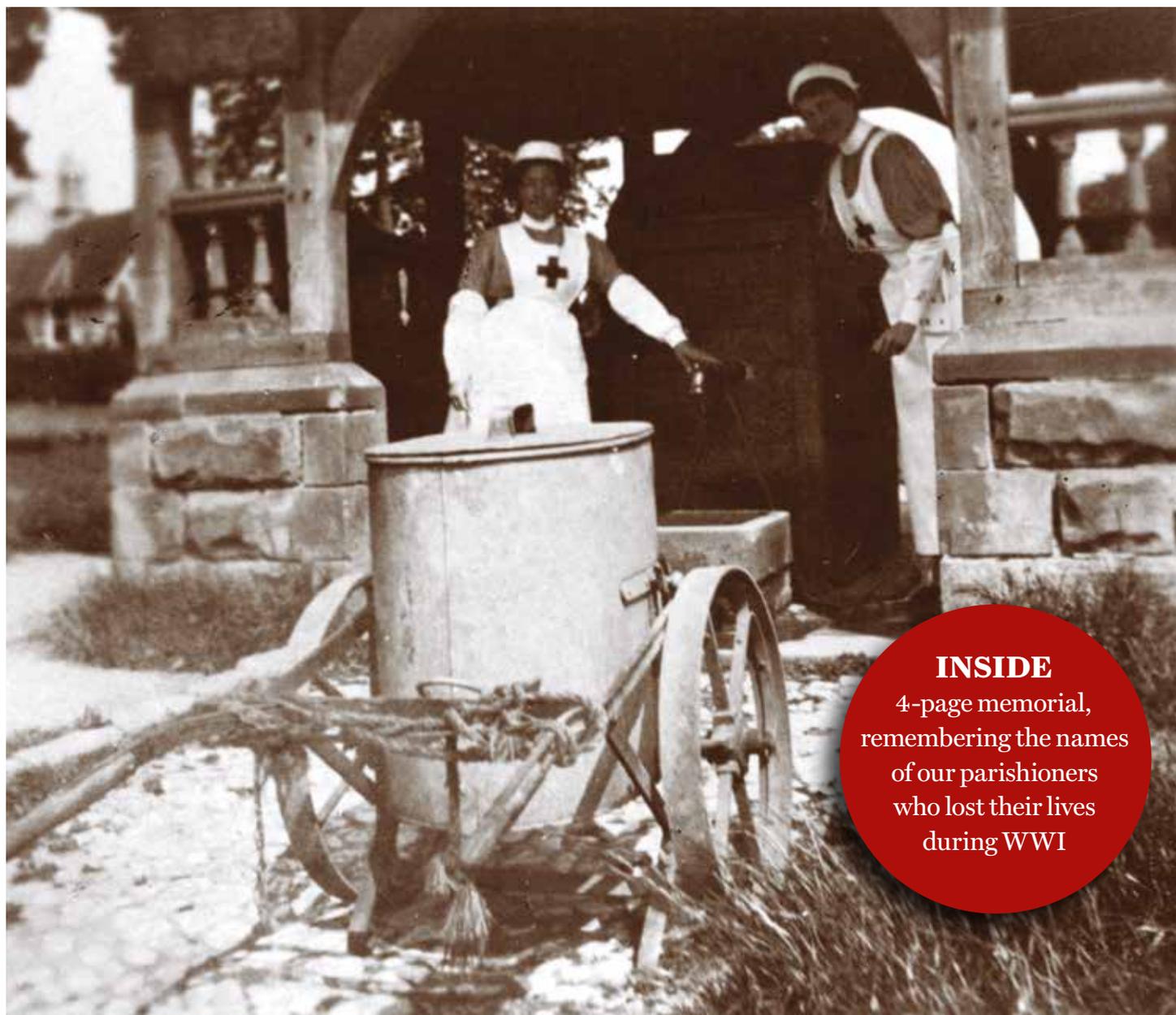


Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Mrs Akehurst & Miss Duncan fetching water for Shernfold Hospital during WWI

INSIDE

4-page memorial,
remembering the names
of our parishioners
who lost their lives
during WWI

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From the Church Wardens



“We will remember them.” These words uttered at acts of remembrance will acquire a new poignancy this year as we commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. As that conflict slips over the edge of memory for almost everyone alive today, to “remember” those who fought, suffered and died, and those whose lives were marked forever by loss and grief, means to enter into a special kind of devotion, a kindling of the heart, mind and imagination, in order to enter into a meaningful relationship with them.

“We will remember....” How then can we truly remember with those who died long before most of us today were born, or lived into our time but whose experiences of the war were theirs and not ours? One way is simply to allow them to speak to us themselves, to hear their own voices from their own time. This month’s parish news includes a special insert *in memoriam* of many of the soldiers from our Parish who lost their lives and on the church websites you can find more research into the names on the War Memorials in our churchyards. Each name had a family, a story, a life that they gave and that we have a duty to remember.

“We will remember....” For Christians “to remember” is a very special phrase. At the centre of their faith is the act of remembrance made every time the faithful meet to break bread and share the cup, remembering that Jesus Christ died for us and lives among us. That is an act of remembering which enables members of a broken humanity to become members with one another again in Christ.

“We will remember....” In Christian understanding, none are to be privileged and none excluded from remembrance, for there is one God and Father of all. It goes without saying that we will remember those who were killed and maimed in such unimaginable numbers. But alongside them we remember those for whom each death was an inconceivable and irreplaceable loss. We will also remember those who came to our shores as refugees or soldiers from far places in the British Empire. We will remember nurses and doctors who served the wounded and distressed, professionally and voluntarily.

“Their names shall remain for ever and their glory shall not be blotted out”

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News from Encounter

Encounter is the youth group for all school children from year 7 upwards. Led by Ed Pascoe, St Albans' Youth Worker, they meet weekly in The Stables on a Friday evening from 7-9.30pm. The evening is a great opportunity to end the week in a relaxed atmosphere with the chance to share thoughts from the week, socialise over supper (which is provided), play games and have a focused Bible study. Some of our regulars are pictured here with Lydia following the confirmation earlier this year. Although you don't need to be a musician or trained singer, music is a really enjoyable part of the worship and from 9-9.30pm every Friday, the Encounter Band practices. The Band is open to new comers and all are welcome to take part, be that leading a song, playing an instrument (and sometimes both) or just joining in with the group.

As well as the weekly gathering during term time, there are also social outings. On Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November, we will be visiting All Saints in Crowborough for their "Escape Room & Live and Unplugged" weekend. On Saturday 9th December, the group will be going to London for the Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park followed by Hillsong Church evening service in Central London.

Some of the group went to Soul Survivor in August and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. This is a Christian, weeklong event for teenagers. With around 10,000 other young people, they enjoyed interesting talks, worship songs, workshops, games and more. Visit www.twydc.co.uk/projects/soul-survivor for

more information.

A weekend away with all ages from St Alban's is in the planning for next year. Watch this space!

News from the Pews

We had no baptisms during September/October, but we had a service of Thanksgiving and Blessing for baby Harry Alexander Elliot. Harry was a model of good behaviour and really enjoyed the singing.

Two weddings were celebrated, both in glorious sunshine. Cathryn Hall and Edward Durie were married on 13th October. Then Roberta Organ and James Murdoch were married on 20th October.

At the beginning of October, the Harvest Supper was well supported and the delicious meal provided by Marco and Nicole Santos was greatly appreciated. The talk this year was by an enthusiastic apple grower, who really

communicated his passion for growing English apples.

This was followed the next day by the Harvest Festival Service. The great pile of food brought by the school children to their service on the previous Friday, added to what was brought by the congregation, demonstrates how much our community wants to help those in need. The food was distributed to local charities.

A service to remember departed loved ones was held on 14th October. This annual service is appreciated both by those recently bereaved and those who want to take an hour away from their busy lives to think about those who have gone before us, to remember them and give thanks for them. The service was conducted by Brian Woodgate, a former Chaplain from Burrswood.

