

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

# Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**FEBRUARY / MARCH 2020**

## 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 Gaynor Robson

All communications for church matters should be directed to the Church Office – 10.30 am – 5.00 pm (closed Wednesday)

**Email -** revchris.framfield@gmail.com  
**Post -** Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane,  
Framfield TN22 5NH  
**Telephone/ leave a message -** 01825 891090



## From the Registers:

**Baptisms:**

**Weddings:**

**At rest:** 15<sup>th</sup> January Benjamin Douglas Harris

## Free to start again

The end of a year and the beginning of a new one gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past and perhaps make some positive changes for the year ahead. Undoubtedly, there may have been some things that you and I would be happy to leave in the past and never reflect upon again. Conversely, there may be some things that were great and definitely on the repeat do-list.

2019 is one year but as you think back over many years are there some major areas of your life that have left you with a sense of regret, anger or sadness?

One thing my wife Sarah and I try to instil upon our daughters is 'wisdom' in their decision making. Snap decisions rarely work out for the best or as my mother says 'act in haste, repent at leisure'. Unfortunately, some decisions can have major consequences but we only discover how grave or life changing some of our decisions can be from the perspective of experience.

The above may sound rather morbid and soul destroying but the fact remains that we cannot undo the past. However, one of the promises God makes to Israel after they had gone astray, is that after judgement and repentance has taken place He will restore the years that the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:25-32).

Israel could be depicted as a metaphor of our own lives. When we live without God in our lives or when we break fellowship with God our lives tend to go in a negative direction. I've personally witnessed it several times in church circles. Whenever someone leaves the church or draws away from God, for whatever reason, their lives begin to unravel. God's mandate is bless, but this is difficult if like sheep we have gone astray.

I always find it amazing that whenever some calamity happens in life God gets the blame. People rant, it's God's fault. If He is supposed to be the God of love why did He let this happen! Not all, but in the majority of cases we fall victim to our own folly or the folly of others. The universal law that 'we reap what we sow' still holds. Some calamities are unfathomable though and only God knows the present and the future – perhaps one day we will get an explanation.

However, a crisis can be a good thing. In his book *The Problem of Pain* C.S. Lewis writes "We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

Whilst studying at theological college, myself and a number of students spent three days at Highpoint Prison - Newmarket. Our role was to give a number of talks based around the Alpha Course to interested inmates. A sizable proportion had been incarcerated for drugs offences and the average sentence was apparently eight years. Approximately 40 men attended and all were reasonably interactive, except one. The man (Mark) sat at the back, head down. He listened but didn't make any eye contact. Mark was a burly guy and perhaps someone who may not wish to meet on the streets. However, on day three and unknown to us it was Mark's birthday.

During the morning session something remarkable happened. It was as though God had shone a light into Mark's heart. He experienced an overwhelming revelation that God loved and accepted him – just as he was. Suddenly, he broke down in floods of tears. This reclusive man's face lit up with pure joy and he couldn't help but hug anyone who came near him! Never say God doesn't have a sense of humour, this was some birthday present!

Amidst the jubilation we all said our goodbye's and left for home. I remember returning home via Tunbridge Wells. I did some shopping and ambled through the pedestrian precinct. What suddenly struck me was all the miserable faces!

I remember thinking, I've just left a prison and man who was beaming with joy, so I'm not totally sure who's actually in prison here, but I don't think it's Mark!

Mark would certainly have to finish his sentence, but in his new found faith in Christ he was a free man and free to start again.

I'm sure Mark would have many regrets regarding his past, but God is God and He would restore the lost years to him.

So what about your 2020? Is it time to start over, time to give God an opportunity to break into your life? Scripture says that 'signs and wonders follow the preaching of the word' so how about giving church a go? You could come anonymously, sit at the back, leave early, I/we really won't mind.

I met a man last week who had lived in Framfield for 27 years and had never set foot in the church until he attended a funeral. He said it really was quite nice – there really is hope for everyone, but the timing is crucial!

