

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Festival Church: Photo by Matt Gurney

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From the Rectory



I write this as we head into our second lockdown, and we again head into the unknown. What will this lockdown be like? When will we really get out of it? What will Christmas be like? I practically work week to week at the moment, as things are so unknown. We are having to constantly think outside the box about how we can do things safely.

We must be careful though not to just think of ourselves and how it affects us. I think the danger is we get used to seeing the numbers of sick or numbers of dead. We less often now hear names or see pictures now of those suffering, or the families who grieve through this. I hope we can maintain the perspective of the tragedy through this, and pull together as people and community. As someone once said we isolate for now so when we meet again no one is missing.

We are just about to come to Remembrance Day as I write. I have been reflecting on how in the past times of desperation, our country prayed. On Sunday the 4th of August 1918 four years after the start of the war, and exactly 100 days before armistice day, King George V, the Queen's Grandfather, called for a day of prayer, and people from across the country flocked into churches to pray. It was a critical moment in a war that could be lost.

Similar critical days of prayer went on in the second world war. Notably when British forces

were close to defeat during the 2nd World War, and the entire British Army was trapped at Dunkirk, in desperate need George VI called for a National Day of Prayer to be held on 26th May 1940. In a national broadcast he instructed the people of the UK to turn back to God in a spirit of repentance and plead for Divine help. Millions of people across the British Isles flocked into churches praying for deliverance.

In our moment of desperation, the country prayed.

Our Archbishops this lockdown month have called on the church to pray, and I invite you to join us. Sometimes what we face is bigger than what we can do ourselves, and so I invite you to look to God with us as we have before in our times of desperation.

We are encouraging everyone to light a candle (or a battery one) every evening and put it in the window and say a prayer for those suffering as a result of coronavirus. Those sick, those grieving, those lonely, those isolated, those struggling for work.

As George VI encouraged us then, may we turn to God now with the hope he brings.

If you need help through lockdown, do let us know, we have people in Church who would love to help you.

—Rev Brendan

News From the Pews

On 13th September on line services ceased and the new 'Festival Church' was launched. Now as well as the morning service (without singing), services which include 'Forest Church' for the children, have been held on Sunday afternoons in the Rectory paddock. The first 2 weeks it was idyllic sitting outside in the Autumn sun, but on week 3 in spite of the rain, 22 brave children came out to make shelters, hammocks and swings, and to sit by the fire whittling sticks, while the adults cowered in the church! At the moment we're unable to sign up more children as we're restricted to 2 'bubbles' totalling 30 children, but there is a waiting list. In these uncertain times it's nice to be able to report a success story.

Devising and organising services within current restrictions, while completing endless risk assessments, and trying to keep in touch with as many people as possible now that home and hospital visiting is not possible, means that life for the Ministry Team seems to get busier all the time.

In the present uncertain situation, along with all other churches, charities, societies and social groups, our finances continue to suffer. Fund raising events, notably concerts of which there were 5 last year, have been a significant part of our income, this year we were able to hold only one concert before lockdown began in March. To make up the loss, we really need to increase our regular voluntary giving. One way to achieve this is by gift aiding what we give. Thankfully our situation isn't as desperate as that in which many churches and institutions now find themselves, but we can't go on for too long running on our reserves. The good news is that after rigorous risk assessment, we are now able to let the Stables in a limited way.

In October we heard that sadly Kent Chorus, the very well regarded local choir was for various reasons closing. This news was a blow for us as we have enjoyed concerts in the church for many years from this wonderful choir. Their Christmas concerts were always very popular and good humoured, with their high standard of choral singing and the opportunity for the audience to join in singing well known carols. We so much enjoyed their visits, they enriched our church life and certainly helped to enrich our coffers for which we thank them.

In September we were sad to hear



Above: Peggy in February holding one week old Zachary Pascoe. The oldest and the youngest customers at the coffee morning.

of the death of Peggy Sargent at the amazing age of 102. Peggy came to the village in 1957 and was the wife of the village policeman, Fred Sargent, who is still remembered by some residents. When Fred died in 1997, Peggy moved from Fuschia Cottage on the Mayfield Road to Home Farm Court where she remained active and independent for many years, helping others and offering lifts in her car to those who could no longer drive. In later years when she was not quite so able, Peggy was a regular customer at the Wednesday coffee morning, and said that it was the highlight of her week. Until the last few months of her life Peggy remained amazingly sharp minded and quick witted, she'll be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

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



www.frantchurch.org
Churchwardens
Jane Emler—532233



www.eridgechurch.org
Churchwardens
Jonathan Lynn—864304
Stephen Barnes—861302

Services for

November/December 2020

All services online only through lockdown.

