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

Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

APRIL / MAY 2018

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

**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 : **Mrs Patricia Marchant**

**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:

23rd March 2018: Frances Brinkhurst

26th March 2018: Robert Jarvis

29th March 2018: Kaysha Whitmarsh

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.

How would you like to be remembered?

Not wishing to be morbid in any way, but we are all on an earthly journey that generally ends up in a box!

Have you ever been to a funeral where there is something said during the Tribute or Eulogy where you say to yourself; 'I never knew that about my friend'!

Everyone's life has value and what we do with our lives is of significance; positive things that we have achieved or accomplished or simply, how we lived, serve as an example, a living memory to pass on. What were the lessons we learnt or what could we have done differently? While we have breath it is never too late to start again. Perhaps you have a burning ambition to do something that has been in the back of your mind, but there has never been the time or opportunity to do it.

I sometimes reflect on the Nike slogan 'Just do it'. It's a good one for those amongst us who have a leaning towards procrastination (me included). I remember my mother saying 'don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today' - but that's exactly what I wanted to do and in my feeble defence usually offered a thinly veiled excuse!

Procrastination is a difficult one to shake off and the only way I appear to have mastered it (with varying degrees of success) is to say to myself; 'if you are not going to do it today, when are you going to do it?' This is often sufficient to get me going and quiet all the excuses that appear to be rising up in my mind. The other problem with procrastination is that it is a robber of time. We only have a limited number of years or hours in a day; shouldn't we do our best to make each one count? I remember with some sadness older work colleagues who were heading toward retirement saying what they were going to do; wonderful plans to travel or embark on new adventures. The large majority only enjoyed a few years before ill health or some other significant problem cut their retirement short. One of life's lessons to pass on - 'try not to live with regret'.

It used to be a standing joke within church circles that if you want to make God laugh tell Him your plans. The inference was that God already had the perfect plan for your life and anything you came up with would be second rate at best. Jeremiah makes reference to this i.e. **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)**

There is something deeply satisfying about knowing where you fit in and what part you personally play as human history unfurls. A life well lived is something to be cherished and a legacy to be handed on to future generations.

Last month many people across the world paid tribute to Billy Graham; an amazing man and evangelist. As of 2008, Graham's estimated lifetime audience, including radio and television broadcasts, topped 2.2 billion. One special televised broadcast in 1996 alone may have reached a television audience of as many as 2.5 billion people worldwide. Because of his crusades, Graham preached the gospel to more people in person than anyone in the history of Christianity. Graham was on Gallup's list of most admired men and women 61 times, more than any man or woman in history.

The irony of Billy Graham's life is that he never really that interested in the church or God; he preferred baseball. His friends tried to persuade him to go to a series of meetings to hear evangelist Mordecai Ham. He refused, but they asked him if he would be willing to drive them to the meetings in the dairy truck, which he agreed to. Apparently he got bored and when curiosity got the better of him he snuck in just to see what was going on. It was here that he heard God's word and in a few short days gave his life to Christ. In John's Gospel Ch15:16 Jesus said to his disciples, **You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.**

Billy Graham is proof positive that God has a time and a place for all of us where there is a window of opportunity. We may not be looking for it but God's overarching mandate remains i.e. **He doesn't want anyone to perish, but all to come to a knowledge of the truth** (2 Peter 3:9). However, we need to be in a place where we hear God's word. Only then can we make a valid judgment and an informed choice. St Paul writes in Romans 10:14 **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?**

In Framfield church we do preach God's word and have a variety of services each month. Each service is approximately one hour long and has something for everyone, whether you are eight or eighty.

If you have never been to church or perhaps you went as a child or just ceased going for whatever reason why not join us for just one month at the 10am service and see if it makes a difference? Perhaps reading about Billy Graham has sparked your curiosity? Today could be your Nike day, so rather than procrastinate 'Just do It' and set aside four Sundays - you will be made very welcome and it might just be the most significant decision you ever make in this life!

God's blessing to everyone in the Parish – *Revd Chris Lawrence*

At Blackboys, we were delighted to receive a letter from Education Minister Nick Gibb, praising the school for our excellent results in the Year 6 SATS, particularly for Reading and Maths.

On the sports field the federation football team played so well in the Brighton and Hove Albion community tournament that the team are now representing East Sussex in a regional competition playing at the Brighton training ground in Lancing.

