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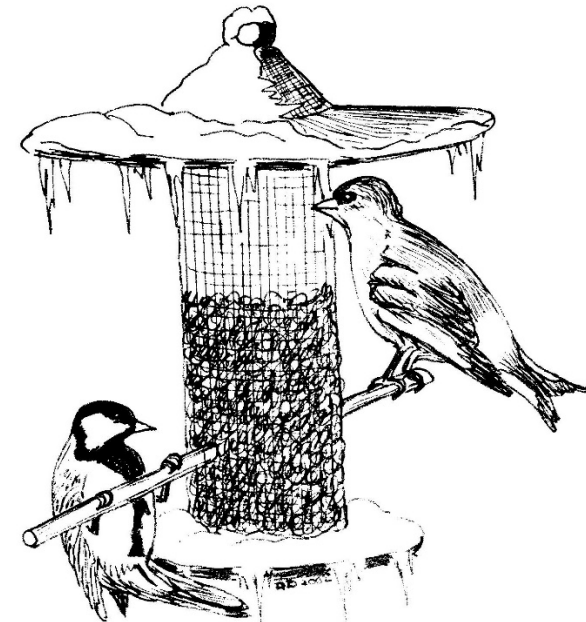
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Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council

Parish Newsletter



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2019

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 :



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At rest:

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Buses – 0345 60 80 194

Children and families – 0345 60 80 192 (see latest news above)

Library renewals – 0345 60 80 195

Library enquiries – 0345 60 80 196

Roads and paths – 0345 60 80 193

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Trading Standards – 0345 04 05 06

Waste – 0345 60 80 194

Main Switchboard – 0345 60 80 190

From overseas – +441273 336000

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555 111

Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0303 999 1000

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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. Keith Brandon

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Marie Owen

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.

2019 – Same old, same old, or genuine hope for the future?

Happy New Year to everyone in the parish.

I don't know about you but I generally really look forward to the New Year. That's not to say there was anything particularly wrong with 2018. We had a fantastic summer and the long summer evenings were great. By nature I'm not much of a winter person; life seems so much more relaxed and pleasurable when it's warm and there are many more hours of daylight.

New Year is a time to reflect on the past year - giving thanks for the good things and saying goodbye to the not so good. It's also a time to look forward with hope and expectation. The only problem I can see at the moment is in the dark cloud of uncertainty that goes with Brexit.

But in reality should we be that bothered? Things have a habit of working out and then we look back and wonder what all the fuss was about.

Politicians want certainty, which is ok up to a point but we live in an uncertain and unpredictable world. Fretting over the future only serves to cause anxiety and stress and sucks the joy out of life.

In our changeable world we all fare a lot better if we can lock into one or two unchangeable facts. There are a couple of scriptures that come to mind and really help when we are going through uncertain times. Firstly from Numbers 23:19
**God is not human, that he should lie,
not a human being, that he should change his mind.
Does he speak and then not act?
Does he promise and not fulfil?**

What I like about these verses is the fact that God does not change His mind or His nature. What you see is what you get. The Message translation puts it like this: **Your kingdom is a kingdom eternal; you never get voted out of office. GOD always does what he says, and is gracious in everything he does.**

When I read those words about 'never being voted out of office' I thought about Teresa May's cabinet. We really need some godly men and women in power. Apart from a few loyal souls I don't think I can remember a time when we have had such a flaky disloyal bunch running the country! It makes you wonder if anyone knows what a Civil Servant is supposed to be? Prime Minister's question time is frankly uncivil and Servant is nothing more than self-serving. Sorry I've gone off track.

My second scripture is from Paul's letter to the Philippians - Chapter 4 :-

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

'Do not be anxious about anything' seriously! When you think about it that's a huge statement. Paul asks us to pray with thanksgiving. In effect he is saying that when our prayer has reached God's ears it's a done deal - so thank Him up front.

A crisis situation, whether it be nationally or personally, is not always bad news as it forces us to readdress our priorities in life and look at the bigger picture. When your back is firmly against the wall and all human help has failed you then God may come to mind. Obviously calling upon God shouldn't be a last resort, someone that we keep like a fire extinguisher in a red box on the wall with the notice above it that says 'In case of emergency, break glass'.

