

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Frant Church; watercolour by unknown artist, c.1797

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From the Rectory



2011 is now behind us. It was a special year for many reasons, one of which is that it was the 400th anniversary of the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

It may be that anniversaries of Bibles don't usually feature large in your life. But the KJV was no ordinary Bible. For example, it popularized phrases that are still in common use today, four centuries later, such as: *'fly in the ointment'*, *'bottomless pit'* and *'suffer fools gladly'*. It's a shame that this rich text that has so influenced the English language is these days so neglected.

The King James in question was King James I of England (VI of Scotland). During his reign, Christians were not *'seeing eye to eye'* over available translations of the Bible, so he authorized a new version (hence its other name, the Authorized Version or AV). It was a *'labour of love'* by 47 Church of England scholars, who after seven years finally saw their work printed in 1611.

Not everybody loved it. The leading Hebrew scholar of the time, Hugh Broughton, claimed that: "he would rather be torn in pieces by wild horses than that this abominable translation should ever be foisted upon the English people". He was apparently excluded from the panel of translators because of his unpleasant character. Was this

maybe a case of *'sour grapes'*?

Yet the KJV soon won the hearts of many. Today, we hear familiar phrases in Christian services, such as *'dust to dust'* and *'what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder'*. We also hear phrases used by the very young (*'the land of Nod'*), to the more senior (*'three score year and ten'*).

But the KJV itself is slowly disappearing from view. For some, this is a travesty and a cause to cry: *'God forbid!'* For others, it is time for this old version to *'bite the dust'* in favour of more modern versions. These don't always convey quite the same beauty in their turn of phrase, but they are more readily understandable to a 21st Century audience. For example, not so many people know what a *'sepulchre'* is these days, but as this word is so important in the telling of the Easter story, it is understandable that the modern person reaches for a modern translation to help them appreciate what they are reading.

However, the key thing is to remember that it is the divine message behind the words that is of paramount importance. We can all admire such wonderful expressions like: *'love thy neighbour'* and *'turn the other cheek'*. The crucial part is actually doing them.

PS. in case you were wondering, a *'sepulchre'* is a tomb!

James



Weddings happen all the time. But they don't often happen in the church in Eridge. After all, Eridge is a small village, so it is rather exciting when the church is used by a couple who are tying the knot. And this is exactly what happened at the beginning of December. Catherine Cooper, who grew up in Eridge, was married to Christopher Drummond, on Saturday 3rd December at 1:30pm. James Packman, the Rector, took the service, and some members of the Eridge Choir helped the celebrations in the packed church. In total there were approximately 150 guests. The bride looked lovely, and the groom and his party looked rather dashing in their tweed waistcoats and flat caps (taken off in church of course!). One particular benefit was that Christopher's company specializes in heating systems for historic buildings. Those who know Eridge Church will realise that this is just the sort of help that is needed!

Although weddings are relatively rare in Eridge Church, they are more common in Frant Church, and there have been several this year. Every one is as unique as the couple, but the service is always the same. In a registry office there is some flexibility about what a couple can promise each other, and American TV and films give examples of poetic declarations such as 'you are my lighthouse in the storms of life'. But in the Church the promises are set in stone, and

they are incredibly down to earth. So the couple promise 'to have and to hold' the other one whatever life might throw at them: 'for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health'. There aren't many things this doesn't cover! And this is what gives a church wedding a unique flavour. Obviously there are other benefits, such as getting stunning photographs outside a lovely building! But we all know that it's not just about having a great wedding day, it's really about having a great marriage to follow it. I guess that's why people still choose to make these clear and practical Christian vows in a church.

News from the Pews

As always, Christmas in the parish was great fun, as we celebrated God stepping down into this world to show us how patient and loving towards us he really is. I'm glad to say we even raised over £180 at our Christingle service for the Children's Society's work with needy and vulnerable children.

On 4th December we celebrated the baptism of Rafferty Turner. Sadly, two days later on 6th December, there was a family funeral for John Nightingale of Eridge. The family are planning a memorial service to take place at Holy Trinity Church Eridge, probably in April.

The end of the year marked another step forward with the development of the new church Stables. With new turf laid, our landscaper has now completed his scheduled work. So it is now over to us! As spring approaches, there will be various working parties to finish the planting and turn the grounds into a peaceful and beautiful place to visit. The building itself continues to be a great asset to our community, with plenty of groups finding it a useful place for their activities. For anyone who would be interested in hiring the Stables, the person to contact is Helen Carpenter on 01892 750368.

Now we look ahead to see what 2012 will bring. We look forward to a family service in Frant at 9:15am on Sunday 5th February when we will be celebrating 200 years of Church of England schools in our country. Approximately 15 million people alive today have attended Church of England schools, all because the Church of England had the vision to set up educational establishments in Britain starting in 1811.

Then shortly afterwards we will enter the period known as Lent, a time when traditionally we are encouraged to take some time to reflect on some aspect of the Christian faith. This year we will be focusing on one of Jesus' much-loved parables - the prodigal son. To do this we will be using a helpful book called 'The Prodigal God' by Tim Keller. If you would like to order one (at a discount!) then let James know by the end of January. Why not take a journey with us as we explore the insights into everyday life that this parable brings.

