

Parish News

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Detail from 'The Last Supper', by Frank Rosier, St Albans Church, Frant.

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From the Church Wardens



One of the joys of summer is the explosion of green everywhere, especially in the beautiful part of Sussex in which we are lucky enough to live. The vibrant green of the undergrowth in the woods, and the darker green of the canopy above, soft lush green of fields and verdant hedgerows and grassy verges studded with bright wild flowers.

The colour green strikes the eye in such a way as to require no adjustment whatever and is, therefore, restful. Being in the centre of the spectrum, it is the colour of balance - a more important concept than many people realise. When the world about us contains plenty of green, this indicates the presence of water, and little danger of famine, so we are reassured by green, on a primitive level.

In the cycle of the Church year, Green is also the colour we use to decorate our churches over the next three to four months. A long stretch of what is known, somewhat disparagingly, as "Ordinary Time". There is a sense of progression through

the Christian story in a pattern laid out millennia ago. It starts with the joy of Easter when Jesus rose from the tomb, followed by Ascension Day when He ascended to heaven, through Pentecost when the promise to send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled and culminating on Trinity Sunday when we celebrate knowing "one God in three persons".

Then we arrive in early summer, amid all the green that surrounds us for a period of quieter, more relaxing and more reflective time. In these summer months of "Ordinary Time" - meaning normal or natural time, not humdrum - we can all quietly, restfully grow in our lives with our families, with nature and with God. As such, this time is invaluable to our well-being physical, mental and spiritual.

So as we appreciate our verdant countryside, we can relax, regain our balance and grow. Long summer days and balmy starry nights - perfect for relaxation and growth. Whether you go away on holiday, or enjoy "Ordinary Time" at home,

We wish you a restful and restorative summer.



St Alban’s Church floor

The cross aisle carpet was removed from St Albans Church in June revealing a flagstone floor and a number of black marble tombstones from the earlier Medieval Church which early maps suggest was in the same position as the current building; the original Church having been destroyed by fire. It is quite possible that this floor with its tombstones is a survivor from that earlier Church.

The cross aisle carpet was the one you stepped on as you entered via the south porch door and traversed the Church to the north door via the stone font. It was removed not only because it was looking rather tired but, more importantly, it was laid on rubber underlay which is inappropriate for stone buildings as it prevents moisture evaporating from the floor. The removal of the underlay had been a Priority A action in the ‘Summary of Works Requiring Attention’ in the last Quinquennial Inspection Report published in December 2016. The burgandy coloured central aisle carpet on the other hand is laid on fibre which

is a satisfactory underlay for historic buildings such as St Albans, and though there are no plans to remove this it would be interesting to see what lies underneath. —David Torr

News from the Pews

During the past two months our Safeguarding Officer, Roy Buchanan, has been working hard to make sure that all 34 church members who hold office or are in any way involved with children or vulnerable adults have completed the required level of Safeguarding training. This is a time consuming exercise, but necessary if we are to be a truly safe church.

At the end of May, about 40 people attended our annual ‘Service on the farm’ to celebrate Rogation Sunday, the day on which we ask for God’s blessing on the sowing and planting. At the kind invitation of Susanna and Douglas Jacobson, the service this year was held in a field at their vineyard in Eridge (above). Imtiaz Trask who lead the service gave us a reminder of how important it is that we all give each other

a hand. “Together we are strong”.

After the service Douglas took a group for a tour of the vineyard, then some of us ate our picnic lunch in the sun, enjoying the view over meadows and vines.

In May we were delighted to welcome a new volunteer to the churchyard team. This small but loyal band give their time to keep the churchyard mown, swept and tidy for everyone to enjoy, and we thank them for their commitment.

The window which was badly damaged when the church was broken into in May 2018 has now been restored and repaired. It is a wonderful example of the work of a gifted and skilled craftsman.

We are now in the season of weddings. In June, Georgina Doherty and Matthew Hawkins were married in St Albans, the first of 5 weddings due to take place in our church this summer.

While we’re very much looking forward to the Martin family moving into the Rectory in August, we continue to rely on and are very grateful to Ministers who come from near and far in the Diocese to take services for us.

