

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

# Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk)

**Treasurer:**

**Mrs Gaynor Robson**

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**From the Church Registers:**

**At Rest:    13.8.24:    Peter Wood**

## The Wealdway Benefice

We have been talking about this potential new way of working together for a while now, and after a successful meeting with the Archdeacon in July I think we are gradually beginning to understand what this might look like in practice. We have just formed a working group, made up of representatives from all three parishes, to thrash out the details, and this group will keep our three PCCs informed of progress as it is made.

I shared a very productive working lunch in August with a colleague in West Sussex who has recently successfully achieved what we hope to achieve.

On the 1st of January 2021 the parishes of St James Selham, St Peter Lodsworth and St Mary Easebourne became one new benefice (the Priory Benefice) containing three parish churches.

Their inspired 'strap line' is: One church - Three buildings.

I truly hope and pray that this may become a reality for our three parishes, as we seek to become one Weald Way Benefice containing the three parish churches of Chiddingfold, East Hoathly and St. Thomas à Becket Framfield. One church - Three buildings.

Practically this will mean that all three churches, will come together under the banner of one PCC with one Annual Parochial Church meeting, one main Treasurer and one Safeguarding Officer. The remit of the one PCC, will be to jointly run our three churches; promoting the Gospel of our

Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC will co-operate with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Following the excellent example of the Priory Benefice, each church will I think have a local committee consisting of:

The Incumbent

Church warden(s)

2 lay reps from the main PCC

Someone to bank the money and keep gentle accounts

Co-opted members of each church where and as necessary

The local committee will meet as many times a year as they decide appropriate. They will appoint someone to bank monies and run a simple form of accounts which will be passed to the main PCC treasurer. The standing committee will deal with the day-to-day business of each church community, making sure that larger issues are dealt with by the main PCC.

I appreciate that this sounds somewhat clumsy and legalistic, but we need to get this right, and hopefully our newly formed working party, can start to form my disparate ideas into a cogent whole!

In the meantime, please continue to pray for our church family and our wider communities.

One church – Three Buildings!

Yours in Christ

Revd. James

September 2024

## The View from the Churchyard – Peter Berry

It's me again. I notice in the Feb-March edition of the Parish Mag I proposed the first Saturday of the month as a good time to come and give us a hand. Maybe not my best suggestion because I think all but one in this summer have been at least damp if not downright wet. I am very grateful to all who have helped in any way. What appears to have evolved is the freedom for anyone to come whenever they can. Also perhaps 2-3 people getting together to keep an eye on an agreed smallish area. We can take care of the mowing, It's the keeping tidy and making it look a bit cared for. It helps us and we will support you. I must admit in 50 yrs + of farming I cannot remember a growing season like this summer. It has been a challenge but gradually we are getting a measure of control. Hopefully as it looks more cared for it will encourage others to join in. I know what we are trying to do is appreciated and in spite of a testing summer, there is great beauty and peace in this special place in our parish. If you can and would like to be involved in any way no matter how small, then please do give me a ring on 07815 459075

Many Thanks  
Peter.

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**Please note that the latest notices and information are always posted on the church website. - [www.framfieldchurch.org.uk](http://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.**

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
17<sup>th</sup> November 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](mailto: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 the start time of the Remembrance Service -10.45 on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### OCTOBER 2024

- 06    **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Revd Janice)
- 13    **Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist at Framfield (Revd James)
- 20    **Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Service (Revd James)
- 27    **Bible Sunday**  
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)

### NOVEMBER 2024

- 03    **All Saints' Day**  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (Revd James)
- 10    **Remembrance Sunday – Please note start time**  
**10.45 am** Remembrance Service (Peter Berry)
- 17    **Second Sunday before Advent**  
10.00 am Family Service (Revd Janice)
- 24    **Christ the King**  
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)

*(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 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

**TO**

**ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**

**Please note new email address:**

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

**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,  
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

**Parish Council website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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

**[admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk)**

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

Ashburnham Chapel invite you to join them on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 6-30 pm for their next healing service led by Prof. Barbara Leppard, a doctor that God has used throughout her working life as an eminent dermatologist using both medicine and miracles.