St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

The Reverend James Packman – 750638; jamespackman@ymail.com

Churchwardens

St Alban's: Jane Emler – 532233; Holy Trinity: Jonathan Lynn – 864304



www.frantchurch.org



www.eridgechurch.org

Services for January/February 2012

10:30am	Joint Family Service.....	1st January	
9:15am	Communion.....	8th January	Family Communion 11:15am
9:15am	Morning Service.....	15th January	Traditional Service 11:15am
4:30pm	Evening Devotions.....		
9:15am	Communion.....	22nd January	Communion 11:15am
9:15am	Morning Service	28th January	Morning Service 11:15am
9:15am	Family Service	5th February	Traditional Communion 8:00am Family Service 11:15am
9:15am	Communion	12th February	Family Communion 11:15am
9:15am	Morning Service.....	19th February	Traditional Service 11:15am
4:30pm	Evening Devotions.....		
10:00am	Traditional Communion.....	22nd February	
		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
9:15am	Communion	26th February	Communion 11:15am

There is a Sunday Club for 0-12 year olds at Frant when it isn't a family service—all welcome!

WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

Sunday Services: 10.30am
Coffee Mornings: 1st Wednesday of the month at 10.30am; Bible Study & Prayer: Thursdays, 7.15pm
Enquiries: Ken Davies, 01732 357791

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2011

Year of the Parish “nip and tuck”!

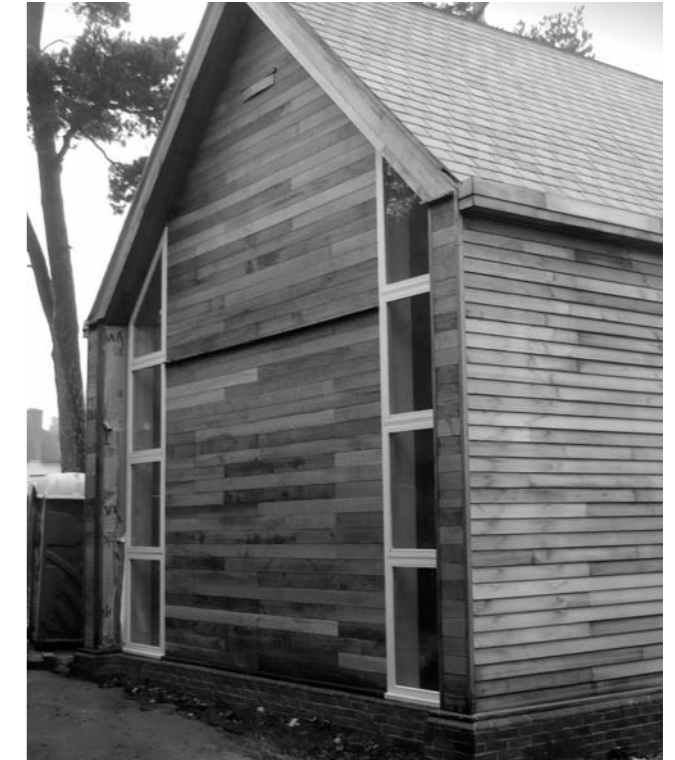
It is amazing how quickly we can all get used to things new, as if they were always there. At the time of writing this (December), I stopped for a moment to reflect on what Frant Parish was like a year ago compared to now. For starters, the staff at Frant School were frantically making preparations for the long awaited move to the new school. Pink crates were everywhere and...so was the snow and ice! Here we are a year later, with a beautiful blue sky (sorry to tempt fate but as I said, am writing this mid-December and looking out of the window, that is what I am seeing!). The children and staff all quickly settled in to what is a fantastic new building with an abundance of light and space.

As that major project came to an end, the one up the road was just beginning. The stables project. Now with its beautifully landscaped grounds at the front, it is hard to believe that a few months ago, James had to explain to the congregation that we were not installing a swimming pool on the ground floor contrary to what it looked like. There had been so much rain, that the building work had to go on hold until the huge pond of water below had drained away. But it rained and rained and rained... Eventually, it stopped raining and work resumed. An extensive period of mud bath and building activity took over out of which a beautiful building emerged. It is a lovely place for our community to use, whether it's for coffee mornings, Sunday Club or art classes. So light and spacious – a far cry from what we had before.

Frant Nursery School were proud to launch their new outside play area earlier in the year. Not only is it a safe place for the children to run around, it has also greatly enhanced the look of the Memorial Hall replacing a selection of bins with an attractive wooden fence. Well done to all those who helped to raise funds for this project and thanks to the Parish Council for their help too.

The other major change to the Parish is of course the traffic calming in Bells Yew Green which has recently been completed, much to the joy of those of us who regularly use that road, and of course the residents and shop. It too was a long time coming but good things come to those that wait! It looks neat, does the job perfectly and was worth the wait!

So those are the major structural changes to villages in our Parish. I also thought about other major successes and the Royal Wedding celebrations certainly spring to mind. Frant High Street was transformed into a street party to remember. Good old fashioned bunting, trestle tables, a hog roast and live band together with crowds of people having a fantastic time made for an excellent celebration. We were lucky with



the weather and always a good sign when the pub starts to run low on wine! Bring on the Jubilee I say!

In the summer, the Eridge Fair was, as usual, superb. Even the celebrity attending, Craig Revel-Horwood, would have given it a “10” I’m sure and that’s saying something. It was a swelteringly hot day but ample shade with all of those lovely mature trees and so much to do. That said, I opted for the snooping around followed by cup of tea under a tree option but the children entered all sorts of activities and loved it. Can't wait for the next one.

A year ago, the Neville Crest & Gunn was adding the finishing touches to its beautiful restoration. Judging by the permanently packed out car park, it has been a huge success. Offering a delicious and varied menu, impressive range of ales and wines and superb surroundings, it is no surprise it is so popular. For families wanting a “long relaxing lunch” who find after eating the children are ready to run around – that is just no problem. They have a large enclosed garden which has swings and... a tractor which has been a big hit. Not forgetting the trees which provide extra swinging and climbing space.

