

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



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From the Rectory



As we come to the end of this year, I was looking back on our hopes for this year. One of the things I shared in the Parish News Jan/Feb edition was how 2022 was for our church going to be our “Year of Creation” so I wanted to start by sharing with you how that went.

Over the year we got together a great team of people to help us think and pray about how we as churches could not only use our buildings and land in a more sustainable way and contribute positively to our world. We encouraged personal steps towards greater awareness and care for creation. We looked to how we can ongoingly work to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. We made plans for our churchyard and land so that we can encourage nature to thrive.

As part of this we applied for an award for our efforts from a group called eco church (an A Rocha UK charity). I am super pleased to share with you that they have reviewed the progress we have made and given us a Silver Award. This has been a fantastic year, with much thanks to all who helped in so many ways towards that.

Like many people I have been enjoying Frozen Planet II, and each week after some of the most incredible shots of living creatures, it always finished with (and I paraphrase) “the ice is melting,

and the animals are dying.” This is an important reason to care about the planet, yet as Christians our reasons go deeper.

Psalms 19 says: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” If that is true that creation leads us to know and worship our creator God, that means we ought to care for it. This is part of our vision as a church, to love God, love each other, and love creation.

It is great that we can come together as a community towards making a positive difference for our world, but also our own Parish, particularly in these changing and unsettled times.

One of the things we have been thinking about as a Church and Frant School is whether we could build a Preschool as part of Frant CE Primary School. Many people missed the nursery school that was in Frant village for so many years. We hope a preschool will improve young children’s lives and education, be good for the school as it ensures a more seamless transition for those children going onto primary education, and good for local families who no longer will have to travel to other places for their childcare.

I look forward to seeing lots of you over the Christmas celebrations.

— Reverend Brendan Martin

News from the Pews

It has been a busy and eventful two months. The awful business of replacing lead stolen from the church roof in June drags on. The good news is that thanks to a very enjoyable and successful fund raising evening at the home of George and Oenone Warr, and to the generous response to our appeal for funds, by the middle of September enough money had been raised to begin the work. The bad news is that the heavy duty plastic sheeting which was protecting the roof until the work could begin wasn't totally effective against the heavy rain and we suffered a considerable ingress of water causing damage to the ceiling which fortunately didn't come down, but in spite of large containers to catch the water, the wooden floor in the south aisle came up and is now very uneven and unsafe, one more thing to be put right. Hopefully proceeds from the two concerts later this month and in November will make up the present shortfall to allow the work to be completed and the alarms fitted.

The sad occasion of the death of our Queen, was marked by a special service which was very well attended, by a book of remembrance for people to sign in the church and by the bells being rung fully muffled for the first time in 70 years. Our thanks to the two gentlemen, Fred Finn and Michael Freestone, who had the tricky job of fitting the muffles, taking them off again for the 'open' ringing to celebrate the proclamation of the King, and then putting them back on again for the rest of the period of national mourning. Although it was a very sad time, it was good to feel that we were joining with churches nationwide, united in saying our farewells and marking an historic occasion.

We celebrated Harvest Festival in the traditional way with the church decorated with seasonal fruit, flowers and gifts of food brought by the School children to their service and by the congregations. This year food was given to the Women's Refuge and the local Food Bank 'Nourish'. The gifts of money received were given to Family Support Work, a charity which helps families in the Diocese who are in need of help, physical or pastoral.

In August we learned of the death at 102 of Peggy Rooke who many will remember from when she lived with her sister, Barbara Greenwood at 'Melling'



on the Green. Like many of the people who we only remember as elderly and frail, Peggy had a long and interesting life. She was born in Liverpool in 1920, and trained as a teacher, completing her teacher training at Cheltenham Ladies College, an achievement of which she was very proud. She eventually became head mistress at a primary school in Liverpool. She married her husband, Bill during the war and had two children, John and Elizabeth, both of whom sadly pre deceased her. After Bill died in the 1990s, Peggy came to live with Barbara in Frant, where their uncle had in the past been headmaster of the village school. She was well travelled, having visited the USA, Egypt, Canada and many places in Europe. She had a strong Christian faith, loved St Albans Church and enjoyed being part of village life. She'll be remembered in Frant for her warm hospitality, she loved entertaining friends always with tea and home made cakes. She joined the seniors exercise club which was held weekly in the village hall and which she spoke of with enthusiasm. Peggy was mobile and active well into her 90s but eventually both she and Barbara had to

move to a residential home on the coast when she was no longer able to care for herself and Barbara who suffered from dementia. Peggy's grand daughter, Jane, described her as 'an intelligent, kind and empathetic woman who we will all miss dearly'.