Also in October, our third 'Grave Talk Café' was held in The Stables. This is a social gathering, hence the title 'Café', where the sensitive subject of death and bereavement can be considered and discussed informally. Conversations and discussions are prompted by a series of well thought out questions. Far from being morbid and miserable, it is interesting and enlightening.

On November 11th at 12.30pm, the bell ringers at St Albans will join with bell ringers nationwide to celebrate the end of the first world war 100 years ago.

The search for a new Rector continues. Hopefully by the next edition of Parish News there will be something more positive to tell. Meanwhile we are so grateful to clergy and Lay Readers who have come, some quite long distances, to help us out by leading services.



St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Churchwardens

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



www.frantchurch.org



www.eridgechurch.org

Services for November/December 2018

9:30am	Family Service	4th November	Morning Prayer	11:15am
10:45am	Morning Service	11th November	Morning Service	10:45am
		Remembrance Sunday		
9:30am	Communion Service	18th November	Communion Service	11:15am
9:30am	Communion Service	25th November	Communion Service	11:15am
4:00pm	No morning service Christingle Service	2nd December	Joint Advent Service	11:15am
9:30am	Joint Communion	9th December	No morning service	
9:30am	Joint Communion	16th December	No morning service	
6.30pm	Carol Service		Carol Service	4:00pm
	No morning service	23rd December	Joint Communion	11:15am
4:00pm	Crib Service	24th December		
11:00pm	Midnight Communion	Christmas Eve	Midnight Communion	11:00pm
9:30am	Family Service with short Communion	25th December	Communion Service	11:15am
		Christmas Day		
	No morning service	30th December	Joint Service of Morning Prayer	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*

WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

Sunday Services: 10.30am
Good Friday service at 10.30am; Bible Study & Prayer: Thursdays, 7.30pm
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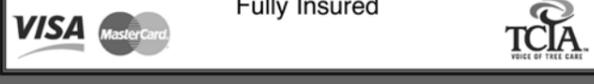


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Remembrance Sunday across the Parish 11th November, 2018

» Viewing of the Eridge Centenary Green

There will be a special service of remembrance at Holy Trinity, Eridge on Sunday 11th November starting at 10.50 am. The Eridge Choir will be leading the singing at the service and will sing an anthem. The parish council has carried out research into the men from the parish who gave their lives in the great war. There will be a small exhibition in the church with details of the men from Eridge.

Following the service there will be an announcement about the creation of the Eridge Centenary Green to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 and to remember those who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 including Rupert Nevill who died in 1918, which the daughters of the late Marquess John Abergavenny have kindly agreed to provide on a long lease to the Parish Council. There will be the opportunity to view the boundary of the area where the Parish Council will create a recreational space for the village to enjoy for generations to come. Please come to the service and do stay afterwards for a glass of wine and some eats.

» At St Alban's, Frant at 10.50am, there will be a Service of Remembrance and at Bells Yew Green at 10.30am.

» At Frant Memorial Hall there will be a Commemoration for those who served in the two World Wars and in more recent times. It will be led by the Wadhurst branch of the British Legion and Rev'd Imtiaz Trask who will be joined by people from the village. Everyone is welcome to the commemoration and afterwards to the Hall.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them

» The Imperial War Graves Commission

The Imperial War Graves Commission was set up almost immediately after the end of the war to deal with the enormous number of people all over the British Empire who had been killed. The dead had of course been interred where they had died – in the trenches in Flanders and on other battlefields over the world. Land was purchased for cemeteries and the dead were collected and re-interred. It was decided that a small headstone in Portland Stone

should be erected over each grave. On this would be engraved the Regimental badge, the name, regiment and number of each man. Below that, where the relatives desired it, could be a religious emblem e.g. cross, Star of David or Hindu or Moslem emblem and two lines of personal inscription. A large number of bodies could not be identified and in these cases a Cross was engraved in the place of the regimental badge, with the words "An unknown soldier of the Great War", followed by the inscription "Known unto God". Later, it was decided to commemorate the name of those who were missing, and whose burial place was unknown, by erecting a large stone memorial gateway at Ypres on the Menin Road, with panels containing all known names. It was decided to erect it at this site as so many of those killed had passed there on their way to the battlefields. This scheme was followed in other parts of the world, such as Gallipoli for the Dardanelles campaign, Dar-Es-Salaam for the East African campaigns etc. Headstones (sometimes a single one) were also erected in English Churchyards and in other remote and distant spots. In the large cemeteries, in addition to the headstones, a large cross with a bronze sword on the shaft, and a stone cross cenotaph were also erected. Monumental masons all over the country were invited to tender for the supply of these stones.

The first contract was for the great Cemetery at Etaples (10,000 headstones @ £40,000). To deal with such a vast quantity of stones, a separate office was installed. A separate card was made for each stone, with particulars of name, etc. The Portland Stone slabs (3'0" x 1'6") were cut as rectangles at the port quarries and supplied at 18/6d each. The tops were then curved at the works. Templates of the regimental badges were then made (we still have these) and given with the card to the man who was going to work the stone. The stones were polished, carefully checked, then loaded onto lorries and sent to Dover. Two lorries made the journey every day and some 500 headstones a week were dispatched. The work on the war graves continued from 1921 to December 1927. In addition, there were many headstones done for small burial grounds abroad (one was sent to

China) and all the headstones for all the cemeteries and churchyards in Kent, Surrey and Sussex were supplied and fixed. A number of headstones were even sent to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

In all the total number made was in the region of 150 000.

» Burslem, Bells Yew Green – war memorials.

A relative of WWI Veteran has inspired a new War Memorial for Pembury

A new war memorial commemorating those lives lost in WWI and WWII is to be unveiled in Pembury village on Remembrance Day this year.

When Rob Woodhams, the great-great-nephew of Jim H. Woodhams, a veteran of the First World War contacted Pembury Parish Council to inform them that his relative's name was missing from the existing memorial the campaign for a new memorial was instigated.

Local Pembury resident and keen historian Richard Snow took up the challenge and began a campaign for a replacement for the existing war memorial installed by Burslem's stonemasons after the Second World War in the 1920s. The existing memorial, featuring metal plaques, had become rather tarnished over the years.

Burslem were honoured to be asked to replace the memorial and produce new York stone plaques featuring hand-carved names of those who lost their lives whilst serving their country in both World Wars. The new plaque, to be unveiled by Lord Colgrain, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, will now include Jim H. Woodham's name, along with the corrected spelling of eight names.

Following the silence at 11.00am a 1930s Tiger Moth will fly over the War Memorial dropping 10,000 poppies.

Local film-maker David Dore is producing 'Pembury Remembers' featuring interviews of relatives

Burslem are also currently working on a new War Memorial for Rotherfield village which, although it has tablets remembering the fallen on the church walls has, until now, had no formal war memorial in the way almost all other villages have.

» Please visit the Frant and Eridge Church websites for further information behind the names on the Frant and Eridge War Memorials. Local resident, Philip Balcock, has researched these names and presents some poignant stories which are well worth a read.



Frant Christmas Fair

Many of you may remember the charming Christmas Fair held in Frant High Street last year (pictured above). There was a great selection of stalls selling locally made gifts and food, all decorated with Christmas lights. The High Street was abuzz with all people of all ages and brimming with Christmas spirit.

There is good news! On Saturday 1st December, this event will be taking place again from 2.30pm until 8.00pm.

Huge thanks go to Dom from The George who will once again be co-ordinating it all. Come along and join in the festivities.

If you would like to have a stall, please contact Dom at the The George 01892 750350.

Armistice Concert

The Choral Societies of Cranbrook and Paddock Wood present an "Armistice Concert" at St. Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook on Saturday 17 November 7.30pm.

The chorus of over 120 voices will perform "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" by Karl Jenkins, and Spirituals from "A Child of Our Time" by Michael Tippett. The concert will begin with Edward Elgar's "Serenade for Strings".

Tickets £15, (students £7.50) available online: www.cranbrookchoral.org.uk or www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk. By phone: 01580 714828 or 01892 836250

Christmas Events at Burrwood

» 1st November-13th December 2018

Held in the Orangery overlooking our beautiful grounds. Tea/coffee & pastries served from 9:30am. All workshops start

at 10am. Full day workshops include lunch 12:30pm-1pm & Afternoon Cream Tea. Catering and materials are all included in the price.