St Alban’s, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge



www.frantchurch.org
Churchwardens
Jane Emler—532233
Crawford Burden—07789 170275



www.eridgechurch.org
Churchwardens
Jonathan Lynn—864304
Christopher Hall—750385

Services for
July/August 2019

9:30am	Family Service	7th July	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service	14th July	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service	21st July	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Communion	28th July	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Family Service	4th August	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Communion	11th August	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service	18th August	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Communion	25th August	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


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Parish Past

In the mid 1450's Henry VI was on the throne - a gentle impractical dreamer. Consequently national politics and finances were in a disastrous muddle. Yorkists and Lancastrians were at each other's throats and the king's generosity to his favourites, also his general incompetence, meant that his government was deeply unpopular.

Normandy had been lost to the French and national debts amounted to some £400,000 at a time when the royal income was around £5,000. The royal court alone cost approximately £24,000 a year and tax demands were incessant. Discontent eventually exploded in this area under a local man called Jack Cade (pictured below) who, announcing himself as 'Captain of Kent' led some 40,000 followers to London.

There, under the promise of good behaviour, the largely sympathetic Londoners allowed them to camp at Southwark without a fight. The generally held, if mistaken, belief seemed to be that if only they could reach the king personally he would understand their grievances, all would be put right and his corrupt councillors dismissed.

Our local interest is that three Frant villagers were in Cade's army: once the rebellion collapsed pardons were

issued to the less important rebels, among them we find William Apps, Robert Langley and William Bodyll of Ferenth, then the name for Frant. Apps was very much a local name and there is some evidence but no proof that he was landlord of the Bull Inn, the Abergavenny as it now is. So perhaps we can imagine the three arguing and full of rage at injustice in the taproom before departing in beer-fuelled bravado to join the uprising. Ultimately Cade proved unable to control his men, they became drunken looters and the Londoners turned against them. A battle followed on London Bridge and, defeated, the dispirited survivors tramped home, further divided by that limited promise of a pardon.

The Frant men obviously survived, since they were specifically pardoned, and they are recorded as carrying out some mildly dubious land deals in later years. So no doubt reminiscences of their London excitements continued to be heard in the bar as long as they lived, perhaps suitably embroidered as time went on. Cade himself was hunted down and killed allegedly "in a garden" near Heathfield but exactly where is speculative, although a later monument to him still exists as does a Cade Street.

— Pat Wright

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» **Thursday 11th July at 2pm**
Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac
Uncovering the Nation's Hidden Paintings.

Since 2007 our lecturer has worked for the acclaimed arts project, Art UK. (www.artuk.org) which was set up to catalogue the UK's national collection of oil paintings. It involved visiting over 3,000 collection locations across the UK and photographing 212,000 paintings. The lecture offers an insider's view of this ambitious and unique project.

Come along to hear about our rich artistic heritage at our final lecture of our 2018/2019 season. Members free, Guests £6. Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE.

Frant Parish Friendship Group

The Friendship Group finished for the Summer with a Fish and Chip Supper instead of our normal afternoon meeting. This made a nice change and member's feedback was very positive. We rounded off with tea and cakes and then Roy Buchanan circulated a cryptic quiz which certainly got the little grey cells sparking into life! A trip has been arranged to Bexhill for the 13th June to the De La Ware Pavilion for a cream tea.

Our next meeting will be our AGM and will be held on Thursday 26th September 2.30 pm in the Stables. 'Young at Heart' exercise classes will also resume in September.

We hope all our members have a brilliant Summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Of course new members are always welcome. All enquiries to Gill Barnes 752232 Valerie Palmer 750559

Down Lane - Path Clearance

Thanks to the perseverance of local resident, Matthew May, over a 16 month period of communication with East Sussex Highways, the pavements have now been cleared from Down Lane to The Green. In places this pavement was impassable for wheelchairs and prams/buggies and walking in the road was very dangerous as it's a 50mph limit.

In the end it was cleared on 21st June. At least his efforts haven't been in vain and now anyone wanting to walk into the village that live between Down Lane and The Green can do so safely.





Frant Open Gardens

On 15th June in Frant some generous villagers opened their beautiful gardens to show visitors. Other villagers helped to wash up, sell tickets, manage the plant stall, do tea and cakes, show off classic cars or sort the parking. Frant proved itself famous yet again for its amazing cake making ability as ladies arrived with their best lemon drizzle or carrot cakes to offer up.