At Framfield, we have welcomed two new members of staff Ms Melanie Keep as an INA and also Mrs Dawn Evans as our secretary and bursar.

As the term comes to a close, we still have some exciting school trips taking place. Children will be experiencing visits to Plumpton College, Friston Forest and Wilderness Wood as part of their cross curricular topic work. The Eagles and Class 4 children are being revisited by the Community Chef to learn more about foods from around the world.

Our wonderful Parent/Teacher Associations in both schools are busily preparing for their fayres and we do hope you can come along to these fundraising events. Blackboys Easter fayre is on Saturday 24th March and Framfield have a May fayre, with Maypole and dancers booked for Saturday 12th May.

Many thanks for all your support for both our schools. Don't forget you can keep up to date with news from both schools through Twitter. @blackboyschool and @framfieldcep
Graham Sullivan and Jacqueline Davies

St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.
Blackboys and Framfield Schools News March 2018

As we are approaching the end of term 4 and preparing our children for their Easter services we can all reflect on how successful the last term has been with all the children showing a good understanding of our Christian value of 'Respect' alongside our motto 'Be the best you can Be'.

One of the highlights has been the federation trip for all the year 6 children to London. This event included a walking sightseeing tour including seeing St Paul's and The Globe. We had an excellent education session at the Houses of Parliament and we were privileged enough to see Theresa May in the House of Commons. It was also such a treat to have our MP Nus Ghani come and meet us and take a range of interesting questions from the children which included comments about the Uckfield railway line! All our children behaved impeccably and we were very proud of them including how they enjoyed the end of the day refreshments in Pizza Express on the South Bank.

Both schools celebrated World Book Day with a focus on animal characters in amazing costumes. More can be read via the Uckfield News website.

At Framfield, we were very proud of Puffins class participating in the First Access Music Festival in Lewes. They performed their own compositions inspired by the artwork The Hay Wain as well as singing, body percussion and playing their recorders.

Diary of Church Services

APRIL 2018

- 01 Easter Day**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Festival Service & Easter Egg Hunt
- 08 Second Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) (with Prayer for Healing)
- 15 Third Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
- 22 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
10.00am Morning Praise (*Miracles from Mark's Gospel*)
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 29 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)

MAY 2018

- 06 Sixth Sunday of Easter**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 13 Seventh Sunday of Easter**
11.00 am Rogation Service at High Bridge Farm with Post service BQ Lunch
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) (with prayer for healing)

20 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

27 Trinity Sunday
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 2018
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

Rated OUTSTANDING by Ofsted May 2017

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

www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

The Dog Show will again form part of the show's activities, and this year the judging classes will appeal to a wider range of owners. All dogs big, small, whatever shape or size, will be included in this popular event with the emphasis being on "Fun for All".

As always the Show Committee will be working towards a memorable occasion but any assistance you can offer would be appreciated especially on the day (which can be as little as one hour). Please contact Sarah who would love to hear from you - contact details above.

We hope that these few salient points, and the promise of a great day's fun, will whet your appetite to come on down to Framfield Rec on the 11th August. See you there.

Gill O'Halloran
(On behalf of the Framfield and Blackboys Show Committee)

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

April 9th Speaker - Bruce Webb
Fire Safety in the Home,
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30pm
Also Bring and Buy stall today

April 23rd Outing to Bluebell Railway
Train Ride and Picnic - Times
To be confirmed (£10 Each to Pay)

May 21st Kent Surrey and Sussex AIR AMBULANCE
Talk - 2.30pm Buxted Pavillion
A Collection will be taken

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

Churchyard Appeal on behalf of St. Thomas a Becket Church Framfield.

Our splendid Churchyard which surrounds our Church in Framfield is currently looked after by a dedicated voluntary group of Church members. The work entails keeping pathways clear and mowing a large section of the Churchyard area on a regular basis during the spring and summer months.

At the moment our mowing machines; maintenance and the fuel costs is sponsored from Church funds.

The Churchyard is used by many members of the community for walks and other activities.

We are appealing for help with meeting these costs which exceed £1200 a year so that we can continue to provide a pleasant place for everyone to visit.

If you feel that you would like to make a donation to our cause this can be done by a direct payment to our bank marked "**Churchyard**" or by a cheque made out to **Framfield PCC**.