Since the last edition of Parish News we have had 3 baptisms, the blessing of a marriage and a wedding. On 3rd September George and Cameron Aitchison were baptised and welcomed into our church family as part of the service of blessing for the marriage of Laura and Richard. On the 4th of September George Melville came with a large group of his family and friends to our church to celebrate his baptism. On 10th September, Olivia Bobbett and Chris Cheater were married. Like most couples who get married at St Albans, Olivia and Chris were looking forward to hearing the bells to celebrate the happy occasion, but sadly as it was during the period of national mourning that couldn't be. It has been good this year, to be able once again to welcome families into our church and seeing them celebrate together important and memorable family occasions.

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

November / December 2022

9.30am	Frant as One (All Age Service)	6th November	Communion Service	11.15am
10:30am	Remembrance Sunday	13th November	Remembrance Sunday	10:30am
3.00pm	Remembrance Service at Frant Memorial Hall			
4.00pm	Festival Church			
9:30am	Morning Service	20th November	Communion Service	11:15am
4.00pm	Festival Church			
9:30am	Morning Service	27th November	Communion Service	11:15am
4.00pm	Festival Church			
9:30am	As one (All Age Service)	4th December	Communion Service	11:15am
4.00pm	Walking Nativity with Christingle			
9:30am	Communion Service	11th December	Morning Prayer	11:15am
6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight			
9.30am	Morning Service	18th December	Nine Lessons and Carols	6.30pm
4.00pm	Crib Service (All Age Service)	24th December		
9.00pm	Midnight Bethlehem Time Communion (till 10pm)	Christmas Eve		
9.30am	Frant as One at Christmas with Communion	25th December Christmas Day	Christmas Celebration with Communion	11.15am
10:30am	Joint Communion Service	1st January 2023		

Please note:

From January 2023 our morning church services will be at new times, with Eridge Church at 9:15am and Frant Church at 10:30.

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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Christmas lunch in the Stables
 » 23 December at 1pm
 ALL WELCOME



A few years ago, we held a Christmas lunch with all of the trimmings in The Stables. It was an invitation for families or individuals to come along and enjoy a delicious meal and good company for an afternoon.

We have decided to do it again this year on Friday 23 December at 1.00pm. We are very mindful of the difficulties many are facing with the huge rise in the cost of living and, to this end, have decided to make this free for all with the option to make a voluntary donation if you are able to. We will need to take bookings, however, for catering purposes.

Please email the church office at office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk or call 01892 752261 if you would like to book a place stating how many adults/children and any dietary requirements. Look forward to seeing you then!

–Carmel Kinley/Sarah Davies

Frant Memorial Hall

Frant Memorial Hall (FMH) was officially opened by Lady Henry Nevill on 15th December 1920, pictured below during 1927 the Hall has been significantly extended since. The Hall committee has worked hard to improve the Hall with recent upgrades include redecorating, and an improved energy efficient lighting system, carried out during the lockdowns. With

sustainability at the forefront of our plans we have also arranged for the side windows in both halls to be replaced with double glazed units, we hope this will take place during January.

We are pleased to say that occupancy rates have almost returned to pre-pandemic levels. FMH remains at the heart of the community and hosts 50-60 user groups on a typical month with groups as diverse as Baby Sensory and Toddler Sense to Art and Drama to Badminton and Yoga. If you wish to attend any of these classes or set up a class of your own, please check out the Hall website, Frantvillagehall.co.uk.

FMH was built in the shadow of the First World War with the remit to be a "place of social intercourse, mutual helpfulness, mental and moral improvement and reasonable recreation". This remit continues today with the Hall hosting events for most important occasions, none more so than the recent Golden Jubilee celebrations. With a spectacular vintage car display, including old petrol pumps to boot, a fantastic array of cakes to go with tea and coffee, a brilliant Tombola and plant sale, the Hall put on quite a show. With all funds raised (£1145.40) going to the 'Hospice in the Weald' the social remit was also fulfilled. The volunteers deserve a big thank you for all their efforts.