» Capture Christmas on Camera

Introductory workshop Thursday 1st November 10am-12pm £20. Full day workshop Thursday 15th November 10am-4pm £60. With international photographer Sharron Goodyear, bring your SLR camera or iPhone to learn the basics of good photography with a Christmas theme.

» Candle Making

Friday 2nd November, 10am-4pm £70. Friday 30th November 10am-4pm £70. Make a selection of candles with Simon of Will-o-the-Wisp, experimenting with colour and fragrance.

» Bespoke Christmas gift tags

Saturday 3rd November 10am-12pm £30. Wednesday 7th November 10am-12pm £20. Use air-dried clay & mixed media to create 20 gift tags with Nikki Svabo.

» Robin Sculpture Workshop

Sunday 18th November 10am-4pm £50. Wednesday 21st November 10am-4pm £50. Sculpt an exquisite bird with Artist Nikki Svabo using clay, wire & mixed media.

» Sugar Craft Cake toppers

Poinsettia workshop, Tuesday 20nd November 10am-4pm £65. Christmas figures workshop, Wednesday 5th December 10am-4pm £65. Clare Pope will teach you how to create a show

stopping poinsettia or Christmas figures and design other decorations to personalise your own Christmas cake.

» Iced Christmas Biscuits

Thursday 22nd November 10am-4pm £30. Thursday 13th December 10am-12pm £30. Learn how to ice gingerbread like a professional with Chloe from The Round Table Cookery School, making 8 cookies to take home. Please bring a tin.

» Festive Watercolour painting

Friday 16th November 10am-4pm £60. Friday 7th December 10am-4pm £60. Julie King will show you how to paint a snow scene and other festive subjects to create your own Christmas cards.

» Fresh Flower Christmas Wreath

Wednesday 12th December 10am-4pm £70. Wednesday 12th December 7pm -9pm £70. With Flowers by Enchantment, make your own arrangement for your door or as a centrepiece. Day workshop will also demonstrate other Christmas floristry.

Call Reservations on 01892 865988 to find out more or book your place. www.burrwood.org.uk

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» Not So Gentle? War, Conflict and Henry Moore – 8th November 2pm

The critic Herbert Read once famously described the group of avant-garde artists centred around Henry Moore in the 1930s as "a nest of gentle artists". When world events demanded, however, Moore was quick to put his art at the service of harsher realities. This lecture, given by Monica Bohm – Duchon, will trace an unfamiliar aspect of Moore's oeuvre, from his response to the Spanish Civil War through his work as an official war artist during World War Two to his response to the Holocaust, the Cold War and the continued threat of atomic warfare in the 1960s.

Join us for an enlightening lecture about a familiar name and stay for a drink and a chat afterwards. Members free, Guests £6.

» Norman Rockwell's Christmas Wish

A light – hearted look at the ideal family Christmas through the work of the popular 20th century American

illustrator. 13th November 2pm

The most beloved American illustrator of the 20th century always portrayed life as he wished it would be, portraying the ideal family Christmas with direct connections to Dickens and the English Yuletide Tradition.

American-born Charles Harris will share his own experiences of the ideal American Christmas from sleigh rides and ice-skating in the woods to trimming the tree and wondering how Santa got down the chimney.

Join us for some Christmas Spirit – or at least a drink and a chat! Members free, Guests £6.

Both events will be held at Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough

Friends of Bells Yew Green

Thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning – what fabulous cakes we had! A delicious range from coffee and walnut, to fresh cream sponge, cheesecake, brownies and chocolate flapjacks, even gluten-free, and on and on! Thanks to all your kind contributions and donations, including those raised at Lamb's Larder, we raised £111 – well done!

On Saturday, 13th, Rydon Homes consulted locals regarding their intention to apply for permission to build eighteen houses on what is currently a field almost opposite Cricketers Close, Hawkenbury Road. There was a mixed response, as you might expect, with some folk interested in seeing more homes built, whilst others expressed concern about infrastructure – for example, the lack of school places and doctors' surgeries, additional traffic on a hazardous stretch of road, and so on. Another issue raised, was the potential setting of a precedent, by using what is currently an agricultural greenfield site within the AONB, and any future implications of doing so, as well as whether this proposal matched land designated in Wealden's Plan.

If you didn't receive notification of this meeting and would like to be included in further updates, please email: friendsofbyg@gmail.com to join the information email list, or phone Sue.

Dog owners, and everyone else (!), will be pleased to hear that a new dog waste bin is about to be installed adjacent to the BYG Cricket Club's gate – thanks to Frant

Parish Council. The Club requests that folks use this and not their bin, please.

Following the overwhelming success of this summer's flower banks on the Green, Niall will be leading a Community Gardening Party which will be meeting on Sunday, 4th November at 11 am for a couple of hours, to clear the banks and replant winter/spring bulbs. If you'd like to join us, please let us know by contacting friendsofbyg@gmail.com. There is a promise of cake for the workers! If you aren't able to join us but would still like to participate, Friends of BYG would be delighted to receive either your donation or some bulbs, please. We are collecting various snowdrops, aconites and crocus (no daffodils, thank you), so choose your favourite colour/variety and drop them in at Lamb's Larder, please, marked Friends of BYG. Donations in an envelope similarly marked. Don't forget to tell us who donated! Thank you so much.

Any questions or comments? Contact: Sue, Friends of BYG. 0794 471 2000

Frant Parish Council

"The Chairman of the Parish Council has been studiously researching for the centenary commemoration of the end of WW1 – more details elsewhere in this publication. The PC have spent some time discussing the 3 'Greens' that make up our parish, in Frant, BYG and Eridge. In Frant the excellent work of FOSG continues with planned cutting of different grass areas, and the PC are obtaining quotations for professional advice to deal with verge protection and erosion. Tree surgery is also imminent on the Green, agreed with Wealden's tree officer. The tardiness of the Fern Close development has been raised and and the PC understand this is due to the need for a licence to address the presence of dormice across the site.

Bells Yew Green continues to bask in the colours of the bund plantings this year, and preparation for the winter is being supported. The effect on the Green of pedestrians accessing the village from the planned development by Rydon Homes in Hawkenbury Road, has also been discussed. On a more mundane issue, a dog waste bin is being installed by the BYG cricket ground.

In Eridge a new post to support the village sign has been installed, and the site of the new commemorative Green behind the church car park, has been

identified and will be opened to coincide with a Remembrance Day historical exhibition."

— Cllr Andy Macdonald-Brown

Kent Chorus Candlelit Concert

The Kent Chorus Christmas Candlelit Concert this year will be at 6.30pm on December 9th at St Alban's. Under the direction of Richard Jenkinson and accompanist Ray Maulkin, there will be a mixture of traditional carols and lighter items with choral and audience participation. With a soloist and musicians it always creates a great atmosphere, and there will be the usual refreshments available in the interval. Tickets will be available from Frant Stores and Brittens, whose support we always appreciate, from mid November.

Christmas Table Centrepiece Workshop

Please join us at The Stables on the first Monday in December to make a traditional Christmas table centrepiece. There will be a demonstration and help at hand for you to make your own display. All materials provided but please bring your own secateurs (and any special decorations, candles etc you may wish to use). Guest speaker, with a Christmas message plus mulled spiced punch and mince pies.

The cost is £15 and all proceeds will go to the West Kent Women's Refuge.

Spaces limited so please book early. To register your interest please mail Philippa Mumford: richardmumford@talktalk.net



Licensed Reader from Eridge Church

On Saturday 29th September, a party of some 30 supporters from Frant and Eridge churches travelled to Chichester to attend the service in the Cathedral at which Lesley Lynn was licensed as a Reader in the parish by Bishop Mark of Horsham with Bishop Richard of Lewes attending.

Lesley was one of five newly licensed Readers across the Diocese (pictured next to the Bishop).

Readers are lay people in the Church of England, from all walks of life, who are called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work. The office of Reader is

the only lay ministry in the Church of England which is voluntary, nationally accredited, Episcopally licensed and governed by canon.

