscuits to punctuate the talk; a cheesy but fun script.

2013 was particularly memorable on the theme of Celebration. The aim was to use a number of party poppers to produce a reasonable size 'Bang' at an appropriate time during the talk. Unfortunately the prototypes were a disappointment; I just couldn't get the 'bang' to be sizable enough to do justice to Jesus' birthday party. That was until I happened to find something called a Party Canon! My prayers were answered. The device was virtually a metre long and 70mm in diameter. It housed a compressed air canister which produced a mighty bang and showered the first ten rows of pews with coloured paper. Absolutely brilliant, although the church cleaners weren't too chuffed!

However, 2012 was perhaps the most memorable; Baby Jesus on a zip wire. Baby Jesus was suspended on six helium filled balloons high up at the back of church. At the appropriate time baby Jesus was released and gracefully slid down the entire aisle. A masterful feat of engineering perhaps, but for all the entertainment value it proved a long term disaster! The illustration was a play on words to illustrate the second verse in the Christmas carol - Once in Royal David city i.e.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall: With the poor and meek and lowly Lived on earth our Saviour holy. The reason why is became a disaster was that folk only remember the visual spectacle of Jesus sliding down the zip wire. The point that God comes down from heaven for us, was it appears utterly lost.

Christmas is a fantastic time of year. It is a time of celebration but it also a time to reflect on the point of God coming to earth in the first place. In essence, God in the form of baby Jesus doesn't just appear to show us that He really exists but rather Jesus is Father God's gift to mankind. However, for us to benefit from the gift we have to first unwrap it.

The first Christmas is the beginning of a worldwide rescue plan. Whether we realise it or not mankind was estranged from God. Through the folly of our forbears Adam and Eve sin entered the world and each one of us has been infected. Some infections are incredibly difficult to treat and some so serious that there may only be one course of treatment. Sin is like that; it permeates our whole being and manifests itself in many destructive ways. Left untreated it will eventually kill us.

However, in order to restore the broken relationship with God and get our lives back on track the sin problem has to be resolved, but we cannot do it ourselves. There is no self-medication or de-tox programme. In a similar way that we take antibiotics to kill off an infection Jesus becomes our antibiotic to kill off our sin. If we fast forward to Easter we see Jesus dying on the cross. In effect He takes our sin upon himself and His death brings our healing. Jesus is God's gift to us but unless we accept Him and allow Him into our lives we slowly but surely perish.

Christmas is about love and the joy of giving and receiving gifts so I'll leave you to ponder St Paul's words from Ephesians chapter 2 which sums up Christmas.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone in the parish - Revd Chris Lawrence

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

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

Wendy Patricia Morris

Wendy Patricia Morris sadly died on 7th of September 2016 aged 62 years. Loving wife of Kevin and mother of Michelle. Wendy lived in Framfield for over 30 years and had several jobs in the village which included working in the village shop. She will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.



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

AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB BOOKING NOW

Looking for flexible childcare or entertainment for the children during school holidays? Our holiday club, for children aged 2 – 11, will be running from 7.45am-6pm, from Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October. **Please** contact us for full details.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS TERM?

A successful Summer Holiday Club ran throughout August where we welcomed new and old children and their families. We have started this Autumn term with new faces amongst our regular children, enjoying some fabulous September sun!

We would like to invite all Parishioners to our MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September 2016 from 10 till 11.30 – coffee and cake and good company and a chance to see the preschool in full swing!

RECYCLE TEXTILES AT BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL

We are 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.

Diary of Church Services

DECEMBER 2016

04 Second Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

11 Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Family Friendly Service (with prayer for healing)

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

6.30pm Lessons & Carols (followed by refreshments)

24 Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Crib and Christingle Service
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion (CW)

25 Christmas Day

10.00 am Family Festival Praise

JANUARY 2017

01 Second Sunday of Christmas

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

08 First Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)

10.00 am Family Friendly Service

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with

Prayer for Healing

15 Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family

22 Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Morning Praise

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

29 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE BY 10th JANUARY 2017 TO

ANN NEWTON - 01825 890182

framfieldpc@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: framfieldpc@gmail.com

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East Sussex TN22 5LR.

Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

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including
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The Pre-School is open weekdays from 07.45-6.00pm operates in line with the school's terms allowing for inset days where applicable.

Full Time Day Care for 2-4yrs Breakfast & After School Club for 2-11yrs

Early Years Education Entitlement

Also now accepting Early Learning places for eligible 2yr olds

For details or to arrange a visit to discuss your individual requirements: Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

St Thomas a Becket - Welcome for families - Faith for all ages

Young children can find church services a struggle, and understandably this may discourage families from coming. In view of this, we are making changes to the 10 o'clock format starting after the schools' summer break. The new pattern will begin with a short time with all the family together, after which children may go to the Gage Chapel area in the church where they can enjoy their own supervised activities. On the second Sunday of the month we have a Family Service which is designed to suit all ages. Please see the poster on the notice board for further details or the church website.



Our Family Friendly Service is a lively short happy service, where the children are actively involved.

Sunday 11th December at 10.00 am Sunday 8th January at 10.00 am

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

This is our 55th Anniversary Year

We would like to wish you all a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS, from all our Members & Helpers.

5th December - CHRISTMAS PARTY in Framfield Memorial Hall -2.30pm Entertainment from Framfield CE School Children

Christmas Tea and Secret Raffles, to include 2 Lovely Hampers, kindly Donated by Jenny, Hair by Us.

Thank you.

Entertainment from the Alpaco Band too, to End our

55th Anniversary Year 2016.

Our Members and Helpers wish you a Happy 2017 23rd January 2017 - AGM and New 2017 Programme

Collection of Subscriptions etc., A Look at our 2016 photos of events, Taken by our photographer Reg Jeffery, Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm

For more information contact Sandy 01825 840648 sandyrogers77@gmail.com

A Christmas Event:

11th December 3pm -2016 "Christmas Magic "
On The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ
Played by Robert Wolfe
East Sussex National – Admission £9
(Light Refreshments/free parking)
ALL WELCOME

(Tickets available East Sussex National - 01825 880088 and from Gale and Woolgar Uckfield, as from middle of November).



Demelza Children's Hospice Services

Christmas is fast approaching, where has this year gone? Hard to believe that it will soon be time to get the decorations down from the loft again!

On the subject of Christmas, we will be having a stall at the Uckfield Christmas Late Night Shopping event on **Friday 2**nd **December** so come along and find us – we will have something for the children and the Mums and Dads!! Fingers crossed that the weather stays as mild as it has been.

Also we will be in the foyer in Uckfield Tesco on **Tuesday 13**th **December** for an awareness day and bucket collection.

We had a very successful Quiz Night on October 15th, raising over £700 – huge thanks to Paula Bradley and her partner Rob for setting the questions (some of them proved to be very brain taxing!!)

As mentioned before, we are always very happy to come along to clubs

and give talks about the work of Demelza within our community – if this is something that would be of interest to you, please contact Julie Brett (details below).

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** <u>julie.brett@demelza.org.uk</u>

FRAMFIELD STARRY CHRISTMAS TREE In aid of MacMillan Nurses & SUSSEX HEART CHARITY

It's time for Framfield "Starry Christmas tree". You a buy a star, write a message for people who are no longer with us or people who cannot be with us at this time of year due to distance or work. Then this is put on Christmas tree outside memorial hall

Write a message in permanent ink.

Stars will be available to buy for £3.00 from 21 November at Framfield School and Pre-school, Hair by us and direct from me. All money collected goes to Macmillan Nurses at Uckfield Hospital and Sussex Heart charity.

A Candlelit lighting up ceremony with Peter Berry saying a few words and carols with and a cup of tea and mince pies will be held on Sunday 4 December 2016 at 5.30pm at memorial hall. Please come along and start your Christmas with your community.

Thank you for your support Selina Allen 01825 891110 Monday Club was started in 1961 to provide an afternoon of friendship for local people over 60, We do a variety of things from armchair exercises to speakers on interesting subjects; dancing demonstrations, Boccia (Bowls) and choirs. The summer months bring coach outings and afternoon teas in beautiful gardens locally to which we are invited and have been very grateful to use. At present we have 50 Members (which includes 11 helpers).

