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

# Parish Magazine



Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common

JUNE / JULY 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 :** Vacant

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:

12th May: Lois Watson

#### Weddings:

18th May: James Cavanagh and Kelly Coates

#### At rest:

30th April: Francis Johnson

14th May: Hazel Mary Berry

- 2 -

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

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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

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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.**

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## *CIRCULATION:*

*This magazine reaches over 1100 households in the parish.*

*It is therefore an ideal way to reach a wide customer area.*

*Contact the Clerk, Ann Newton for advertising details and rates.*

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

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## **The importance of family**

For a short time in the early 1990s, Amar Kanim was famous. His scarred face and desperate story featured on newspaper front pages around the world. He was introduced to diplomats and ambassadors. He even attended a session of the United Nations. He was known as the little boy who had lost everything in a napalm attack. He came to personify the suffering of the Iraqi people at the hands of their own president Saddam Husain.

Amar was brought to the UK from Iraq three decades ago, an orphaned child with terrible burns from a napalm attack by Saddam Hussein's forces. His cause was taken up by MP Emma Nicholson who arranged for him to be bought back to the UK for medical treatment.

At the time Emma was on a humanitarian mission, she said: "He's a complete orphan; he's lost his life, his home his family."

His treatment and recovery in the hospital were followed closely by the world's media. When the spotlight faded Amar went to live with Emma and her family and he settled into a quiet life in Devon.

Thirty years later Amar received a mysterious message from a stranger, saying his mother is looking for him. Amar was naturally sceptical as several other women had previously claimed that he was their son. However, technology has moved on and DNA testing proved conclusively that the lady in question was his natural mother and that he also had a brother.

Amar's story was shown in a recent Panorama documentary (13<sup>th</sup> May 2019) and ended with Amar being flown out to Iraq where he was reunited with his mother and brother.

In a world where the media appears to stream virtually nothing but negative news, it was great to see a story with a happy ending. The story also went some way to describe the years of anguish suffered by Amar and his mother and brother as they tried to come to terms with losing each other in such tragic circumstances.

The journalist who interviewed Amar asked him what it was like when he thought he had lost everyone. Amar said "There is nothing more important than feeling that you belong to someone and are loved by someone. Without family you don't belong to anyone, you can't relate to anyone; born out of nothing."

Amar's words are intense, to say the least. Belonging and being loved in a family context is to Amar and probably all of us, vitally important. It also begs the question, 'What about the single people today; the widows, the orphans the marginalised; where do they find a family?'

Thankfully everyone can belong to God's family if they desire to. God may be referred to as 'Father' but fundamentally He is Father to a worldwide family. Jesus makes reference to this in Matthew's gospel (Matt 12:46-50).

**Jesus was still talking to the people when his mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside, asking to speak with him. <sup>47</sup> So one of the people there said to him, "Look, your mother and brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak with you."<sup>[b]</sup>**

**<sup>48</sup> Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup> Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother, my sister, and my mother."**

We may or may not have living relatives but in the church 'The Family of believers' we all have fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. We have a place to belong and thrive. We may not be blood relatives but when a person comes to faith in Christ they are adopted into God's family. In essence, we become spiritually bonded to one another, to Jesus and to Father God through the Holy Spirit.

If you have ever thought that God doesn't like you or want you in His family take to heart the following words from Hebrews 2:11-12

**Both the one (Jesus) who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.'**

Whenever someone is baptised in the church we close with the words of welcome i.e. **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith: we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.** You have a place to belong.

May God's blessing be upon everyone in the Parish.