Lesley feels a strong vocation to work with the bereaved and wishes all in the Parish to know that anyone who dies within the Parish may have a funeral service held in either of the churches in the parish. "So many people think that they must have been regular churchgoers to "qualify" - but it simply isn't true" she says. "Funeral services and memorial services can be individually crafted to suit the character of the deceased person and their loved ones, and can provide real solace at a time of grief. I hope to make that a reality in my ministry."



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Christmas at Scotney Castle



Hussey family Christmas eve
 1 Dec - 7 Jan 11am-3pm

Celebrate the Victorian Christmas that the Hussey family would have enjoyed. Play with children's toys under the Christmas tree, dance in the hall and see the dining room getting ready for Christmas celebrations.

Scotney Castle Christmas lunches
 Mon 26 Nov - Fri 21 Dec

Monday-Friday only
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Please call Mike Lynch on 01892 893869 or contact mike.lynch@nationaltrust.org.uk for any further information or to place your booking. Advance booking essential to avoid disappointment.

Call 01892 893820 for details
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Storytelling with Father Christmas

Sat & Sun 1, 2, 8, 9, Sat 15 - Sun 23 Dec 9.30am & 12noon
 Father Christmas will be visiting Scotney and helping families feel even more festive this season. There's storytelling and gifts to add a sprinkle of magic to all who visit.
 Child £9

Pre-booking essential. Book online from 1 November. Please note a customer booking fee of 3% applies.

Noah's ark children's trail

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Bonfire Night!

Frant School PTFA have been working behind the scenes preparing for the annual Bonfire and Fireworks Extravaganza, to be held in the field behind the School field on Saturday 3rd November. The approximate timings for this year's event are:

4:30pm Bar, BBQ Food, Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate & Novelties will be on sale all night

5:00pm Best Dressed Guy Competition, followed by the lighting of the bonfire!

6:00pm Firework Display begins!

An entry charge of just £4 for adults and £1 for children (under 12) makes this an excellent value-for-money evening, so please bring along family, friends and any Guys for the best dressed competition.

Limited parking will be available in the Glebe field (this will be signposted on the night and costs £2 per car) and lighting is limited so bring along your torches and if it's cold remember to wrap up warmly! Please can we ask that for safety reasons you do not bring sparklers. Once again we are very grateful to all local residents in Frant for their understanding of the disruption caused by the additional number of cars and people around the village on this evening.

Frant Nursery School

We are back at Nursery after our Summer break, having said goodbye to our leavers we've had a busy few weeks settling in our new starters and are looking forward to meeting new children and welcoming them and their families

into our Nursery community over the coming months.

The children have been busy enjoying harvesting the crops that we planted in our playground in the summer, lots of tomatoes, some tiny carrots and two beautiful sunflowers so far. Recently we took the older children to St Albans Church to watch the Primary Schools Harvest Festival which they really enjoyed and it was lovely to see some familiar faces there too.

We have now started our Balance-ability sessions on a Monday, run by our resident football coach Dave. He is teaching the children how to use our lovely new Balance Bikes safely.

If you would like further information on Frant Nursery School please contact Shelley Holdsworth 01892 890961

Frant School News

As we approach the end of this first term I am delighted to let you know some of the wonderful things we have been up to at school.

Our new reception children have settled in really well - they come through the school gate with smiles and a good morning every day. As a school we are having a big push on manners and so hearing and seeing our youngest children doing it so well is absolutely wonderful.

On a sporting front, many of our KS2 children took part in the Cross Country competition at Uplands recently. We won 3 of the 4 available races, which is an amazing feat. Aside from the winning our children all gave their very best and represented the school extremely well. Many more events across a range of sports are planned for the coming terms.

Our PTFA have been very busy already this term. We have held a very successful coffee morning for the Pickering Centre last week which has raised almost £500 to help them with their fantastic work. Our recent Welly Walk was well attended and fun seemed to be had by all. We are now looking forward to the Frant Bonfire which takes place on Saturday 3rd November. As always, we are very grateful for all the work the PTFA do on behalf of our school.

Towards the end of term 2 all children will be involved in either the KS1/ Reception Nativity Play or the KS2 Carol Concert. Both take place in the church.

You are very welcome to attend,

We will be holding a Parish Lunch

in school. All from the village are very welcome to attend so please look out for details of this event. Our children enjoy chatting to our parishioners and showing them around our wonderful school so please do try and make this lunch.

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

Frant Parish Friendship Group

The group made the most of the beautiful summer we had with two exceptional outings to Penhurst Place and the Spa Valley Railway, these were well attended and very enjoyable. Trudi and Patrick Godfrey again opened up their home at Pockocks Gate Farm for our Summer Tea Party. This was a lovely afternoon and we are very grateful to Trudi and Patrick for their hospitality

We started the new season with another fascinating travel talk from Andrew Macdonald-Brown on wildlife in the Rujifi Basin, Tanzania. Once again Andrew amazed us with his adventures in Africa. The wildlife in the Selous National Park was extremely varied and beautiful and luckily very well protected. Andrew also gave a short talk on behalf of the Parish Council on the Dial to Drive scheme which funds trips for residents to hospitals, doctors surgeries etc. This was of great interest to many members now that we have lost our lovely surgery in the village.

Our October meeting, on the 25th, was about saving energy, something close to all our hearts at the moment, and for November (the 22nd) we will be having our very own historian Pat Wright – subject to be advised.

Our exercise classes, 'Young at Heart' are continuing but are in desperate need of new members; with the winter coming on and the lure of the armchair by the fire we all need a little gentle exercise!!! So please give us a try they are twice a month on a Thursday afternoon tea and biscuits provided.

Before we know Christmas will be upon us and it is hoped to do another Christmas shopping expedition – a great success in previous years. We will be rounding off the year with our Christmas Lunch at the village hall on Saturday 15th December – tickets will be available nearer the time.

All enquires to Gill Barnes 752232 or Valerie Palmer 750559



Ewes from the Brecknock Arms

Stop press! The Brecknock arms now offers a unique sort of Gin & Tonic! The two new resident sheep, Gin & Tonic, have joined the smallholding of birds that reside in the garden. Come along and visit them in their new home. You can have a look at our website to see what else you can enjoy on your visit www.brecknockarms.com.

Over the festive period, there is a Christmas concert with the BYG band on 20th December. This is a charity event and will have a buffet, mince pies, mulled wine etc. We will also be doing a children's Christmas carol service with the date and time to be confirmed.

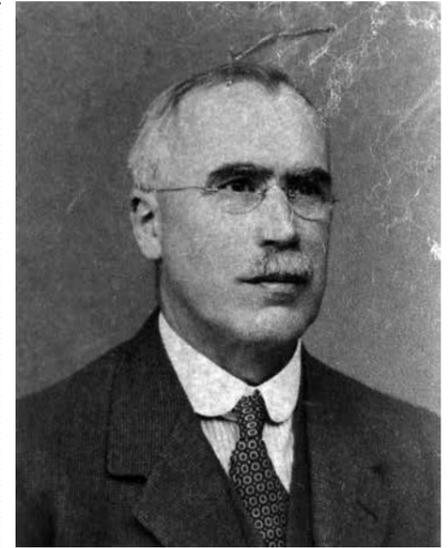
On New Year's Eve we are doing a 1920's themed evening with live jazz all night, buffet and bubbles at midnight for £19.00. Call us to reserve tickets on 01892 750237. We look forward to welcoming you. Digby & Katie



Parish Past

There was no school at all in Eridge until about 1860 when Staircase Cottage was built for the purpose. The name derives from an unfortunate blunder - the builders forgot about the need for a stair until the cottage was almost finished and it then had to be clumsily inserted largely obscuring one of the windows. The design anyway was so cramped it is difficult to imagine the children learned much, indeed the principal purpose of the school seems to have been to produce quantities of sewn goods for the Castle. Between 60 and 70 children were crammed in with a single teacher, Miss Fleming, and her registers are full of yards of serge and dozens of chemises cut and sewn for the Castle, so it is not surprising to find later inspectors criticising the establishment's almost total lack of academic achievement. No doubt the boys simply bunked off most of the time. Even when the school was transferred to better premises in the Forstal, standards were still reported as discouragingly low until the 1930's when an enlarged and tough-minded staff finally improved matters. The school closed, so far as I can remember, in the 1960's.