Search "Frant Church" on Facebook or YouTube, or see our website
Services premier on Sundays at 9:30am, and can be watched after at any time.

Christmas Services 2020

See our website for details from December!
Limited numbers due to Covid to ensure safety, booking essential.

Sunday 13th December

4pm: Frant Outdoor Carol Concert Service (or online)

Sunday 20th December

6pm: Eridge Outdoor Carol Concert Service (or online)

Christmas Eve

4pm Frant Outdoor Crib and Christingles Service (or online)
11pm Eridge Midnight Communion (or online)

Christmas Day

9:30 Frant Family Celebration
11:15 Eridge Christmas Communion

To keep up to date with latest info for Christmas sign up to our weekly email newsletter.

Email our office to sign up:
office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk


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Frant Memorial Hall

What a year, will the disruption ever come to an end? Like other business in the area the Memorial Hall was forced to close as the country went into lockdown. The upheaval was felt by all, but none more so than the Nursery resulting in its 34 year association with the hall coming to an end, a sadness felt by many I'm sure.

The enforced closure has been used well. With the hall empty the committee has planned a series of upgrades with the first having already been completed - the hall has been completely redecorated, thanks to the expert attention of Malcolm Hardwick, a local decorator, the interior now looks fresh and clean and the entrance looks more inviting.

Many hall users have already returned but a small number have decided to wait until after Christmas, a situation that will depend on Government strategy and the progress of the virus. The committee has also worked hard at making the hall Covid compliant with sanitiser stations spread throughout and an increased cleaning regime being top of the agenda. The hall users are also expected to play their part with 'after use' cleaning, common sense and social distancing to the fore. The hall is also registered with a NHS QR code to link to the NHS tracking app that reinforces the normal record keeping. All in all we consider it to be a safe venue to attend.

The hall has a number of new users, amongst them are SJ School of Dance and Baby Sensory and Toddler Sense. If you are interested in classes as varied as art, dance or an exercise class why not look at the Frant Memorial Hall website and find something that suits you.

We have hall space available so if you are interested in setting up a new class in the hall we would be particularly interested in talking to you; details are at the end of this article.

On the down side of Covid we have had to put the continued hall renovation on hold as most grants are now directed towards Covid related issues but I'm sure we will revisit the improvements soon.

On behalf of the committee and all hall users I would like to thank Brian Gill for his time as chairman of the Memorial Hall committee. He has

reluctantly stepped down but will remain as a Trustee; we are fortunate that his measured tone and intelligent comments will remain available to the committee.

Sharon Warwick has agreed to take up his mantle, a hard act to follow I'm sure you'll agree.

The Memorial Hall has a strong future and we would like you all to be part of it.

Website: Frantvillagehall.co.uk, and use Contact.

Booking: Booking Calendar via Frantvillagehall.co.uk

Frant The Fantastic

It seems very appropriate that we should be writing this 45 years to the day, the 20th September 1975, that we moved to our new home in Frant.

Since our marriage in 1972 Anne and I had lived in the Cotswolds and did not know anyone here. We simply chose Frant as it was an easy commute to my office in Covent Garden.

The kindness of the villagers was amazing, Shirley Addey bringing us the Parish magazine, Joan Pearce inviting us round for drinks, Peter and Joanela Slattery, from whom we bought the house, had a welcoming party, for us, at their new home in Hellingly, we just seemed to be immediately welcomed and assimilated.

We thought that they were all quite old, well we were only 28 and 25, now we are them!

Why, you may be asking, is he rambling on about this, why does he think that we would be interested? I will tell you why.

The recent and ongoing pandemic has again shown our villagers kindness and care for others. From Kate, Ben, Zac and the rest of the team in the village shop who have kept us provisioned, Roger who delivers our newspapers, Deidre our postie, Greg, Dom and the others, at The George, who provided and delivered a take away service, Sharon who adopted us and became our carer, and in her spare time created a beautiful new

flower bed at the Memorial Hall, helped by plant donations from villagers. Claire and Sarah who also helped us.