– Revd Chris Lawrence

***If you would like to explore what it means to be baptised into God's family do please join us for the forthcoming baptism classes (See separate invitation in this edition of the Parish Mag)***



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

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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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## Diary of Church Services

### JUNE 2019

- 02 Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 09 Pentecost**  
10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing
- 16 Trinity Sunday (*Fathers' Day*)**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 23 First Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)
- 30 Second Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Morning Praise

### JULY 2019

- 07 Third Sunday after Trinity**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 14 Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Service

- 21 Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 28 Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
 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> JULY 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**

Then, for your diary, the Society’s next talk will be on Thursday 19th July, 7.30pm at Framfield village hall, when Ben Pope will be ‘Treading Gently through the borders’. I am sure that many of you will remember Ben’s wonderful talk at the AGM in 2018 when he captivated us with his description of creating winter structure in the magnificent private garden in West Sussex where he is Head Gardener. This time he will be talking about herbaceous borders and how to achieve a soft and naturalistic appearance – I promise it should not be missed!

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).

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## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Gardening is so influenced by the weather and whilst there is much-needed rain today and previous days have been unseasonably cold it has been a glorious Spring and the daffodils, then tulips, have responded with wonderful displays. I expect that many of you visited Pashley Manor Gardens for their Tulip Festival, with magnificent plantings of tulips ranging from the flamboyant reds, yellows and oranges to the subtle pinks and creams.

Now it is time to look ahead to summer – vegetable seed sowing, tidying/replanting beds and borders and, of course, the Summer Show! The Show Schedule is now printed and has been distributed with the Parish magazine so you can start planning what classes you will be entering – the more entries the better! Also, when you are taking cuttings or splitting plants please think of the Society's Plant Stall at the Show and pot up a few extra and bring them along.

By the time you read this article the Society will have had its coach trip to the RHS Hyde Hall Gardens in Essex but there are other garden visits planned. On Sunday 2nd June the Society has one of its local Garden Forums when the garden at Sharlands Corner, Sharlands Lane, Blackboys will be open from 2-5pm. There will be the Society's ever popular Plant Stall offering the chance to fill any gaps in your beds with lovely plants and at great prices. Afternoon tea and cake will be available and as the garden has lots of seating and lovely views across the valley what better way to sit and relax on a lovely June afternoon (we hope!). As usual members are free and non-members pay £3.00; please let Fiona know if you are thinking of coming.

Then our next trip is on Tuesday 11th June (9am-4pm) 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.

## ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH FRAMFIELD THE CHURCHYARD

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

Love gardening? Love the smell of new mown grass? We would really appreciate some extra help. Often on a Saturday afternoon around 2pm we meet up to do some strimming and tidying. 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

### 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.**

9<sup>th</sup> June 10.00 am  
14<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 am

### Blackboys Pre-School

Blackboys Village Hall  
Gun Road  
Blackboys  
East Sussex  
TN22 5JY

Tel: 01825 891113  
Registered Charity 1026132  
Email [marta@blackboyspreschool.org.uk](mailto:marta@blackboyspreschool.org.uk)



### Blackboys Preschool committee needs you

Blackboys Preschool is a committee run charitable preschool catering for 60 local children and running thriving breakfast, after school and holiday clubs.

The preschool is a real asset to our community and we would hate to lose it.

We are urgently seeking new committee members, as without a functioning committee we are unable to keep the preschool open.

We are keen to recruit committee members from the wider community: local residents, after school club parents, grandparents and parents.

A variety of skills are required for a successful committee, so even if you feel that this is not for you because you do not have knowledge of early years education, this is by no means a prerequisite... you have more to offer than you think!

Please get in touch via phone or email (see above) if you would like to discuss joining us. We would love to hear from you.

With kind regards, Blackboys Preschool Committee





The Uckfield Singers' Summer Concert will be on Saturday 20th July 2019, at 7:30 pm in the Uckfield Civic Centre. Tickets (£8) will be available from Gale & Woolgar Jewellers, High St, Uckfield, and online via our website: [www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk](http://www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk), (booking fee applies). Proceeds from the raffle will be supporting "The Children's Respite Trust", a charity that provides respite for disabled children and support for their families throughout East Sussex. As usual, we will be singing a variety of music old and new from musicals, pop classics to folk and choral. Visit our website at <http://www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk>"

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### Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

We have had a good walk again in Barcombe this month with the weather being kind for us! Our next event in June will be our annual garden party. We have a lot of good speakers booked for the rest of the year so if you would like to join us please ring me.