Frank Sivyer, who attended Frant School in the early 1900's recalled the building as split down the middle by sliding doors, girls to the left and boys to the right, a small space at the end accessed by both being the punishment room. "You were sent there to fetch the cane from the cupboard and wait with it in your hand for his (Mr Wood, pictured above right, headmaster for the amazing period 1895-1937) convenience that sometimes seemed endless. When late



as I often was (he had a job to do first) it took a lot of courage to enter. The ticking off in front of all. If in a bad mood it was hard cane in front of all... some comics and we had a few would return to their seats shaking all over and making faces in the greatest agony... but showing off their hand with a big grin at their mates." He records the lavatories as a long drainpipe cut in half filled with water and only sluiced out once a day by the caretaker with a bucket. Wooden planks were set over this pipe with rough-cut holes in them and "I guess every youngster had his legs lifted up sometime there by the bullies." All the children were simply turned out in the street at breaktime whatever the weather or state of their clothes, and much of the cleaning was done without payment by the top-class children. Frank's memoir is too good to miss so more on early village life next time. —Pat Wright

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**Parish Diary
November/December 2018**

» **November & December**
Events at Burrswood
see page 8

» **Saturday 3rd November**
Frant PTFA Bonfire Night
Frant School Field 4pm onwards
see page 12

» **8th & 13th November**
Ashdown Forest Arts Society
see page 8

» **Sunday 11th November**
Various Remembrance gatherings
See page 7

» **Saturday 1st December**
Frant Christmas Fayre
High Street, Frant
see page 8

» **Monday 3rd December**
St Alban's Church Wreath Making Event
see page 8

» **Saturday 9th December**
Kent Chorus Candlelit Concert
St Alban's Church, Frant
see page 9

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:
frant youth@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
Joanna Challis: 750243
Frant Nursery School
Shelley Holdsworth: 890961
Frant Sunday Club
Ed Pascoe: frant youth@gmail.com
Frant Bowls Club
David Oliver: 611994
Frant Cricket Club
David Pearson: 750789
Frant Garden Club
Dianna Tennant: 752029
Frant Panto & Drama Society
Alan Richardson: 01892 825378
St Alban's Bell-Ringers
Mary Freestone: 750269
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 Mephram: 891426
BYG Village Hall Hire
Chris Bacon: crbacon79@gmail.com
Friends of Bells Yew Green
07944 712000

Council contacts

Chairman

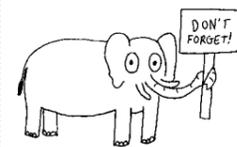
William Rutherford: 752254
Frant Ward
Johanna Howell: 750141
Debbie Park: 319906
Michael Rowland: 526746
William Rutherford: 752254
BYG Ward
Stuart Crookshank: 518631
Andy Macdonald-Brown: 891273
Sue Wallis: 750635
Eridge Ward
Giny Best: 527931
Michael Stevens: 852739
Clerk to the Council
Rosie Karim: 752005
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
carolineparishnurse@gmail.com



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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Every One Remembered

Remembrance Sunday 2018 is the centenary of the end of WW1. Many young men from our Parish lost their lives in this terrible war. William Rutherford, Chairman of Frant Parish Council, has researched the archives and provided this memorial to honour them.

FRANT

Lieutenant Lionel Arthur Ashfield, D.F.C., Royal Air Force



The son of the headmaster of the school at Hazelhurst in Down Lane, he joined the Royal Naval Air Service direct from Marlborough College, before transferring to the newly formed RAF. He flew 62 sorties and shot down seven enemy aircraft, qualifying as an "ace". He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1917. He was shot down by a German ace and killed on 16th July 1918, aged 19. He is buried in Rams-cappelle Road Military Cemetery in Flanders.

Private Ernest Baker, Middlesex Regiment

A gardener before the war, he was born in Frant and was living at Ivy Cottage in Tangier Lane with his wife Annie and his son Reginald when war broke out. He enlisted in June 1916 and went to France in October that year with the 11th Battalion. He was killed in action on 9th February 1917, aged 36, when an artillery shell hit his trench. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Private Charles Barham, Royal Sussex Regiment



A grocer's assistant, he lived in Frant with his wife Annie and his son Charles. He was also a Sunday School teacher in the Methodist church in Tunbridge Wells before the war. Originally enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment he was transferred to the 7th Battalion, the Leinster Regiment. He was killed by shrapnel in action during the Battle of Arras on 7th June 1917, aged 34. A Wesleyan military chaplain wrote that he "never saw him downcast, but always bright and cheer-

ful, of brave faith and radiant hope. The officers of the deceased and also his comrades all spoke most highly of him".

Sergeant William Bassett, Royal Sussex Regiment

A platelayer for the railway company, he lived in the Platt, Down Lane with his wife Emily and his son Godfrey before the war. He volunteered with the 13th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, which was one of three Sussex "Southdowns" Pals battalions raised in 1914. All three battalions went into action together at Ferme du Bois, Richebourg, on 30th June 1916, in what proved a disastrous attack. 800 men of the 13th battalion were casualties that day, and Sergeant Bassett was among those killed, aged 33. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Corporal William John Bennett, Royal West Kent Regiment

A footman before the war, living at Rushlye Lodge with his parents, he enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1915. He was shot and wounded twice in 1916, and was killed during a successful attack on the German trenches near Arras on 9th April 1917, aged 23. He is buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Two of his brothers also served in the army and both survived the war.

Lance Corporal William James Blackford, Royal Sussex Regiment

A gardener born at 1, The Platt, Down Lane he volunteered and joined the 13th Battalion. He was killed in action on 30th June 1916, aged 23, in the same battle as William Bassett above. He is buried at Dud Corner, Loos.

Private Horace Reader Blackford, Royal Sussex Regiment

Brother of William James above. A gardener like his brother, he lived in one of the cottages south of Down Lane on Mayfield Road. He volunteered and served with the 12th Battalion. He was

killed in action on 17th October 1916, aged 26. He is buried in the Beaumont-Hamel Mill Road Cemetery and is commemorated on the Theipval Memorial on the Somme.

Gunner Frank Herbert Bush, Royal Garrison Artillery

The Head Gardener for Shernfold Park was called up in July 1916. His employer tried, unsuccessfully, to defer his call-up on the grounds that he was essential to the production of fruit and vegetables in support of Shernfold Park Hospital. He has previously been in the Volunteer Engineers and although he requested to be posted to the Royal Engineers he was instead sent to the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was killed in action 6th February 1917, aged 30, leaving behind a widow Alice and a son Herbert. He is buried at Saily-au-Bois Military Cemetery.

Private William Tuckwell Carrington, Royal West Surrey Regiment



He was born at 2 Park View, Frant, but moved to Lambeth with his wife Mabel and three children, where he worked as a tailor. He was conscripted into the Royal West Surrey Regiment and transferred to the Labour Corps. He died on 21st April 1918, aged 42, and is buried in Bagneaux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt.

Private Harry Carter, Royal West Kent Regiment

A grocer's assistant, he lived at Hazelhurst Cottage, in Down Lane, where his father was a gardener. He volunteered in Tunbridge Wells and served with the 7th Battalion. He was killed in action on 22nd March 1918, aged 23. His name is listed on the Pozieres Memorial.

Private Arthur Frederick Clark, Royal Marine Artillery



He grew up at 1 Yew Tree Cottages in Frant, the only son of a gardener. He was called up in May 1918 and died of pneumonia in Eastney Infirmary, Portsmouth on 1st November 1918, aged 18.

Sapper Frederick Cockrell, Royal Engineers

An Estate Carpenter, and only child, he was living with his parents at Walnut Cottages, Frant when war broke out. He died after a short illness at Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham on 11th April 1916, aged 30.

