

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Jubilate: Frant High Street celebrates the Queen's Platinum milestone of 70 years. Photo by Michael Freestone

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From the Rectory



Well, the last month has been a real up and down month. The jubilee was fantastic, with an amazing jubilee jazz concert, brilliant street party, fun activities, sharing food, and community turning out strong for the celebrations in our villages – a real boost after the years of covid we have all endured.

However, a week after the highs of jubilee, we came down to the lows with our lead roof being stolen off Frant Church. They took it the night of Sunday 12th June, and took the valuable lead, and did considerable damage to the stonework. Had they not damaged the stonework we may not have noticed till the water came in, ruining the whole south side of the church. They took or damaged over 100m2 of roof and would have weighed maybe 8-10 tons according to the lead worker we saw. Thankfully we had the roof temporarily covered in time for the rain and further damage was avoided for now, and we now have an alarm and cameras installed. We need to fix it quickly though as it is only a bit of plastic keeping the weather out.

We weren't the only ones targeted, Chiddingstone Church just 10 miles away had their lead stolen the week before us.

Jesus said, "love your enemy" and "pray for those who persecute you." Jesus practiced what he preached so much that when they put him on the cross to die, he said "Father forgive them." We at church have felt this challenge of Jesus this past month in praying for justice, yes, but also that the thieves might come to repentance and seek forgiveness from God and others.

What makes it a complete disaster is that the

standard insurance that our church has will not cover the costs due to the increased cost of lead, the damage, and the sheer amount of it taken. This may well cost the church in the tens of thousands, money which we cannot afford.

Someone said to me they thought the Church of England would pay for this. Sadly not. In fact, the reality is our churches were built by locals, and cared and maintained by locals ever since. Our church is here because local people in our villages over the centuries enabled it to be here.

So if you would like to support the heritage and maintenance of our Church Building at Frant, please do consider giving to our Friends of Frant Church Fund. This money is earmarked by the Church Council to for ongoing building and maintenance costs, but right now can help fund the replacement of the roof. Without help the building will be in real danger as we must fix the roof before winter.

You can give physically at the Church Office (Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-midday), by cash or Cheques made payable to "Frant with Eridge PCC" (make sure to fill out gift aid form if you pay tax so we can claim the tax back also). Or give online at www.FrantChurch.org and hit the appeal button where you can give one off or regularly to help maintain our beautiful church building for the future.

You can also support us by coming to our regular concerts which we put on which also helps continue to fund our church costs, we have two fantastic concerts we are lining up this autumn which we are really excited about - details to come!

— Reverend Brendan Martin

News From The Pews

Following a quiet Spring, the first months of summer were busy. At the beginning of May we celebrated what is an important time for rural parishes, and in the church calendar is known as 'Rogation', when we ask for God's blessing on the sowing of the crops. This year the open air service was held at Blackdon Farm Vineyard, Eridge, by kind invitation of Susanna and Douglas Jacobsohn. It was a great time of all age worship followed by picnics and fun, which included archery competitions. A good number including 25 children attended.

We had a generous response to an urgent appeal for help for the people of Ukraine. We collected, food, toiletries and daily necessities, plus some requested items of clothing. Our contributions were taken by the charity 'Hope and Aid Direct', in lorries driven by volunteers to locations close to the Ukraine borders. There was also a substantial sum raised to assist Ukranian families coming to live in the Parish.

At half term, 31 different children attended the 3 days of the Holiday Club for 7-13 year olds 'Out in the Wild', (the 'wild' being the Rectory paddock). The children joined in with archery, Forest School skills, campfire cooking, sumo suits (don't ask me!) baking, rocket building and team games. Youth worker, Ed, said "although there were a few scary moments with the weather forecast, God looked after us and kept us more or less dry, that is apart from the water games". Each activity was introduced with a passage from the bible, so that the children would see how the bible is relevant today in everything we do. Ed was hugely grateful to all the volunteer helpers without whom the Holiday Club couldn't have happened. Thank you all.

