

Parish News

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"Crowborough Beacon from Frant, Tunbridge Wells" (detail), colour lithograph, by Quinton, Alfred Robert (1853-1934)

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From the Rectory



It's funny, when I think about the 20's I think about the roaring 20's with prohibition, flapper dresses and Charlie Chaplin! But from now on, everyone will think of these moments we are making now, so what shall we make these 20's be? A new chance to decide what is important, what we will spend our time and energy on, what we will do with our life.

The problem is I seem to always be worrying about the next thing I have to do. When one task finishes, I immediately think, what's next? Sometimes we thrive on that feeling of moving from one thing straight into another, feeling we are like President Bartlet in the West Wing TV series who was constantly asking "What's next?" Busy people must be accomplished people we think.

But there is a real downside. I'll be out at dinner, and thinking about what I have to do in the morning. I'll be trying to relax in the garden and think of all the jobs I haven't done in it. I will sit with friends on the sofa and look at the new blind I never got around to putting up yet.

It's difficult to turn the "what's next" feeling off.

We can be so concerned with tomorrow; we don't appreciate today. We don't live for the moment. It drives me mad when I see people at sporting events taking a picture at the key moment. You see them at times like the 100m Olympics final and all these camera flashes go off in the crowd. I suppose they want to be able to look back tomorrow and show and prove they were there, but wouldn't you rather

watch it in reality rather than through your camera screen?

In the 20's I want to do two things. To try to live in each moment; to appreciate them for what they are without worrying about my to-do list, there are more important things. To lift my eyes above the hectic to the bigger issues of life, appreciation and understanding. I want a bigger perspective than my own little world.

One of my favourite things to do at Church is Alpha. Alpha is a chance to gain a bit of perspective, and put away those everyday concerns for an evening. Over a meal and good conversation, we get the chance to chat about the less urgent but more important questions of meaning and faith. Why are we here? Is there a God?

We concern ourselves with "what's next" but what is next after this life? Maybe my blind in the lounge I am concerned about will never get done, but perhaps looking back on my life from afar, would I even care about that?

What is your perspective? What is most important to you in life? Come and chat with myself and others about the bigger picture of life, love, reality and truth.

To sign up to Alpha, ring me on 01892 752003, or email rectoryfrant@gmail.com

Come for a week and see what it is like. There's no cost, and no pressure to come back!

—Rev Brendan

News from the Pews

With all the summer weddings behind us and Brendan and family established in the Rectory and in the village, the last few months have been fairly quiet.

About 60 people came to the Harvest Supper in October. We were served a delicious meal of cottage pie followed by lemon tart, after which we listened to an interesting and amusing talk about his year on the farm by local farmer Joe Gingell, who is always guaranteed to make us laugh. Altogether a very traditional and enjoyable evening.

Having said that it has been a fairly quiet time, we have been busy with concerts in church.

The season began at the end of September with The Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band who put on a Concert for Children, with music from Disney movies, Ed Sheeran, Queen, The Greatest Showman etc. The church was very full and very noisy, with some of the children having the opportunity to stand on the podium and conduct the band with the conductor's baton. It was a lovely way to introduce children to the experience of hearing live music.

We were delighted to welcome back Kent Chorus who gave a concert in October. They came again in December with a Christmas concert when the audience were able to join in with well known Christmas carols and the choir sang works including 'A Christmas Cantata' by Buxtehude, and 'Follow that Star' by Peter Gritton. There is always something for every taste with Kent Chorus.

The concert at the beginning of November was very special as it was given by members of our congregation. Fi and Barnaby Robson were joined by four very talented young people, Jemima Kinley, Alice Robson, Elo Esalomi and Oreva Esalomi. We heard classical, blues and ragtime music, for the clarinet, piano, violin and voice. While we knew that we have some talented young musicians, I think we were amazed at the standard and professionalism of these young people.

Also in November, the church and the gallery were full for the evening of jazz by one of the world's top jazz guitarists John Etheridge, who has been to Frant many times and who this time was joined by Chris Garrick a leading jazz violinist. Their music included works in the style of Duke Ellington and Stephane Grappelli.



