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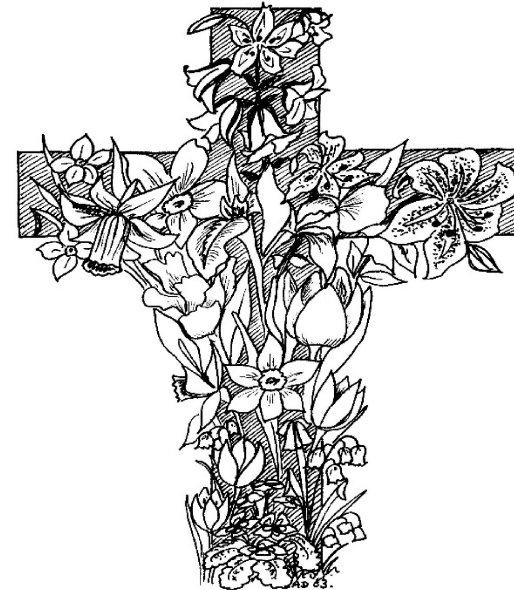
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*Published jointly by  
St Thomas à Becket Church  
and Framfield Parish Council*

# Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**APRIL / MAY 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 :*



**Baptisms:**

**10<sup>th</sup> March: Tiya, Faye and George Ward**

**At rest:**

**4<sup>th</sup> March: Jacqueline Molesworth-Edwards**

**14<sup>th</sup> March: William (Bill) Henry Alfred Hazelden**

**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 177 7069** (call is free).

**USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.**

ESCC contact centres

Call our contact centres during normal working hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (4.30 pm on Fridays).

Adult social care – 0345 60 80 191 - HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk

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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SPECIFIED

## **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.**

### **We're not worthy**

I've been to a couple of places over the last few months where there has been a discussion on why people don't ask for the help they need or why people don't come to church. The first instance was at Ashburnham Place (Faith in Healthcare Meeting). Faith in Healthcare is a relatively new initiative that aims to bring the church and mental healthcare closer together. It is hoped that if we can work together the outcome for patients suffering from mental health issues will be greatly improved.

It is unfortunate, but as human beings, we are all vulnerable to episodes of poor mental health. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year.

In England, 1 in 6 people report experiencing a common mental health problem (such as anxiety and depression) in any given week. The reasons given range from childhood abuse, job/economic uncertainty, stress, alcohol/drug abuse, health worries and body image concerns. A recent survey also measured the number of people who have self-harmed, had suicidal thoughts or have made suicidal attempts over their lifetime i.e.

Self-harm 7.3 in 100 people

Suicidal thoughts 20.6 in 100 people

Suicide attempts 6.7 in 100 people

Personally, I find the statistics alarming and the figures are only based upon those who live in private housing within the UK, so the numbers are an underestimate. It was also reported that medication is the most common form of treatment for a mental health problem.

When it comes to seeking help, matters have usually got quite serious before there is a chat with a GP. One of the questions raised was, 'why don't people seek help earlier?' The psychiatrist who gave the talk said that primarily it was 'shame'. We do not like to admit we are suffering mentally as it brings our 'self' into question. The tendency to disconnect from people self-protects so that we are less likely to be adversely judged.

Being open and honest comes with risks; it is just a matter of whom you talk to. A confidential listening ear is an absolute essential if further emotional damage is to be avoided. However, withdrawal and isolation is the exact opposite as to what is required to get better. We all function much better, and indeed mentally thrive when our family and social groups accept us just as we are. The church calls it Agape - unconditional love.

I can remember reading a book (Trauma) by Professor Gordon Turnball. Towards to end of the book, he states that in the majority of cases when people are suffering from a mental health problem they are not mad, they are just reacting normally to an adverse set of circumstances. After all, there is only so much emotional stress an individual can take.

Whilst I understand that medication can help and in some cases be a necessity, root causes have to be addressed if a long-term solution is to be found. This is where the church comes in. Some may ask 'what on earth has the church got to do with mental health?' The short answer is, more than you think! It goes back to my title 'We're not worthy'. There is a common misconception that the people who are Christian or go to church are holier than thou, judgemental, critical, have got their lives together etc. Nothing could be further from the truth. The bottom line is, we are all unworthy, we are all works in progress. The big plus is that we found grace through Jesus Christ, not judgement and we found unconditional love. Under this umbrella, we found a place to belong and to thrive as human beings as part of God's worldwide family. If that is not your experience of the Church then I unreservedly apologise - it should be.