The Hall is run by a committee of volunteers with jobs allocated to people with an appropriate interest or expertise. We are actively looking for additional committee members to help drive the

Hall forward and remain an integral part of Frant Parish. If you can find time to help in this capacity or are interested in finding out more, please do not hesitate to call me, Phil, on 07749052281 or email pscs2004@yahoo.com

Remembrance Sunday

» At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

Sunday 13th November, 10:30am Service of Remembrance at St Alban's, Frant. At Frant Memorial Hall at 3.00pm there will be a Village Commemoration for those who served in the two World Wars and in more recent times. It will be led by the Wadhurst Branch of the British Legion and Rev Brendan Martin. Everyone is welcome to the commemoration and afterwards to the Hall.

Can you help?

Autumn has arrived and the leaves have started to fall. Are you able to help with leaf clearing in St Alban's Churchyard? The leaves need to be raked into piles and left by the paths. Our Rector, Rev. Brendan, will then collect them in his trailer. We will meet every Saturday in November – 10.30am at the Lychgate, but you can come along to help at any time. Rakes will be left outside the shed which is at the bottom of the churchyard, adjacent to the Rectory garden. Any assistance you are able to give will be very much appreciated by the churchyard team. Thank you. Sue Vinciner: 01892 740180





Memories from Bells Yew Green

When I was three years of age, in 1908 my Mother and I went to live with my Grandfather in a tiny Village called Bells Yew Green, Frant, Sussex (pictured c.1910 above). I loved my Grandfather and he was kind and loving to me.

We had a shop in the Village which sold nearly everything, except meat and other special things we required, so every week, my Grandfather, attired in frock coat and tall silk top hat and carrying a large carpet bag took me by rail to Tunbridge Wells where we would visit the butchers, and get coffee from a shop where you could watch the beans being roasted and ground. The fare for the journey was one penny each way and nothing me. I remember the folks around were very indignant when one halfpenny was added to the fare.

By the time I was five I had made lots of friends, there was Joe the milkman in his float who would let me go on his float with him and I was allowed to hold the reins, with an occasional "Gee- Up" or "Whoa". Another old friend was old Mr Latter the cowman from the farm. I used to go with him to a field about half a mile away to fetch the cows back for milking, and many times when his rheumatism was bad I used to fetch the cows back on my own, they were no trouble, I just opened the gate and out they came with me following. I'm sure they knew their own way home. Mr Bassett the Blacksmith across the green was another friend. I spent a lot of time working the bellows to keep the fire going well, especially when he had horses to shoe.

My Grandfather had a handcart in which he would sit me and we would be

off to the wood where a man would make Trug baskets and fencing. We would be able to get a lot of wood chips for the fire. I would be perched on top and we would be off home again.

We lived in a fair sized house with a large garden where there were cooking and eating cherries, apples, blackcurrants, gooseberries, Victoria plums, green grapes which we made into wine and a very tall pear tree. In the greenhouse there were black grapes, lots of geraniums and a climbing plant called Plumbago. We had a large potato patch and I was a dab hand at that job, busy picking them up when they had been dug up.

When I was five and a half I had to go to Frant Village School, nearly two miles from home and I had to walk in all weathers. Children used to wear black leather lace-up boots with a Blakey fixed to the toe and heel to make the boots last longer on the rough stony roads. My Mother used to be cross with me when I managed to get a lift home on the back of the coal cart.

My Grandfather brewed his own beer in two large barrels but it was called hop tea. I always had a bottle of this with my jam sandwiches for my school dinner. When I was given a penny to spend at the village shop, I could buy a sugar pig and piglets, liquorice bootlaces, tiger nuts or locust beans or a bag of shiny topped buns still warm from the oven. My adventures were never ending and I was sad when we moved to a town in 1916, but I have never forgotten the happy years in the country. I think it is terrible that children nowadays haven't the freedom to wander off in safety as I did.

—Kathleen Easthill

Frant School News

We are about to finish term 1 and start our half-term break as I write this. As you will see from the photos below our House Captains have been busy planting trees behind the school as part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. They have just taken off their wellies and returned to class. Well done and thank you girls for representing the school so well.

This term we have welcomed new children to our school into our reception class but also across the school. They have all settled well with the support of our year 6 buddies who have been very supportive, kind and ambassadors for our school.