Sue and Andy who delivered food from The George and numerous other friends who made sure that we were

OK as we did for them. Our refuse collectors and many others to whom we apologise for omitting from our thanks. Others in the village helped others, I cannot thank them, that is up to them.

What a wonderful community, what wonderful friends.

Thank you all.
 —Greig & Anne Bannerman.

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Jane Austen's Christmas
Claire Walsh 2pm 10th December 2020.

We had hoped that our November and December lectures would be "live" to 50 people socially distanced in the Crowborough Community Hall and live streamed to our wider membership, but sadly Covid-19 has got in the way again! We might still be lucky and able to go ahead with that arrangement in December and our members will hear what the final arrangements are via our usual methods of communication.

Claire Walsh has worked at the Victoria & Albert Museum and lectured for the University of Warwick, and now teaches the Open University. She has lectured widely: at the Courtauld Institute of Art, the Victoria & Albert Museum and Museum of London to name but a few, and to many specialist groups as well as to Arts Society Ashdown Forest in the past. She has numerous publications.

Our lecture will show how Christmas was before the Victorians reinvented it. Traditionally there was no Father Christmas, Christmas trees or commercialisation, and the emphasis was on gentility, tradition and sociability. Jane Austen set many scenes from her novels during the Christmas period exactly because this was a time for social gatherings.

Claire will take her audience, whether "live" or in their homes to the balls, parties, dinners, games, traditions and celebrations that filled the festive season. Jane Austen's novels, letters, paintings and engravings will bring the Georgian Christmas to life.

Lectures are available to Members only at this time and for the foreseeable future, but you are welcome to join us by contacting our Membership Secretary Donald Speedie in advance of the lecture on 01892 663388 or email ADFASnews@gmail.com.

Parish Council News

Many of us have had to learn new ways to connect over the summer and with Lockdown 2 upon us your Parish Council continue to operate remotely via “Zoom” meetings. We are still accessible to all and public attendance at meetings can continue remotely. If you wish to virtually attend a council meeting to make representation please contact the Council clerk at clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk .

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the Parish Survey. Unfortunately, we have been somewhat thwarted by Lockdown and the need to socially distance, so we have taken a decision to re-launch the survey to give everyone a chance to express their views on the future of the parish. We are particularly keen to hear from our younger parishioners as decisions taken now could have long term implications for living and working in our villages. With new Planning legislation on the way it is very important that we make efforts to determine our future rather than have it imposed on us.

The Parish Council are eagerly awaiting the results of a survey of the village greens in Frant. It is hoped that the report will inform our decisions on how to manage erosion at the edges of the green – that’s always providing recent reports of badger damage and mole invasion have not worsened the problem. In the meantime, we would like to remind parishioners that parking on the greens is strictly prohibited.

As we go into Lockdown 2 we are acutely aware of the potentially negative impacts on more vulnerable members of our community. Feedback from the first lockdown suggests that there were many examples of neighbourliness and volunteer activity, none less than Kate and her team at the village shop for which we are all grateful. In addition Wealden District Council continue to run a “Community Hub” through which you can access all kinds of advice and support via the following link: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/press-and-media/coronavirus-covid-19-latest/community-support/>. The Community Hub is able to obtain priority delivery slots and give advice on access to food if residents are struggling.

Here are a few other salient Lockdown matters:

Remembrance Sunday On 15th October the government issued specific guidance in relation to Remembrance Sunday activities and events. The COVID Alert Levels, across all tiers, provide for a specific exception for Remembrance Sunday events for participants and spectators. This is on the basis that appropriate Covid-19 Secure precautions are undertaken by event organisers, and that all local restrictions which apply in an area, are adhered to. Event organisers can check the restrictions in force in any area by postcode, at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

Free flu vaccines If people are at higher risk from coronavirus they’re also more at risk of problems from the flu. Flu vaccination clinics across Sussex are underway and the NHS is encouraging anyone who is eligible for a free flu vaccination to book an appointment with their GP or pharmacist, as soon as they receive an invitation. For more information visit the NHS website. Information on the flu vaccine is also available in Easyread formats and in a variety of languages.

New shielding guidance The Government has introduced new guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people . This sets out the specific advice for people in the shielding group at each stage of the national COVID-19 alert system.

