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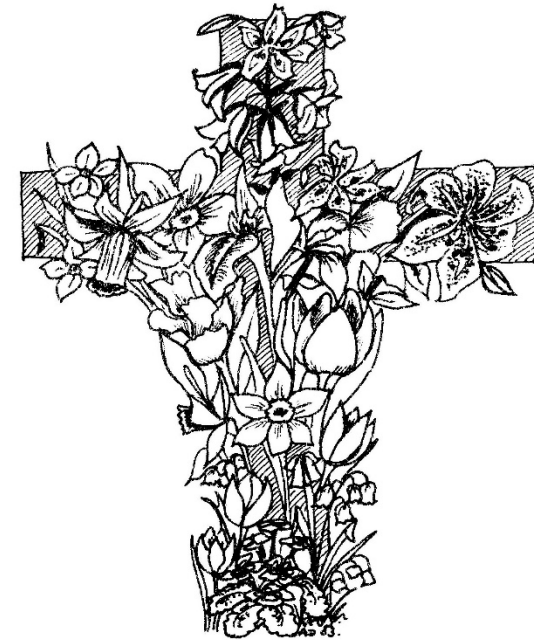
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Oak Tree Barn, Lewes Road, Blackboys, East Sussex, TN22 5JL

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

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

APRIL / MAY 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:

**18th March: Cameron Robert Brook and
Charlotte Elizabeth Belton**

At rest:

24th February: Frederick Henry Brinkhurst

FREE SMOKE ALARMS

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

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

USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

Our contact centres (ESCC)

Call our contact centres during normal working hours 8.30am-5pm (4.30pm on Fridays).

Adult social care – 0345 6080191

Buses – 0345 6080194

Children and families – 0345 6080192 (see latest news above)

Library renewals – 0345 6080195

Library enquiries – 0345 6080196

Roads and paths – 0345 6080193

Trading Standards – 0345 6080197

Waste – 0345 6080194

Switchboard – 0345 6080190

From overseas – +441273 336000

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555 111

Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0303 999 1000

Home Safety Visit Helpline: 0800 177 7069

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HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
SPECIFIED

WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

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

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

To infinityand beyond!

So said Buzz Lightyear from the Disney film Toy Story. Time and space may be of no consequence to Buzz, seeing that he is a fictional character, but to us mortal beings time is a limited commodity. The older I get the more I am convinced that your brain plays tricks on you and appears to compress time. It is only when we look back do we realise that so much time has gone, but in our minds it may only seem like a few years. I can remember vividly watching the first moon landing back in July 1969; 47 years ago. The Falklands war ended 34 years ago. It was November 1989, 27 years ago that the Berlin Wall came down and the Gulf War ended with the demise of Saddam Hussein 26 years ago. Many of these events seem to be in recent history but they are significant blocks of time that we can never get back.

Back in the 1970's (or even earlier?) it was predicted that we would become a nation of leisure. With advances in computer technology, smart phones and labour saving devices we would have so much time on our hands we may have found it difficult to fill our day! This is a quote from the December 2014 edition of the Economist. *'The predictions sounded like promises: in the future, working hours would be short and vacations long. "Our grandchildren", reckoned John Maynard Keynes in 1930, would work around "three hours a day"—and probably only by choice. Economic progress and technological advances had already shrunk working hours considerably by his day, and there was no reason to believe this trend would not continue. Whizzy cars and ever more time-saving tools and appliances guaranteed more speed and less drudgery in all parts of life. Social psychologists began to fret: whatever would people do with all their free time?'*

In hindsight it seems as though this was just some sort of cruel joke. As technology advanced the opportunity to do more in less time appeared more attractive. The choice between working less and enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle was rapidly replaced with the pursuit of money and possessions. In the final analysis, labour saving devices may have become a bane to our existence and in many cases a lure into a life of stress and an early grave.

From a spiritual point of view it could be regarded as somewhat demonic. That may sound a rather extreme, but if you live a life of work, work, work or always being on the end of a phone at someone's beck and call you start to wonder what life is all about; although if you are really busy then the simple act of 'wondering' may not even be on your mental agenda?