Not only are we grateful to all the musicians, but to all the people who work so hard to make these many and varied concerts possible. Thank you everyone!

In the last edition of Parish News we heard about the 'Forest School' which our Youth Worker Ed was leading in the Rectory paddock. The six initial sessions were completed successfully at the end of November. It rained on four out of the six sessions, but regardless of the elements the children had an exciting time learning new skills and a lot about outdoor life, as among other things they built camps, carved wood, made swings and lit fires. Well done you hardy souls both children and adults who braved the elements and completed the course.

The Advent Family service marked the beginning of Christmas at St Albans when the first advent candle was lit and we heard the message about the importance of always 'being ready'. The ever popular Christingle service was a bit different this year, there were fifty five children some of whom came early to make their own Christingle. From the collection taken at the service, we were able to send £78.00 to the Children's Society.

At the time of writing, still to come we have our Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Communion and Christmas Day Family Service, I hope everyone who joined us for one of those services found peace and the true meaning of Christmas at what can be a busy and sometimes stressful time.

Happy New Year!

St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

The Reverend Brendan Martin — 01892 752003; rectoryfrant@gmail.com



www.frantchurch.org

Churchwardens

Jane Emler—532233

Crawford Burden—07789 170275



www.eridgechurch.org

Churchwardens

Jonathan Lynn—864304

Christopher Hall—750385

Services for

January/February 2020

9:30am	Family Service	5th January	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Communion.....	12th January	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service	19th January	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service.....	26th January	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Family Service	2nd February	Traditional Communion	8:00am
			Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Communion.....	9th February	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service.....	16th February	Communion	11:15am
9:30am	Morning Service.....	23rd February	Communion	11:15am

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

WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

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Frant School News

We have been exceedingly busy with many activities taking place across the school. With over a week to go until we close for Christmas the school calendar is full of festive events as well as the required learning. In December the children enjoyed Christmas lunch served by the staff. Always an enjoyable and noisy event!

As the children started posting their Christmas cards through the red letter box that stands proud in our Atrium alongside our beautiful tree (very kindly donated by the Brickell family who run Molly Dishwasher pop up shop) I started to reminisce about the old school. It will be 9 years in January when we moved to our new school. I remember we had loads of pink crates full of books and equipment. Snow was falling to make the job even harder, but at the same time enjoyable. Some ex pupils reading this may remember sitting in the pink boxes in the playground having their photographs taken by Mr Laker. Talking to a parent earlier this week, I learnt that the red letter box was made in December 1992 by the Grandad of one of our current year 6 children. It is lovely that it is still in use 27 years later. A few highlights of from school;

Our school choir continues to perform within school, at the recent Frant Christmas market and over the final weeks at local venues. Well done and thank you to Mrs Davey who leads the choir.

On the sporting front, we continue to benefit from the teaching of Mrs Douch. The children have taken part in a range of sports so far this year – dance, football, netball and hockey. Next week, the children will perform their dance routines to the rest of the school in advance of a show to parents early in January.

As always, we are extremely grateful to our PTFA who support the school brilliantly. You may have seen a photograph recently in the Courier of our updated IT suite, thanks to them. Although the weather was unkind for our Bonfire Night, we still managed to make a profit and hopefully everyone enjoyed the fireworks, despite being drenched. Thank you as always to our hard working PTFA.

We say goodbye to Mrs Saunders who has worked in our kitchen for many years offering smiles and encouragement to reluctant eaters. We wish her well and thank her for all she has done

for the school.

If you have any questions about school life please feel free to call us or pop in for a visit. You are always welcome. On behalf of the school I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and happy New Year with family and friends.

—Mrs Joanna Challis, Head of School

Young Musicians Coming To Frant

Former Frant School pupil, Toby Morgan is coming with three other young musicians to give a concert in our Church on Sunday 16th February. Toby started learning the guitar from an early age and was accepted by the Royal College of Music in 2015. He graduated in 2019, as the first person ever to achieve a degree in Joint Principal Study Classical and Jazz Guitar. He is now London based and has performed both solo and with various ensembles at venues across the capital including The Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall, The Southbank Centre, Ronnie Scott's, The Spice of Life and LSO St Luke's. He is a founder member of the Kamba Guitar Quartet and regularly appears with acts such as Capital Orchestra and Neo-Soul band Amapola.