Just down the road from here, in Bunny Lane, we now have our own Eridge Farm Shop. If you are wanting local meats and produce (including home made cakes and delicious icecream) it is worth a visit.

I hope I have not missed any other major changes to our Parish new builds and restorations. If I have, please email me and I shall be sure to include a mention next time.

—Carmel Kinley

WI Scrapbook archived at Lewes.

John Evans contacted *Parish News* to let us know about the WI scrapbook which is now archived in Lewes. He wondered if any of our Eridge readers may have any other historical records (WI or otherwise) which should be archived. If so, he can be contacted on 01892 536870. Below is the background to the WI archives:

“My mother (Kathleen Evans) lived in Eridge from 1947 until she died in 2010. She had been a member of the Eridge WI and when it closed in the 1980’s she became the holder of the WI scrapbook (a book prepared in 1953 for a WI competition which holds many photos and records of life in Eridge).

On her death the scrapbook was still in her possession, and I have kept it safe, and tried unsuccessfully to find someone in Eridge who would retain the book in Eridge, and make it available for anyone to see.

I was concerned that if the book was retained in a family (mine or anyone elses) it would be unavailable for people to see, and eventually would be lost. Consequently I have taken the book to the East Sussex County Council Archives in Lewes, and they are delighted to retain it and record on their web site that it is held by them. They already hold one accounts book of Eridge WI and would be pleased to have any other records (minutes of meetings etc) if they can be found.

Apparently they have also recently received all the information and records gathered by Chalky White (former policeman at Eridge). I have also given them several photos of the annual fancy dress parties held in the Eridge village hall during the 1940/50’s.”

Frant Parish Friendship Group

During October and November we have had two speakers and also continued to hold Older and Active sessions in the Stables.

Patrick Godfrey described the building of the Royal Sovereign Light Tower which replaced the lightship that had for many years been moored off the coast near Eastbourne. Several people had noticed it but some remembered seeing it being constructed, on the beach before being towed out to sea. This all took place in an entirely different technological era, before there were computers. Patrick was centrally involved and they depended on slide rules and tables for their calculations. Also, his slides and film reminded us there was life before “Health and Safety”!

Our second speaker, Dana Butler, described her childhood experience of life in Nazi-occupied Holland, during the war. She managed to make light of what must have been a harrowing time, especially worrying and difficult for her parents. Her description of their liberation by Canadian

troops was particularly moving.

On January 28th, Joseph Piccioni will be giving a hard-headed consideration of his experience in the cosmetics industry, while on March 23rd Pat Wright will talk about the history of Frant. Our speakers for February 23rd and April 26th have yet to be confirmed. These will take place in the Stables.

Plans are now afoot to run computer classes, probably starting in March, in conjunction with ACRES. The cost will be approximately £25 for 10 sessions and will cover tea and biscuits. There will be ten places and further details will be available soon. If you are interested contact Trudi (750554) or Brian (750266).

Les Wilcox’s foot clinic in the Bells Yew Green meeting room continue on the following dates - all Fridays: Jan 13, Feb 24, April 13, May 25, July 13, Aug 14, Oct 5, Nov 16 and Dec 21. If you need to know more details or how to book, phone Trudi or Brian.

As this issue will not be published until after Christmas, we wish you all the very best wishes for a happy and healthy new year and look forward to seeing you at our club meetings.

—Elizabeth Bates.

RSPB update

The whole of our Broadwater Warren reserve is now open again. Visitors are invited to come and see the large areas that have been opened up where heathland will soon begin to regrow. There are also some great views across the beautiful Wealden landscape. With binoculars St Swithun’s Church in East Grinstead is visible from the east side of the reserve.

At our Tudeley Woods reserve Sparrowhawks have been very obvious and presumably eagerly welcoming the arrival of small flocks of Fieldfare and Redwing. These will soon be in huge flocks wheeling around the nearby orchards where they enjoy the abundance of windfall apples.

There are good numbers of Siskins sneezing from the tree tops and the occasional cheery chittery tinkle of Redpolls both at Broadwater and Tudeley. The Siskins are often joined by the larger and colourful common Crossbill at Broadwater and there have been several sightings of groups of Bullfinch. A group of five Mallards (our largest count yet) have been on the Decoy Pond.

Buzzards are very active at Tudeley, Broadwater and Fore Wood. At our Fore Wood reserve, our Warden, Mathew, and three volunteers felled invasive Sycamore and have almost finished clearing one of the rides that had become overgrown with scrub.

Wood cutters are well underway with much of this year’s coppicing at Tudeley. These traditional style coppice workers are a real asset in achieving good woodland management.



At Broadwater the new fencing has started going in. This will create a large (150 acre) enclosure for animals to graze the heath. Lots of gates will be provided and visitor access will not be affected. 5 Exmoor Ponies will arrive in April.

At Tudeley our Sunday volunteers have made very good progress coppicing an area around the pond. This spot is often attractive to Fritillary butterflies and supports an interesting community of three orchid species. It will be very interesting to see how this area responds next spring.

Most of the managed rides at Tudeley have had the annual cut by RSPB and Hadlow Estate staff. This ensures valuable nectar rich habitat in sunny open parts of the woodland.

A reserve visitor to Tudeley found a new and interesting species of fungi for the reserve - Pea-shaped Bird’s Nest *Nidularia deformis*. This find was particularly remarkable considering that so many species of fungi (over 1,100) have already been recorded at the reserve.

iPod/iPhone users... The RSPB has created a couple of great Apps - Love Birds, and Love Nature, both available online now. We’d really love to develop some specific apps for the Weald reserves. Watch this space!