In times of trouble or great distress many utter the words 'If God really does exist why doesn't He do something'. Well He will, but God (like the perfect gentleman) never forces Himself into our lives but graciously and patiently waits for us to ask him to get involved. In most cases it's only our pride that gets in the way.

God's blessing for 2019 to everyone in the Parish – *Revd Chris Lawrence*



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.

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Call Sarah on: 01825 890943

www.framfieldpreschool.co.uk



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 14th February, and Thursday 14th March.

For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931

Diary of Church Services

FEBRUARY 2019

03 Fifth Sunday before Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

10 Fourth Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing

17 Third Sunday before Lent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

24 Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Morning Praise

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

MARCH 2019

03 Sunday next before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

10 First Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Family Service

6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with
Prayer for Healing

17 Second Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

- 24 Third Sunday of Lent**
 10.00 am Morning Praise
 6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 31 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**
 10.00 am Family Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
 BY 10th MARCH 2019
 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

non-members, which includes a glass of wine on arrival and tea or coffee later in the evening.

About Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

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

Find out more at www.fabhortsoc.org.uk/ where you can download a membership form. For any enquiries, please feel free to email our vice chairman Fiona Fidler at fhbsmail@gmail.com or on 01825 890719

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 4th February | Boccia (Bowls) - 2.30pm
Framfield Memorial Hall |
| 18th February | Chairbased Activities
With Louise Knight -2.30pm
Framfield Memorial Hall |
| 4th March | Speaker - Jacqueline Aviolet
"Wonderful Horticultural Theme" - 2.30pm
Also Bring and Buy Stall in aid of Monday Club
Framfield Memorial Hall |
| 18th March | Guide Dogs for the Blind (Angela)
2.30pm- Framfield Memorial Hall
(Collection will be taken) |

If you are looking for something to do in 2019 and would like to be a HELPER At our Monday Club, please contact Sandy Rogers - 01825 840648 My New Mobile 0759 284 1275 - sandyrogers77@gmail.com



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Whether it's a passion for nosing around a beautiful garden or simply a passing interest in all things horticulture, membership of our society gives you access to fascinating talks, garden visits and a wealth of knowledge.

But did you also know that your membership also gives you discounts at local garden centres? It's worth joining for that reason alone. Membership costs just £6 a year for an individual or £10 for a family.

As a member of FBHS you can receive the following benefits:-

Tates Garden Centres – a loyalty card gives plant vouchers to use at Paradise Park, South Downs Nurseries and Mayberry Garden centre.

Provender Nursery, The Landscape Centre, Swanley– membership of FBHS gives you a trade card offering great discounts on plants and also access to the nursery's open days held twice a year.

Coblends Cash and Carry, Dryhill Lane, Sundridge, Sevenoaks - voucher available for 15% discount (VAT added at till)

Marchants Hardy Plants, Mill Lane, Laughton - 5% discount on plants
Rapkyns Nursery, Street End Lane, Broad Oak - 10% discount on plants

Our next event is a quiz night at Framfield Memorial Hall on Tuesday 5th March. This is a fun quiz for teams of up to 6 maximum. Bring your own refreshments and we will supply nibbles and coffee. Free for members and just £3 for non members. See you there!

Full details of our events can be found on our website at www.fabhortsoc.org.uk. Talks are free to members and cost just £3 for

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH FRAMFIELD THE CHURCHYARD

Please respect your Churchyard

We have recently seen an increase in dog mess being left in the Churchyard. This is very distressing for visitors in general, and especially for those with family buried in the churchyard. It is also unpleasant for those who volunteer to keep the churchyard maintained. Please be prepared to clean up after your dog, and keep it on a lead, so you are aware of what it might be up to!

Thank you.

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Our new year season starts with our annual *AGM*. We have a varied and interesting year planned with talks by a Town Cryer, Bee keeping, Looking after our jewellery by a local jeweller, and other planned events.