We are lucky enough to have help financially given to us by kind donors, which helps us to keep our running costs and subscriptions down, and bring and buys, etc. So this year we wanted to celebrate the Club's 55th Birthday on the 5th September.

We had a lovely cake which was cut on the day by our two oldest members – 95 year olds, Doug Burchett, and Cynthia Foregard. The Reverend Chris Lawrence came and said prayers for absent members/friends and the cake was a gift from one of our many kind donors.

We decided to have a big main event on 19th September which was to go to The East Sussex National Hotel for a performance on the Wurlitzer Organ played by Michael Wooldridge.

Planning started early; we started off with £120 by selling knitted clowns which were made by Frances Brown and donated to us by her family, when unfortunately she had to go into a nursing home. We decided to open it to other local clubs including The Uckfield Housebound Club, and helpers, etc., and to try to sell as many tickets as possible, so that all could enjoy these celebrations with us. Tickets were only £3 each, a very reasonable amount as this event was mainly paid for by individual donations for which we are very grateful.

The day arrived at last - Michael Wooldridge was at his best and gave a very extensive programme including songs that were popular 55 years ago, with an interval of tea and biscuits. Approximately 230 people attended including the Chairman of Wealden District Council, Councillor Chris Hardy and his wife Susan Hardy. Our District Councillor Ann Newton also represented Framfield Parish Council. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all as the feedback of letters from lots of people shows how much they liked it.

Let us hope the Club continues to thrive and flourish for at least another 55 years.

It is just left to thank everyone who came and supported us by financially and by attendance. Well Done Everyone.

Evelyn Wickerson

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Phil, Annie and Ross, the new owners of the pub, would like to say thank you to all you people who have visited us in our first four months here, and helped in making our venture so successful.

We are doing food all day, starting at 8 o'clock with breakfast, where Annie's Bubble and Squeak is proving to be a big favourite. The Xmas season is around the corner, and we are now taking bookings for our pre Xmas parties, lunchtime and evening.

We also cater for Weddings, funerals, birthdays and all other celebrations, with a buffet or a sit down meal.

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 8th December, Thursday 12th January.

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

WE ARE MACMILLAN.

The last Friday in September, Uckfield Committee held their annual coffee morning at Pizza Express in Uckfield. As always, the staff were so friendly and helpful and it was very well supported. The event raised just over £800. On the following Saturday we made coffee and sold more cakes at Buxted Surgery and this raised about £200. There were several other similar events held by other groups in the area.

The world's biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's largest fundraising event for people facing cancer. They ask people all over the UK to host their own coffee mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan. Last year £25million was raised and this year they are hoping to raise even more.

The first ever Coffee Morning happened way back in 1990. It was a rather small affair with a simple idea - guests would gather over coffee and donate the cost of a cuppa to Macmillan in the process. It was so effective they did it again the next year - only this time nationally. Since then Coffee Morning has raised over £138 million for Macmillan.

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

Uckfield Singers Christmas Concert

This will take place at the Uckfield Civic Centre at 3 p.m. on Saturday 3rd December.

The Singers will be performing a range of music from traditional carols to seasonal popular and choral music, and a medley from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. We will also have guest appearances from Tom Wasels & Oscar Richardson, and Zoe Mattelaer & Andrea Lobley.

Tickets will be on sale at Gale & Woolgar in Uckfield High Street, Adults £7, children £5.

The raffle will support Sussex Air Ambulance.

Visit our website at http://www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2017

Memorial Hall, Framfield
The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

28 January

25 February

25 March

29 April

27 May

24 June

29 July

August - no market.

30 September

28 October

25 November

16 December

<u>Please contact Ann Newton with any queries – 01825 890182 or email framfieldpc@gmail.com</u>

On Remembrance Sunday, I was honoured to do the reading in the service at St Michael and All Angels, Jarvis Brook. I am very grateful to everyone at St Michael's for inviting me to such a poignant service, and for emphasizing so powerfully the meaning of Remembrance Sunday. For me, this meaning is found in the many similar services across Wealden, and indeed across the whole country, as we saw people coming together to pay their respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, and those who continue to serve our country at home and abroad today. I hope that we can keep this spirit intact for the rest of the year, and keep remembering the things that are truly important.