The NHS Volunteer Responders scheme is now open to registration for volunteers in Eastbourne Hastings, Rother, and Wealden.

Unemployment briefing for October 2020 (September data) from ESCC - Between March and September Wealden had the largest percentage increase in claimants of Universal Credit/Job Seekers Allowance in the County at +208%. Whilst the overall proportion remains below our neighbours, the recent rate of change is a concern. We are seeking to address this through the implementation of the WDC Restart and Recovery Plan (<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/UploadedFiles/Covid-19-Restart-and-Recovery-Plan.pdf>) and the Team East Sussex Economic Recovery Plan (<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/selep/tes/eserp/>).

Woof Meanderings

What absolutely glorious colours are surrounding us at the moment with all the leaves to play and scuttle around in. I am so loving it all and it also clearly puts The Owner in a marvellous mood to wake up and look out onto the the colours of the trees with the sun shining through them, which keeps her cheery all day. Mind you, I am always rather confused with all this different time business in Autumn as it gets my breakfast and supper all out of sync for a while and there is always lots of huffing and puffing from The Owner and friends about gloomy darker evenings. To be honest apart from my stomach rumblings adjusting, I cannot notice much difference at the moment.

Clearly though with a slight chill in the air in the early mornings and evenings, out comes The Pug’s jumper ... everyone just oohs and aaahhs saying how cosy and lovely she looks and The Child even suggested gluing on some sequins to the jumper to ‘jazz it up’. Honestly I ask you, why does she get so spoilt and then has the audacity to turn and smugly smirk at me as she prances off, but does soon start snuffling as she gets puffed out. Just wait until the mud comes and she won’t go and get her paws remotely muddy, let alone ‘the jumper’.

We have been out on some lovely Autumn walks and picking copious amounts of rosehips at home. I have been learning quite a bit and it now seems to be transpiring that The Owner has been reading possibly too much ‘Brambly Hedge’ with The Child as has been leaving plenty still for all the field mice and becoming a bit rosehip obsessed. I sit listening to the stories and I must say, they do have a rather wonderful gentleness and kindness about them, but quite educational in all the plans that the mice make for their storage and foraging of the hedgerows. I am even starting to rather think now when I have a quick tiddle along the hedgerows, if this will rather ruin a stash for a Brambly Hedge resident!

Anyway, back to the rosehips ... The Owner was reading copiously about them as we have such an abundance this Year and she hates things being wasted, hence I do quite well on supper scraps!, Anyway, there was much chat with The Coffee Friend about brewing some up for all their goodness (I learn so much from their chit chat on walks and general chat



over Coffees), which are a good source of Vitamin C, Rheumatoid Arthritis and for the immune system, plus (The Owner was most excited about this) good for helping with those extra pounds on board! The Owner tried making rosehip syrup, but became rather impatient with it and said it was too much ‘faffing for me’ so has stuck with making rosehip tea. We have been off meandering picking fresh rosehips, then she rushes back with great excitement to add a stick of cinnamon, spoonful of honey plus some boiling water to leave for some minutes and then slurps away with much joy. It does waft quite nicely, but typically The Owner has now made some rosehip Vodka which was even easier, just putting a stash of rosehips in with some vodka, but now she needs to leave them for 3 months at least to brew.

Ohhh I have forgotten to update you on The Girls ... they are all in good fettle and we are having lots of different egg shell colours nowadays with such a variety of chickens, but The Cockerel was rather suffering from His Girls trying to give him a pedicure which resulted in his tootsies bleeding a bit, so The Owner was off after him in hot pursuit with a potion at hand to soothe and heal his wounds up poor chap. I even felt rather sorry for him

as he did look somewhat embarrassed when she was holding onto him, but then found myself smirking at him rather as recalled how he had tried to peck at me as I strolled past him the other day.

Talking of feathered friends, The Owner rescued some more geese that needed a new home which no one has been amused at here other than her. Despite The Husband and The Child asking was it really necessary, there was no choice as she adores her geese and they subsequently duly arrived. They seem quite friendly so far, but frankly I never trust them, so I shall keep you updated on their progress as it is early days.

I do hope they will be polite to my wonderful Dolly and not chase her as they are not used to her, but then if they do, I can rush in and protect her from them hmmm this could work in my benefit as a hero but for now, I think fun walks rushing through the leaves together is a far lovelier thought to snooze off to as the log fire crackles away beside me.