To HSBC Bank: Direct debit to account: **91456369** sort code **40-45-32** marked Churchyard

By Cheque payable to: **Framfield PCC** and delivered or sent to Church office; The Street; Framfield; East Sussex TN22 5NH.

If you would like to help our volunteer group maintain the Churchyard we would be delighted to hear from you. For more details please contact **Jerry Pryke** on 01825 760787.

If you wish to learn more about our appeal please contact **John Mordaunt** on 01825 890443 or Mobile 07989 587459.

John Mordaunt (Chairman of the Fabric Committee)

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, keep fit and exercise classes, 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



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

Sunday 8th April at 10.00 am

Hall) when a panel will provide advice on how to prepare your entries. So, if you want to know how to choose the best plant or flower specimen or to show your vegetables to best advantage this is the time to find out!

All Society Events are free to members and £3.00 for non-members. For more information about the Society and its activities please contact either:

Fiona Fidler (01825 890719; fhbsmail@gmail.com)
or Trevor Hince (01435 863364; trevor.hince@gmail.com).



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS SUMMER SHOW SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST 2018, 12.30-4.30PM

Please note in your diary the 11th August 2018 which is the date for the Framfield and Blackboys Summer Show. You really won't want to miss it!!!

The Summer Show will offer all the usual sideshows and entertainment but Terry Everitt, the Chairman of the Show

Committee, is open to any new ideas to make this event even more special (Terry's contact details are: terryeveritt@outlook.com or Tel: 01825 891392). Also anyone wishing to take on their own stall for the day would be received with welcome arms. Please contact Sarah Hince (email: sarah.hince@btinternet.com Tel: 01435 863364) who will provide further information.

A new innovation this year will be the Scarecrow Competition. To participate a scarecrow must be entered (of course!!!!) at a date prior to the show which will be confirmed in the next bulletin. ***N.B. All scarecrows to be constructed in the traditional manner no living specimens will be accepted.*** The scarecrows will then be sited locally prior to the show, to give everyone the chance to admire the entrants, and the final judgement of the best scarecrow will take place on show day. Full details for all show events and competitions will be in the next Parish Magazine along with contact emails and telephone numbers.



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society opened its 2018 season of events with the ever popular Quiz Night. Over thirty-five members and friends were at times, taxed, frustrated, and enlightened but always entertained by the questions (and answers!) prepared by Terry Everitt. It was a most enjoyable evening and the Society is very grateful to Terry for the hard work which he puts into preparing the quiz and running the evening's activity.

Our next event, on **Wednesday 14th March** (7.30pm at Blackboys Village Hall) will be a talk by Geoff Stonebanks entitled '**From City Courtyard to Seaside Sanctuary**'. Geoff has created an intriguing garden in Seaford called 'Driftwood' with innovative planting and artworks ; it has featured in many gardening magazines and on BBC's 'Gardener's World' and promises to be a very interesting talk; so do make a note in your diaries and come along!

The Society's April talk is on **Wednesday 11th April** (7.30pm at Blackboys Village Hall) when Trevor Hince shares his experiences of working on the Sussex Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserve - Selwyns Wood - at Cross-in-Hand. Although only a small woodland nature reserve it has much to offer for wildlife lovers and one or two surprises!

The first garden visit of the year will be to **Brightling Down Farm, Dallington on Friday 8th June** from 5pm – so another date for your diary – with more details later, but if interested please get in touch with Fiona (contact details below).

At the time of writing this article with the weather forecast to be exceptionally cold and snowy it seems unlikely to be talking about planting seeds and taking cuttings – but gardeners are always looking to the future! So, we are asking you to look ahead to the Summer Show in August and plant some extra seeds and take more cuttings than you need; then bring your extra plants along to the Society's plant stall at the Show. Whilst on the subject of the Summer Show the Society will holding a question and answer meeting entitled '**Help- I want to enter the Summer Show**' on Tuesday 15th May (7.30pm at Framfield Memorial

THE GRUFFALO

Fun in Framfield

30 May 2018 10am - 4pm
Framfield Grange, Framfield,
East Sussex TN22 5PN

Walk the woodland paths and you might spy the Gruffalo amongst the trees! Make sock puppets, masks, stick men and snakes. There is pond dipping, story telling and lots, lots more!

Picnic on the lawn beside the lake or buy a delicious tea in the marquee.

