

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

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2024

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

**All communications for church matters should be directed
to the Priest in Charge:**

**Revd James Vine
Email:**

**01825 840270
jamesdavidvine@gmail.com**

**Please note Revd James lives at East Hoathly Rectory and
works from there.**

**Postal Address: The Rectory, Rectory Close, East Hoathly,
Lewes BN8 6EG**

Assistant Curate:

**Revd Janice Bartholomew
07955 754118**

Churchwarden:

**Mr Graham Seldon
01825 508758**

**Secretary to the PCC
and Church Admin:
Email:**

**Mr Barry Richardson
admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk**

Treasurer:

Mrs Gaynor Robson



From the Church Registers:

At Rest:

**12.6.24
22.7.24**

**Alfred Allitt
Brian Peaty**

From the Vicar's desk

All change....

As we come to terms with a new government, I have been reflecting on the whole issue and concept of trust, and our imperative to discern honesty, humility, integrity and trustworthiness in those who would lead and serve us.

It has struck me, that there are huge parallels between the world of politics and the world of faith.

We all have to trust in the Church, we all have to be able to discern, honesty, humility, integrity, trustworthiness and Godliness, in the church to which we belong.

Very many people just aren't able to allow themselves to believe; and when they look at the church, they sadly don't always find honesty, humility, integrity, trustworthiness and Godliness in us either.

Jesus, when he comes to his hometown, faces questions of trust, he is scrutinised, in much the same way as our political candidates have been scrutinised.

He went home, went to his family (and childhood) synagogue, and he started to teach.

The problem here, is that everyone knew him, they knew his family, his background, his upbringing.

How does this hometown-boy have the effrontery to come back and act all high-and-mighty? "Where did this man get all this," they ask.

They don't trust him.

They don't trust that he speaks for God, they don't trust that he is God, they don't trust Him when he says he can do all these amazing things for his hearers.

And, as a result, "he could do no deed of power there."

And it's hard to blame them for thinking as they do.

I'm not sure that I'd believe him either—especially if I'd seen him grow up as just another child in the village.

So, what does Jesus have to do?

- He has to earn their trust.
- He can't just get it right there and then.

- He has to keep going.
- He has to keep teaching.
- He has to keep changing people's lives.
- He has to die on the cross.
- He has to rise again.

I think that if the church today, the church 'as-we-know-it', is going to survive and be relevant in this new age, we are going to need to do a few things.

We need to learn from our past and be courageous enough try something new rather than repeating the things of yesteryear.

We need to gain people's trust. Only then will people even consider listening to anything we have to say.

We need to remember that not everyone is going to be able to trust us, or God.

Some people will open their doors to us, but others will slam the door in our face, will reject us, and in doing so reject God.

Jesus knew that. He told his disciples as much. And when we're rejected, we are to wipe off the dust from our feet, and keep going.

And finally, our trustworthiness must be tangible and visible, we must live up to our promises, practice what we preach, fulfil the Christian manifesto.

We must build on our past successes and learn from our mistakes.

We must stand up against division, oppression and hatred. We must be inclusive, incarnational, and inviting.

We must ensure that in us, people see honesty, humility, integrity, trustworthiness and Godliness

We must unashamedly proclaim the Jesus of the Gospels, a man filled to overflowing with compassion and love.

Because if we don't, it will be us who will be covered in the dust.

July 2024

Yours in Christ

Revd James

Help needed in the Churchyard.

Hello to all parishioners, friends and anyone who has a link of any sort to our churchyard. Such sites are fondly often referred to as "God's acre". Well in our case make that 3+ acres. Apart from inevitably getting a bit larger over the centuries, our plot would be familiar to many generations before us. Like us, they would have walked through and visited, feeling the relative peace and the timelessness of the setting.