I also recently attended St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield for a concert to raise money for the local branch of the Royal British Legion and the Hospice in the Weald, for which I am a patron. I heard the Royal Marine Association Concert Band and the Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir, who were both absolutely amazing. I'm delighted that money was raised for two such good causes, and I hope that anyone reading this will also consider doing what they can to help these excellent organisations. I was also delighted that these events have given me the opportunity to visit Wealden's wonderful local churches. I know that our churches will be very busy in the weeks ahead with Christmas, one of the most important festivals in the Christian calendar, getting closer. Therefore, I would like to take this chance to pay tribute to all the wonderful local clergy who I have met this year, and all the volunteers who make the work of our local churches possible.

Like Remembrance Sunday, Christmas is also a time for us to take a bit of time to think about what is really important. I know for the more fortunate amongst us there will be presents, overeating and a few days off work. However, to focus on these things would be to completely miss the meaning of Christmas. I hope that we will all treasure the time that we will have with our families, and that we all do our part to contribute to the spirit of goodwill to all. In particular, I am acutely aware from my work as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People, that there are many who are not so fortunate, and that levels of loneliness amongst older people remain far, far too high. I would encourage people to contact Age UK East Sussex on 01273 476704 to find out more about their services in this area. However, even if all we do this Christmas is check on an elderly neighbour to make sure that they are being looked after, then we are still doing our bit to build a kinder community and that Christmas turkey will taste all the sweeter!

If you would like to contact me in the meantime, as ever my email address is nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Kind regards,

Nus

A little thought and planning beforehand should mean that both the pets and owners all have a super Christmas.

BEST WISHES AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL Hazel Carter 01825 830477

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

New Library Opening Hours

New library opening hours will come into effect across East Sussex from 28th November 2016.

The reduction in opening hours will save around £500,000 a year from library running costs, contributing towards an overall savings target from the service of £2 million. All libraries will be open on a Saturday and many will stay open until 6pm on a Thursday.

The new opening hours for individual libraries can be found on our website here https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/locations/new-library-opening-times

Uckfield Library

Monday: 10am to 1pm Tuesday: 10am to 4.30pm Wednesday: 2pm to 4.30pm Thursday: 10a m to 6pm Friday: 10am to 4.30pm

Saturday: 10am to 4.30pm









No Messy December Sunday 15th January

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

STARTS @ 4PM

A little while back we made an appeal for funds for the Church hall roof. The work has been completed to a high standard by the contractors A. Stenning Roofing.

We also took the opportunity to upgrade the lighting as well as redecorating the hall interior. The cost of the water damage to the ceiling was met by our insurers. All the works were completed in only 21 days thus minimising inconvenience to those using the hall.

To date we have raised £8850 towards the cost, which is amazing and a tribute to those making generous donations. This leaves us still £1750 to find to cover our costs

Our Church hall is used extensively by members of the community and is a useful source of income for the Church including the cost of maintaining our extensive churchyard.

We would be grateful if you would consider making a donation towards the cost of this work. Please make your cheque payable to "Framfield PCC" and send or deliver it to "The Treasurer" at the Church office; Brookhouse Lane; Framfield TN22 5NH



Michael Pearce BSc Uckfield, Chailey, Lindfield, Hove

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Guy Partridge 07702 836057

Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond

Please find below details of our Christmas Services and Activities this year. If you are not familiar with New Life Church a few words of introduction. We are a young Church established in the village 4 years ago this December, attracting a growing number of people of all ages and especially families with younger children. We meet in the village hall and our gatherings are relaxed, informal and welcoming. During the week we are based on Brownings Farm in a lovely converted cowshed called The Space which can be found next to the Grove Café. Although we are new we are part of the Baptist Union a family of 2000 churches spread throughout the UK with its roots dating back to the 17th Century.