If you would like to join us please ring Ann Dawe - 01835 890506.

BLACKBOYS CRICKET CLUB

Blackboys Cricket Club are holding a quiz on Saturday, 16th March at Framfield Memorial Hall. It's teams of 6-8 and the tickets are £7.50 which includes a Ploughmans. Bring your own tippie and glass for a 7.30pm start.

Gavin and Chantal are our quiz masters and always make it a really fun evening so please come along and give us your support.

For tickets call Sue Turner 01825 890654

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EMAIL: blackboys-hall@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Framfield Parish Council

MEETING SCHEDULE 2019

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 January (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Tuesday, 26 March (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

Tuesday, 14 May (Annual Parish Council Meeting, and Annual Parish Meeting [8 pm]) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Tuesday, 25 June (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

Tuesday, 30 July (AGM of the Trusts) – Village Hall, Blackboys

24 September (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

26 November (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on

01825- 890182/clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website - framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Framfield Parish Council now has a social media account with Facebook (www.facebook.com/framfieldparishcouncil) where useful and pertinent information will be posted. This method proves very useful in today's technological society and can often be a rapid way to disseminate information rapidly. The Parish Council are trialling this for 6 months but would like to stress that if residents have any concerns or issues, they should contact the Parish Council either by phone or email in the first instance. We also have a website for those that are unaware, which can be visited at www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

Dates for 2019

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

26 January

16 February

30 March

27 April

25 May

29 June

27 July

August – no market.

28 September

26 October

30 November

14 December

Funding available for local community projects – Reminder deadline is 30th April 2019.

Just to remind you that there is still time to submit an application to seek funding for a local community project. There is £400 available from the 2018 Summer Show but how it will be spent depends on which project is chosen from the proposals that you put forward.

Application can be made via a simple form available from the people listed below and the deadline is 30th April. If awarded funding can start from November. There is no specific remit for the fund other than to help provide 'benefit' to the community; for example this might be to buy equipment for a play group, support an activity that helps the elderly or something that marks a significant event for the community.

You know what is needed and which projects deserve help so please put in an application.

Forms are available from:

Fiona Fidler	fhbsmail@gmail.com or tel. 01825 890719
Trevor Hince	trevor.hince at gmail.com or tel. 01435 863364
Ann Newton	clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk or tel. 01825 890182
Terry Everitt	terry.everitt@outlook.com



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MON - THURS: 8am - 6pm (5pm FRI)

FIRST SAT OF THE MONTH: 9am - 12 noon

Nature Notes

I would like to focus on tortoises this month. These animals are in a group of reptiles called Chelonians that also includes turtles and terrapins. Tortoises have existed since before the dinosaurs, that is, they appeared on the earth about 220 million years ago.

There are at least 3 species of Mediterranean tortoise, and during the 1950s and 1960s many of these animals were collected and brought to England in large numbers then sold in pet shops. Thankfully, this practice is now illegal. However, many tortoises remained stranded on our north Atlantic island which is warm enough for them to survive but too cold for them to breed, so their gene line is destined to die out. All we can do is take good care of them and try to give them a good life.

Thankfully, there are organisations in the Mediterranean region that are helping the wild populations to recover. Also, some British owners are incubating eggs laid by their tortoises in incubators and hatching them out in captivity, but it is a labour-intensive practice and takes a great deal of time and care. The young tortoises have to be kept under electric lamps for many years.

Tortoises hibernate from about October to April. They naturally and instinctively bury themselves in the ground, which generally remains warmer than the winter air. It is generally believed now that allowing them to do this naturally, rather than packing them away in a hay-box is better for the tortoise. The tortoise heart-beat slows-down and they enter a state of torpor. However, if it gets very cold, they can dig themselves in deeper if necessary. Then, when the sun begins to warm the ground during March/April the tortoises gradually heave themselves out of the soil and find a place to sunbathe which warms up their bodies allowing them to search out food and water.