Annabel Kennedy, a 22 year old mezzo soprano, is studying for a Masters degree at the Royal College of Music. Having already won several awards and prizes, Annabel recently made her solo debut at Cadogan Hall with the London Chamber Orchestra. Future engagements for Annabel include a solo concerto by Mahler with the RCM Philharmonic Orchestra, and her Wigmore Hall solo debut as part of the London Handel Festival.

Georgia Dawson is currently in her final year studying French horn at the Royal College of Music. She has a passion for chamber music and recently performed with the all female Horn Octet, Cor 8, at the British Horn Festival 2019, alongside many of London's finest players. She has performed regularly as an orchestral player, most notably under the baton of Bernard Haitink. Georgia's main aim is to work in education aiming to inspire creativity and musical engagement through workshops, ensemble mentoring and teaching. She is currently conducting research into accessibility in musical education.

Jonny Vaux a former scholar at The Royal College of Music, he achieved a joint principal degree in Classical

and Jazz Saxophone, which enables him to play with an eclectic mix of ensembles and orchestras including the Syd Lawrence Orchestra and the BBC symphony Orchestra for the last night of the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall. Other venues where Jonny has played include Cadogan Hall, The Royal Opera House and City Hall. As a soloist, he has given a recital at the Harrogate International Festival and won the saxophone prize at the Music Club of London's Young Musician competition.

Their programme includes a mixture of music including works by Bach, Piazzolla, Mozart and Saint-Saens.

Do put 16th February in your diary, it would be wonderful if our church could be full to welcome and encourage these talented young people.

Eridge Village Hall News:

Your village hall needs you! Eridge Village Hall are on the lookout for new Trustees! We're a really friendly and varied bunch who enjoy taking care of our stunning heritage building and supporting our local community. There's lots of scope to get stuck into a variety of different roles to suit your skills and availability.

» Wednesday 12 February Winter Warmer Lunch

You're invited to the Winter Warmer Lunch at The Eridge Village Hall.

» Clubs in the Eridge Village Hall

• Yoga with Wendy. Mondays from 5.30-7.00pm and Fridays 9.00-10.15am. Please email yogawithwendy.co.uk for more information.

• Yoga by Jane Allworthy, 11am to 12.30am on Tuesdays and 7pm to 8.30pm on Thursdays. Please visit www.yogawithjane.net, call 07738 100275 or email janemuir@yogawithjane.org for more information.

• Upholstery with Caroline Rance, 7.15pm to 9.30pm on Tuesdays and 9.45am to 12.45pm on Thursdays. Click here to visit Caroline's website.

• Tai Chi class on Tuesdays mornings from 9.15-10.45 with Damien. Please contact damien@artofchangestaichi.co.uk for more information.

Don't forget you can book the Eridge Village hall for special events. Please contact Gail Clarkson on bookevh@gmail.com.

Frant Nursery School



Frant Nursery School

Established in 1986, Frant Nursery is situated in the heart of the village and provides a safe and nurturing environment for young children.

There are spaces available for children from 2 years old up to starting school. The Nursery opens at 8.30am Monday to Friday and offers morning and afternoon sessions.

There is a very friendly village atmosphere and children have a lovely outside play area. The Nursery is OFSTED registered and offers EYEE funding to children over the age of 3. The staff are all highly qualified and, most importantly, very caring.

It's been a very busy final term of the year. We have been making lots of lovely Christmas crafts for the children to take home for their families. On the last day of term we are planning a Christmas Party with lots of fun and games. The children have also been practicing a few Carols to sing to their families before we all head home for our Christmas holidays. Thank you to everyone who supported our Stall at the Frant Christmas Market. Nursery will open again on Monday 6th January 2020.

If you would like any further information and a prospectus, please contact Melissa Hill on 01892 750736. frantnurseryschool@yahoo.com. www.frantnursery.co.uk

Woof Meanderings!