One price entry for adults and children (under 3yrs free)

- £7.00 - advance entry price
- £10.00 - on the gate entry (online ticketing closes 29.5.18)

friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk/gruffalo

#gruffalofunframfield

Reg. Charity No. 1089306

FRIENDS
SUSSEX
HOSPICES

Nature Notes

The cold snap of late February and Early March this year has held up the end of winter like a coiled spring. All of a sudden, the daffodils and crocuses are blooming and the early spring herbs are shooting out of the ground like little green rockets. Insects also such as bumblebees, flies, butterflies and mosquitos are emerging. Molehills are springing up like little mountain ranges in the lawns. Worm casts are also being deployed like the piping of icing on a grassy cake.

Spring can feel like a very personal process of recovery after surviving a chilly dark winter. I am sure it feels the same for other organisms as they celebrate the return of the good weather with their blooms, bounds and beautiful birdsong. Conspicuous at this time is the song of male great tits calling 'tee-cher tee-cher tee-cher'. This has been called the melt-song as it usually coincides with the melting of snow. In science writing, this change of the seasons is called phenology.

Everything in nature has its time and place. The study of the places where organisms live is called *ecology*. This word is derived from the Greek words *oikos logos* meaning *home study*. In the science of ecology, we study how organisms relate to their home environment. Many of these organisms provide us with essential environmental services, such as bees and other animals pollinating flowers so that the flowers can produce fruit containing viable seeds. Beavers build dams in which they sleep and breed and which also create pools where the water-plants such as water cress and angelica can grow providing food for the beavers and also us humans if we care to collect it. The water that the dams retain can ameliorate flooding further downstream, helping to prevent the misery of our buildings being flooded.

All green plants and algae have chlorophyll in their bodies that generates the oxygen that we breathe. The trillions of bacteria, fungi and other organisms break down dead material generating fertile soil in which new plants grow. The list of the ways in which nature serves our lives is almost endless. We should never forget that and be careful to teach our children how dependant we are on the services that come from the natural world.

Martyn Stenning

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET
Dates for 2018
Memorial Hall, Framfield
The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

28 April
19 May
30 June
28 July
August – no market.
29 September
27 October
24 November
15 December

PC MEETING SCHEDULE 2018

On each date detailed below, generally two meetings will be held plus an informal Trust update.

(Planning Committee may be cancelled if not essential):

- Planning Committee – commencement time will vary (6/6.30 pm)
 - Trust update - commencing at 7 pm
 - Parish Council - commencing at 7.30 pm.
-
- Tuesday, 29 May (Annual Parish Council Meeting, and Annual Parish Meeting [8 pm]) – Village Hall, Blackboys
 - Tuesday, 26 June (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield
 - Tuesday, 31 July (AGM of the Trusts) – Village Hall, Blackboys
 - Tuesday, 25 September (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield
 - Tuesday, 27 November (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys
-



Will you come with me on the Great British Dog Walk?

Frog Firle Farm, Alfriston, East Sussex
Saturday 16 June 2018

Walk starts at 11am

Adults £12 (£10 online) • Children free

Bring your family, friends, dog and picnic to help change deaf people's lives

Sign up today at www.greatbritishdogwalk.org

Project manager – Church Building Maintenance

Our small group of Church members currently manage the restoration work for our Church in Framfield – St. Thomas a Becket Church. We are looking for someone with Project management skills in the building services industry to field restoration works on a voluntary basis.

The work entails contact with the Church architect; our local church officer; the Church Diocese and the contractors who carry out this vital work. Experience in this kind of work would be helpful but not essential.

If you would like to receive further details about this role and perhaps visit our Church please make contact with John Mordaunt on 01825 890443 or mobile 07989 587459.

John Mordaunt

(Chairman of the Fabric Committee)

PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

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CONTACT ANN NEWTON ON 01825 890182 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Brown Hares: March Madness

By Michael Blencowe

Learning & Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

I once had a girlfriend in the big city and found myself attending swanky dinner parties around East London. During one such soiree a guest, desperate to impress, boasted that for next week's meal he would be cooking a hare. I was outraged and I asked if anyone at the table had actually seen a hare in the wild. My question was met with blank stares. I'd like to think that I then launched into an impassioned rant about the untamed magnificence of the hare and society's disconnection with nature before heroically storming out. In reality there was cheesecake for dessert so I wearily sighed and quietly finished the main course. But I knew two things; hares don't belong at Shoreditch dinner parties and neither did I; I never returned. I still maintain that if you've witnessed the reckless energy of a hare cavorting in a Sussex sunrise then the very idea of eating one is, well, madness.