Private William Thomas Cosham, Royal West Kent Regiment

The youngest son of Mr Cosham of Rushes Farm, Frant Forest. Having

previously been a Trooper in the West Kent Yeomanry, he enlisted in Maidstone, joining the 7th Battalion West Kent Regiment. He was posted as missing in action in June 1918, and it was later confirmed that he had died of wounds on 24th April 1918, aged 21. He is buried in the Hangard Cemetery and is also commemorated in the war memorial in Tunbridge Wells.

Private John Crittle, Royal Fusiliers



Prior to the war he worked for the Ware Brewery and lived with his wife Kate, and their son Clarence, on the High Street, Frant. He was well known as an all-round athlete and fine batsman for Tunbridge Wells Cricket Club. He was killed in action on the 16th November 1916 by a piece of shrapnel, aged 34. An officer wrote to his widow, saying, "Your husband was a fine fellow and a splendid soldier." He is buried in the Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel.

Admiral Frank Finnis, C.V.O., Royal Navy

A career sailor who had served in the Navy since 1864 in the Pacific and in South America. He retired from the Navy in 1908 settling at Down House, Down Lane. However, due to a shortage of naval officers he was recommissioned as a Captain in the Royal Naval Reserve in 1915, aged 64. In 1916 he was in command of an auxiliary patrol vessel, HMY Mekong, when it was caught in a gale off the Yorkshire coast and sank with the loss of three sailors. Finnis survived and was absolved of any blame. He was subsequently Commander of the Naval Base at Stornoway, where he died on 17th November 1918, aged 67.

Corporal Percy Goodsell, Royal Sussex Regiment



Born in Wadhurst, he was a gardener at Woodside. He had served in the Territorials since 1910, and was mobilized with the 5th Battalion when war broke out. He was promoted to Corporal just before sailing to France in February 1915. In May 1915 he took part in the attack on Aubers Ridge, and the Battalion suffered over 200 casualties. He was initially recorded as missing, and it was two months before his family had confirmation that he had been severely wounded and had died in a field ambulance on the way to the rear, aged 21. He lied buried in the Longuenesse Souvenir Cemetery. His only brother, who lived in Maidstone, was also killed in the war.

continued over

**Private Frank Gregory,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

A house painter before the war, he joined the 5th Battalion and was killed in action on 10th July 1917 aged 32. He is buried Ramscape road Military Cemetery.

**Private Percy Gregory,
Royal Fusiliers**

Brother of the above. He originally enlisted in Eastbourne where he was a grocer's assistant. He initially joined the 6th Battalion Royal Fusiliers before transferring to the 1st/7th Middlesex Regiment. He was killed in action on 16th September 1916, aged 34. He is commemorated in the Thiepval Memorial.

**Gunner Jonathan Ernest
Grinham, Royal Field Artillery**

He was born in Tangier Lane, where his widowed mother still lived at the outbreak of hostilities. He was working a gamekeeper at Preston Hall, Aylesford where he lived with his wife and son. He was deployed in France in October 1916. On 30th November 1917 his position was hit by an artillery shell and was killed instantly, aged 37. His brother also served during the war, being severely wounded in the head but survived.

**Private Albert John Groves,
Royal West Surrey Regiment**

Born in Frant at Leafwood Cottages, his father worked at the Ware Brewery. He joined the 2nd Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment and went to France in March 1918. He was killed in action on 21st September 1918, aged 19. Buried Villiers Hill British Cemetery.

**Private Frederick James Haig,
Welsh Guards**

The son of a dairy farmer, originally from Scotland, but was living at Windmill Farm, Frant Forest at the start of the war. His regiment took part in the Battle of Cambrai in the November 1917 which saw the first use of massed tanks. After initial successes the German's counterattacked and he was killed in action on 1st December 1917, aged 18.

**Major Raymond Sheffield
Hamilton-Grace, 13th Hussars**

A professional soldier, following a family tradition, he grew up at Knowle, Frant before Harrow and Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Durham Light Infantry and fought in the Boer War. He subsequently transferred to the 13th Hussars in India where he was an accomplished steeplechaser and polo player. He then became an instructor at the Cavalry School in England, qualified

as a pilot and wrote several books on military affairs. At the outbreak of the war he was a staff officer with the Cavalry Brigade deployed to France in 1914. He was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion d'honneur and twice mentioned in despatches for his bravery in combat. He was coming home on leave on 8th August 1915 when his car collided with an army lorry and he was killed, aged 34.

**Private Maurice Harold Oliver
Hazelden, Royal West Kent
Regiment**

A footman in Bells Yew Green at the outbreak of the war he enlisted on the 9th September 1914, just one month after Britain had gone to war. His enlistment papers show he was 5 feet 6 inches tall. He was shot in the chest during an attack on Trones Wood, part of the Battle of the Somme, on 13th July 1916, aged 20. He is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery.

**Private Harry Bond James,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

He was born in Church Lane, Frant, and was working as a chauffeur at Brattles Grange in Brenchley before the war. He served with the 11th Battalion and was reported missing in action on 3rd September 1916, aged 23. He was eventually considered to have been killed in action, although his body was never recovered. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

**Gunner Herbert Charles King,
Royal Garrison Artillery**

He was born in Notting Hill, but grew up in Mark Cross where his father was a gardener. He was working as a chauffeur in Frant when he enlisted. He was killed in action 15th June 1917, aged 25. He is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery.

**Sergeant Thomas John Lade
M.M., Royal West Kent Regiment**

He was born in Tangier Lane, Frant where his father was the village postman. He had moved to Rusthall to work as a postman before fighting broke out. He volunteered in December 1915 and joined the 6th Battalion. He was sent home twice with trench fever, and twice returned to the front line. He was killed in action on 21st September 1918, aged 33, leaving a widow, Lily, and son, Herbert. On 11th February 1919 he was posthumously awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. He is commemorated at the Epheny Wood Farm Cemetery. His only brother George was killed two days before him and is commemorated on the memorial in Rusthall.

**Private Arthur Lavender,
The Rifle Brigade**

He was born in Leafwood Cottages, Frant, but moved to London after school, becoming a clerk to a fruit merchant. He served with the 2nd battalion, the Rifle Brigade in France and was killed in action on 19th November 1917, aged 26.

**Private Reginald H Lucas,
Welsh Fusiliers**

He was the son of Mr and Mrs. H Lucas of Tangier Lane. He grew up in Frant where he worked as a game-keeper, like his father, before marrying and moving to North Wales early in the war. He was originally a volunteer with the Montgomery and Welsh Horse Yeomanry before it was absorbed into the Welsh Fusiliers. He was killed in action on 21st September 1918, aged 34. The regiment's chaplain wrote "Your husband was in the very front of the advance when he was killed. Thus he met his death, where only the bravest are falling".

**Private Percy Mepham,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

He grew up at Bridge Farm, Frant Forest and was employed as a grocer's errand boy. He enlisted in 1916 and joined the 11th Battalion. He was severely wounded during the 3rd Battle of Ypres and died of his wounds on 23rd September 1917, aged 21. His two brothers also served, and both survived the war.

**Private Charles George Ovenden,
West Kent Regiment**

He was born and raised in Tunbridge Wells, but his mother was from Frant. When he originally enlisted in the West Kent Regiment he had been working as an errand boy. He subsequently transferred to the 20th (Blackheath and Woolwich) London Regiment. He was killed in the opening attack of the Battle of Le Transloy on 1st October 1916, aged 19. He is listed on the Thiepval Memorial.

**Stoker 1st Class Albert Paige,
HMS Natal**

He was born in Frant and by the age of 13 was working as an agricultural labourer, supporting his widowed grandmother. He joined the Royal Navy in 1902, serving on 15 different ships before the war. He rose through the ranks and was a Stoker 1st Class when war broke out, serving aboard HMS Natal. He was given leave to get married, aged 28, on 25th November 1915 in Woolwich before re-joining his ship in the Cromarty Firth. On 30th December, while lying at anchor, HMS Natal was shaken by a series of

violent explosion and sank within five minutes. Half the crew were on shore leave, but almost all the 400 sailors still on board died in the accident, which was blamed on faulty ammunition. Albert Paige's body was never recovered. Married for just one month, his widow Florence never remarried, and died in Tunbridge Wells in 1980.