Ann Dawe - 01825 890506

Well, spring has well and truly sprung now and even the oak trees now have leaves changing the tree-scape from the greys and browns of winter to the greens of summer. April, May and June are an intensive period of regeneration in nature, a time when lawns have to be mown regularly, because if they are not, they would turn into a hay field. Hay-making traditionally starts in June when the grasses are ripe and full of energy for feeding to live-stock during the rest of the year when required. If the hay is not cut, succession starts as seeds from other larger species of plants such as acorns from oak trees germinate among the grass-roots and attempt to create an oak woodland.

Every grassland hides a forest trying to get out. If it does, this is called succession. Succession is helped by the animals that visit the grassland, especially the birds. Oak jays are especially adapted to recreate oak woodlands. In the autumn, oak jays obsessively collect acorns from under the oak trees and carry them in a pouch below their beak to an open area (field) and plant them in the soil, ostensibly as a potential cache for the future, but in reality, many are not re-found and germinate. These will get mown down by the next hay-cut, but if the hay is not cut, will develop a new forest. Black-berries will also be eaten from the brambles in the hedgerows by field-mice which will also roam the fields looking for other food. In the process, the tiny seeds will pass through the mice and be expelled, still viable, in the mouse droppings and will germinate among the grasses. Thus, the brambles will also spread into the fields to protect the young oak trees. The many thrush species such as song thrushes, mistle thrushes, blackbirds, redwings and fieldfares will eat the hawthorn berries (haws) in the winter and likewise disperse the seeds in their droppings as they also fly over or forage in the fields. So, young oaks, brambles and hawthorn trees are common successors to grassland and will rapidly grow to create a new woodland. However, it takes centuries to create an ancient woodland in which dozens or scores of other plant species will develop as the cycle of life continues with old trees dying or being blown over to create new clearings into which new species will be introduced by woodland animals and wind such the seed of willows and poplars. Not so much wind in the willows as willows in the wind.

*Martyn Stenning*



# Framfield & Blackboys WI

**A FEW PLACES STILL AVAILABLE**

**ON OUR TRIP TO KEW GARDENS - TUESDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>**



Besides the magnificent Temperate House, the Great Pagoda and Kew Palace, this year there is a spectacular exhibition of Dale Chihuly glass sculptures. - plus the Tree Top Walk, the Hive, the Palm House, the Marianne North gallery and of course, 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.

**If you already have concessionary/free entry to Kew you need only pay for the coach.**

**Cost: £21 per person - COACH ONLY.**

**CONTACT: GILL ROBERTS - 01825 890459 [gilli.roberts@btinternet.com](mailto:gilli.roberts@btinternet.com)**

**Pick Up Points: Blackboys, Framfield & Uckfield**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Return of our ever popular quiz night - Friday October 4th - Framfield Memorial Hall  
**Tickets: £10 including two course supper.**

We look forward to seeing you all on our stand at the  
**Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show - Saturday, August 10th**

**If you would like to join our friendly group, please contact Philomena on 01825 890216.**

**Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI**

**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, 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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk) 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website - [framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://framfieldcouncil.org.uk)



## FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

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)



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)*

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

At the time of writing the late spring/summer weather is starting to emerge and the children in both our Federation Schools are enjoying their outside learning opportunities and also developing their sport.

We are very lucky to have close links with Uckfield College and both schools get heavily involved in the competitive tournaments that they offer for primary schools. We've just had tag rugby and hockey and coming up is rounders, stoolball and athletics. Of course a real highlight of the year for both schools is Sports Day and it is great to see children practising their skills in PE lessons.

This time of year is also an exciting time for our year 2 and year 6 pupils as they sit National Assessments, commonly known as SATS. At both Framfield and Blackboys School we are committed in supporting the children to be the best that they can be in these assessments, without creating unnecessary strain and pressure on families. Taking assessments is just one part of life's rich tapestry and during this time the pupils still enjoy the broad and balanced curriculum we always offer; after all talented artists, musicians and historians are just as welcome as talented test takers!