While the fields are still bare March is the best time to observe hares. On paper a hare could easily be dismissed as a big rabbit but they're different beasts altogether; it's all in the way they move. A hare possesses powerful hind legs; a pair of pistons that can send them rocketing towards the horizon at over 40mph.

Hares are mostly nocturnal. They don't burrow underground like rabbits but instead spend their days hidden in a shallow scrape (a form). Young hares (leverets) are born in separate forms and attentive mother hares return to secretly suckle them undercover of dusk.

In spring amorous male hares approach females in the hope of finding a mate but chatting up a hare is a risky business. Potential sexual partners can suddenly transform into sparring partners when uninterested female hares rise up and strike a blow for equality by punching the males in the face. The frenzied 'boxing matches' that ensue are such a striking spectacle that they have given us the phrase 'as mad as a March hare'.

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Seaford & District Bus Service. News has just been received that the service is to continue to be funded by ESCC and Compass Travel have been awarded the contract. The new 231 timetable will not be as frequent and from the beginning of April will be approximately two hourly between Uckfield and Heathfield but the service between Heathfield and Etchingham will remain very much the same. A copy of the timetable is on our website.

The Parish Council has agreed again for the forthcoming financial year to pay a proportion of the cost to run the 262 bus service between Hartfield and Heathfield (via the villages) for another year.

The Council agreed at the January meeting not to increase the precept this year but may well have to look at doing so next year.

Allotments. The renewals will be sent out shortly for the current tenants with the increase to £25.00 per plot. We do still have some vacant plots so please contact me if you would consider having one.

Parish Magazine. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact me.

Framfield Village Market (usually the last Saturday in the month) – 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 Memorial Hall. Doors open at 10 am. Dates for next year are detailed elsewhere in the magazine.

Recreation grounds, play areas etc. If anyone believes they have discovered a fault or problem with in particular one of the play areas, could they please contact me immediately. Although the areas are inspected on a weekly basis by one of our contractors, any additional notification is important to the Council.

All agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website. The full minutes of all meetings are also on the website. Please do not rely on the contents of this magazine for meeting dates etc as the website and noticeboards are more up to date. Particularly if you have any queries regarding potential or live planning applications.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182.

Email: framfieldpc@gmail.com.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.



Building through Blessing in
Blackboys and Beyond

Busy Bees Lunch Club

We are pleased to have recently launched Busy Bees which is a fortnightly social club for older folk. It takes place in The Space a delightful converted cowshed on Browning's Farm in Blackboys. We begin with tea/coffee and biscuits at 10:30am followed by games and crafts with plenty of chatting and laughter. We then adjourn to The Grove Café next door for a delicious 2 course lunch. If you are interested in joining us please contact me for more details. Lifts are available to and from home.

Home Visits

I have been recently made aware that there are many people in the local community who used to enjoy attending Sunday Church Services but are no longer able to do so. If you would like me to visit you, to chat, to pray and maybe take communion together I would be delighted to do so. Please ring or email me if you would like me to pop around.

Our Services

We meet every Sunday in the village Hall in Blackboys. We begin with tea/coffee and cake and the service begins at 10.45pm. We are relaxed, informal and friendly Church Family and offer weekly groups for children of all ages. The last Sunday of the month is usually an All Age Service.

On Easter Sunday we have a special service starting our time together with a continental breakfast at 9.30am with an All Age Service to follow beginning at 10.15 am. Revd Guy Partridge

guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com or telephone on 07702 836057 or 01435 864080

Yet who are we to be questioning the hare's mental stability? Us level-headed humans used to believe that sprinting hares can start fires; eating hare brains made you sleep better and witches could transform into hares and only be killed with silver bullets. Hares have been closely associated with Pagan springtime fertility rituals and the goddess Eostre and they still play a role in our Easter celebrations (albeit watered down, chocolate covered and transformed into the Easter Bunny). Their prominence in the English countryside has also diminished. Numbers have declined due to changes in farming practices, especially the removal of hedgerows. It's been a long, cold winter. As spring returns the Sussex countryside will be exploding in a crazy celebration of life. Get out there, find yourself a hare and experience the madness.