Thank you so much to anyone who supports and encourages us in any way. We aim to keep it and care for it to acknowledge the history of the parish and those who are remembered there. Also, as a unique corner for the current and future inhabitants of our villages. Obviously, any help at any time is welcome. But I propose to have a churchyard morning on the first Saturday of the month from March to October. I will be there at 9.30 and any help even just an hour would be great. The next two will be 3rd August and 7th September.


We are all volunteers and have limited funds but support and encouragement, enthusiasm and ideas are beyond price. Please help in any way you can. Together we can really make a difference.


I will be there most Saturday AM'S so always help is welcome.

Kind Regards
Peter Berry.

Tel Mob 07815459075

Please note that the latest notices and information are always posted on the church website. - www.framfieldchurch.org.uk.



	F	A	M	I	L	Y	
F	R	I	E	N	D	L	Y
S	E	R	V	I	C	E	

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

18th August 2024
15th September 2024

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 £12.00 per hour. For one off users (parties, wedding receptions etc), the hourly rate is £15.00.

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.s@gmail.com

Diary of Church Services

Note: The latest church service information will always be on the Church website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

Please note there is no service at Framfield on 11th August (combined at Chiddingly) or 8th September (combined at Chiddingly).

There is a combined service for all three churches at East Hoathly on 29th September.

AUGUST 2024

- 04 **Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Revd James)
- 11 **Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Combined Eucharist at Chiddingly (Revd James)
No Service at Framfield
- 18 **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Family Service (Revd James)
- 25 **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 01 **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (Revd James)
- 08 **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Combined Eucharist at Chiddingly (Revd James)
No Service at Framfield
- 15 **Harvest Festival (Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity)**
10.00 am Harvest Festival Service (Revd Janice)

- 22 **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)
- 29 **Michaelmas**
10.00 am Combined Eucharist at East Hoathly (Revd Janice)

(Everyone is welcome at any of the church services)

Note: The latest church service information is always on the Church Website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th SEPTEMBER 2024**

TO

ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182

Please note new email address:

clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

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

**CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE
EMAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk

**This bi-monthly Newsletter is distributed free to all homes (around 1100)
within the Parish.**

Nature Notes

Many people, including me, like to assist their local bird populations by providing nest-boxes for spring breeding, and bird feeders, especially during winter. However, Britain's birds are never more abundant than during August. Most passerine (sparrow-like) birds breed from March to July, so the country is now replete with fledglings learning how to feed themselves as their exhausted parents retreat to moult. You will begin to see moulted feathers, frequently encountered on the ground when you are out and about from July to September. Meanwhile, if you keep your bird feeders charged with sunflower hearts in the summer, you, like me this morning, could see adults and young of species such as greenfinches, blue tits, goldfinches, nuthatches, coal tits, robins, house sparrows and great tits eagerly having their breakfast. Also, dunnocks, blackbirds, robins, wood pigeons and song thrushes will be picking up the spilt food underneath. Chaffinches may also appear both on the feeder and below. The best feeder to get is the RSPB Squirrel Buster Mini seed feeder and fill it with sunflower hearts. With other feeders, you will just be feeding the invading grey squirrels. By giving young birds, a good start in the summer, they are more likely to survive the winter to breed next year.

My research has recently focussed on how blue tits use aromatic herbs to enhance the health of their nestlings. We humans frequently use herbs to enhance our health, e.g. lavender bags among our clothing stores, aromatic herbs such as parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme among others in our food. It is also likely that perfumes that we apply to our bodies are beneficial plant extracts such as lavender and myrtle. Well, blue tits do likewise, but the aromatic herb they prefer in Britain is called ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), a relative of the mint grown in our gardens which is spearmint (*Mentha spicata*). They also may use this and other types of mint, also red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpurium*). Herbs used by blue tits in other Eurasian countries include lavender, yarrow, veronica, lesser calamint, fleabane, lemon balm, yellow archangel. The benefits of these plants have been found to include higher levels of haemoglobin in the bird's blood and beneficially lower blood sugar levels. Other effects include lower numbers of insect parasites, fungus and bacteria in nests. Physiologically, the plants seemed to have anti-inflammatory benefits and help the nestling's feathers to grow faster ready for fledging.