Victorian Constable’s Truncheon

The Constable’s Truncheon (Staff) was in use as the Frant Parish Constable’s Staff of Office up to c.1872 when this office was suspended by order of the

Justices. Included at that time in the list of Constables was David Delves, Baker, of Frant High Street. It was evidently decided that ownership of the Staff should pass to David Delves (1834-1915) and his descendants. (Ref, Frant, A Parish History by H S Eeles, 1947, Page 239)

The Delves family provided the village bakers from c.1847 to c.1946 and served many village institutions with distinction. Spencer Delves (1871-1947) served on the Parish Council for 45 years and was Chairman from 1940 to 1945. He was instrumental in bringing a water supply to Frant in 1936. The family continued to be represented in the village up to 1996, residing at Stone House and later at Cobblers in the High Street.

Imprinted on the handle top end of the Staff are the words; ‘Field 233 Holborn’. This indicates that the Staff was made by Parker Field and Sons of 233 High Holborn, London.

The descendants of David Delves have decided that the Staff, as an artefact of Parish history, should be returned to the village of Frant. They have donated it to the Parish Council on condition that it remain on display to the public at an appropriate location.

October 2020, Allan Delves
Email; allandelves@icloud.com



Leaves

Beautiful as autumn is, it creates lots of work in the Churchyard at Frant.

If you can spare a couple of hours at any time, we need people to rake up newly fallen leaves and shift raked piles of leaves beyond the new section by the beeches.

Any help with this is much appreciated. Thank you

Ghani Calls For More Inclusive Commemoration Of WW2 Soldiers

Nus Ghani, MP for Wealden, is calling for greater recognition of the sacrifice of WW2 soldiers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background.

Nus has added her name to an open letter calling for more recognition for soldiers from across the Commonwealth, ensuring their contributions are reflected and acknowledged.

Remember Together: Forgotten Sacrifice is a long-term project from the Royal British Legion, thinktank British Future and the Together Coalition, which aims to highlight and celebrate the service and sacrifice of diverse communities in the Second World War.

Britain's history includes the sacrifices of millions of servicemen and women from India, Africa and the Caribbean, who fought in the Second World War. The armies who fought in 1939-45 looked a lot like the Britain of 2020, with

people of every cultural background serving together.

The initiative seeks to ensure that the service and sacrifice of all those who fought is commemorated, helping to make remembrance feel relevant and inclusive to people of all faiths and backgrounds in Britain today.

Nus Ghani said: "I am proud to support the Remember Together campaign's call to ensure that all who served our country are fully recognised through better education, commemoration and documentation of our shared history. The armies that fought in the Second World War were the largest multicultural force that has ever served together. Remembrance brings us together in recognition of all who have served and sacrificed on behalf of our country, both past and present. It is also important that we support our military personnel and I will continue to campaign for recognition, care, and post-service security that they deserve."

Frant School news

As I write this we are now in our second national lockdown. However, Frant School has adapted to the regulations fantastically well. The children have just got on with all the changes to how they sit, lunch arrangements, the drop off and pick up staggered times and the regular hand washing/sanitising.

During the summer we reviewed our values in school and have adopted a

new vision which we feel encompasses all that we do in school and our aims for all children as they pass through our doors. We are also working on a new display in the hall and a school song which is being written by Jemima Kinley, an ex-pupil, who has just gone to Oxford University this autumn to read music. More on this to follow next year when we come to our 10 year anniversary of being at this school.

"Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it" Prov. XXII v6

Here are a few of our highlights since September when school reopened.

Our new reception children joined us and have settled really well into school life. It has been a pleasure to see them all confidently say goodbye at the school gate every morning with a smile on their faces.

Our Recovery plans to address learning missed during the lockdown in the spring/summer are in place. We have extra groups for maths, reading, writing, nurture, PE, speech and motor skills taking place throughout the week. We have been EXCEEDINGLY fortunate to have received financial support from Frant Church who have matched the government funding. This will enable us to provide this extra support for a longer period of time. On behalf of the children and staff we cannot thank the Church enough.

Mrs Douch has continued to support the school with PE lessons and is now in school 2 days a week so that we can provide as much PE as possible to single year groups as well as whole classes, small groups, some lunchtime clubs and working with our play leaders.