May God's blessing be upon everyone in the Parish this New Year

– Revd Chris Lawrence

## Diary of Church Services

### FEBRUARY 2020

**02 Fourth Sunday before Lent**

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing

**09 Third Sunday before Lent**

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

**16 Second Sunday before Lent**

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

**23 Sunday next before Lent**

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

### MARCH 2020

**01 First Sunday of Lent**

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing

**08 Second Sunday of Lent**

10.00 am Morning Praise  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with  
Prayer for Healing

**15 Third Sunday of Lent**

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

**22 Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**

10.00 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

**29 Fifth Sunday of Lent**

10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020  
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**



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

**9<sup>th</sup> February 10.00 am  
8<sup>th</sup> March 10.00 am**

### **Advertising in the Parish Magazine**

**Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact me as soon as possible.** Please ask friends and family who have businesses if they would consider advertising or trades and businesses that your household use. For the last two years the magazine has not broken even so more adverts are imperative for the long-term future of the magazine. 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.  
Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182.  
Email: [clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk).  
Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

### **Nature Notes**

One of the most puzzling biological things to me is the bizarre variation in the longevity of individual animals. We humans regularly live to 70 years these days, and often much longer such as the dancer recently featured on the news who was 98 and still winning dancing competitions. However, our dogs (genetically, tame wolves) only live to about 14 years, but seem to have healthy lives. Tortoises regularly exceed 100 years before dying, but adult mayflies only live for one day, and do not even have mouths or any other means of eating or securing energy. Herring gulls and other seabirds frequently live longer than 30 years, but blue tits are lucky to make it to one year. Slow worms can also live to 30 years or more and breed for most of those years, but pacific salmon all die after their first attempt at breeding.

Why is there so much variation in the length of time an organism can live. A yew tree such as the one in the cemetery of St Margaret's Church in Buxted park can live to excess of 3,000 years old and produce hundreds of seeds every year if it is a female, but if you plant a grain of wheat, it will grow and produce about 22 seeds per head and 5 heads (110 seeds) per plant which will die in less than one year.

We all hope to live as long as possible and have a productive life, but why don't all organisms try to live as long as possible, some clearly do, but others are programmed to die after a very short time. The pyramid of numbers in the trophic levels within an ecosystem makes a fascinating study. For example, I have been studying blue tits recently, and I found that the caterpillars of several moth species can almost completely defoliate (eat all the leaves) of a mighty 300-year-old oak between April and June. However, one family of blue tits can consume up to 1000 caterpillars on a single day for 18-22 days before the young birds leave the nest, they will carry on eating them after that as well. However, one family of sparrow hawks can consume the equivalent of 40 blue tits per day for 24-30 days in the nest before fledging.

The perpetuation of life on planet earth depends on the rapid reproduction of many organisms and consumption of others to support a complex ecosystem and the beautiful diversity of life that we all see.

*Martyn Stenning*



.....the place to meet

Apart from the Community Hub based at the Grove Café, in Framfield and Blackboys Parish we have a number of venues where residents can meet and socialise for a variety of different activities; two village halls, a church hall, two pubs and three playing fields. The Hub is now excited to be using Blackboys Village Hall every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. We are aware that in our local, and wider, community there are people from all age groups who, for a wide variety of reasons, live on their own.

Weekends for some of these people can be very long and lonely

times. If you live alone, or know someone who does, and you would like to enjoy Sunday lunch in the company of others then 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch is for you. With the help of Andrew from the Grove Café, served at 1pm the Hub offers a two course lunch with tea/coffee for £8. **Reserve your place in advance** with Gillian, her details are given below, and we'd love to see you there.

We also now have regular access to The Space, the meeting room next to the Grove. If you have any ideas for Community Hub activities that could take place in The Space then please contact Sharon, details below.

