

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

Parish Magazine



Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2021

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

**N.B. The church office will be closed from 25th July to 8th August inclusive*



From the Registers

Baptisms: None

Weddings: None

At rest:
19th July Ernest (Ernie) Alan Standing
20th July Cynthia Bowan Foregard

A time to stop and consider.

I don't wish to complain but so far this year's summer has taken quite a while to get going when compared to 2020 where it was virtually sunny from March to September. I must admit that summer is my preferred season. Perhaps it is the ease of being able to wear shorts and a T-shirt rather than dressing up for the cold and wet weather. Long summer evenings are a delight and the peaceful views across the countryside as the sun is setting are magical.

There's a feel-good factor about summer that brings people out and puts a smile on their faces. The colours associated with summer are also intoxicating; personally, I can stare for ages at the contrast of the blue sky with a few white clouds and the rich green of the grass and trees. Have you noticed that the various shades of green found in the countryside bring a profound sense of peace to the soul?

Seascapes are also places of rest and revitalisation. There is something profound about the simplicity of sitting on a beach, watching and listening to the ebb and flow of the sea against the backdrop of a blue skyline. The words from Psalm 23 come to mind:

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,³ he restores my soul.

The countryside and the seas are two places where 'less is more'. As we gaze out, the vista engages with us; but do we perceive what's being communicated?

King David understood how our surroundings are communicating with us but at a much deeper level. He writes in Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

³They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Many people fully appreciate the beauty of creation but fail to see the Creator who brought creation into existence. God can easily be dismissed if the majesty of God is swallowed up by the use of erroneous terms such as 'Mother Nature'.

The created order has many roles but the main one is to point us to God. Reflect for a moment on St Paul's words found in Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

In a nutshell, can anyone totally dismiss the existence of God if they can perceive the beauty and majesty found in creation?

The answer has to be an emphatic 'no' but spiritual forces are at play to keep us mortals in ignorance. Paul, writing this time in 2 Corinthians 4:4 says:

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

If we are blind to the Author of Creation, then we are blind to Christ and if we are blind to Christ we are blind to the eternal life that He offers to us through the Gospel; the Good News of salvation. Yet having said that, the reaching out or the longing for eternity is present within every human being. Solomon writing in Ecclesiastes 3:11 says this about God and our relationship with Him:

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil – this is the gift of God. ¹⁴I know that everything God does will endure for ever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will reverence him.

As we advance in age our own mortality comes more to the fore. If you go to more wakes than parties then time maybe short! Our perception of time can be fickle and as Solomon reminds us; **There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die (Ecc 3:1).**

In the grand scheme of things, life does appear short and in these uncertain times it's not an unreasonable thing to think about one's future destiny should the worst happen. Since the 19th July, the church has been fully open for services although we will be taking sensible precautions. So is it time engage with the church and see what God offers, or perhaps for others consider reengaging if you haven't been for a while? It is never a waste of time to find out more about God and the salvation He offers through Christ. At the very least you can make an informed decision, but pleading ignorance after death frankly won't cut it with God, we have to make our choice while we still have breath.

I'll close with a few words from the American artist, LaCrae - **'If I'm wrong about God then I wasted my life. If you're wrong about God then you wasted your eternity'**.

Blessings to one and all, I hope you have a great summer - *Revd Chris Lawrence*

Diary of Church Services

Many thanks to everyone for their support over the past year. Any remaining Covid precautionary measures are in place to make your visit a safe one. The latest information is always on the Church Website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

AUGUST 2021

- 01 **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise with Peter Berry
- 08 **Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service with Christine Hayler
- 15 **Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 22 **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise
- 29 **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise with Rev'd John Cleaver

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 05 **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 12 **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service
- 19 **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

- 26 **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th SEPTEMBER 2021**

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

Framfield Church – Coronavirus Update, Post 19th July 2021

In light of the lifting of Covid restrictions (19th July) and the onus of personal responsibility being left in our court, it would seem prudent to retain some of the precautions when attending church services as cases of Covid are generally on the rise across Wealden i.e.

1. When arriving at church please use the Track and Trace NHS QR code if you can, if not then please sign in.
2. Continue to use the hand sanitiser on arrival.
3. We will sing hymns and songs but with facemasks in place. We hope to reintroduce live music shortly at the Family and Morning Praise services subject to the musicians and singers being available and agreeable.
4. We will open up the pews but please seat yourself at a respectful distance from those around you or from those who are not part of your family group.
5. During Holy Communion services we will stay in our places to share the Peace.
6. Holy Communion will be given in one kind only i.e. wafers. We will not share the Common Cup of wine for the time being.
7. We will be serving coffee after the 10am service in the church hall.