Tortoises eat a range of herbs including dandelions, sow thistles, wild lettuce and grasses. They will also feed on the occasional dead animal as a protein supplement. They do live a very long time, and it is not unusual for tortoises to live well beyond 100 years.

Martyn Stenning

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Wealden is again supporting the Great British Spring Clean campaign which aims to inspire as many people as possible to join forces to clear the litter that blights our landscape and threatens our wildlife. Wealden will be supporting the campaign by providing litter picking equipment, waste sacks and waste collection services to individuals and groups that have registered their event on the Great British Spring Clean website. The campaign runs from 22 March to 23 April. More details will be issued and you can register your interest by emailing springclean@wealden.gov.uk.

Wealden is proposing a 2.7% increase in the council tax residents pay for its local services (an increase of £5.00 per annum to a Band D householder). This will enable the Council to become a self-sufficient local authority unsupported by central Government grants.

I was privileged to be asked to the 'topping-out' ceremony at the new crematorium in Horam just before Christmas. The crematorium should be open for business in March, a little later than anticipated, but is a truly amazing feat of architecture. There are meadows around the site crossed by public footpaths so when it is complete and open, it makes for quite a pleasant walk around.

As you will all have read in the local press, a new waste and recycling contract has been awarded to Biffa and will start at the end of June this year. I can only hope we can put all our bin problems in the past and Biffa provide a considerably better service than our current contractor. Always contact WDC if your bin is missed and myself, particularly if it is a regular occurrence.

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



Framfield & Blackboys WI

EXCITING PLANS FOR 2019

The programme for our monthly meetings include speakers on topics varying from 'A Day In The Life of a District Councillor' to 'Duxhurst Farm Colony for Inebriate Women' with subjects like 'Smugglers of Sussex' and 'Backpacking on a Pension' in between.

We also have an great range of outings organised including 'Behind the Scenes at an Auction House', a visit to Leonardslee Gardens and a coach trip to Kew Gardens in July.

We will also be running a repeat of our quiz night in September with attracts participants from all the surrounding communities. Terry & Rich, our brilliant quiz masters, ran an entertaining and creative quiz bringing out the keen competitive spirit amongst the quizzers.

We're delighted to be able to announce that Mary Short has joined Philomena Whittle as joint President for this year. Mary was born in Framfield, has lived all her life in the village all her life and has always played an active part in the community.



We kicked off the year with a most convivial lunch at our local Hare & Hounds in Framfield organised by our indefatigable events co-ordinator, Gill Roberts.



The food was excellent and the service, friendly and attentive, and it made a most enjoyable start to the year.

**If you would like to join us, please contact Philomena on 01825 890216.
Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI**



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

Following the exciting Christmas period, the staff and children have re-settled into the school routine with enthusiasm and dedication. The "fresh start" of a New Year provides colleagues with the opportunity to talk to children about targets and aims, and this term's Christian Value is "courage"; you've got to be brave to take the first step when learning to master a new skill after all!

Both Blackboys and Framfield have new members of staff. At Blackboys we welcome Mrs Sacha Booth, who will be job sharing with Mrs Nobes in Class 1. Mrs Booth is a very experienced and talented teacher and we have already seen the impact she will have on our youngest pupils. In Framfield School, Mrs Clare Tsaparelli is teaching full time in Eagles Class following Mrs Clarke's move to Newick School, while Mrs Helen Jarvis has been appointed to job share with Mrs Vernon in Kingfisher class. We welcome all new colleagues to our Federation and most importantly to the happy community of Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common.

There are some exciting topics taking place in classes this term. In Class 1/Peacocks, the children are learning about animals, comparing and contrasting the animals found in Britain, to those in Africa. Class 2/Kingfishers are super excited about their topic of Chocolate, inspired through the reading of Roald Dahl's classic Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Class 3/Puffins are engaged in the study of Natural Disasters and are currently fascinated by volcanoes. Our eldest pupils in Class 4/Eagles are learning about Rivers, with a specific focus on the River Amazon. There are some exciting trips and guest speakers arranged.