Please help support the RSPB by becoming an RSPB member or by gifting an RSPB Wildlife Explorer membership. Every membership makes a difference and helps us do more. Visit: www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/join

A heartfelt thank you...

I cannot believe another year has flown by. During this time, I have had so many of you comment on *Parish News* (thankfully very positively) and show a genuine interest in its content. This feedback is really appreciated as are the

number of emails I receive from people who are keen to contribute news of their own. We have really tried to keep it as varied as possible and will continue to encourage and be grateful for any “one off” articles that are relevant and/or of interest to our Parish readers. These can include articles that are just for the amusement factor as everyone likes a laugh in amongst the essential local information and dates for the diary etc. For the avoidance of doubt, I am proud to confirm that none of our articles have been obtained through phone hacking despite its popular trend amongst some slightly larger papers...

I have had a few “complaints” over the past 2 editions that some have not managed to get a copy before they have all gone. For this reason, we have increased our print run by 100 copies so hopefully those of you who are not quite on the “delivery path” can pick up a copy in any of our Parish shops or pubs... but be quick! If you cannot get hold of a hard copy, don’t forget it’s on the Church websites (www.frantchurch.org) and Community website (www.frant.info).

I am incredibly grateful to the team of people who help to deliver these through household doors. It is not the best of jobs if the weather is awful (and I personally am yet to complete my round without jamming my fingers in at least one letterbox!). Seriously, it would be a tall order to have to deliver 750 copies so thank you very much.

Finally, a thank you to our local printers, LR Online Print Services, who do a great job for very reasonable rates!

—Carmel Kinley



Award winning Lamb!

Congratulations to Lambs Larder who have won the Excellence in Marketing category of the West Kent Excellence in Business Awards. They were also runner up as best new business.

I asked Peter how this was achieved and he says "Our success was based on the fact that we have, in the space of 18 months, taken a non-existing shop to a profitable enterprise in a small population. This was and continues to be achieved through our various marketing activities which include: Initial Flyer drop to 3,000 homes and businesses, active Facebook page for Lambs Larder, regular Twitter activity, magazine Advertising (including *Parish News!*), You Tube, regularly updated web page and monthly newsletter (Lambs Latest). "The best form of marketing according to Peter is positive word of mouth. They are also generous sponsors of the Bells Yew Green Cricket Club. Well done!

Press 1 for vicar, 2 for curate... 12 for prayer!

I received a call from a member of our Parish who had read this amusing "spoof" letter in a magazine from another parish. She wondered if it would be suitable to put in *Parish News* and my view was... absolutely, yes!

This "spoof" letter is from Uncle Eustace to his nephew.

Dear Nephew Darren

Now you have your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of "press 1 for vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary" until we end with "12 for requests for prayer". I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then I realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 asking for confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing "Thine be the Glory" on one finger on an electric organ while I am "on hold" I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace while I am waiting not to ask me not to hang up as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 to leave messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second on 8 for baptisms and save on a large phone bill in months to come, in fact another on 9 for funerals may well be necessary by the time that number comes up. Entire families

could be born, marry and die before they hear that 15 is specially reserved for urgent calls. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine is specially designed not to accept incoming messages and that I only answer the thing personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they can write me a letter which may be answered at my convenience, or could be ignored if I disapprove of its contents. This has the added benefit that I have not received any invitations to buy photocopiers or to learn that I have been selected to have a new kitchen installed, for many a year.

For the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to tell them that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Eridge Village Hall AGM

Please come and join us on Friday, 24th February 7.30pm at Eridge Village Hall. Our AGM (free entrance) will be followed by a Bingo Night! Tickets £8.50 per person and includes tasty Ploughmans too! Lots of Prizes to be won and fun to be had! Cash bar... Raffle Prizes etc

Places are limited so act fast and reserve your place now, please call 864931 or email: julie@swiftrefurbishments.co.uk

This is all for a good cause so please support our Village Hall as all proceeds will go towards the continuing refurbishment of the Hall. Registered Charity no. 305230

Malcolm Parry

Betty Parry and her family would like to thank the villagers of Frant for their condolences, warm wishes and support following the recent loss of Malcolm and also thank them for coming to the Malcolm's celebration of his life. They have been overwhelmed and touched by the sympathy which has been extended to them. He will be sadly missed by us all but the ringing of the Frant Bells will be a constant reminder of him.



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Parish Council News

Once again, the season is upon us with threats of snow and ice. This year the Parish Council have put the grit bins in place before the bad weather hits. These are situated at The George, The Abergavenny and The Brecknock. The grit is to be used to help Parishioners access local amenities.

Community Transport in North Wealden

For several years, the "Wealdlink" minibus service has operated from parishes across North Wealden to shops in either Crowborough or Tunbridge Wells. This door-to-door shopping service, currently supported by Wealden District Council and seven Parish Councils, which is intended for people who find it difficult to use ordinary buses, now uses a locally based minibus driven by volunteers, and a monthly shopping trip to Eastbourne has recently been added to the schedule.

Frant Parish Council are in talks with Wealdlink about the possibility of extending the service to include Frant residents. This would be a weekly service, on Tuesdays to Tunbridge Wells and on Wednesdays to Crowborough. A subsidised fare is charged as concessionary bus passes cannot be used on this type of door-to-door service.

To register an interest, and for further information, contact Mike Rowland.