We hope the measures are agreeable to everyone as we enter this new phase. We will of course review the position as time passes or new information / legislation comes to our notice.

Service Live streaming – GDPR Regulations

We remain committed to live streaming services. If you are self-isolating or have limited mobility, our streamed services are for you. We hope to provide a viable church experience for the housebound. The link for the Sunday 10am service may be found on the front page of church website

www.framfieldchurch.org.uk. Broadcasting usually starts a few minutes before 10am.

All services are archived so that they remain available after the stream finishes. They will be stored on the Vimeo service, which you can access for free.

Note for those attending services: - In keeping with GDPR regulations if anyone would rather not appear in the on-line broadcast please seat yourself in the pews at the rear half of the church.

Supporting you during the pandemic

As a church we are committed to supporting you, the parishioners of Framfield, Blackboys and Palehouse Common. The pandemic and its effects pose a physical health risk as we all understand, but times of isolation and uncertainty can also significantly affect our mental wellbeing. If anyone would like a chat then do please call. I'm usually in the Church Office Monday to Friday 10am-5pm (except Wednesday) on the office telephone number (01825 891090). If you get the answer machine, do please leave a message.

Supporting the Church

During the pandemic we have been looking at ways in which we may mitigate the financial loss to the church and at the very least cover our basic overheads. As lovely as they are, the upkeep of historic buildings is expensive and at the moment we are just about covering the monthly bills. Many of our parishioners support the church financially but the use of cash has been seriously curtailed over the past year. However, we have set up an online giving page at: www.framfieldchurch.org.uk/donate.html We would be very grateful for your help – like all organisations our costs have continued, but our income has diminished significantly. If you are able to help financially and keep the church viable for the future please donate through the 'Give a Little' icon. Thank you.



We really, really, need some additional help in the Churchyard – We are very grateful to everyone who works diligently in the churchyard. At three and a half acres it is a mammoth task. However, it is greatly appreciated by us and the local community but we really could do with more help as our current workforce is small in number and isn't getting any younger or healthier. Even if it's for the odd hour it all makes a difference.

If anyone in the local community is willing to lend a hand do please speak to Freddy Pratt (Tel: 07791 731021) as to what is required – thank you.

Living in Faith and Love

Summer/ Autumn Course – 5 Sessions: Living in Faith and Love. Starting Monday 13th September 2021 @7pm in church. This course addresses some of the most fundamental questions regarding Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. How do you feel about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues that challenge society and the traditions of the church? It will be an interesting course and a platform for open discussion. The course is open to anybody in the local community and to all age groups. Do please join us we would value your input. Gaynor Robson will be leading the sessions.

Nature Notes

Prof. Brian Cox concluded one of his recent documentaries about the cosmos by saying that “we are here because *we have to be*”. I have just been watching the wildlife in our garden, and there are fledgling jackdaws calling to each other and their parents, collared doves trying to defend their nest from a magpie, a grey squirrel eating an unripe apple in our fruit tree and a Planet Earth-coloured blue tit taking sunflower hearts from a bird feeder. This is in a background of tall birch trees, an herby lawn allowed to grow with clover and birds-foot-trefoil and a pond full of metamorphosing tadpoles/frogs. All there because *they have to be!*

I try not to make value judgements about the organisms in the garden, simply *because* they have to, or *should*, be there. However, it may be that we humans have to sometimes attempt to correct mistakes of the past by ‘gardening for wildlife’, which does sometimes mean making value judgements, i.e., weeding, especially in favour of those animals and plants that have been rendered rare by some of our human predecessors.

Every plant and animal species has a history, jackdaws are a type of crow and all crows originated in Australia before radiating naturally around the globe due to their ability to fly. Grey squirrels originated in North America but were introduced by humans to Britain in 1876. They have decimated Britain’s native red squirrels, but are still innocent animals with entertaining behaviour. If we get too judgemental about an organism, we could end up persecuting them all unfairly for some reason or another. After all, we are part of nature as well. However, the natural world needs management because we humans have a responsibility of stewardship due to our disproportionate numbers and impact upon it. As Sir David Attenborough has said “We have overrun the planet”. Do we have a moral duty to carefully share this blue, yellow, green, white and black Earth with all other forms of life that *should* be where we find it?

