

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

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

APRIL / MAY 2022

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: None

Weddings: None

At rest: None

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

So said David in the opening verses of Psalm 122. A joyful response to join with those who were going to the temple, or in our culture the local church. In David's time this was the place where God resided. The place where you could get near to God and as such rejoice at the prospect. The temple was a holy revered place, not only by the worshipping community but also by those on the fringe.

God is not in the business of building barriers between Himself and humanity so it begs the question should churches be locked on days other than Sunday?

At Framfield we have wrestled with this one as I'm sure many others have who look after the numerous country churches that we are fortunate to have in the UK.

Unfortunately, desecration and theft from churches is a reality in the modern world. If you went back perhaps thirty or forty years this only happened on the rarest of occasions; folk were generally much more God fearing.

Having said that, we have decided to open the church every day and take the risk that folk will respect the church building.

An open church is an open opportunity to connect with God. In the hubbub of modern life, the church provides a place of sanctuary. You may wish to look at the architecture or you may just wish to sit back and relax in the silence and focus on the still small voice of God.

However, in variance to David's day God isn't actually in the church! Yes, you can experience the presence of God and the centuries of prayer and worship dating back to the 11th century in Framfield's case do make a tangible difference to the atmosphere, but God is not there as a permanent resident. So where is He then? Ever since Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit God's residency changed. New smaller human temples came into being, built on Jesus as the foundation stone. In the Apostle Paul's time, Paul had to explain to the new believers in Corinth what they had become through their new-found faith. He writes - **By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 16-17).

You can only wonder how Paul's words would have been received? People used to go to the temple, now they were the temple. Everywhere a believer goes God is with them through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

But let's not be too critical of the Corinthians. Up to this point this was all a mystery and beyond human reasoning.

Paul brings further revelation concerning the church, but this time to the church in Colosse (present day Turkey).²⁴ **Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness--²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:24-27)**

The words in in verse 27 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' is a point to ponder. It speaks of the resurrected inextinguishable life of God living on the inside, guiding us through this life and the promise of the glorious hope of Heaven.

So, considering the above is there any point in going to Church? If God is now on the inside, is the church building effectively defunct? Well, it's a yes and no answer. No, in respect that the building is just the building, but it is one of great heritage and as such there are many things within the church building that help us to connect with God and our Christian ancestry.

And Yes, in the fact that Jesus says, **"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20).** Whether it be at Sunday services or on other occasions God promises to be with us when we gather together.

However, for the individual who might just like to pop into the church for whatever reason I'll leave you with Jesus' invitation: -

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

May God's blessing be upon everyone in the parish and those passing through.
Rev'd Chris Lawrence

Diary of Church Services

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>

APRIL 2022

03 Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

10 Palm Sunday

10.00 am Family Service

Holy Week Services

11 (Monday) 7.00 pm – Short meditation in the Gage Chapel

13 (Wednesday) 7.00 pm – Short meditation in the Gage Chapel

14 Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Holy Communion (CW) in the Gage Chapel

15 Good Friday

10.00 am We are joining the Churches in Uckfield (CiU) Walk of Witness up the High Street at 10am for the short service in the Old Post Office Square. Meet at the Cornerstone Church from 9.30am for coffee and hot cross buns.

17 Easter Day

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Festival Service (inc Easter Egg Hunt)

24 Second Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Morning Praise

MAY 2022

01 Third Sunday of Easter

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

08 Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Family Service

15 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Morning Praise

29 Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension day)

10.00 am Morning Praise

(Everyone is welcome at any of the church services)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE

BY 10th MAY 2022

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.

10th April 2022 10.00 am

8th May 2022 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 children's birthday parties. Our rates are £10.00 per hour.

For more details about the hall and its events please get in touch with Graham Seldon on 01825 508758. mobile 07973 685992 or email: hoss.graham@outlook.com

Queen's Jubilee Celebration



Sunday 5th June 2022, 2.30pm

Framfield Parish Church

Rose Lancaster will be performing timeless classics

All ages are welcome



Vintage singer, Rose Lancaster, will be taking us on a journey through the timeless classics of the 1920s, through the swing, romance, and jazz of the 30s, 40s and 50s.