Allotments

The allotments, on a site near the playing field and the new school and behind a hedge at the top of Frant Hill, started about four years ago. They rapidly attracted considerable attention from enthusiastic vegetable growers. However, this initial surge of activity waned after a while and the plots became scruffy and overgrown: in fact something of a blot on the landscape. In late 2010 the association of allotment holders received an infusion of new blood in the persons of Jake, Susan and Kate and a transformation took place. The site was cleared of rubbish, a stock-proof fence erected and the number of plots slightly reduced. Today, all the plots appear to be in use and although the bleak mid-winter is not the time to see much in the way of growing produce there is evidence of keen cultivation with weeded, well-mulched beds and even a trio of plump Buff Orpington hens and a thin scarecrow. There is no doubt that this is now a well-used and popular local facility.

Deer

Parish News has recently carried a couple of articles on the hazard to both motorists and deer from the latter wandering in the road. In the United States, some drivers affix to their vehicles a small device which emits a high pitched whine,

inaudible to humans but very audible to deer. The effect is to reduce the number of collisions. These "deer alarms" are now available at Frant Village Stores. You can save the life of a deer and at the same time protect your no claims bonus by fitting one!

The Parish Council takes this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Woof Meanderings in December

A blog from a Parish dog!



Goodness me, huge excitement last week, The Owner introduced me to an utterly gorgeous black lab called Dolly, who has the most refined face and whiskers, ohhh she is quite charming and delightful. As my Granddog would have said, 'good pedigree my boy, keep your paws in there'. Unfortunately though, my friend Alfie, also a black lab himself and quite a catch, seemed to make a very good impression on Dolly. The Owner though, oblivious to my sidling up to Dolly, took us all on a lovely stomp through the woods whilst wittering on about the amazing beauty and detail of the barks of trees. We all kept The Owner happy though by frequently and dutifully turning with wagging tails, appearing interested in her chat whilst scuttling through the carpets of ever deepening leaves and stark undergrowth as nature starts to batten down for the oncoming winter months. The Owner also kept stopping to peer hard at huge protruding tree funguses which, apparently, she has never seen in such vast sizes and variations before. Later she looked them up and bored everyone with her findings as apparently, they are

known as 'bracket funguses'. The Owner has also been chastising herself as she forgot to pick sloes for her rather special sloe gin tippie this year and subsequently, the birds had swiped them before her.

I myself have been increasingly un-amused at the chickens escaping their pen to scavenge around my bones, which The Owner gets as special treats from the butcher for me. I turn my back and before I know it, the chickens are there. I soon send them on their way taking my bones off to bury them in a chicken free place, but for some reason this irks The Owner as it is always under the flowers and the odd bulb seems to get uprooted in the process also. Apparently, a new fence is the next project for The Owner, so I hope it is sorted soon to keep those girls off my patch. Hmmm, feeling it is time now to snuggle in my favourite spot as The Owner is frantically looking for her glasses to watch Strictly. I must confess, I do open one eye now and again to glance as everyone sweeps across the screen as I think of Dolly and I sweeping past with our tails entwined...

Metal Detectives

Neighbourhood Watch & Operation Wellhouse.

Between the 5th and 9th of December the Wealden Operations team together with the local Neighbourhood Policing teams have spear headed a 5 day initiative against rural crime. Intended to catch, deter and prevent Burglary of peoples sheds, outhouses and the theft of metal in North Wealden

The operation has been deemed a success by Wealden's District Police Commander Chief Inspector Dick Coates. He said "The operation was intended to reduce these high impact crimes and identify those people responsible, A number of tactics have been deployed to disrupt this activity with great success and we have seen a direct reduction in reported offences as a result". Both uniform and plain clothes officers were deployed along with some more high tech techniques to enable us to gather information. The use of bait items which can be tracked has been used with at least one item being stolen and recovered within a short time. Enquires are ongoing to arrest the offenders who will more than likely be responsible for other thefts in the Wealden area. The use of new technology is something we continue to develop and will use all means available to us to keep safe the property of the residents of Wealden. Criminals need to bear in mind that we are using these new methods. They will never know if the items they steal can be tracked by Police. Criminals should bear this in mind and I would urge them to not steal in the first place or we may well be knocking on their door very quickly.

Sgt Ryan Allitt who organised the operation said "The

people of Wealden have reacted really well to this initiative and have been very encouraging. We have tried to minimise disturbance to legitimate members of our community while causing maximum disruption to the people involved in these offences".

A major part of this operation was to expand on the intelligence currently held about people who offend in Sussex but live outside the county. Our Intelligence Unit has been liaising closely with their counter parts in Kent and Surry and we have filled some significant wholes in the intelligence picture. As a result of this operation we identified information about who is potentially offending in Wealden, who they are associating with and which vehicles they are using to commit these offences.

The Wealden Operations Team, lead by PS Allitt, can be followed on Twitter

A useful connection in the Parish

I have recently been delighted to hear about a very helpful new business in our Parish and one which I thought many readers may well be interested in hearing about. I based this assumption on the fact that the households in our Parish cover a very broad range of, shall we say "set ups", from families with young children, retired folk, some in villages and others more rural with extended families consisting of horses, chickens and a variety of pets! So what kind of business can possibly be of interest to so many different people. Read on and find out

Firstly, a bit of background. Rosie Soma was born in Frant and, until recently, worked in Tunbridge Wells. She has taken a great leap of faith and given up her post in the town in favour of a lifestyle change where she can combine her livelihood with greater involvement in Parish life. Rosie enjoys Parish life and all that comes with it and felt that providing a pet and child minding service offering complete flexibility for parishioners would be welcome news to many. So, for example, when we go away, we give Rosie the keys to our house and she pops in every day to feed (and stroke!) "Buttercup", check on the house and just give us the peace of mind knowing that the place is being looked after in our absence. It is not just holiday cover that Rosie helps with but also if anyone needs a dog walking, dog sitting (regularly or on a one off basis), child minding (caught up late at work, Rosie can collect your child from school) or if you are elderly and need someone to help with your grocery shop or give you a lift somewhere, Rosie can help.

