

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



A Special Edition of 'Parish News' in honour of her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2022

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From the Rectory



As the sun shines and the tulips are out, I am happily sitting at my desk, thinking forward to the Queen's Platinum jubilee celebrations in June. It is an incredible reign from an incredible person. For many of us we won't be able to remember a time when she wasn't on the throne.

As we look forward to the jubilee, I have spent a little time looking back on her life, and particularly what she has said over the years. Clearly, she has wisely kept well out of controversy and politics all these years, but as Supreme Governor of the Church of England (note she isn't the head of the church – that's Jesus...) she has shared some wonderful messages of faith over her time. I thought I would share a few that really spoke to me...

I have often wondered who would be the Queen's role model? It isn't like there are many (if any) people on earth that she can really look to for an example of her role as monarch. Who would she have looked up to in her reign as Queen? In 2014 she spoke of her Christian faith and said "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace... is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing." In 1978 she said, "Christians have the compelling example of the life and teaching of Christ and, for myself, I would like nothing more than that my grandchildren should hold dear his ideals which have helped and inspired so many previous generations." When there aren't many examples of monarchy she can look up to in the world, Jesus is the example she follows.

When it comes to the hard times in life, I was

reading how she said in 1992 that it had been a very hard year, but this past year without her beloved husband Philip must have been especially hard. The image though that I think will be seared into my memory of her Majesty will be the image of her all alone at Prince Philip's funeral. I don't think any image I have seen has so captured the isolation and grief she and so many others experienced over the past couple of years.

In her Christmas message in 2008 she said, "I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity managed to live and outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life." In 2011 in speaking of Jesus she said "God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor generation... but a saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith."

She has in all times tirelessly served her country with dignity, and we should be very thankful to God for that. Before her coronation she said, "Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you all the days of my life." I think we can give that a big tick for God's clearly answered prayer.

But let me finish with her words from 2002, "I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God... I draw strength from the message of the hope of the Christian Gospel."

News from the Pews

We were actually able to hold the Mothering Sunday service in the church this year, for the first time since 2019. Although Brendan has now been Rector here since October 2019, he hasn't had a 'normal' year, but this year all the Easter services were held in church, beginning with the lovely service of Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday in Eridge church. This is the service when we remember the Last Supper. Another return to normality is that as from Ash Wednesday the church is now once again open every day

At the beginning of March Brendan met Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury who, as part of his visit to the Diocese of Chichester, met the clergy from the Rotherfield Deanery at St Mary's church Hartfield. Brendan felt that the Archbishop does understand the challenges facing rural ministries. Following on from that, Brendan was asked to speak at a Diocese of Chichester Rural Ministry Conference to share our experience of Festival Church. Brendan said "I cannot tell you how many people are getting excited about what is happening in our church - people who we don't know are hearing about us and are inspired by our outdoor Sunday School activities and services. I really hope that we can help and encourage other rural churches. Just this week a clergy person spoke to me about how they feel inspired to make use of a field they have by their churchyard and want to come and see what we have been doing." It is very gratifying that Frant, which is probably the smallest Parish in the Diocese, is able



to help others in a big way.

At the end of March, there was a big turnout for the ladies' coffee morning in The Stables. As can be seen from the photograph, the tables were beautifully laid with fresh flowers and the ladies were welcomed by the smell of freshly baked croissants. Caroline gave an inspiring talk, with reference to the book of Ruth, following which everyone was invited to help themselves to fresh flowers and make an arrangement in the vases provided. Thank you to Caroline, Julie and the team for all the hard work in organising such a lovely event.

Festival Church, which is what we call services held on Sunday afternoons in the Rectory paddock, started again at the beginning of March after a winter break. This was the first service we were able to hold in the new Tipi. Although worshipping in the open air is usually a lovely experience, it is nice to think that we can have walls and a roof in the worst

weather. The 'Year of Creation' team continue to meet and are looking at ways in which we can move towards becoming an eco church.