Some things are very important in life and some things frankly are not. When we consider the brevity and sometimes the fragility of life it is so important that we do stop and consider the really important issues. As we advance in age, our final destination is of prime concern. What happens when we die, where do we go? Are there such places as heaven and hell? If we don't address these really important questions because we're sidelined by busyness then we could be in line for a shock that will last for all eternity – or as Buzz say's 'Infinity and beyond'.

In the last issue of the Parish Magazine I did promise a 'One Day' course (yes, you read that correctly), One day to explore '**Life in a Nutshell**'- Saturday 13th May, 10am-4pm Framfield Church Hall. Tea, Coffee and study material provided – do bring a packed lunch. If you would like to attend do please send an email (rev.chris@btinternet.com) or leave a message on the church answer phone (01825 891090) or just turn up; everyone is welcome. It could be the most significant day of your life!

Life in a Nutshell



Blessings to all in the parish and beyond – Revd Chris Lawrence



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

Blackboys Pre-School offers an After-school club and Holiday clubs throughout the year. Both clubs take place at Blackboys Village Hall and are available for children between the ages of 2 and 11 years old.

Our After-school club operates between 3.30pm and 6pm during term time, with a pick up service available from local primary schools. The Holiday clubs take place during each of the main school holiday periods and operate between 9am and 6pm.

Our next Holiday club takes place between Monday 3rd and Friday 7th April and Monday 10th and 13th April.

For more details please contact Katy on 01825 891113 or blackboys.asc@hotmail.com.

Tackling elder exploitation in our communities

Katy Bourne, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Sussex, has made tackling elder exploitation one of her top priorities in a bid to protect older people in the county from financial abuse.

She says: "We know that fraud against our older and more vulnerable residents is a growing issue as our population ages and criminals see that fraud is more profitable and less risky than other crimes. In Sussex, fraud has robbed some older people of their entire life savings and left others destitute.

"I have been lobbying the Government to take account of demographics when calculating the amount of funding that is allocated to each police force and to acknowledge the rise in crimes against our elderly.

"The operational response from Sussex Police has also been excellent. They have developed Operation Signature to help protect and support those most at risk of fraud, and the model has been nationally recognised and is being adopted by other police forces.

"The problem is that many people don't realise that they've been a victim of fraud – they think it's just a scam, or they feel foolish and don't want to tell anyone. But scams are fraud and fraud is a crime so I really would urge anyone who's affected by doorstep crime, postal fraud or nuisance calls to report it."

You can call the police on 101 or report fraud by speaking directly to the advisers at Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre, by phoning 0300 123 2040. They will also be able to give you help and advice about fraud and you can remain anonymous if you prefer.

UK-wide charity Action on Elder Abuse operates a confidential helpline on 080 8808 8141 which offers advice and support on all aspects of elder abuse.

Trading Standards also want to know about online fraud or mobile phone scams; any information you share may help them shut down fraudsters before others fall victim to them. You can report incidents, whether you're a victim or have just been targeted, via the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline on 0345 404 05 06.

You can sign up for Katy Bourne's weekly newsletter at www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/spcc-newsletter/

Diary of Church Services

APRIL 2017

- 02 Fifth Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
(with prayer for healing)
- 09 Palm Sunday**
10.00 am Family Friendly Service and Baptism
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
with prayer for healing
- 10** 7.00 pm Meditation in the Gage Chapel
- 11** 7.00 pm Meditation in the Gage Chapel
- 12** 7.00 pm Meditation in the Gage Chapel
- 13 Maundy Thursday**
8.00 pm Holy Communion (CW)
- 14 Good Friday**
10.00 am We are joining the Uckfield Walk of Witness up the High Street at 10am. Meet at the URC Church from 9.30am for coffee and hot cross buns.
- 16 Easter Sunday**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Festival Service
(including Messy Church activities & Easter Egg Hunt)
No Messy Church this month
- 23 Second Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 30 Third Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Morning Praise
(No evening service)

MAY 2017

- 07 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing
- 14 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
11.00 am Family (Rogation Sunday) Service
Highbridge Farm, Palehouse Common, followed by BBQ
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing
- 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
4.00 pm 'Messy Church' for all the family
- 28 Seventh Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th MAY 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

**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk



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

The Pre-School is open weekdays from 07.45-6.00pm operates in line with the 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

I am therefore calling on the Government to take steps to ensure that wine from our shores is served at official receptions. It offers an easy opportunity for the Government to support British produce in a practical and patriotic way, and not least the amazing vineyards we are proud to have here in Wealden.