All in all a beautiful day was shared in our floriferous village where the sense of community was wonderful.

For us, there was lots of rushing about early on, getting the hall ready. We loved to see green balloons popping up all over the village. Then once open it was a slow start, probably due to weather. We worried, but gradually people turned out. Finally our garden had masses of people, too many at some points. We tried to give cuttings or seed heads

where asked and felt encyclopaedic remembering names of roses. The compliments left us flush with pride.

I rushed back and forth to the hall, needlessly fussing. Everyone there made a huge effort and it felt like a real village tearooms with added plant stall, superbly managed. I had a 6-year-old granddaughter in tow determined to 'help'. Visitors were very kind in listening to her showing them around, just this side of precocious. Some one wrote me a poem this week titled, 'The Flora and Fauna Fairy of Frant'. My granddaughter asked if I was famous. I assured her I was, at least in my own garden.

Then the hall clearing up made easy by many hands as we all got stuck in. At 6p.m. we headed to The George to find out the profit for the days work. After all the costs were taken, the amount taken is £1,716.32. We feel so pleased with this

amount. So many happy faces in the pub and a huge sense of community.

We are full of gratitude every day for this lovely village we live in. But right now it feels super good because we know we share it with so many lovely, helpful and kind people. Thank you for all your efforts and for sharing Frant Open Gardens.

If you are not yet signed up members of Friends of Frant Green Spaces, or if you have not yet rejoined please do contact me (details at the back of this magazine) so that you can be sure not to miss what we are doing to protect and enrich our green environment locally. There is lots coming up, with efforts to protect Frant Green from traffic erosion, plans to create for a native species hedge around the Parish Field as well as a couple of thicket areas. Other stuff still at planning stage, all to keep Frant a green village for future generations.

Frant Nursery School

It's hard to believe we have now started our final term before the end of another school year and the time has once again come to start preparing some of our older children for their move to Primary School in September!

We have been playing outside a lot as the weather finally warms up. The children have been helping to plant Carrots, Beans and Sunflowers, and are very keen to help with the watering of all the plants in the Nursery garden.

We have also been enjoying our weekly football skills training session with Dave Luckhurst, daily craft activities and regular cooking sessions. We are looking forward to our Sports Day, Nursery Outing and Summer Concert all coming up over the next few weeks.

Finally we would like to thank the 'Frant School Trust' and its trustees for their generous donation to Frant Nursery School, for which we are incredibly fortunate and grateful to receive.

If you would like further information on Frant Nursery School please contact Shelley Holdsworth on 01892 890961. We have spaces available for children aged 2-5 years old and we are now taking bookings for September.

Parish Council News

On Thursday 23rd May the Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting in the Memorial Hall. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for the Parish Council to update residents on what has been going on across our patch and to talk about plans for the future. William Rutherford was recently re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council, but unfortunately was out of the country for the Annual Meeting, so the deputy Chairman, Stuart Crookshank presented a report on the year, highlighting particularly the work on green spaces.

The Parish Council has worked closely with the Friends of Frant Green Spaces to improve the diversity of habitat on the Green in Frant and is now looking to tackle the problem of erosion caused principally by traffic. Jan Steadman explained the importance of the habitat in her presentation to the meeting about the Friend of Frant Green Spaces, and that the group hoped to receive a grant for planting a native hedgerow about the parish field. She also highlighted the

erosion issue, suggesting that the Green could be looking up to 1 foot a year in some places.

The last year has also seen the recommissioning of the football pitch and the creation of wildflower bunds in Bells Yew Green. Thanks to the generosity of the Abergavenny Estate the plans for a recreational Green in Eridge are progressing well, and it is hoped that the Eridge Memorial Green will be inaugurated in 2020.

The Parish Council has also used some of the charitable funds it receives from the Henry Smith Foundation to help finance a youth worker at St Albans, Ed Pascoe. Ed gave a presentation to the Parish Meeting about his work, including the Little Fishes Mum and Toddler Group, the Sunday Club and an after-school club in the Stables. Ed has amazing energy and is already has a series of new initiatives in the pipeline, including a Scandinavian styled forest school with open air activities and community engagement activities such as litter picks.