I do hope this comes as welcome news for many readers who sometimes may get caught short and need this sort of support. Rosie can be contacted on 07973 641670.

—Carmel Kinley

Music in Frant

Our 2011 concert season ended in superb fashion on Sunday 11th December with 'The Chancel Singers' and musicians from The Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra, plus some other local musicians. It seems that the concert 'Music from Handel's Messiah' was really well received by all who attended (and the church was certainly packed) as I have received a great many kind comments telling me what a wonderful evening it was.

All thanks to Chris Harris MA FRCO, who kindly made all the arrangements for this terrific event!

Thanks also to the many people who helped during the year, these evenings couldn't happen without the loyal support provided. Thanks also to David Cragg in talking to the many local companies in and around Frant, who help to sponsor our efforts by taking advertising space in our programmes. Jonathan Christie kindly did all the artwork for the fine posters and programmes for all the concerts, and many thanks to Roger and Claire and staff, in Frant Stores for acting, as the 'box office' again

Music in Frant 2012

Our next season, 2012, starts with the third 'Frant Three Choirs Festival' over the weekend of 23/24/25 March, when we shall have three fine choirs, 'The Chancel Singers', 'Polyphony' and 'Sussex Cantorum', and I expect we may have some organ recitals included on the choir evenings.

On the last evening of the festival, 25th March, I can now confirm, with great pleasure, that one of our best loved sopranos, Dame Felicity Lott (pictured below) has kindly accepted an invitation to sing. Felicity has earned an international reputation as a concert singer, collaborating



with most of the great conductors currently active, Sir Simon Rattle, Haitink, Mehta, Previn, Sir Andrew Davis, and others. She has appeared in all the great opera houses of the world, Vienna, Milan, Paris, Brussels, Munich, Hamburg, Dresden, Berlin, New York, etc. and has enjoyed a long association with Glyndbourne. Felicity has received honorary doctorates from the universities of Oxford, London, Leicester, Sussex, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, the Sorbonne, Paris

Dame Felicity will be accompanied by Sebastian Wybrew, a brilliant young pianist who gave his first recital on violin, at the age of nine, at London's Purcell Room. He started piano lessons at thirteen, having won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, winning the accompanists award in his first undergraduate year. Sebastian received further tuition with Graham Johnson and Roger Vignoles, considered perhaps the best piano accompanists in the world

On Friday, 29th June, two of the world's finest guitarists, John Williams and John Etheridge (pictured above) will be making a return visit to Frant, following their sold-out concert in June 2010. For those who enjoyed their previous appearance here, little more need be said!

Friday, 17th August features the wonderful bass-baritone singer, Jonathan Lemalu, a New Zealand born Samoan, already at the very forefront of today's young generation of singers. He graduated from a Postgraduate Diploma Course at the Royal College of Music and was awarded the prestigious Tagore Gold Medal. He is a joint winner of the 2002 Kathleen Ferrier Award and recipient of the 2002 Royal Philharmonic Society's Award for Young Artist of the Year. He has performed at Munich, Edinburgh, the Ravinia and Tanglewood Festivals, and at the BBC Proms. Jonathan is

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in great demand from the major opera houses, orchestras and recital venues across the world. His debut disc on EMI with Roger Vignoles (see above and below) won great acclaim and was awarded 'Gramophone Debut Disc of the Year'. His other recordings include operatic arias with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Jonathan will be accompanied on piano by Joseph Middleton, recently described by The Times as 'the cream of the new generation' praised for playing with 'strength, variety and beauty'. Joseph has given recitals with internationally established opera singers including Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Felicity Lott, Ann Murray, Christopher Maltman, Toby Spence (Toby has already accepted an invitation to sing in Frant in October 2013, and enjoyed a brilliant season last year at Glyndebourne), and with instrumentalists Alexander Baille and Emma Johnson.

On Friday 21st September, we present The Jacqui Dankworth Quartet. One the truly great jazz singers, and daughter of Dame Cleo Laine and the late Sir John Dankworth, Jacqui (pictured above) will appear with her own long-established quartet, in an evening of great standards and jazz classics

Sunday 25th November features one of the foremost singers of our age, the American soprano Christine Brewer, accompanied by Roger Vignoles. Christine's recent engagements have included the gala concerts to re-open The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in Rome with Antonio Pappano, Mahler's 8th under Sir Simon Rattle, plus engagements with the Lyric Opera in Chicago and the Paris Opera. In the course of a distinguished career, Roger Vignoles has appeared with (to name just a few) Dame Kiri Te Kanawa,

Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Felicity Lott, and at major venues across the world, the Wigmore Hall, Philharmonie Cologne, Vienna Konzerhaus, Carnegie Hall and many others.