Hello, hello, here I am again after such a long break from chatting with you all ... I won't bore you with all the last few months, but I am just so pleased to be back.

As Nina Simone sings (I know this song as The Owner loves it when having a positive upbeat moment, generally if her jeans button feels a bit loser!) 'It's a new day, it's a new dawn, it is a new life for me'. As this is New Year for us all, I think this is a good thought for everyone human, feathered and furry and to be thankful for so much, despite my protestations which I shall share with

you about The Thug Pug.

Honestly, she is so bossy and just always has to be the pushiest at the door, plus embarrasses me hugely as she thinks it is hilarious to leap up and bark up at everyone from the car window when parked. It amuses her enormously and frequently she then falls off the seat from hilarity to herself at the faces of people looking rather shocked, and I just sit there looking pained and embarrassed turning away hoping that no one will think it is me. The Child was watching 'The Secret Life of Pets' the other day and I found it initially quite amusing until the pug came on, but I am quite sure they have modelled that pug on her, so hence I am now calling her The Thug Pug.

Then when we go cavorting through the mud on walks, she suddenly screeches to a halt when it is really muddy and starts dangling her front paw in the air as she cannot bring herself to get too muddy, then to my horror The Owner goes back to get her and carry her on through and put her back down all clean and dry the other side. I mean honestly, how very dare The Thug Pug be so manipulative and such a diva on my patch. At least I still get the biggest bones from The Butcher as she has such fiddly teeth and finds it difficult to get her gnashers around it all!

Oh I must update you on The Girls ... well one of them has decided that on no account will she stay in the chicken house with everyone else and so keeps nesting up the trees every night. The Owner then tramps off outside every evening armed with the torch and The Child to retrieve her from the branches in the dark, to then put her in the house so she is safe from Charles Fox. Well, it is not as easy as it seems as The Child gets distracted and waves the torch around from everywhere that it should be shining, and then The Owner subsequently can't see to get the reticent chicken who clamps onto the branches even tighter, so invariably The Owner slips up in the mud mid-climb as she clambers up into the tree, then huffs at The Child for the unwanted sudden darkness. The Child then whooshes the torch back around to flash the bright light straight into the face of The spluttering Owner and the whole scenario is a disaster. Anyway, the silly hen has now been moved up into a sheltered tree in the garden to try and save her from Charles Fox as The Owner

has decided it is make or break, as clearly the chicken needs her independence and she wants to be a free spirit. We do have a charming new cockerel though that was born last year and he now has his own 'girls' to watch over, but he insists every afternoon at 2.30pm on the dot, that it is his treat time for sunflower seeds to share with his girls and so taps on the kitchen door to make the request, then lovingly chats to them all to come over for a scooby-snack. Unfortunately though, despite me at this moment looking longingly at The Owner, she has not twigged that perhaps, I should be having a treat too.

I have seen quite a bit of my friend Stan, who does I must say, seem to have more trips to The Groomer than I do and always looks very coiffured. Although, I do feel that my slightly more wayward ruffled look is what my Beautiful Dolly is after ... we had such a romantic time on Christmas Day again as we lay by the fire, snuggled up on the carpet glazing at the twinkling Christmas lights on the tree, which was quite glorious. Unfortunately, Dolly's Owners have been away for New Year and I am so looking forward to seeing her for my first time in 2020 to start our New Year chapter together. I hope that she has not met anyone else on her holidays in Cornwall walking along the beaches, but I feel that she now realises that I really and truly am the only pooch for her oh I can't wait to gallop across the fields with her and through as much mud as possible, so we can leave The Thug Pug behind in the distance beckoning for help but as the quote goes 'January brings the snow, makes our feet and paws glow' so I think any snow we have will be fun too Happy 2020 to you all.

