

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



 $Bells\ Yew\ Green\ Seed\ Heads$

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From the Rectory



Yes - it's me! In case you're wondering, I am writing 'from the Rectory', it's just that the Rectory I'm writing from is in the West Country. And the reason I'm writing for one last time is so that I can say 'thank you'.

Leaving somewhere where you've been happy and settled is never easy, and in many ways it all happened rather quickly. One thing we discovered is that there just wasn't time to say a proper goodbye to everyone. It reminded us of our wedding day - lots of special people all in one place but hardly enough time to talk to each one. So please forgive us if we didn't get to see you in our final few weeks.

The fabulous farewell tea that was laid on for us was a real treat and a very special occasion. It was very touching to see so many people there, and we would again like to say a big thank you to the team who organised it and to all who came. It was particularly moving to be presented with such a generous leaving gift. We were rather overwhelmed by the generosity - it was so kind of so many people to contribute. Maybe you did - in which case: thank you. We have decided to use some of the money to replace our old sofas. They have served us well, but with all the visitors to the house (not to mention an enthusiastic little boy playing on them) they are beyond their use-by date. This will be a real treat

for us. As they are used in life and ministry here in Nailsea they will remind us of you all.

Now it wouldn't be like me to write this piece without including some sort of 'thought for the day', so here goes... The gift we received was a collection of anonymous donations, which has left us scratching our heads as it makes it hard to thank people specifically. What do you do when you don't know who to thank? Anyone who considers themselves an atheist has a similar problem. Who should be thanked for a beautiful sunset, for birds singing, or for the birth of a little baby? It changes your perspective when you believe that these things aren't just the result of a random cosmic accident, but are thoughtful gifts from a loving Heavenly Father. But it then opens up other questions, like: how do I express my thanks to God? And what will this relationship with God look like? These are exactly the sort of questions we find answers to in the teaching of Jesus.

Anyway, I really am signing off now. It's time for more unpacking as we make Nailsea our home. But I will confess to you that I've already answered the phone here once by saying 'Frant Rectory'! Hopefully I won't make that mistake again, but we will never forget the lovely people and the wonderful time we enjoyed in Frant. THANK YOU!



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News From The Pews

March began with a sad but very lovely time on the morning of March 4th when James conducted his final services in our churches. In St Alban's it was a Family service at which birthdays were celebrated, and 3 week old Marguerite Sammons was baptised. So a very jolly time, but a lot of tears too.

The next morning, 5th March, Jesse Pascoe, the son of our Youth worker Ed and his wife Julie, was in such a hurry to join us that he was born before the ambulance arrived. Not the first baby to be born in a stable! Welcome to Jesse and congratulations to Ed, Julie, Benjamin and Nora.

On the afternoon of Sunday 18th March, more than 170 crammed into the Memorial Hall for the Packman's farewell party (pictured). As well as a



delicious afternoon tea, we had the great pleasure of hearing our young people, the' Encounter Band', singing and playing for us. Hearing this delightful group of young people was a very fitting tribute to James and his determination to build up our children and youth ministry. As a farewell gift from the Parish, James and Sarah were presented with a cheque.

We now face upwards of 6 months without a Rector, (The Interregnum), which means keeping our churches going and finding Ministers and Lay Readers to conduct services. At the time of writing we are 5 services down and at least 30 to go! The PCC are currently putting together the Parish Profile, which will hopefully persuade prospective applicants that the Parish of Frant with Eridge is a highly desirable place in

which to live and work. The Paragon of virtue, perfection and accomplishment described in our outline of the Rector we would like, probably doesn't exist, but we'll have to wait and see who applies.

All of our Easter services were all well attended with the Easter Sunday service in St Albans being particularly popular because everyone got an Easter Egg.

We're looking to the future optimistically and prayerfully.

Grave Talk Cafe

A second Cafe morning will be held in the Stables at 10.00 am on Thursday 31st May. As before everyone is welcome to this convivial event, whether or not you came to the first one.

One morning in early February James launched the first Grave Talk Cafe at the Stables. This is a Church of England initiative to increase awareness of death and help people make the most of their (finite) lives.

Around 20 people turned up, enjoyed coffee/tea and cakes, and in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere discussed thought-provoking questions. It was like a breath of fresh air blowing through the normal doubts and anxieties of our thinking about what was once considered taboo.

The news is there is to be another, on Thursday morning 31st May, again at the Stables. Please make a note of the date, though there will be more information nearer the time. As before, everybody is welcome, whether or not you were able to attend the first time round.