All our services take place in the Blackboys Village Hall on Gun Road TN22 5JY and all those listed below will be All Age Services lasting for approximately one hour.

Sunday 4th December 11.00am - Christingle Service

A fun and interactive time, all the ingredients for making you very own Christingle will be provided. Refreshments served from 10:30am

Sunday 18th December 4.00pm Candlelit Carol Service

Featuring the New Life Community Choir, come along and sing your favourite Carols and be reminded again of the joy and wonder of the Christmas Story. All followed by festive refreshments.

Sunday 25th December 10:30 am Christmas Day Celebration

In addition to the above the delightful Grove Café TN22 5HG which is run by people from our Church family will be hosting a Christmas Market on Saturday 3rd December 12-3pm. Come and buy cards, stocking fillers and gifts. Relax by the fire with mulled wine and turkey & cranberry rolls. Christmas face-painting and live music and the chance to make a Christmas table decoration!

We would love to see you at one of our events and if you have any questions or queries don't hesitate to contact me.

Revd Guy Partridge

Tel: 01825 891133 or guy newlifechurch@btinternet.com

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

CHRISTMAS TIPS 2016

I thought this might be useful as a reminder to think about your pets before the hectic Christmas season is here.

CHRISTMAS TIPS.

Keep to your pet's normal routine, feeding, walking and bed times. This will help to keep them relaxed and contented during the excitement of the festivities.

Feed their normal diet. It is tempting to give lots of rich goodies so they can enjoy Christmas, but you may not enjoy Boxing Day cleaning up the results of upset tummies! Just add a few tiny tasty morsels to the food.

Stick to your usual house rules. If your dog does not normally sleep on the bed or sofa, do not allow him to do it for a special treat for Christmas. He could be very confused by this and not want to revert to the normal routine afterwards. Conversely if your dog always has the entire sofa to lounge on, he will be a bit fed up if he has to share it with houseguests. The same rule applies to feeding titbits at the table, if your family do not do it, tactfully tell the guests that it is not allowed.

Do not forget regular toilet trips, especially for the young or old dog.

Provide a quiet retreat where your cat or dog can rest in peace.

With lots of people coming and going do be extra careful that doors and gates are not left open for the dog to run off or even worse be run over by a guest coming up your drive.

Even a well-trained dog might seize the opportunity to steal the turkey if it is left out on the kitchen unit while everybody is partying at the other end of the house. So check everything is put away.

Rubbish bins. Watch they are not overflowing with rubbish with the lid not fully closed, especially if it has turkey bones in it. One, the bones are dangerous, and two, when a dog has had the reward of raiding the rubbish bin just once, he will go on doing it.

The Christmas tree. Another target for the inquisitive pet. Lots of presents to rip open and investigate. Chocolates for humans are dangerous for dogs, do not let them eat it. Only give them dog chocs. It is now known that dried fruit and grapes can be lethal for dogs so do not be tempted to give them any Christmas cake.

Jealousy between two dogs can escalate with the excitement of having presents, or even watching their humans opening presents. This can result in a fight. Separate the dogs while they open their presents if you think it might happen.



Framfield & Blackboys WI



As we reflect on a successful 90th anniversary year we owe thanks to all those who supported our community with sponsorships and selfless volunteering during 2016.

Our researchers found many echoes of the past from WI archives: East Sussex Federation started in 1919, and the Framfield & Blackboys WI launched in 1926. From the

start it was devoted to helping worthy causes and held extraordinary events including providing a cooked dinner for 70 ex-servicemen in 1933, and running a Meat Pie scheme by baking 157,313 meat pies sold locally as a fundraiser! Clothing was also collected for distressed areas.

Our Quiz Night in 2016 entertained over 80 residents. Charities we have helped recently include Demelza House and Chestnut Tree children's hospices and Headway with speakers from other charities represented at meetings over the year and with planning in hand for 2017.

Our 90th birthday tea at Deans Place with the Lord Lieutenant and his wife presented an opportunity to study our historical records, photos and craft items. We thank all who contributed to this, helping us appreciate the value of working together in cooperation reflecting our strong community spirit as is our village's longstanding and treasured tradition.