A fantastic traditional trip this term sees the Year 5 and 6 pupils head to France for the day. They impress the citizens of Boulogne-Sur-Mer with their French speaking and their interest in French culture. This year the pupils will visit Nausicaa Aquarium, arguably Europe's premier aquarium, together with a cultural trail and visit to a hypermarket. As you can imagine, it is an extremely popular day.

Thank you for continuing to be interested in both Framfield and Blackboys Schools.

Don't forget to keep up to date through our websites or Twitter feeds. @framfieldcep and @blackboysschool

Graham Sullivan - Headteacher

## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

- 3rd June Cream Tea and Quiz - 2.30 pm  
With Sandy and Keith Rogers,  
Green Acres, Halland Park Farm
- 17th June Walk around Garden and Tea  
With Kathy Gore - 2.30 pm  
Framfield Grange
- 1st July Tea and Cakes and "Something Special"  
Ice Cream and Strawberries - 2.30 pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall or Green Acres,  
Halland (if a really hot day)
- 15th July Tea and Skittles with Sandy and Keith,  
Green Acres, Halland Park Farm - 2.30 pm – 5.00 pm

Any queries, please contact Sandy Rogers:

Tel - 01825 840648 | Mobile - 0759 284 1275 | [sandyrogers77@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrogers77@gmail.com)

## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

### Dates for 2019

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

29 June

27 July

August – no market.

28 September

26 October

30 November

14 December

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Cross in Hand,  
Heathfield, TN21 0DZ

Email: [graceannand@hotmail.com](mailto:graceannand@hotmail.com)

## **NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

I am very grateful to residents for re-electing me. I was lucky enough to have a healthy majority in these difficult times – and for electors to be able to differentiate between national and local politics. Be assured I try to do the best for residents through my work – I live here, why wouldn't I? I have retained the Cabinet post for Planning & Development, and also the role of Deputy Leader to the Council.

I would just like to take this opportunity to explain how the process works with regards to planning applications.

In the first instance if you have an interest in an application (applicant, supporter or an objector) always contact me if you wish to express your views because although I receive a list of recently submitted applications on a weekly basis, I will not necessarily know if there are to be any concerns. My contact details are at the bottom of this page.

Although only a consultee, it is also wise to contact the Parish Council and find out when an application will be discussed by them. Agendas are always put up on their website three days in advance of any Planning Committee meeting – [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk) and on the three village noticeboards. Ad hoc meetings are sometimes scheduled so don't rely on all the dates being in the annual meeting schedule.

When commenting on applications please always send your comments directly into Wealden District Council (the decision-making body), copying in preferably myself and the Parish Council.

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.  
Telephone - 01825 890103.  
Email – [aenewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:aenewton1965@gmail.com)

## **FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT**

The Parish Council was returned uncontested on 3 May 2019. Anyone who thinks they have the time to become a Councillor, as there are some vacancies, please let me know.

The Council now has quarterly meetings with ESCC regarding highways issues. There are significant problems with HGV's along Palehouse Common as well as the speed of vehicles on the B2192 and B2102. Our County Councillor Chris Dowling is also involved in these discussions.

The basketball area on Framfield recreation ground has been re-furbished with the assistance of a grant and the steps behind the Memorial Hall are also in the process of being replaced. There have been problems with children climbing onto the storage container on Framfield recreation ground. This is highly dangerous and it will soon be painted with anti-climb paint.

The seat outside the Hare & Hounds is going to be removed due it's unsafe condition. If anyone knows to whom the bench was dedicated I would be pleased to hear and we will contact the relatives. (The inscription has long since worn away).

Litter-picking equipment has now been purchased and although very disappointing that only two people attended the recent open session in the Memorial Hall to volunteer to help, the equipment is still available.

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 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.

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## Finding a place in God's family

**Baptism is an entry point into God's family  
but what exactly does that mean?**

If you were baptised as a child it may be a mystery. Some children and adults have never been baptised. If that's you why not join us for the forthcoming Baptism Classes being run over three evenings in July.