-Brian Gill and Roy Buchanan





Churchwardens

St Alban's: Jane Emler-532233, Crawford Burden-07789 170275 Holy Trinity: Jonathan Lynn-864304, Christopher Hall-750385



www.frantchurch.org



Services for May/June 2018

www.eridgechurch.org

9:30am		6th May		8:00am 11:15am
11:00am		13th May Earlye Farm, Partridge Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6LA		
9:300am	Morning Service	20th May	Traditional Service	11:15am
9:30am	Communion	27th May	Communion	11:15am
9:30am		3rd June		8:00am 11:15am
9.30am	Communion	10th June	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service	17th June	Traditional Service	11:15am
9:30am	Communion	24th June	Communion	11:15am

There is a Sunday Club for 0-14 year olds at Frant when it isn't a family service—all welcome!

During the vacancy the order of services may be subject to change Please check the church websites for up-to-date information



Sunday Services: 10.30am Good Friday service at 10.30am; Bible Study & Prayer: Thursdays, 7.30pm Enquiries: Ken Davies, 01732 357791



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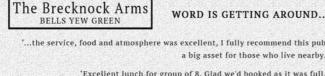


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'Excellent lunch for group of 8. Glad we'd booked as it was full Good choices on the menu. Freshly cooked and very well presented!

2 mins from Frant station, felt a warm welcome as soon as we walked through the door. Great atmosphere and the food and service was excellent, we can't wait to go again!

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Woof Meanderings

Well, what can I say about all this relentless rain... even for me I have rather longed for some of The Owner's wellies to trudge through all the endless mud and I am normally the happiest dog ever to be skipping and leaping about in muddy puddles. I have though, become rather fed up with the baths that accompany it all as even I will confess to rather a muddy unwanted waft coming over my very self after a day splashing around and then I find myself soaked again in more water, but at least with fun bubbles. There has been much huffing and puffing from The Owner about it all and then all the washing of my bed as I do love to try and leap on it in full a 'mud-pack' to wipe it all off and shake myself around the house.

The Girls also are highly unamused by all the mud to step about in and have even been let out into a major-danger fox-zone in the daytime to relieve them off their large muddy run, but I have been on major standby with large barks at the ready for any unwanted visitations. I have to let slip too that super macho 'Julio the Cockerel' has even had to have some special potion put on his legs as they seemed rather sore from the wet, but it must work as he just stands happily as The Owner slaps copious amounts of potion onto his legs to help them recover.

On a more exciting note though, I must update you on our 'Buzzy-Bee' action... a delightful and kind man who came to inspect the tree and the 'special' inhabitants last year, kept to his word, recently removed The Bees to take them onto pastures new... it was rather an emotional moment for us all as the Bees had become such a familiar part of our day as we walked past and The Owner was always saying hello and having a chat to them. (I myself frequently having a little leg lift manoeuvere on the tree, as one still needs to maintain who is Boss at the end of the day), but off they went after being carefully scooped out from the tree in a most delicate way. The Owner and I did hide away at some distance to watch the proceedings (she did nearly fall off a log as rather struggled with her glasses and the binoculars), and she was then utterly beside herself with excitement to then be given some honeycomb from the tree that The Bees had made. Hopefully though after they moved to their new

destination, they have survived the subsequent cold spell and all this additional rain, as The Owner keeps mentioning it and is now worrying again about them all over again.

The wonders who seem the toughest of all through the weather appear to be the Daffodils. The Owner keeps marveling as we walk around, how brave and courageous they are to survive all this awful weather and still keep flowering and smiling in their way cheering everyone along. Even I have to confess, seeing their varied yellows, whites and orange colours is rather uplifting amongst the sludge of the mud... we have a poem up at home by some chap called William that The Owner is frequently referring too as she mumbles away over her coffee and the last verse does seem rather poignant to me as I think of warm Spring days after another sodden rain filled day...

For oft, when on my couch I lie *In vacant or in pensive mood,* They flash upon that inward eye Which is the bliss of solitude; And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils.

Ohhhh and even more the thoughts of skimming through the Daffodils with my Glorious Dolly beside me...

Great British Spring Clean of Bayham Road

March 2018 was designated the Great British Spring Clean by Keep Britain Tidy, supported by Wealden's Sustainability Office. Our community of Little Bayham agreed to take part to try and do something about the litter along the 2 mile section of the Bayham Road between Ivy Lane and Wynn Bridge, and registered our interest online.

Wealden then provided us with 10 reflective vests, 10 'picker-sticks', and 50 large waste bags and the promise of Kier collecting the filled sacks promptly. I purchased a couple of 4' weather-proof banners stating "SLOW - LITTER COLLECTION" to warn drivers of our presence. Our chosen day for litter picking was 3rd March but that was the week of a heavy snowfall so actually seeing the litter would have been impossible.