If you would like to contact me about this issue, or any other, please do feel free to email me: nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk.



Hare & Hounds
FRAMFIELD

Tel : 01825 890118

www.hareandhounds.pub

SERVING

Breakfast, Lunch and Evening meals

We do Buffets and sit down meals in the dining room for up to 50 to 60 people Give us a ring and discuss your party requirements.

Big Night Coming up Friday 5th May

RACE NIGHT

First race is off at 7.30, so come early and get your bets on, and join in the fun. Also there will be a raffle with lots of great prizes.

Tickets are £ 10 per person, which includes a seat and supper.

Tel. 01825890459 for tickets or call in to the Hare and Hounds.

The evening will be run in conjunction with the Fab ladies of Framfield and Blackboys WI. All the proceeds of the night to be shared between

Blackboys and Framfield Pre Schools

Uckfield (Holy Cross) Choral Society

presents

Olivet to Calvary

J H Maunder (1858 – 1920)

A Passiontide Cantata for Soloists, Chorus & Organ

6.30pm Palm Sunday 9th April 2017 at Holy Cross Church, Uckfield

7.30pm Good Friday 14th April 2017 at Maresfield Parish Church

All Welcome!

Admission free – Retiring collection

Proceeds in aid of Uckfield (Holy Cross) Choral Society and the Friends of Maresfield Church

There will be seasonal refreshments for all immediately following both performances

The Friends of Framfield Church invite you to

AN EVENING OF JAZZ

with

THE SUSSEX STOMPERS

at

St Thomas à Becket Church, Framfield

Friday, 12 May 2017 at 7.30pm



**Tickets £10 (to include a glass of wine and 'nibbles') available from Dixon
Press 01825 890400 or Pat Herbert 01825 890247
or on the door**

From your Wealden MP Nus Ghani

I am fortunate to represent a rural constituency that is home to some of the finest British produce. I take great pleasure in being able to sample, share and celebrate the myriad of food and drink made in Wealden. I am particularly proud of our many local vineyards, which have gone from strength to strength.

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in this country's economy, landscape and health; a flourishing agricultural sector translates to a flourishing Great Britain. As such, I support the Government in standing firmly on the side of farmers and producers.

This is set in the wider context of helping to counter volatility in the global market and working to expand our nation's skills base through apprenticeships and training schemes – I was delighted to recently be appointed as Chair of the Government's Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network, a fantastic opportunity to spread the benefits of apprenticeship programmes.

Apprenticeships in the agriculture industry have helped exports of British food and drink grow by over 10 per cent since 2010, to a record figure of more than £20 billion.

In order to further build Britain's reputation as a great food nation, the Government has set up the Great British Food Unit, which will work to further boost exports and support more British companies to export overseas, potentially generating an additional 5,000 jobs in food and drink manufacturing.

In Parliament, I recently tabled a Bill to promote British wine in our embassies and consulates abroad. This is a great opportunity for embassies and consulates, who regularly host receptions, to champion our fantastic produce and I will, of course, be doing all I can to promote wine from Wealden.



RACE NIGHT

HARE & HOUNDS - FRAMFIELD

Friday, May 5th 2017 - 7pm for 7.30 Start
£10 Including Seat & Supper

Proceeds to be shared between Framfield & Blackboys Pre-Schools
Run in conjunction with FAB WI.

Get your tickets at the Hare & Hounds or telephone
01825 890459 or 01825 890216



Framfield & Blackboys WI

Framfield & Blackboys W.I had a very interesting speaker at their February meeting in the Blackboys village hall. The speaker, local artist Lynn Merrick, had us all drawing oak leaves, and was on hand to help where needed. Her talk was very educational in the art of painting and sculpture. A very talented lady.

After our talk we had a bring and buy sale, followed by refreshments. All in all a good evening enjoyed by everyone.

Our April meeting on the 11th will have Michael Wynn- Jones giving us a talk and demonstration on scarf tying Magic. This meeting will be held in Blackboys Village Hall, and will commence at 7.30pm.