Looking forward we have our Christmas party and Annual Dinner at the Hare & Hounds. Keep in contact to learn of our forthcoming programme of events as these are always open to member's friends and readers.

We welcome visitors to our meetings so ladies please come along. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month Meetings start at 7.30pm. You can come along as a visitor for 3 months at £1 a meeting before deciding to join. Do call to find out more.

> To join your local WI contact President Philomena 890216

Nature Notes

The first frosts have happened in Sussex, and the first snow has fallen further north. The first Waxwings have arrived on the East Coast of England in search of our berries. The British Isles has a unique climate, or at least lots of different types of weather. It all seems to depend on which way the wind blows. We are roughly on the same latitude as Moscow and Saskatchewan which frequently get temperatures lower than minus 20 Celsius. It is the Atlantic Conveyor and frequent SW winds that keep us so mild. However, they also keep us rather wet! We are currently living through the Anthropocene period, named as an alternative to the Holocene which means 'Entirely-recent', however, Anthropocene means Human-recent (geological era). This is because there are currently 7 billion of us roaming and changing the planet. No other animal of compatible size comes near to that in numbers, and probably never has. As a consequence we Humans are changing the nature of the surface of the globe like never before, through anthropogenic (human generating) influences such as deforestation, combustion, urbanisation, intensive farming etc. A result is that there is now 400 parts per million CO₂ in the atmosphere for the first time since Humans have existed. This is historic and worrying as it will be almost impossible to reverse that. The consequences include more moisture in the atmosphere causing more storms and rain in general, and more draught in the tropics and less ice at the poles. We all know it is happening, even if some folk such as Donald Trump do not accept it. The sea temperatures are rising slowly and surely. Even the sea off Brighton sometimes gets to 20 degrees Celsius during late summer.

All this is also changing the behaviour of animals and the growth of plants. A few swallows now overwinter in the West Country, and more continental species of insects and birds are being found in Britain more frequently such as the Tree Bumblebee Bombus hypnorum.

All we can do is to try to be a bit more careful about our personal environmental footprint, such as going for fuel efficient forms of transport, heating and food production. We can also support initiatives for nature conservation, and even manage our gardens for wildlife by exchanging fences for hedges, planting more shrubs and, if possible, trees and maybe installing a pond?

Martyn Stenning



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I would like to take the opportunity to welcome four new Governors who joined us in September: Samantha Butler, Gillian Clark, Sarah Cottingham, and Tjadine Ullmann-Carp. They are all Foundation Governors, which means that they have been appointed by the Diocese, but I think you will recognise some familiar names amongst this list. I am delighted that they all wanted to join us and give something back to our community and they are already getting fully involved. We do have a full membership but I am always interested in hearing from others who might want to be part of the Governing Body in the future, and this should not be restricted just to parents. The richness of the group comes from having perspectives and skills from a wide range of people across the parish and beyond. So if you are interested, or know of anyone who is, please do get in touch with me via either School Office.

Katharine Rabson Stark

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)

TN22 Club Blackboys

A really warm welcome awaits you at this cosy and friendly Club that meets alternate Tuesdays from 10.30am – 1.30pm. We meet at the Space at Brownings Farm Workshops, Lewes Road, Blackboys and then enjoy lunch at the Grove Café next door. The group is ideal for those wanting to make new friends, enjoy crafts, games or simply a chat over a coffee and perhaps a gentle stroll in the surrounding countryside ... cost is £7 and we can offer lifts for a small charge. For those who have loved doing 'crafts with a purpose' we have enjoyed knitting dolls clothes for Blackboys Pre-school and have made lavender bags, hats, gloves and scarfs for older people in Moldova for the Link to Hope Charity.

December 6th: visit to Pre-school Christmas songs

December 20th: Christmas lunch & carols

We will re-start on Tuesday 17 January – we'd love to see you!

Call Suzanne to chat further or arrange a visit on 01435 661054

Of course time is flying and we are now approaching mid November as I write. This means preparation for Christmas are beginning! People have been seen huddled in corners whispering the words "camel" and "Mary" - so important decisions are being made! As a result of the growth of the school, this year Framfield has decided to put on a Nativity production for KS1 only, while KS2 will take the lead in our Carol Concert. Please see below for dates of all our events. Events for Blackboys remain as previous years.