Our Hub timetable now contains six great activities:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Get Crafty</b> , 10am Bring along your knitting, crochet, small sewing or craft project and natter while you work.   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Elevenses with Company</b> , 11am If you don't often get to meet other people, this is an opportunity to get together with people who live in your community and make new friends.   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Book Group</b> , 10am every 1st Wednesday of the month. Pick up this month's book, discuss last month's book and anything else you have read.<br><b>Creative Writing</b> , 2pm to 3pm, every other Wednesday during Term Time. An opportunity to discuss your ideas and then spend some time writing them up. Dates for next meetings: 5th and 26th February, 11th and 25th March. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Happy to Chat Day</b> , 9am to 4pm. Sit at the Hub's communal table and enjoy the company of others.   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, Lunch</b> , 1pm. For people who live alone, lunch in the company of others. Two course lunch with tea/coffee £8. <b>RESERVE YOUR PLACE:</b> Contact Gillian on 07729 478797 or email <a href="mailto:3rdSundayLunch@gmail.com">3rdSundayLunch@gmail.com</a> Venue: BLACKBOYS VILLAGE HALL, Gun Road, TN22 5YJ                            |

Unless stated activities are free to attend but we ask that refreshments are purchased to thank The Grove for their hospitality.

If you are able to help in anyway or if you have any ideas for events you would like to see happening at the Community Hub you can let Sharon have your ideas by emailing her at [hub@thegroveblackboys.co.uk](mailto:hub@thegroveblackboys.co.uk), see her at Elevenses or leave your idea and contact details with staff at The Grove.

The Community Hub at The Grove, Brownings Farm Workshops, Lewes Road, Blackboys TN22 5HG

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch

If you live alone and would like to enjoy Sunday lunch in the company of others, why not join us at the Blackboys Village Hall?



**Every third  
Sunday of  
the month at  
1.00pm**

**A two course  
lunch with tea or  
coffee for  
£8**

**To reserve your place** or for more details please contact Gillian on 07729 478797 or email [3rdSundayLunch@gmail.com](mailto:3rdSundayLunch@gmail.com)

The Blackboys Village Hall  
Gun Road  
Blackboys TN22 5YJ

Hosted by The Community Hub in association with The Grove Farmhouse Café



## J.W Ground Maintenance

Please contact Jonathan for a free quote and friendly advice.  
Chainsaw certified and insured.



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- Patio's, paving and stone work.
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- Mowing.
- Garden management and Landscaping.
- Window cleaning.
- Or for a day of odd jobs in the garden.

Mobile; 07999 355 489 / Landline 01825 890 724  
Email; jwgroundmaintenance@hotmail.co.uk



## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

- 3rd February      Boccia (Bowls) 2.30 pm  
Framfield Memorial Hall
- 17th February    Chairbased Activities 2.30 pm – Tombola  
With Louise Knight at Framfield Memorial Hall
- 2nd March        Ray Young to Show Film  
"Valley of Incas, Lost City of Machu Picchu"  
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30 pm
- 16th March        Speaker from Cumbria - Colin Belsey  
"The Life of a Jersey Policeman"  
Framfield Memorial Hall 2.30 pm

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

### The Best Laid Plans...Not Blown Away in 2019!

So we had great intentions for the Summer Show in 2019. There was to be a Spitfire Flypast, pipe and drums, dancing and stalls in abundance. And then along came the prediction of windy weather and there were the inevitable cancellations. So with a "Field of Dreams" approach, we built it in the hope that people would come on an increasingly windy Friday.

The gazebos were strapped down, the usual paraphernalia was set up and the big marquee and Memorial Hall set out ready to accept the exhibits due to arrive the next morning. Then we hoped!

On the windy Saturday at 6am, the inspection of the field showed everything survived the night.

The people of the parish turned up with flowers, jams, vegetables and crafts to populate the tables and the result was the usual full array of wonderful exhibits. By 10am the judging could begin.

It seems that other shows on the day cancelled their entire event but we persevered with a reduced programme and less stalls. People still came for the spectacle, spent their money and enjoyed the show. We thank you for your support!

Sadly the Spitfire never took off from Lincolnshire for its sequence of 10 shows and the pipers didn't pipe nor the dancers dance. However, we must thank the Uckfield Colts for their perseverance and determination. The assorted races and Egg Throwing Championship filled the arena with laughing faces. Scarecrows were there around the arena to witness the events. The Dog Show was its usual success story, bringing dogs of all breeds and skills to that area of the field. Our shortened show ended with the auction of exhibits resulting in bargains for those who stayed.

