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Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
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Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2018

**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

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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

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

Printers: "Print Matters"

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

I can't get no satisfaction!

I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no
When I'm drivin' in my car
And that man comes on the radio
And he's tellin' me more and more
About some useless information
Supposed to fire my imagination
I can't get no, oh no no no
Hey hey hey, that's what I say
I can't get no satisfaction

Mick Jagger and Keith Richards ©1965 Decca Records

It seems too many years ago that the classic song by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards hit the airwaves. Apparently the lyrics refer to sexual frustration and commercialism! I can see the connection if you happen to be a virile rocker with too much money, but even Mick Jagger is looking a little more like a wealthy Rock Granddad these days.

Finding satisfaction in life though can be a lifelong enterprise for some. It doesn't seem to matter what it is, whether it be the quest to make money, work your way up the corporate ladder, achieve sporting greatness, expand your collection of cars, clothes, belongings etc. After the initial buzz you're off on the next quest to find satisfaction and contentment. The next enterprise will surely do it? Unfortunately no! Finding satisfaction in material things or worldly achievement always leaves you with the feeling that you didn't quite make it; there must be something more, so you start again.

Over one's lifetime this continual search for satisfaction and contentment can appear like a cruel joke, almost making it but then the rug is pulled away, time and time again.

It's like having a deep chasm in your soul and no matter how much you pour in, it is never filled up. No wonder people get disillusioned with life.

I can remember many years ago being in the exact same position. I had a rising career, a very good salary, a lovely home and a new car and but I was so miserable. My lament to myself was; 'there has to be more to life than this?' Compared to many people I had everything, but then again I had nothing, the epitome of 'no-satisfaction'. The real frustration is that you know something is missing but you can't quite understand what it is and worst of all it seems tantalisingly close, but just out of reach; Grrr!

My mentioned lament was actually a question that needed an answer and my question was actually a prayer that was finally answered three years later when I was given a book to read - 'Questions of Life' by Revd Nicky Gumbel.

In his book Nicky speaks about the 'God shaped hole' in every human being. We can recognise the feeling that something inside us is missing or there is an emptiness so we attempt to fill it with all sorts of things. However, by analogy only God can fill the God shaped hole and when He does (or is invited to) life starts to make sense.

Perhaps some will remember the song by U2 'I still haven't found what I'm looking for'. It's a song that expresses a search to find the meaning of life and true fulfilment.

Finding God is like a homecoming. When the connection is made it is like finding the Holy Grail, all the years of searching and frustration suddenly disappear and a deep satisfaction fills your soul. As King David wrote in

Psalms 61:1 – My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.

Today is a hot day and it's been very hot for a few weeks now so I'll leave you with Jesus' invitation to have a satisfying drink that will last for all eternity.

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:37-38)

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

tournaments, visiting The Seagulls' training ground in the process. Further to this, we have been given a new kit courtesy of All Star Soccer Academy.

There has been great success in sports organized at Uckfield College as well. Rounders, stoolball and badminton tournaments have all taken place. Both schools also enjoyed glorious weather for their school sports days. Finally there was the now annual Federation stoolball event held at Blackboys, this year won by the blue house / Chestnut team. Thanks to the PTFAs for organizing all the refreshments at this fun event.

As we are writing this all the KS2 children at Franfield are having their last rehearsals for their production of 'Darwin Rocks', a musical based on the story of Darwin and his evolution theory. At Blackboys the entire school community are preparing for the whole school summer production of Wind in the Willows. Rehearsals have been going well and the singing is magnificent.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer and many thanks for all your support for both our schools.

Mrs J Davies and Mr G Sullivan

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

By the time you are reading this our schools will have broken up for the much awaited summer holiday. We would like to share with you news of so many successes we have had in both schools over the last term.

Every class has had a busy term enjoying their topics as well as federation class trips. Some highlights have included children in years 3 and 4 really persevering and showing resilience when faced with challenges at Branching Out, linked to their mountains topic. Children studying space, in years 1 and 2 have been very creative with making all kinds of rockets and they all enjoyed visiting the Science Centre at Herstmonceux including time in the observatory.