As usual, our PTA/PTFA are very active and the PTFA at Framfield have asked me to give a special thank you to all the members of the local community who came and supported the Blitz Party Night earlier in the year - many thanks to you all! It raised a wonderful £1,672 which is going towards all kind of projects at the school. PTA/PTFA Christmas events will be taking place on Saturday 26th November:

At Framfield it is from 1-4pm and we will be having a German-type Christmas market outside.

At Blackboys the fair starts at midday—2pm,

There will be festive food and drink at both and of course, it wouldn't be complete without a visit to both events from the Great Man himself!

Carol Concerts for both schools are as follows: members of the whole community welcome:

Blackboys: 15th December in the church from 6 - 7 pm Framfield 21st December in the church from 9am - 10am.

KS1 Nativity Play: all parents and families welcome Blackboys: 16th December in school hall: 2 - 3 Framfield: 14th December in Memorial hall: 2 - 3

We know what a busy time of year it is for everyone, but we would love to see you at any of the events above if you can make it!

Jonquil King: Executive Headteacher St Thomas a Becket CE Federation.

Everyone's Favourite Festive PsychopathBy Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Americans have chosen to align themselves with a mighty eagle. India have elected the elegant peacock. But we've voted a territorial ball of anger as our national bird. So what is it about the robin that we find so endearing?

That famous orange-red breast, a flaming flash of feathers in a bland back garden of blackbirds, sparrows and starlings is certainly striking. Those disproportionately large eyes give robins a cute 'face' (but are useful for a bird which hunts for beetles and worms under bushes in low light levels). They're cheeky little beggars. As we kneel weeding in the mud they'll hop along hoping for a castaway worm. Elsewhere in Europe robins avoid human contact and inhabit dark forests where they follow feeding boars as they dig in the soil. To a robin we're just big pigs in gardening gloves.

Surely the greatest coup that the robin has pulled off is cornering the lucrative Christmas market - especially considering the only other bird we associate with Christmas is beheaded and stuffed into an oven at Gas Mark 4. This Christmas connection is linked to the red tunic plumage of Victorian postmen. Robins were depicted as card-carrying postmen on the earliest Christmas cards and since then have joined Santa and snowmen as Christmas A-listers.

Attractive, friendly and festive - everyone loves a robin. Well everyone it seems apart from other robins. Robins hate other robins. They're highly territorial and, once invisible boundaries have been established, robins will rule their kingdom like feathered Fuhrers. They'll sing their washing -line war cries from dawn to dusk or patrol the garden noisily tick-tick-tick-ing like tiny time bombs. Female robins are just as tyrannical and will also sing and scuffle - unusual amongst female birds. Robins will fight off other birds - no matter what colour; but when a robin sees red it sees red. Robins will peck, scratch, batter and kick any other robin that puts as much as a feather across the line. Behind that red breast beats the black heart of a ruthless killing machine. Fatalities are common.

For the past few months this front lawn turf war has intensified but around Christmas there are subtle signs of a ceasefire. The song of the robin becomes more hopeful and in the bleak midwinter something remarkable happens; robins unexpectedly and temporarily fall in love. For a brief period courting couples can be seen feeding alongside each other. As we enter the New Year this peace agreement ends and it's back to brutal business as usual. But these Christmas couples are now 'engaged' and will re-unite to form a family in the spring.

For robins Christmas is a time for peace, hope and worms. Here's hoping you have a similar Christmas full of peace and hope. And, as for the worms - I'm sure we'll all open a whole new can in 2017.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



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St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation

The Autumn Term is traditionally a busy one. The children have enjoyed an exciting and stimulating start to the academic year with new focuses in our curriculum, visits and events.

Joint events for pupils have included Harvest Festival celebrations for both schools in the Church - many thanks to Rev Chris and the Church team for ensuring that we are able to celebrate in such lovely surroundings. After the Harvest, the children from KS2 at Blackboys School visited their friends at Framfield for a snack before walking back to their own school. The weather was wonderful, so you can imagine how much the children and adults enjoyed the experience.