When we go through difficult times we need to unburden our souls; it's part of the healing process. Your GP can give you 9 minutes, that's your average appointment time. If you need counselling you may have to wait for months. Generally speaking the church and its ministers and trained pastoral workers are on hand to support and provide a confidential listening ear, you only have to ask. You may be amazed at the results.

May God's blessing be upon 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.

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)





Blackboys Pre-School  
The Village Hall, Gun Road  
Blackboys, East Sussex TN22 5JL  
Tel: 01825 891113  
email: [enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org](mailto:enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org)  
Twitter: @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 Monday 8th-Thursday 18th 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:

Call us 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 11<sup>th</sup> April, and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.  
For more information contact Roy Wilkinson 01435 812931

## Diary of Church Services

### APRIL 2019

#### 07 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

#### 14 Palm Sunday

10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing

#### 15,16 & 17<sup>th</sup> Holy Week Meditations 7.00-7.30pm

#### 18 Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

#### 19 Good Friday

10.00 am Walk of Witness (Meet at Cornerstone Church,  
Uckfield)

#### 21 Easter Day

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Family Festival Praise (*inc, Easter Egg Hunt*)

#### 28 Second Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

### MAY 2019

#### 05 Third Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

**12 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)**  
10.00 am Family Service  
***Followed by BBQ lunch - Church Hall***  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing

**19 Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

**26 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019**

**TO**

**ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**

**Please note new email address:**

[clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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

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

## **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	<a href="mailto:fhbsmail@gmail.com">fhbsmail@gmail.com</a> or tel. 01825 890719
Trevor Hince	<a href="mailto:trevor.hince@gmail.com">trevor.hince@gmail.com</a> or tel. 01435 863364
Ann Newton	<a href="mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk">clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk</a> or tel. 01825 890182
Terry Everitt	<a href="mailto:terry.everitt@outlook.com">terry.everitt@outlook.com</a>

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### **FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET**

#### **Dates for 2019**

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

30 March

27 April

25 May

29 June

27 July

August – no market.

28 September

26 October

30 November

14 December



## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society's programme for the year opened in March with the ever-popular Quiz Night. The evening was very well attended, with eleven teams competing, and everybody enjoyed the challenges of Terry Everitt's teasing questions which tested not only our horticultural knowledge but also our lateral thinking. We all learned some interesting facts and laughed a lot too!

The unseasonably warm weather in February with snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils blooming in all their glory made us think of spring. The above average temperatures also brought several shrubs and climbers into bud and reminded us that some will need pruning soon, or that we are already too late to tidy up others! One group of climbers – Clematis – always have people wondering about the right time to cut back or prune, so it is very helpful that the Society's next talk is about Clematis. Entitled 'Clematis through the Seasons', Everett Leeds will be describing many varieties of clematis ranging from deciduous to evergreen and climbers to herbaceous forms and, of course, how to look after them and bring out their best.

At the time of writing there are still places available for the Society's trip to RHS Hyde Hall Gardens in Essex on Saturday 11th May. The cost for coach and garden entry is £20 for members or £25 for non-members – if interested please contact Fiona Fidler. Then our next trip on Tuesday 11th June is much closer to home when we shall be visiting Hever Castle with a tour of the gardens and grounds with Head Gardener Neil Miller. Neil was a very popular speaker last year so we are very much looking forward to seeing his planting at first hand. After lunch we shall call at How Green Nursery, a wholesale herbaceous nursery, which is allowing the Society a special visit. Again, if interested please contact Fiona, the cost will be £20 per person.

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).

## ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH FRAMFIELD THE CHURCHYARD

### **Many hands make light work ..**

The golden autumn leaves are now falling thick & fast onto the churchyard garden and its paths and of course they need clearing! We would really appreciate some extra help. Often on a Saturday afternoon around 2pm we meet up to do these tasks. Will you please join us? Even a one-off would be unbelievably helpful and so appreciated.

**If so, please contact** Jerry Pryke on 01825 760787 or Freddy Pratt on 07791 731021

Or perhaps you would like to help by a donation to upkeep your wonderful churchyard?

This can be done either with a direct payment to our **HSBC Bank** marked "**Churchyard**"

**Sort Code: 40 45 32**

**Account : 91456369**

Or by cheque payable to **Framfield PCC** delivered or posted to the Mrs. Patricia Marchant 141 Framfield Rd; TN22 5AU

More Plans for the building restoration work on St. Thomas A Becket Church Framfield

We will start further restoration work in the very near future now that spring has arrived thus ensuring we continue to maintain our Church to its present high standard. More information will follow very shortly so watch this space!