Nature Notes 2

The seasons continue to progress as planet Earth causes us in temperate zones to be bathed in the warm sunshine of the long days of summer. We experienced the release of copious wind-blown pollen from trees during the spring flush of leaves and tree flowers such as hazel, oak and birch catkins. June gave us grass pollen, which I have recently watched billowing from the growing hay, like smoke in the breeze. Wind pollination is a very inefficient system and is mostly dependent on wind for transport. The flowers do not have to be attractive either to insects or humans. Very little wind-blown pollen will fertilize a seed. Insects appeared about 480 million years ago (MYA), whereas plants providing nutritious nectar appeared about 125 MYA. The most successful of these produced attractive flowers. With this, the efficiency of sex among plants was revolutionised. While some insects will harvest pollen from wind pollinated trees such as willow. But when plants started producing nectar and bright pigmented signal petals there was an explosion of beauty around the planet. From then, relationship between insects and flowering plants proliferated the diversity and success of the flowering plants that we see today. Apparently, the first flowering plants were magnolias, although there is some evidence that there may have been flowering water lilies before them. Not only did the plants start exploiting the insects (and vice versa), but they also exploited other animals as well.

About 3,630 BC, East Asian humans started exploiting silk moth caterpillars to produce the wonderful silk yarn made into some of the finest human garments. They started transporting it to the Eastern Mediterranean to sell, via the Silk Road. These traders traversed areas such as modern *Kazakhstan*, where there has always been a large population of Tian Shan brown bears and wild apple trees. The bears are partial to the sweetest apples which they select to eat and memorise their locations, such that the information is passed through generations of bears. The consequence is that trees producing the sweetest apples have proliferated from the seeds that passed through the bears and germinated to generate sweet apples picked by silk traders both to eat and trade with Europeans. The result is the abundant and variable apples of Europe, which in turn were taken to North America by French Jesuits in the late sixteenth century. The successful proliferation of apples in the United States was subsequently aided by the missionary Johnny Appleseed.

Martyn Stenning

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Parish Magazine Article August 2024

Horse Chestnut by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

Far, far away in the south-east corner of Europe, the Balkan Mountains tower over the landscape. Their valleys were once home to the fearsome Thracian tribes, who made empires tremble when they rode screaming into battle on their wild horses. But even more ancient battles were being fought deep in these majestic mountains.

Here in the Balkans, there grew a strange and mighty tree. Its huge seeds were encased in spiky armour and its leaves were like giant hands which cast shade all around. But this tree had been cursed. Each year a plague of tiny moths would attack the tree, their caterpillars would burrow inside every leaf. Green leaves turned to brown, leaving the tree apparently lifeless and defeated. Yet each year the tree would return with renewed green vigour, and each year the moths would attack with the same resolve. And so, for centuries the tree and the moth remained trapped in the Balkan Mountains, locked in their epic, age-old battle.

Then one day men came from the west, discovered this magnificent tree, gathered its seeds and planted them in their world. And so it was that the branches and the empire of the Horse Chestnut spread across Europe's parks and gardens. People admired it and reclined in the shade of its broad palmate leaves. Schoolboys used its seeds to fight their own playground battles. The conker tree had conquered the continent. Here in this new world the curse of the moth had been lifted and the Horse Chestnut flourished. Meanwhile, the tree's nemesis, not a particularly strong flyer, remained imprisoned in the remote valleys of the Balkan Mountains for centuries, more myth than moth. Then, one day, the modern world arrived. Construction workers building roads through the mountains were unwittingly building the perfect means for the moth to escape and spread. Now all it needed was a lift. So, the moth stuck out its six thumbs and hitched a ride.

