

# Parish News

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*Old Eridge Castle*

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## From the Rectory



How I love the change in seasons... I think it makes you appreciate them more. I was watching something filmed in California and they exclaimed positively “180 days of sunshine,” I thought... how dull!

The changing weather and seasons for me is like a compass on life, it’s how I know where and when I am in life. I think I’d feel strangely lost without it.

I write you as we are still in the middle of our latest (and last we pray...) stay at home order. How we long for a change in season! I don’t know about you but I seem to lose those bearings on life those daily/weekly routines that are lost in lockdown, with just the changing seasons giving a sense of space and time.

At least right now we have hope, and light at the end of this dark tunnel. I like most of us have been very pleased to see the vaccine roll out. Thousands and thousands of NHS staff and volunteers working flat out, from the car park attendants, to the people that take your temperature, to the people who ask the questions, to those who give the vaccine, to those who help you to wait after to check you feel ok after. Such a wonderful conveyor belt of action, everyone with a smile, everyone

knowing what a positive difference this is making for individuals and our country.

And so our minds eye moves forward in hope. Of course, we all know things won’t be back to normal straight away... Who can remember what normal was anyway? I am looking forward to maybe trying new things in new ways.

In fact, this time has forced us to do lots of things differently, and some of those things were really positive. Festival Church last year was an outdoor service we started in summer out of necessity, but quickly realised how fun and engaging outdoor church is! The children loved our Forest School style Sunday school. Look out for our Festival Church relaunch as we head through spring!

Main services right now are online, search “Frant Church” on YouTube. In person services will begin to resume slowly as we head towards Easter – see our websites for latest updates. This year the good news of Christ’s cross and resurrection, of Jesus overcoming sin and death for us, will, I hope, bring renewed confidence and healing from God.

Keep safe, keep abiding by the guidelines, and we will get through this together.

Bring on spring!



### News from the Pews

Although we might appear to have hit a quiet time as far as Church news goes, there is plenty going on behind the scenes. Preparing and filming online services is very time consuming, but the numbers joining these services, including the service on Ash Wednesday, have remained consistently and gratifyingly high. Another area of busy activity is keeping the momentum going with Youth work, keeping in touch with our children and young people, and also staying in touch with as many people as possible while home and hospital visiting is not permitted. The Church has continued to be open for private prayer and quiet time every Wednesday and Sunday between 10am and 2pm.

Sadly The Stables has had to remain closed throughout the winter which has meant not only a considerable loss of income, but people have really missed



the friendship and fellowship at the weekly Coffee Mornings, the Toddler Group and all the other groups which have met regularly. It isn't known at the moment when we will be permitted to reopen. On the positive side, the new Church office in the Stables yard is now up and running.

So now we have to plan for the future post covid. As a very small parish, probably one of the smallest numerically in the Diocese, we don't have all the resources of bigger parishes, but we are very fortunate in having the Rectory paddock which can be utilised in many ways to build a unique rural ministry. One major area of planning is to develop outside Festival Church services which proved so popular last autumn. Also many of you will have heard about our 'Forest School' initiative which was really taking off last autumn, with the village school as well as other parishes showing an interest in sharing our facilities and learning from the experience of Ed our Youth and Children's worker who is now fully trained in this area of youth work. It's a good feeling to be able to share something that we are so fortunate to have with others.

The Church re opens for services (socially distanced and without singing) on 14th March, so a step in the right direction. The churchyard is about the only area of life unaffected by a year of uncertainty and disruption, and is looking as lovely as it always does in the spring.

## 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

March/April 2021



**Main Church Services remain online - search "Frant Church" on YouTube.**  
**Short service of Reading and Prayers each Sunday: 9:30 Frant, 11:15 Eridge.**

**See our websites for details of Easter Services coming up.**

**Frantchurch.org | Eridgechurch.org**

### WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

Sunday Services: 10.30am  
 Good Friday service at 10.30am; Bible Study & Prayer: Thursdays, 7.30pm  
 Enquiries: Ken Davies, 01732 357791





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**Hospice in the Weald Here to Help – Right Now!**

Hospice in the Weald has capacity to support local families right now.

The COVID pandemic has seen more people than ever experience the end of their life at home, or in hospital without the contact of loved ones. The current restrictions mean caring for someone at home, without the support of additional family or friends, is particularly challenging.