We have a busy time coming up, with an 'outdoor' Alpha Course, which includes tea, starting on Sunday afternoons in May and June. Our last Alpha course was very well received and attended, but unfortunately was cut short by the first lockdown in 2020, better luck this time! Also in May, what promises to be a very physical and exhausting three day Holiday Club is being held for children 7-13 years, the best of luck to Ed and the team of volunteers! On June 2nd we'll kick off the Jubilee celebrations by hosting a Jubilee Concert of Jazz and Blues in church, followed by the lighting of the beacon on the church tower (not as dangerous as it sounds). Also of course the wedding season is upon us, so watch this space to find out how our summer is progressing.

MUSIC IN FRANT PRESENTS -
Platinum Jubilee Celebration
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explore
 life
 faith
 meaning

Alpha

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 or call the church office: 01892 752261

St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

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



www.frantchurch.org
Churchwardens
 Jane Emler—532233
 Juliet Nightingale— 01580 200403



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

Services for
May / June 2022

10:30am	Joint Church Day Out	1st May	Joint Church Day Out	10:30am
..... <i>See website for details</i>				
9:30am	Communion Service	8th May	Morning Prayer	11:15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			
9:30am	Morning Service	15th May	Communion Service	11:15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			
9:30am	Morning Service	22nd May	Communion Service	11:15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			
9:30am	Communion Service	29th May	Morning Prayer	11:15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			
9:30am	Jubilee Thanksgiving	5th June	Jubilee Thanksgiving	11:15am
9:30am	Communion Service	12th June	Morning Prayer	11:15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			
9.30am	Morning Service	19th June	Communion Service	11.15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			
9.30am	Morning Service	26th June	Communion Service	11.15am
4:30pm	Festival Church does Alpha			

WORSHIP AT BELLSYEW GREEN

Sunday Services: 10.30am & 3.00pm / Bible Study & Prayer: Thursdays, 7.00pm / Enquiries: Peter Arrowsmith, 01892 610309



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First Aid Course
 The Parish Council are kindly funding a first aid course open to the community on Saturday September 24th from 10am to 2.30pm. The course is run by a British Red Cross trainer and limited to 12 participants – I have a few places left.
 If you are interested, or require more information please contact Andy Macdonald-Brown – 07989555957 or 01892 891273 or Andrew.macdonald-brown@frant-pc.gov.uk

Bells Yew Green Cricket Club
» BYGCC honour "THE CAT"
 Bells Yew Green Cricket Club have announced that, to mark their 75th anniversary, they are to name their pavilion after their former President, after dinner comedian, Bob "the Cat" Bevan MBE.

During his Presidency from 1995 to 2009 Bevan led a £250,000-fund-raising campaign which secured a long-term lease on the ground and provided a new brick-built pavilion. It is planned to mark the occasion at an open-house ceremony at 12 noon on Sunday 1 May, 2022, at the Bob the Cat Bevan Pavilion, The Nursery Ground, Cricketers Close, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9AL. Commenting on the decision Bells Yew Green former Chairman and current Committee Member, Graham Piper, said, "There could be no more fitting and appropriate way to kick start our 75th Year Anniversary than by honouring Bob "the Cat" Bevan in this way." Bevan, who moved to the village almost 30 years ago, and was President of Kent County Cricket Club in 2013, said he was humbled by "the great honour. It was achieved not by one person but by a tremendous team effort involving all the members and villagers among whom I would single out the late John Hodson who was an especially generous supporter."

On May 1 the Club will also be unveiling a plaque in memory of Hodson. Seven sports dinners at the High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells, were among the events Bevan organised attracting almost 2,000 supporters. Many legends of the game headed the nights including Sir Ian Botham, David "Bumble" Lloyd, Allan Lamb, Geoff Miller, Graeme Fowler, Rob Key, Derek Underwood and the late Mike Denness.
 They were joined by football legends, Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Geoff Hurst,

the late Sir Bobby Robson, Denis Law and Terry Venables as well as rugby international and broadcaster Martin Bayfield.
 Bells Yew Green CC now runs four Saturday sides in the Sussex Cricket League, two Sunday teams, two Womens XIs along with a junior section of 140 members.