As the children in year 6 have been prepared to be secondary ready and moving on to their new schools they have all had taster days as well as being privileged to listen to Bishop Martin speak at the annual Leavers' diocesan service at All Saints Church Crowborough. This very special event followed on shortly after the year 6 trip to Chichester Cathedral in which the children were involved in a pilgrimage drama as well as being detectives looking for key features in this beautiful cathedral. We were also fortunate to see the peregrine falcons nesting near the spire, thanks to RSPB telescopes on site.

Sports news: Mirroring the England football team, our Federation football teams have had great success this term. Our Under 9 boys team, Under 9 girls team and Under 11 boys team all qualified for the finals of the Brighton and Hove Albion in the Community

Diary of Church Services

AUGUST 2018

- 05 Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
with Prayer for Healing
- 12 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service
(No evening service today)
- 19 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
(No 8am BCP Service today)
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
- 26 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

SEPTEMBER 2018

- 02 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
(No 8am BCP Service today)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 09 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
with Prayer for Healing)
- 16 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am '**Back to Church Sunday**' Service
(A special service for those who would like to re-engage with God)

- 23 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 30 Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th SEPTEMBER 2018**

TO

ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182

Please note new email address:

clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**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.

Please note new Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**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

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www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

We are halfway through the year by now and have had some interesting meetings so far i.e.. a games evening, dinner at Barnsgate Manor, and a very good walk at Barcombe Mills.

Our annual jumble sale this year is on Saturday 13th October in Framfield village hall at 2.0. The charity we are collecting for this year is the Cat's Protection League. Please support us and any jumble donated will be very welcome. The jumble can be taken to the hall during the morning and left outside or ring Ann Dawe on 890506

Ann Dawe
ann.dawe23@gmail.com

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Churchyard Appeal on behalf of

St. Thomas a Becket Church Framfield.

We would once again like to convey our special thanks to those who have made further donations towards the cost of maintaining our magnificent Churchyard.

Our splendid Churchyard is looked after by a dedicated voluntary team of Church and other members. If you would like to give some of your time to helping our group do get in touch with one of the team. Your help would be hugely appreciated.

At the moment our mowing machines; maintenance and the fuel costs is sponsored from our Church funds. Our costs amount to around £1200 a year.

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.

For more details about the Churchyard work 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.

12th August 10.00 am
9th September 10.00 am

contribution to help with the renovations and decorating at Framfield Memorial Hall, as well as providing a place for the community to meet up and have a chat with a cup of tea and bacon roll. So please pop along.

Finally, I would like to raise the awareness of speeding and anti-social driving in our parish. With limited support from other authorities and agencies, it is up to us as a community to be mindful of how we park, especially around the schools. Remember that many of our roads do not have footpaths and that there could be pedestrians and horse riders around the corner, not forgetting the increase in deer that are becoming a daily sight. Please drive carefully and considerately day or night, and help keep our villages safer.

Keith Brandon
Chairman, Framfield Parish Council
May 2018

Summer Show Stall

Brian & Jenny Homewood are once again having a stall at the Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show on 11th August, and will be selling an exciting selection of their unusual plants in aid of The Daisy Garland (www.thedaisygarland.org.uk).

This is the wonderful charity that funds dieticians for children with drug-resistant epilepsy - there are over 60,000 of these children in the U.K. whose only hope is the Ketogenic diet which not funded by the NHS. The charity also funds night-time breathing monitors (that cost over (£800.00) to help their desperately worried parents.

If you do not wish to buy a plant, a donation, however small, would be much appreciated.

Thank you

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

I would firstly like to thank Jeff (Goggin) for the many years voluntary service he gave to the community as a Councillor and Chairman. I would also like to thank all of the Councillors - new and old for volunteering their time to help make our community a great place to live. Thanks also to the staff – booking clerks, cleaners, RFO, caretaker and service providers for doing their part in keeping the Council running smoothly. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ann – our Clerk. Ann works tirelessly to keep us on the right path and is integral and invaluable to our team. With a wealth of knowledge and commitment to our community Ann is one of the parish’s greatest assets.

The past year has been a bit of a roller coaster. From taking up the post of Chair it has been a non-stop journey looking at the short and long-term objectives for the Council. It is a privilege to lead this forward, but it can also mean making decisions that are unpopular. The coming year and years ahead are going to be financially challenging for us all. With year in year out cuts by County and District Councils, changes in the way that the Police force operates, government initiatives and directives, it is the Parish Council left at the bottom of the pile to pick up the pieces.