A few highlights from this term

- Our end-of-term celebration assembly this morning was very well attended. The children shared their learning this term and all spoke so confidently and with enthusiasm. Well done.
- Our sporting events have started with a boys and girls football tournament as well as success at the Cross Country and an inter-house football tournament that took place both in and outside school yesterday due to the weather.
- Our clubs continue to thrive in school with a range of activities on offer – football, pottery, archery, netball, gymnastics and dance to name a few.
- At the start of the term we assigned responsibilities and roles to our year 5 and 6 pupils who have shown already that they are keen and able to support their peers and look after our school.
- Our PTFA are gearing up for our annual bonfire on Saturday 5th November. Please do support this wonderful event as profits support our children here at school.
- Learning across the school this term has included the Ancient Greeks, The Egyptians, Transport, and All about Me.
- Harvest Festival took place in Church. Our families were very generous and hopefully enjoyed the sharing of learning from the children
- Throughout this term staff in school have run workshops to support parents with our reading and phonics.
- Forest School has continued to take place on a Friday afternoon on our school grounds. The children love this time outside around the fire.
- Open Days for prospective new parents

in school have been held with a further date in November

Next term is always very busy in schools. A few snippets of what is to come:

- Parent consultations face-to-face in school
- PTFA Bonfire behind the school on Saturday 5th November from 4pm
- Lower School Nativity in church on Friday 16th December at 2pm
- KS2 Carol Concert in church on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm
- PTFA events – Christmas cards, school disco, Christmas market...
- Ice skating for the whole school in Tunbridge Wells
- Christmas Lunch

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, Acting Executive Headteacher

Parish Council News

10 more Frant residents are now First Aid trained following an enjoyable half day course run by the British Red Cross in The Stables on Sept 24th.

The Parish Council has planted three

fruit trees in Frant as part of the Queen's Canopy initiative. Lord Abergavenny and Johanna Howell attended, along with the school head Joanna Challis and four school children.

Little Mount Farm in Benhall Mill Rd is being developed into a Retirement Village. The Parish Council have already expressed dismay at the number of mature oak trees felled along the development boundary which we have been told was carried out by sub-contractors in error. We have now in place a line of communication with the developers to prevent similar events, and to report any heavy vehicles using Benhall Mill Rd to the east of Moat Farm, trying to access the A21 via Dundale Rd, or HGVs ignoring the signage at Kippings Cross to access Dundale Rd.

A recent SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meeting with East Sussex Highways gave us a chance to highlight issues of concern. They included: accident black spots at either end of Bunny Lane junctions, resurfacing Bunny Lane, progressive damage and erosion along Dundale Rd due to HGVs, lack of forewarning on road closures, and regular gully clearance under Bells Yew Green rail bridge to pre-empt flooding.

Negotiations with East Sussex



Highways continue, to resolve how the new Puffin crossing by the new Sussex View development will be funded.

News from Nus Ghani, MP

This month, we come together to pay respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our freedoms and protecting our way of life. The period leading up to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday is always humbling and poignant as we commemorate the fallen and honour the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces, past and present.

Remembrance Day is also a national opportunity to recognise those who continue to serve our country at home and abroad today. British Armed Forces are the ultimate defenders of our security and freedom. They are respected the world over and we rely on them to keep us safe at home and abroad. Most recently, through a training programme of Ukrainian volunteer recruits, they have been instrumental in helping Ukraine to rebuild its forces and scale-up its resistance as they continue to defend their country's sovereignty against Putin's aggression.

I was also pleased to support the Remember Together campaign, which highlights and celebrates the service and sacrifice of diverse military communities. The armies that fought in WW2 were the largest multicultural force that has ever served together. They looked a lot like modern Britain, with people of every cultural background fighting for our future. Our history includes the sacrifices of millions of servicemen and women from India, Africa and the Caribbean, and it is important that their contribution is acknowledged and commemorated too.

Many of our towns and villages across Wealden have had a long connection to the military. Every year, I attend a memorial service alongside people of all ages and backgrounds from across communities from all parts of Wealden. It is always an honour to stand with local veterans and meet those who currently serve our country, and I will continue to campaign for the recognition, care, and post-service security that they deserve.