For further information please contact: Graham Piper BYGCC (07974 171992 and grahampiper@aol.com), Andy Brooks BYGCC (07876 011782 and akbrooksy@gmail.com) or Bob Bevan (01892 750094 or 07836 250835 or bob@bobthecatbevan.co.uk)

Paddock Wood Choral Society presents...
» "All Creatures Great and Small"
 Saturday 18th June 2022, 7.30 pm at St. Andrew's Church, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DZ. Tickets available on our website: www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk or email tickets@paddockwood-choral.org.uk

Frant School News
 The Spring Terms were busy at Frant School with lots of learning and activities taking place. Unfortunately, COVID played a significant part in attendance for staff and children – I believe we had one day between January and when we closed for Easter when there was no COVID! Despite this, we continued to enjoy so many high points and have fun along the way.

Here are a few of our highlights:
 Sport played a big part in the spring terms with our small school enjoying great success. Whether we win, lose or draw our children continue to represent Frant in a very positive light. We regularly receive positive feedback from event organisers and parents on the sportsman-like behaviour of our children and their resilience and self-belief to do the best that they can.

Here are a few of our achievements:
 Girls Year 4 Albion Cup Football tournament – winners
 Netball tournament held at Frant for our Weald Federation schools – 3 teams took part and overall Frant won the tournament
 Mixed Netball Tournament at Beacon – through to the County final in the summer terms
 Netball County Finals Mixed – 140

schools took part across Sussex. Frant came 4th
 Tag Rugby tournament at Uplands Mixed – 2nd behind Wadhurst
 Revolution Reading Day across the whole school to inspire a love of reading and writing
 Oak Class visited Temper Temper (chocolate making) recently to support their learning on the Mayans
 Charity event after school organised by the children to raise money to support families in Ukraine. As a school, we have raised almost £500 to give to the Red Cross.
 PTFA organised an Easter egg hunt and a cake sale.

Across our Weald Federation (Mark Cross, Mayfield and Five Ashes schools), we have enjoyed our netball tournament at Frant, have worked closely as a Leadership Team and are looking forward to more Weald Federation activities and events. More news to follow from our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Lawrence.

On the final day of the term, we had our Easter Service in the Church attended by many of our parents. The children re-told the Easter Story so well and sang with great enthusiasm. A special thank you goes to Jemima Kinley who joined our Easter Service to hear the children perform our School Song that she'd written. The song encapsulates what it means to be a child at Frant School. This is the first time we have been able to perform it for her.

As we move into our summer terms, we look forward to planning for our new children to join us in September, enjoy the year 6 leavers' events and many more school based activities. Of these, our Jubilee celebrations will be of strong focus this term culminating in a Jubilee Day on Friday 27th May 2022. Already our children have designed posters that you may soon see around the village advertising local events. Our children will be take part in a tea party, dancing, singing and much more to celebrate this significant and wonderful event. We look forward to sharing our photos in due course.

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.
 With very best wishes.
 –Mrs Joanna Challis, Head of School

Jubilee celebrations across the parish

Johanna Howell, of Frant Parish Council, gives an exciting overview of the celebrations to look forward to in marking this very special occasion. All are welcome. Many thanks to all the volunteers and hard work put in by the organisers across the three villages.



**Thursday 2 June 2022
Frant**

We will be starting the celebrations with a concert of Jazz and Blues in Frant Church at 8pm followed by the lighting of a beacon light on the church tower at 9:45pm.

**Friday 3 June 2022
Frant**

Frant Village will be hosting a street party on Friday 3rd June. The Street will be closed by the church down to Greenwood, we will be putting out tables for picnics and food from the George and the Abergavenny will be available. We will also be having a dog show, live music, classic cars, wood carvers, the Bowles Club will be giving demonstrations, face painting, tea and cakes in the hall, a plant stall, raffle and a tombola. Funds from these events will be going to Hospice in the Weald and Ukraine. There will also be a photograph display in the Stables of Frant through the ages, and the church bells will be ringing at midday. Parking will be in the village field.



**Saturday 4 June 2022
Bells Yew Green**

Bells Yew Green will be hosting a street party on Saturday 4th June. The Hawkenbury road will be closed from the green and free parking will be in the station car park. We will be having a bouncy castle, face painting, the village hall will be hosting local crafts and a children's art competition. The Brecknock will be having live music, fish and chips and a bbq. There will be tractors and old vehicles on the Green and pony rides.



