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

# Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common

JUNE / JULY 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 Barry Richardson

**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:**

**5<sup>th</sup> May 2018: Jamie Wilson and Joanna Ruth Cookson**

### **At rest:**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2018: Patricia Thomas**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018: Christopher Robert Stanley**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2018: Edna May Richardson**

## 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

THE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE PUBLISHED IN GOOD FAITH. THE PUBLISHERS DO NOT, 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.

### When pride gets in the way.

The other day I happened to watch the 1972 Emmy Award for Outstanding Continued Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role. The actor in question was Peter Falk, best known as the trench coat wearing, cigar-smoking Lieutenant Columbo in the long-running television detective series.

Falk gave a delightfully humorous acceptance speech which began with a pause and then the words "It's terrific to win but I'm trying to figure out some way to appear humble".

In his acting role Falk was nothing but the ultra-polite bumbling detective. The actor put much of his personality into ensuring that Columbo, who drove his battered old Peugeot car into the vast estates of Bel Air, never cared about how much money anyone did or didn't have. He always appeared rather dishevelled arriving at a crime in his usual beige suit that looked as though he had slept in it.

Falk excelled in embodying the class element of the show, as working for the Los Angeles Police Department, Columbo was almost always sneered at as a working-class interloper by the super-rich that he investigated. He is probably best remembered for his catch phrase "Just one more thing", a question that was asked several times during each episode as he interrogated the various suspects and slowly but surely pieced together all the evidence.

Columbo was a success as soon as the first episode was screened. The programme defied all the conventions of television detective drama.

The viewer saw the murderer commit the crime, there were no car chases, no sex or violence, and Falk often did not appear during the first half an hour of the programme. However, the really-likeable aspect of Falk's performance that gave him and the show worldwide appeal was the fact that he made his hero humble, he never gloated about bagging a condescending killer.

As human beings, humility will get you much further in life than if you are prideful or arrogant. Boasting about your possessions, how talented you are, how much money you have, what flashy car you drive or how many bedrooms and bathrooms your house has is an instant turn off. A person's identity should never be attributed to one's talents, possessions or fitness as quite simply they can all be swept away in an instant; and then what are you left with?

You can tell a lot about a person's character by how they treat others. When Jesus walked the Earth he interacted with the religious hierarchy and the lowliest of men, women and children but he treated everyone with the same level of respect and dignity. God is no respecter of persons as St Peter realised when he said: **"It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favourites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open."** (Acts 10:34-35 *The Message*).

Pride takes on many forms, but it blocks the power of God. If you study all the healing miracles that Jesus performed, every one of them is entered into from a place of humility. Where there is a need, and someone asks Jesus to help He never turns them away or lets them down. However, it's very easy to be prideful and not realise it.

Some years ago I was conducting a mid-morning communion service in another parish. Elderly folk were struggling up the steps with their walking sticks into the church. I naturally asked if I could pray for them after the service. My request to one lady was met with the answer 'mustn't grumble dear, there are people far worse off than me". That may have been a true answer, but it was a prideful one! What the lady was actually saying was that there are other people more deserving that she was or resigning herself to creaking joints and pain because she was old, therefore no point in asking God to do anything to alleviate her suffering. This attitude is common, but it really isn't within the character of God; God's love and grace is available to everyone. He is not bothered if you are nine months old or ninety years old - He is no respecter of persons and everyone qualifies!

I've personally seen God do amazing things in answer to prayer but getting people to even agree to be prayed for is often incredibly difficult. People would rather spend a fortune looking for a miracle cure or go to someone who offers some modicum of 'hope' to resolve a serious health problem than ask God.

After some discussion my 'bottom line' rhetorical question is 'What have you got to lose?'

A prayer may take 30 seconds to say but once said the situation is in God's hands and He will answer. It is written in several places within the Bible that **'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'**. Humility places us in a position where God can act. And 'Just one more thing' - God's grace is there for everyone, you only have to ask. Please don't let pride get in the way.

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

Now in term 5, the year 2 and year 6 children are busy preparing for their assessment week and we wish them well as they have all worked so hard at their revision sessions.