Our precept has remained constant for several years but it is likely that it may be challenged in the future to pick up the short falls of services cut by those around us. The current climate has seen partnerships and alliances forming with other Councils and organisations to help make savings whilst retaining such things as rural bus services, grass cutting and road & path improvements to name a few. Despite this, the Parish Council is in a good position at the moment. To keep this up we must increase our efficiencies and be smarter in how things are done.

We have had some successes to celebrate over the past year with the opening of the new pavilion at Blackboys recreation ground, which is available to hire for sporting events. An entirely new heating system including pipework has been installed at Framfield Memorial Hall along with redecoration throughout. There are also some new projects underway to improve our other community assets in the coming years.

The monthly Framfield village market is another ongoing success story, with bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, homemade chutneys, arts and crafts to name a few. With Ann Newton and Selina Allen at the helm, it has provided a great



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FIRST SAT OF THE MONTH: 9am - 12 noon

Nature Notes

I shall focus on swifts today. These small almost black birds of the air should be familiar to all of us because they scream as they fly through and above the buildings of Uckfield and other European towns. They often breed in the roof of Holy Cross church and other tall buildings.

Swifts can live for more than 20 years, most of which is spent flying. Swifts are fast flyers and hold the record for maintained flight, often not landing at all for more than 10 months! They feed, drink, sleep and mate all while flying. When they want to sleep at night, they fly up to over 1000 metres above sea level and drift in the semi darkness sleeping as they fly, sleeping for short periods at a time. Then, when dawn breaks, they descend to the insect zone, where they snap up all the insects they encounter as they fly. Swifts are 100% dependant on insects and other invertebrates such as ballooning spiders for food.

The latter statement deserves explanation; ballooning spiders are small spiders which make gliders from the gossamer threads they use for webs. They then launch themselves into the wind and travel vast distances, but some are also snapped up by swifts and other birds.

Swifts arrive in Europe from the end of April to mid-May, find their nesting cavity, usually in a building and lay 2 or 3 white eggs in just one brood per year. Each egg requires about 19 days of incubation, this duty is shared by the male and female. Both parents collect invertebrates on the wing for their youngsters that take about 6 weeks to grow and mature before they are able to take their maiden flight, and are then independent, finding their own food on the wing as they fly with their parents in screaming flocks around the towns that they inhabit. They also fly off into the countryside searching out good places to catch flying insects and spiders. Most swifts will have left Europe by the end of August. They are among the last migrants to arrive on their breeding grounds and the first to leave.

Swifts spend the winter south of the Sahara Desert, flying around Africa finding food and water on the wing as they move to almost anywhere that insects can be found.

Martyn Stenning

Steve featured on the BBC's very recent coverage of the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show where his show garden based on 'The Salutation' won a gold medal; he also championed the use of Dahlias in the garden. It promises to be a very informative and entertaining evening so, please, do come along – you will be made most welcome. 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 MONDAY CLUB

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

3rd September Boccia (Bowls) 2.30 pm
Framfield Memorial Hall

17th September BIRTHDAY LUNCH 1.00 pm
at Buxted Pavilion
Fish and Chips / Quiche / Salad / Trifle

Monday Club would also like to say on 21st May 2018 we had a visit from Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, and our collection raised a total of £236.20 for this worthy cause.

Well Done All.

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



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer has truly arrived and by the time you read this article the Summer Show will be only a few days away. The Show on Saturday 11th August takes place on the Framfield Recreation Ground and in the Memorial Hall commencing at 12.30pm. I am sure that many of you will be watering furiously and watching your produce and flowers to ensure that they will be in tip-top condition for the show. Those of you who came to the 'Question and Answer' session in May will know a few 'tricks' to ensure that your flowers and vegetables look their best, as well as getting a few tips on the cookery side as well; but the take home message was – 'just have a go and enter what you can'. In reality the fun is actually picking the produce and flowers that you have grown, selecting the ones you think are just right and taking them along to the show tent and, with pride, putting them alongside the other entries. There is nothing quite like the sight and smells of a village show marquee filled with tables laden with home grown produce and flowers to epitomise an English summer's day. So, please don't be put off and think that your entry won't be good enough or that other people will be more experienced just enter and have fun (there are novelty classes anyway) – the more entries the better and let's pack the marquee! Entry forms need to be returned to Terry Everitt by Wednesday 8th August. Finally, the Summer Show does need lots of helpers and if you feel that you can lend a hand please contact Sarah Hince (01435 863364). We particularly need many pairs of hands at the end taking down the stalls etc. and if you could help then that would be greatly appreciated.