**Sunday 5 June 2022
Eridge**

Eridge will be hosting a tradition home cooked lunch at the village hall, there will be children's games, throw the wellies, egg and spoon race and an activity corner. There will also be a Jubilee punch, please bring your own drink for the loyal toast. The church choir will be there for a sing along. A great time will be had by all.



Also...

There was a competition run by Frant School and the posters and fliers of the winners will be distributed around the villages.

If you would like to help with any of the celebrations please contact the clerk and let us know. We hope you will come along to support your parish and join in the fun. Look forward to seeing you there.

Finally thank you to all of you who came to the village to see the display about the pedestrian crossing and gave us your comments. It was very useful to get your feedback.

Jubilee Exhibition Items required!

In preparation for the Jubilee celebrations, the Rector and myself are collecting stories, items, photos etc of things that have happened/occurred in Frant in the past 70 years.

We already have quite a bit of material, but would like more to include in this exhibition which will be held in Frant Memorial Hall during the celebration weekend in June.

We hope as many people as possible will come and maybe remember events/people that have occurred etc over past 70 years. There are items, photos of people and events that we cannot recognise so hopefully visitors to exhibition can answer many questions.

If you have any items, photos, articles etc that you would like to add to exhibition then please contact me Peter Payne on 01892 750608 and I will be happy to collect from you. I will then photocopy etc and return your originals to you prior to the event happening.

—Peter Payne

Memories of Frant

» by a Parish Resident

I was delighted to read Peter Payne's comments on the Rumens family since when I have met Peter and together we feel we might be able to add some more information on old Frant.

Firstly I would like to add a further comment about Frank and Clara Rumens. They used to sell ice creams and soft drinks from their door, at 8 Rock Cottage, Down Lane and it was my delight when I visited my grandparents, who lived close by in The Platt, to be given a few pence to go and buy a water ice in biscuits.

Secondly further to the pictures of the three pubs, The Abergavenney, The George and The Brecknock, shown in March/April issue of Parish News, in the 1930s when there were fewer cars on the roads the Abergavenney let out the area adjoining the pub to Bert Cooper who ran a petrol station and kept a few small accessories for cars. This garage lasted well into the 1990s.

The Brecknock was run by Tom Whiley, his daughter and son Jack who also offered a taxi service. Tom was often seen wearing a red and white handkerchief round his neck, not an uncommon accessory in those days.

Now for the shops and businesses.

Several now turned into houses.

In the High Street was: The Sweet Shop had shelves loaded with glass bottles containing a large assortment of



Above: Flower show 1966 or dressing up. Above, right: 1990 school children plus Mrs Green. Below: Frant Sschool, 1995.

sweets, some of the favourites being black and white bull's eyes, sherbet fountains, rolls of liquorish with coloured sweet in the middle and pear drops. The Bakery had ovens that came into great use at Christmas time when they cooked a large number of turkeys for the villagers. Then came the shoe repairer, Mr Collins and a ladies and gentleman's hairdressers, Mr Burrbridge. At the bottom of the High Street was Bassetts grocery store

run by the Bassett family, Frank, Lena and Doreen, where rashers could be cut to individual requirements on a hand operated bacon slicer. Very near the main road was Mr Mooney's grocery store and post office. One of the joys of that shop was that the front of the counter had a display of biscuits in glass lidded tins. Next to that, now the hairdressers, was Mr (often referred to as "Clonk") & Mrs Cambridge's ladies and gents clothing and haberdashery shop. Little further on Mr Carrington undertook tailoring work. Opposite the store was the village blacksmith and chimney



sweep, Ernie Parks.

Mr Morris and his son Eric (often referred to as Porky Morris) operated a slaughter house and butchers hop, which is now a listed building. He would buy some of his cattle at the stock market in Wadhurst. One of his staff would call at houses in the early part of the week to get orders for weekend delivery.

Some milk for the village was delivered by horse drawn cart and would be brought to a door and then dispensed by a measure which hung inside a bucket type of container. There was a dairy in the village where the name of Mercer was connected.

The Fish Man, Mr Akehurst, would make weekly calls to many of the houses.