The wedding season began in St Albans when Erin Young and Nicholas



Leonard were married in May, and Rose Stevens and Thomas Lawson in June, with 4 more weddings to come later in the summer. Welcoming couples with their families and friends into our church is a very happy and special part of village life which always lifts the spirits.

Our Jubilee celebrations started on 2nd June with a concert in church, the first since January 2020. Jazz concerts always attract a good and responsive audience, so we were very happy to welcome Jazz musicians Remi Harris and Tom Moore who gave us a very enjoyable and successful evening. After the concert we joined with others nationwide in lighting our own beacon on the top of the tower at a little after 10pm. The next day, as part of the celebrations, it was lovely to hear our bells ring out at 12 o'clock. There was also an excellent exhibition in the Stables of pictures of village life and events covering many years. From the comments and smiles, it was obvious that people do enjoy this kind of happy nostalgia, seeing and remembering so many faces and occasions from the past, children who now have their own families, and young people who are now our 'senior citizens'. It was really gratifying that so many people expressed their appreciation for the hours of work put in by Peter Payne in preparing and staging the exhibition. Thank you Peter.

On a sad note, a stalwart of our church family, Peter Mason, died in May aged

92. He was an active member of our congregation for well over 30 years, serving on the PCC, reading lessons and leading prayers on Sundays and also assisting at concerts. Peter was a career soldier who rose to the rank of Major, serving in this country and abroad including some time in Korea. After the death of his first wife, Margaret, He married Jean to whom he was married for 14 years until his death. Jean said that being part of our Church community was such an important part of Peter's life, he really loved Frant church.



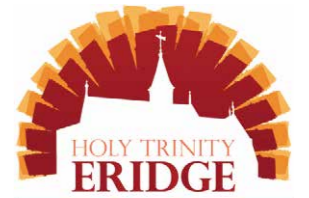
St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

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



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Churchwardens
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Services for

July / August 2022

9.30am	As one (All Age Service)	3rd July	Communion Service	11.15am
9.30am	Communion Service	10th July	Morning Prayer	11:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
9.30am	Morning Service	17th July	Communion Service	11:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
9.30am	Morning Service	24th July	Communion Service	11:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
9.30am	Communion Service	31st July	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9.30am	As One (All Age Service)	7th August	Communion Service	11:15am
9.30am	Communion Service	14th August	Morning Prayer	11:15am
9.30am	Morning Service	21st August	Communion Service	11.15am
9.30am	Morning Service	28th August	Communion Service	11.15am

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Nus Ghani MP

I hope that you have been enjoying the sunshine, as we slowly step into the summer. Before Parliament rises for the summer recess later this month, please allow me to share with you some of the highlights of the past couple of months.

I am incredibly proud to have secured government funding for building upgrades for three Wealden schools: Beacon Academy in Crowborough, Hailsham Community College and St Mary's School in Maynard's Green. This is in addition to the £1.3 million already secured for Beacon Academy last year. A fantastic win for Wealden!

Another great success was the opening of the newly refurbished Eridge train station after the completion of multi-million-pound step free upgrades. I welcomed the rail minister to Wealden in February for the official opening, and I am pleased that similar upgrades are set to be completed at Crowborough train station in September.

I was also pleased that following my continuous representations to the Trust, the Minor Injuries Unit and the Birthing Unit in Crowborough reopened in the spring. They are fantastic facilities and key services for the local communities, and I vow to keep fighting for them should any further closure proposals resurface again.

Since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, my team and I have continued to put many hours into chasing visa applications with the Home Office to help ensure that families arrive safely to Wealden as soon as possible. I am incredibly proud that Wealden is leading the way in providing support in East Sussex and hosting the most families in any district in the county.

I recently visited the Ukrainian Support Hub in Mayfield to welcome some of the Ukrainian families arriving to Wealden and to thank key individuals who have been coordinating local support. I took this opportunity to present two Mayfield volunteers with a special Platinum Jubilee Wealden Hero Award to thank them for their extraordinary work, and ensure their huge contribution is recognised.