If you would like to attend and you are not a member you will be welcomed warmly. Visitors are always welcome and can come along as a visitor for 3 months at £1.00 per meeting, this includes refreshments and good company.

**To join your local WI in 2017 contact our president,
Philomena on 890216**

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

- 3rd April Talk by Pam Robinson on the work of Demelza
Also a collection for Demelza
2.30pm Framfield Memorial Hall
- 24th April OUTING -Victoria Tea Rooms - Eastbourne Pier
For Afternoon Tea -Transport by Coach
Leaving time to be announced
- 15th May OUTING - Trading Boundaries Sheffield Park
Look around shops and Afternoon Tea
Leaving time to be announced

Can we wish you all a Happy Easter from our Members.
Any further information please contact Sandy Rogers
01825 849648- sandyrogers77@gmail.com

Any further information contact Sandy Rogers
01825 840647 - sandyrogers77@gmail.com



Details and video
on our website




**April NO Messy church but fun
Easter activities during
the 10am morning service.**

May 21st Messy Church 4pm

Recently, a member of our committee received a generous donation from Uckfield Bonfire Society. We are not only very grateful to them for supporting our charity over the years, but also for what they do for our local community, whilst providing us with great entertainment.

Our fund raising is about to start in earnest in April, when we shall be providing tea and cakes at open gardens.

In January some members of our committee visited the new £6 million Brighton Cancer Centre. They were invited on a tour of the building and given the chance to meet staff and volunteers. The Horizon Centre will offer vital all-round support for local people living with or beyond cancer, their families and carers. Our committee will continue to support the centre by contributing some of the money we raise towards running costs.

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

Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

Interested in horticulture? Love gardening? Or just simply want to get involved in a local, friendly and social group? Whatever your motivation, the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society brings together people united by their interest in a wide range of garden activities in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

Full details of our events can be found on our website at www.fabhortsoc.org.uk. And if you'd like to join, membership is just £5, or £8 for a family, which gives you some discounts at selected local garden centres.

[Calendar of events, April – June 2017](#)

Unless otherwise stated, talks are free to members and just £3.00 to non-members and include a glass of wine on arrival and coffee/tea and biscuits later in the evening. No need to book, just turn up!

Wednesday 12 April 2017 – THE ROSES OF MOTTISFONT ABBEY GARDENS

Tom Stone has been working as a professional gardener since 1989. Here, he explains the history of the roses in the walled garden at Mottisfont Abbey Gardens and how the collection came to be there
7.30pm, Blackboys Village Hall

Tuesday 16th May 2017 – FERNS

Low-maintenance and tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, ferns complement any shade plant combination. Retired landscape gardener Jude Lawson will share her fascination with these hardy plants.
7.30pm, Framfield Memorial Hall

7.30pm, Framfield Memorial Hall

Thursday 29th June 2017 - MEADOWS

Robert Bradshaw returns full of enthusiasm with a talk that explains his love of meadows in both a natural and garden setting.
7.30pm, Framfield Memorial Hall

7.30pm, Framfield Memorial Hall

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

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, 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



Guy Partridge 07702 836057
Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond

Our Alpha Course, which explores the basics of Christianity, has been a great success. We meet every Monday evening with 25-30 people gathering in the Grove Café. We start with a delicious meal followed by an engaging thought provoking talk leading into discussion in small groups. The course ended on the 27th of March but the concept has been so well received that after Easter we will follow it up with the same format but this time exploring one of the Gospel Writings. This course would be suitable for those who are still exploring the Christian faith or for those who are keen to grow deeper into it.

If you would like to find out more please contact our Pastor Guy Partridge on 01825-891133 or guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com. Or find him in the building called The Space right next to The Grove Café in Blackboys.

You would also be most welcome also to join us for our Easter Sunday Celebration which again involves food! We meet for breakfast in the village hall at 9:30 am followed by an All Age Service beginning at 10:15am and ending around an hour later.