The Hospice have made a number of beds on their In-Patient Ward in Pembury and Cottage Hospice in Five Ashes available for those who need care at the end of life. This might be patients with COVID in hospital or those at home.

Paul Madden, Care Director, said: "We want people to know that you don't have to die alone in Hospital, home, or worse. Care from Hospice in the Weald means you can still have visitors - we can offer beds directly to the families of those at the end of their lives, with or without COVID-19."

If you or someone you know needs Hospice care, the Hospice is here. Get in touch right now, via telephone or our website. Call 01892 820515 or visit hospiceintheweald.org.uk

**Eridge Garden Club 2021**

The club offers an exciting calendar of events as follows:

**Tree Hunt April:** date to be confirmed depending on the progress of Spring!

**Bluebell Walk** at Troutbeck April and May, Courtesy of Peter & Maggie Smith, hosting 2 walks, last week of April and first week of May, at Troutbeck, Eridge  
**Warren House Garden** 31st May Lesley and Jonathan Lynn will welcome us to their beautiful gardens. Warren Farm

Lane, Eridge Green

**Eridge Fair:** 4th July Visit our stall, full of plants, flowers and other temptations

**Lady Angela Nevill's Garden** 18th July, 4 pm. The opportunity to see this wonderful, award-winning, garden, designed by Marian Boswell

**Busi Jacobsohn Wine Estate** Tuesday 24th August Vineyard walk and tasting of Eridge English Sparkling Wines.

**Marchant's Hardy Plants** 7th September We will have a private tour.

**Plant Swap, September** Date to be confirmed. Our autumn plant swap will be hosted by Sharon and Chris Burvill. By then we can hopefully also share some tea and cake!

**Guestspeaker and AGM** 17th November 7.30 Eridge Village Hall Dates and timings can change. All events will follow Covid -19 guidelines

Eridge Garden Club Membership is £5 per year Membership discount available at Royal Mires Nursery and Millbrook Garden Centre. For more information email stitchesjane@gmail.com We welcome you to join our events in 2021 Visits to beautiful gardens, plant swap and lots more.

**Frant School News**

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

When you read this article the children will all be back at school. Although we have been in lockdown since the start of the year, we have continued here at Frant to be very busy. Before I comment on some of our highlights I have to say a few thank yous. The children have been absolutely amazing, they have taken to online live teaching lessons brilliantly and they have engaged and submitted

work every day. I am so proud of all of them. All our parents have, yet again, embraced home learning and the use of the Google Classroom for lessons. They have managed to juggle home, school and work life magnificently. I know it is not easy and I can probably predict they do not want another lockdown! The staff at school have all adopted a 'can do' attitude to online teaching from day 1 and have come up with creative ways to add variety to the school week. We have had just over a third of the school in Keyworker School during this time so staff have managed keyworker school and home school. Again, not sure how I can thank them enough.

Earlier in the term I sat at my desk and shed a few tears due to the extraordinary generosity of an ex-school family who wished to support the school financially. They donated a very substantial sum of money to school, enabling us to buy a set of touch screen laptops to support our children. We are also going to be able to buy headphones, IT software and equipment as well as books to support all children but particularly children who struggle with their learning and need extra resources. The community has been and continues to be so supportive of this great school. Thank you all.

Here are a few of our highlights:

Every day all children have been logging on to the Google Classrooms to take part in live lessons with their teachers. It has been lovely to see their faces on the screen interacting and sharing their work.

In PE, Mrs Douch continues to teach our keyworker children twice a week and has plans in place for lots of activities this term for the whole school.

All the children have focused on online safety as well as mental health activities to keep them positive and engaged.

World Book Day (4th March) was a wonderful event with staff reading stories to the children across the school and the children having a day of reading related activities. Do take a look on our website for lots of photos and stories.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our news. Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. I am in school every day and will always find time for a chat. At some point we will be able to welcome people back into school.

Take care and keep safe.  
 —Mrs Challis, Head of School





Frant Church



### Life after lockdown in our Parish

What better way to celebrate the easing and then ending of lockdown together with the new full colour Parish News than a selection of images from around our Parish? We have all missed being able to congregate at our churches, attend groups and classes at our village

halls and enjoy a meal or just a drink in our village pubs. Our greens have been a wonderful place to meet "one other person" for a chat and a walk... but won't it be lovely to see families and groups of children socialising en masse again?