Please visit my website www.nusghani.org.uk for more information on my work. If you are a Wealden resident and require my assistance, please email me at nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk.



Frant Bowls Club

» Looking forward to 2023

Frant Bowls Club has just ended its 2022 season with an excellent victory over Deanland Wood's team which is situated near Golden Cross. We've also had quite a good year with significant wins and of course the occasional loss.

Frant's Bowls Club celebrated its centenary this year by having a match in July with a few of the clubs that we played against in the 1920s and 30s. Although we were formed in 1922 the bowls green opened in 1920. However several neighbouring clubs are even older than ours. This goes to show how popular the game of lawn bowls really is.

During the bowls season which runs from April to September we have quite a few social events and club tournaments. These additional fixtures, which can include a really tasty Curry Lunch, are fun and well supported.

Our 2022 season did present a few problems with getting a team together. We have a membership of twenty four but only eighteen members actually play in matches. This involves members adding their names to lists in the Club House for selection. Ideally, we would like twelve players for each match which is four triples i.e. three players in each team. But the tendency this year was to

field just three triples or nine players.

During 2022 we had 40 fixtures that's 20 at Home and 20 playing at other clubs such as Newick, Ringmer, West Hoathly and Wadhurst. However, as you might imagine several fixtures were cancelled, for example, due to a bowls green being flooded after a downpour, some clubs being unable to raise a team, and on one occasion it was just too hot. Nevertheless, after allowing for cancellations, we won fourteen matches with the best win against Pembury Bowls Club in June. We had two drawn matches against Bidborough and Hellingly.

Frant Bowls Club is always keen to welcome new members and it's worth noting that our club only plays 'friendly' matches and is not part of any local leagues. Although we like to win our matches it is not our only objective. We like to have a good, close match finishing with a handshake at the end.

Lawn bowls is a very social and entertaining game. Our teams are selected on the basis of giving everyone in the club who elects to play a chance to have a go at either Lead, Second or Skip. Each position in the team needs different skills, for example, placing the Jack or 'reading' the 'head' to work out where to place your bowl in either defence or

attack mode.

Now in October and in the months to come we embark on green maintenance. That's refreshing the green with weed treatment, top-dressing and reseedling. We clear all the ditches which surround the green and generally tidy the club house and garden areas before shutting down for the winter. The bowls green still requires a modicum of maintenance during the winter months and keeping the green in trim you'll sometimes see one of us trailing behind the mower.

Our 2023 Season starts in mid-April and our practice sessions are usually Tuesday afternoons and evenings. So if you want to join and you would like to know more, come on in - you'll be very welcome.

—Michael Freestone

Eridge Arts Club 2022

The Eridge Arts Club spent a delightful evening in June with local resident Chris Burvill. Chris skilfully balanced an informative talk about how piano music has evolved over the centuries with musical quotations from a succession of great composers - all played on his electric keyboard. After an interval for refreshments Chris enlivened proceedings even further by inviting his audience to "name that tune", drawing

not merely from the classical repertoire but also musicals and pop music. His audience engaged enthusiastically, calling out their answers whether right or wrong, and Chris was strongly encouraged to repeat the performance.

In August, the Eridge Arts Club organised a visit to the Watts Gallery (pictured below) and Artists' Village near Guildford, the home of Mary Watts, designer and social reformer, and her husband, renowned Victorian artist, George Frederic Watts. On a very hot day the group gathered for a welcome drink and introductory talk from the director of the Watts Gallery. The Artists' Village, inspired by the Wattses' vision of Art for All, continues to welcome and support people to discover and create art. We had a guided tour of the extensive Artists' Village, including the house and studios where George and Mary Watts lived and worked. A short walk took us to the astonishing Victorian chapel designed by Mary Watts, beautifully decorated internally in an arts & crafts style, before seeing the gallery of Watts' own work. After a delicious lunch we explored all the sights of the artists' village at our own pace. We all agreed it was a fascinating place to visit and left with plans to return.

The next Arts Club event will be held

in Eridge village hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 30 November when Yvonne Smith will give a talk about Vienna and its great composers, as a prelude to the Viennese concert being given in December by the Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra - of which Yvonne is a member.

All are welcome. Tickets are £5. If you are planning to attend please let Mary Helson know (mary.helson@gmail.com) so that we can provide sufficient refreshments.