7 children in Oak Class have been recently trained by the Uplands PE Lead Teacher to be play leaders in school and support Mrs Douch and our lunchtime team with games for the children. Already, they are showing great leadership, teamwork and enthusiasm.

Normally we would hold a range of sporting events in and outside of school but sadly these have not all been possible. However, we have taken part in a Cross Country and athletics event virtually, organised by Uplands and run in school by Mrs Douch. We were delighted with how many of our children took part in both events and the high level of success our children achieved. Please do take a look at our website for photos and

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Lower School organised a trip to Leeds Castle in term 1. They all went on the coach and had a wonderful day dressing up and looking around Leeds Castle.

Children in Oak Class came to school dressed as Greeks in term 1 and enjoyed learning all about life in Ancient Greece.

Hazel Class children created their own natural disaster projects for homework. It was quite a spectacle to so many volcanoes erupting in one classroom!

Although we are unable to attend any training face to face staff have kept up to date online with training in emotional wellbeing, SEN updates, use of technology to support online learning as well as a wide range of subject specific training.

Ofsted paid us a visit on 1st October. This was not an inspection, merely a visit to see how we had managed the reopening of school in September and the issues we faced. Although it was not an inspection, it was a full day of meetings and fact finding from two Ofsted Inspectors. I do feel that they went away positive.

Our PTFA are still busy organising events and supporting the school with raffles, Christmas jumper day, Christmas cards and much more. We are always very grateful to our PTFA.

We have held our parent consultations via Teams and phone calls this year. We are already planning our Nativity and our Carol Service (KS2), both of which will be live streamed to families at the end of this term.

As I finish writing this I would like to say a huge thank you to all our families and staff who remain positive, supportive and encouraging during these challenging times. I am very proud to write this update knowing that we are still providing so much for our children and are finding ways to offer a wide ranging curriculum.

If you would like to apply for a place for your child in reception for September 2021, please contact us by 31st January 2021. Open days and walks around the school will be scheduled for after a school day in January.

Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. At some point we will welcome people back into school. Take care. —Mrs Challis, Head of School



Wild, Weird and Wonderful and in Our Parish!

Who would have thought that fungi could be something to get so excited about?! Actually, we had the most incredible experience with expert John Wright, of River Cottage fame, just up the lane at a Moon Down day in Bells Yew Green, organised by Lisa de Garston. Yes, we know that we're incredibly lucky to be living in such a beautiful part of the country, but we genuinely had no idea of the diversity of fungi in our neck of the woods, literally! Evidently the wet weather we've been having created the perfect



conditions for a huge selection of fungi to appear, the majority of which had the most extraordinary "common" names: Amethyst Deceiver, Slippery Jack, Poison Pie, Petticoat Mottlegill and Blushing Bracket, to name a few of the more peculiar.

By lunchtime - mushroom risotto (what else could be more appropriate!?) - we had learned so much. The major point being that under no circumstances could we ever be sufficiently expert in identification to be able to eat anything we could ever pick in the future! John regaled us with true tales of the dire consequences of making a mistake, from



spending several days in the smallest room to actual death.

The beauty was abundant in everything we saw, from the tiny Bird's Nest Fungus - which was the find that delighted our guide the most - to the more modest and edible Parasols and much sought after Penny Buns (Ceps). In the end, the final count was a staggering sixty-four different species, right here in one small part of our parish. According to John, "it is the enormously varied habitats that allow for such a large number of species ... some of which are quite rare."

It was an extraordinary day out; someone else cooked a delicious lunch and there was cake - all socially distanced, of course! In these far from ordinary times, we could hardly have wished for a more fascinating and entertaining day.

Sue Wallis, Friends of Bells Yew Green

Friends of Bells Yew Green

As you may recall, earlier in the year several tons of waste was dumped illegally at Station Bridge Yard, Bells Yew Green - the former site of BCM. The owner has been endeavouring to discover the perpetrators and is making some progress but has very recently become aware of another attempt to prepare for further dumping by someone screening off the yard again from the road. This is despite the fact that the gates have been welded and large concrete blocks are in place to block entry.

The screens have now been removed to enable a clear view, as far as is possible, however, all local residents are kindly asked to report any unusual activity, for example, the blocks being moved, attempted entry, etc, to the Police. For obvious reasons, this is most likely to take place at night. Your help would be very much appreciated.