In July the Society had a wonderfully entertaining talk on the 'Secrets of Hever Castle' by Neil Miller the Head Gardener. Not only did Neil talk about the history of the castle and its owners but gave us many insights into managing the diverse 65 acre Edwardian Pleasure Gardens. On the one hand there was the aspect of scale - two weeks of continuous work to trim the hedges of the maze, thousands of spring bulbs to plant, then the planting of summer annuals, on the other was the diversity of the various garden 'rooms' with their own special needs and not least the requirement to keep all the flowers, especially the many, many, roses looking their best!

If you have not been to one of the Society's talks, perhaps because you think it will be too specialised then Neil's talk would have shown you that was not the case. The evenings are very enjoyable with free wine before the talk and coffee and biscuits to follow. Apart from the talk a star attraction is the plant stall, where really high quality and unusual plants are on sale at a fraction of the price you would pay in a nursery with the bonus of being able to quiz the person who grew them!

The Society's next talk is on Thursday 13th September (Blackboys Village Hall at 7.30pm) and a real coup! The title is 'The Salutation' one of the foremost gardens in the southeast after the major restoration headed by Steve Edney. The 'coup' is that

Project manager – Church Building Maintenance

We are pleased to inform you that we have had an offer of help in the capacity of "Project Management" Whilst there are some details to be carried out we are very optimistic that we have found someone with all the right skills to support our Church team.

Our small group of Church members currently manage the restoration work for our Church in Framfield – St. Thomas a Becket Church. If you feel that you may be able to provide some help on a voluntary basis in **another** capacity do get in touch with me on the number below.

If you would like to find out more about our work we do please contact John Mordaunt on 01825 890443 or mobile 07989 587459.

(Chairman of the Fabric Committee)

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Mute swans

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm going to come right out and say it. I don't like swans. Never have done. Just seeing them smugly swanning around acting all hoighty-toighty annoys me. And back in the spring I took a particular dislike to a pair of them.

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Woods Mill, Sussex Wildlife Trust's nature reserve and headquarters near Henfield. We've been getting the place all ship-shape, ready to welcome visitors for celebrations throughout the summer. I turned up for work one Monday to find a pair of swans had inconsiderately started building their huge woven nest right in the middle of the main path. I thought I may try and heave the heap back into the pond but you can't disturb nesting birds during the breeding season and I'm sure I once read that the Queen legally owns all the swans in Britain. I certainly didn't want Her Royal Highness leaping out of the undergrowth and bopping me with her sceptre. So the nest was here to stay and our visitors would have to take a small diversion. Perhaps it's this royal association which give swans their snooty attitude but I would like to remind any swans reading this article that the reason that they were once bestowed this protection was because the Royal Family enjoyed eating them and didn't want us common folk depriving them of their swan supper.

One morning I checked on the swans and found five whopping great eggs in their obstructive haystack nest. But the parents were elsewhere, arrogantly gliding about on the pond. Had they abandoned the nest? Surely the eggs would perish in the cold? I suddenly became uncharacteristically concerned. I was half tempted to hop on the eggs myself to keep them warm until I noticed the swans heading towards me, their wings half-raised behind their back (a posture called 'busking' which

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

Dates for 2018

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

Please note the market on 28 July has been cancelled

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, 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**



CHRISTIAN AID 2018

The collection in Framfield Parish for Christian Aid Week this year realised £150.96, which was less than last year, but slightly more than in 2016. The total for the whole Uckfield area was £2492.34 The local organising Committee are very grateful for all the donations, and to everybody who helped to raise the money.

Thank you. Derek.



Building through Blessing in
Blackboys and Beyond

New Life is a small thriving Church with a desire to grow both in depth and number. At our heart we are a family of people, young and old, who are seeking to deepen our relationship with God, one another and with the people we come alongside in our day to day lives. We are a new congregation formed just over 5 years ago but are part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain a network of over 2000 churches which has its roots back in the 17th Century.