**Thursday evenings at 7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July (1 Hour)**

If at the end of the classes you would like to be baptised there will be a special service on the 21<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30pm.

If you would like to attend the classes please leave a message on the Church Office answer machine (01825 891090) or send an email to [rev.chris@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.chris@btinternet.com).

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### Waldon Country Market

Waldron Country Market is held at Holy Cross Priory, TN21 0DZ (Possingworth) (on the B2102 between Cross in Hand and Blackboys, near the Tunbridge Wells turn). Next markets Thursday 13th June, and Thursday 11th July.

For more information contact Graeme Mackenzie 01435 866419. There is also a Facebook link - [@WaldronCountryMarket](https://www.facebook.com/WaldronCountryMarket).

Its name should be warning enough (and if not, colloquial nicknames such as 'Satan's Rhubarb' and 'Death Cherries' underline the message). In 1597, Elizabethan physician John Gerard warned us 'banish it from your gardens' and steer well clear but we obviously weren't paying attention. An internet search today reveals recent stories of accidental deaths, comatose children and a naked, hallucinating German monk.

It is reported (but possibly exaggerated) that just three berries will kill you. Symptoms start with a dry mouth, dizziness and urinary retention (ha – so there was a link to urination after all!) and progress to delirium, convulsions and a heartbeat so furious that it can be heard from several feet away. It's all downhill from there. Incredibly, the berries are the safest part of the plant – you wouldn't want to go anywhere near the roots.

Wicked witches would use the berries in a potion to make their broomsticks rise. Wicked women in Venice, looking for a similar reaction in their men, used deadly nightshade eye drops to dilate their pupils. The plant's scientific name belladonna means 'beautiful woman.' The potential side effects of this beautification would later be the answer to the question 'how do you make a Venetian blind?'

Barcombe botanist David Lang tells a tale of a student found staggering the streets drunk and disorderly. Nothing new there – until a police doctor saw his wide eyes and realised he had been poisoned by belladonna. He was rushed to hospital where it transpired that his landlady was trying to extract medicine from the berries and was straining them through the same strainer she was using to make his coffee each morning. You won't get a kick like that in Costa. So, be cautious of this killer as you walk the Downs in June to ensure that your life, which to paraphrase Mr Joyce is already a 'parenthesis of infinitesimal brevity', is not made any briefer.

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worried niece. The owner had an idea, if I could swing my reluctant leg forward and over the saddle I could unconventionally slide down and put my feet on the steps. This manoeuvre worked and I started to slide down the horse's side but then realised I could not reach the steps. I was aware of many hands clutching me as I slid precariously towards the concrete floor, but they skilfully caught me and guided my feet onto the steps.

I had a wonderful day with these huge but so gentle Shires and all the staff. I now have the bit between my teeth and am debating whether I should have another visit to the Hurst Green Shires?

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## Deadly nightshade

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

*"A poison bouquet to strike him down"*

June 16<sup>th</sup> is Bloomsday, a celebration of the life of James Joyce, whose novel Ulysses follows Leopold Bloom's escapades on that June date in 1904. Throughout Ulysses, Joyce uses flowers to symbolize romance and the lure of the exotic. Aside from fornication Joyce also tackles expiration, hallucination and urination. All of which (well, apart from the urination) remind me of another bloom that will be raising hell around Sussex in June.

Deadly nightshade looks innocent enough. A tall plant with lush leaves and purple, bell-shaped flowers. Later in the year the glossy berries will catch your eye; dangling temptingly like black pearls. It's in the plant family Solanaceae; related to potatoes and tomatoes. But deadly nightshade isn't the sort of relative you'd invite round for dinner. And you certainly wouldn't want it anywhere near the food. It is lethally poisonous.

## Water main replacement at Palehouse Common, Framfield

This area has suffered a number of water pipe bursts which have resulted in customers not receiving any water or suffering low pressure and to help rectify the situation we will be replacing the old unreliable water main.

Work on an engineering scheme to install approximately a mile of new water main will take place along Palehouse Common between the B2192 Lewes Road junction and 12 Palehouse Common.