Brian Gill gave a brief talk about the work of the Parish Friendship Group, which works to combat loneliness and

isolation in the community. The Group organises theatre outings, Christmas shopping trips and in June a trip to Bexhill with afternoon tea. The Group are supported by a small number of volunteers, but are always happy to welcome anyone willing to give up a little time to help.

—William Rutherford

Eridge Garden Club » Bluebell Walk

Thank you very much to Peter and Maggie Smith who arranged 3 visits for the Eridge Garden club to their splendid bluebell and birch woods.

The two species complement each other beautifully and there is a lot of work involved in keeping them looking so lovely.

After the walk, Maggie provided us all with delicious soup and flapjack accompanied by some magnificent displays from the peacocks.

Peter raised £140.00 for the wildfowl and wetlands trust spoonbilled sandpiper appeal and game and wildlife conservation trust save the curlew appeal.

—Nicky McGuckin





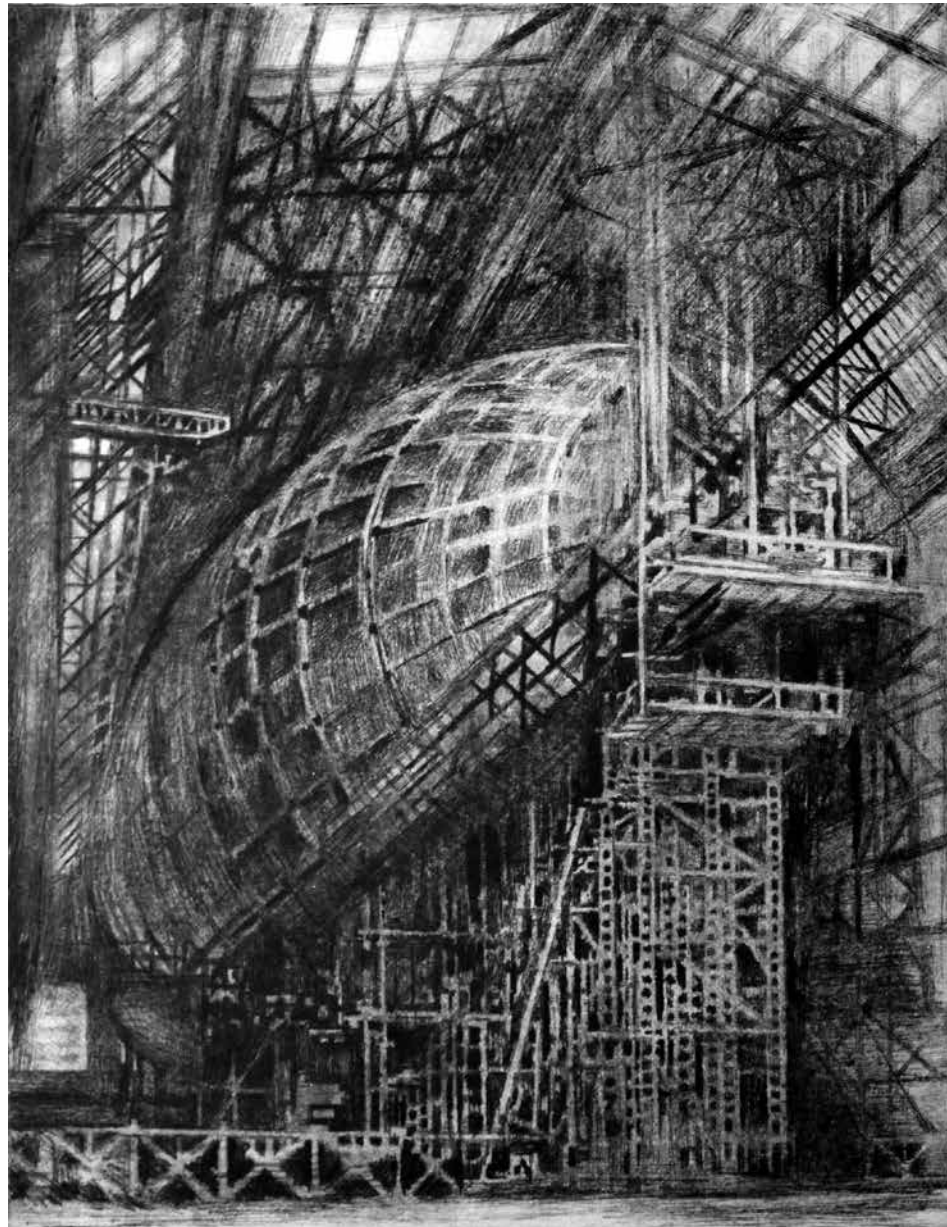
Local Talent

» Kirsten van Schreven

Kirsten van Schreven is a Frant resident and award winning printmaker. She has a Masters degree in Fine Art printmaking from Chelsea School of Art and is currently showing two prints (pictured) at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Her work is influenced by her fascination with cryptography and the iconography of war.

As well as successful exhibiting of her work nationally, Kirsten has won numerous awards over the last couple of years. In 2018, she was winner of the Stuart Southall Print Prize at the Royal Society of British Artists Annual Exhibition, winner of the Contemporary Printmaking Prize at Printfest, and the Baby Forest Print Category Award. In 2017, she won the Editorial Prize at the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers National Original Print Exhibition and was also longlisted for the Curious Duke Gallery's Secret Art Prize.

In addition, Kirsten has two more prints in the Royal Society of British Artists Annual exhibition which opened this month (July) at the Mall Galleries and also a print in the Wells Art Contemporary Awards at Wells Cathedral from 20th July until 11th August. If you would like to see more of Kirsten's work, please visit: kirstenvanschreven.com



On hearing about Kirsten's achievements, I felt these should be shared and, furthermore, would be pleased to hear from any other artists (whether visual, musical etc) in our Parish who would like to "exhibit" their achievements in this magazine.

These talents need celebrating! Please email me a few words accompanied, if appropriate, with photographs to carmel.kinley@gmail.com

Glass Ceiling I (left) and *Airframe III* (above) are both at the RA Summer Exhibition, on until 12th August.