There are new topics with fantastic home learning and role play on display across both schools. Peacocks and class 1 are 'Under the Sea' and are going to visit Hastings and go to the Blue Reef Aquarium. Class 2 have been learning about the first moon landing as part of their space topic. They plan to go to the Herstmonceux Science Centre. There are all kinds of creative work about 'Mountains' arriving in school, including edible ones as Puffins and Class 3 learn about the structure of mountains. They are going to visit Branching Out to have a climbing experience later in the term.

Thank you for your continued support of our two schools.  
Mrs Jacqueline Davies and Mr Graham Sullivan

## Restaurant in Heathfield

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[www.holycrosspriory.co.uk](http://www.holycrosspriory.co.uk)

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

and for this she will be sorely missed. We wish her every luck for the future. We will be having a very special church service at the end of the year and if you would like to be kept informed about this and other special events please email me at: chair@stbchurchofenglandfed.co.uk

Since writing our last newsletter we have had a range of weather conditions to deal with including rain, wind, heat and of course the snowy days. This meant a few plans had to be adapted but this was actually a positive for Class 1 and the Reception children from Peacocks Class. Their snow postponed trip to Plumpton College was in the first week back in term 5 which meant they had the joy of meeting many baby animals including lambs and piglets.

Despite what the weather may throw at us, Forest School sessions continue to take place and have been a great success at helping children engage with the great outdoors.

We have had several events supported by funding from the East Sussex County Council Health Plan Grant. This has included all children in year 4 across the Federation taking a level 1 bikeability course.

Both schools had a marvellous Skipping Workshop day and this has already encouraged several children to be more active at playtimes. It has been great hearing the traditional skipping rhymes and watching children skipping together in a big rope.

As part of their topic work, Robin Van Cleland, the Community Chef came and taught the children in year 5 and 6 how to prepare and cook various dishes from 'around the world'.

We are very grateful to Rev Chris for giving us the opportunity to hold our Easter services in the parish church which were both well attended.

## Diary of Church Services

### JUNE 2018

- 03 First Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
- 10 Second Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 17 Third Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)  
6.30pm *Uckfield Deanery Healing Service - Holy Cross*
- 24 Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise - **Miracles from Mark's Gospel**  
*(with Prayer for Healing)*  
  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

### JULY 2018

- 01 Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 08 Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)  
*(with prayer for healing)*
- 15 Seventh Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

**22 Eighth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise - **Miracles from Mark's Gospel**  
(with Prayer for Healing)

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

**29 Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018  
TO**

**ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**  
[framfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:framfieldpc@gmail.com)

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

**Parish Council website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

**St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.**

Blackboys and Framfield Schools News March 2018

First of all news from our Chair of Governors Mrs Katharine Rabson Stark:

The Governing Body has been recruiting for two permanent Headteachers for Blackboys and Framfield Schools to start in September 2018. We are delighted to inform you that following a two day interview process just before Easter we have succeeded in appointing to both posts.

At Blackboys, we have appointed Mr Graham Sullivan and at Framfield, we have appointed Mrs Lisa Pestell. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them both.

Mrs Pestell is currently Deputy Headteacher at Etchingham Church of England Primary School which is part of the Riverside Federation with Bodiam School. She has experience therefore in a similarly sized school to Framfield as well as working across a Federation. Mr Sullivan is of course well known to all of us and although a long-standing member of our community undertook the same recruitment process as all our candidates, and through a tough two days, proved himself a worthy successor to this role.

It is with some sadness that the end of the school year will see the departure of Mrs Jacqueline Davies from Framfield School as she will be retiring after a remarkable 23 years with us. Much has changed in our schools, but what hasn't is Jacqueline's unswerving commitment to providing the very best education for our children,



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](http://www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk)

## Churchyard Appeal on behalf of

### St. Thomas a Becket Church Framfield.

The splendid Churchyard which surrounds our Church in Framfield is currently looked after by a dedicated voluntary group of Church members.

The Churchyard is used by many members of the community for walks and other activities, providing a wonderful place for everyone to visit.

Upkeep costs are in excess of £1200 a year.

We would like to thank those of you who kindly made contributions following our first appeal.

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.