When I was a teenager, I discovered a lovely piece of prose called ‘**The Desiderata**’ (Things Desired) written by Max Ehrmann (1920) who pre-empted Prof. Cox’s words as it includes: ...”whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it *should*”.

Martyn Stenning

Correction to the June/July issue: “the temperature for insects flying from 100 C” should have read “..from 10⁰ C” . Apologies [editor]

Blackboys Village Hall, Blackboys Pavilion and Framfield Memorial Hall

With immediate effect, if anyone is wishing to hire one of our halls, please note that we now have a single point of contact for all of them:

Email clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Or

Phone (Office Hours) 01825 890182

(Please leave a message on answerphone with your contact details)

FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

This is to confirm that as from the 31st May 2021 on our 60th year Framfield and Blackboys Monday club is now CLOSED.

And for the Last time to send our Thanks to ALL who have opened Gardens or had us to the house or help at Parties or helped in anyway at All.

To finally dispose of Monies in our Care :-

£250 Donated to Uckfield Mens' Shed, Oak Farm, Framfield, Run by Chris Sherwood and David Eggington, Members of the Uckfield Lions.

£500 Donated to the Uckfield and District Lions Club, Chairman John Carvey, as seen in the enclosed pictures. This left us a small amount of £28.56 to be used next year or so, For a reunion bring and share get together of Members, for a last goodbye.

With Many Thanks to Framfield Parish Council, Uckfield Town Council, Uckfield Bonfire and Carnival Society, and to Private Donations, etc, that have been made over the years. With Grateful Thanks.

Sandy Rogers

Crowborough Arts and Open Studios



Left:
Sandy presents a cheque for
£ 250 to Uckfield Mens' Shed

Below:
Sandy presents a cheque for
£ 500 to Uckfield and District
Lions Club Chairman John
Carvey



It's been a long road during the last year of lockdown with cancelled and scaled down events for everybody. It was our CA's tenth Birthday, and we had lots planned which had to be cancelled. What does Crowborough Arts do? It aims to build up Arts in the Community and support the practitioners. We have had over a hundred events, concerts, exhibitions, guest speakers, workshops, in-house themed entertainment and literary events. All manner of art work has continued at home during the pandemic and artists have been enabled to show and sell their work in a virtual gallery on our website. Our first live opening up event is CA's Open Studios on the weekend of the 4th and 5th September 2021. Nearer the time you may see the signs on the roadside, and wonder what it's all about. It is a showcase for local artists, both amateur and professional. This year there are 14 studios in and around Crowborough. We have 7 new artists sharing 2 studios at Fairwarp. Visiting Open Studios is like being on a treasure hunt, finding the studios, seeing different homes and gardens, talking to the artists and looking at visual arts in a wide variety of media. You'll not be disappointed, and you'll find it hard to come home empty handed! It will mean so much to the artists to see you there. All details are on the website.

Julia Ball

www.crowborough-Arts.org.uk

www.crowboroughopenstudios.co.uk

Nature Notes

Having studied biological/ecological science for many decades, I feel a bit concerned about how some human activities effect the natural world.

When we express concerns about the environment that supports us, some with other preoccupying, often commercial, concerns, label us as “bunny huggers” or non-pragmatic ideologists. It is true that I did keep pet rabbits as a child and so did our children. However, there are a few provisos that need to be made clear. First, keeping rabbits or any other animal is an opportunity to understand their biology, and this led me into an advanced education in that science subject. Secondly, rabbits are not native to Britain, but were introduced here by the Normans in the 12th century for their meat and fur. Therefore, rabbits have not contributed to the maintenance of Britain’s primeval natural biodiversity and may even have harmed it. For example, Natural England, the Government’s advisory body on nature conservation, actually pays people to control rabbits on some of our National Nature Reserves (NNRs). This is because rabbits sometimes cause serious damage to the biodiversity of native species rich grasslands, such as those found on the downlands of Sussex.

Following on, it is the total natural biodiversity, from bacteria to blue whales that regulates population levels of almost every global living thing, within balanced limits. In the past, some humans have kidded themselves that removing certain organisms would make life easier. This naïve attitude to nature sometimes resulted in a knee-jerk reaction to kill “vermin” such as birds of prey and foxes. Other folk exploited animals such as beavers and little egrets to adorn themselves, such that they became extinct on these islands. As a result, our native ecosystems have become unbalanced, raising more problems for us to deal with.