So I hope you find this collage fills you with hope and excitement of what is just around the corner.

The George



Frant Memorial Hall



The Abergavenny Arms



The Brecknock Arms



Bells Yew Green Village Hall



The Nevill Crest &amp; Gun



Bells Yew Green Chapel



The Huntsman



Eridge Church



Eridge Village Hall





### News from MP, Nus Ghani

Vaccines are our way out of this pandemic. I am pleased that the rollout has been a great success across Wealden and every day we continue to make great progress towards beating the virus in our communities. Some sites have taken longer to set up than others, but the NHS in East Sussex made clear from the beginning that nobody would be forgotten. Our local health authorities have done a fantastic job and I thank them for all their efforts.

We have reached our goal of offering a vaccine to the top four priority groups by 15 February, and the East Sussex vaccination programme and the fightback against the virus continues in full swing.

I visited the Crowborough Covid-19 vaccination site at Saxonbury House surgery to thank the medical staff and volunteers, and experience first-hand the fantastic work being carried out to vaccinate Wealden residents against Coronavirus. Saxonbury House surgery has been administering the vaccine since mid-January, vaccinating patients not only from Crowborough, but also other surgeries in the area. The medical team is supported by a team of volunteers and together they ensure that up to 600 people are vaccinated at the surgery every day.

Each dose administered represents a triumph over the virus. I would like to urge everyone who has been invited to book an appointment but not yet done so, please do to take up the offer as soon as possible.

Additionally, accessible testing is a cornerstone of local outbreak management and it is especially important for a rural constituency such as Wealden to have easy access to Covid testing. I am pleased that the testing capacity across the constituency continues to expand, with testing walk-through testing sites available in Crowborough and Hailsham.

I continue to work hard to ensure that your concerns are heard in Westminster. If you need my assistance, please email me at nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk.

### Frant Film

Is that light at the end of a very long tunnel, or is it a locomotive hurtling towards us? Or, is it the illumination from the Frant Film projector as we open for our first film in over a year?



We showed our last film on the 6th March 2020, "Bohemian Rhapsody" and then we went into the first lockdown. We therefore "owe" our members two films unshown in Season 11 "The Piano" and "The Pink Panther Strikes Again".

Our next season, number 12, will start with these two and then 8 more. Our plan is to recommence in October. But, as we all know, that depends on how we, and the virus behave.

I realise that not all my readers will know about Frant Film, maybe they are new to our community, so here is a potted history.

After kicking the idea around for a while we obtained Lottery funding in 2011, purchased the equipment and showed a short season. Our first full season, 8 films, Started in October 2011. The films are chosen by our committee but we always welcome suggestions from our members. The films are screened on Friday evenings at 8pm.

There is a bar open from 7pm, and we encourage patrons to stay on after the film for feedback and discussion.

We are non-profit making and any

surplus funds, at the end of each season, are donated to the Memorial Hall. Since the first film was screened, "It's Complicated", we are proud to have donated more than £10,000 to the Hall. This supplements the Halls income which is used for maintenance, repair and refurbishment.

So here are two things for our community to do:

1) The renewal notice of membership will be sent out, in the normal way, to our members. Please re-join and can we also ask you to try to recruit your friends and neighbours as new members. We must stress that you don't have to live in the Parish, we have members from as far away as Rotherfield and Tunbridge Wells!

2) We are always open to suggestions as to the films, in fact we welcome feedback.

So please feel free to email any thoughts that you have. We are thinking of a programme of uplifting films following this strange year. All stay safe and well and let's hope for films starting in October. Greig & Anne Bannerman, greigban@gmail.com

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### The Eridge Fair

The Eridge Fair (pictured) will be back on 4th July 2021 and we need your donations! If you have any unwanted items in good condition to donate, or would be willing to help, please contact the relevant stallholders below:

- Books: Edmund & Mary Waterhouse  
Edmund.Waterhouse@gmail.com
- Bottles: Rebecca Hall  
rebeccajlendon@hotmail.com
- Boutique: Christine Freeman  
cmf@hamsell.co.uk
- Children's Corner: Pete Collyer  
peter\_collyer@hotmail.com
- Horticulture: Jane Stevens  
stitchesjane@gmail.com
- Jewellery: Anne Berry  
anne@hamsellmanor.co.uk
- Teas & Cakes: Sharon Burvill  
sharon.burvill@btopenworld.com
- Tombola: Mandy Dixon  
colinrd@aol.com
- Trash & Treasure: Diane Smith  
diane\_e\_smith@btinternet.com

Donations can also be delivered to Stephen Barnes at: Birchden Farm, Broadwater Forest Lane, TN3 9NR  
\*from mid April onwards\*

If you are not already involved with this fantastic community event and would like to volunteer, please contact Dawn on 07876 564333 or dawn.hazell@gmail.com. Additionally, we always need a fair amount of gazebos for shelter (hopefully from the sun!) so if you have access to any please get in touch.