Our next available Saturday was 17th March and 10 volunteers with equipment started scouring the verges. It didn't take long to realise we were collecting many years of discarded waste - cans, bottles, crisp packets, syringes and assorted wrappings. They were the light items! We had 2 unofficial lay-bys on this stretch of road and surprise surprise we found deer-imprinted car bodywork, tyres, gas cylinders, builders waste, a loo, pallets etc.

Whilst this was taking place, buckets of warm soapy water were produced to clean the road signs, some of which were illegible

By the time the freezing weather curtailed our activities we had collected 12 full blue bags of rubbish and 2 laybys full of larger items. The latter were efficiently cleared the following Monday by Kier, our normal Wealden refuse collecting firm.

Just about the same quantity of debris was collected the following weekend by other Little Bayham residents. They were somewhat despondent however when a car passed, beeped it's horn, opened a window and chucked out a can!

So now what? Undoubtedly antisocial littering is becoming a recurring national problem - within a few days new cans and bottles started appearing on the verges of the B2169. With limited funding of the East Sussex Highways department, litter collections and sign cleaning has dropped down their priority list, so to be "proud of where we live" is going to require at least an annual attempt by residents to look after their patch.

If your community wish to carry out an organised litter collection, please contact me and I can loan equipment and point you in the right direction (facing the traffic!).

Andy Macdonald-Brown 01892891273 dramb49@gmail.com

Frant Summer Fair

Please feel free to display the enclosed colourful flyer for the Frant Summer Fair to be held on 30th June in the school field. At the time of writing this notice (April!), we already have a varied selection of stalls, activities and entertainment lined up.

If you have a local business, charity, sports group or other community group and would be interested in a stall/ exhibit, please contact carmel.kinley@ gmail.com. It will be first come first served for any remaining spaces.

PARISH NEWS

Parish Council News

The Parish Council is working on several new initiatives aimed at improving community facilities across the parish. We have written before in this column about the proposals from the Friends of Frant Green Spaces to introduce a new management policy for the Greens. A new schedule has been agreed with our contractors and, now the long winter is finally behind us, work will begin on the new programme. The Friends are also working with the new Football Club to bring the football field behind the primary school back into use. We wish the Football Club every success in this new venture.

In Bells Yew Green we are still working through proposals to ensure that the Greens are not eroded further by traffic cutting corners or by parked cars. We have also seen some significant repairs and refurbishments to the village hall thanks to the support of BCM, which Sue Wallis has written about in detail in this issue. Furthermore we have a new village hall committee that is looking at how to best capitalise on our spruced up venue.

In Eridge we are working with
Wealden District Council on a proposal
to extend our parish boundary. For
many years the community of Eridge
has been split between Eridge, in Frant
Parish, and Eridge Green, in Rotherfield
Parish. This has made it harder to coordinate events and activities across the
community. A proposal has been put
forward to Wealden to extend the Frant
Parish boundary across a greater area of
Eridge Green. The proposal is now open
to consultation and we will be speaking
to residents within the area affected.

I am pleased to report that we are working hard to prepare for another Frant Summer Fair this year. The relaunched Fair was a great success two years ago thanks to good weather and great community support. I want to thank Carmel Kinley for taking on this challenge again and all the volunteers lending a hand.

These new initiatives are the result of hard work by enthusiastic local councillors and volunteers. It's wonderful that we have so many people willing to give their time and their energy to local initiatives. If you have an idea for an new event or new organisations please do let us know. We are keen to help, and the parish

council is often the best place to find the contacts you need to make a success of a new proposal.

Finally, I want to record a couple of changes to the Parish Council. We bid a fond farewell to Sue Hutchings who recently stood down. Sue has been a very active Frant councillor, particularly on the subject of road safety. Her enthusiasm and energy will be missed by all of us, and I want to thank her for her hard work. We welcome Debby Park as our new councillor for Frant. Debby brings a wealth of experience from business, education and volunteering and we are delighted to have her onboard.

 $-William\,Rutherford, Chairman$

Parish Past

As, almost to the month, it is a hundred years since the RAF came into existence as a separate service, it seems appropriate to remember Pilot Officer Clifford Dearden. He was born in Frant and his brother and sister continued to live here, only dying relatively recently. He attended Frant school before joining the RAF volunteer reserve in 1938/9, learning to fly in biplane Tiger Moths. When war broke out he was assigned to No 2 Squadron flying Lysanders, possibly because he was not yet fully trained. Lysanders were relatively easy to fly, being designed as artillery spotters; they had a high wing for visibility, were lumberingly slow (max speed around 100 mph) and were crewed by a pilot and observer sitting tandem divided by a large flammable fuel tank. In short, not a great aircraft to fly in wartime - you may have seen them on TV serials landing agents in occupied France as they could land almost anywhere.