So thank you to everyone who helped make the Summer Show take place against the vagaries that the weather threw at us in whatever capacity, whether staffing a stall, baking cakes for the refreshment tent, putting things

up on the Friday morning, putting stuff away at the end on Saturday or bringing exhibits by the handful.

A particular thanks must go to the efforts of the Summer Show Committee whose tireless work throughout the year enables the Summer Show to take place. All said and done, "we built it and, yes, you did come" and amazingly nothing was damaged!

Onward to Show 2020... and the Spitfire is already booked! Keep an eye out for the schedule with the Parish Magazine next spring and see you on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

*Terry Everitt (Chair) for the Summer Show Committee*

if you are not a member and think it sounds like an interesting and varied programme why not join the Society now – at £6 (individual member) or £10 (family membership)- it really is a bargain. However if you prefer to come to an individual event you will be very welcome; the charge for non-members is £3, but come to two and you would cover your annual membership so why not contact Emma Page at [fabhs.membership@gmail.com](mailto:fabhs.membership@gmail.com) and join the Society!

For details of all events and to book places where necessary please contact Sarah Hince at [fabhs.events@gmail.com](mailto:fabhs.events@gmail.com) or telephone her on 01435 863364. For other enquiries please get in touch with Trevor Hince (01435 863364; [trevor.hince@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.hince@gmail.com) ).

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## Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

Here we are in a new year already! Time does go by so fast.

We did well for our charity last year so this year we are collecting for the TN22 club.

We have a very good events list for this year with a visit to the Cats Protection in Chelwood Gate, various talks planned, one on scamming which is very relevant these days.

If anyone is interested in joining us please ring me.

Ann Dawe 01825 890506



## FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Christmas is behind us and as we move into a New Year, indeed a new decade, our gardens begin to prepare for a new season too. There are green shoots emerging from the spring bulbs and it will only be a week or two before the first snowdrop flowers are out. These will be followed by a succession of beautiful spring flowers – yellow Aconites, Cyclamen coum varieties, little Iris Reticulata, then Chionodoxa, Muscari and Scillas culminating in the many Narcissus varieties which will take us from February through to April. So a lot to look forward to as the days lengthen, not only in our gardens but also in the Society's programme of events for 2020.

The Society's year starts on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March with the ever popular Quiz Night (at Blackboys Village Hall) when we can expect an entertaining and fun-filled evening to test our horticultural knowledge (loosely) and our lateral thinking (definitely). Teams are of six so get together to form your own team or just come along and slot in. Bring your own refreshments and the Society will provide tea, coffee and nibbles. Please let Sarah Hince know if you are getting a team together – it helps us to know numbers so that we can get the hall set up appropriately! We look forward to seeing you there.

Planning is already well underway for the 2020 Summer Show (Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August) when we are hoping for lovely weather (we deserve it this year), record entries, lots of different stalls, and an action packed arena programme. However we have one major problem - The Framfield and Blackboys **DOG SHOW** is a key feature of the Summer Show and attracts many dogs and their owners to the Show ground for a fun-filled and not too serious canine event. With over a dozen classes many of which are 'novelty' such as the 'Most Waggiest Tail' it is a great favourite with local owners. **BUT, unless we can find somebody to organise it this year it WILL NOT HAPPEN. So if you, either alone or with friends, would be willing to run it or know somebody who might then please contact Terry Everitt ([terry.everitt@outlook.com](mailto:terry.everitt@outlook.com) or tel. 01825 891392). We really do need your help if we are not to disappoint all our local canine friends.**

For details of all Society events and to book places where necessary please contact Sarah Hince at [fabhs.events@gmail.com](mailto:fabhs.events@gmail.com) or telephone her on 01435 863364. If you have not yet renewed your membership or wish to join the Society then please get in touch with Emma Page at [fabhs.membership@gmail.com](mailto:fabhs.membership@gmail.com) . For other enquiries please get in touch with Trevor Hince (01435 863364; [trevor.hince@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.hince@gmail.com) ).

## Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show 2019 - Results

| Trophy/Section/Award                                       | Winner              |                    |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| The Hobbs Barton Cup                                       | Denise Taylor       |                    |
| The John Dann Cup  | Jenny Bacon         |                    |
| The New Whyly Perpetual Challenge Cup                      | Fiona Fidler        |                    |
| The Trevor Horscroft Cup                                   | Neville Pratt       |                    |
| The Cyril Jeffery Memorial Plate                           | Denise Taylor       |                    |
| The David Hazelden Plate                                   | Emma Page           |                    |
| The Peter Butler Plate                                     | Phillip Manning     |                    |
| The Dennis White Memorial Cup                              | Jenny Bacon         |                    |
| The Elsie Jeffery Jug                                      | Chantal Roser       |                    |
| The Geddes Rose Bowl                                       | Jenny Bacon         |                    |
| The Williams Cup   | Valerie Letley      |                    |
| The Frank Leeves Perpetual Challenge Cup                   | Trevor Hince        |                    |
| The Gordon-Wilson Cup                                      | Alison Wright       |                    |
| The Askew Perpetual Challenge Bowl                         | Denise Taylor       |                    |
| The Colonel Nigel Drew Cup                                 | Denise Taylor       |                    |
| The Whitewood Perpetual Challenge Cup                      | Denise Taylor       |                    |
| The Henry Cup  | Jacky Woodgate      |                    |
| The Don & Wilma Diplock Memorial Cup                       | Jacky Woodgate      |                    |
| The New Place Perpetual Challenge Cup                      | Rachel Owen         |                    |
| The Barbara Briault Cup                                    | Daisy Holland       |                    |
| The Makepeace Cup  | Joan Turner         |                    |
| The Moore Miniature Challenge Cups                         | Up to 4 yrs         | Logan Holland      |
|  | 5-7 yrs             | Iris Adamski       |
|  | 8-10 yrs            | Daisy Holland      |
|  | 11-16 yrs           | Zibah van der Berg |
| The Sampson Bowl   | Susan Owen          |                    |
| The Barbara & Horace Moore Cup                             | Indi Adamski        |                    |
| The Burton Bowl  | Mark Owen           |                    |
| The Jeffery Victor Ludorum Trophy                          |                     |                    |
| Diploma for Excellence in Horticulture                     | Fiona Fidler        |                    |
| Certificate of Merit for Floral Art                        | David McSheehy      |                    |
| Junior Competitor's Award of Merit                         | Margot Rabson Stark |                    |
| Junior Competitor's Award of Merit                         | Indi Adamski        |                    |
| The National Vegetable Society – Silver Medal & Diploma    | Denise Taylor       |                    |
| Bronze Banksian Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society | Fiona Fidler        |                    |
| Scarecrow Competition                                      |                     |                    |

## LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

### CHLOE

I am sure people who read my articles will be very sad to hear that that Chloe my Newfoundland that I have often written about died before Christmas, she was nearly ten. She died at home only one day after being diagnosed with cancer. She had enjoyed a walk on Ashdown Forest just a week before, and only a few days before her diagnosis she was helping me in our wood carrying my garden trug loaded up with tools. She then pulled up some brambles for me, complete with roots, a job she loved.

When young she had two accidents and an operation and was on very restricted exercise. To keep her happy and occupied I decided to teach her to help me in the house and later outside. She loved these “games” so much we continued after she was fit again. She learnt to do an incredible number of tasks, many very unusual and complex. The list is endless as she helped with everything. She carried the shopping in and would even go out on her own to collect a loaded basket left by the car while I started to put the shopping away. Sorting the rubbish was another job she was good at. She learnt to put things in the recycling bin or the landfill bin and would fetch the compost bin. She also knew “dustbin” - I would call out “dustbin” and she would go into the kitchen and find the bag of rubbish I would leave on the floor, often with meat scraps and bones in it. She would then take it outside and sit by the dustbin waiting for me to put it in. We also did litter picking in our local lanes. She would pick up anything I indicated and carry it home and again sit by the dustbin. Recently she carried a plastic bottle half a mile back home. Anything unsuitable for her to pick up I would put in a bag and she would carry that home.