New Life Church 'Building Through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond.'
'Love is not love until you stop expecting something back'. R.Rohr

Revd Guy Partridge
Tel: 01825 891133 or guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com

Nature Notes

I am in France as I write this edition of NN in early March. Spring is well on the way here with many singing birds. In the garden birds include a pair of Stonechats, a Robin and a pair of Black Redstarts, all busily doing the things birds do in the spring. Yesterday evening I saw a Black-Winged Kite, a bird normally confined to Spain. I had heard talk of this bird in the region, but had never seen this species before. This morning I was delighted to see a female Hen Harrier flying over the fields and a Hoopoe fly from a tree in the garden, and two days ago I heard a Golden Oriole singing in the Poplar woods nearby. Also this morning I also encountered a flock of Siskins, these are winter visitors from Scandinavia and Russia. They were probably moving north to get back to their breeding zone for when the snows have all melted later this month. I also heard a Chiffchaff singing, the first spring migrant usually heard at this time. Ten days ago, I was really excited to see chevrons consisting of hundreds of European Common Cranes flying over the house in the evening, calling to each other as they flew. These huge migrant birds over-winter in North Africa and Spain, then fly north-east to Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and Russia to breed. Indeed, a few pairs of Common Cranes breed in Britain.

Here in France the plants too are responding to the longer days. Celandines like little suns beaming from the grassy banks. I was also delighted to see Viper's Bugloss and Cuckoo Flower in full flower at the woodland edge. Indeed, all the herbage is growing fast and many shrubs are adorned with blossom, encouraged by the spring rain and the appearance of Bumblebees to pollinate the flowers. The spring equinox is a time of change, when the hibernating animals such as Dormice, Hedgehogs and Frogs emerge from hibernation. Insects too hatch out from eggs, pupae and hibernation to begin a new generation. The Earthworms come to the surface providing food for badgers and blackbirds while also aerating the grasslands. Winter visiting Redwings and Fieldfares return to Scandinavia and Siberia, while the spring migrants from Africa flock into Europe to replace them. Listen out for a Cuckoo, and look out for the first Swallow or House Martin. If you have sight of a bird nest-box, watch it for a while to see if a Blue or Great Tit enters, then look regularly to see if it stays.

Martyn Stenning

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTING ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council (PC) is a statutory consultee on planning applications and as such is invited to make comments along with the public during a specified 21-day consultation period. Due to the requirement to determine applications as soon after the 21-day deadline as is reasonably possible, Wealden District Council (WDC) cannot be guaranteed to be able to allow an extension of time for comments to fit in with Committee meeting dates. As applications are sent out by WDC at any time, the deadline for comment might be before the next Parish Committee meeting.

The Chairman/Vice Chairman will therefore give his permission for applications to be discussed and commented upon under delegated authority in line with the terms of reference of the Committee. Subject to there being no additional information coming forward within the 21-day statutory consultation period, the comments will be passed onto WDC in the usual way.

If any member the public, whether the applicant in an application or an interested party wishing to make representation to the PC, please contact the Clerk at the earliest opportunity once they are aware the application is live or the yellow site notice has been put up on site. Alternatively, applications can be viewed via the WDC website where a weekly list of new applications is provided –

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Leaflets_And_Publications/Weekly_List_of_Planning_Applications/Planning_Weekly_List.aspx.

Letters of support or objection should be addressed to WDC in the first instance and copied to the PC for information.

If there are any queries please contact the Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825 890182 or framfieldpc@gmail.com

<u>For information</u>	
Framfield Parish Council c/o Mrs Ann Newton Parish Clerk 'Highlands' Blackboys East Sussex TN22 5LR Telephone: 01825 890182 Email: framfieldpc@gmail.com	Wealden District Council Head of Building & Planning Control Council Offices Vicarage Lane HAILSHAM East Sussex BN27 2AX Telephone: 01323 443322 Email: planning@wealden.gov.uk

The Future of Bus Services 31 and 231 – the Parish Council has been advised that Seaford & District have now been contracted by ESCC to provide a revised service 231 on Mondays to Fridays. However, the service 231 four return journeys on Saturdays will no longer run. Compass Travel will also continue as the operator of service 31. The Parish Council is to discuss joining into a scheme to provide a Saturday bus service in the morning provided by the North Wealden Community Transport Partnership.