In 1940, when the British army was stranded on the beaches of Dunkirk, Clifford's squadron was ordered to fields around Dover. RAF fighters were more distantly based in Manston, Tangmere and Biggin Hill and in those early days could only stay in the air for a very limited time before running out of fuel, so it was vital to know when German bombers were approaching the beaches so that Spitfires and Hurricanes could be scrambled exactly as these arrived, not before, and Clifford's squadron was to supply this information. One by one the Lysanders were ordered to circle south and east of Dunkirk so they could radio back when they spotted a fresh

attack coming in, and one by one they were shot down, Clifford's among them. His observer's body was later recovered but not his; he was probably just 20 years old, but it was actions like his that resulted in an army being saved rather than destroyed, able to fight again.

—Pat Wright

Frant Nursery School

Despite the weather there was a definite Spring feel at Frant Nursery last Term with lots of fun and exciting activities getting the children all geared up for Easter. We had a small Easter Egg hunt at the Nursery where the children made their own baskets to collect the eggs. We also made some yummy Easter cakes and Easter cards to take home. We celebrated World Book Day with some fantastic outfits and we made some beautiful Mother's Day cards - the children worked very hard at these and were very proud of their work (as were we).

This Summer Term we are holding our Travelling Trends Fashion Show on Friday 15th June, 7.30pm for an 8pm start at Bells Yew Green Village Hall. Following last year's success this is a very popular ladies night event where not only do you get to watch a fantastic catwalk show showcasing the best high street brands, with a glass of bubbly, but you also get to peruse, try on and buy the clothes featured on the night at a fraction of their usual RRP. Please come and support this fun event whilst raising funds for the Nursery. Tickets will soon be available to purchase directly from Frant Nursery or from Frant Post Office & Stores for £8pp (this includes a glass of bubbly or soft drink on arrival). We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information about Frant Nursery School please contact Shelley Holdsworth on 01892 890961.

Woodland Trust events at Hargate Forest

The Woodland Trust is organising several events this year at Hargate. As with all events the Trust organises across the UK, the aim is to encourage more people to visit and enjoy our woods, and become more aware of the charity's work. Pre-booking is essential for events.

We have yoga sessions taking place in the woods on Sundays in April, May and June. Why not give it a go?



Support the Woodland Trust and get fit and flexible outdoors! Each session is suitable for all levels of experience and lasts approximately one hour. Your teacher will be Mark from the Freestyle Yoga Project, who has a studio on Tunbridge Wells High Street. Tickets are £10 per person.

Yoga takes place on Sunday 13 May and Sunday 10 June, all from 10-11am. For those who might like something more wildlife-focused, and don't mind getting up early (!) we have a spring bird walk on Thursday 17th May from 7-9am. You will hear the amazing dawn chorus, listening out for the songs of the many resident birds including song thrush, robin and great tit at this wonderful woodland. You may see the scarce marsh tit and firecrest and hear summer migrants such as the chiffchaff and blackcap. You may even hear the unique fluty song of willow warbler. There should also be displays of bluebells and other spring flowers at this time of year. Your guide will be local wildlife expert, Martin Allison. Tickets are £10 per adult; £5 per child - not suitable for young children or dogs.

And now for something completely different... on Sunday 29th July we are holding the Trust's first ever Woodland Wellbeing Festival at Hargate! This will be a day of guided meditative walks, yoga for all abilities and art and craft activities using natural materials. This is shaping up to be a great day, with the aim of promoting the benefits of being outdoors on mental and physical health. We all know how good it is for us to

get out into the woods, de-stress from everyday life and relax. Our Woodland Wellbeing day will help you do that in lots of different ways.

Tickets aren't yet on sale but will be very soon. Look out for posters for details, or email Centralevents@ woodlandtrust.org.uk or call 0330 333 3300 to find out more.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can book any events by calling 0330 333 3300.

-Grace Davis

The Brecknock Arms Farewell

For the residents of Frant Parish and especially Bells Yew Green it is with sadness that we say a fond farewell to Dave and Sally Fawcett, the landlords of the Brecknock. After 4 and a half years they and their family are moving on. Dave and Sally have transformed our local pub and made it the heart of the community. We will miss their commitment, enthusiasm and support for the village and its residents but we wish them well and they go with our grateful thanks for theirs and their family's efforts. New licencees will be arriving soon which will begin another chapter for our village pub. One of our residents has been having a beer in the Brecknock for over 50 years (and still does!) and the pub itself has been there a $lot \, longer \, than \, that. \, The \, previous \, village$ pub was the 'Tiger' and was the other side of the Green up Middle Road. Pubs form an important part of village life and we must do all we can to keep them. The adage 'Use it or lose it 'is so very true and

too many village pubs are closing. The Parish Council will soon be considering registering the 'Brecknock' as a community asset. This is effect means that IF (and I hope it's a big one) the pub were ever to be sold the community has 6 months to register an interest in buying it and running it for the community. That I hope will offer the Brecknock some protection for the future.