She could do anything I asked from fetching my glasses and placing them on the desk for me, without a mark on them; to carefully helping me through thick muds on one of our walks. Often tired at the end of a walk I would say “pull me up” and could hold a handful of warm fur as she pulled me up our steep drive and step leading up to the back door.

She always carried a red handbag often to the post box at the end of the lane and also to visits to the vets. Everybody staff and clients loved to see her



carefully carrying her bag through the crowded room, past people, dogs and cats and rabbits in baskets.

Chloe had the most wonderful temperament and was so gentle and sweet with adults, children and dogs.

I loved to sit on a cushion on the floor with Chloe's huge head across my lap while I stroked her. It was perfect. She will be sadly missed by my family and everybody who knew her

Hazel Carter 01825830477

info@hazel-carter.co.uk

[www.hazel-carter.co.uk](http://www.hazel-carter.co.uk)

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## **POPPY APPEAL 2019**

This year I must begin with an apology. The delivery of poppies to me was three weeks later than usual. That meant that the collectors could not go round until the weekend of 2nd 3rd November and many of you had already bought your poppies elsewhere.

Although the total collection was well down on last year, the total of £1551 was a great effort by everyone in very difficult circumstances.

I hope all will be back to normal next year and with an extra effort we can get up to the £2000 that I was hoping for this year. To do this I need at least six more collectors. It really doesn't take long to cover a small area of the parish, just an hour or so at the end of October,

Once again, I am most grateful for the continued support of all the House to House collectors and all that have Home Collecting boxes.

If you can help next year or would like a home collecting box for your loose change, please contact me.

I do hope that I can find more people for the 2020 appeal.

David Jenner

davidjenner@outlook.com 01825 890632 07881 786785

## **FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT**

At their November meeting, the Parish Council set the budget/precept for 2020/21 at £62,320. This is an increase of 93p per year to a Band D Council Tax payer.

The Parish Council has agreed to continue with four extra 'urban' grass cuts of the Parish making the total number of cuts carried out by ESCC to six. The Council also continues to help subsidise the Saturday bus service.

Due to the continuing degradation of our roads, there is to be a drive round with the ESCC Highways Steward to highlight all the problems including the ones which arise regularly each year to see if some preventative measures can be taken by ESCC instead of just reactive.

Framfield Village Market (usually the last Saturday in the month) – please do come along and have a look at local craft wares and produce, and have a cup of coffee. All proceeds go towards the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 10 am. Dates for this year are detailed elsewhere in the magazine.

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)



The Framfield Stagers Present

# *Sleeping Beauty*

A Family Pantomime by Limelight Scripts

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> & Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>

February 2020 at 7.30pm

Saturday Matinee 2.30pm

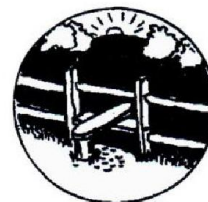
Framfield Memorial Hall, The Street, Framfield, TN22 5NR

Tickets £8 or £5 for aged 11 and under

Box Office: 01825 890101

[www.theframfieldstagers.homesteadcloud.com](http://www.theframfieldstagers.homesteadcloud.com)

All money raised will be donated to local charities



**Framfield & Blackboys WI**

**BUILDING ON A PROUD HISTORY**

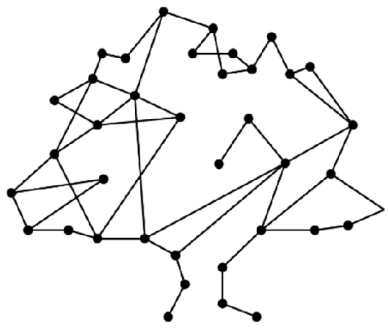
The WI was founded 105 years ago to inform, educate and teach a range of practical skills to women in rural communities. It quickly developed into a campaigning organisation which was the first to demand equal pay for women. The WI raised concerns about addictive drugs as early as 1966 and began campaigning for free family planning and nursery care in 1970. Right back in 1978 the WI began raising awareness about marine pollution and the effects of violent and pornographic material on children, and campaigned for improved information on HIV/AIDS as early as 1986. The attempt to improve quality of life continues with campaigns on ending modern slavery and the need for research on female crash dummies among the resolutions under discussion for this coming year.