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.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

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

Thursday 12th April, and Thursday 10th May.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931



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

We are a non-profit making pre-school registered with Ofsted.

Open Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 6pm, we welcome children between 2 to 5 years old in the preschool and those between 2 to 11 years old in our Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs.

Our friendly staff are trained in Montessori and Forest School principles and we have an allotment located just next door to the pre-school, where our chickens are kept. We also use this space for our forest school activities. Our After School Club runs from 3.30pm to 6pm during term time, with a pick-up service available from local primary schools.

This term we are running our excellent Holiday Club from 3rd-13th April. Open from 7:45am until 6pm, each day will be packed full of fun forest school, cooking, art and free-play activities.

For more details, organise a visit or book for our Easter Holiday Club, please contact us:

Call Jenny on: 01825 891113 / 01825 749820

Or email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Grants to install central heating. Wealden District Council and Affordable Warmth Solutions has money to help owner occupiers and private landlords install central heating in rural homes which do not have a full central heating system. The occupants should be in receipt of some form of benefit. The Council is particularly interested in hearing from private landlords. Landlords can expect grants for an oil-fired boiler and other fittings which should cover around 70% of the overall cost. Home owners will be fully funded. Money from the National Grid's Warm Homes Fund is available to install central heating in up to 40 homes in areas that are not connected to mains gas. Cold homes can aggravate existing health problems particularly if you are over 65. Indoor temperatures should be kept to at least 18o C. Contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or email privatehousing@wealden.gov.uk to arrange a survey.

Accessible Swim Sessions have been organised by Freedom Leisure at the Hailsham, Uckfield and Heathfield Leisure Centres, beginning in February. These sessions are suitable for people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and people living with dementia. Pool sessions are assisted by a swimming teacher to provide help, guidance, and a supportive friendly face. Hailsham Freedom Leisure: Friday 2.30pm-3.30pm during term time for 50 weeks. Uckfield Freedom Leisure: Tuesday 2.30pm – 3.30pm, during term time, for 25 weeks. Crowborough Freedom Leisure: Tuesday 10am-11am, term time, for 25 weeks. Further information is available from the specific Freedom Leisure Centre. Sessions are funded by Sports4All.

Missed bins. Don't forget to always contact Wealden District Council if your bin is missed and if you have any concerns please let me know particularly with ongoing problems.

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

Telephone - 01825 890103.

Email – aenewton1965@gmail.com

The new 231 timetable, as anticipated, will not be as frequent between Uckfield and Heathfield. This is because Seaford & District has been providing additional journeys between these towns over and above the journeys funded by East Sussex County Council. From the beginning of April the timetable will be approximately 2 hourly, with the service between Heathfield and Etchingam remaining similar to the current provision. A copy of the combined 231/331 timetable is attached.

North Wealden Community Transport ('Wealdlink') is changing its service 262, though continuing to provide three return journeys between Uckfield and Heathfield on Saturdays. From 7 April this service will continue to/from Hartfield instead of Forest Row, via Maresfield and Nutley. A copy of the new 262 timetable is also attached.

Neil Maguire

Senior Technical Officer, Transport Hub

Direct: 01273 482147 | Team: 01273 335080

Team email: passenger.transport@eastsussex.gov.uk

Restaurant in Heathfield

Dine in our stunning restaurant within the Holy Cross Priory neo-gothic mansion. Take in the relaxing views of our grounds and admire the historic features within the Stonehill Dining Room.



Choose from our mouth-watering à la carte lunch menu or indulge with a sparkling afternoon tea!

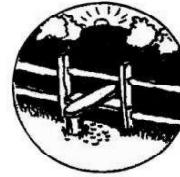


Open 7 days a week. Free parking.
Available for weddings, parties and meetings.

Book on **01435 863764**

www.holycrosspriory.co.uk

Holy Cross Priory, Lewes Road, Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield, TN21 0DZ



Framfield & Blackboys WI

We would like to express our thanks to Cathy and Peter Berry for their most generous support in so many ways over many years and to wish them both a long and happy retirement.

We would also like to thank Annie and Phil at the Hare and Hounds for their open-handed support during their time here, especially for co-hosting two race nights with us which raised over £1,400 for local charities. We wish them both all the very best for their forthcoming retirement.