Friends of Bells Yew Green:

Happy New Year from all of the Friends and a huge thank you for all the support you gave us by coming to our Hand-Made Craft Fair (pictured), back in November. It was a great opportunity to welcome newcomers, Keith and Sally, to our village, too. What a fun event, with such a lovely atmosphere - our fantastic duo's music really made a difference - thank you to them. Thank you also to all our friendly stall-holders, to the fantastic organising team who worked so hard and to our secret donors who kindly gave so very generously. The Fair proved to be a great success, which



was very well attended, and, all told, made a profit of £845. We added to this another generous donation from the Short Mat Bowls Club, who gave £75 - so £920. Amazing! The money will be put towards work to upgrade our village hall, which is generally self-sufficient but needs additional funds for essential improvements. A bid for a grant has been put in to Wealden - watch this space!

What a brilliant bunch of people live in our Parish; we joined Frant by having our own Christmas tree on our Green again, too. How delightful - so many people have commented positively!

So a new year is upon us - astonishing! Projects for this year include litter-picking with Zoë, refurbishing our telephone box with Bill, and planning the next big Parish community event - the Frant Summer Fair - with Debby. Would you like to be involved? We do hope so!

Please contact us at: friendsofbyg@gmail.com or phone Sue on 07944-712000, to register your interest. Find us on Facebook at Friends of Bells Yew Green and/or Bells Yew Green Village.

Frant Parish Council

I write this as the Country is about to go to the polls and who knows what happens next hopefully something!

We, of course have our own dilemmas to resolve. Three currently dominate our Council meetings. How to maintain and enhance Frant Green so that it can be used but not abused (car parking) and how we can encourage the natural flora and fauna.

Not as simple as it may first appear and certainly not cheap. We are currently engaging experts both in-house and external to help us get the right, balanced decisions. I expect this will continue to form the basis of our discussions for a while yet.

In 2017 we started to explore the possibility of creating a small village green for Eridge behind the Church alongside Warren Farm Lane and so approached the Abergavenny Estate with a request for a lease on 2/3 acre. The Abergavenny Estate were supportive of the idea of a Centenary Green in memory of those villagers who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars and they have generously

agreed a lease so the Parish Council has been able to take this proposal forward to planning. This Autumn the Parish Council has consulted with Eridge residents and the view is that the community want to create an area, part meadow and part mown grass, so encouraging wildlife in a similar way to Frant Green, for the quiet enjoyment of the village. When planning is completed it is hoped that work will begin in 2020, an exciting project for Eridge village.

We of course, also have our vicar of Dibley item! How long do you suppose does it take to erect a pole with a light on to aid residents to and from their houses at night? Not quite Brexit timescales but not far off it! First of course you have to decide who owns the land- East Sussex, Wealden or Parish Council. Then you have to get the requisite permissions. Then what sort of light? Mains or solar and how much to install the different lights? Suffice to say that we are at last nearing the end of this particular agenda item!

Next year promises to be challenging (aren't they all?) as the pressure to build more houses continues, Tunbridge Wells builds more and more on our East Sussex Boundaries without the infrastructures in place (particularly roads) to support them and no doubt whatever Government is in place it will have new and interesting ideas to test us all.

On that cheerful note and on behalf of all of Frant Parish Council I wish you all a peaceful New Year.

—Cllr Crookshank

Community support for the Parish

- Dial2Drive has been set up to enable residents to access GP and hospital appointments. Please click here to apply online, and contact Andrew Macdonald-Brown for a home visit or to discuss over the phone - 01892 891273.

- Podiatry is run by Kay Bowles, you can ring her on 07792 641299 to book an appointment. The sessions are held at Bells Yew Green village hall. 6 week courses are available at £22 per session.

- Wealdlink Community Transport provides access to local towns and villages and is funded by Frant Parish Council.

Parish Past

» Iron in the Weald

Edmund Waterhouse moved to Eridge six years ago. Walking around this part of Sussex he has been intrigued by the evidence of East Sussex's industrial past: the saucer-shaped depressions, hammer ponds, street and house names. Encouraged by others who share his interest he has been exploring the local history of Eridge and its surroundings. This article is drawn from the scholarly account of the Sussex iron industry written by Cleere and Crossley.

Iron ore was probably first discovered through exploration of the Wealden rivers, where the action of the water had cut in and exposed the rocks immediately above the river banks. Where ore was identified, shafts and pits might then be dug in the hope of finding more.