Donations can be made 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 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)

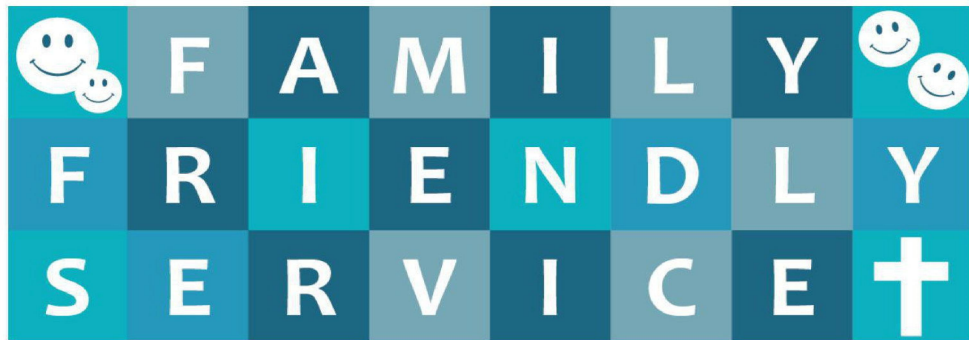
## Looking for a local venue?

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](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk)



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

**Sunday 10th June 10.00 am**

**Sunday 8th July 10.00 am**



## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Love a nose around a beautiful garden? If so, our next major event is right up your street. We have arranged to visit Brightling Down Farm in Dallington on Friday 8 June starting at 5pm. Set in a beautiful and tranquil location, this prestigious garden won the Society of Garden Designers Award. Enjoy a late afternoon tea wandering through herbaceous borders, woodland and water garden plus a walled vegetable garden and greenhouses.

If you like the sound of it, drop Fiona Fidler a line (see her details below) and she will give you all the information you need for what promises to be a fascinating evening. Please note, you will have to make your own way there.

Our next talk will take place on Tuesday 3rd July 7.30pm at Framfield Memorial Hall. Neil Miller hails from an insurance brokerage background but is now head gardener at Hever Castle. His talk, 'Secrets of Hever Castle', is free to members and £3 to non-members including wine and coffee.

Full details of our events can be found on our website at [www.fabhortsoc.org.uk](http://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. See a talk you fancy but not a member? No problem! Just turn up.

### **Fancy a stall at the Framfield and Blackboys Summer Show 2018?**

This year's show will take place on Saturday 11 August from 12.30pm and promises to be a great day out for all the family. We would like to encourage any local gardeners – whether experienced or novice – to enter the classes. There really is something for everyone and it is great fun. Full details on our website.

If you would like to have a stall at the show, which is incredibly well attended, we offer very competitive rates. To find out more, please contact Helen Galagher at [helengallag@gmail.com](mailto:helengallag@gmail.com).

### **About Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society**

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

*Find out more at [www.fabhortsoc.org.uk/](http://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](mailto:fhbsmail@gmail.com) or on 01825 890719*



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

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

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**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**

**FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB**

- 4th June Walk around Garden and Tea with Kathy and Jack Gore  
Framfield Grange - 2 30 pm
- 18th June Cream Tea and Quiz with Sandy and Keith Rogers  
Green Acres, Halland Park Farm – 2.30 pm
- 2nd July OUTING to Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum and Craft  
Shop and Train Ride - Tea & Cake in Restaurant,  
Times to be confirmed
- 16th July Tea and Cake etc.,in Garden at South Hill House, with  
Peter and Sun Hwa Griffiths - 2.30pm

Any further information contact Sandy Rogers,  
01825 840648 - [sandyrogers77@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrogers77@gmail.com)

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**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO DELIVER PARISH NEWSLETTERS**

Could you help your local community by delivering Parish newsletters once every 2 months?

The following rounds need help:

Round 1. 20 copies from Peter's Cottage to Newlands Cottage,  
Palehouse Common.

Round 2. 46 copies from Hiders Farm, Pump Lane to 1-6 Thornton's  
Shaw, Palehouse Common.

Round 3. 22 copies - even numbers Becketts Way, Framfield.

All guidance will be given. Please contact Ann Newton in the first  
instance on 01825 890182. Thank you.