Framfield Village Market – please do come along and have a look at local craft wares and produce and have a cup of coffee. All proceeds go towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. Since the Parish Council took the market on two years ago £4,000 has been raised – thank you to all of those involved.

The new sports pavilion on Blackboys recreation ground is nearing completion. This will become a Parish asset in a similar way to the Village Hall and Memorial Hall, although it will only be available for sports activities and will not have a premises licence for music etc.

For information: website – our website is currently under review so will unfortunately not be available at all times.

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.

Email: framfieldpc@gmail.com.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Rooks

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

The first sound that a new-born rook hears is other rooks. Lots of them. It's a sound that will surround it every day for the rest of its life. Rooks are one of our most sociable birds. They'll live, love, feed and fight together – team players from the rookery to the grave.

There's a rookery near my local train station and in April I often stare up at the community of messy twig nests high above the platform. There's a definite pleasure to be had from watching a rookery – the sort of pleasure you get from pulling up a deckchair and watching your neighbour hard at work. High in the trees the rooks are busy: carrying twigs back to their nests, building their nests, stealing twigs from their neighbour's nest when he's not looking, getting into a fight with the neighbour when they're caught. It's a tree-top soap opera.

It can be easy to dismiss them as unattractive, plain black birds with a croaky call that sounds like Tom Waits coughing up a hairball. But look closer and you'll see the rook's plumage contains a hidden beauty – an iridescent sheen which gives the bird a flash of exotic purple and green. Loose feathers hang low to their knees like a pair of baggy shorts, the sort favoured by teen skateboarders or middle-aged men who listen to The Foo Fighters.

Sure, that raucous 'KAAH' may not rival the nightingale's song but the communal cacophony gives constant reassurance to every individual rook that it belongs within the team. That call also helps rooks communicate the best local areas for feeding; the discovery of a worm-filled field is noisily shared to ensure that all can join in the feast. This teamwork is one way to tell them apart from their similar looking but anti-social relative the carrion crow. Any rook on its own is a crow. If you see a group of crows they're rooks. Usually.

Outside the nesting season and away from the rookeries the birds gather each evening to roost. Rooks travel over the landscape and converge to form a super-flock of hundreds or even thousands of birds. Jackdaws, their smaller relatives, join in the party and this black cloud whirls across the sky, a crazy, cackling, cawing celebration of all things crow. As winter draws to an end this nightly ritual dissipates and rooks return to their respective rookeries, start collecting (and stealing) twigs and prepare themselves

for the arrival of another generation of comrades in baggy shorts. While I'm watching my local rookery, I look down from the railway bridge to Platform 2 and I see the crowd of commuters awaiting the London train. People all living similar lives but without any interaction whatsoever between them. Sometimes you'll catch them looking up at the wonderful chaos of the rookery above, no doubt wondering what it's like to never feel alone.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, *Wildlife* magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or over the phone on 01273 497532.



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FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2017

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

29 April

27 May

24 June

29 July

August – no market.

30 September

28 October

25 November

16 December

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

Life in a Nutshell



A 'One Day' course (yes, you read that correctly), One day to explore 'Life in a Nutshell'- Saturday 13th May, 10am-4pm Framfield Church Hall. Tea, Coffee and study material provided – do bring a packed lunch. If you would like to attend do please send an email (rev.chris@btinternet.com) or leave a message on the church answer phone (01825 891090) or just turn up; everyone is welcome. It could be the most significant day of your life!

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Unfortunately, Cardiomyopathy Charity could not find a speaker to come to us in February. However, we sent them a cheque for £250. 00 which was gratefully received.

We were lucky enough to get Ye Ping Tsim from Bowen Therapy to come and speak to us. Bowen Therapy is a non-evasive, holistic, gentle form of complimentary health care. It is recognised by the NHS and there is a clinic at Eastbourne Hospital. It covers all sorts of health problems.

We are now looking forward to the visit to Uckfield Fire Station in March. Just hope they don't get a shout!

Our meeting in April is a meal at the Hare and Hounds to which we have allowed the men to come.

We are a small group of friendly ladies who like to raise money for charity as well as having an evening out every month. If you would like to join us contact me.