Do join us, you won't regret it!

Our post code is TN33 9PD

## Nature Notes

Water is the medium of life. My teacher taught me that when I was studying biology at school many years ago. This is also why astronomers are so preoccupied by looking for water on the Moon or Mars. In fact, they think they have discovered that Mars has water but it is 10 or 20 kilometres below the planet surface! So, then the questions are how do astronauts get it out? Why try?

We live on a beautiful blue planet where water makes up over 70% of the surface and can be as much as 11,000 metres deep. We (humans) are 55 - 60% water. If we cannot find any on a very hot day, we are not likely to survive. Space is a very unhealthy place with no available water or food. Moreover, there is not much oxygen there either, so I for one would not be interested to go there. We must look after this planet as there is no plan(et) B as someone has said. We must simply solve the problems we have on our home planet.

Rivers are the vascular system of our natural world. They provide us with the water for our taps in our houses, and ultimately take away wastewater when we flush the toilet and pull out the sink plug. What happens in between keeps us clean, from being thirsty, and removes our bodily waste. It is a miracle that we all take for granted every day. We have faith that the supply company maintains the reservoirs, filters, pipes and chlorinators that provide our potable tap water. Also, the sewage workers (and I have been one in the past) that ensure that the water returning to rivers does not kill the animals (and plants) that live in it. These are some of them, first the invertebrates: Stonefly (Plecoptera) larvae, these are the best sign of good quality water; caddisfly (Trichoptera) larvae, many make little jackets out of fibres or sand; various dragonfly (Odonata) larvae, including demoiselles (*Calopteryx* spp.) larvae which take up to 2 years to develop before emerging as the most beautiful flying insect I know. Dragonflies are beautiful primitive voracious predators of other invertebrates; freshwater shrimps (*Gammarus pulex*) are miniatures of their marine cousins. There are also whirligig beetles (Gyrinidae) that dance on the surface of water; also, water skaters (Gerridae) true bugs also with the ability to walk and run on water; leaches (Hirudinea) which are parasitic or predatory worms, some have a traditional use in medicine. Additionally, the vertebrates (like us), including fish such as bullheads, sticklebacks, eels and trout that feed on the invertebrates; also, water voles, otters and kingfishers make rivers their homes if they can.

Scientists collect samples of invertebrates from rivers using a technique called kick netting. They identify them under microscopes and attribute a score (1. poor to 10. good) dependent on what is there, some are more pollution tolerant than others. This determines the quality of the river water and is called the River Invertebrate Prediction and Classification System (RIVPACS) method.

*Martyn Stenning*

## Nature Notes 2

August is a good month for insects. Ergo, September is a good month for spiders. Many of us will have taken part in 'No Mow May' and some will have left the grass and wildflowers to grow on into June, July and August. These 4 months will have allowed many insects to develop, mate and lay eggs. We are going through a biodiversity crisis at present with many species of animals at all levels in steep decline. One root of this problem is a lack of insects. So why is this? One reason is environmental contamination in our water, land and atmosphere. Another may be climate change. This change can affect the survival of some insects positively, but many will also be negatively affected. Many insects have very exacting requirements including a dependency on species specific external temperature. Any change in the environment requires organisms to adapt, usually via natural selection favouring individuals that benefit from that change. The rest die. A consequence of climate change is that many organisms are moving north as the weather (in Britain) becomes milder and warm enough to support them. For others, it may become too hot. One butterfly that I frequently see in France is the large tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis polychloros*). This butterfly is extremely rare in Britain, but recently, is apparently turning up here more frequently.