## Nature Notes

Late snow, early heat, this is what I call climate change! This year the temperature has been up and down like a yoyo. I have a flippant theory that Britain does not have a climate, just weather. However, one thing does not change from year to year, and that is the gradual increase of day-length from the winter equinox (c. December 21st) to that of the summer c. June 21st). We are rapidly heading for the latter. Sitting outside in the evening during the early May bank holiday weekend was great. However, the temperature has now dropped again. This seesawing of temperatures must be playing havoc with the insects as I am seeing very few here in Uckfield. This is going to be a problem for the insectivorous birds and bats who depend on large numbers of insects for survival. One striking absence is house martins, I have not seen one in Britain yet this year. These little anthropophilic birds feed on large amounts of insects, nest in the eaves of our houses and produce 2 or 3 broods per year usually. They winter in Africa and then follow the gradual appearance of insects as the wave of emergence proceeds north with the increasing day-length. The flight north from central Africa to Britain can take as long as 3 months. However, if the insects do not emerge, the birds will not move and may not be able to breed.

There has been much in the news recently about neonicotinoids, these are chemical insecticides that modern farmers are using to eliminate insects that affect crop productivity. These chemicals are systemic (are taken up by the plants) and persistent (they do not decay quickly). As field sizes get larger and more land is cultivated, the spread of these insecticides has been increasing, and they are not selective, they will kill all insects and probably other invertebrates as well. This includes the bees that pollinate our fruit crops. However, the EU voted to ban the use of these insecticides by the end of 2018 with the exemption of greenhouses. Also, these chemicals are on pet flea treatments, in stables and animal transport vehicles, which account for about a third of all their uses. These uses are set to continue. We can only hope that alternatives can be found before all our insects and the other animals and plants that depend on them, disappear completely.

*Martyn Stenning*



## THE FRAMFIELD STAGERS



Would you like to be involved?

The Framfield Stagers are a vibrant amateur dramatics group who have been performing together for the past two decades, and entertaining families from the local area with our popular pantomime and cabaret productions.

The group's dedication and creative endeavour not only provides enrichment for its members, but also strives to bring joy and laughter to audience members of all ages. The volunteers behind the scenes and on-stage love the feeling of doing something extraordinary to bring the local community together. It's the icing on the cake that every Stagers production to date has raised funds for charities and good causes.

Although we continue to have a healthy membership we are always looking to welcome new faces, both on stage and behind the scenes. All that is required is a willingness to take part, a sense of humour and the ability to give a little spare time in return for an abundance of fun!



Many different skills are required to put on a show, from acting, singing and dancing to behind the scenes creativity and practicality such as sketching and painting scenery, carpentry, costume making, fundraising, helping with publicity, etc. Being involved is also a great opportunity to acquire such skills in the first place, as well as a fantastic way to make new friends...

Rehearsals for our next pantomime production will begin in the autumn on Tuesday evenings at Framfield Memorial Hall, with performances scheduled for February half-term 2019 (17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>).

If you're interested in having a share of the fun and being part of our friendly group we'd love to hear from you via one of the numbers below.

Chris Judge: 01825 890101

Karen Muxworthy: 01825 890380

[www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com](http://www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com)

## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

B2192 – there have been ongoing talks for some time about the speed of traffic using the B2192 through Blackboys. These talks with ESCC have not reached a conclusion but we have jointly decided to wait for the completion of the houses on the service station site to see what effect, if any, the measures they have to put in place, have on the road.

Blackboys Allotments. There is an article elsewhere in the magazine written by a tenant. She is kindly trying to help me publicise the plots. We have vacant plots now ready and waiting to be taken up following a programme of works to clear them. The cost per annum is just £25.00 so please contact me if you would consider having one.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). Due to all organisations having to become compliant with the latest regulations, I will be changing my email address over the coming months. However, the current address will remain open for a period of time and will inform anyone making contact of the new address. Contact can also be made directly through the website (detailed below).

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.

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Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182.  
Email: [framfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:framfieldpc@gmail.com).  
Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.  
Website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk).

## 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 is 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)

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### PLANNING A FUNCTION? - NEED A VENUE?

**BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL CAN SATISFY YOUR REQUIREMENTS.**

**2 HEATED ROOMS WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 100 and 50  
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**CONTACT ANN NEWTON ON 01825 890182 FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

## Butterfly summer

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Nothing sums up a Sussex summer more than watching our beautiful butterflies while they dance over the Downs, wander through our woods or circle us while we sunbathe in our back gardens. We're very lucky here in Sussex as we are surrounded by some great, diverse countryside and, in this part of England, you don't have to travel too far to find some fantastic butterfly habitats. The diversity of habitats here – woodlands, fields, heathland and downland - means you could encounter 45 different species of butterfly throughout the year.

The first butterflies you would have seen in the early part of the year will be the ones which have spent the winter as an adult hidden in garden sheds or tucked away under ivy and holly. In the early spring you may have seen Small Tortoiseshells, Commas, Peacocks and Red Admirals which have awoken from their slumbers and visited your gardens to top-up on nectar. Back in that mini-heatwave in April it was great to see the Brimstones emerging from hibernation. These bright yellow butterflies are the granddaddy of them all – they stay in the adult stage of their life cycle for up to ten months (although, admittedly, they spend most of this time hibernating in the undergrowth through the winter). Despite snoozing through months of rain and snow they always look perfect when they make their entrance in the spring – they must be made of Teflon.

As we head into the summer the number of different butterfly species you can see in Sussex increases. Woodlands may not be ideal habitats for butterflies – they're generally too shady and dark - but along open, sunny woodland paths in June and July you may be lucky enough to encounter the two-tone White Admiral or the Silver-washed Fritillary. The Fritillary is a large orange butterfly which gracefully glides along woodland rides and frequently stops to nectar on brambles. If you're lucky you'll see their amazing display flight – the male frantically flying in loops around the female in order to impress his potential partner.

In July I'll be leading some butterfly walks nearby as part of Natural England's 'Wonderful Woodlands' project. We'll get out in the sunshine (hopefully) and look for fritillaries, admirals other woodland species. I'll give you some information on how to identify these species and hopefully it'll inspire you to record the butterflies you see on a free app you can download on your 'phone.



## FRAMFIELD ALLOTMENTS

"Spring has sprung at last and I have been busy planting my seedlings in the allotment again. This is my third year at the Blackboys allotment and I can honestly say it has been the best thing I have done for a long time. After a stressful day at work in the office I go to the allotment to enjoy the peace and quiet whilst putting my back into some digging.

I grew enough vegetables last year to feed my family and my friends and yes, it is hard work but it is worth every minute (and every back ache!)

It was hard work to fence our plots and cover the seedlings and young plants with netting to stop rabbits and pigeons feasting on the fresh young plants but it has paid dividends.

There is a lovely little community at the allotment and always someone to offer a wise word or share plants with (or just to chat to in the sunshine) so why not take on a fresh challenge this year and take on an allotment and start growing your own fresh vegetables and fruit which will taste better than anything you can buy in the shops.

*Denise Taylor -*

[Update - the vacant allotment plots have recently been cleared and are waiting to be claimed! £25.00 per plot for the year. All enquiries to Ann Newton, Parish Clerk – framfieldpc@gmail.com.](#)



## Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond

### Renew Wellbeing Café

'Quiet shared spaces where it's Ok not to be Ok'

As you will be aware mental health and emotional wellbeing is a very topical issue attracting real and growing concern across the country. We at New Life Church were keen to help and are pleased to let you know that in conjunction with The Grove Café Blackboys we will soon be launching a Renew Wellbeing Café. ([www.renewwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk))

A Renew Space is:

- A Café Style inclusive Space.
- Set up in partnership with the local council mental health team.
- A place to belong, to share new hobbies, to learn new skills and to connect with others.
- A place where all are equal and valued.
- Established around a quiet space with a rhythm of prayer.

Twelve people from the church recently received training from Ruth Rice the Director of Renew Wellbeing and we are now in a place where we can launch. We have not decided yet exactly what days and times the Renew Café will be available. It will be held in The Space directly adjacent to The Grove Café.

In the meantime if you have any queries or questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

[guy\\_newlifechurch@btinternet.com](mailto:guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com)

01825 891133 or 07702 836057

Thanks Guy

Revd Guy Partridge

Email: [guy\\_newlifechurch@btinternet.com](mailto:guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com) or

Telephone on 07702 836057 or 01435 864080

I'll be leading two walks at Rowland Wood (between East Hoathly and Laughton) on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July between 10:30-12:30. These are free events but places are limited so if you are interested in coming along drop me an email at [wonderfulwoodlands2018@gmail.com](mailto:wonderfulwoodlands2018@gmail.com) and let me know your preferred date.