Rose's performance will be followed by a traditional English tea (Sandwiches, cakes & scones etc) in the Vicarage Garden at around 4.30pm - All welcome

Nature Notes

As I write in March, Ukraine is being invaded by the Russian army and we are all wondering where it will lead. Many people have already been killed, which will mean that many other living things (animals, plants etc) will also have been destroyed. I am sure we all share a sense of outrage at this event and hope that it will all be resolved peacefully as soon as possible. This invasion is a disaster for humans, and also an anthropogenic catastrophe for the affected environment and all that it contains. Again, we humans are destroying the life support system upon which all life depends.

However, depressing as these thoughts are, there is one activity that I find therapeutic in these circumstances, and that is experiencing the natural world. For example, I find watching the birds in my garden absorbing; the sunshine and fresh air heralding the developing spring is uplifting.

I had a request today to lead a guided nature walk to raise money for refugees. I think linking the natural world to a human tragedy can be a positive thing. It is an extension of recent calls to reverse climate change by managing our daily lives accordingly. Humans are part of the global life community, and as such we have a responsibility as a species to keep life sustainable for all organisms. The answer is careful management. The majority of the non-Russian world is striving to manage the situation in Ukraine against a background of managing COVID-19 and global warming. This is good and right and we can all do our bit.

Nature shows us how to be sustainable and manage waste, generate oxygen, reduce carbon dioxide, nurture regeneration and fit in with the environment. Dung beetles remove animal faeces, green leaves remove carbon dioxide and generate oxygen, flowers bloom to attract bees which pollinate them to make new seeds, fruit and honey. Soft refreshing rain keeps all life watered so that the plants and animals can feed us. Let us try to be positive and help each other to refrain from making the mistakes of the past which destroyed life. Let us work together to heal the wounds sustained in the natural and human world, such that life can regenerate like an ancient English woodland in the springtime!

Martyn Stenning

- 9 -



Blackboys Cricket Club

One of the oldest references to the game of cricket being played in our parish was for a game at Easons Green, Framfield in September 1756 as chronicled in the diary of Thomas Turner of East Hoathly. Cricket in Blackboys was played frequently during the 1800's with earliest references to an actual formalised club being found in newspaper reports from the 1800's. The ground where our club plays cricket has not really changed that much since those early days although hopefully the wicket plays a bit better than it did in the 19th century!

From a humble tent, to a converted chicken shed that stood for over 60 years, we now have facilities to encourage new and future generations of Blackboys cricketers. Like all small village clubs we face the challenges of other modern life distractions and there is a constant fight to try and keep the club in the spotlight to maintain its survival.

Our season starts on the 7th May and the last match of the season is 3rd September. We also have pre-season indoor nets at Heathfield Leisure Centre. So whatever your ability, whether you've not played since schooldays or have wanted to try but never got round to it come and join in. You'll find we are a friendly and welcoming bunch!

Contact no. Gary Funnell 07767 660516

Christian Aid Collection 2022



A Christian Aid Collection envelope is included with this magazine. Please give generously. Thank You.

- 10 -

Over Development – the Parish Council has agreed to join forces with the campaign started by Chiddingly Parish Council to support Wealden District Council in lobbying the Government against the current housing numbers. The total of councils now involved is 28.

ESCC Rural Verge Cutting – agreement has been given to take part in a trial to reduce the number of rural grass cuts carried out by ESCC in the Parish during the year.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – the Parish Council have agreed to offer both Parish halls for organised Jubilee celebrations. Please contact the Clerk if you have any plans which could form a village party to celebrate the day.

Speed limits in Blackboys. The Parish Council will be meeting with County Officers shortly to discuss both the Lewes Road and the High Street.

Palehouse Common – issues with HGV’s. The Council is still waiting for the costings to erect some new signs to discourage HGV’s from entering Palehouse from the western end.