Currently, the science of ecology is revealing solutions to these issues and other environmental problems such as climate change, disease transmission and the rapid decline of plants and animals that our parents knew and loved, such as marsh marigolds, nightingales and otters. Some of these species are now returning. One solution is the preservation of green and blue ecosystems such as the forests and oceans that provide the oxygen that we breathe. It is a solution that we can all contribute to.



Follow the Countryside Code

Rights of Way (footpaths) – the Parish Council has been approached by concerned residents about the increasing incidents of walkers diverting away from the statutory footpaths across land, and in some case gardens, sometimes leaving gates open allowing livestock to roam. Could residents please make sure that they stay on the proper routes and keep their dogs on leads where appropriate. Footpath maps are available from the Parish Clerk or accessed on line via this link:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/map/>

Countryside Code leaflet: well? https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/973254/countryside-code-leaflet.pdf



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**The Village Hall, Gun Road,
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 Blackboys Pre-School

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

UNDER SIEGE

Early last spring we were given a nest box. It was made of concrete and wood fibre and was very heavy. We already had a selection of nest boxes made by my husband over the years that the birds had always used so we did not think they would be interested in this new one. The problem was where would we put it? We did not want to risk it falling down on some one's head. Eventually it was securely fixed to an old oak tree overlooking a tangle of neglected flower bed that nobody walked on. Going indoors we realised we had a good view of it from several windows, but did not think it would be used. However, much to our surprise, the birds were interested especially a pair of Blue Tits. We watched as they busily collected bits and pieces to build their nest, watching this activity I wondered if they would like some fur from our son's Spaniel. I hung it on twigs and thorny branches of an old rose growing in the flower bed. They loved it. It was so popular other birds wanted some too and before long all the shrubs round the cottage were festooned with black and white fur, so as well as the blue tits we could enjoy watching other birds collecting it for their nests.

Eventually the Blue Tits eggs hatched and we watched the parents going back and forth feeding their family. It was wonderful watching both of the parents taking turns to pop in and out of the new nest box. We also enjoyed watching other birds feeding from our hanging feeders and the shelf fixed to the window sill. A thrill for me was to watch a woodpecker eating just through the window so near I could see every tiny detail.

However everything changed with the arrival of three young Squirrels. The birds were too frightened to come and feed and the squirrels gobbled up all the food. They became very bold, peering at us in the kitchen and even

scratching at the glass. We had to keep the kitchen window closed. I thought I could fool them by opening the window on the opposite side of the cottage for some fresh air. I then heard a clatter and a crafty squirrel had climbed up onto a bench that was under the window and then jumped on to the back of the seat and I was just in time to stop it jumping in. Surely we could open the bedroom window, oh no, we watched as one of them climbed on to the porch then ran up the drain pipe and confidently ran along our narrow window sill, jumped up into the gutter and on to the roof. It then retraced its steps and I watched it pass our window again. It then made a jump for the porch but missed! I heard a thump and looked down. There it was lying quite still on the ground, was it dead? No after a moment to recover it ran off quite happily. I tried a different tactic by giving the squirrels some tasty food further away to give the birds a chance to feed in peace. Did this work? No, after gobbling up their food back they came, dangling upside down to reach the nuts in the hanging feeder or sitting on the tray fixed to the window.

We now felt we were under siege from these determined aggressors. The windows and doors had to be kept closed and it was getting hotter. By now the Blue tit family had flown the nest so we decided to lock the house and make our escape up to our boat in Norfolk. It was so relaxing watching the wildlife through the open windows and doors, we then returned home. It was so peaceful not a squirrel in sight. Thank goodness we thought as the feeders were filled for the birds. Windows and doors could be left open once more. However this did not last long and we are now prisoners in our own home as our tormenters have returned!

Hazel Carter 01825830477

info@hazel-carter.co.uk

www.hazel-carter.co.uk

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2021

FRAMFIELD BRANCH

As I have had no offers to take over the Framfield Branch of RBL, the branch will be handed back to the county association.

The branch will still exist but will be inactive and can be restarted at any time if anyone should come forward.

I am still uncertain whether any of the local branches will take over the area for the Poppy Appeal,

Thank you again to all that have contributed to the Appeal over the years.