For over a year, I have been dealing with the impact of sanctions from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Following my calls for tougher sanctions for Putin's oligarchs and the establishment of a special tribunal, I was also sanctioned

by Russia in April. It is rare to be double sanctioned, and I am the only female MP to be sanctioned by two countries. However, I will not be intimidated and continue to speak up against the horrors that Russia and the CCP are committing.

Frant Film

We have already sent an email to each of the members of our village film club, Frant Film, or, "The Screen on the Green". But we thought it prudent to reiterate in Parish News in case we had missed anyone.

So the news is that we have decided, after a great deal of thought, that we just don't have the time, energy or will to run Frant Film. We have been on the committee since day one and so feel that we have done our bit, in fact, for 11 years. Like everyone we are not getting any younger, in fact, older.

However, the other four members of the committee are willing to stay on, but like us, not able to oversee the club. All we need is for a villager to step forward to do this and it will continue. So do we have any volunteers?

But let's look back at what has been achieved. We have screened 84 films, with never a breakdown, maybe a few small hitches. Each seasons profit has gone to the Memorial Hall, over £16,000 (in fact £16,047.41).

We have seen a wide range of films, some with subtitles, some with no sound but for the tinkling of goat's bells (Le Quattro Volte). I could list them all, but I won't! But the best received, maybe: The Blue Lamp, Fisherman's Friends, Belle Epoque, Sunshine on Leith, Some Like it Hot... Possibly my best memory. Receiving a telephone call on a Saturday morning with a lady complaining that someone was having sex in a tree. I thought that I had entered a parallel universe until I realised that she was talking about the previous evening's film. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend so was somewhat confused.

A great deal of fun to be had watching the films and even more on the committee. And also, in parting, thanks to all the other committee members, the volunteers who ran the bar, stacked the chairs and generally helped. Too many to name. So please, someone, keep it going. It is a fantastic social event for the community, especially on cold and wet Friday evenings in the winter.

greigban@gmail.com; 01892 750322

Frant Jubilee Exhibition

Thank you to all those who gave me photos and articles for the 70 years Frant exhibition. The Stables looked wonderful with all 30 A1 sheets lining the walls covering such diverse things as the schools, the Clubs, the Royal Celebrations and Famous People living or that came to the village.

Having lived in this wonderful village for 40 years and married to Wendy whose family have lived here since 1927 I still have learnt a lot about what has occurred in the last 70 years

Thanks especially to Helen Carpenter, Pat Wright and Roger Bassett.

Also thanks to all those who came to the exhibition.

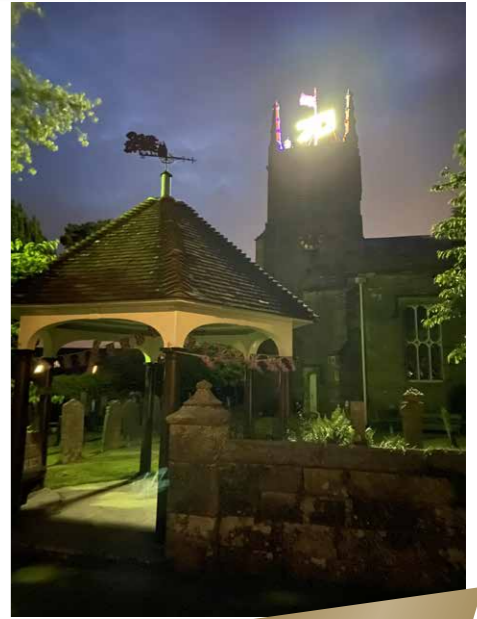
—Peter Payne.