**Driver Frank Harold Paine,
Army Service Corps**

A farm labourer at Knole Farm, he volunteered in December 1914. He served in France for three years as a driver in the Mechanical Transport section. He was discharged from the army due to ill health in July 1918 and died at Hither Green Hospital on November 6th, aged 26. He is buried in St Alban's Churchyard, alongside his parents.

**Private Alfred Smith,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

The son of a gardener he was born on the High Street, Frant and went to the local primary school. When war broke out he was a gardener at Eridge Castle. He served with the 7th Battalion and was killed in action during the opening attack of the Battle of Cambrai 20th November 1917, aged 25. He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial.

**Private James Stone,
Royal Fusiliers**

He was born and raised at Corn Hill, Manor Farm, Frant. He served with the 4th battalion and was killed in action on 16th August 1916, aged 19. He is listed on the Thiepval Memorial.

**Private George Albert Turner,
Middlesex Regiment**

He was born in Middle Road, Bells Yew Green, the only son a roadman. He became a groom living at Manor Farm Cottages, and joined the Sussex Yeomanry before the war. He married Ethel Maud Holland in 1916 and moved to Southborough. He was called up shortly after his wedding and was posted to the Middlesex Regiment. He was killed in action a year later on 1st April 1917, aged 27. He is buried in the Dickenbusch New Military Cemetery, Belgium.

**Ordinary Seaman William John
Twort, HMS Bulwark**

He was born on Frant Hill where his father was a Postman. In his teenage years he worked as an agricultural labourer and as a milk man, before joined the Royal Navy in 1913. His enlistment papers

record that he was 5 feet 4 inches tall with blue eyes and a tattoo of a hand on his right arm. After training he was assigned to the battleship HMS Bulwark. On 26th November 1914, while lying at anchor at Sheerness, HMS Bulwark was ripped apart by an explosion and sank with the loss of 736 of its 750 crew. An inquiry concluded that ammunition had been stored against a boiler room bulkhead in contravention of regulations. He was 19 years old.

**Corporal Reginald Twort,
Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light
Infantry**

Eldest brother of William, above, he was employed as a gardener in Frant in 1911, before moving to Buckingham. He volunteered in 1915, joining the 5th Battalion. Her died of his wounds on 1st September 1916, aged 25. He is buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery. He is also commemorated in the church at Lillingstone Dayrell, Buckinghamshire.

**Private Charles Watts,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

The youngest son of an agricultural labourer, he was born in Bells Yew Green. He was working as a general labourer before the war. He joined the 12th Battalion and served in France. He was killed on the 30th June 1916, aged 27 in the same battle as Sgt Bassett and L/Cpl Blackman above. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

**Private George Watts,
Grenadier Guards**

Elder brother of Charles Watts above, he was working as a farm labourer in Marden when war broke out. He served with the 2nd Battalion. He died in Flanders on 25th September 1916, aged 40. He is buried in the Guard's Cemetery, Lesboeuifs.

**Corporal Walter Watts,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

Not related to the two above, he was born and raised in Mayfield Road Frant, where he started working as a gardener's boy. When war broke out he was the Farm Baliff at Knole Farm, with his wife and son. He joined the 13th Battalion and, in the same battle as Charles Watts above, he was reported missing in action on 30th June 1916, aged 38. His wife appealed for any information about his fate in the Kent and Sussex Courier. His body was eventually identified, and he is buried in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez.

**Private James W Wesley,
The London Regiment**

He was born on Wadhurst Road where he was the son of a gamekeeper at Shernfold. He enlisted in May 1916 and

went to France with the 2nd/1st Battalion in January 1917. He was wounded in the head in April that year but made a good recovery. In an attack on the German lines in 16th June 1917 he was last seen in the German trenches, wounded again. He was posted missing, presume killed, aged 28.

ERIDGE**Private Luther Bailey,
Royal Fusiliers**

He was born in Rotherfield and grew up at Renby Farm, Eridge, where his father was an agricultural labourer. He went to school in Groombridge where he was a prize-winning pupil. He married a local girl, Jessie Card, in Eridge in 1914, but moved to Manchester to work in the Ford factory. After just 15 months of marriage his wife died quite suddenly and unexpectedly. Very shortly afterwards he left his job and joined up. He served in France with the 20th Battalion and was severely wounded. He returned home to convalesce but died at home in Manchester from his wounds on 18th November 1916, aged 24. Both he and his wife are buried in Eridge churchyard.

**Gunner Thomas Brooker,
Royal Garrison Artillery**

He was born and raised in Speldhurst but was working as a farm labourer in Eridge at the outbreak of war, where he lived with his wife and ten children. He was called up in June 1916 and at 6ft 4in tall was considered too tall for the infantry so was assigned to the Royal Garrison Artillery. His battery was heavily involved in the opening of the battle near Armentières where he was wounded while serving in the gun pit. He was evacuated to the dressing station at Canada Farm, and died from him wounds there on 5th August 1917, just two days after his 39th birthday. He was buried nearby in what is now known as the Canada Farm Cemetery.

**Stoker George Henry Davy,
HMS Pathfinder**

He was born and raised at Birchden Cottages and was a choirboy at St Thomas Church in Groombridge. He joined the navy before the war, and at the outbreak of hostilities, he was a 1st class Stoker aboard the cruiser HMS Pathfinder, aged 20. On 5th September 1914 Pathfinder (pictured above) was on patrol in the Firth of Forth when it was attacked by the German submarine U-21. One torpedo struck Pathfinder and detonated the forward magazine. A massive explosion broke the ship in two which sank almost immediately. Only 18 of the 289 crew survived. One of the survivors



wrote to his mother, "I am very sorry to have to inform you of his sad end. He would just be preparing to go down on watch when the accident occurred, so there was not the slightest chance of his escaping". His body was never recovered but his name is recorded on the Chatham Naval Memorial. HMS Pathfinder was the first ever ship to be sunk by a mechanical torpedo.

**Lance Corporal John Percy
Elleray, London Scottish & Royal
Fusiliers**

He was born in Lancashire but brought up at South Farm, Eridge where his father was the farm bailiff. He went to King Charles The Martyr School and then a private school in Tunbridge Wells. He captained Eridge's Football Club for two seasons and was a wicketkeeper for the Constitutional Club XI while training to be a dentist in Tunbridge Wells. He volunteered with the London Scottish in 1915. In December that year his parents received a letter that he was unconscious in hospital in Flanders and not expected to survive. His sister set off immediately to be by his side. Remarkably he did recover and was transferred to the 30th (City of London) Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He came home on six months leave in 1917 for temporary agricultural work on his father's farm before re-joining his regiment in September 1917. He was reported wounded and missing in action at Merville on April 11th 1918, aged 36. His body was identified several years later and buried in the Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck. His family published a memorial notice in the Kent & Sussex Courier on the anniversary of his death for 10 years.

**Private H Percy Griffen,
Royal Sussex Regiment**

He grew up at Danegate in Eridge before moving with his family to Pett near

Hastings. He served with the 1st/5th Battalion and was killed in action at Ypres on 16th August 1917, aged 24. He is listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

**Private Albert (Bertie) Hiram
Harman, Royal Army Medical
Corps**

He was a labourer on the Eridge Estate, living at Birchden Cottages when war broke out. He was a conscientious objector but nevertheless volunteered to join the medical services in 1915, serving with the 58th Field Ambulance unit. He was working at a casualty clearing station at Manteuil-la-Forêt, not far from Epernay, when it came under artillery and gas attack. He was hit by shrapnel and died from his wounds on 6th June 1918, aged 29. He is buried in Marfaux British Cemetery and is also listed on his parent's grave in Eridge churchyard.

**Pioneer Frederick James
Holmwood, Royal Engineers**

He lived 1 Forstall Cottage, Eridge and had been employed as a painter on the Eridge Estate for six years before the war. He originally volunteered on 3rd September 1914, joining the 1st Royal West Kent Regiment, but later transferred to the Royal Engineers. He was killed in action on 21st August 1916, aged 23. His section officer wrote "He was a conscientious, intelligent and hard-working soldier, and I therefore desire to offer my deep sympathy and condolences with you and the members of his family." He is listed on the Thiepval Memorial.