There were 2 coal outlets, Grinham and Bachelors. Mr Bill Grinham, who was also the landlord of The George for a period would have trucks of coal shunted into the sidings of Frant station, then members of his staff would hand fill sacks of coal and wearing a sack on their heads to keep them clean would deliver it to houses carrying the filled sacks on their backs.

There were two builders, Mr Sands and James Brothers. The later also had an undertaker's business which operated from the High Street. So they built things for you while you're alive and built things when you died (i.e. coffins).

Norah Bassett did some dress making and Mr Gregory was another tailor. There was an insurance agent for Prudential Insurance Company in the

village, Mr Price and Hector Medhurst for Down Lane.

On the health side of matters was the District Nurse, Nurse Evans, more or less "open all hours" and Dr. Hart-Smith, whose surgery was behind the smaller green, and was a building in his garden. He would dispense most of the medicines himself from large bottles situated around his surgery. If it was necessary to call at his house, a knock on the house door would result in the appearance of a woman, in a mob cap and frilly apron, who was the maid.

There was a resident police constable, living in "The Police House" on Mayfield Road. One was Bob Morrison and before that PC Sargent, who was called Sargent Sargent.

Two post men, would deliver the post on foot to Frant and Bells Yew Green residents twice a day, morning and afternoon.

In the summer months a Walls Ice Cream man would trundle his specially constructed tricycle, or bicycle, via Bells Yew Green up the hill to Frant.

Miss Walters was the operator of our telephone exchange and could be waved at through one of her windows whilst she was working.

Of the larger companies there was George Ware's brewery, Fernden Fencing, Turner's timber yard and Whitehouses, who made greenhouses.

Hope this may bring back some memories for some readers.

—Helen Carpenter

Parish Past

It seems appropriate at this time to quote from an anonymous account of Queen Victoria's 1877 Golden Jubilee celebrations in Frant.

"Decorations of all kinds in the way of festoons, flags and banners inundated the whole village ... and at 8am the church bells rang out but most part of the morning was spent on preparations for the afternoon's fete as yet much remained to be done" (we know the feeling!) "At 12 a special service was held ... and from the church the whole population betook themselves to the Green where a tent had been erected to welcome the expected 600.

On the Jubilee flag being hoisted everyone sat and Col Hamilton Grace carved a sheep roasted whole which bore the inscription JUBILEE SHEEP Presented by the Hon John Ashburnham and fed by J Fox ... and ample justice was done the ample fare laid out." Patriotic songs and toasts followed, then races of all kinds when "married women entered keenly into the sport and were warmly applauded but coy maidens unwilling to be pressed were more bashful and for some time not one volunteered to run." After a pause for breath when gardens were open for a stroll, dancing to four violins and kiss in the ring followed through the evening. "Before the set hour of 10 the Eridge bonfire was seen blazing in the hollow but at the right signal of a rocket from Crowborough the Frant bonfire was lit and our signal sent on to the next beacon.

Being so dry the heat was so great it was impossible to approach nearer than 50 yards but then a great number of fireworks were set off casting many coloured lights over the scene. Such a sight to witness of more than 600 people dancing, shouting and playing in the glare ... and it was then discovered that Lord Abergavenney with some of the Eridge party had driven over to join in, and he joked he was glad Eridge kept earlier hours than Frant so he could be with both, before calling for three cheers for Her Majesty, heartily delivered ... thus ended a day which will be long remembered although some kept up the revelry until midnight"

We do have something to live up to this June!

—Pat Wright



Nusrat Ghani opens newly refurbished Eridge station

Nusrat Ghani, MP for Wealden, has opened the newly refurbished Eridge station following the completion of multi-million-pound improvements as part of the Access for All scheme to ensure that Eridge station is fully step-free. On 16 February, Nusrat welcomed the rail Minister Wendy Morton MP, Wealden District Council Leader Bob Standley and a host of senior railway figures at the classic country junction station of Eridge to celebrate the opening of accessibility improvements that mark the final step in a transformation of the location.

The £1.9m project saw a lift, ramp, and other improvements delivered by Network Rail and BAM Nuttall on behalf of the Department for Transport's Access for All fund. The work was designed to blend in with the heritage aspects of the 1868 station, which is remarkably well-preserved and shared with the Spa Valley steam railway. It follows a series of projects to improve the station, including a new £1.8m footbridge, £500,000 canopy and platform refurbishments, and other heritage improvements.