Frant Bowls Open Day

Frant Bowls Club 'Open Day' Friday 3 June 2022. With the Frant village celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in full swing, Frant Bowls Club had an Open Day. The objective was to offer all visitors an opportunity to try their hand at the quintessentially English game of lawn bowls and for some to join the club. On the previous day it was a 'three line whip' for all members to come to the club to help prepare for the great day. About 200m of bunting was placed around the green, the grass was mown and the club house and the surrounds were made neat and tidy. The club gate was opened at 10.00am and it was a delightful scene from then onwards with members bowling on all rinks to demonstrate the finer points of the game. Visitors, adults and children, came throughout the day and had a go at bowling towards the white ball, the jack, at the other end of the rink. Some showed surprise at the weight of the bowls and others were mystified by the bias. Others demonstrated a high degree of accuracy and hit the jack several times. The weather was kind on Friday with a slight breeze and warm sunshine. The bowls green with its age-old characteristics of bumps and ridges showed that bowls is a very enjoyable, outdoor strategic game. Some visitors were surprised to learn that the club plays friendly matches against local clubs in Sussex and Kent. After a very successful day, with plenty of interested visitors, the club hopes that some of the visitors to the Open Day will join a very social club.

Jubilee Celebrations Across the Parish

I am certain that anybody who attended the Jubilee celebrations across the Parish in June will agree it was a wonderful weekend. So much effort was put in by teams of volunteers to mark this occasion in an appropriate, and superb, way. Thank you to all of you who have sent in photographs for the magazine. Enjoy the montage of memories below from each of our villages:



Bells Yew Green

Frant



Celebrations from the Eridge Jubilee Sunday lunch are captured below. All guests (around 150) were welcomed with Pimms (squash for our younger guests) followed by a lovely home cooked lunch of coronation chicken, rice salad, green salad and bread rolls. We were then treated to the family games of egg and spoon races, throw the welly and dress up and race. After this came the amazing cakes and scones, all baked locally, and then the Eridge choir led the singalong which culminated in the National Anthem and a toast to our Queen. It was a wonderful party!

Eridge



Parish Council News

The Parish Council is very grateful for all those who contributed to making the Jubilee celebrations such a success throughout the Parish. Too many heroes amongst you all to single out any particular person although 'Percy' the pony probably merits a special mention!

Planning issues are becoming quite a feature and they are not as simple as may first appear. We are only a statutory 'consultee' so our views have to be sought and listened to but we don't actually make the decisions and some of it is very technical so probably wise that we don't. We try to bring a broader view to the issue and focus on the potential impact of the proposed development on our houses and villages and our struggling infrastructure.

We do pay particular attention to our conservation and AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) status and aim to protect that at all costs.

Maintaining our unique East Sussex heritage and all that that stands for is very important to all of us.

We are still pursuing the proposed pedestrian crossing in Frant and await with interest our request for joint funding of the project from East Sussex County Council. We are told that a decision will be forthcoming in the Autumn but at an estimated cost of £250,000 I imagine it will be causing some head scratching amongst the great and the good! Talking of head scratching we currently have one of our own. The proposed village sign for Frant. Sounds simple doesn't it but it isn't! As already mentioned above putting a sign in an AONB that will potentially last 100s of years needs careful and considered though not only its location but also its design. We are moving forward with all these and aim (no promises!) to have the sign in position by the end of this year.

Dog Show on the Cricket Pitch

It easy to forget but the cricket pitch has been a presence on our village green for 150 years as of next summer. Enough in itself to celebrate (and we will!). Recent winters have proved a little too much for the slate roof that forms part of its pavillion. Repairs are running into the thousands and need to be carried out before too much damage is done.

So the players of Frant Cricket Club, along with our flagship sponsors - Savills Estate Agency from Tunbridge



Who let the dogs out?:

Greg Lawson & Albi, 1st in Best Dog category (above, left); Ian Jones and Lee, 1st in Celebrations of Recue Dogs category (above, right); Morgan Bailey with Larry, 2nd in Celebrations of Resuce Dogs category (below).

Wells, decided to host a dog show on the Queens Jubilee and kickstarted a weekend of festivities in the Village. And the sun shone down on us! We saw the very best canine breeds from across our parish come together to celebrate what we love about them the most - their individuality.

There were some winners (Greg Lawson & Albi - Best Dog) and there were some heart wrenching stories from the Rescue Dog section (Lee the Cocker-spaniel rescued from a cupboard and Lilly from the motorway) but what was best of all was we were able to come together for a good fund-raising cause and show our community in its best light after some tough years locked-down.