Today, the organisation consists of a hugely diverse group of WI's some of which are very craft oriented, some are great bakers and jam makers, some like the Calendar Girls, have raised a phenomenal amount of funds for charity, some - like us - have a group of members many of whom excel at these various activities while others simply enjoy the friendship and support of a diverse group of women. We enjoy Company, laughter and fun, outings and shopping trips, events where you can try new activities, and interesting and inspiring speakers.

Here is a taste of our programme for the next couple of months. Please feel welcome to come along as a guest and find out what we're about. Meetings are at Framfield Memorial Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

February 11th      **Members Evening**      - Time to Catch-up  
 March 10th        **Detection Dogs Demo**      - With Paul Green

If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Short on 01825 890854  
 Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI



# NEWLIFE

Dear Readers

I hope you had a memorable Christmas and are looking forward to all that this new year, new decade will bring.

I spoke at our church on the first Sunday of 2020 about a sculpture, an extraordinary one at that. If you've visited St Peter's Basilica in Rome, you may already guess what I'm about to refer to...

It is of course, the 'Pietà', by Michelangelo, sculpted from a single block of beautiful Carrara marble, which took two years to complete.

It's a poignant, dramatic sight - Mary the mother of Christ, cradling him, dead, in her arms. The figures are deliberately slightly out of proportion, due to the difficulty of depicting a grown man cradled full length in a woman's lap. Also, critics point out that Mary's face looks too young at this point in the drama of Christ's life.

It's been suggested that Michelangelo's inspiration for this stunning sculpture came from the line in Dante's 'La Divina Commedia', 'Vergine madre, figlia del tuo figlio' - 'Virgin mother, daughter of your son'. This exquisite work of a Renaissance master craftsman is a must-see sight.

As I look at this masterpiece from 1498, I'm arrested by a deeper thought.

Michelangelo 'saw' the finished work in his mind's eye, long before he picked up hammer or chisel. He knew exactly what he wanted to see 'emerge' from this block of marble before he began work on it.

It was as if he was 'releasing' trapped figures, stuck inside their stone prison, shaping them to his predetermined, exact design. His sharp instruments applied expertly to the marble helped the figures 'escape' from their confinement.

I wonder if there's an application here for us?

Maybe God sees the 'prison' we're in, and mysteriously allows what may feel like hammer blows and sharp hurts of the chisel, life's dramas, to draw us to himself? Maybe they can cause us to cry out to him, so that he can help us?

Is God the Master Sculptor who knows exactly how to liberate us from the situations we find ourselves in? Even though the process may well be painful, I believe God knows how to rescue us carefully, with a kindness we can't yet see or understand at this point, to set us free. As we place our trust in him, he will bring forth a beautiful work in our lives, a finished masterpiece, according to his eternal design for our individual lives, something utterly 'squisito' (love that Italian word!).

As you start this new decade, my prayer is that 'all things work together for good', for you, as you trust God into the years ahead.

Happy New Year!

Clive

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## FUNDING AVAILABLE in 2020 FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Framfield and Blackboys Summer Show went ahead, despite the terrible weather, and thanks to your wonderful support made a profit. So we are all very pleased that, as last year, a portion of this will be available to the 'Community Fund' to support projects which benefit the local community.

With money from last year's show we were able to help the 'Monday Club' and the 'Framfield Stagers' and who benefits this year is, again, up to you. There is £300 available from the 2019 Show but how it will be spent depends on which project(s) is chosen from the proposals that you put forward. Application can be made via a simple form available from the people listed below. The form also sets out the rules of the scheme, for instance the 'local community' means the residents of Blackboys, Framfield and Palehouse Common. Applications need to be submitted by 30th April 2020 and if awarded funding can start from November. There is no specific remit for the fund other than to help provide 'benefit' to the community. If you are not sure whether your particular 'cause' is eligible and would like to talk about it, please contact Trevor Hince (details below).