David Jenner - Framfield Branch RBL

01825 890632 07881 786785 davidjenner@outlook.com

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

The Parish Council will hold its first live meeting at the end of September.

The Parish Council wants to say a very big thank you to Mary Short who has stepped down as Bookings Clerk to the Memorial Hall after approximately twenty-five years in the role. Thank you, Mary for your dedication to the Parish.

As a result of our tree survey, we are to lose more trees on our recreation grounds predominantly as a result of Ash Dieback. We are however, seeking expert advice on re-planting, in particular for Framfield recreation ground with the idea of planting in the Autumn.

All play areas have been topped up with woodchip for the summer and new picnic tables and benches are to be ordered. Various areas of fencing and gates are also to be repaired and replaced.

We are still struggling with criminal damage and anti-social behaviour – there is a separate article from the Chairman elsewhere in the Parish Magazine.

Planning applications – residents are no longer being sent letters by Wealden District Council (WDC) as part of the consultation process, only advice notices will be on sites/households – this is all part of WDC's 'Drive to Digital'. If any anyone, whether the applicant in an application or an interested party wishing to make representation to the PC, please contact me at the earliest opportunity. The Parish Council receives weekly lists of applications which can also be accessed on the WDC website so I can easily pinpoint if an application has been submitted.

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Leaflets_And_Publications/Weekly_List_of_Planning_Applications/Planning_Weekly_List.asp
[X](#)

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, 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.

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182/
Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.
Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.
Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Litter bins – our Parish litter bins have become targets for fly-tipping mainly of domestic waste. If anyone has any information could they please me know. Everyone is entitled to a bin collection paid through their Council Tax. No one should have to use our Parish bins for their own waste.

The Good, The Bad and The Hairy

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Once upon a time in the West Country. Dartmoor. August. High noon. A young boy wanders away from a family picnic. The sun beats down, buzzards cry and circle overhead. He is startled by a short, snappy rattle like bullets spinning in a revolver. Suddenly he is face to face with an amazing creature. A fly. But a fly like no other. The boy reaches for his camera - but he's too slow. With a rattle the fly launches itself into the air and is gone.

That first encounter with the hornet robberfly is one of my earliest and most vivid wildlife memories and had a huge impact on me. I searched through all my 'I-Spy' and 'Spotter's Guide' books but couldn't find anything that looked remotely like the beast I had seen. For years I believed I had encountered some weird, mythical beast and I vowed to hunt one down and photograph it to prove its existence. And they don't come much weirder than the hornet robberfly. There are 28 species of robberfly in Britain and the hornet robberfly is the leader of this wild bunch. At up to 28mm long, it's Britain's biggest fly with a dusty yellow abdomen giving it a hornet-like resemblance. It has huge oval black eyes and a big ginger beard, the overall appearance lying somewhere between an alien and Yosemite Sam. The rootin', tootin' robberfly is a ferocious critter, although they never bother humans. But a grasshopper's knees start knocking at the mere mention of its name.

Like all good western bandits, they'll wait on a high point in their long grass landscape until an unfortunate grasshopper wanders into their valley. Then, with their rattling, buzzing war-cry, they'll swoop down and snatch up their victim in their hairy legs. Hornet robberflies dispatch their prey with a lethal weapon - a sharp beak which pierces a grasshopper's tough armour and drains the very life from them. They lay their eggs on cowpats and their young bury into the soil where they hunt underground for three years before emerging as adults in late summer. Hornet robberflies are extremely rare and getting rarer; a vanishing memory of a bygone age

when our countryside was truly wild and not sterilised by insecticides. I had to wait decades to see another hornet robberfly. I was drifting through the high plains of Sussex when I heard a rattle from behind me and I was instantly transported back to that little boy on Dartmoor. But this time I was ready. My hand tightened around my camera. Ready to draw, point and shoot as I turned to face an old friend. This August, organise a posse and head out into them-thar South Downs hills for a wildlife walk and see what varmints you can find.

Adonis Blue by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

On Sussex Wildlife Trust's Malling Down nature reserve just fifteen minutes' walk from the centre of Lewes, something is stirring. Something rather beautiful. Something rather... blue.

The Adonis Blue must be in with a good chance of being crowned our most beautiful butterfly. The male's dazzling, electric blue wings are an insult to all other butterfly species who consider themselves blue. Believe me - you haven't experienced blue until you've watched a male Adonis Blue fly past. And, like many other famous Lewes residents, our Adonis Blues also have a colourful and somewhat odd life history.