One of the joys of summer is seeing and hearing the insects busily going about their complex lives, such as the buzz of the many types of bees in flower-rich meadows, the fluttering-by of butterflies, the stridulating of grasshoppers and crickets. Or the gentle movements of ladybirds hunting aphids and the helicopter-like hovering of the many beautiful types of dragonflies as they hunt for other insects. However, all these minibeasts perform many important functions in the environment. Maybe their two main functions are 1. The pollination of flowers, and 2. Being food for other animals such as larger insects, spiders, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Insects are a vital component of biological food chains, but most of them disappear from November to March. By creating insect friendly mini meadows in our gardens, we will certainly be assisting the survival of a huge variety of biodiversity, while also creating a fantastic opportunity for ourselves to get to know some of these amazing creatures. For example, we recently had our local grass verge designated for wildlife, and this year it is buzzing with insects including the scarce and beautiful day-flying 5-spot burnet moth (*Zygaena trifoli*)



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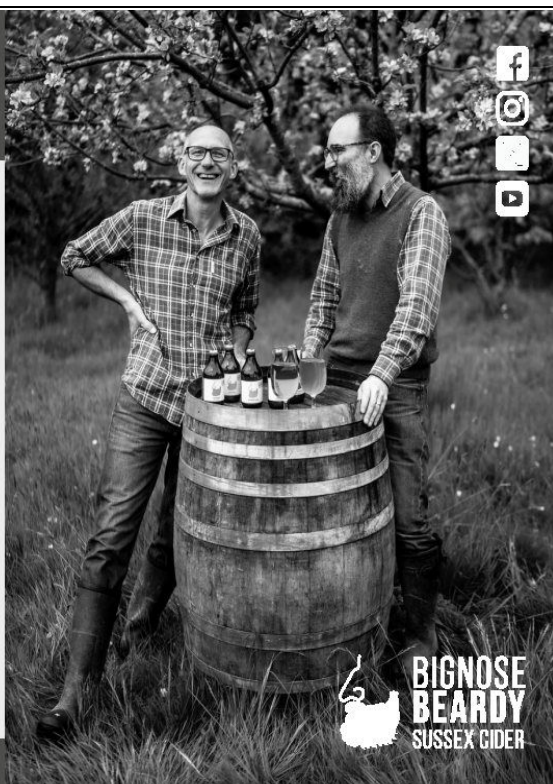
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## Wasp Spider by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I never thought I'd say this, but I've fallen in love with a spider. And coming from a lifelong arachnophobe that's quite a claim. Whereas every other spider species sends me screaming in utter terror, the Wasp Spider has melted my heart. They are gorgeous. I met one on the South Downs last weekend and, hypnotised by her beauty, I spent hours with her; lying in the grass, staring lovingly into her eight eyes.

Wasp Spiders' rotund abdomens are delicately patterned with exotic black, yellow and white stripes. Every Wasp Spider looks subtly different – as if each has been individually hand-painted. Their eight legs wear stripy black and white stockings – the sort favoured by the Wicked Witch of the East. This stripy, waspish appearance has given the spider its name and is used as a defence mechanism to ward off predators who equate this colouration with being stung.

They're a relatively new resident in England. The first British Wasp Spider was found near Rye in 1922. Since then they have slowly spread across Sussex and you can find them in any areas of grassland. Here inside their long grass lair, they weave their silky circular webs which – like all spider webs – are a masterpiece of arachnoid architecture. As if proud of her accomplishment the Wasp Spider autographs her web with a unique silken squiggle. The actual purpose of this thick zigzag flourish (the 'stabilimentum') is a mystery; although some believe it reflects UV light, luring in pollinating insects who mistake the web for a flower.

Male Wasp Spiders don't have it easy. Physically they lack any snazzy patterning and at 5mm are a third of the size of their hulking female counterparts. And when it comes to spider sex, she dominates the male too. During mating she turns her lover into lunch. So, as the female lies enticingly in her web, the male approaches her with understandable trepidation. It's all about timing. After she slips out of her old exoskeleton and into something more comfortable, her fresh body is temporarily soft – and so are her jaws. This is her Achilles heel, an opportunity for the male to jump in, do his business and get out before being eaten. This sort of pressure would affect any fellas' performance,

but the male Wasp Spider has a trick up his eight sleeves: he can detach his sexual organs, leave them inside the female and scarper.