WE have an offer for a DRONE!!

One kind parishioner has offered to help us inspect the less accessible areas of our Church roof valleys – A big Thank you!!

During recent renovation on the rainwater systems we realised that we have some very high level valleys which are particularly inaccessible for inspection to see what (if anything) needs doing...and that is why we needed a drone!

And if you would like any further information on any of the above please contact me anytime.

John Mordaunt our Chairman of the Fabric Committee

01825 890443 or 07989 587459.  
Email: [johnmordaunt1@gmail.com](mailto:johnmordaunt1@gmail.com)

### 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.



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

14<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am  
12<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

**FRIENDS  
of  
SUSSEX  
HOSPICES**

# GRUFFALO FUN

Book online  
[friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk](http://friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk)

**Wednesday 29 May**  
**10.00am - 4.00pm**

Woodland trails • Pond dipping • Mask, snake & sock puppet making • Magician • Story telling • Pooh sticks  
• Yummy cakes • Pizzas • Ice creams

Online tickets  
£8 adults - £7 children

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, 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](http://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](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)

*“Spring is coming, spring is coming, birdies build your nests, weave together straw and feather, doing each your best”.*

This is a little ditty that my mother used to quote to us at this time of year when we were very young. I am not sure where it came from. The fact is, I am writing this on 17<sup>th</sup> March, just 4 days from the Spring Equinox when daylength will equal night length the world over. Nature senses this, and in the northern hemisphere buds are breaking on the shrubs, which usually happens before the large trees. Bulbs such as crocuses, daffodils and tulips are sending up their stems and leaves in that order. Our local jackdaws are building their nest in a neighbour's chimney and the carrion crows are watching to see if they can steal their eggs. Frog spawn has been laid in the ponds and tadpoles are developing. Also, newts are also in the ponds pairing up and laying their eggs in the leaves of water plants.

Spring can be a very personal experience making people smile and surprising us with its perennial rebirth of nature's abundant life. This morning, the dawn chorus was particularly loud with numerous local Eurasian blackbirds harmonising with descant singing Eurasian wrens. The blue tits are exploring nest-boxes that people have erected in their gardens, parks and woodlands in order to help them breed successfully. Let's face it, we do love nature when it is like this. It is even important for our health to visit natural areas regularly for a sense of wellbeing and to breathe the clean oxygen emanating from the green plants on which we all depend. Environmental services often go unrecognised until they start to decline. We have had many warnings recently about Human generated (anthropogenic) climate change causing the death of marine coral and the generation of devastating weather events such as fires in California, drought and floods in Australia and mud-slides in South America. Closer to home, we had record temperatures (c. 21<sup>0</sup> Celsius) during February. We may experience water shortages later in the year. Let's also remember that these events affect all nature, not only us Humans. Maybe the time has come to address this issue at a personal level. If all 7.5 billion people world-wide acted to reverse negative our effects on the environment, the problem could be solved?

## Nature Notes - March

Like many birds, I have migrated south for at least part of the winter. I am at Latitude 44<sup>0</sup> N and if you are reading this in Sussex, you are at about Latitude 50<sup>0</sup> N. Just for reference the arctic circle is at about 70<sup>0</sup>N Yes, I am in France again. It is February 13<sup>th</sup> today and I have been busy mowing the lawn and scaring the sunbathing wall lizards. The occasional brimstone and peacock butterfly was fluttering by as I worked. Yesterday we watched a flock of about 50 common cranes fly over the house on their way north to their breeding grounds. I also watched a black carpenter bee visit the Aubretia flowers on the verandah. However, it has not been all like this, proximity to the Bay of Biscay means that we had about 2 weeks of almost continuous rain until recently. The ditches and rivers are all full and the frogs have been filling them even fuller with their spawn.

The tilting of the earth means that the days are lengthening by a few minutes with each one. I suspect we are all looking forward to the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer”. Barn owls and mistle thrushes will be preparing nests as I write. Blackbirds, blue tits and robins will also be showing themselves in pairs as they court and test each other’s credentials as a prospective breeding mate.

Until spring really gets going, finding food is a real problem for any animal in the wild. Diurnal animals will have short days for hunting, long cold nights to get through and many will die leaving only the resilient to pass on another generation.