The Parish Council has met with **ESCC Streetlighting** over the issues in the Parish. A full structural test is to be carried out on the lights with the view to potentially removing any obsolete lights but also enhancing areas which need better lighting.

Treeworks – following the three-year inspection of the trees within the Council’s jurisdiction the works were carried out in early February. Surprisingly there was very little extra damage after Storm Eunice. A tree planting programme is to be devised for Framfield recreation ground.

Allotments – tenancy agreements have been sent out by email unless no email address is held. Please check your spam boxes!

Parish Magazine – if you would like to advertise in this magazine please make contact. It is the adverts which fund the 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.aspx.

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.

Dog waste – the Parish has once again become a common place for dog waste. Some is left unbagged and some is left very inconveniently bagged!! The Parish Council provides dog bins for the very same stuff. Please use them. The problem has become epidemic around School Lane, Blackboys, where children/parents are accessing the School – not a happy thought to walk *that* through the School! Clean up after your dogs – don't let the dogs get the blame! And there is a hefty fine if caught – the Wealden Street Scene Officers have been informed.

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

Rural Verges as Wildlife Corridors – A Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting Trial

The Parish Council have agreed to take part in a trial to reduce the number of rural verge cuts during the year. ESCC conducted a similar exercise in 2021 and involved twelve Parishes.

The trial reduced the grass cutting service of rural verges in those areas to:

- One visibility cut undertaken around May/June
- One 1 metre Swathe with Visibility cuts in the Autumn

This change meant that they would not cut rural verges (except for visibility) at a time when flowering is often at its peak and it is the most beneficial time for pollinators. Flowering plants would then be able to complete their lifecycles and set seed, providing further biodiversity benefits.

However, safety issues remained their priority, with any visibility or access issues being picked up and rectified through the usual process.

If during the year there are concerns about visibility or access issues they should be reported to ESCC via their website.

Ann Newton
Parish Clerk
Framfield Parish Council
(01825) 890182
www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**UCKFIELD ART GROUP
ART EXHIBITION 30th April 2022**

Uckfield Art Group would like to invite you to their Spring Art Exhibition on Saturday 30th April.

Doors open 10am until 4pm.

Come and enjoy original artwork at affordable prices. You may like to stock up on your greeting cards too as a varied selection will be available!

We enjoyed a poetry themed evening in January inspired by Robert Burns. See the paintings created by that inspiration. Some poems were written by the artists so are truly original!

There will be the opportunity to chat to “Artists in Action” and enjoy a scrumptious selection of homemade cakes and savouries. Tea and coffee will also be served throughout the event.

Free entry with disabled access and plenty of free parking.

The Luxford Centre, Library Way (in-between the Cinema and the Library), Uckfield, TN22 1AR

www.uckfieldartgroup85.com

www.facebook.com/uckfieldartgroup

anniemills99@yahoo.co.uk 01825765021

Everyone welcome!

This is instead of our usual June Exhibition this year.

Common Pipistrelle by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

I spend way too much time in graveyards (especially considering that I'm going to spend an awful lot of time in one in the future). But they are great places to look for Pipistrelle bats. At this time of year, adult Pipistrelles are emerging from their winter hibernation and taking flight. Above Sussex, the night sky is a battlefield of deafening cries as Pipistrelles swoop and swirl, plummet and pounce at their insect prey.

The acrobatic anarchy overhead goes unnoticed by us humans. Our hearing is limited and when it comes to night vision we're as blind as, well, something with really bad eyesight...in fact anything but a bat. Bats have excellent vision. But it certainly isn't their best sense.

Echolocation is one of the animal world's most incredible superpowers. A Pipistrelle shouts, the shout hits something and bounces back. This echo is instantly analysed in an amazing brain and tells the bat how far away the object is and whether it's a mosquito, a moth or a mansion. To get the maximum information from their echo, Pipistrelles yell at high frequencies (45 kHz, we can only hear up to 20 kHz). And these shouts are loud; pneumatic drill or jet fighter loud. Up to 110 decibels in some species. A bat would deafen itself if it heard its own shout. So Pipistrelles have to disengage their ears, then shout, then turn their hearing back on, listen for the echo, analyse, then start all over again. All at the rate of 10-15 times a second. This gives bats an amazing, multi-layered awareness of their surroundings. But it's tricky (and impolite) to shout when you're eating, so once a moth is in the mouth the bat has to chew-shout-listen-chew-shout-listen to avoid a collision.