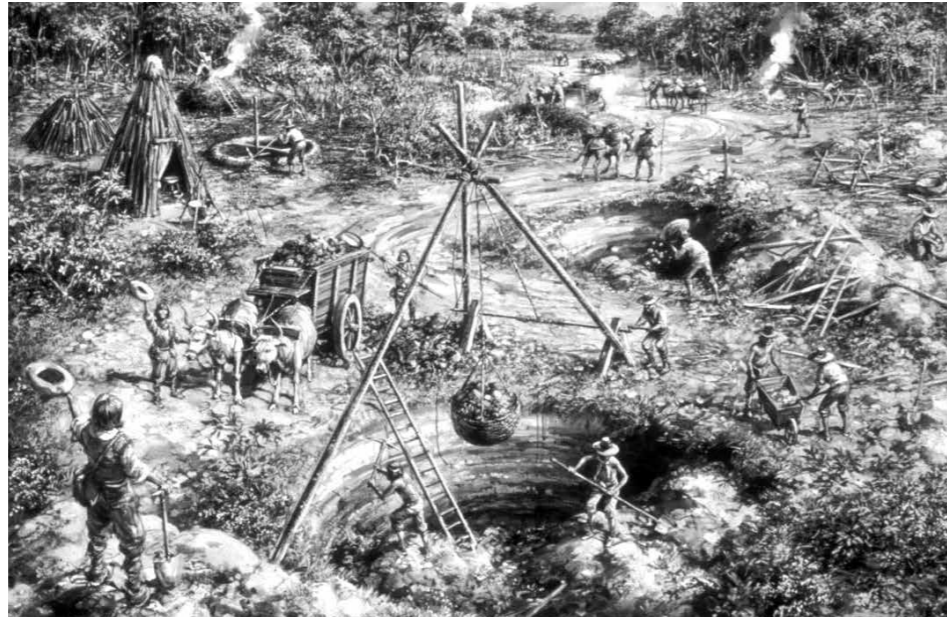
Bloomeries

How was iron produced in those days? The first stage was to extract the iron ore (called locally "mine") from the ground. Typically, in the Weald, this was done by digging shallow pits, often circular and only a few metres in depth. When one was exhausted another would be dug nearby and the waste from the second would be used to fill the first. Such filling would often subside, leaving large circular hollows in the ground. Many such pits are visible today.

Having collected the iron ore, the first requirement was to roast it. Roasting helped to remove impurities such as water and sulphur; it also caused the larger lumps to split into smaller pieces – a process which was necessary to ensure that the ore would fit through the furnace aperture.

Iron ore is a compound of iron and another element (oxygen or carbon, though in the High Weald it is mostly the latter) plus a non-metallic part consisting of sand or clay (called the "gangue"). The iron has to be separated from both: this process of separation is called smelting.

To obtain pure iron, the ore has to be heated in conjunction with a reducing agent. When heated, this agent combines chemically with the iron ore, separating out the iron from the residue which drains downwards as liquid slag. This process creates a "bloom" made partly of pure iron and partly of slag. This bloom needs to be worked (by repeated



heating and hammering) to remove the remaining slag and to enable the iron to be forged into solid blocks of iron – possibly the form of currency noted by Julius Caesar. Both functions can be carried out simultaneously by heating the bloom to temperatures of around 1200C.

Early furnaces, known as "bloomeries", were made of clay, with openings through which air was drawn in to feed the fire. Clay was an excellent material because it could withstand the high temperatures described above. The furnaces also required a means for the waste material ("slag") to collect or drain off. These bloomeries might be built into a bank, or the side of a pit, or could be freestanding.

Bloomeries smelted iron by direct reduction, that is – once the bloom had been worked – the product they created was pure iron.

The High Weald supplied all that was needed for smelting. Wadhurst clay provided the material for the furnace; a good reducing agent is charcoal and plenty could be made from the extensive woodlands; and of course there was the iron ore.