In ecology, we often say there is no such thing as a disaster, only change. What we humans see as a disastrous storm or cold spell is simply a change in the environment leading to opportunities for some organisms and challenging conditions for others. Cold winters generate cold resilient animals such as polar bears, arctic foxes and reindeer. Hurricane force winds lead to many fallen trees and plenty of dead wood leading to a population explosion of wood boring beetles an increase in woodpeckers that eat them and so on. Even hot weather leads to the generation of heat resilient plants and animals such as cacti and camels. The result is a world full of variety and change.

*Martyn Stenning*



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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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)*

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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## 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](mailto:davidjenner@outlook.com) 01825 890632 07881 786785

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

Spring gives a new life, not only to nature, but in our parish Primary Schools too. The children are enjoying more outdoor PE, our flowerbeds and verges are blooming and a whole host of extra-curricular activities take place.

Both schools though pride themselves on the resilience and spirit of their pupils and readers will be pleased to know that Forest School sessions have taken place throughout the winter period, with a slight adjustment for the very hardest conditions. Led by our Forest School Leader, Mrs Lydia Godfrey, we have seen children cooking, exploring and learning together outside.

A highlight recently has to be the Year 6 trip to London. As part of our aim to create 21st Century citizens, all year 6 children visit The Houses of Parliament for an education session on democracy. We combine this with a walking tour of London, seeing the sights and learning the history of our fantastic capital city. While in the Houses of Parliament, we were met by our Wealden MP Nus Ghani, who spent a great deal of time with the children, answering their questions. And yes, one of their questions was about Brexit! You can read more about our visit at:

<http://www.uckfieldfm.co.uk/2019/local-news/blackboys-and-framfield-schools-students-visit-parliament>

Our younger classes have also enjoyed trips, or are looking forward to them. The Federation's year 1 and 2 pupils have visited the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne, taking part in an exciting project

of conveying favourite possessions in art form. Our year 3 and 4 pupils are booked for an exciting visit to the Natural History Museum, fitting in well with their topic of Natural Disasters, encompassing the Science of rocks and soils.

As the mind turns to Easter, both schools are busy getting ready for Easter Services at St Thomas a Becket church and so the schools are full of singing and bible readings in preparation. Also the whole schools' community are looking forward to a new initiative, called FaB Fest (Framfield and Blackboys) a creative festival showcasing the children's best writing, art, performance and music. FaB Fest is taking place in both schools at the end of the month.

Thank you for continuing to take an interest in our school.

Graham Sullivan and Lisa Pestell  
Blackboys and Framfield CE Schools

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### **FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 1st April  | Craft with Sandy and Joan Wilcox<br>2.30pm Buxted Pavilion   |
| 15th April | Cream Tea at 2.30pm<br>East Sussex National  |
| 20th May   | OUTING TO -Eastbourne Pier<br>Victoria Tea Rooms - Afternoon Tea<br>Times to be arranged - Coach Fee |

Any queries, please contact Sandy Rogers - 01825 840648  
My New Mobile 0759 284 1275 - [sandyrogers77@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrogers77@gmail.com)

start looking an invisible world of lichens will materialise and you'll feel like grabbing the nearest person by the lapels and, wild-eyed, yell "They're everywhere- can't you see? We've been invaded!"

The secret behind their success is that each lichen is made of two different organisms – a fungus and an alga. The alga can photosynthesise and provides the food that fuels the fungus while the fungus gives the structure and protection which allows the alga to function. The fungus is the Lennon to the alga's McCartney; working together they create something amazing and enduring.

Because lichens absorb their water and nutrients through their surface they don't require roots. This gives them the freedom to simply anchor themselves to any firm foundation; rock, wood, bone, concrete, glass, canvas, metal. They can also withstand severe desiccation. In periods without water they simply switch off. When re-hydrated they spring back to life like the Wicked Witch of the West in reverse.

This versatility and resilience means lichens can survive anywhere on our planet – and experiments have shown they'd probably do alright elsewhere too. They recently achieved remarkable results in the Mars Simulation Laboratory and some folk claim that lichens could be the key to the human colonisation of the Red Planet.

Back on Earth their reliance on rainwater means that lichens are famously sensitive to air pollutants dissolved in rain. The presence or absence of certain lichens is a good indicator of pollution levels. What's good for their health is good for ours. So get out of the house and into the countryside in January, join the lichens and breathe in some fresh air.



ancestral home is the Lake District – it's claimed that 95% of the world's Herdwicks live within 15 miles of Coniston.