### Our Village Shop

Frant Post Office and Shop has been constantly well stocked with everything the residents need. Those that have struggled to collect groceries have been served so well with home deliveries. A huge thank you for this.

### Frant Parish Council

The Parish Council continues to meet virtually, on Zoom, but the latest news from the government brings some hope that we can finally meet in person again this summer. Virtual meetings are not the best forum for debate and discussion, but so far we haven't descended into the chaos of Handforth Parish Council!

One major project that the Parish Council has been discussing is the proposal for a pedestrian crossing on the A267. This plan has been on and off the



drawing board for a long as I have been a councillor, but it has received fresh impetus thanks to the new development at Fern Close. The benefits of having a safe place to cross the increasingly busy road are clear, particularly with a primary school in the heart of Frant village. However, the project does have some disadvantages, most notably the extra street lighting that is required through the centre of the village to ensure that the crossing is safe. While the safety of our residents is paramount, preserving the rural nature of our village is also an important consideration. The Parish Council is looking into "heritage" lighting plans, and we are hoping to produce some designs for public consideration in the near future.

On the subject of lighting, we installed a solar-powered light for the twitten from Rushlye Close to Bayham Road. This is one of the first solar-powered streetlights installed in East Sussex, and we were excited to be leading the way with a "green solution". Unfortunately, our cloudy winter has not delivered enough sunshine to keep the light on! We have been working closely with the manufacturer, who is keen to see the technology succeed, and are now upgrading the panels to enhance the performance. We are optimistic that

this will solve the problems that we have experienced so far.

A perennial problem we experience in the Parish is roadside litter. Its particularly noticeable in Spring as, despite the warmer weather, grass verges are short and roadside hedges are bare. I would like to pay particular tribute to those residents of the Parish who "litter pick", and in particular two councillors, Deborah Park and Andrew MacDonald-Brown, who are dedicated pickers. The Parish Council has some equipment available for litter picking, including long handled "grabbers", so if any residents want to organise a litter pick, then please do let us know and we will equip you!

Finally, as thoughts turn to summer and the end of the lockdown restrictions, the Parish Council is contemplating ways to mark our regained freedoms. Last year we had to cancel our Frant Village Fair, but this summer might be the perfect opportunity to revisit the idea of an event. Watch this space...

### Woof Meanderings!

Oh my word, I am tapping away to you feeling most discombobulated as I have just been chased and pecked on my posterior by one of the geese. Normally, we just step around each other giving respectful space but goodness me, Stan

the Gander was particularly feisty this morning when The Owner opened up the door to let the geese out.

I think it is due to 'Spring being in the air' as the girls are clearly looking particularly alluring to him at the moment as there is much, how do I say this ... 'over familiarity' going on and some scraps also with his fellow older Gander called Martin (after his previous owner). All their girls though are laying copious amounts of eggs and normally, The Owner trundles into their stable to collect the eggs every morning, but even she had a ponder and retreated as there was much kerfuffle from a rather imposing Stan, as he was protecting some of 'his girls' as they nonchalantly sat on their deep straw thrones brewing eggs up.

After our recent moment with the snow and ice which was a tad chilly, I have been loving the odd moment of sun coming through and zooming around without so much mud clogging on my coat. Although, I was rather shocked when taken for a trim the other day and the normally endearing Mrs Groomer, remarked to The Owner when she came to collect me, that I was looking 'rather tubby'. Well, I was most affronted and The Owner then had the audacity to respond 'yes, he definitely has as keeps scavenging out of the chicken run'. I do know this is true if I am honest, but she could have backed me up and said 'what a fine, athletic dog I am and in top peak of fitness' I mean really, how could she let me down!