I always assumed that jettisoning his genitalia allowed the spider to survive, but almost every mating session ends in death for the male. Scientists have found that after this self-imposed castration, the spider's sexual organs keep on fertilising the female and block other males' attempts at mating. The spider sacrifices his own life to save his member and ensure he becomes a father. Wow, what a way to go.

## 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](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)**

## 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](mailto:aenewton1965@gmail.com)

## St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation.

### Blackboys and Framfield Schools News

It has been a productive start to the new school year in both our parish schools, Blackboys School and Framfield School.

Framfield have welcomed a new Interim Headteacher following Mr Bradbeer's departure in the summer. Mrs Roberts leads the school on an interim basis, providing the Federation's Governors time to put a leadership strategy together for the school. Joining Mrs Roberts at Framfield is new Teaching Assistant Miss Saunders and new Midday supervisors Mrs Tungate and Mrs Fenton. There is also good news for Kingfisher teacher Miss Black, who is expecting her second baby. She will go on maternity leave in late autumn and we know the community will be wishing her all the best.

There are exciting plans afoot at Blackboys, with a completion date in the diary for the new music room. This will provide some much needed extra space for music lessons and we were thrilled to receive a donated piano ready to grace the new room.

The new reception pupils in both schools have settled really well and are making early progress with their phonics and reading as well as settling into the routines and expectations of their Reception classes.

Both schools are currently preparing for 2 popular autumn term events. Firstly the annual Ringmer area poetry recital and secondly the 2 schools' harvest festivals. We believe it is a really useful skill to learn a poem by heart and to develop the confidence to say it aloud to an audience. Both schools will therefore be sending pupils to Kings Academy Ringmer to compete for the title of Ringmer Area reciter of the year. Our Harvest Festivals are always real highlights and we naturally thank Father James and the team at St Thomas a



Becket Church for making us so welcome. Food donations will be given to the Uckfield Food Bank this year.

Both schools are currently arranging open days for our September 2025 intake. Details will be on school websites and please look out for posters and flyers or contact either school to arrange visits. Details will also be available on Blackboys School's new Instagram account; please search Blackboysschool.

Thank you for your continued interest in our 2 schools.

Mr G Sullivan Headteacher, Blackboys  
Mrs C Roberts Interim Headteacher, Framfield

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## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET 2024

**Memorial Hall, Framfield**

**The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.**

**28 September  
26 October  
30 November  
21 December**

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

## ***A Record-Breaking Summer Show 2024***

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July gave Framfield and Blackboys a record-breaking day. More people than ever visited the Recreation Ground and Memorial Hall on the day that brings the Parish together. Much fun was had and so many people have commented that it was the best Summer Show they can recall!

Huge thanks must go to Lin and Caroline who organised a significant increase in volunteers across the two days it takes to make the Summer Show work. With so many hands the set-up on Friday was completed in record time, and we were almost ready by the time Sarah arrived with the cake and drink selection, much needed when working so vigorously!



Come Saturday, the show was all set and the weather forecast showed that the conditions would be perfect! Slowly people arrived to stage their exhibits. The Children's Section was much expanded due to co-ordination with both Framfield CE and Blackboys CP Schools. The year had proved to have less than ideal growing conditions, but there were of course some truly spectacular exhibits. I must thank all those who entered into the spirit of this traditional element of the show, whether successful or not. Please enter more classes in 2025! With that in mind, don't forget to look out for the next Show Schedule that will be published in Spring 2025.

Outside of the Memorial Hall and the marquee on the Recreation Ground, the field was a-buzz with visitors. Many admiring the increased creativity of the Scarecrow Competition (with its cash prizes). The arena gave a focus for the afternoon, with entertainment from Hollie singing a range of popular songs, as well as performances from CMA Karate, the Framfield Stagers and our visiting alpacas. The arena concluded with a range of children's races and the 2024 Egg Throwing Championship.