 $-Stuart\,Crookshank$

Pete Cater Big Band » Featuring music made famous by Buddy Rich

Frant is delighted to welcome the UK's greatest drummer with his stunningly talented 16 piece big band (pictured) for a spectacular night of jazz in Frant.

Pete Cater is one of the most soughtafter musicians with all the style and finesse of his heroes Joe Morello, Buddy Rich, Louie Bellson, Gene Krupa, and has worked with some of the finest musicians past and present, from Benny Carter, Harry Edison, Barney Kessel to Tom Jones, Johnny Dankworth, Jamie Cullum and many others. A 'British Jazz Awards' winner (Band of the Year) and 'Critics Choice', Pete has been thrilling audiences with his swinging big band music since 1995!

Friday 18th May 2018 at 8pm (doors open at 7.30 pm). Licensed bar area, tickets £18 from Frant Stores or Britten's Music Shop Tunbridge Wells, online: www.wegottickets.com or tel. Paul Barber 01892 750665.

In aid of the conservation of Frant Church Reg. Charity 1162531

Friends of Frant Green Spaces

Nearly 100 people have signed up to become a Friend of Frant Green Spaces. A HUGE thank you to all those who have offered such overwhelming support for this work. What a testament to the affection and respect that so many of you has for our wonderful Green spaces in Frant.

I hope that our members have received my update so are aware of exactly what we have been up to. There is a lot to do and this year is critical in terms of starting to develop an enriched habitat on Frant Green. We have been lucky enough to receive a grant for £955 from Wealden Council to support this work so we are very keen to get going. We also have obtained planning permission for an information sign on Frant Green showing the habitat that we enjoy. We don't have the money for the sign as yet so we are busy fund raising!

You might have seen some pegs that we have been placing on The Green before each mow. They are to ensure that we work out exactly how we adjust the cut with advice from last year's ecology guidance. This is how we plan to produce a space for play, walking

and relaxing but enhanced with enriched spaces for wildlife, including some heath land and some swathes of acid grassland, as well as the more the regularly mown grass. This more sensitive management will encourage those birds, bugs and small creatures that have become so endangered in this busy landscape.

The other exciting news is that Friends of Frant Green Spaces have been working with a new Frant Football team to enable them to play on the Parish Field behind the school. We have supported the returning of this green space back to a field where play is possible. With the generous offer of free mowing from Orchard Landscapes we are now able to create a space where adults and children alike can enjoy using the field for recreation. Another wonderful offer comes from Jo Howell who has donated a bench to be in the field so that people can relax and enjoy both the wonderful view and watching the sport. This bench is to be dedicated to her husband Tim. We are now investigating the area lower in this field to see if there is any interesting wild life habitat that we could work to return to a former glory.

Finally we have been looking at the

erosion that has continued around the edges of Frant Green. It seems to have been particularly extensive this year, exacerbated by the wet weather and the ever-increasing trespass of vehicles onto the soft verges. We are currently recording what is happening so that we are able to make appropriate representations to The Parish Council and ESCC Highway Department.

If you are interested in finding out more about how our plans are developing please come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May, when our ecologist will be talking about the survey he carried out that is informing these improvements.

We are planning to have a stall at the upcoming Frant Summer Fair on 30th June. One of the things we will be selling will be plants. We would really welcome any cuttings from villagers. If you have any spare seedlings or cuttings from the garden please pop them around to our membership secretaries house on Frant Green. Sharon welcomes you to just leave them on her doorstep where she can take them in to bring on. Please ensure you put a name label on any plant left. Her address is: 1 Greenview, The Green, Frant TN3 9ED -Jan Steadman

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-11 --10 -

PARISH NEWS

The Royal Wedding on the big screen

Frant Film are pleased to announce that there will be a live showing of the Royal Wedding between Megan Markle and Prince Harry on 19th May in Frant Memorial Hall. Please arrive from 11.30 for tea, bubbles and cake before the wedding starts at midday. The procession is at 1p.m.

Please invite friends and neighbours to come and share this community event in our wonderful village hall.

For more information contact Colin Steadman 07776 431848.

Frant Memorial Hall

Our lovely village hall built in the 1920's in memory of those who served in the First World War is thriving. The whole building has been modernised and refurbished over the years and 2017 saw a new electric cooker and Wi-Fi installed. Because of the age of the building there will always be work to be done. The roof and boiler will be considerations for the future.