The Access for All Programme is part of the Department for Transport's Inclusive Transport Strategy to deliver accessible routes at stations most in need across Great Britain. As Transport Minister between 2018-2020, Nusrat



championed accessibility and the Inclusivity Transport Strategy.

Nusrat secured this funding for both Eridge and Crowborough stations and the works at Crowborough are expected to be completed later this year.

Nusrat Ghani said: "It was a pleasure welcoming the Minister to Wealden to celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished Eridge station. Train travel is a key form of transport for Wealden residents, and I am delighted to have secured this multi-million-pound funding to ensure that Eridge station is fully step free, accessible to all Wealden commuters and fit for the future. Thank you to all the contractors and volunteers involved in delivering this project for Eridge. It is fantastic that Wealden train stations are benefiting from this major investment programme, and I look forward to seeing similar works completed at Crowborough station later this year."

» Nusrat Ghani: Article on local housing need

When and where new homes are built is always a controversial subject. I receive a lot of correspondence on planning in Wealden, and I recognise the level of frustration at the current housing targets for Wealden.

I fully acknowledge that we do need more homes, and a level of development in Wealden is inevitable. I see the need for affordable homes pop up daily in my casework. However, I am concerned about the unachievably high numbers for Wealden and about the data behind the current methods used for the housing need calculations.

Having lobbied the Department of Housing since 2015, I have had meetings with many Housing Ministers over the years and a huge amount of work is going on behind the scenes to address the current situation. I continue working with Wealden District Council and the Department of Housing and last month I led a parliamentary debate to raise the matter with the Minister.

I stressed that the current numbers for Wealden are absurdly high, they are based on outdated population projections, ignore the environmental constraints on the area and are not accompanied by any meaningful delivery of infrastructure such as road and rail upgrades, nor adequate provision of health and dental care, sewage and broadband.

It is unfair that Wealden has to shoulder local needs elsewhere in East Sussex because neighbouring authorities are not delivering their fair share. I urged the Minister to review why, considering that Wealden Council builds more homes than its neighbouring councils, we are not being prioritised for any Government funding to support the delivery of adequate infrastructure.

I am pleased that the Minister has committed to continuing working with me and Wealden Council and confirmed that calls for making housing targets advisory, not mandatory were being "heard loud and clear" by the Department.

Please remember that social media posts and emails to your MP do not count as objections in a formal Council consultation and that I have no jurisdiction over individual planning applications or what local Councillors approve or dismiss on local planning.

But please be assured that I am supporting Wealden District Council where I can, to address the unfair housing numbers currently imposed on Wealden by the Government and I will continue to support the Council on this matter and in producing a local plan.

» Situation in Ukraine

The situation in Ukraine is deeply concerning and I join Wealden residents in being utterly appalled by the actions of Putin's regime and horrified by what is unfolding in Europe.

I have been inundated with correspondence offering support for the people of Ukraine and I would like to thank all those who have offered support so far. I am proud to represent a constituency where local residents want to help as much as they can. Thank you.

The Government has now launched its humanitarian sponsorship scheme which enables people to support refugees coming into various parts of Britain. There is no limit to how many Ukrainians can benefit; applicants can live, work and use public services in the UK for up to 3 years; there is £350 monthly payment to hosts; and you need to name the refugee you will sponsor when applying.

Please note that my office cannot arrange this for you. The only way to offer support is through the following website: homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk.

I will do my best to help too, and I will continue to work with the Government

and Wealden Council to do all we can.

As well as being your MP, I also represent the UK as a Member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. I attended the emergency meeting at NATO HQ last month and was steadfast in our support for Ukraine and collective sanctions on Putin and his oligarchs.

For more information, please visit my website: www.nusghani.org.uk/campaigns.