They're tough sheep; hard grazin' hell-raisers who are at home in harsh, hilly landscapes. If you like your sheep white and fluffy then you've come to the wrong field. Herdwicks are born black and develop white heads and legs as they mature. Their grey, wiry wool has an insulating undercoat – perfect attire for English hilltops. Feeding amongst thorns and thickets can leave their coats looking torn and tatty but this isn't a cause for concern, just proof that they're hard at work. For Herdwicks, grazing is a passion - not a fashion show.

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## Lichens

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

At the start of the New Year we'll be relying on bathroom scales and belt buckles to tell us how our health has fared over the festive period. Meanwhile the health of our parish can be monitored by a group of amazing organisms which, though they're all around us, largely go unnoticed; lichens.

Lichens are the Banksys of the natural world and bring their anarchic wildlife graffiti into our unnatural rural and suburban landscapes; disrupting the dull uniformity of brickwork and concrete with a dazzling diverse range of patterns, shapes, textures and colours.

Considering that lichens cover 8% of the land's surface it's amazing that we hardly notice them but next time you're out stop and look around. You'll be overwhelmed – lichens are everywhere. Luminous yellow and orange crusts radiate across roofs, walls, benches and fences. The bare branches and bark of trees are festooned with green lichen lobes. Even the concrete and the clay beneath your feet is covered with the white splotches of lichens which resemble trampled chewing gum. Once you

## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Three red oak trees have been planted, one on each recreation ground, to commemorate the end of WW1. A granite plinth has also been placed next to each tree further marking the commemoration. One of the oak trees was purchased with money donated by the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society and the Show Committee from the profits of the 2017 Village Show.

The chairs of the two organisations Terry Everitt and Trevor Hince made the following comment: “The Village Show brings together the three village communities and it is very fitting that the efforts of this generation should be used to honour those villagers from a previous generation who made the ultimate sacrifice in WW1”.

Parish Magazine. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact me. It gets more and more difficult to find new advertisers due, I think to the use of online advertising, but many residents still find the magazine a useful directory when looking for a professional help.

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.

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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk).  
Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR  
Website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)



## **Demelza Children's Hospice Services – Uckfield Friends**

Spring is well and truly here – thank goodness! Time to start planning our events for the coming spring and summer.

Next on the agenda, we will be assisting our Hailsham Friends Group during the annual Bluebell Walk at Bates Farm, Arlington on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April. If you've never been, the bluebells are spectacular and there are some beautiful walks. We will be serving teas, coffees, cakes and light lunches.

Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> April is the annual Cuckoo Fair, in aid of Demelza, in Heathfield. This event is always well supported and is a lovely family day out – lots of interesting stalls and entertainment. It's well worth a visit.

We have been invited to have a stall at the Framfield School Spring Fayre on May 18<sup>th</sup> – we need to get our thinking caps on and decide what we are going to do. Our teddy tombola at the Christmas Fayre was very successful – but we've used up all of our teddies!

The Framfield Stagers production of Dick Whittington was great fun and a huge success, a big thank you to them for supporting us again this year.

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

## **Herdwick sheep**

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

### **Out, standing in their field**

For sheep, life is like one long festival. They're either stood crowded together in a muddy field in the rain or running around in the sun trying to find the best grass. Next time you're walking around Lewes town centre look up at Sussex Wildlife Trust's Malling Down nature reserve and you'll see my woolly colleagues living the good life. But don't be fooled. They're actually hard at work on the most important construction job in Sussex; making perfect chalk downland.

You can keep your tropical rainforests and your underwater reefs, for me chalk downland is the world's number one natural wonder. This rare habitat supports an extraordinary diversity of wildlife and it's right on our doorstep.

Paradoxically, wildlife-rich chalk downland is a man-made creation (well, credit where credit's due – a sheep-made creation). Since around 800 AD sheep grazing has created and maintained our county's iconic downland landscape. The short, sheep-nibbled turf is perfect for Adonis blue butterflies, burnt orchids and a multitude of other wonderful wildlife. But, like rainforests and reefs, it's under threat; one of the main issues being neglect. Turn your back on downland and it mutates into long grass, brambles and thorn bushes and the butterflies and orchids vanish under the cold shadows.

Sheep are our best defence against this prickly invasion. Every bite and every hoof print creates downland with an ideal varied structure – impossible to create by uniform mowing. We have various rare sheep breeds in our grazing army stationed near Lewes at Southerham: Hebrideans, Wiltshire Horns, Southdowns, but my favourite sheep, baa none, are the Herdwicks.