During the larval stage of its life cycle, the Adonis Blue caterpillar exudes a sugary sweet secretion and, amazingly, sings an enticing siren's song. This drives local ants into a frenzy and they fall under its spell. With its sugar-drunk, loved-up ant admirers in tow, the caterpillar cruises the Lewes Downs with the ants protecting it against parasites and predators. Each evening, when the caterpillar retreats to the soil, the ants bury it - effectively tucking it in for the night. It's amazing what devotion you can get around these parts in return for a drink and a song.

When it's time for the caterpillar to pupate, the ants stand guard over the chrysalis too in an underground chamber, and when the adult butterfly emerges they escort it to the surface. Without so much as a thank you for

their loyalty, the butterfly unfurls its wings and deserts them for the skies above – no doubt leaving the ants wondering how they’re going to explain themselves to the queen when they get home.

The existence of this wonderful butterfly is only made possible due to the Sussex Wildlife Trust’s careful management of Malling Down. The Trust’s rare breed sheep, which you can see from Lewes High Street, graze the reserve to ensure the correct habitat is maintained for this rare species. An important factor in the Adonis Blue’s life cycle is heat, and if the grass here gets too tall the temperature at ground level drops. Without the grazing management, the fantastic downland habitat would disappear, along with all the amazing species that depend on it.

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 sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Framfield Parish Council now has a social media account with Facebook:

(www.facebook.com/framfieldparishcouncil)

where useful and pertinent information will be posted.

In Memoriam:

Two sad losses to the Parish :

Ernie Standing, who passed away in June, will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Cynthia Foregard, whose one hundredth birthday would have been later in the month, passed away at the beginning of July.

Waldron Country Market

Waldron Country Market is cancelled until further notice.

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

St Thomas à Becket - Hoover required

We need an upright hoover for our church. Perhaps you might have one spare or not now used and are happy to donate it to our church?

Please contact John Mordaunt by phone or email:

Phone: 01825 890443

Email: johnmordaunt1@gmail.com

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I am currently involved in a series of meetings with our MP's and Government ministers about our inappropriate housing figures and how disproportionate they are compared to our neighbouring authorities. With the conclusions to the Planning White Paper being published later this year we hope to have had some influence with ministers to listen to us as residents of Wealden. An element of housing is required but not on the scale currently proposed. We have also suggested some ideas for putting in place a transitional arrangement if an authority is in between Local Plans and that for all approved sites to be included in our housing numbers immediately therefore improving on paper our track record so that we are not penalised when they are not built out in good time.

You may have seen in the local newspapers a recent disagreement I had with an anti-development group. My fundamental problem is the manner in which the group is so disrespectful to anyone it disagrees with. There are ways and means of having a disagreement and becoming very personal is not one of them particularly when the 'victims' are not going to answer back. I am a believer in freedom of speech but that we should also treat other people as we would wish to be treated at all times. As I write this, I am hearing about the most dreadful racial abuse perpetrated by the loud minority following our loss in the football final at Wembley. I do think the easy mis-use of social media has a lot to blame here.

The Council's commitment to the Climate Change agenda was emphasised in the revised Corporate Plan which can be found on the Wealden DC website along the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Cabinet recently agreed a continuing pesticide-free policy on all its land holdings including the crematorium. It is so important that we must provide conditions whereby our friends the bees and other insects can thrive to help keep our countryside green and fertile.

Please don't hesitate to contact me.
Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.
Telephone - 01825 890103.
Email – aenewton1965@gmail.com



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

8th August 2021 10.00 am
12th September 2021 10.00 am

Looking for a local venue ?

Then look no further!

Framfield Church Hall is well placed in the village next to the Church. It is ideal for regular meetings, social & business events, special occasions, keep fit, exercise groups, birthday parties and other activities.

The hall can be used as an open space or with tables / seating for up to 60 persons. There is a fitted kitchen with catering equipment & crockery etc, a large AV screen, sound system, two loos (one with disabled facilities) and two disabled parking spaces directly outside the hall.

Currently it is used for Art classes, Pilates, Exercise groups, Drama, Singing, Karate Presentations and Childrens' birthday parties. Our rates are £10.00 per hour.

For more details about the hall and its events please get in touch with John Mordaunt on 01825 890443; mobile 07989 587459 or email: johnmordaunt1@gmail.com



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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.

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

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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