—Nusrat Ghani

Frant Parish Friendship Group

Our February meeting was the first for this year and was well attended members keen to get back to normal. Our speaker was our own local historian Pat Wright and she gave a very informative and amusing talk on the beautiful early and late medieval illuminated manuscripts. In March our speaker was unable to attend so instead we had a DVD on life in Britain in the late 40s and early 50s which brought back memories for a lot of us and made us realise how much has changed! These slide presentations were much improved by the newly installed blinds making the projections much clearer. Our speaker for April will be Jane Ramsey on "The Duchess of Windsor's jewels". We are extending our meetings into May this year due to the cancellation of the January meeting. Our speaker for this month will be Jan Chojcecki grandson of the Rowetts who owned Ely Grange and their connection with the Shackleton expeditions.

In June we have the Jubilee celebrations in Frant on Friday 3rd June to look forward to. Also in June we are arranging an outing to Battle Abbey and town, this will be on Thursday 16th June. This outing has been made possible by the very generous grant we have received from the Wealden Community Grant Scheme.

We have all been shocked by the tragic events unfolding in Ukraine and the Friendship Group will be donating monies from raffles to a central relief fund.

Members are reminded that we now have an annual subscription of £3.00 plus the normal £3.00 per meeting. The annual subscription can be paid at the meetings or directly to Jenny Buchanan 01892 750791.

Enquiries Valerie Palmer 01892 750559



Parish Pets #1: Janet

My father Trevor Scales lived in the village for 20 years and was a well known character, often seen with a broom or paint brush in hand, he sadly passed away in November 2019. My son Tyler and his partner decided to get a French Bulldog puppy and named him Trevor in dad's memory.

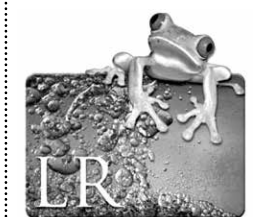
Having moved to the village and working from home during the pandemic we decided that it was time for us to have another dog as ours had passed away a few years earlier, so along came Janet our beautiful English Bulldog (above).

We named her Janet after my mother who lives in Spain. My parents, Janet and Trevor, had been divorced some 40 years but were still remembered as a renowned couple with many a story still shared of their antics over the years.

Janet and Trevor can be seen regularly walking in the Frant Countryside, or more commonly found in The George Public House. If you see Janet please come and say hello as she loves contact with humans as much as her four legged friends. —Justin Scales

» Like your pet featured in Parish News.? If so, send a description and photo to: carmel.kinley@gmail.com

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**Parish Diary:
May/June 2022**

» **Thursday 2 June**
Remi Harris & Tom Moore; Frant Church, 8pm

» **3rd, 4th & 5th June**
Jubilee Celebrations
Frant, Bells Yew Green & Eridge
See pages 8-9

» **Thursday 16th June**
Frant Parish Friendship Group
Outing to Battle Abbey. See page 13

Regular Meetings

Little Fishes: Baby & Toddler Group
Every Tuesday 10—11.30am in The Stables, Frant. A warm welcome to all.
Encounter (School Years 6–13)
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.
Festival Church Kids During 5pm outside service.

Parish News can be downloaded from: www.frantchurch.org or www.eridgechurch.org
Advertising enquiries: 750285 or susan.piccioni@btinternet.com
Contributions for our next issue should be sent to the Editor: carmel.kinley@gmail.com or 01892 750217
Next deadline: 10th June 2022

Useful contacts

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9-12am Mon/Wed/Fri; 01892 752261
office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk
Frant Church Youth and Kids
Ed Pascoe: frant youth@gmail.com
Frant Bowls Club
Barry Dean: 661386; barryglens68@hotmail.com
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Frant Memorial Hall
Sharon Warwick: 750185

Eridge

Eridge Garden Club
Jean Howells: 864310
Eridge Cricket Club
Luke Forbes: 670073
Eridge Village Hall Hire
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Eridge Choir
Tracy Bryant

Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel
Peter Arrowsmith: 01892 610309
BYG Cricket Club
Andy Brooks: 07876 011782
Short Mat Bowls Club
Pam Mepham: 891426
Bells Yew Green Village Hall
Anna Lee-Davey: 07841 016558; annan83@yahoo.co.uk
Friends of Bells Yew Green
07944 712000

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Bob Standley: 783579 cllr.robert.standley@wealden.gov.uk
County Councillor
Johanna Howell: 750141
johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk
Bob Standley: 783579

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/

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