Around the field was a range of commercial stalls selling all manner of items, some charity stands and many exciting games, from "Splat the Rat" (not a real one!) to Bra-Pong and the latest addition of the "Human Fruit Machine" to name but a few. These sat alongside the more traditional hoopla, raffle and crockery smashing, along with a welcome return for the coconut shy. All of this was made possible by the hard work of the organising committee and volunteers, who worked with such creativity, perseverance and good humour. I hope you will all continue to volunteer in 2025, and maybe bring another to the team as well!

The Dog Show proved to be a great success, including dog agility and classes such as Best Local Dog and Best Young Handler. We hope to see more dogs involved in 2025, in all classes and the fun of the agility. Thanks must go to Becca for ensuring this was a well-organised section of the Summer Show in 2024.

With so much going on, the bar and refreshment tents kept up a roaring trade. Thank you to all those who donated cakes and cider (Bignose and Beardy)! A special thanks must go to Fergus and his bar team and Jo and the refreshments team for making this very important part of the show such a success.

There are some people who have a vital role in making events like our Summer Show happen. Nigel is one of those. Without his supply of tables, PA system and boundless energy – the show would just not be the same. And then he runs the auction of exhibits at the end of the show too! If only more people realised the bargains available in the auction of the Show's top-quality vegetables, fruit and flowers, then surely they would stay to the very end!





The hardest part is the packing and clearing it all away post Show. So, another huge thank you must go to the clearing team, especially Dave who marshalled the storing of all the parts so effectively.

The Show took more money than ever before, with an increased profit too. This will mean the largest ever amount in our Community Fund. The Community Fund is allocated to local charity or project bids received once the process begins later in the year. Watch out for details and the simple application form.

So, it is a huge thank you to everyone involved – visitors, stallholders, volunteers and in particular the Summer Show Committee, without whom we would not have a Summer Show at all. We tried to include new elements and are always looking for new ideas and people willing to help make 2025's Summer Show an even better event. Please contact me on [terry.everitt@outlook.com](mailto:terry.everitt@outlook.com) to offer help or ideas.

See you again on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025!

Terry Everitt, Chair, Framfield and Blackboys Summer Show

#### Show Results 2024

Trophy/Section/Award	For...	Winner
The Hobbs Barton Cup	Best Exhibit in Show	Terry Everitt
The John Dann Cup	From My Garden Exhibit	Terry Everitt
The New Whyly Perpetual Challenge Cup	Most Points, Section 1	Terry Everitt
The Trevor Horscroft Cup	Best Carrots	Terry Everitt
The Cyril Jeffery Memorial Plate	Best Runner Beans	Margaret Bond
The David Hazelden Plate	Best Tomatoes	Richard Chapman
The Peter Butler Plate	Best Dish of Fruit	Saffron White
The Dennis White Memorial Cup	Most Points, Section 2	Claire Walton
The Elsie Jeffery Jug	Best Dahlia	Penny Malloy
The Geddes Rose Bowl	Most Points for Roses	Stephanie Newman
The Williams Cup	Best Novice Roses	Caroline Swire
The Frank Leeves Perpetual Challenge Cup	Best Sweet Peas	Emma Page
The Gordon-Wilson Cup	Best Hydrangeas	Sue Flight
The Askew Perpetual Challenge Bowl	Best Novice Exhibit	Claire Walton
The Colonel Nigel Drew Cup	Best Novice Collection	Not awarded in 2024
The Whitewood Perpetual Challenge Cup	Most Points, Novice Classes	Claire Walton
The Henry Cup	Most Points, Section 4	Catherine Bayman
The Don & Wilma Diplock Memorial Cup	Best Floral Arrangement	Patti Whittaker
The New Place Perpetual Challenge Cup	Most Points, Cookery	Rachel Owen
The Makepeace Cup	Best Cookery Exhibit (excl. 89)	Jo Rivett
The Desmond Gunner Cup	Winner of Society Tray	Terry Everitt
The Barbara Briault Cup	Best Children's Exhibit	Isabel Johnson
The Moore Miniature Challenge Cups	Aged 4 and under	Alma Morrison-Hall
	Aged 5 to 7	Joni Morrison-Hall
	Aged 8 to 11	Vivi Cottingham, Mollie Fenton, Ellie Cornford
	Aged 12 to 16	Not awarded in 2024
The Sampson Bowl	Best Handicraft Exhibit	Susan Owen
The Barbara & Horace Moore Cup	Most Points, Photography	Isabel Johnson
The Burton Bowl	Best Photographic Exhibit	Trisha Blewitt
The Jeffery Victor Ludorum Trophy	Most Successful Family	Owen Family
Diploma for Excellence in Horticulture	Winner of Class 1	Terry Everitt
Certificate of Merit for Floral Art	Runner-Up in Section 4	Margaret McSheehy
Junior Competitor's Award of Merit	Vegetables and Flowers	Saffron White
Junior Competitor's Award of Merit	Floral Arrangement	Indi Adamski
Junior Competitor's Award of Merit	Best Exhibit in Section 1,2 & 3	Saffron White
The National Vegetable Society – Medal for the Best Vegetable Exhibit		Terry Everitt
Bronze Banksian Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society		Claire Walton
Best In Show - Champion	Raven (German Shepherd) Owner: Jan	
Reserve Best in Show	Mustard (Daschund) Owner: Elena	
Egg Throwing Champions	Christy and Jack	



# CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

**WED 13 NOVEMBER 2024 - 10am - 3pm**

**EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL HOTEL**

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## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

The The Parish Council is in ongoing discussions with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to address several unresolved issues within the parish. Some matters have remained outstanding for quite some time.

Shawford Bridge on Gun Road in Blackboys has finally reopened after nearly two years, marking the end of a long and challenging process. You may have noticed that the water level beneath the bridge is now higher than before. However, ESCC has assured us that this was a requirement set by the Environment Agency's permit. It's a relief to have this issue resolved.

Regarding street lighting, the situation remains fluid. As previously reported, the Parish Council has lodged a formal complaint with ESCC about unacceptable contractual conditions and other factors delaying the restoration of our streetlights to an adequate standard. Unfortunately, we have only received an apology for the slow response so far. We hope to provide an update by the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

Due to these ongoing issues with ESCC, we have decided to terminate their services for streetlight repairs, maintenance, and energy supply contracts. We have hired an independent contractor to take over these responsibilities, though we are still in the early stages of transitioning the contracts. This is a significant and positive step, but more work is needed before repairs can begin. The new contractor is proactive and highly experienced, and we will keep you updated on developments. We understand this has taken considerable time, and we are working hard to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

The Parish Council is also liaising with ESCC to address the condition and overgrown vegetation on footpaths across the parish. We are in regular contact and have identified areas in urgent need of attention. We are exploring more sustainable, long-term solutions, but progress is slow due to the complexity of rules and regulations to navigate. We hope to share more positive news on this soon. Additionally, we continue to engage with our County Councillor regarding the poor maintenance of several footpaths, which has been an ongoing and reoccurring issue for many years.

The statutory consultation for the Parish Council's Community Match Scheme to reduce the speed limit on the B2192 Lewes Road through Blackboys has been completed. The consultation with statutory stakeholders was positive,



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allowing the project to move forward to the next stage. We will update you as soon as further progress is made.

We kindly remind everyone not to park in the Framfield Memorial Hall car park unless you are hiring the hall. Unauthorised parking has been causing problems for legitimate hirers, who often struggle to find available spaces. Even brief parking can have a ripple effect, as it encourages others to do the same, exacerbating the issue. The car park is private, and signage clearly indicates this. If hirers are deterred or choose not to return, it could threaten the financial viability of the hall, potentially leading to its closure. It is a serious matter.

Did you know that in addition to contacting East Sussex County Council or Wealden District Council directly about issues in the parish such as potholes or Public Rights of Way (PRoW), you can also use the FixMyStreet app or website ([www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)). Both councils are registered with the platform, and submitting a report via the mobile app is quick and simple. For matters related to recreation grounds, halls, bus stops, public bins, playgrounds, street lights, or allotments, please continue to report them to [clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk) or call 01825 890182.