Above all expectations, we had 72 amazing dogs enter, which gave the panel of expert judges the impossible job of trying to pick some pooches, puppies and mutts that stood out. This proved to be the hardest job of all.

Finally, the cricket club and its players would like to thank everyone who came, entered, donated and spectators for their support as we try to maintain the pavillion in the manner to which we are all accustomed. Next time you sit on that boundry bench, smelling cut grass and watching mediocre cricket players performing at the highest levels of ineptitude, be grateful for this little slice of Englishness that is on our doorstep.



Frant School News

We have had a wonderful few months since I last wrote to you which culminated in a Jubilee celebration on the last day of term 5. All the children created a piece of pottery to take home in red, white and blue colours as well as baking scones and enjoying a Jubilee picnic in the school grounds. During the final week of term learning was centred about the Queen's 70 years. When our parents joined us on the Friday, they were able to enjoy the displays of all the art, music, history, and culture of the Commonwealth over these 7 decades. The children performed the National Anthem, our School Song and a Jubilee song to a packed audience. It was truly a memorable week.

Here are a few of our other highlights and upcoming events:

PE – our children have continued to represent the school magnificently in a range of sports at events around the County. Although we have high levels of sporting success, it is very much the sportsmanship, the skill development and the importance of keeping healthy that runs through our provision. This term we have been taking part in our own Commonwealth Games with Mrs Douch ensuring our inclusive approach continues to shine. Uplands spent a day teaching all pupils using their Sports leaders as a thank you for our commitment this year to sporting events with our local schools. As a school we are working towards our National Platinum Sports Mark status this year where achieving this will recognise the PE we offer for all at Frant.

We are in the process of transition for our year 6 to our secondary schools and welcoming our new children into reception in September. It is a busy yet exciting time for them.

At the end of this term our Oak class children will be performing High School Musical to the school and parents supported by our Hazel class children who are joining in with the songs. It is sounding good!

We had hoped to hold a Parish Lunch a few weeks ago but were not able to give a great deal of notice to our parishioners so this did not take place. Please do look out for new dates in the autumn terms.

A maths day will be held across the school before the end of this term run by an external maths teacher who brings



this subject to life via series of problem solving activities, in an Escape Room style!

With just a few weeks left until the summer we still have a number of activities planned including a Lower



School trip to Drusillas Zoo as well as KS2 leavers events including the waterfight and gunging!

We are holding Open Days on Thursday 7th July and Wednesday 13th July for prospective new parents for our 23/24 intake.

We will be saying goodbye to a few staff at the end of this term and would like to take this opportunity to wish them well. Mrs Elliott will be taking up a headship in Kent, Miss Marshall will be finishing her contract with us as she starts the teacher journey as a newly qualified teacher and Mrs Lawrence will be leaving us as Executive Headteacher for pastures new. We welcome Mrs Snelling as our new permanent year 3 / 4 teacher having recently qualified.

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

Frant Parish Friendship Group

Our speaker for the April meeting was Jane Ramsay and the subject 'The Duchess of Windsor's Jewels'. This was a fascinating glimpse on how the other half live with many of the jewels fetching incredible sums when they were sold after the Duchess's death. Even more amazing was the skill and craftsmanship of the jewellers in creating such beautiful and intricate pieces.

In May our speaker was Jan Chojecki grandson of John Quiller Rowett who owned Ely Grange and much of the surrounding farmland in the early part of the last century. He was an entrepreneur and philanthropist endowing various institutes and a good friend to Frant village, donating various carved items to Frant Church. He was friends with Ernest Shackleton and a chief sponsor of his last and ill fated expedition to the Antarctic. Jan's collection of family photos contained many memories of a bygone Frant and was especially poignant for Helen Carpenter whose parents worked for the Rowetts. At the end of the talk Helen presented Jan with a beautiful cream jug which had come from the Dairy at Ely Grange Farm where Helen's mother worked before she was married.

The Jubilee in Frant was a great success and our stall on the Green was



well visited. The Knit and Natter Group's display of their various items knitted for charity was especially admired and several donations towards funds were gratefully received.