Incredibly, the moth, just 5mm long, was able to disperse by grabbing on to passing vehicles. And so, like the ferocious Thracian tribes, the moth rode into battle. Screaming along highways, motorways, and autobahns on Volvos, Citroens, Fiats and Fords. The ancient battle

spilled out from the Balkans as the moth was chauffeur driven to every Horse Chestnut tree in Europe. The Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner moth was first discovered, identified and named in Greece in 1984. Twenty years later, in 2004, an innocent motorist pulled off the A27 in to the University of Sussex car park, unaware they had brought a sinister stowaway into Sussex. Since then, every Horse Chestnut in Sussex has been moth-eaten. Look to the leaves and you'll see the great Balkan battle raging right on your doorstep.

Purple Emperor by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

In any book on British butterflies, you'll find our 58 species segregated into social ranks: the common browns, the blue-collar blues, the working-class whites. But turn the page, past the lepidopteral lower-classes, and you'll find a butterfly so unique, so magnificently majestic, so breathtakingly beautiful that for centuries British naturalists have bowed before it. Draped in resplendent robes of iridescent amethyst, obsidian, and ermine the Purple Emperor has to be one of the most impressive animals on our island. In July the purple reign begins.

Aside from an alluring appearance, Emperors also possess that combination of rarity and elusiveness which has elevated them into an almost mythological figure: a butterfly bigfoot. How a large, shiny, purple butterfly manages to exist undetected in our countryside is down to an arboreal existence. Purple Emperors spend almost all their time on lofty thrones high above our woodlands. If we're lucky we may glimpse the glide of a wide-winged silhouette as we stare sore-necked and squinting at the Sycamore skyline.

Up there, in their canopy kingdom, Emperors compete in a power struggle for territory and males gather for summer tree-top tournaments. Their wings flash as they clash in acrobatic aerial jousting, and they spar and spiral high into the Sussex skies. The Emperor's ferocity and fearlessness in the defence of his realm are famous. Butterflies, bumblebees and other insects get a battering if they trespass and, incredibly, bemused birds (including Sparrowhawks, woodpeckers, gulls and herons) also receive a warning wing-slap. Emperors don't lower themselves to feast on flowers like other butterfly riffraff. The Emperor sups sugars by quaffing only the finest honeydew

distilled by aphids in the treetops. Yet, in complete contrast to its aristocratic high life, the Emperor has some dirty habits which drag him down to the filthy forest floor. To get his majesty's mojo working he requires a mid-morning meal of minerals, which he obtains by probing his proboscis into the most disgusting muck he can find. Dog poo, used nappies, dead animals, sweaty feet – nothing is too repugnant. It's like finding the King rummaging through the bins at the back of Tesco.

The female Empress does not have the shining sheen or horrid habits of the Emperor but she too descends to lower levels searching shady Sallows for a place to lay her eggs. Camouflaged caterpillars munch from August to June before giving rise to another distinguished (but disgusting) dynasty.

Recently, the Emperor has extended his empire eastwards. Once a butterfly of north-west Sussex it can now be found all across the north of the county and has been reported around Uckfield – there have even been rumoured sightings in the very heart of Brighton – so keep your eyes to the skies.

About Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in 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. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

The 2024 Rushlake Green Little Arts Festival

1st - 24th August 24

A gloriously uninhibited celebration of local artistic talents open to all. The Little Arts Festival is an eclectic mix of Visual Arts, Music from Baroque to Gothic Soul, Theatre, Poetry and Workshops for all ages. Based in Dunn Village Hall TN21 9QG, the Warbleton parish church, the Chantry in Middle Lane, Turners Green TN21 9RA and Goward Hall, Cade Street TN21 9BP you will be amazed by a lively programme that involves creative talents from across our local area including Blackboys.