Talking of peak condition, Petula is now back to no mud on her tootsie feathers nor bloomers or rain dampening the bouffant of feathers, so is looking very pleased with herself as she strides around looking very matriarchal. I really must get a picture of her for you as you will find her highly amusing to look at. Mind you, Petula and the others were in big trouble (not me for once fortunately), as The Owner realised that they had dug up and ruined some bulbs that were starting to come up with some old snowdrops, so there was much huffing and puffing and everyone shot off in different directions, but could not resist returning for more worm action that they could spot before The Owner had put some new chicken barriers up. The Owner then returned and looked like Mr MrGregor in hot pursuit after Peter Rabbit!

Some excitement for Bertie the Duck though following the sad demise of

dear old Mrs Quacker last year (Bertie was her Toy Boy). The Owner relented and brought him two new wives called Genevieve and Delilah. The Owner was rather reticent to this as he was previously so rude to 'Julio The Cockerel' who is the most gentle giant ever, but when Mrs Quacker was around Bertie was really mean to him. Fortunately though, they have become quite good pals recently, but Bertie has become rather confused with his status as a Duck, as has been trying to become rather too 'over familiar' with any goose that he can leap upon, hence it became apparent that something was needed to rectify this, so finally the two new Duck wives arrived for him.

It has not gone entirely smoothly as Delilah is having none of his advances and is marching off (no sign of waddling) at speed, but Genevieve a rather gentle Princess full of poise, is being slightly more obliging in her friendship. Still, it does seem as though Bertie is far keener now on the more 'curvaceous larger lady' and is still in pursuit of a goose, so there is much panic with feathers flying when he makes his unwanted advances of an unsuspecting Miss Goose and huge noise, so we all end up zooming towards the sound thinking the fox is around, but fortunately all that greets us is Bertie dashing in hot pursuit of a horrified departing goose.

Talking of anticipating love in the air, I have not seen Dolly recently, which I am finding rather sad, but The Owner has promised me that we will go down and walk at Rye or Camber soon with her as I love roaring around the beach and skimming through the sea together. It is always very social on such an excursion and I long for our trips to travel down together in the car, but it seems ages since we have been there. Soon, soon though I keep being told, but am hoping at least before long that we will be able to play in the garden here as I love dashing around the daffodils at this time of year with Dolly as their lovely smiley yellow faces wave around in the air as I roar past, oblivious to The Owner trying to protect the blooms.

With my longing moments to see Dolly, I will hang onto the quote that gently says, 'Spring will come and so will happiness, hold on... life will get warmer'.

Oh my Dear Dolly that will be so lovely for us all...

### Frant Parish Friendship Group

We have been living on hopes for so long now! Hopes of monthly talks at The Stables, hopes for Young at Heart, the resumption of Knit and Natter get togethers and our outings. However as these still seem to be some way off we unfortunately cannot make definite plans and can only reassure members that as and when restrictions are lifted we will start up again as quickly as possible. We have received a very generous donation from the family of the late Jean Alvey with the intention that this went towards a celebration for members. So we look forward to organising this in the future when we can all celebrate together once again.

On a sad note we have heard that Una Wareham who was for many years our keep fit instructor, has had a stroke and is currently in rehabilitation. We will of course be sending our best wishes from the Friendship Group for her speedy recovery.

Members will agree that we are extremely fortunate in where we live, surrounded by such beautiful countryside and also how lucky we are to have our amazing Village Stores and our two lovely pubs; who have been so helpful during the lockdowns.

Also there have been many acts of kindness and support from neighbours and strangers giving us all hope for the future. With very best wishes from your committee.

Enquiries - Valerie Palmer 750559

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## Parish Diary March/April 2021

» **Sunday 4 July**  
Eridge Fair: See page 12

» **Various dates**  
Eridge Garden Club events  
See page 7

## 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 Mephram: 891426  
*BYG Village Hall Hire*  
Chris Bacon: crbacon79@gmail.com  
*Friends of Bells Yew Green*  
07944 712000

## 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 Barnes: 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 Councillors

Bob Standley, Johanna Howell,  
Keith Obbard; www.frant-pc.gov.uk

### 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](http://www.frantchurch.org)  
or [www.eridgechurch.org](http://www.eridgechurch.org)  
Advertising enquiries: 750285 or  
susan.piccioni@btinternet.com  
Contributions for our next issue  
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carmel.kinley@gmail.com  
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