There are 17 different species of bat in Sussex. Our smallest – the Common Pipistrelle – is also the one you're most likely to see around your gardens. Back in the 80's there were just four TV channels, two types of videocassette and one species of Pipistrelle in Britain. But in

the 90's, scientists discovered that some Pipistrelles were echo locating at higher frequencies (55 kHz); a Montserrat Caballé to the Common Pipistrelle's Freddie Mercury. These are the Soprano Pipistrelles. There's now a third: Nathusius' Pipistrelle. By affixing lightweight metal rings to this species' wings, researchers have discovered that these bats are migrating to Sussex from as far away as Latvia. An amazing journey for an amazing animal.

Nuthatch: the bird table buccaneer

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Back garden birdwatchers know there's a pecking order on the peanut feeder. Coal Tits are elbowed out by Blue Tits who in turn are ousted by Great Tits. But when the Nuthatch shows up, everything scarpers. With its streamlined body, blue back, pink chest and black eye-stripe, the Nuthatch cuts a dynamic figure; a swashbuckling, bird table buccaneer. The weapon it wields is a stout, dagger-like beak but it's not designed for skewering birds. Nuthatches are nuts about nuts.

The Nuthatch's name comes from 'nut hacker' in reference to the bird's habit of jamming hazelnuts and acorns into tree crevices and then using its powerful bill to noisily smash them open. There's an old Sussex name which fits this manic, intense bird perfectly: Nutjobber. I have never seen this nutty little bird sitting still. They're so crazy about climbing that they're the only British bird that can actually climb headfirst down a tree.

At this time of year our garden birds become more vocal and aggressive as they claim and defend territories and croon their tunes to attract a mate. Spring lacks this urgency for the male Nuthatch. He hasn't stopped fighting all winter as he angrily defends his hectare of woodland. Nuthatches are monogamous too and the loyal pair soon dispense with spring serenades and get down to the hard work of

making a home. Many birds start from scratch. Twigs and moss are laboriously collected and nests are painstakingly woven. Nuthatches however are happy to let someone else undertake the heavy construction work. Their residence of choice is a spacious tree cavity drilled and abandoned by a woodpecker. Sure, it needs a bit of work but the Nuthatches will make do and mend. The main problem is the front door. It's too big. This gaping hole can let in predators or Starling squatters who will happily turf out nesting Nuthatches. So while the male keeps guard the female Nuthatch starts bricking up the entrance hole. Her bill is used like a plasterer's trowel to smear mouthfuls of mud until the terracotta porch is perfectly Nuthatch sized. She is a compulsive builder and if they move into a nestbox she still cannot resist plastering mud around the hole, even if it's already the right size.

And it's great to report on a bird that's actually increasing in number and range. Once restricted to south-east England, the Nuthatch now breeds in Scotland – probably assisted by the provision of garden peanut feeders as it marched north. And as Britain seemingly gets crazier by the day it's nice to know there's still space for a few more Nutjobbers.

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 guidebook, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Housing numbers – dialogue with Government is still ongoing. Our MP instigated a debate in the Commons with the Housing Minister who seemed sympathetic. We eagerly wait for any news which we suspect will be in the late Spring. I was also asked to appear on a session for BBC South East which took time to be aired due to Storm Eunice!

The budget was set at the February Full Council meeting to increase Council Tax to residents with the middle Band D taking an increase of £5.00 per year and the bands round it less or more respectively.

Thousands of households across Wealden are set to receive a £150.00 Council Tax rebate. Residents living in Council Tax bands A-D will be eligible for the rebate. Guidelines on how rebates will be paid and the quickest way to receive the rebate is to sign up to Direct Debit payments. There will be one payment per household and will be paid once verification has been completed which is likely to be in May or June 2022. A discretionary scheme is being considered for homes in bands E-H and the Government is expected to release more details in the coming weeks.