With around 14 weekly users of the hall, 4 monthly users and 12 occasional users we are kept busy. Added to this we have one off events like parties and fund raisers. There were only 46 days the hall was not used in 2017. In May we have a 50th Wedding Anniversary being celebrated, and a Wedding Reception.

On 19th May the Royal Wedding is being screened at the hall. Please join us from 12 noon.

June 14th, 15th, 16th is when the Drama Group are putting on a hilarious play called 'Uproar in the House'.

Because of, 'The Beast from the East', Frant Bowls Club had to cancel their Race Night at the beginning of March. This has been rescheduled for 14th July. This will be great fun which includes freshly cooked fish and chips. Tickets at only £9.00 are available.

At our AGM in March it was decided to keep our hall rental rates unchanged at present to say thank you to our loyal regular users. We also want to acknowledge people who live in our Parish so for the first time we will be offering preferential rates to Frant residents for parties and one off events. **Children's Parties:** A minimum fee of £60.00 for 3 hours. Additional hours @£15.00 per hour. This covers both halls and the catering facilities. **Evening Parties (Over 21s only):**

£120.00 6pm to 11pm.

Frant Clubs and Societies also enjoy reduced rates.

Hire of the hall for Fund Raising events that benefit the parish will involve minimal costs. (Please enquire from bookings secretary)

For details on ALL the hall rental rates, full range of classes etc. Please visit our website. frantvillagehall.co.uk

Our hall is run by volunteers. We would like to thank our new treasurer Judith for the great work she has done. Currently we do not have a Secretary for the hall. Please get in touch if you are interested. You would be most welcome.

-Sandra McDonald, Bookings Secretary

Note from the Friends of Bells Yew Green

Just to say a BIG THANK YOU to you and yours for supporting our Friends of Bells Yew Green Afternoon Tea at the end of March. What a fantastic turnout-so much cake and so little time!

Of course we couldn't have done it without our amazing band of bakers, sandwich creators, tea brewers and decoration crew (including some youngsters) - too many to name - but HUGE thanks to you for all your hard work (you know who you are!). You're amazing. Thanks are also due to those lovely people who, so generously, donated raffle prizes - thank you.

We raised a stunning £181.35 which will go into the Village Hall coffers, as we work towards raising funds to get more essential work done. On which subject, did you know that BCM - the train track repair team, who have been working from Frant Station - are supporting our local community by giving their help voluntarily and have today begun doing essential maintenance and repair work at the Village Hall? They are solving a major penetrating damp issue as well as giving the main hall a paint makeover and doing some gardening, among other things on our wish list, and we are extremely grateful to them. (Does anyone know how to re-fix gutters that have pulled apart, please?!).

If you are a Facebook user, please find us and follow us at Friends of Bells Yew Green as well as Bells Yew Green Village GROUP. See if you're in one of our photos! Also, have you heard of a website called NextDoor? No, me neither! It supports local communities by offering a platform through which to communicate

any number of things. Take a look and see what you think.

The Friends' Team are now looking at our next event and are thinking of hosting a Fun Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper. As we are so sadly losing the brilliant David and Sally from The Brecknock Arms, we don't want to lose the lovely quiz community that they have created. Would you be interested in joining in?

 $-Sue\ Wallis, Secretary\ Friends\ of\ BYG$

Frant Parish Friendship group

Our February meeting definitely went with a bang! Anne Bambridge long time chemistry teacher in Tunbridge Wells entertained us with a fascinating display of experiments using everyday items which included a very impressive firework which then set the fire alarm off! It certainly was a very lively meeting. Unfortunately our planned theatre trip to Trinity in February had to be cancelled due to the 'Beast from the East' but we have another planned for May to see 'Skylight'. The talk for the March meeting was given by Neil Sadler, a firm favourite with the Group, entitled 'A Policeman's Lot is an Interesting One'. Neil was a Policeman for 30 years and regaled us with some of his experiences and a serious insight to some of our more notorious crimes.

The Speaker at the April meeting on the 26th April will be Andy MacDonald-Brown and the subject will be 'Zanzibar - Sea and Safari'. This will also be our AGM - so after tea and cakes members are urged to join the committee in arranging the future organisation of our Group.

Frant Bowls Club Race Night

For the last seventeen years the Bowls Club has held a race night a few weeks before the start of the season and this year it was scheduled to take place on the first Saturday in March. It is a licensed event that is attended not just by the members of the club and their guests but also by a number of Frant residents, the support of whom is greatly appreciated.

The evening is the club's major fund raising event and is a far better prospect than all the other ways of raising much needed finance. Indeed without it we would not have been able to carry out the last few years' improvements to the club's premises and green, improvements which some villagers have kindly said

enhance the appeal of the village.