The first weekend includes an Open Art Show plus a workshop in oil painting, and a unique concert of music from 18th & 19th century rural Sussex. The next weekend continues with art workshops in watercolours and glass making, an open rehearsal by the Warbleton Brass Band and a cracking gig by a Beatles' cover band, a games and drama activity for children, a talk about Heathfield Park and a book swap. More art workshops in watercolour and anime illustration for young folk take place in the third weekend and at one extreme we have two early music recitals in The Chantry and at the other two rock and soul bands in Dunn Hall. There will be even more variety to delight you during the final weekend including a comedy murder mystery.

All events are either at very modest prices or free, but donations are invited towards this block busting non-profit making festival. To find out more, take part, sponsor the event or get on the mailing list to receive updates and book tickets, visit the website:

<https://www.littleartsfestival.org>.

Tickets can also be bought on the door for some events and at the pop-up shop on Saturday mornings outside the Rushlake Green Village Stores.

August 17th 2024 is Summer Show Day (reprinted from June/July issue)

As I write this it is 89 days to go until our parish Summer Show 2024! Firstly, I need to thank the organising committee for all their ideas and focus to make 2024 the best show yet! We all hope you come along to enjoy the day's activity. Whilst we cannot guarantee the weather, we can be sure of a fun-filled day. You can expect all the traditional content of the day but also some new items and events with a start time of 12.30pm on the Recreation Ground behind the Memorial Hall in Framfield.

The show has traditionally centred around the competition entries according to the schedule that was delivered with the previous parish magazine. Entries can be set up from 6am in the marquee on the Recreation Ground (vegetables, flowers and flower arrangements) and 8am in the Memorial Hall (cookery, handicrafts, children's and photography classes). If you need another copy, the full schedule can be downloaded from www.framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com under Summer Show 2024. This is a schedule with additional guidance and hints to help you know what you can enter. If you have any questions about any aspect of the Summer Show, then please contact Terry on terry.everitt@outlook.com



If you would like to have a stall at the Summer Show to tempt our 1000+ visitors then, please contact Emma on fabhs.membership@gmail.com to obtain the required form. Fees are reduced to £15 until 1st July and are free for all charity stalls.

We are again running our fantastic Scarecrow Competition with cash

prizes for best child and family entry. Enjoy assembling your scarecrow together and then bring it along to the arena in front of the marquee on Recreation Ground on Show Day between 10am and 12pm (ask for Chris or Jean). We look forward to judging all those creative entries!

The Fun Dog Show is also part of the Summer Show this year. The classes have changed from previous years to make it more inclusive so please consider bringing your dog along and enjoying the competition.



The Summer Show is always seeking volunteer, as many hands make the running of the show so much more efficient. If you have been contacted by Lin, then thank you in advance for volunteering. If you would like to join us in making the Summer Show an even more successful community event, then the details are below.

To help out, either to with set up on Friday morning, 16th August or on the day of the Summer Show, even for an hour, then contact Lin on linlucas203@btinternet.com or 0777 6291446.

Roles we always need extra help with include:

Setting up the show up at 9am Friday 16th August.

Setting up the show up at 9am Saturday 17th August.

Staffing a stall from for an hour from 12.30pm on Saturday 17th August. (Seated or standing roles.) Assisting in the marquee / memorial hall to ensure that things run smoothly.

Helping clear the show away at 3.45 pm Saturday 17th August.
Join the Show Committee! We meet once a month and always welcome new faces.

Thank you.
Terry Everitt, Summer Show Chair

Framfield & Blackboys Summer Show

Can you spare 90 minutes on 17th August?

*The Summer Show is run entirely by volunteers:
we need help before, during and after the event.*

**Couples, families, individuals, young, old,
strapping fit or restricted movement,
we have a role for everyone.**

**Because the Summer Show is for everyone.
You can be part of the team for 90 minutes then
enjoy the rest of the day as you would usually.**

We need:



People to run stalls

Stewards

Entrance Desk People

Tea Tent Helpers

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Talk to Lin 07776 291446

e: linlucas203@btinternet.com

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St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.