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Lance Corporal Arthur Thomas Holmwood, Royal West Kent Regiment



He was the younger brother of Fred, above. Employed as a gardener on the Eridge Estate he volunteered on the same day as his brother, also joining the 1st Royal West Kent Regiment. He was killed in action during the attack on Vimy Ridge on 9th April 1917, aged 22. He is buried in the Bois-Carre British Cemetery.

Private Herbert Maskell, Royal Sussex Regiment



He was born in Frant before his parents moved to High Cross in Rotherfield. He was working as a gardener at Trulls Hatch in 1914 when his employer, Mr TH Mann, gathered together all his male employees. He offered to pay any man who enlisted their full wages for the duration of their service and guaranteed them employment on their discharge. He was one of eight members of staff who volunteered immediately. He served alongside his brother Cyril in the Sussex Regiment, and they spent the evening together on 30th June 1916. The following day the opening attack of the Battle of the Somme was launched. Herbert was reported missing in action, presumed killed. His brother Cyril was killed in 1917 and is commemorated at Rotherfield. Their eldest brother Arthur also served, was awarded the Military Medal and survived the war.

Captain Rupert William Nevill, Rifle Brigade

He was born at Eridge Castle, the grandson of the 1st Marquess of Abergavenny, and younger brother of 4th Marquess. He left Eton aged 16 and joined the Rifle Brigade during the Boer War. He was too young to serve at the Front, but went to South Africa on other military duties. After the army he lived on the Eridge Estate and was a keen sportsman and accomplished rider, winning many point-to-points and Hunt races. He also commanded the Eridge Troop of the Sussex Yeomanry. When war broke out he joined the Army Remounts Service, which was responsible for acquiring and training horses for the war effort. Over the course of the war nearly 1 million horses and mules were purchased to support the British Army, and the Remount Service employed officers with expertise in horsemanship. However he was anxious for more active service and in 1916 he rejoined his old regiment, the Rifle Brigade. Unfortunately his health failed him, and he was invalided out of the Army in 1917. In 1918 he contracted Spanish flu and

after a short illness he died on 3rd November 1918, aged 35. He is buried in Eridge churchyard.

Private Alfred Henry Pettit, Royal West Kent Regiment

He was born in Cox Heath, near Maidstone, but at the outbreak of the war he was a groom on the Eridge Estate. He volunteered in Tunbridge Wells on 4th September 1914. He served with the 2nd Battalion which took part in the disastrous Mesopotamia campaign. He contracted cholera and died two days before the garrison at Kut surrendered on 27th April 1916, aged 22. He is buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Iraq.

Corporal F Pollard, Royal West Kent Regiment
No information has been found.

Private Harry James Pratt, Royal Fusiliers

He was born in Frant at Strawberry Hill Farm on the Eridge Road, where he worked on his father's farm. He originally enlisted in the West Kent Regiment, but transferred to the 22nd (City of London) Royal Fusiliers. He was killed in action on 29th April 1917, aged 20. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Private John E Reeves, West Kent Yeomanry

He served with the West Kent Yeomanry and the Oxfordshire Yeomanry.

Private Reginald Samuel Sharpe, Royal West Kent Regiment

He lived at Birchden Cottages before the war and was employed as a nursery propagator. He volunteered shortly after the war began, on 4th September 1914. He joined the West Kent Regiment and served with the 7th Battalion. He was wounded in action on 19th July 1916. He was wounded in action on 13th July 1916 and reported missing, aged 22. He was eventually posted as killed in action in January 1917. His body was never recovered, but his name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial.

Private R A Sharpe, Royal Army Service Corps

He was serving with the 102nd Auxiliary Petrol Company in the south of France. He died 16th March 1919 and is buried in Mazargues War Cemetery, Marseilles.

Private Thomas Stibbon, Royal West Kent Regiment

He was born in Lincolnshire, but was working as a servant at Eridge Castle when he volunteered to join the West Kent Yeomanry in 1914. He eventually served in France with the 10th Battalion of the West Kent Regiment. He was home on leave in Spring 1917

and took the chance to marry Maud Griffiths, a lady's maid, in London. He rejoined his regiment just in time to take part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. On the opening day of the battle, 31st July 1917, he was killed during a successful assault on the German lines, aged 36. He is buried in the White House Cemetery, Ypres and also recorded on the Menin Gate. He left his widow £91 14s 8d. She eventually remarried in 1933.

Private Percy Taylor, Royal Sussex Regiment

He was born and raised on Sandhill Farm, Sandhill Lane, the second of four sons and five daughters. He and his eldest two brothers all worked for their father on the Farm. According to family tradition he signed up when the farm's horses were requisitioned as he wanted to see them properly cared for. He joined the 13th Battalion in Eastbourne and sailed to France in March 1916. On 3rd June 1917 his parents received a letter from him reassuring them that he was quite well although "things were now very dangerous at the Front as the shells were flying around in very large numbers". The same day in France Percy and several other men were in a safe area behind the lines cutting grass as feed for some of the battalion's horses, when a shell burst nearby. Percy was wounded and died shortly afterwards, aged 24. His brother Fred, who was also serving in the battalion wrote home with details of the terrible co-incidence. His officer also wrote, "He was a good boy and did his duty nobly. I know this is poor consolation for all those who have to wait anxiously at home..."

Private George Taylor, Royal Sussex Regiment

He was born in Rotherfield and was living at Turks Cottage, Sand Hill Eridge at the start of the war where he was working as a thatcher, like his father. He volunteered to join the 13th Battalion. He never saw service overseas but died of influenza at home on 16th September 1915, aged 18. He is buried in Eridge churchyard.

Private Daniel Taylor, West Kent Regiment

He was born in Crowborough, but before the war he was living at Birchden Cottages and working as a nurseryman, alongside his elder brother. He volunteered on 1st September 1914, making him one of the earliest volunteers. He joined the 6th Battalion which was involved in fierce fighting in the closing stages of the Battle of the Somme at Le Transloy. He was wounded in this engagement and died of his wounds on 3rd October 1916, aged 24. He is buried in the Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme.

Private George Turner, Northampton Regiment

He was born in St John's, Withyham and was working as a gardener before the war, living at the Gasman's Cottage, Eridge Estate Yard. He served with the 1st Battalion in France. He was killed in action on 18th April 1918, aged 43. He is buried in Cambrin Military Cemetery.

Lance Corporal Sidney Randolph Turner, Royal West Kent Regiment



He was born and raised at the Forge Cottage, Cobbarn where his father William was the farrier. He attended Eridge school and was an enthusiastic boy scout. As a teenager he worked as a gardener, but eventually followed in his father's footsteps and was working as a farrier before the war. He volunteered in the first month of the war in Tunbridge Wells. He served with the 7th Battalion which took part in the Somme offensive. He was reported wounded and missing after the attack on Trones Wood on 13th July 1916, aged 21. After a year of uncertainty his family were notified that he was now presumed killed, and they published a notification in the Kent & Sussex Courier. His remains were identified after the war and he is buried in Mill Road Military Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel. His name is also recorded on the Thiepval Memorial.

Private Percy Richard Samuel Wickens, Royal West Kent Regiment



He was born at Hornshurst, Rotherfield, but by the time war broke out he was a footman at Duddleswell House, Uckfield. In 1914 he visited his mother at Forge Cottage Eridge, and then went into Tunbridge Wells along with Sidney Turner (above) and volunteered for the 7th Battalion on the 4th September 1914. On 21st July his mother received a letter from him saying he had been wounded a few days earlier and was recovering in hospital. The same day a telegram arrived from France saying his condition had become serious. She wired back that she should like to see him but couldn't bear the expense. The following day the War Office issued her a travel warrant and she set off immediately for France. She reached the hospital in Rouen on the 23rd, only to be told that he had died a few hours before her arrival. He was 30 years old. She attended his funeral in the Military Cemetery in Saint Sever