Frant Parish Friendship Society

We started the new season with an afternoon tea party at the George in Frant on 8th September. Unfortunately the weather was not kind and we were unable to use the garden, however it was a very enjoyable afternoon with a general feeling we were all getting back to normal. Then of course on returning to our homes we were greeted with the sad news of the death of the Queen. She had always been there through most of our adult lives and her loss will take some getting used to. At least we can look back to the lovely Jubilee event in June.

Our first meeting of the new season was on Thursday 22nd September and our speaker was Michael Smith on the polar expeditions of Francis

Crozier. Not a household name but one of our most successful explorers. After an adventurous naval career in the Napoleonic wars he went on many voyages to the Antarctic and Arctic with the final one being the ill fated Franklin expedition to find the North West Passage. He was second in command to Franklin but along with the rest of the crew and the two ships disappeared and was never heard from again. Michael's talk was as always very entertaining and was brought right up to date with the discovery in recent years of the ships along with artefacts and research is still ongoing.

Our November meeting will be our AGM and will be a mid morning meeting with a fish and chip lunch and also an entertainer! This is on Thursday 24th November at 12.00 in the Stables. We are arranging a Christmas Shopping trip to Polihill Nursery on the 10th November and we will be rounding off the year with a Christmas Tea in the Village Hall on Sunday 15th December 2.30 - 4.30 pm also with an entertainer.

Our exercise classes with Alison are now in full swing anyone interested, or for any other enquiries, please contact the number below for details.

Enquiries Valerie Palmer 01892 750559 valeriepalmer@uwclub.net



**The Arts Society:
Ashdown Forest**

Information on two upcoming lectures are as follows. They both take place at: Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove Crowborough TN6 1FE.

» **10th November 2022 at 2pm**

Lecturer: Georgina Bexon
Title: "Arts of the Mughal World."
The 16th to 18th centuries in India witnessed the golden artistic period of Mughal rule, marked by a unique flowering of art and architecture and unrivalled in luxury and opulence. These mighty Emperors were dedicated patrons of skilled artists, sculptors, jewellers, engravers, architects, poets and calligraphers whose creativity produced breathtakingly beautiful artworks and monuments, but importantly, Mughal art and architecture served as a highly successful form of propaganda, which provides a further fascinating topic for exploration.

Georgina is an art historian specialising in South Asian art, who has lived and worked in the UK, USA and Singapore. Her practice includes lecturing, writing, consulting and collecting and she has developed a network of gallery and artist connections in Europe, the USA and India.

She holds a BA in Art History from Southampton University, an MA in Arts Management and Policy from City, University of London and an MA in Art History from SOAS, University of London. Georgina is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Asiatic Society.

» **8th December 2022 at 2pm**

Lecturer: Barry Venning
Title: "Christmas with Giles Grandma and Family."

Our last lecture of 2022 features the cartoonist Carl Giles who was for many, as much a part of the festive season as the Christmas tree, crackers and the Queen's Speech. So popular were the Giles annuals as Christmas presents that they helped to make him Britain's best loved, most successful and wealthiest cartoonist. The talk looks at Giles's life and work with a particular emphasis on his seasonal cartoons, particularly those featuring Grandma and the Giles family. They include some of his funniest cartoons but, as the art historian



William Feaver pointed out, they also demonstrate that he had few equals when it came to representing Britain in Winter.

Barry Venning is an art historian whose interests and teaching range from the art of late medieval Europe to global contemporary art. He has published books, articles and exhibition catalogue essays on Turner, Constable and European landscape painting, but also has an ongoing research interest in postcolonial art and British visual satire.

He works as a consultant and associate lecturer for the Open University. His media work includes TV documentaries, radio appearances and recordings.

Members of the Society free. Guests and visitors £6 per lecture.

Refreshments available at the end of the lecture.

If you would like to join, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01892 861015. For any further information, contact our Secretary on 07919 895113.

Parish Past

While we are hoping for a mild winter it seems appropriate to remember a time when seriously cold winters were normal and could be enjoyed as well as endured.