Like all heroes, the Herdwick's origins are shrouded in mystery. Some folk say they came to Britain with marauding Vikings. There's some that say that the Herdwicks swam ashore after escaping the sinking Spanish Armada. Their

The Friends of Framfield Church invite you to a

## SUMMER JAZZ EVENING

with

## THE SUSSEX STOMPERS

St Thomas à Becket Church, Framfield

Friday, 17 May 2019 at 7.30pm



Join us for a lively evening of toe-tapping New Orleans music by local traditional jazz band

Tickets £10: Phone Dixon Press on 01825 890400  
or Peter Berry on 01825 890339



## Framfield & Blackboys WI

JOIN US

ON A TRIP TO THE WORLD FAMOUS KEW GARDENS

TUESDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>



See the magnificently restored **Temperate House**. This Grade 1 listed building is the **largest Victorian glasshouse in the world** and was recently re-opened by **Sir David Attenborough** following a 451 million pound refurbishment. Voted **Best UK New National Treasure** at the 2018 **National Geographic Traveller Magazine** Reader Awards, the Temperate House is home to an internationally important collection of temperate zone plants, including some of the rarest and most threatened.

Visit the **Great Pagoda**, a ten-storey octagon tower, standing at almost 50m, completed in 1762 as a gift for **Princess Augusta**, the founder of the botanic gardens at Kew, which has also undergone extensive restoration. After an absence of 234 years, 80 spectacular dragons adorn the roof of the Pagoda once more.

Use the Kew Explorer, a hop-on hop-off land train to explore the furthest reaches of the garden including Kew Palace, The Hive, the Tree Top Walk, the Palm House, the art galleries and the spectacular trees and borders throughout the gardens.

**Cost:** £40 per person.

**Includes:** Return travel by luxury coach. Convenient local pick up points.  
Day long use of the Kew Explorer train.

**Follow us on Facebook**

If you would like to join us, please contact **Philomena** on 01825 890216.

## LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

### CAT ENQUIRY

I never know when I might have a pet behaviour phone call so it is sometimes difficult to switch from thinking about doing the weekly shopping list or what to cook for dinner, to talking to a worried pet owner. This was the situation when I had a phone call from a lady with a cat behaviour problem. She explained that her cat had recently died and how much she missed it; especially stroking it and loving the feel of its soft fur. Feeling lonely she decided to take on a rescue cat, but was having toileting problems with it. She asked a friend to find someone who did cat behaviour problems who found me on the internet and passed on my name and phone number.

She told me all about the new cat that had not really settled in his new home. The old cat loved to sit on her lap but the new cat did not want to. The main problem was it was urinating on the lady's bed. She asked if I did home visits and I confirmed that I did. At this point I asked for her address. As she had a slight accent I did not catch what she said and asked her to repeat it. I did not recognise the name of the town and was a bit puzzled about this. I then had a worrying thought, was she living in England? I then asked her. "No" she replied "I live in Canada." The misunderstanding had occurred because the friend who found my phone number had not checked where I lived.

I decided to give her some help over the phone. As we talked it gradually dawned on me how difficult the situation was. I gathered she lived in a flat and needed a wheel chair to get around. That would explain why the new cat did not want to sit on her lap, it was probably frightened of the wheel chair. During our conversation I suggested she kept the bedroom door closed to keep the cat out. She answered that was not possible as she was blind and would not know whether she had shut the cat in or out of the bedroom, as of course she could not see it. She also lived on her own with only a home help a few times a week. No wonder she missed the company of her old cat.

I gave her as much help as I could over the phone. We did try a system she had that put spoken words on to her computer but that did not seem to work. I said I would send her my cat behaviour notes, but she would have to get someone to read them. She was going to find some help locally so I hope she did. She was very worried the rescue centre would take the cat back if she could not sort the problem out.

Talking to this lady made me feel so lucky. Having a break from writing I was able to watch a female blackbird with a little white bib enjoying some bird food by the kitchen window. And I could walk outside and enjoy the sight of early primroses..

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

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### Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

*Our charity this year will be the Salvation Army. We have a monthly collection amongst ourselves and then our main fundraising event - the jumble sale in October. All proceeds go to our chosen charity for the year.*

*Our next speaker is a town crier which will be interesting! We have some very good speakers again this year and our annual dinner in April is at the Hare and Hounds in Framfield.*

*We wish everyone a Happy Easter.  
Ann Dawe - 01825 890506*