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

## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2020

**Memorial Hall, Framfield**  
**The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.**

**25 January**  
**29 February**  
**28 March**  
**25 April**  
**30 May**  
**27 June**  
**25 July**  
**August – no market.**  
**26 September**  
**31 October**  
**28 November**  
**19 December**

**Please contact Ann Newton with any queries – 01825 890182 or  
email [clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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### **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.

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

WDC Wealden Local Plan – I mentioned in my last article that I intended to hold a meeting on the Plan once the letter from the Inspector has been received. As many of you will know the letter has arrived and it is not good news. WDC is very disappointed by the decision of the Inspector to find that they cannot proceed with their Local Plan as submitted and a formal recommendation will be made at the Full Council meeting in February to withdraw it.

We will now be working on a new Plan which ultimately will mean many more houses across the District. This does not however mean that there won't be restrictions on development – our appeal record also speaks for itself – poor sites unsuitable for development can and will continue to be rejected.

WDC have issued a fact sheet which will be on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page by the time this is published. I am also happy to provide anyone with an email link or hard copy. I still intend holding a meeting – this may well be as part of the Annual Parish Meeting in March. If anyone has any concerns please do make contact – my details are below.

Climate Emergency Action Plan – a number of priority areas have been highlighted in an extensive Climate Emergency Action Plan approved by WDC in December. These include reducing energy in buildings, moving away from the use of fossil fuels to low or zero emission technologies and the use of vehicles with low and zero emission alternatives. The full report is available on the WDC website.

All kennels and catteries in Wealden have received a new star rating for the first time. 16 have achieved the top 5-star rating and in total 9 kennels and 18 catteries have been approved through the scheme. All the listings can be found on the WDC website so that your pet can be guaranteed the best possible experience whilst you are away.

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



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)

Happy New Term!

I'd like to introduce myself as the new manager at Blackboys Pre-School. We've had an exciting first week where everything looks different but the welcome is still warm. I am getting to know our amazing children and their families in my new role. Two little fairies arrived with me, bringing their own tree (!) and some fairy lights. Children have been weaving stories around the cozy nooks, role play and blocks; making a lovely mess at the water tray; creating beautiful patterns with the natural resources; and did you know we have diamonds! Our room has lots of space to wander, imagine, build, make marks, sing and play games; but without too many resources for children to become overwhelmed.

Teachers and children sit and talk together during snacks and meals. We go out in (almost) all weathers, whether visiting our chickens, digging for treasure (worms, millipedes and potatoes thus far) or playing in our garden.

We are working hard as a team to follow children's individual interests and support creative, imaginative play, as well as providing a warm and nurturing environment.

If you would like to visit with your child aged 2-5 (pre-Reception), or discuss any specific needs, please get in touch. We are based in Blackboys Village Hall and are open 8.30 a.m.– 3.30 p.m Monday to Friday during term- time.

Marian Brooke, Manager, Blackboys Preschool 01825 891113  
Charity number: 1026132

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Cross in Hand,  
Heathfield, TN21 0DZ

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

### Waldron 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 February, and Thursday 12th March.

For more information contact Graeme Mackenzie 01435 866419. There is also a Facebook link - @WaldronCountryMarket.



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## Framfield Parish Council

### MEETING SCHEDULE 2020

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 28 January (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Tuesday, 31 March (PC meeting and Annual Parish meeting [8 pm]) –  
Memorial Hall, Framfield

Tuesday, 26 May (Annual Parish Council meeting, and PC meeting) – Village  
Hall, Blackboys

Tuesday, 28 July (AGM of the Trusts and PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

29 September (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

24 November (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

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.

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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:*

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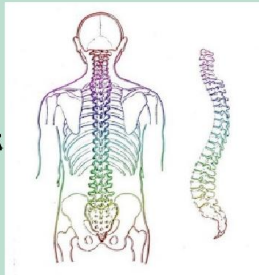
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## USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

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Adult social care – 0345 60 80 191 - [HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto: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

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