Before the Roman occupation of Britain there is evidence of iron working to the west of the High Weald. When Julius Caesar visited Britain in 55-54 BC he noted that the Britons "use either brass or iron rings, determined at a certain weight, as their money. Tin is produced in the midland regions; in the maritime, iron; but the quantity of it is small". 50 years or so later Strabo,

referring to exports from Britain, mentioned iron as well as gold and silver, grain and cattle, and slaves and hunting dogs. By implication the British iron industry had increased production significantly.

The greatest number of Wealden bloomeries are found in Rotherfield parish – around 70. One, at Scaland Wood (south of Crowborough, close to the railway line), is thought to predate the Roman conquest. Another half dozen have been dated to Roman times including at Minepit Wood, near Orznash Farm, where a well-preserved smelting furnace can be found. Nearby is another Roman site, in Walnut Tree Field, Renby Grange.

The large scale of Wealden iron production in the mediaeval period can be determined from Crown records which show that in the thirteenth century a commission was issued for 30,000 horseshoes and 60,000 nails. Other records mention the use of Wealden iron for the strakes of cart wheels, for ploughs, wedges and pegs, and for building purposes. In 1329, iron bars were supplied to the Manor of Rotherfield for the repair of ploughs.

Change came in the fourteenth century, with the arrival from Europe of the technology for harnessing water to power hammers. Examples from the neighbourhood of Eridge include the water-powered forges at Birchden, High Rocks, Maynard's Gate and Withyham; the furnaces at Cowford, Crowborough Warren, Eridge itself and Hamsell; and the furnace and forge at Riverhall.

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Frant Open Spaces Update

By the time you read this I hope you will all notice that there has been some planting on the lower part of Frant Green, and around The Parish Field. This is to complete the work to reintroduce habitats with money provided by Sussex Lund grant. Right now things don't look very exciting but as summer arrives life should start to emerge in those new areas.

We had some interesting news about the range of plants on Frant Green from an independent guy who is researching village Greens in East Sussex. He found: "Excluding trees I recorded 65 species (of plant), by far the highest of any of the village greens I surveyed".

This is really good news for the success of our management regime.

Finally I would like to make a plea for Frant Green protection. Frant Parish Council are looking into methods to protect Frant Green from car erosion however in the meantime various parts of The Green are being cut away by cars and lorries while others turn to mud in this wet season. I understand that parking is an issue around the village but if you do have to park around The Green

please don't ramp up your car onto the green or dig into its side. This precious place that we all love is slowly turning to mud and once each bit is gone it will never return.

Bells Yew Green Village Hall Committee

As I'm sure you know, it's been a year since Katie Sutton passed away and our community lost a kind and caring person, who loved to help people. Katie was a member of the Village Hall Committee for a number of years and played a major role in getting the funding together for the play area in Bells Yew Green, among many other projects. Katie was known to many in our parish and was working at Frant School when she was first taken ill. Katie's mother-in-law, Mary Sutton, remembers her . . .

"Katie was a loving wife to John and a fantastic mother to Arthur and Bertie. Katie has left a large hole in the family and in so many other people's lives. She has done so much to raise funds for many charities and for the community, putting her heart and soul into various projects. Katie was

a frequent attendee at Parish Council meetings and was always willing to get involved. Even though she had a busy family life, she always put others first. Many people have said that they think Katie was the most amazing and brave person you could ever meet and that they miss her every day. There is so much I could write about Katie, but it would be a book, as she was such a lovely, lovely person."

A thoughtful idea has been suggested - that we place a memorial bench in the play area that Katie helped to create. If you knew Katie and would like to donate to this, please contact one of our Village Hall trustees for the bank details - susan.wallis@frant-pc.gov.uk or call 750635.

Thank you, BYG Village Hall Committee

Frant Parish Friendship Group

The Speaker for our October meeting was Noel Austin from the 'Pat Dogs' Association. Along with two lovely Labrador helpers she explained how they go into schools, hospitals, hospices, nursing homes etc. anywhere they can be of help to calm and lift the spirits; showing that stroking an animal



is extremely therapeutic. Her two companions proceeded to mingle with members and demonstrate this!