Val Peaty 890677

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

Sunday 9th April at 10.00 am
Sunday 14th May at 10.00 am

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I just thought I would list a few recent news stories:

Email Council Tax Scams – please be on alert for fraudsters who may call you or send you an email claiming you are due a Council Tax refund. One such scam claims to offer you a refund – after you have clicked on a link and provided details of your bank! Other scams involve fake callers claiming to be from the Council and offering similar refunds. They then ask for your bank details in order to pay in the ‘refund’. Wealden District Council (WDC) will never make an unarranged phone call to ask for your bank details. If you have any concerns please contact WDC on 01323 443322.

Council Tax - WDC has approved a £5.00 a year for a Band D property with proportional increases for other Council Tax bandings.

Wealden residents are some of the best recyclers in the county, helping the District achieve an overall recycling rate of around 50%.

The number of new homes proposed under the next stage of the Wealden Local Plan has been reduced by WDC which takes into account the results of the latest nitrogen deposition monitoring that has been taking place in Ashdown Forest.

Finally a thank you to everyone who helped make the Great Wealden Spring Clean such a success – nearly 25 community groups from across the District took part in the clean-up at the beginning of March. Well over 300 bags of litter were collected over the course of one weekend.

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

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

Telephone - 01825 890103.

Email – anewton1965@gmail.com

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

TWO SENIOR CITIZENS GO FOR A WALK

My normal walks are relatively simple if I start from home. A quick bowl of cereal, pick up dog lead and waist bag and we are off. If I decide to go further afield that involves taking the car. And that is very different. Most people call their dog that then leaps in enthusiastically and they are off.

My planning starts the day before where I watch and listen to all the weather forecasts. If they all agree that there will be no fog, ice, snow or heavy rain the following day, I decide to go. As Chloe has a long coat that is usually tangled with brambles and mud I like to give her a good brushing, hopefully giving the impression to other walkers, that she always looks immaculate!

First thing the following morning I have some cereal then start on my preparations. I can't trust the weather forecast so make a thermos of hot tea and also a marmite sandwich to munch while I walk. Of course I always carry emergency rations including nuts and dried fruit and some biscuits, so check they are in my rucksack. I then make sure I have emergency money and phone, though it probably won't have a signal anyway.

I then get Chloe organised. First a trip into our field for toileting needs, then do her packing. This includes food and water, extra face cloths and poo bags. The most important item is her ramp that she needs to get into the car. The problem is even after very careful training some years ago she is still wary of using it. I work out my tactics. First I place some inviting smelling treats in the far corner of the dog space, that she can only reach when in the car, and then line her up, so she goes carefully up the ramp, while I keep it steady with one foot. With luck dog is now in car. I then pack everything in car, including ramp, then remember I have forgotten Chloe's red collar and lead so go and fetch it.

At last I am ready and start to back the car out of the garage, I have done this successfully hundreds of times but this time managed to get the angle horribly wrong

and jammed the car, with a horrible scraping sound, into the side of the garage. I then could not open the car door to see how to extricate myself. Luckily my long suffering husband came with lots of, "left hand down a bit, stop, and right hand down a bit", until I was able to guiltily reverse out.

Arriving on Ashdown Forest I enjoy a recuperative drink of tea, and then set off for a lovely walk. The only irritating part are dog owners who want to talk about their dogs, while naturally, I want to talk about Chloe! To be fair people are very interested in her as there are not many Newfoundland dogs about. She loves meeting people and the excitement makes her drool so I am forever wiping her mouth. Back at the car park it is the same rigmarole of ramp and treats with an even more reluctant dog who does not want to go home. Once back, there is a lot more work. Rubber mat in car needs washing, the by now filthy dog needs washing and all the stuff I took needs sorting out. Give half eaten sandwich to dog. By now quite exhausted so slump down in kitchen chair and finish tea in thermos. A tired, contented, but soggy wet Newfoundland dog falls asleep, sprawled right across the utility room floor oblivious to the annoyance of anyone trying to cross the room.

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

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 13th April, and Thursday 11th May.

All produce is homemade and includes, cakes, pies, preserves, local cheeses, honey, greetings cards, pottery, hand knitted items, hand sewn gifts, vegetables, plants and more. .Enjoy coffee or tea and cake in pleasant surroundings.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931