At the present time, ticket prices are being decided for the various concerts, and will be published through the year in the magazine. In the meantime, if you have any queries about the concerts please call me on 01892 750665

—Paul Barber

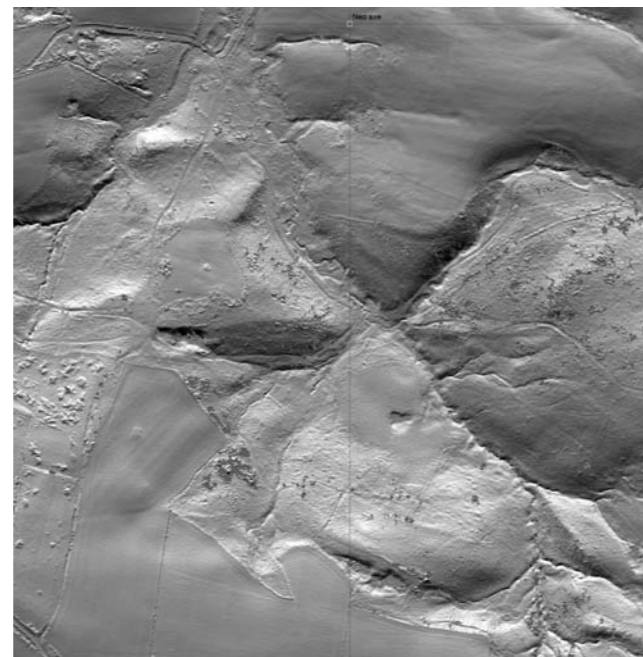
Seeing the wood for the trees

Do you own land between Tunbridge wells and Crawley? If so we can help you find out about the history of your land using the latest LiDar technology.

A LiDar survey has been partly funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund. LiDAR (light detection and ranging) is a survey technique which transmits laser pulses from a plane to the ground. The results are then modelled on a computer and the vegetation is stripped away to show the shape of the ground. LiDar is revealing a hidden world of sunken tracks, quarries, lost fields and industrial sites. This is showing us the landscape has been pretty busy in the past few thousand years and in many cases it is possible to interpret the marks left in the ground by man's past activity (see below).

To find out if your land is covered by the LiDar survey and download free images visit www.highweald.org/archaeology if you're interested in finding out more about the history of your land we are also offering free visits to landowners (with land of 1 acre or more) in your area.

Contact Matt Pitts the High Weald's Cultural landscape advisor for details 01580 879500



"Unsilent Night"

The organisers of "Unsilent Night" held at Bells Yew Green Village Hall on 8th December, were delighted the evening was a sell out! Much fun was had by all of those folks who braved the awful weather to sing their hearts out and embrace the festive spirit which included mulled wine and mince pies. With thanks to the Bells Yew Green big band and the choir.

The Glory of the Garden

by Rudyard Kipling
sent in by "The Old Rake" of Eridge Garden Club!

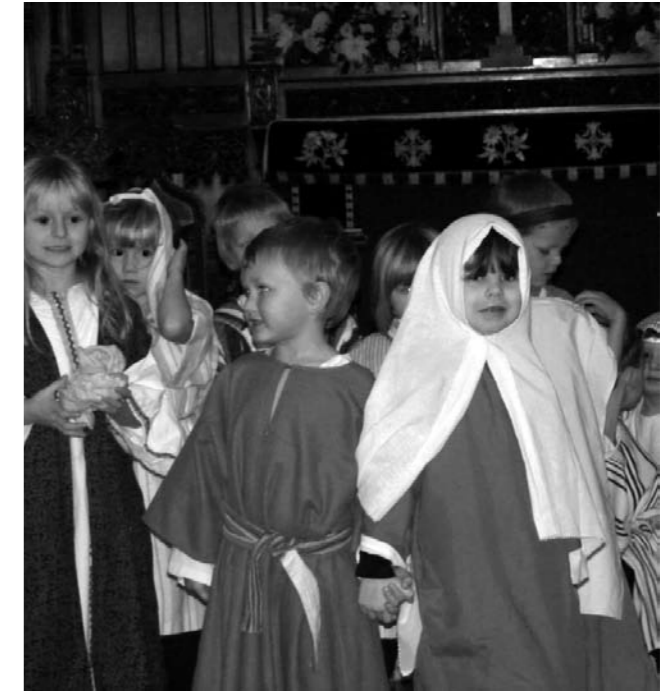
*Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.
For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool and potting sheds which are the heart of all.
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dung-pits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts, and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.*

*And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.
And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.*

*Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing:- "Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.
There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.*

*Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner In the Glory of the Garden.
Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!*

And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away



News from the School

Although I realise you will be reading this in January, as I write, we are in the thick of our build up to Christmas. Last Friday, the younger children told their version of the Christmas story through a nativity play called "It's a baby!" This was a memorable event in which the children showed that they are all both angels and stars, whichever part they were actually chosen to portray!

On Saturday, a group of the older children sang beautifully at a charity carol concert. The two classes of older children will take part in their own carol concert on the last Thursday of term. They have been busy rehearsing and we are looking forward to an all singing, all dancing, performance of a Russian tale called Papa Panov.

We have now been in our new school for a year and are still finding new and exciting opportunities presented to us by our much improved facilities. We are looking forward to being able to make full use of our school field and habitat area during 2012.

We have also just heard that moving school doesn't seem to have distracted us too much from our main purpose. In a review of the performance measures now collated for every school, we were delighted to note that we were in the top 6% of primary schools nationally for the progress made by children across reading writing and mathematics in the time that they have been at the school.

We are very proud of this statistic and it is a credit to the staff that the children achieve so well and still manage to reach very high standards in extra curricular events such as

the Christmas concerts, Summer plays and a wide variety of sporting events too.

In the coming year, we intend to base much of our work to improve the school on the values of the Olympic games; respect, excellence, friendship, courage, determination, inspiration and equality. We plan to shape our curriculum to reflect these values and to help the children celebrate the coming of the Olympics to London next year. Last week, we were able to get all this off to an excellent start when Frant resident, Lord Moynihan, chairman of the British Olympic Association, visited school to give a fascinating talk to the children.