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](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join) or over the phone on 01273 497532.

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)



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Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5JL  
Tel: 01825 891113  
email: [enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org)  
Twitter: [@BlackboysPreSch](https://twitter.com/BlackboysPreSch)  
[www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk](http://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](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk)

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June, and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931

- **On- Street Parking** – This is a Sussex Police responsibility but they have stated it is a low priority. WDC could decriminalise (CPE [Civil Parking Enforcement]) and take responsibility but would need to fund the enforcement. The County Council proposal was to install Pay and Display meters but WDC felt that presented a risk to viability of our High Streets. The Leader of Council recently met with the Police Commissioner to discuss the subject (and also crime rate) and put suggestions to the PCC which could progress the parking issue.
- **Waste Collection** – residents in Wealden have achieved the highest recycling rate in East Sussex with 51.9% recycled and the Council is now 65<sup>th</sup> out of 350 councils in England and Wales. Of the remaining waste less than 1% goes into landfill with the rest going to the incinerator in Newhaven which uses the waste as fuel to generate electricity – enough to power 20 thousand homes. A new waste contract is being negotiated and will commence in June 2019. As always with missed bin collections - 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.
- **Litter** – The amount of litter on the roadside is still a concern and we continue to put pressure on the current waste contractor (Kier) to improve performance. There has been improvement in recent weeks. It would of course also be beneficial if motorists did not throw litter from their vehicles – a campaign to highlight this will be launched in the next few weeks.
- **Wealden Careers Fair** – WDC organise this fair which attracts firms from across the County and gives pupils at our schools the opportunity to discuss future career choices with employers and colleges.
- **Big Switch** – WDC continues to assist residents in getting the best deal for their power through joining together to get better rates. In 2017 953 households who switched in the Council's Big Wealden Switch 2017 campaign with iChooser enjoyed an average saving of £228 a year on their domestic energy bills. Collectively residents saved £217,549.
- **2017 Resident Satisfaction Survey** - 90% of respondents, not surprisingly like living, in Wealden and 75% believe Wealden DC is doing a good job. Given the normal critical view of Local Government this is a pleasing result.

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

Telephone - 01825 890103.

Email – [aenewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:aenewton1965@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I thought I would give a synopsis of activities at Wealden District Council over the last year.

- **Budget** – The Council Tax increase for 2018/19 was 2.7%, in line with inflation. The Government grant, through the Revenue Support Grant has been reduced each of the past few years and has now gone altogether. The Council has done well, given these reductions in grant, to keep Council Tax as low as possible and for 5 of the last 7 has had zero increase Council Tax.
- **Crematorium** – This is on budget and on time for completion at the end of this calendar year - being built in Horam. The facility is expected to contribute over £900k to revenue by 2022/23. This will help to keep Council Tax increases as low as possible.
- **Investment in Hailsham High Street** – WDC acquired a site in Hailsham (Including Waitrose) with the aim of increasing revenue (£600k per annum) and also to regenerate the town centre. It is likely that the Local Plan will have significant housing numbers in the Hailsham area.
- **Wealden Local Plan** – The latest iteration is to be published at the end June and will go to Full Council in July. It will then go to the Planning inspectorate for Examination in Public (EIP). The timing of EIP is up to the Planning Inspectorate but we have asked Government to expedite an early date so that the Plan can move forward for approval by Secretary of State as quickly as possible. 65% of Wealden is protected space (58% Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [AONB]). Protected space includes the Ashdown Forest/AONB and Pevensey Levels. We continue to meet regularly with the County Council regarding the delivery of relevant infrastructure.
- **Ashdown Forest** – This continues to be a constraint on housing development. Developments close to the Forest have to make a contribution to SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces). These are designed to attract recreational use and therefore reduce the use of the Forest. The first has been open in Crowborough and well received. A second is in progress for Uckfield.
- **Police** – WDC liaises with Police and has lobbied hard on the lack of police “on the ground” in many parts of the District and our concern regarding the rising crime rate particularly acquisitive crime. WDC has a representative on the Police and Crime Panel.