On a different note, there are a couple of vendor spaces available at the Framfield Village Market for those who can commit to the monthly dates. Please note that we do not allow stalls selling competing merchandise. For more information, contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk).

Lastly, on a positive note, new bins have been installed at two of our recreation grounds. These are large double units for both dog waste and general rubbish. At Palehouse Common, the bin is near the playground entrance. In Framfield, the general waste and dog bins have been relocated to the main vehicle entrance of the recreation ground, and in Blackboys, the new bin will replace the old one just off John Dann Close. The old dog bins that these units replace will be removed in due course, while other bins will remain in place.

Thank you, and best regards,

Keith Brandon, Chairman - Framfield Parish Council



## Framfield & Blackboys WI

### QUIZ NIGHT – UPDATE

It is with great regret that we have had to postpone our much anticipated Quiz Night until next spring. We're very sorry to have to take this decision and apologise for any disappointment this may cause. We will publish the new date as soon as possible.

### FRAMFIELD & BLACKBOYS SUMMER SHOW

I think this was the best Summer Show ever. The atmosphere was wonderful and we were well entertained by the various events in the arena. Many thanks to Terry and his team for making it all happen. We entered the Scarecrow Competition for the first time and had great fun creating our 'Suffragette' scarecrow. Our hamper raffle (worth over of £40) was won locally. People began buying our home-made cakes as soon the show opened. Here's looking forward to next year.



### FUTURE MEETINGS - 2PM - FRAMFIELD CHURCH HALL

Friday Oct 11th

Speaker: Mike McKenzie, Retired Judge

Friday Nov 8th

Members Meeting & Christmas Craft

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

## The launch of our Space to Thrive Appeal

For over 25 years, since 1999, Bevern View has been a loving and supportive home for residents and others in the wider community with profound physical and learning disabilities. As our residents get older their needs grow more complex and we now urgently need to extend the home to ensure we provide the space and care they deserve to live life to the full.

Our **Space to Thrive** appeal aims to transform Bevern View. By extending the home we can create a dedicated activity room, equipped with built-in hoists for maximum safety and flexibility alongside cutting-edge sensory equipment. This will provide our residents with stimulating and engaging experiences in a secure environment.

A refurbished lounge will offer a peaceful retreat for relaxation and social interaction, both for our residents and their families outside of the bedroom setting.

Additionally, a new office and staff break room means the care team will finally have somewhere to have a vital short break from their long shifts and enhance the team's wellbeing.

These three essential spaces will significantly improve the quality of life for everyone involved.

Come along to any of the following events to support us on our journey or just to find out more about the appeal:

- The Artisan Christmas Fair @Barcombe Village Hall, 12noon-6pm on 30 November
- Buxted Symphony Orchestra Concert @Holy Cross Church, Uckfield, 3pm on 30 November

Follow our fundraising progress on our 'Space to Thrive' page of our website  
[www.beverntrust.org/space-to-thrive](http://www.beverntrust.org/space-to-thrive)

Bevern View is a purpose-built residential home in Barcombe providing life-long care for 11 young adults with profound disabilities.

**Thank you  
for your  
support**

**Donate:** [www.beverntrust.org](http://www.beverntrust.org)  
**Email:** [info@beverntrust.org](mailto:info@beverntrust.org)  
**Follow us on social media:**  
f @thebeverntrust

## 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,

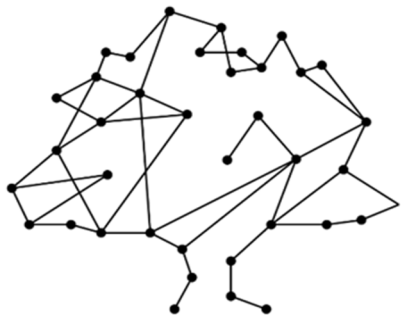
Carry on collecting them as you can see its worthy cause.