In November as we approached the festive season we welcomed Mick Flynn who gave a talk on 'Christmas in Days Gone By'. Mick belongs to the Tonbridge Mummers and donned his costume and entertained us with some songs, music and tales from Sussex Christmas past. Members also very much enjoyed a Christmas shopping expedition to Polhill Garden Centre in November .

Our Christmas Lunch is on the 15th December and then we will be into the New Year.

The Young at Heart Exercises start on Thursday 2nd January at 2.15 pm in the Stables and our first monthly meeting will be on Thursday 23rd January at 2.30 pm in the Stables. All welcome.

We wish all our members a very Happy New Year.

Enquiries Valerie Palmer 750559

RSPB Broadwater Warren

Our Konik ponies have been doing well helping us graze the heathland at Broadwater Warren over the summer. Recently a couple were looking a bit thin and so we had our first visit from the vets. 2 ponies were given worming medication (Due to a high worm burden after we sent their droppings off to a lab) which has improved their condition. One was found to have a really bad

hooked tooth. This is where the pony has a misalignment of its upper and lower tooth which results in the upper tooth growing more due to not being worn by the lower one. After a visit from the horse dentist (See the picture to the right, note the nervous watching from the others thinking they are next!) the pony is looking in brilliant condition and is unrecognisable from when it was looking skinny a month ago.

It's now the dogs off lead season at BWW for the next few months till the 1st of February. But as we now have our Koniks grazing the site all year round we will be asking people to keep their dogs on leads in the grazing compartment that the ponies will be in. We have now put up a notice board in the car park (big thank you to Peter one of our volunteers who made it) which shows what grazing compartment they are in. This way you are able to choose a route if you want to avoid them or walk your dog off lead.

The Koniks are looking good in there winter coats at the moment. Although they have these thicker coats at this time of year they often like to sun bathe on sunny days, with 8 of them all lined up on the heath the other day. The 9th who is called Glen felt left out from not being photographed so decided to stand right in front of them to pose! The work party volunteers have been busy helping to remove rhododendron from areas of the woodland at Broadwater Warren. This

area is classified as PAWS (Plantation on ancient woodland) and consists of a dense conifer plantation with a under story of rhododendron... which as you can imagine is not ideal for wildlife! Rhododendron out shades native flora and can change the soil composition which means post rhododendron, a site can be inhospitable due to soil/litter modification, plus impoverishment of soil micro organisms, so that restoration of the original plant community is normally very slow and can take years. Some of the rhododendron has been removed by a 360 digger in the past in the more accessible areas and the soil disturbance the machine caused, which replicates to some extent the lost disturbance wild boar historically would have caused, has improved the recovery rate of the woodlands. See photo below which shows the recent areas that have been cleared of rhododendron and the picture to the right of an area of Broadwater that never had rhododendron, something we are eventually aiming for with the PAWS restoration.

We have also been working hard on the heaths tackling some of the pine and birch regrowth. Some of this material is being used to create more birch bundles which are helping create leaky woody dams in Sussex to reduce flow in streams in high rainfall events. This should hopefully reduce flooding to land and houses downstream. It's been good to see the material being used for such important projects. We have already cleared several hectares this winter and as you can see from the image to the right there is plenty of pine to pull!

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Parish Diary January/February 2020

» **Thursday 2nd January**
Frant Parish Friendship Group
“Young at Heart. 2.15 pm in the Stables
(see page 12)

» **Thursday 23rd January**
Frant Parish Friendship Group
2.30 pm in the Stables (see page 12)

» **Sunday 16th February**
Young Musician's concert
St Alban's Church, Frant (see page 7)

Useful contacts

Frant
Frant CofE Primary School
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Eridge

Eridge Garden Club
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Luke Forbes: 670073
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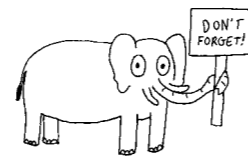
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BYG Cricket Club
Andy Brooks: 07876 011782
Short Mat Bowls Club
Pam Mephram: 891426
BYG Village Hall Hire
Chris Bacon: crbacon79@gmail.com
Friends of Bells Yew Green
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or www.frant.info
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Bob 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:

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