## Framfield & Blackboys WI

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY

TRIP TO WILTON HOUSE

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

The WI invites non-members to join them on their summer outing to the historic **Wilton House** in Wiltshire. 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, Rembrant 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** with it's a fantastic choice of plants as well extensive as gift lifestyle departments and an excellent restaurant is just a short walk away.

**Wilton Discount Shopping Village** with outlets for Bon Marche, Harris Tweed, Cotton Traders and many more, is also within walking distance.

**Cost: £37** (Includes return travel by luxury coach plus 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

### SPRING

Chloe and I went for a walk in early April. It was unusually warm and sunny. In our lane the verges and sheltered banks were covered in a tapestry of wild flowers, the brightest blue violets, clusters of primroses, snow white wood anemones tinged with pink and glimpses of emerging bluebells. It was perfect.

I decided to walk up the next lane. The steep hill was shaded by steep banks and trees. Chloe, who feels the heat, enjoyed sauntering along in the shade. Reaching the top of the steep part I stopped to enjoy the view. I turned to come down again. On the way up, head down huffing and panting up the hill, I hadn't noticed my surrounding. Walking slowly down I could look around. There was still a trickle of water and muddy patches by the overgrown ditch. Walking carefully round these areas I spotted a plastic bag in the ditch, and then I noticed a discarded cigarette packet, probably casually thrown from a car window. The more I looked the more I saw, some quite disgusting. Without gloves or bag I could not do much. However I managed to pick up a few bits of rubbish. I then spotted a discarded plastic bottle. By then my hands were full up with dog lead and rubbish. Chloe has been trained to pick up anything I want so I prodded the offending bottle with my foot, she picked it up and carried it all the way home. She then walked round to the dustbin, sat and waited patiently for me to drop it into the bin, after I had put in the rubbish I had been carrying. It had been very hot in our lane and she could not open her mouth to pant but she still held on to the bottle. As my dog can be trained to take rubbish to the dustbin surely a human being is capable of doing the same thing?

Just writing this article my husband has just shown me out latest copy on the National Trust magazine, not wrapped in plastic as usual but a compostable potato and starch lookalike. Perhaps the tide is turning, but it will not stop irresponsible people using our countryside as a rubbish tip.

When the weather was cooler again I decided to try and dig out some beautiful hardy geraniums that had smothered the gravel that we optimistically call our terrace. They

have the most tenacious root systems. I attacked them with an assortment of tools but one big patch defeated me. Chloe had helpfully brought me some of the tools and a container to put the plants in. She then sat and watched my feeble efforts. I eyed my huge Newfoundland and wondered if she could help. She knows what weeding means so I showed her the patch of spade defying plants. If it had been a chap he would have rolled up his sleeves, flexed his muscles and set to work. Being a dog she grabbed a huge mouthful of the matted plants and in seconds had heaved the whole clump, including roots, out of the ground. I was delighted. Chloe was rewarded by a treat and praise and I collapsed with a cup of tea.

We are always hearing the advice to check on the "elderly", often for a chat, as they may be lonely. I suppose we must be elderly? We might be getting on a bit but certainly are not lonely as we have queues of guests waiting to come for the day or to stay for a while. In the rare times we do not have guests I am busy shopping or baking ready for the next visitor. A week ago we had our niece for the day accompanied by her Labrador bitch. Chloe who loves visitors and all dogs went to greet them happily. The canine visitor did not like that and threatened Chloe who walked off rather upset. They were fine after that. We were hoping to take the dogs for a walk but it was swelteringly hot so we spent the day relaxing in the shade. We had lunch and then tea in the garden with my home made scones and clotted cream. Last weekend her sister came for the weekend so more scones and clotted cream were devoured. Not reclining in dappled shade to avoid the sun but huddling close to the Aga to keep out the chill. We were hoping to do some gardening and walking but it was tipping it down with rain. The so called terrace was now flooded up to the French doors. We are expecting our next visitor soon. Will it be typical spring weather, or more like midwinter or even boiling hot again? I just hope it's not flooded.

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www.hazel-carter.co.uk

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