SUMMER OUTING - THURSDAY JULY 5TH



Wilton House in Wiltshire is the destination for our summer outing this year. This beautiful stately home has been the country seat of the Earls of Pembroke for over 400 years. The house contains a wealth of beautiful treasures including works by Van Dyck, Rembrandt and Rubens while the park and gardens are listed Grade I on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest

Refreshments are available in the house or you can picnic in the grounds. There is also a Blue Diamond Garden Centre and the Wilton Discount Shopping Village within walking distance.

Cost: £37 (Includes return travel by luxury coach and entrance to house and grounds. Pick-ups Blackboys, Framfield & Uckfield.

Please contact **Gill Roberts on 01825 890459** to reserve your seats.

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

ROBIN AND CHLOE

Chloe and I start the day with an early morning walk. During the cold weather I became aware of a robin hovering nearby as I came home. It appeared to be interested in Chloe. Each time we returned there would be the robin. It sat in a nearby bush watching our approach. It then decided to hop about near the steps leading to the back door. Becoming more confident, it then hopped from step to step beside us as we came up to the door. I started chatting to our feathered companion, it answered with some friendly tweets. I would come indoors while Chloe would lie down outside by the door waiting for her breakfast. If fine enough, I would tip this meal of dried food on to a handy manhole cover by the steps. Curious about the antics of the friendly robin I looked out of the hall window to watch what happened. Chloe immediately started to eat her breakfast. The robin, lurking behind some foliage, nipped out and pinched some dog food then hid behind the bush to eat it. Meanwhile Chloe, who could have easily eaten this feathered morsel in one quick bite, continued eating.

We are always hearing about people studying wildlife, but the wildlife is very clever at studying us. This little bird knew when we were going for our walk and also roughly when we would be back. Sometimes we would come back up the drive, or for a change walk through our wood, across the woodland lawn and approach the steps from a different direction. I am usually having a chat to Chloe as we return, reminding her about her breakfast, not that she ever forgets about food! Hearing a twittering in a holly tree as we came out of the wood, I was surprised to see our robin. He flew down and joined us as we walked back to the cottage. How did he know which way we were coming? Was it the sight of Chloe, nothing could miss a huge black Newfoundland plodding along beside me. Or did it recognise my voice talking about breakfast?

I thought I would try an experiment. I put some of the food on a different manhole cover round the corner and while Chloe was eating there I quickly put the rest on the first manhole cover. I had two convenient windows so I could watch both places to see what happened. Quick as a flash the robin hopped onto the usual feeding place and pinched a big lump of food and retreated to peck persistently at it, before eventually managing to swallow it. Chloe, delighted to discover more food on the first manhole

cover, gobbled it up. The next day I reversed the order. I carefully watched our feathered thief. While Chloe went to her usual place he quickly nipped round the corner and stole as much as could from the other manhole cover before Chloe arrived. Another tactic was to fly into a convenient bush, perch on a low hanging branch that hung over the manhole cover just above Chloe's back. This gave him a big advantage. Tipping his head forward, beady eyes focused on the enticing food, he would wait his chance and dive down while Chloe was still eating, grab a piece, then fly back to the branch to enjoy it. Becoming even more confident I have even seen him taking advantage of Chloe while she was having her after breakfast snooze. Hopping round her he searched through her long furry tail looking for any hidden crumbs of food!

We keep the birds well supplied with food including nuts and seed which are always available. We also have a feeding tray, made by my husband, that is fixed to the kitchen window sill. This is very popular. It has a selection of bird goodies on it, dried fruit, crumbs of fruit cake and, best of all, Atora suet that comes in handy beak sized pieces. During the darker winter mornings I walk first then do the tray later. Our robin had no intention of waiting for that so thought up his cunning plan to get an early breakfast before stoking up again later from the tray. Now it is lighter I do the tray before I go out, so the robin feeds from the tray first, then, in a more leisurely way, greets me with a tweet or two before sharing Chloe's breakfast.

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

Bus Services 231 and 262 from 1 April 2018

As explained in previous communications, the contract for Seaford & District to provide Mondays to Fridays route 231 (Uckfield-Framfield-Blackboys-Heathfield-Broad Oak-Burwash-Etchingam) ends on 31 March 2018. East Sussex County Council will be funding the replacement service and a new contract has been awarded to Compass Travel, having received prices from potential bus operators. Seaford & District will continue to operate journeys on schooldays, which will be renumbered service 331.