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

01825 891133 or 07702 836057

*And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)*

The Framfield Stagers
present



Dick Whittington

A Family Pantomime by Limelight Scripts



Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd
February 2019 at 7.30pm

Saturday Matinee 2.30pm

Framfield Memorial Hall
The Street, Framfield
TN22 5NR

Tickets £8 or £5 for
aged 11 and under

Licensed bar



Box Office: 01825 761233 / 890101

All money raised will be donated to Demelza Hospice Care For Children

www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com

Talking of trips, our Year 6 pupils will soon be off on their yearly trip to the Houses of Parliament. We feel it is really important for the children to have a good understanding of democracy and we are always excited to meet our brilliant MP Nus Ghani.

A date for residents' diaries should be Thursday and Friday 28th and 29th March as both schools are holding an Art Festival. Billed as FaB (Framfield and Blackboys) Fest, our schools will be transformed into galleries to show the children's creative writing, art and performance. Please keep an eye out for posters and visitors would be very welcome.

Mr Graham Sullivan (Headteacher, Blackboys) and Mrs Lisa Pestell (Headteacher, Framfield)

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Demelza Children's Hospice Services – Uckfield Friends

A very Happy New Year to everyone!

Now that Christmas and New Year celebrations are over and the decorations have been put away until next December, we will be turning our thoughts to events for the coming year. As yet, we have nothing definite in the pipeline but we will be having a meeting next week to thrash out a few ideas. If anyone would like to organise a fundraising event of their own – for example a coffee morning, bake sale, sponsored walk or similar, we would be very happy to give you support and help with the publicity.

Any events that we are organising will be advertised on Facebook (for those of you who use it) and locally on posters in and around the villages and town.

As mentioned in the last copy of the Parish magazine, we are once again delighted that the Framfield Stagers have chosen to raise funds for Demelza again at this year's panto, Dick Whittington, on Fri 22nd Feb @ 7.30 pm and Sat 23rd Feb @ 2.30 & 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Framfield. Make a date in your diary for this – we have been involved in the rehearsals and it promises to be, once again, very entertaining. If you've never been to one – it's a must! Tickets are now on sale from the box office on 01825 890101 or 761233. £8 per adult and £5 for children aged 11 and under.

Your support is very important to us and we would love to see as many of you as possible at our events. If anyone feels that they have some spare time and would like to volunteer or to hold an event to support us please contact either myself or Jean.

Pat Dangerfield 01825 890646

Jean Pidgeon 01825 890658

www.demelza.org.uk

Over the past years footprints, droppings and fleeting glimpses have given tantalising evidence that these mammalian movie stars are attempting a comeback in Sussex after half a century. Recently, night vision trail cameras were rolling and filmed a female otter as she made her Sussex small screen debut - possibly the first time a wild otter has ever been filmed in our county. But the real showstopper came when these cameras later captured footage of one - or possibly two - otter cubs; evidence that otters are breeding again in Sussex. With this dramatic plot twist there is plenty of potential for a sequel. The dream that one day we could see these incredible animals swimming in all the restored and vibrant rivers of Sussex is a step closer to becoming a reality.

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

Sussex Stompers

STOP PRESS: Save the date - Sussex Stompers Jazz Band at Framfield Church on Friday, 17 May 2019. Full details in next issue or phone 01825 890339

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.

**10th February 10.00 am
10th March 10.00 am**

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

The Parish Council welcomed Tony Hall, resident of Blackboys, to the Council in November as a Parish Councillor.

The contract has just been awarded to replace the steps etc behind the Memorial Hall. It is hoped this work will be done in the Spring.

Although a grant has been awarded by Tesco's towards replacing the basket ball area on Framfield recreation ground, the Trust will also be covering the balance of the cost. Again, the contract has been awarded and it is hoped this work will be complete by the Spring.