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- Easter egg hunt organised by the PTFA
- Drumming workshop in school for all children to take part in
- Class trips to Hastings and Leeds Castle
- Performance poetry involving all the children in front of the whole school and parents
- Father's Day breakfast recently organised by the PTFA which was very well attended. This was followed by our Lower School dads making paper aeroplanes with their children and then very uncompetitively flying them in the playground!!

On a sporting front we have continued to be actively involved in a wide range of activities and events around the County. It is lovely to see so many children developing their skills, taking part in both competitive and non-competitive sporting events and learning to both win and lose. At a recent event we received feedback that our children were the best behaved school. That is fantastic to hear and makes us all very proud of being part of Frant Primary School.

As we head towards the end of this academic year we have our annual sports day which is followed by the PTAF barbeque. Our KS2 children are rehearsing for their end of term play – Mary Poppins. Please do come along if you would like to see all the talent we have on show – call the school office to purchase tickets for either show on 10th and 11th July at 7pm in the school hall.

We are working with our year 6 children on transition to secondary



Coffee and Cosmos

» Eridge Garden Club Plant Swap.

It was a sunny morning on 11 May when people gathered in Gilly Goodwin's charming garden to share plants, drink coffee and sample the delicious cakes that Gilly baked for the occasion.

There was an excellent array of plants on offer, annuals, perennials, shrubs and for those pursuing the Good Life a choice of sturdy fruit and veg plants, all grown by club members. There was even a selection of cacti on offer.

It is not necessary to bring a plant in order to take some away - there are always plenty available.

It is a lovely opportunity for club members to get together, chat about gardens, perhaps spot that perfect geranium or aubergine and take away some inspiration too.

Thank you to Gilly and her helpers.

Frant School News

Since I last wrote about school life it seems that we have crammed in so many activities and events that I hope I do justice to all that we have done.

Saxonbury Federation (Frant and Mark Cross schools) have recently voted to federate further with The Aspire Federation (Five Ashes and Mayfield) with effect from September. Our new federation will be called The Weald Federation which will have one overall governing body. More news to follow in the next issue.

Some of the highlights recently:

school and are delighted that we have a group of ex pupils from a range of years to come and talk with our year 6 this term to share their experiences.