We gather together for a weekly service on Sunday mornings at Blackboys village hall starting with coffee and cake at 10.30am. The last Sunday of the month is always an All Age Service often followed by lunch. We also have a Sunday evening prayer meeting and Life Groups which meet during the week.

We hope that you will find our church family relaxed, informal and friendly yet with a desire to live our faith in a way that is authentic and real. It would be great to meet you sometime and if you have any queries don't hesitate to contact me, we could always meet in the Grove for a coffee and a chat.

Revd Guy Partridge

Guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com or 07702 836057

guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com

01825 891133 or 07702 836057

Thanks Guy

Revd Guy Partridge

Email: guy_newlifechurch@btinternet.com or

Telephone on 07702 836057 or 01435 864080

despite being the archetypal swan pose is actually an aggressive threat). Before I knew it they were upon me, hissing and raising their mighty wings. When you're being attacked by a swan you really appreciate what formidable creatures they are. Weighing up to 13kg, mute swans are one of the world's heaviest flying birds. The story that they can break your arm with their wings is nonsense but I didn't hang around, just in case. After giving me some evil stares Lord and Lady Muck settled back to incubating and guarding their future family. For another few weeks they sat on their throne in the middle of the path, being photographed by crowds of admiring visitors while I stood ankle deep in the mud, muttering curses under my breath and begrudgingly hammering in a fence to keep them safe. It's obvious who rules the roost here at Woods Mill. Last month those eggs hatched – and now there's seven swans a-swimmin' round the pond. If you want to see the swans and lots of other wildlife, take a trip to Woods Mill this summer. Directions are on the Sussex Wildlife Trust website (sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk) and in the 'What's On' section you'll find details of loads of free events being held on the reserve – thanks to generous support from the ScottishPower Foundation - as we celebrate our half century.

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

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NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Local Plan – The Local Plan was published on 27 June 2018 and goes to Full Council for adoption on 19 July 2018. There will then be a period for Representations (consultation) from 13 August to 8 October 2018. The Plan details the policies for housing, employment, infrastructure, planning and the environment for the next ten years. All being well it will go before a Secretary of State Inspector at the end of the year and we hope to have it in place by early next year. This will give a structure as to how our District will evolve until 2028. Anyone wanting details of what is planned for the Parish, the Local Plan is available on the WDC website – or you can call me for any further information.

Enforcement of Unauthorised Advertisement Structures – WDC now has the power to serve Removal Notices in respect of unauthorised advertisements, and to take steps to secure the removal of any such structure in the event of a failure to comply with the Notice, and to recover any expenses reasonably incurred in exercising this power.

The powers are considered to be a potentially useful tool for ensuring that any unauthorised advertisements, which do not fall under the category of flyposting, can be removed effectively and with significantly quicker outcomes than prosecution. However, in cases where repeat offenders fail to comply with removal notices, the use of prosecution would still be available.

The Littering from Vehicles Outside London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018 - The Council now also has the powers to issue civil penalties and to the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for littering offences under new Regulations.

This Council takes a robust approach in investigating reports of littering. However, the only option available to the Council for the enforcement of littering from a vehicle up to this point has been the issue of a warning letter, due to the difficulties of identifying the person responsible for dropping litter from a moving vehicle.

Under the new civil regulations, where an authorised officer of the authority has reason to believe that a littering offence has been committed in respect of a vehicle they may give a penalty notice to the person who is the keeper of the vehicle. The amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is already in place for the criminal offence of littering under section 87(1) of the EPA, namely £75. If a payment is not received within 28 days the penalty will double and become recoverable. If the FPN remains unpaid a decision may be made to recover the amount via debt collection.

And lastly missed bins. The situation is dire within the Parish at the moment. I am ringing and emailing relevant officers on a daily basis and trying to keep the Parish Council website updated. There are also updates on the WDC website. Please 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



Framfield & Blackboys WI

We are a friendly and fun group with many differing interests and backgrounds. Why not visit us on our stand at the **Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show** on the Recreation Ground Saturday, **11th August**.

Have a go at the **Great WI Wine Challenge** or **Guess The Weight of the Cake**. There will also be a delicious range of home made cakes for sale.