The Great British Spring Clean is once again going ahead from 25 March to 10 April. Litter picking equipment can be obtained from <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/news/one-bag-big-difference-wealden-district-council-supports-residents-pledging-to-pick-one-bag-of-litter-for-great-british-spring-clean/> although I can also be contacted as I have a supply.

As always, please don't hesitate to me with any queries.

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

St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.

Blackboys and Framfield Schools News

Both the parish schools, Framfield and Blackboys Church of England Primary Schools, are pleased to see the joyful signs of Spring in the air. Like most schools, it's been a tough winter, dealing with absences and worry caused by Covid-19. As the weather improves, we continue to enjoy the return to normality and all the special things that make our 2 schools so vibrant.

Both schools enjoyed an exciting World Book Day in March. In its 25th year, it is a day to encourage our pupils to read more and read more widely. This year we had a version of the ITV Gameshow 'The Masked Singer' but cleverly named 'The Masked Reader'. Members of staff disguised themselves and their voices to read extracts of their favourite books, much to the delight of the children, who had to work out who was who. Great fun and it certainly prompted plenty of book talk.

At Framfield School year 5 and 6 children have enjoyed an excellent art project based on artist Hundertwasser's idea of 'Window Rights'. The whole school also had an inspirational set of Forensic Science workshops which were funded by the supportive PTFA. It has also been an exciting period for Framfield sport, with impressive performances in the Uckfield swimming Gala, in a year 3/4 netball tournament, and most excitingly representing Uckfield Schools in the North Wealden Athletics Tournament. In assembly children have learnt about their charity for the term Harambee for Kenya, and closer to home have explored the theme of Lent.

At Blackboys School, the Year 6 children enjoyed their annual visit to London and the Houses of Parliament, with a special tour led by our MP Nus Ghani. The whole school got involved in the traditional inter-house pancake races on Shrove Tuesday, with Green House, St George triumphing. Class 2 and Class 4 enjoyed a visit from East Sussex Fire Brigade teaching the children about how to stay safe. Also recently, the school was visited by Chairman of Wealden District Council Cllr

Ron Reed and our own District Councillor, Cllr Ann Newton. Both guests presented awards in our special Gold Book Friday assembly and had a tour of the school.

Both schools are currently gearing up for Easter Services at St Thomas a Becket Church, events which will bring a close to an eventful term.

Please remember to visit both school's websites and check out their Twitter feeds to stay up to date with what is going on.

Happy Easter

Mrs Lisa Pestell, Headteacher, Framfield School

Mr Graham Sullivan, Headteacher, Blackboys School

Waldron Community Market

The Waldron County Market has become the Waldron Community Market.

Waldron Community Market meets at Holy Cross Priory Village , Lewes Road, Cross in Hand on the 2nd Thursday each month at 10.00am until 12.30pm. Currently we are all indoors with a wide range of quality foods and exciting crafts. If ideas go to plan, we hope to increase our 'offer' of producers with new stalls trading outside as well as inside to create a 'virtual' High Street. Refreshments are served until midday in the elegant Boughton Lounge, so making for a relaxing and pleasurable shopping experience. More information is available on our website:

www.facebook.com/waldroncommunitymarket/

Graeme Mackenzie can be contacted either on the via email gandsmack@uwclub.net or telephone 01435 866419 for details".