We have also been delighted to welcome many residents of the village to join us for a school lunch over the last few months. There will be two more opportunities for villagers to do so after Christmas, the details of which are shown below. Please contact the school if you would like to take up this offer.

Thursday 12th January

- Beef enchiladas and steamed rice
- Pasta Neopolitan (v)
- Broccoli florets and sweetcorn
- Jacket potato with tuna and salad
- Golden syrup and apple pudding with custard

Monday 6th February

- Italian Pomodoro chicken with pasta
- Vegetable Hot Pot
- Fresh carrots and green beans
- Jacket potato with tuna and salad
- Chocolate and date rocks

Tel 01892 750243 or e-mail office@frantcep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Best wishes to you all from everyone at the school for a very happy and prosperous new year. —Paul Shefford

Frant Nursery School

Frant Nursery School has had a great start to the year, we have a new Nursery Leader, Denise Baker and Deputy, Rian Wolfe and a great team of staff supporting them. We would like to offer our huge thanks and support to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket for our Christmas Raffle which was drawn on 14th December - we raised a fantastic £677. There were some brilliant prizes up for grabs and a huge thank you to those who donated them. We will be purchasing some outside equipment/toys for our new play area. The best decorated Christmas cereal box competition was held and there were some beautiful entries. Georgia Bolter judged the competition and Ruby Heath and Oliver Liversedge were the lucky winners.

For the remainder of this school year (until July 2012) we only have one space available on two days so if anyone would like to put their child's name down for this year or the start of 2012/2013 (which is getting full), please do so sooner rather than later as we operate on a first come first served basis. Please email Kate Harris at fns.kateharris@yahoo.co.uk for an application form and prospectus.

A Free Service Brought To Frant

East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre is a registered charity working in partnership with Adult Social Care to provide a no charge mobile information and advice service for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people living in East Sussex. The vehicle, which is funded by the Big Lottery, is equipped to offer equipment demonstrations, hearing screening tests plus a hearing aid maintenance and battery service.

The mobile unit will be visiting Frant on Thursday 19th January, and will be at the Memorial Hall Car Park from 10.30am – 3.30pm.

The bus is accessible to wheelchair users and representatives from both the East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre and Adult Social Care will be available to provide individual information and advice on all aspects of hearing loss.

For further information please contact: East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre, Tel: 01323 722505 (voice/text/fax) e-mail: info@eshrc.org.uk

Don't Forget

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

Contributions for our next issue should be emailed to:
carmel.kinley@virgin.net
Deadline: Monday 13th February 2012

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Parish Diary: January/February

Thursday 12th January

Frant School “Join us for Lunch”
Frant School (Tel: 750243 to book)

Thursday 19th January

East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre
Frant Memorial Hall Car Park from 10.30am – 3.30pm.

Saturday 21st January

Frant School Jumble Sale
Frant Memorial Hall 10am – 12noon

Thursday 26th January

Frant Parish Friendship Group
The Stables – 2.30pm

Monday 6th February

Frant School “Join us for Lunch”
Frant school – 12 noon (Tel: 750243 to book)

Thursday 23rd February

Frant Parish Friendship Group
The Stables – 2.30pm

Friday, 24th February

Eridge Village Hall AGM & Bingo Night
Eridge Village Hall – 7.30pm

Regular Meetings

ESCC Mobile Office

Frant Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 10:30am—12noon.

Mums, Toddlers & Babies

Every Tuesday 10:30—12.00pm in The Stables, Frant.
A warm welcome to all.

KFC (for 10- to 14-year olds)

Meets alternate Fridays, 6:30—8pm. Contact James Packman (750638) for more information.

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 9:15am 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; Paul Shefford: 750243
Frant Nursery School; Kate Harris: 750507
Frant Sunday Club; Sarah Packman: 750638
Frant Bowls Club; Alan Taylor-Restell: 862346
Frant Cricket Club; David Pearson: 750789
Frant Football Club; Brian Akehurst: 662741
Frant Footpath Society; Beryl Barber: 750665
Frant Garden Club; Susan Piccioni: 750285
Frant Panto & Drama Society; Maggi Baxter: 890645
St Alban’s Bell-Ringers; Mary Freestone: 750269
Frant Memorial Hall; Jan Stocker: 07500 277867
Frant Music; Paul Barber: 750665
Frant Stables; Helen Carpenter: 750368

Eridge

Eridge Cricket Club; Alan Ellis: 541861
Eridge Garden Club; Gay Park: 861475
Eridge Evening Guild; Ros Russell: 661155
Eridge Village Hall Hire; Alison Barnes: 861302
Eridge Choir; Michael Stevens: 852739

Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel; Ken Davies: 01732 357791
Bells Yew Green Society; Anthony Brittain: 750461
BYG Cricket Club; Andy Brooks: 07876 011782
Short Mat Bowls Club; Pam Mephram: 750557
BYG Village Hall Hire; Chris Bacon: 543025

Council contacts

Chairman Stuart Crookshank: 518631, BYG Ward

Vice Chairman Johanna Howell: 750141, Frant Ward

Frant Ward

Alan Argue: 513838; Lynda Myers: 750508;
Michael Rowland: 526746; William Rutherford: 752254;
David Wright: 750905

Bells Yew Green Ward

Roy Harris: 891365; Andrew Rockingham: 752042

Eridge Ward

Giny Best: 527931; Christopher Hall: 750385
Clerk to the Council Sarah Codling: 530404
County Councillor Bob Tidy: 01825 733151
District Councillors
Johanna Howell: 750141; John Padfield: 852897

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.