In February 1879 such a deep freeze occurred that Eridge Park lake (pictured) iced over completely - and what else could you then do but hold a fete and cricked match there? A witness wrote: "The ice resembled a gigantic sheet of frozen glass ... and an army of workers had swept and smoothed it still more perfectly until a great party of ladies and gentlemen walked down from the castle to skate there ... as children also slipped and slid among them. The chief item in the programme though was a cricket match, the Eridge team being captained by Lord Henry Nevill against a Tunbridge Wells eleven. All the players wore skates and consequently the runs were fast and furious ... it was really surprising how gentlemen on skates could bowl so well. Of course there were many amusing incidents, with one fielder coming an especially dramatic cropper while attempting a catch." Eridge scored 228 but the light seems to have failed because Tunbridge Wells are only listed with 176 for 8. "At one time there must have been 600 persons skating and ice-dancing, but when the dancing was at its height the ice suddenly gave a loud and suspicious crack, although

some confidence was restored when the Marquess announced in cheery tones that even if the ice broke there need be no fear as the water was only two feet deep." However, the writer felt discretion was a good idea and went home! It is interesting though that apparently a wide cross-section of people not only possessed skates, however rudimentary, but also the skill to use them successfully. Frozen ponds and waterways were obviously expected virtually every year.

—Pat Wright

Parish Pets #4: Buttercup

I have to say, I can't really complain about much. In my 12 years as a feline resident of Bells Yew Green, life has been a bowl of "Dreamies" – a delicious treat, full of flavour and surprises. As with all residents of Bells Yew Green, I am blessed with plenty of space to roam and an endless supply of entertainment each day hiding in hedges, shrubs, up trees and in woodlands. Hunting is an important part of my contribution to the community and I am often a bit disappointed, to be honest, when I occasionally choose to show off my catch to my family by bringing it indoors. They seem displeased and make this noise that I know means GET OUT! I never learn that despite history always repeating itself, I am probably never going to be congratulated in the way I



am hoping for. All that said, any other time, day or night, that enter a room and they are present, I am greeted with a chorus of adoring sounds and it's quite funny, they all seem to want some sort of validation from me which can feel quite competitive at times as they thrust their hands out for a stroke. It amuses me to pause, look around and then look away as if disinterested before making a beeline for the chosen one. Oh the power.

In families, there are sometimes discussions about a favourite child. Well, I have a favourite family member – she knows who she is. Quite frankly, she could (but never has) pick me up by the tail and swing me around the room and I would respond with a loud purr. Another family member could affectionately stroke me and I would run away just to show who's boss – it's all really fun!

The only downside to living here is the occasional unwelcome feline visitor – they know who they are! I am not very sociable on this front and hide indoors!

» **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:
November/December 2022**

» **Thursday 10 November**
Frant Parish Friendship Society, Outing to Polihill Nursery (see page 11)

» **Thursday 10 November**
The Arts Society Ashdown Forest, lecture: Arts of the Mughal World (see page 12)

» **Tuesday 22 November**
Frant Garden Club AGM 2.30pm, Frant Memorial Hall

» **Thursday 24 November**
Frant Parish Friendship Society, Meeting in The Stables, Frant (see page 11)

» **Thursday 8 December**
The Arts Society Ashdown Forest, lecture: Christmas with Giles Grandma and Family (see page 12)

» **Sunday 15 December**
Frant Parish Friendship Society Christmas Lunch in Frant Memorial Hall (see page 11)

» **Friday 23 December**
Frant Community Christmas Lunch 1.00pm The Stables (see page 7)

Regular Meetings

Little Fishes: Baby & Toddler Group
Every Tuesday 9.30–11.30am 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 December 2022

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Bells Yew Green Chapel
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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:
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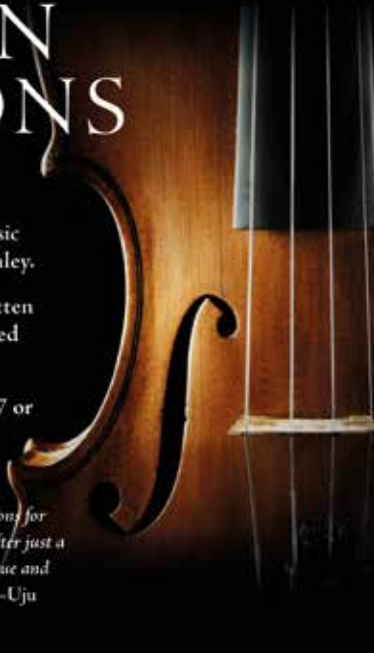





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