At the end of this academic year we will say goodbye to Mrs Follows who will take up a Deputy Head position in Tonbridge. Mrs Davey (already works in the school) will become the Oak Class (year 5 and 6) teacher full time until Christmas when she will job share the role. Our school secretary Mrs Moss will also be leaving to take up a new role in Uckfield which is closer to home and her young family. We wish them all the best and thank them for all they have done for Frant school.

If you have any questions about school life please feel free to call us or pop in for a visit. You are always welcome

—Mrs Joanna Challis, Head of School

News from our MP, Nus Ghani

» The Sparkling Jewel in the South East's Crown

My Husband and I recently celebrated our wedding anniversary in Tunbridge Wells. Eating at The Warren (above), we drank sparkling wine from the Bluebell Vineyard in East Sussex (right), and ate wonderful, local produce from The Warren's Crowborough Estate.

We didn't have to travel many miles for that meal, and neither did our food and drink. But, we were surrounded by people who had made some very long journeys indeed. The South East is gaining a global reputation for the quality of its still and sparkling wines, and for the hospitality industry surrounding it.

This reputation is rightly deserved, and with English Wine Week having just been and gone, it's important to reflect on how far this sector, which is a major employer in Wealden, has come.

Over the last decade or so, it has been incredibly exciting to hear more and more stories of English wines beating their continental and global competitors in blind taste tests.

This success has led to a boom for the sectors, with more and more vineyards starting up.

A record number of English wine companies were launched in 2016. Sixty-four new wine businesses put down roots in England and Wales, up 73 per cent on the previous year.

UK producers now produce upwards of 5 million bottles a year, and leading



the way is the South East.

Just like wine, the sector is something that is only going to improve with age as well.

The terroir in East Sussex rivals that of Champagne for the mineral depth

and complexity of the soil. The need for expert local knowledge means that vineyards will continue to train, develop, and employ local people's skills at all stages in the life-cycle of the wine.

That's why I've championed the use of English wines by the Department for International Trade and the Foreign Office during receptions. When you're sending your diplomats out to secure us the trade deals that will allow us to thrive post-Brexit, only the best will do.

It's not just diplomats and trade negotiators that are getting to try our wines either: thanks to the Government's new export strategy, which boosts British businesses by supporting and connecting companies so that they can grow, more companies than ever have access to our overseas network, as well as new online tools that the government has made available. The government is helping make sure that these businesses go global. It's working too: with over £13 billion more in exports this year than last.

So, I hope you'll join me in raising a glass to our fantastic vineyards: an international success story which provides well-paying jobs for local people: the perfect blend of the proud rural heritage of the South East of England, and modern agricultural know-how.

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Parish Diary July/August 2019

» **Thursday 11th July**
Ashdown Arts Society Lecture
See page 7

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Julie Pascoe: 07850 091428;
juliedanielle@hotmail.co.uk
Frant Parish Friendship Group
Brian Gill: 750266
Frant Film
Colin Steadman:
colin.h.steadman@gmail.com
Frant and Eridge Church Office
01892 752261;
office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk
Frant Open Spaces Group
Jan Steadman:
steadman.jan@gmail.com
Frant Memorial Hall
Brian Gill: 750266
Clerk, Frant Parish Council
Rosie Karim:
www.frant-pc.gov.uk; 01892 653357

Eridge

Eridge Garden Club
Jean Howells: 864310
Eridge Cricket Club
Luke Forbes: 670073
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 Mephram: 891426
BYG Village Hall Hire
Chris Bacon: crbacon79@gmail.com
Friends of Bells Yew Green
07944 712000

Council contacts

Chairman

William Rutherford: 752254

Frant Ward

Johanna Howell: 750141
Debbie Park: 319906
Michael Rowland: 526746
William Rutherford: 752254
BYG Ward
Stuart Crookshank: 518631
Andy Macdonald-Brown: 891273
Sue Wallis: 750635

Eridge Ward

Michael Stevens: 852739
Clerk to the Council
Rosie Karim: 653357
frantparishclerk@gmail.com
or www.frant.info

County Councillor

Bob Standley: 783579

District Councillor

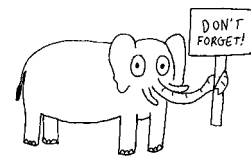
Johanna Howell: 750141
William Rutherford: 752254

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

Advertising enquiries:

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susan.piccioni@btinternet.com

Contributions for our next issue
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