Blackboys and Framfield Schools News

By the time you read this article another academic year for our 2 parish schools will have come to an end. It has been an exciting and vibrant year, with much to celebrate in both Framfield and Blackboys Schools.

Both schools enjoyed super sports days, despite the challenges of the recent weather! It is joyous to see the children enjoying competition, yet displaying our schools' values and cheering on friends and opponents alike. Supporting each other was also in evidence in the recent school productions. Junior children at Framfield School entertained 2 packed audiences with Hoodwinked, a version of the Robin Hood story. At Blackboys, a new school play, Mystery at Magpie Manor also impressed enthusiastic audiences. The children always make the Federation proud on these occasions and a massive thanks must go to staff for their hard work.

Thanks also must go to both the Framfield PTFA and Blackboys PTA for the recent summer fairs. Both fairs raised in excess of £1000, which will be put to good use in school projects over the next academic year. Both events were well attended and demonstrate the community spirit in our parish.

Both schools have been heavily involved in entering classes for the Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Show this year. We hope that parishioners enjoy seeing the children's handiwork as well as our normal Federation display.

This is the time of year when we say goodbye and good luck to our year 6 pupils. They have been a super bunch and we wish them well at their secondary schools.

We are also saying goodbye to some members of staff. At Framfield we are saying goodbye to Headteacher Mr Bradbeer. Mr Bradbeer has been headteacher for a year and moves on to spend more time with his young family. Framfield School recognises the contribution Mr Bradbeer has made in his tenure as



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headteacher. Framfield will be welcoming Mrs Roberts as interim Headteacher in September. Mrs Roberts is known to most of the school community due to working with Framfield for a term in 2022/23 academic year. Also leaving Framfield are Eagles class teacher Miss Norvell and Teaching Assistants Miss Sargeant and Mr Hills. We know that they will do well in their new schools.

At Blackboys we are saying a fond farewell to Higher Level Teaching Assistant Mrs Page. Mrs Page has worked at Blackboys School for 29 years and enjoyed a special tea party on the penultimate day of term to mark her well deserved retirement. Well done Mrs Page.

Thank you for your continued interest in the St Thomas a Becket Federation.

Keiran Bradbeer, Headteacher, Framfield

Graham Sullivan, Headteacher, Blackboys

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2024

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

27 July

August – no market

28 September

26 October

30 November

21 December

Please contact Ann Newton with any queries

01825 890182 or email clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

Over the past year, the Parish Council has encountered several challenges, with one of the most significant being its dealings with East Sussex County Council. This year, a formal complaint was lodged concerning the condition of roads and footpaths across the parish. While some issues have been addressed, potholes and hazardous road surfaces persist, causing damage to vehicles. The complaint has been upheld, although not to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. Full correspondence regarding it is available on our council's website. We continue to liaise with them about road issues, almost daily.

Over the past year, extensive footpath clearance work has been undertaken. Through regular communication with our County and District Councillors, pressure from us and residents has been applied to the respective authorities to improve the safety and accessibility of our footpaths. Nonetheless, we acknowledge that living in a rural area means our footpaths are subject to more debris and foliage issues than those in urban areas. If you encounter areas of concern, please report them to ESCC and obtain a reference number so that you can follow-up if remedial works are not forthcoming or delayed. We have also raised the issue of accessibility in some areas to allow wheelchairs and buggies to get by. Unfortunately, this has been met with limited response. With the weather as it has been of late, the reoccurring growth of hedges along footpaths continue to cause obstruction. To avoid unnecessary delay and potential costs through enforcement action, please can land owners ensure that they check their own land for any obstruction to the public highway.

I was hoping to give some good news about the reopening of Shawford Bridge, Gun Road which has been met with many delays. However, we have been informed that there are further significant delays that could result in the opening being September (2024) or even later. Yet another complaint has gone into ESCC, and we are awaiting a reply. It is unacceptable, and the Parish Council, along with our County Councillor have escalated the situation and dissatisfaction with every aspect of the project.