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COLLECTION DAY:
TUESDAY 19th April

COLLECTION TIME:
9am FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL



For more information please visit www.ecokidsproject.co.uk or call 0330 9994560



Nature Notes

For many years now, I have listened for territorial singing by male blue tits during Autumn. I cannot recall hearing it at all before 21st December, but I will continue to listen. However, every year I do listen for blue tit song on the days leading up to the winter solstice (shortest day c. 21st December), and once again, this year, I did not hear any blue tit song until 22nd December. This is amazing as there is apparently indistinguishable difference in day-length between the 2 days. The definition of solstice is “*the time or date (twice each year) at which the sun reaches its maximum or minimum declination, marked by the longest and shortest days*”. Is it conceivable that blue tits can discern this? However, from that date onwards, blue tits are working towards a rigidly defined breeding season. Nest-building starts during March at about the equinox and fledging occurs in June at about the summer solstice. Incidentally, the definition of declination is “*the angular distance of a point north or south of the celestial equator.*” In other words, blue tits are apparently aware of minute daily changes in how low or high the sun gets above the horizon, and not necessarily length of the day. The day after the winter solstice day, the sun gets slightly higher at mid-day than it did the previous day for the first time in most blue tit lives. Most blue tits live less than one year. Blue tit survival may be linked to intelligence.

For their size, blue tits are remarkably intelligent, able to learn very quickly. I acquired a new bird feeder recently, consisting of a Perspex hollow ball with two large holes in each side and a metal perch sitting just below those holes. The ball must be attached to a window with a rubber sticker and part-filled with bird food (sunflower hearts). I set this up, and within a day, only one bird species had learned how to use it. Yes, a blue tit. Since then, the only other species that has learned is a robin. We have had some marvellous views of both species recently.

In 1985, the BBC ran an experiment to find the “Bird Brain of Britain”. Yes, this was won by a blue tit. You can still watch this film on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JB6D2xRutA. You will also see other species of bird challenging for this title. It is fascinating what you can discover by simply spending time watching and engaging with nature.

Martyn Stenning

- 23 -

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Sussex <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said ‘There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Sussex (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you’.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

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.

- 24 -

Framfield Parish Council
MEETING SCHEDULE 2022

On each date detailed below, an informal Trust update will be held at 4.30 pm followed by the Parish Council meeting at 5 pm.

At the time of issuing this notice, all meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, due to a regular booking in the Memorial Hall.

If there are planning applications which require the convening of a Planning Committee meeting these times may vary.

29 March

26 April

31 May

26 July

27 September

29 November

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

01825- 890182/clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

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



**FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Happy Spring to you all

It is finally coming – the days are getting longer with more daylight, so the plants are all starting to come back to life.

Our committee member Jackie Argyrou is our Events co-ordinator and has been working really hard at putting together a varied schedule which has now published on our website, there should be something for everyone so please have a look and come and join us. Our Hort Soc Events (framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com)

We are also keen to welcome new members now that we are all getting back to normal so, please look at our website for an application form – There are so many good reasons to join our Society but perhaps the most compelling is to meet other garden enthusiasts in the area, to share their knowledge and if you are new to the area to get advice and tips on the local 'gardening scene'. We welcome members from anywhere and not just the Parish of Framfield and Blackboys plus it is great value at only £6 per person or £10 for a family membership with the bonus of discount cards that can be used at various nurseries as detailed on the website.

As I said in the last magazine, we have also started our Summer Show Committee meetings and planning is in the pipeline for the return of our annual show after 2 years of absence. Put the date in your diary Saturday 13th August 2022 at Framfield Recreation Ground and Memorial Hall. We are looking forward to bringing you a fun and "spectacular" event.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the planning, setting up and running the show so please do contact Terry Everitt on terry.everitt@outlook.com if you are able to help in any way. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates:
www.facebook.com/Framfieldandblackboysshow

Spring has arrived at last, and with the increased chance of a sunny day what better time to enjoy the sunshine than outside in your garden. This could just be to assess what is growing in your garden or to spot any gaps that may need some attention or an injection of colour.

At this time of year nurseries and garden centres will be selling an array of different pot grown bulbs and spring plants so an easy way to add that pop of colour that you will enjoy every spring for years to come.

With Snowdrops coming to the end of flowering now is a good time to take stock as they can get congested over time so if you can lift and divide them now (in the green) these little gems will reward you for your time and effort and produce even more flowers next year so just dig up a clump, carefully pull the bulbs apart to divide into smaller clumps maybe 3 or 4 bulbs and replant at the same level....it's worth the effort.