The Council agreed at their November meeting to set the budget at £61,670. This means an increase of £10.63 per annum to a Band D taxpayer (the average band). The extra funds are required to cover the extra costs which the Council has incurred and will continue to incur going forward:- increasing the cuts within the grounds maintenance contract to all the recreation grounds, funding the 262 Saturday bus service, funding four extra urban grass cuts by ESCC, projects such as the centenary trees, replacement swing seats and goal posts, replacement and adoption of nine finger posts; covering the extra costs of new office equipment in order to comply with the GDPR updates – much of which was unforeseen and had to be funded by reserves. As mentioned in other magazine articles, the Parish has a lot of assets compared to other small parishes, all of which must be maintained.

Parish Magazine. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact me. I will be sending out the renewals very shortly but early notification of anyone's wish to advertise or re-advertise would be appreciated.

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.

Otter by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

The return of the celluloid heroes

Sleek muscular physique. Dynamic aquatic killer. Mysterious enigmatic loner. You can see why otters shared the cinema box office with James Bond in the Sixties and Seventies. Otters are natural film stars, the Sean Connery of British mammals (with a slightly hairier chest).

I remember two otter-based films from my childhood. I caught 'Tarka the Otter' at the local Odeon and the superior 'Ring of Bright Water' always won over 'Goldfinger' on the TV at Christmas. From the opening man-meets-otter sequence (both the greatest and silliest scene ever committed to celluloid) through to Val Doonican's closing credits crooning - it's a classic!

But behind the otter's silver-screen celebrity status lies a darker, sadder tale. Wild otters in Britain were in trouble. Throughout most of the last century our rivers and wetland habitats were in a shocking state – polluted, drained and destroyed. Otters were forced into exile in the far flung corners of Britain. The last Sussex otters struggled on until the 1960s.

And with our heroes out of the picture the bad guys muscled in. American mink, which escaped or were 'liberated' from fur farms, rose to the top of the food chain and terrorised our waterways. These voracious predators attacked our native wetland wildlife, wiping out entire populations of water voles across Sussex.

But this screenplay has a happy ending. Over the past decades we've cleaned up our act and a lot of work has been undertaken to improve rivers and wetlands in Sussex. Otters are wandering, territorial animals – each otter needs 40 km of river to make its home - but projects undertaken by conservation groups such as Sussex Wildlife Trust working with local landowners have provided these connected, wetland habitats. And what is good for the otter is good for us too. By undertaking wetland habitat improvements for wildlife - such as planting floodplain woodland or creating water meadows - our countryside regains its powers as water purifier, erosion controller and flood regulator.

Short-eared owl by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

They come from the land of ice and snow

On soft, silent wings they came. Gliding over forests and skimming across the lowlands until the seemingly impassable dark sea stretched out ahead of them. But still they flew on.

The first signs of this Nordic invasion came in on October. Observers stationed on the Norfolk coastline watched the first of them glide overhead. Another followed. Then another. Elsewhere along our eastern seaboard, more silent invaders were arriving.

Short-eared owls are scarce winter visitors to Sussex. Swiss ornithologist Paul Geroudet described them as 'nomads who camp where the table is laid'. This winter dozens of these wandering diners were reported in Sussex and small parliaments (the collective term for owls, pub quizzers) lingered around the meadows along the county's river valleys where they have tucked in to a bountiful rodent buffet.

In Sussex we have four breeding owl species. The most familiar will be the tawny owl – whose hoots and twit-to-woos can be heard in our woodlands. The barn owl is that pale spectral spirit that may be glimpsed in the headlights along country lanes at night. The long-eared owl is our rarest, most elusive species. The little owl was introduced here in the 19th century. It eats worms.

So when short-eared owls arrive it's an extra owl to get excited about. The meadows around the Ouse, Arun and Adur become popular destinations for owl watchers to observe these graceful daytime hunters.

And a hunting short-eared owl is a sight to behold. It's a large bird - with a one metre wingspan - but agile. It twists, weaves and glides low over the ground before dropping hard on its prey. Its 'short ears' are just feather tufts. Its bright yellow eyes are set in a face which seems fixed in a permanent impatient, angry expression.