The event does, however, take some planning and organisation and presents a significant financial risk for we have to book the Memorial Hall, the caterer and our M.C. a year in advance.

Although on one occasion we had more than one hundred people in the hall for the event the usual figure is around eighty. This year, however, with only two weeks to go the snowy weather forecasted looked set to reduce the number of attendees to below sixty. Then, with a few days to go, Frant and the surrounding area was covered in more than six inches of snow and the fish and chip supplier's vans were not operating. Needless to say, our excellent M.C., who travels from Welling, was not surprised when we decided to postpone the event. I suspect he was also quietly relieved that he did not have to make the iournev!

You will see that I have referred to the event being postponed, not cancelled. This is because it has been re-arranged for Saturday 14th July, which is the earliest available date to suit the hall, MC and caterer. It will be a new experience for us to hold it in the summer but we hope that with the lighter nights and an absence of snow (?) the demand for tickets will be back to normal.

There will be space and a welcome for any of you who would like to join us but please don't expect to go home rich!! Instead, for just £9 per person we can promise a fun evening with filmed races, tote betting, a short quiz, and a freshly cooked fish and chip supper.

Tickets are available from Chris Hall on 01892 652483 or, in his absence, me on 01892 611994. We do hope you will join us.

Other News

Well, the short mat version of the game has finished for the season and once again we have preserved our Division 1 status. A good result although a few weeks ago we had hoped for a top three finish. Unfortunately some poor results against top teams in the last few games saw us finish mid-table. Despite this, it was once again a very enjoyable season.

Now though our attention has turned to the outdoor game, sunny days, warmth on our backs and the renewal of friendships we have made over the years within the club and with members of other clubs. And all of this in Frant's beautiful location – what could be better?

The club's activities consist, on the one hand, of a weekly roll-up which will include target bowling, individual and group coaching and simply bowling for fun and laughter. We also play approximately 45 friendly matches against local clubs. The objective in both cases is to have fun. We bowl and hope to win but playing the game in the right spirit and enjoying it always has priority.

Roll-up is held each Tuesday evening from 4.30pm starting 17th April and visitors are always welcome so why not come along? If you haven't bowled before all we ask is that you wear something on your feet that doesn't have a heel. We will supply the rest. Alternatively if you want to know more about the game please give me a call on the number above.

-David Oliver, Chairman

BCM support the local community

I am very pleased indeed to announce that the Bells Yew Green Village Hall Committee is now up to strength, with a full complement of officers and members who are keen to bring essential upgrades and improvements to meet the needs of the community.

As luck would have it, at the same that the new Committee was getting together its wish-list of essential work to be done, Frant Parish Council was approached by BCM, volunteering help. BCM is the construction, civil engineering and power systems solutions provider, which has been working in the area on behalf of Network Rail. During the period, their office and work base has been in Bells Yew Green near the station. BCM offered their services to help with any decorating and gardening that might be needed at the village hall. However, the Committee was delighted when they went above and beyond their usual remit and agreed to use their skills to repair costly damage to the fabric of the building. This was in addition to restoring the internal walls, extensive redecorations, as well as sprucing up and replanting the gardens. Outstanding! Jenny Peters of BCM told us that,

"Supporting local communities is a priority for BCM. We want to leave positive legacies in the communities we work in, so we are thrilled to have refurbished the Bells Yews Green Village Hall - making a difference to the

community and its users."

This generous support will allow the Committee to use the hall's limited funds to carry out other essential work. Chris Bacon, long-serving member of the Committee, who deals with bookings, expressed the feelings of all the members when he said, "We really can't thank BCM enough – they have said "yes" to everything we've asked for help with! Their team was so generous, efficient, good-humoured and skilled – we recognise that we have been extremely fortunate."

-Sue Wallis, FPC Trustee, BYG Village Hall

Women Behind the Lens >> 10th May 2pm; Crowborough Community Centre; Pine Grove Crowborough TN6 1FE

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest: Women Behind the Lens: outstanding women photographers and their contribution to the art of photography

The work of women photographers has often been unfairly neglected. This lecture by Brian Stater seeks to correct that by examining the contribution of three outstanding British practitioners; Julia Margaret Cameron, a Victorian pioneer; Jane Bown, a brilliant portraitist and Fay Godwin, who excelled in landscape photography. We will also explore the work of two highly influential Americans: Dorothea Lange, who produced brilliant documentary images and Annie Leibovitz, who continues to both surprise and delight her audience.

Please join us for an interesting lecture followed by refreshments.