We are now in prime seed growing season so if you have not done so before give it a try, for £2/£3 pounds you could fill a bare patch of soil with an annual mix of seeds giving you colour all summer long with plenty of nectar for insects and bees.

There are many gardens to visit this time of year and if you love plants, you will love the Spring Plant Fair at Great Dixter which is on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd of April. You will find an excellent array of plant stalls run by independent nurseries, preloved gardening tools for sale and talks taking place during the day plus refreshments and included in the price of £13.00 per person you will be able to walk round the Great Dixter Gardens, nursery, and onsite shop so, if you love plants, you will love this this Spring Plant Fair. For more information, please visit their website.

<https://www.greatdixter.co.uk/Event/great-dixter-spring-plant-fair>

Ps if you have not done so already you just have time to plant your shallots & onion sets

Enjoy your garden

Denise Taylor
Chair, Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Society

SPEEDING TRAFFIC IN BLACKBOYS

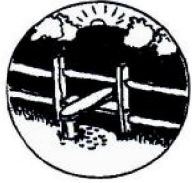
There are concerns amongst residents in Blackboys about speeding traffic in the High Street and on Lewes Road. Local County Councillor Chris Dowling is working with Parish Council and a community group to press East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police to review the speed limits and take action.

To help address the speed issues in the High Street, a Community Speed Watch (CSW) group of volunteers could be set-up. The CSW system is a Police project and it is robust, with speeding motorists who are 'caught' by the CSW team reported online to the Police. The system has a rising level of contacts and warnings sent to offending motorists. Motorists who offend repeatedly and are reported can face Police prosecution.

Unfortunately, due to Police procedures and insurance cover, CSW cannot operate in Lewes Road.

The Parish Council would like to see a CSW set up in the Parish again, but a group of volunteers is needed- approximately 6 people. Training, equipment and support is provided.

Interested and want to help with road safety in Blackboys? Please contact the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton - 01825 890182 email - clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk



Framfield & Blackboys WI

WELCOME SIGNS OF SPRING



Narcissi In My Garden

Little birds are flitting around with nest building materials and there are drifts of daffodils in the grass verges. We keep hearing that seasons are starting earlier, but our WI is bucking that trend—we held our customary January lunch in February! This was due to a fear of further Covid restrictions rather than climate change - and it was worth the wait. We had a very happy get together with excellent food and service at the Hare and Hounds.

At our February meeting, President, Delia Gillies gave a most interesting talk about the work carried out in Rwanda by a charity connected to Framfield Church. Rather than simply donating money, members of the charity travelled to Rwanda to contribute knowledge and expertise in the setting up of a guest house to generate an income stream together with a hospital, experimental farm and tree nursery, all of which are still operating and being supported today.

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR FEEDBACK

We all used to enjoy our coach trips in the past and would like run one this year. Before making any arrangements, we would appreciate your feedback on whether you would be prepared to join a coach trip at the moment. Please contact Gill on 01825 890459 with your thoughts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The return of two much loved favourites

Saturday	13th August	Framfield & Blackboys Show
Friday	16th September	Quiz Night

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday	8th April	Speaker from Herstmonceux Castle
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If you would like to find out more about our WI, why not come along to one of our meetings as a visitor. Please contact Delia Gillies on 01825 890825 or Jackie Samways on 01825 890417. Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI

FRAMFIELD MARKET 2022 at Framfield Memorial Hall

The remaining dates for 2022 are detailed below, and the market will run from 10 am to 12 noon unless the situation with Covid-19 changes and new restrictions apply.

A variety of stalls, with all proceeds from the cake stall, raffle and 'café' going towards the ongoing maintenance of the Hall. Bring/meet your friends for a coffee and a chat or have a stall.

But to be blunt – 'Use it or lose it'. A lot of effort goes into the running of the market and unless we get good footfall, the continuation of the market will be reviewed.

26 March	30th April	28th May
25th June	30th July	24th September
29th October	26th November	17th December

Contact me for full details.

Ann Newton –
clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk
01825
890182

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.

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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