I recently led a walk to see these owls and our group waited patiently on the Ouse banks. Our first sighting was high, distant and disappointing. But another hunting owl, seemingly oblivious to us, flew closer. And closer...and closer still. There is something eerie about the sound of seventeen people not breathing, but as the owl passed by we were stunned and as silent as its wingbeats. After hunting the owls will gather and roost, no doubt dreaming of Northern Lights, lemmings and the long journey home.

Recreation grounds, play areas etc - If anyone believes they have discovered a fault or problem with play equipment at 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: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

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

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

POPPY APPEAL 2018

The total collected of £1869.38 is a few pounds more than last year, which is a great effort by everyone because there were a few more areas that I couldn't cover fully.

Thank you so much to all of you who have collected door to door or used a home collection box for your loose change.

As usual I really do need more collectors for 2019. I'm sure the total would exceed £2,000 if the whole parish was covered. If you could spare a couple of hours at the end of October, or would like a home collecting box, please contact me.

Once again, I am most grateful for the continued support of all the collectors and very much hope that I can find more for the 2019 appeal.

David Jenner

davidjenner@outlook.com

01825 890632 07881 786785

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

DISHWASHER

We had our old dishwasher for many many years but very sadly it finally stopped working about a month before Christmas. It had been kept going by having various new parts fitted, but this time, due to old age the broken component was obsolete. As the kitchen was long overdue for a complete makeover we decided to buy a second hand dishwasher for the time being. The thought of washing up by hand over the festive period did not please me so the search for the replacement started. Meanwhile the redundant machine just stayed in its usual place, under the worktop in the kitchen.

I now had a problem. My kitchen assistant has been trained to sit by the dishwasher during meals. She then waits for me to load the machine and shuts the door when I am ready. But as it was not working I had to wash up by hand, dry everything then put them away. This confused her as she has learnt that that once the door is closed she will be rewarded by a treat. My husband suggested I could still open the dishwasher and let her close the door as usual. To convince her everything was normal I put one or two washed plates in the machine, let her shut the door, then I had to take them out again when she was busy eating her treat. Needless to say washing up took ages!

The search continued for the replacement but there was a problem. Because I am rather small the kitchen supplier suggested I had the work tops at a lower height. We now found that most dishwashers would not fit under the units. Having spent hours on the internet my husband came to the conclusion we would have to buy a new one. It was still difficult to find one that would fit. Eventually he located one and we had to wait for delivery. The old dishwasher was then moved out of the kitchen and into the utility room ready for its trip to the tip. My assistant waited in her usual place, puzzled by the empty space. I then had to show her where the dishwasher was now standing. Washing up now took even longer as I had to pretend to load the machine out in the utility room. She did find it confusing at first but eventually managed to shut the door and claim her treat.

At last the new machine arrived. It was still a tight fit, but eventually my husband managed to get it into the correct position. It looked very new and shiny with its confusing selection of knobs and dials also the door opened and shut differently. When it was shut properly there was just a small thump noise rather than the loud click from the old one. I pondered on the saying, can old dogs learn new tricks. I started carefully I could not risk my assistant breaking the new machine. Having a huge Newfoundland as my kitchen helper could be a problem. First I showed her how to press carefully on the new shiny white panel on the front using her nose. I quickly praised her so she realised the soft thump meant it was successfully closed. The next stage was to leave the door opened a bit further. She quickly learnt to close the door successfully, but it took me ages to understand how to it all worked. I can now happily leave the new machine to do the dishes and my kitchen assistant is enjoying her work again.

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



Accounts Manager Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex Branch CIO

Part-time, 9 hours/week,
£24,400 pro rata, 5 weeks holiday pro rata,
working from our Blackboys office

CPRE Sussex is an environmental charity working hard to protect and promote the Sussex Countryside. We are looking for an Accounts Manager to support our Director and Treasurer and join our small, busy team. Your role will be to manage and oversee the accounting and wider financial aspects of the Charity. Experience of SAGE Accounting and Payroll software is essential. You will have good analytical skills, pay close attention to detail and be happy to work independently.

For a job description and how to apply, please visit www.cpresussex.org.uk or email lesley.wilson@cpresussex.org.uk. Applications close 25th Feb. Interviews: 15th March.