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Parish Diary May/June 2018

» Friday 18th May

Pete Cater Big band St Alban's Church, Frant (see page 9) >> Saturday 19th May

The Royal Wedding on big Screen Frant Memorial Hall – 11.30am onwards

>> Thursday 24th May

Annual Parish Meeting Frant Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

» Thursday 31st May

Grave Talk Café

The Stables, Frant (see page 4)

» Saturday 3rd June

The Lyric Quintet; St Alban's Church, Frant; 5.00pm. Visit www.frantchurch. org for further info

» Saturday 10th June

BBQ on Frant Green

» Friday 15th June

Travelling Trends Fashion Show BYG Village Hall (see page 8)

» 14-16th June

FPDS "Uproar in the House" Frant Memorial Hall

» Friday 22nd June

Summer Guitar Spectacular: John Williams, John Etheridge & Gary Ryan; St. Albans Church, Frant (doors open 7.30 pm)

» Saturday 30th June

Frant Parish Summer Fair Frant School Field, 11.30am – 3.30pm

Regular Meetings

Little Fishes: Baby & Toddler Group

Every Tuesday 10—11.30am in The Stables, Frant. A warm welcome to all. Ignite (School Years 3–6) meets each Thursday (term time only). Encounter (School Years 7–13)

Contact Ed Pascoe for more information:

frantyouth@gmail.com
Coffee Morning at The Stables, Frant

Every Wednesday, 10:30am—12noon. Come for a hot drink, a cake and a chat. **Sunday Club** Open to anyone aged 0-14, and meets during the 9:30am Sunday service at Frant (except for the 1st Sunday of each month when the children join in with our family service).

Useful contacts

Frant

Frant CofE Primary School
Amanda Gander-Miller: 750243
Frant Nursery School
Shelley Holdsworth: 890961
Frant Sunday Club
Ed Pascoe: frantyouth@gmail.com
Frant Bowls Club

David Oliver: 611994

Frant Cricket Club David Pearson: 750789

David Pearson: 750789 Frant Garden Club

Dianna Tennant: 752029 Frant Panto & Drama Society

Alan Richardson: 01892 825378 StAlban's Bell-Ringers

Mary Freestone: 750269

Frant Memorial Hall Sandra McDonald: 752196

Frant Music

Lesley Lynn: 01892 752261

Frant Stables

Helen Carpenter: 750368 Frant Parish Friendship Group

Brian Gill: 750266

Frant Film Colin Steadman:

colin.h.steadman@gmail.com

Frant PCC Administrator

Rosie Karim: 752261

Frant Open Spaces Group Jan Steadman:

steadman.jan@gmail.com

Eridge (

Eridge Garden Club Gay Park: 861475

Eridge Village Hall Hire Booking Secretary: 07470 448425 Eridge Choir

Michael Stevens: 852739

Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel Ken Davies: 01732 357791

BYG Cricket Club

Andy Brooks: 07876 011782 Short Mat Bowls Club

Pam Mepham: 891426 BYG Village Hall Hire

Chris Bacon: crbacon79@gmail.com
Bells Yew Green Society
Advertising en
01892750285

Alex Whittle: 07980 833114

Council contacts

Chairman

William Rutherford: 752254

Frant Ward

Johanna Howell: 750141 Michael Rowland: 526746 William Rutherford: 752254

BYG Ward

Stuart Crookshank: 518631 Andy Macdonald-Brown: 891273 Sue Wallis: 750635

Eridge Ward

Giny Best: 527931

Michael Stevens: 852739

Clerk to the Council

Rosie Karim: 524376

frantparishclerk@gmail.com or www.frant.info

County Councillor

Bob Standley: 783579

District Councillor

Johanna Howell: 750141 William Rutherford: 752254

Parish Council meetings

Full PC meetings are held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Planning meetings are held on the first Monday of the month.

Police Contact Details:

To report a crime or incident dial 101 For other police enquiries contact the Wealden unit on 01273 404938 or www.sussex.police.uk/wealden/

Parish Nurse:

 $Caroline Thompson; 07754\,834804\\ caroline parish nurse@gmail.com$



Parish News can be downloaded from: www.frantchurch.org or www.eridgechurch.org

Advertising enquiries: 01892 750285 or susan.piccioni@btinternet.com

Contributions for our next issue should be sent to the Editor: carmel.kinley@gmail.com or 01892 750217 Deadline: 10th June 2018

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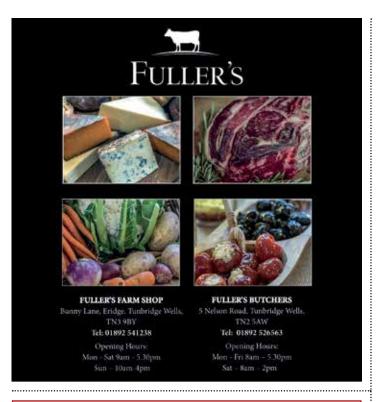
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