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

### Recognising Blessings

Anxiety is a very prevalent issue in this day and age. We live in a land of plenty in stark contrast to what our grandparents had. My grandad's thoughts were often occupied with where the next meal was coming from, especially as a child. Later on in his life, as a soldier at war, his biggest concern became survival as well as not letting his unit down. He would recall being thankful for each new morning, convinced it was his last. None of us are immune to anxiety - and I often think of my grandad's challenges to keep my own worries in perspective.

When I was unwell during chemotherapy I found if I was disappearing down a black hole, I would 'put my head above the parapet' and instead concern myself with others, making them laugh during treatment and engaging with those on the ward to alleviate their struggles (sometimes easier said than done!) This would invariably lead to being thankful to God instead - for all His blessings and the amazing care I was receiving.

There is so much wisdom in the Bible, which should not surprise me, as I believe it is God-breathed. Paul writes in Philippians 4 v 6-7

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

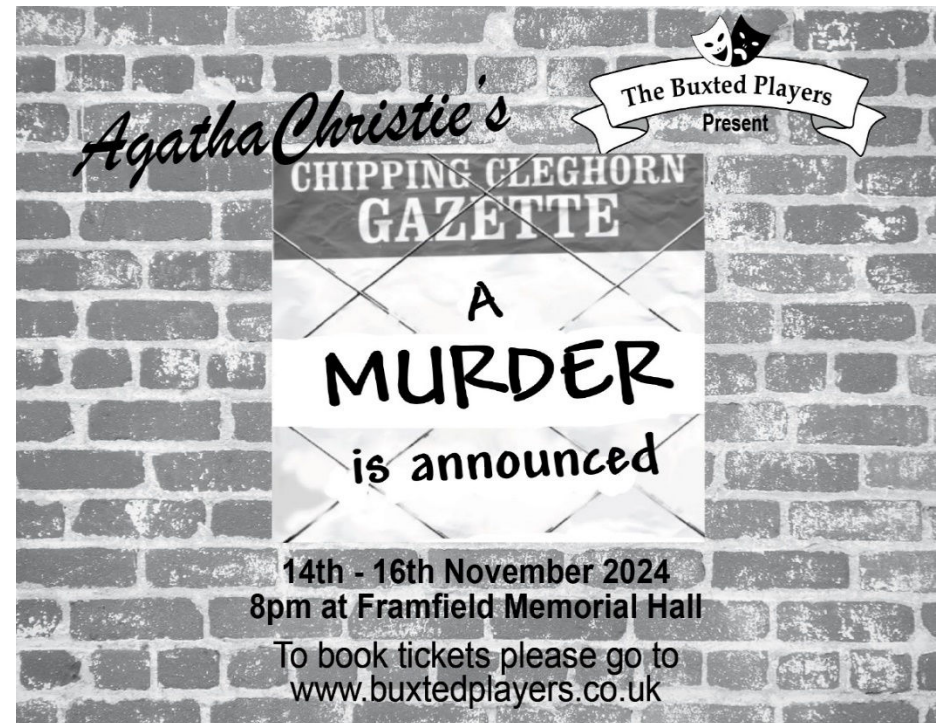
Paul (who wrote was on God's heart) was no scientist, but it has recently been discovered that the part of the brain dealing with anxiety is positively affected by thankfulness. My prayer for you is that you would discover this peace that 'passes all understanding.'

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](mailto:newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com)

**Call:** *Suzanne Hammond* on 07794 869384 or 01435 661054

**Website:** [newlifeblackboys.com](http://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.

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1 October

26 November

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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**

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#### *CIRCULATION:*

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

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

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

*clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk*

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## 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](mailto:HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Buses – 0345 60 80 194

Children and families – 0345 60 80 192 (see latest news above)

Library renewals – 0345 60 80 195

Library enquiries – 0345 60 80 196

Roads and paths – 0345 60 80 193

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Trading Standards – 0345 04 05 06

Waste – 0345 60 80 194

Main Switchboard – 0345 60 80 190

From overseas – +441273 336000

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