Quiz Night

With Quizmasters, Terry & Rich

Friday, 21st September - Framfield Memorial Hall

7pm for 7.30 start

Fun Quiz with Ploughmans Supper and choice of Puddings

Bring along your favourite tippie & glasses

Tables of 6. Tables will be made up for smaller groups

Tickets £10 – Available from Hair By Us or call 01825 890216

TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday, 10th November - Framfield Memorial Hall

Tables for Hire: £10

Ring Valerie : 07740 256272 or e-mail valerie.letley@btinternet.com

Doors Open - Stallholders: 8:30 am to 1pm

Buyers: 9:30 am. Sale Ends 12.30 pm

Tea, Coffee, Bacon Rolls, Etc, Available

**If you would like to join us, please contact Philomena on 01825 89216.
Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI**



Blackboys Pre-School
The Village Hall, Gun Road
Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5JL
Tel: 01825 891113
email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org
Twitter: @BlackboysPreSch
www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

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

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

Thursday 9th August, and Thursday 13th September.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

HOME AND HOLIDAY

It is sometimes very stressful living in the countryside. The blackbirds who decided to make their nest on the coil of hose pipe in our open fronted barn last year returned this spring. The crafty birds had been collecting twigs and other useful bits for nest building. We were under the illusion that this was for a different site. We had as usual been in and out of the barn constantly, but it was only when my husband reached up to get the hose pipe he saw the nest, snugly built on top of it. He was not pleased. How had they managed that? We had a serious discussion about what we were going to do about this situation. We decided not to give in like we did last year. If they wanted to have their nest in our barn they must put up with us going in and out every day. We would not give any concessions. They would just have to put up with the bang of dustbin lids, the clatter of wheelbarrows and the smaller hose reel, near their nest being used. They soon had their clutch of eggs and the parents took turns on the nest. We hardened our hearts as we heard a flutter of wings and a disgruntled bird would leave the nest and hide in a thicket of holly by the barn. It quickly returned when it was quiet again. I was the first to weaken. One of the wheelbarrows was very near the nest. I decided to leave it outside. We had both adopted a heads down approach when we went in the barn keeping our eyes focused on the floor as this reassured the birds. The eggs were hatching. It was so difficult not to clatter the dustbin lids and disturb them. The bins came out. In the end everything came out. We worked out how long it would be before the youngsters would leave the nest. Perhaps it would be more sensible to not to disturb them till then. It wasn't really giving in was it?

I have been enjoying watching the woodpeckers. I watch them feeding the babies, then teaching the older ones to come to the nut feeder on their own. I always know when a youngster is there as I hear the parent shouting encouragement from a nearby tree. I was thrilled to actually see a young one feeding just a few inches away on the shelf attached to the window sill

We had a holiday on our boat on the Norfolk Broads in early June and the banks beside the rivers were festooned with wild roses from the deepest pink to delicate white. The stems laden with roses climbed up in the trees and arched down to the water. It was a beautiful sight. One morning I decided to take our dinghy and go for a row along the river taking refreshments and picnic lunch with me. I was out of practise and it was hard work. It was very hot so I tried to keep on the shady side of the river. Eventually I found a perfect place for lunch, tucked well under some willow trees. It was magical, a secluded leafy bower above my head with the odd fluttering of birds. The occasional boat would pass by gently rocking the dinghy I could just see them through the trailing branches dipping down to the water. How lovely my simple lunch tasted in that cool and shady spot

As always there was lots of wild life. I watched an otter swimming and Grebe diving to find fish for their young who kept up their plaintive cry until the parent surfaced again. An unusual sight were two herons. One was quietly watching for a fish as it stood on a branch by the water. Suddenly another heron arrived. With the most blood curdling cries they had a horrible fight one heron flew off the other one flew over the river landing on the edge of the footpath near our boat. Quite unperturbed by the quarrel it resumed its fishing peering down at the water and then, quick as a flash dived down for a fish.

There were lots of dogs on boats but an unusual sight were dogs in canoes. One was a little dog sitting in a small canoe, paddled by a lady followed by a large dog standing proudly in the bows of a big canoe paddled by a man. Both dogs looked very happy in their owner's choice of transport on the water.

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