We are aware of concerns about faulty street lighting throughout the parish. Although the Parish Council owns the street lighting, it is maintained by ESCC contractors on our behalf. Major changes within their organisation have significantly altered some contractual processes. Earlier this year, the Parish Council successfully negotiated a contract with ESCC, and we were waiting for quotations for the works to begin. However, ESCC contractors have recently

informed us that they will not accept the revised terms of their own contract. We have filed yet another complaint with ESCC and are actively exploring all possible solutions. A more detailed explanation of the situation will be posted on our social media page and website soon.

ESCC are about to head into the next stage of the Community Match Funding project to reduce the speed limit on the B2192, Lewes Road through Blackboys. This involves a consultation with various bodies and the public. We hope that this is met positively so that we can progress towards making our roads safer.

We are still looking at the options available to lower the speed limit on the B2102 Blackboys High Street. This was originally progressing with financial and technical support from a housing developer. Unfortunately, they have since dissolved, which has left a significant funding gap.

In general, The Parish Council are aghast at the service received from ESCC on many aspects. It is affecting us, and affecting you. We will continue to lobby them for satisfactory expectations, and we do hold them accountable at every opportunity.

The Parish Council remains financially sound, although planned works such as street lighting will require significant expenditures.

The village market continues to thrive, thanks to the hard work of the market team and stallholders. The market is a hub for the local community, offering a place to buy local produce and goods, whilst serving as a social gathering spot for many. Sadly, we must report that Lillian, who baked cakes and helped run a stall for many years, recently passed away after a short illness. We offer our deepest condolences to her family; she will be greatly missed.

As Sole Trustees of the village halls, the Parish Council is pleased to announce that the project to replace all lighting in the halls with modern LED fixtures has been completed. This upgrade helps reduce our carbon footprint and energy costs, whilst enhancing safety and security with improved emergency lighting.

We still have much to accomplish over the rest of the financial year. We appreciate the community's supportive comments as well as constructive criticism. However, it is distressing to report that we have received some derogatory, abusive, and libellous comments of late. Whether known or anonymous, we urge people to think before engaging online. Councillors and staff are human beings, and we encourage anyone with genuine concerns or grievances to approach us directly and work towards a common goal, as the

majority of our community does. Abusive or inappropriate behaviour towards staff and councillors will not be tolerated, and action will be taken if necessary.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and councillors for their hard work over the past year in striving to make our community a better place.

Regards, Keith – Chairman, Framfield Parish Council

Allotment Tenancy Renewals – Framfield Parish Council

Emails have been sent out to tenants of both Framfield and Blackboys Allotments. If you haven't received one, please check your spam box.

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

If anyone would like to meet up to discuss any District-related matters please do not hesitate to contact me. Wealden District Council covers many subjects – Council Tax, Housing, Benefits, Planning, Licencing, Environmental Health to name but a few. I don't always have specific information to hand but can always find someone who would.

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



Framfield & Blackboys WI

BUILD UP TO OUR MAIN EVENT BEGINS

Preparations are already underway for our annual Quiz Night which this year will take place on a Friday night. We're looking forward to an evening of fiendishly difficult brain teasers, interspersed with ploughmans and cake:

QUIZ NIGHT

With Quizmasters Terry, Rich & Hayley

FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

7pm for 7.30 Start

Tickets: £12 each (first price increase EVER)!!

Fun Quiz with Ploughmans Supper and CAKE!!!

Bring along your own tippie and glasses

Tables of 6. Tables will be made up for smaller groups

RAFFLE

For tickets call Jackie on 07950 954827 or

Gill on 01825 890459

(if no reply, please leave a message & contact number)

Admission by ticket only. All proceeds to Framfield & Blackboys WI

Meantime, we're looking forward to taking part in the

FRAMFIELD & BLACKBOYS SUMMER SHOW

Which takes place on 17th August at Framfield Recreation Ground and the Memorial Hall. This is a wonderful community event, which this year will be graced by our very own scarecrow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 9th August	Members Lunch	Hare & Hounds, Framfield
Friday Sept. 27th	Meeting at 2pm	Framfield Church Hall
	Speaker: Louise Ryrie	Find & Keep your Pelvic Floor

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 07950 954827.

Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI

Delivering Parish Magazines:

We are very grateful to those volunteers who have recently come forward to fill vacancies for delivery of the Parish magazines. We would like to thank all those who help distribute this magazine.

Milk Bottle Tops – Collection News

£250 FROM 2.5 TONNES OF BOTTLE TOPS

"Friends of Eastbourne Hospital "

We're very pleased to receive a payment of £250.00 in return for 2.5 tons of milk bottle tops that everyone has been collecting for recycling. We often get asked if the new clear tops are recyclable, The answer is yes, and as you been collecting before, all Colours too, only milk bottle tops (not other bottle tops as they are not made of the same plastic).

So they can be handed in at the Village Market which is on the last Saturday of the month. Then we take them to Eastbourne District General when we get 2 or 3 black sacks full. Thank you for your part in this collection,

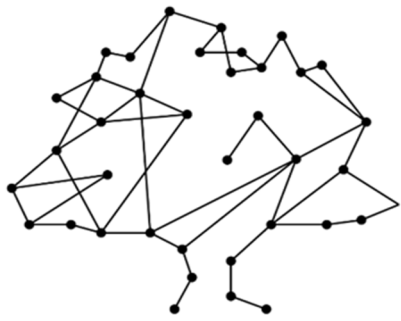
Carry on collecting them as you can see its worthy cause.

Many Thanks Sandy and Keith (Rogers)

Thank you all again for the tops that have been collected in this area over the years, and in making sure they are presented clean and silver free.

Milk bottle tops can be dropped off at Framfield Market (Last Saturday of the month). Many Thanks –

Sandy and Keith Rogers - 01323 833121.



NEWLIFE

NEW LIFE CHURCH BLACKBOYS

Only the sky is boundless

My wife is currently reading 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' by John Mark Comer (I've got a copy but haven't had time to read it yet!) One of the things it points out is that before 1879 the average person slept for eleven hours - because they went to sleep as the sun set - then Edison gave us the lightbulb in 1879 - giving us unlimited light.

Ever since that point our lives have got busier than we can actually cope with (I'm writing this at midnight!) Lockdown highlighted the need to get out into creation - in fact that's what all the professionals are prescribing now for our mental wellbeing. I believe we're all designed to walk in the garden as Adam and Eve did - this was God's plan for us.

In the past, everyone was more connected to nature, because we either farmed or hunted, just to survive. Now our lives take us away from this. One of my favourite Scriptures is Psalm 76 v 4 '*You are resplendent with light (talking about God) more majestic than mountains rich with game.*' I believe that creation points to God - if we could just take the time to enjoy it more.

This poem by R S Thomas sums it up perfectly - (writing about the farmer)

'This is his world, the hedge defines the mind's limits; Only the sky is boundless, and he never looks up, his gaze is deep in the dark soil.'

We at New Life Church meet every Sunday at Blackboys CE Primary School 10.30am - noon, starting with coffee and cake. Our new pastor Phil Cole would love to meet you - do let us know if you'd like prayer or a pastoral visit. Do drop in and see us any Sunday to find out more about faith and find a friendly group of all ages from the surrounding villages wanting to live life in all its fullness!

Email : newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com

Call: Suzanne Hammond on 07794 869384 or 01435 661054

Website: newlifeblackboys.com

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FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING SCHEDULE 2024

At the time of issuing this notice, all meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, at 5.00 pm 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.

30 July

24 September

26 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

WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair:

For the Church: Revd James Vine

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
volunteers

Printers: Print Matters

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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