Parish Past

The remarkable story of Sidney Lewis is especially appropriate for this remembrance month of November. Sidney was born in March 1903 in South London. So, in 1915 when he ran away from home to try and join the army he was only 12 years old. Apparently he was physically strong if not particularly tall for his age and, as the army was desperate for volunteers, he passed the medical and no one bothered to question his age, which is extraordinary in itself.



He thus became the youngest British soldier to serve in the First or Second World War.

During a year of training he still managed to keep his age secret and qualified as a machine-gunner. He was sent to France in 1916 (you were meant to be 19 to go overseas) and served in the bloody battle of the Somme. Meanwhile his parents had no idea where their runaway son had vanished to, until a friend on leave told them they had met in France. Naturally they were horrified and his mother, Fanny, wrote to the War Office demanding his return - no mean feat for a woman presumably in an unskilled job, her husband being an asylum attendant. Lengthy correspondence followed involving birth certificates etc, until the army agreed to call him back to Britain where he was eventually discharged, no doubt to considerable home acrimony.

He rejoined the army after the war and although still underage briefly served with occupation forces in Austria, before joining the police. In the Second War he volunteered for training in bomb disposal. So - what is his connection with Frant? In the 1960's he was landlord of the George as you see in this photo where he is holding the blue plaque now attached to his birth home. Many thanks to Cilla Scott who unearthed Sidney's extraordinary story.

—Pat Wright

Silver Linings Gallery

Frant resident, Charlotte Froud, is a 17-year-old local artist, fundraising for the Make-A-Wish UK charity through her work. "The money I raise through my cards, prints and commissions will be donated directly to Make-A-Wish UK, helping critically ill children's wishes come true. Cards and prints are available for purchase in the Frant Village Stores or please visit the website:"

www.silverliningsgallery.org



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Parish Diary November/December 2020

We are all unsure as to how and when the current restrictions are going to be lifted so we have not set out any events in this section for this edition. If you have an event that can go ahead in the next 2 months, do drop me a line at: carmel.kinley@gmail.com and I will pass it on to the Parish Website and relevant Parish Wards for email distribution.

Useful contacts

Frant

Frant CofE Primary School
Joanna Challis: 750243
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
Julie Pascoe: 07850 091428;
juliedanielle@hotmail.co.uk
Frant Parish Friendship Group
Brian Gill: 750266
Frant Film
Colin Steadman:
colin.h.steadman@gmail.com
Frant and Eridge Church Office
01892 752261;
office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk
Frant Open Spaces Group
Jan Steadman:
steadman.jan@gmail.com
Frant Memorial Hall
Brian Gill: 750266
Clerk, Frant Parish Council
Rosie Karim:
www.frant-pc.gov.uk; 01892 653357

Eridge

Eridge Garden Club
Jean Howells: 864310
Eridge Cricket Club
Luke Forbes: 670073
Eridge Village Hall Hire
www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk
Eridge Choir
Michael Stevens: 852739

Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel
Ken Davies: 01732 357791
BYG Cricket Club
Andy Brooks: 07876 011782
Short Mat Bowls Club
Pam Mepham: 891426
BYG Village Hall Hire
Chris Bacon: crbacon79@gmail.com
Friends of Bells Yew Green
07944 712000

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).

Council contacts

Chairman

William Rutherford: 752254
william.rutherford@frant-pc.gov.uk

Frant Ward

Anne Frances:
ann-frances.luther@frant-pc.gov.uk
Johanna Howell: 750141
johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk
Debbie Park: 319906
deborah.park@frant-pc.gov.uk
William Rutherford: 752254

BYG Ward

Stuart Crookshank: 518631
stuart.crookshank@frant-pc.gov.uk
Andy Macdonald-Brown: 891273
andrew.macdonald-brown@frant-pc.gov.uk
Sue Wallis: 750635
susan.wallis@frant-pc.gov.uk

Eridge Ward

Andrew Best: 5279319

Clerk to the Council

Rosie Karim: 01892 653357
clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk
or www.frant.info

Wealden District Councillor

Keith Obbard: 07941 578 427
cllr.keith.obbard@wealden.gov.uk

County Councillor

Bob Standley: 783579

District Councillor

Johanna Howell: 750141

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.

MP for Wealden

Nus Ghani MP:
nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Police Contact Details:

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

Parish News can be downloaded

from: www.frantchurch.org
or www.eridgechurch.org
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