The children have taken part in many sporting activities including football tournaments for our teams in years 5/6 and in years 3 and 4. And not to be outdone, the girls' team has also had its successes!

Bikeability - the old "cycling proficiency" - has taken place in both schools with the vast majority of pupils passing the expected grade. At Framfield pupils took part in the Uckfield Cross Country race while at Blackboys the school was visited by local netballing star and founder of this term's charity, Kit Out The Caribbean, Natalie Miller. She brought with her the gold medal which she had won being part of the GB team in the recent World Indoor Netballing Championship. Children from both schools are preparing to participate in an indoor athletics event.

Staffing:

At Blackboys we welcomed Mrs Yvonne Aldridge as a new addition to our team of midday supervisors, working every lunchtime throughout the week in school. Mrs Zoe Hall left us for Maternity leave and Mr Boorman became the father of a beautiful baby girl - many congratulations to both him and his wife.

In order to support home learning, both schools also organised phonics workshops for parents so that they know how to further support their children at home in this important area. Maths workshops events are planned for later on in the year.

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

MEETING SCHEDULE 2017

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, 31 January (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 28 March (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 23 May (BB Trust) Annual Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm Annual Parish Meeting – 8 pm.	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 27 June (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall

Tuesday, 26 September (BB Trust) Blackboys Village Hall

Tuesday, 28 November (FF Trust) Framfield Memorial Hall

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

Wealden District Council is one of just 18 organisations to receive grant funding to spread the word about Smart Energy meters to local communities – potentially saving households money and helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The grant is to be used to target homes in ten rural communities which are not connected to mains gas. As well as raising awareness about smart meters which can provide consumers with accurate information about their energy consumption, the Council will be working with the Big Energy Savings Network to offer a free fuel bill checking service. Framfield Parish is not included in the first tranche of work but I have flagged it up to WDC that I am sure residents would be interested. Every home in Britain will be offered a smart meter by their energy supplier at no extra cost by 2020, but it might be good to get in earlier. For further information please contact Justin Bailey, Home Energy Efficiency Officer at WDC – Justin.bailey@wealden.gov.uk.

Missed bins – I am forever hopeful that one day, this won't be on my report! 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.

If anyone wants to contact me about District-related matters, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My details are below.

For anything ESCC-related, please contact Councillor Chris Dowling on cllr.chris.dowling@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR. Telephone - 01825 890103.
Email – aenewton1965@gmail.com

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Many thanks to all who supported our Jumble sale. We made about £280.00 for our charity this year which we will give at our meeting in February.

We had a very interesting evening in October tasting local cheeses. We had to look, then smell and finally taste before guessing what they were.

We are looking forward to hearing Cdr. Payne's Naval Tales in November and then it will be our Christmas party.

Our AGM is 18th January 2017. If you would like to join us please give me a ring on 890677.

Val Peaty (secretary)



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FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - REPORT

At their September meeting the Parish Council welcomed on board three new members – Alan Greenslade and Rob Jackson from Framfield and Sam Sharples from Blackboys.

Bird-in-Eye Hill – we have been asked to apply again to East Sussex County Council for community match-funding for the changes in speed limit on Bird-in-Eye Hill. This will be done in the New Year.

Framfield Village Market - there is only one market left for this year on 17 December. I detail elsewhere in the magazine the dates for next year.

Parking, School Lane, Blackboys. Some of the residents along with the School have been given a licence to plant bulbs in the verges along School Lane. This will not only look lovey in the Spring but it is hoped that this will discourage people from parking across the verges at busy times of day.

As in previous years, Selina Allen has arranged to have a Christmas tree at the front of the Memorial Hall in Framfield. The funds for the messages posted will go to the Macmillan Nurses and Sussex Heart Charity. There is a separate article in the magazine – please do support it.

There is also a list of meeting dates for next year and a reminder that all agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website. The full minutes of all meetings are also on the website. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS.**

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

Email: framfieldpc@gmail.com.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.