After a summer break we will be starting back in September with our monthly meeting on Thursday 22nd 2.30 in the Stables and our exercise classes will be starting on Thursday 15th September. Look forward to seeing everyone then. Enquiries Valerie Palmer 01892 750559.

Parish Past

The Crest and Gun at Eridge was originally known just as "The Gun" for the excellent reason that a large cannon rested near the entry on what was then part of the village Green. What remains of this Green is now inside the Park gates after increasing use of what had been track cut off the section now in front of the pub. This gun was a pre blast furnace mortar weighing around a ton and a half, a fairly impractical weapon when, in the 16th century, roads were often impassable even for light traffic which may explain why it was never sold. The muzzle-loading barrel of such an early type was made from individual wrought iron bars simply compressed together by hot forged metal collars; only the powder chamber was wrought iron. The locals however long enjoyed it, possibly for more than 200 years: on holidays they collected money for enough gunpowder to fire a (hand-made) stone ball weighing around 180lb (70/90 kilo) into the park. An 18th century visitor wrote " ... where on landing the weight of the shell sinks it so deeply it costs great pains to dig it out ... but this is repeated to great joy as long as money for powder lasts." Once the Nevills returned to live

permanently in Eridge they naturally disliked such missiles flying past their windows and around 1780 the gun was removed, initially to Oxford but then to Bloxford Hall in Suffolk. In the 1960's it went to the Tower of London where it is described as the oldest English gun to survive. Until the Nevill crest was added to the pub sign sometime in the 19th century, the picture on it was said accurately to represent this gun.

If we briefly move forward to the 1930's, Eridge's great fun day then was its annual Steeplechase Meet. This was held every April at Steelbridge Farm (on fields roughly opposite Sham and sloping north to the main road) when the United Hunts Chase was keenly competed, followed by novices, farmers, then other fun races. Bets were placed, sideshows staged, picnics enjoyed and families gathered from across the county. The course was punishingly steep and littered with obstacles, so the occasion was not revived after the war but transferred to Heathfield.

—Pat Wright



Above: 1938, (from page 27 of "Inns and Sports" by J. Wentworth Day). The Eridge Estate's Head Gamekeeper, Charles Chandler, enjoying a pint with his assistant, Tom Wansborne.



Parish Pets #2: Remus

My early walks always seemed to end up in this strange place where we spent quite a lot of time. I soon got to know the locals and was able to invite friends. I had to bring him along of course as who else would buy the drinks?

Where would Bells Yew Green be without the Brecknock? As importantly where would the Brecknock be without us 4 legged customers?

The 2 legged ones help of course but only when they behave and provide biscuits! The Brecknock is always good for biscuits and great company. A home from home!.

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

The "Parish News" is published by the Church and distributed free by volunteers. The publisher acknowledges the support of the Parish Council. Any views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily shared by the Publisher. The "Parish News" reserves the right to edit submissions as it sees fit. Publisher: Brendan Martin. Editor: Carmel Kinley. Design: Jonathan Christie. Advertising: Susan Piccioni.



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**Parish Diary:
July/August 2022**

» **July 11**
Frant Garden Club visit to Loseley Park and gardens

» **Fund raising events**
Plans are afoot to hold a quiz night in September to raise funds towards the replacement lead on the church roof. More information to come on that later. Please get in touch if you have any other ideas to raise money.
Email: carmel.kinley@gmail.com

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.

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Frant Bowls Club
Barry Dean: 661386; barryglenys68@hotmail.com
Frant Cricket Club
David Pearson: 750789
Frant Garden Club
Dianna Tennant: 752029
Frant Panto & Drama Society
Naomi Berwick; 07599 162222; frantpanto@gmail.com
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 Memorial Hall
Sharon Warwick: 750185

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
Tracy Bryant

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

Council contacts

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Eridge Ward
Andrew Best: 5279319
Clerk to the Council
Rosie Barnes: 653357; clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk; www.frant-pc.gov.uk
Wealden District Councillor
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Keith Obbard: 07941 578427 cllr.keith.obbard@wealden.gov.uk
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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