As a safety precaution for pedestrians, motorists and our contractor we will need to close Palehouse Common to through traffic only for the entire scheme length. A diversion route, which has been agreed in conjunction with the East Sussex County Council Highways department, will be clearly signed for the duration of the work.

Local people will be able to access their homes or businesses throughout this project although access may be subject to short delays depending on the location of work in relation to individual properties.

Construction is planned to start on Tuesday 28 May, 2019, and the project is expected to take approximately 11 weeks to complete but our contractor's staff will work hard to complete the work as quickly and safely as possible.

See also : <https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/palehouse>

# LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

## TWO HORSE EVENTS

On Easter Monday I decided to have a day out on my own, abandoning the family and even the dog! The only thing I took was my super shopping trolley loaded with my food and drink. The trolley also has a fold down seat which is so useful. The event was the London harness Horse Parade which was at the South of England showground Ardingly. Originally there was the London harness horse parade and also the London van horse parade. They were later amalgamated into the London horse parade, which is now held at Ardingly. This is very different from a horse show as it is not a competition. The object of this event is to check the condition of the horses, harness and carriages.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see a wide variety of horses and ponies and even donkeys, pulling all kinds of vehicles from an invalid carriage to impressive carriages used for weddings and funerals. There were also London trollies, milk floats and many more. Lots of the vehicles were very old and beautifully restored. A most impressive outfit was a covered wagon train.

There were the tiniest Shetlands, Welsh ponies, heavy horses and many other breeds. There are no show rings, it is all open so you can walk round where you like and watch the horses on the move or being inspected. I chose to sit and watch the veterinary and farrier inspections. The turnouts were immaculate and the horses were the picture of health with their gleaming coats. Some were very high spirited. I was surprised and impressed to see very young children confidentially driving their ponies.

The commentary was informative and there was lots of information in the catalogue a very enjoyable day out.

The second horse event was a wonderful present from the family for my last very big birthday. This event was a day at Hurst Green Shires, near Oxted for a driving and riding experience day. I was accompanied by my niece who had her own pony some years ago. I was interested in driving as it was something I had never done and it

looked easy enough. I had been taken in a pony and trap as a very young child and loved it.

We had a brief talk by the owner and were introduced to all the horses, many had been rescued. Being close to them they looked huge. I glanced at one horse and was very surprised to see a very small girl in the pen giving him a stroke and a cuddle, this massive creature gently put his head down to nuzzle his little companion. I was amazed to discover this was a stallion that would make most people very wary.

We then did some grooming and "helped" harness up the horse we were going to drive. It seemed very complicated and was extremely heavy. We then went into the sand school and practiced driving using an exercise cart; it was much more difficult than I thought it would be. I was interested that voice commands are used a lot. After lunch we practised driving outside.

Being rather old and crotchety I had no intention of riding. I had a pony when young and the last time I rode was on our honeymoon in Ireland in 1969! However the owner thought I should at least sit on one. The horse was over seventeen hands and I am very small. They optimistically brought over a set of three steps so I could reach the saddle and climb on. I was still too low but with several members of staff pushing and shoving I was more or less up there but found it very difficult getting one leg over the saddle due to my artificial hips, with someone pulling on my leg I was at last in position, feet in stirrups. It looked a very long way down to the concrete floor. They had kindly provided me with a hard hat, a child's one with a colourful bobble on the top! I was taken into the sand school and actually rode round on my own, rather nervously wondering if my mount would suddenly run off with me. In fact he was sweet and walked very carefully with his elderly rider. There was a low step leading out of the sand school. He stopped and I could not persuade him to move forward. The owner explained that he knew I was worried so just stood still. Interestingly he walked straight out with my niece who was more confident. It was now time to dismount. The steps were in position. I tried to swing my right leg backwards over the saddle but it wouldn't go. I tried again but could not lift it high enough, someone tried to help but it still would not go. I was stuck. I wondered what it would be like living the rest of my life stranded on the back of a horse! There I was surrounded by all the staff and my