

# Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



*Frant Forge, The Green (now demolished). Date unknown*

## IN THIS ISSUE...

3

*Letter from the Rectory by the Reverend Brendan Martin*

4

*Church Services, features & News from the Pews*

7

*Update from the Frant Village shop*

8

*Latest news from MP for Wealden, Nus Ghani*

12

*Reach for the skies. How to join Frant Kite Club.*

14

*What's on in the Parish: events, useful contacts & dates*



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**From the Rectory**



I fell over a few weeks ago. Really hurt. I always seem to be in a rush, and running across Frant Green I fell over and smacked into the side of the road.

Funny thing was though, my immediate concern was not for my arm that was totally numb, nor for my ribs (which ended up being cracked), no, my immediate concern was to check whether anyone saw me making a fool of myself! I had visions of a video of a vicar dramatically falling spreading all over the internet.

Why is it that we think like that? Why are we so concerned, or even obsessed about how other perceive us, to the extent that even when we need help we don't always ask for it for fear of how it might look?

Fact is everyone does it, everyone falls over, everyone needs help. Someone said to me, "It isn't just the older people who fall!" I hope I can make others feel better when it happens to them.

Like a typical bloke, I decided I didn't need to get checked out at the hospital, the ribs were the worst and there wasn't much they could do. It was so painful though ten days later I eventually got checked out.

The nice nurse looked at the massive bruise on my arm, and me holding my ribs... "I am assuming drink

was involved?" she said in a jolly way that showed that for her this was a common occurrence. "No actually" I said, trying to not show embarrassment, "I'm a vicar and I happened to be running late for a prayer meeting." I bet she hadn't heard that one before. The dangers of rural clergy life.

Why is it that we are so hesitant to ask for help? We are all born as a baby into total need and dependency on others, and at the end of life we rely on care from others. Yet in the middle of our life between those extremes of utter dependence at the beginning and the end, we like to think and act as though we are ourselves fully independent, self-made, self-reliant people. This was shown to me by my first inclination to check I wasn't seen falling over.

The fact is every one of us is just all one slip away from dependency on another person's care. As a Father to our son Malachi who has complex disabilities, and who is fully dependant on others for everything, I also realise that our worth and value doesn't come from our ability or strength, for he is immensely loved. As a Christian I realise that I am dependant on God for everything, for life, breath and salvation. Perhaps the lesson is ultimately one of humility to others and to God, we all need help.

— The Reverend Brendan Martin



**News From The Pews**

Spring in the churchyard is always something to look forward to and never fails to delight us. Our thanks to the loyal volunteers who keep it looking good for us all to enjoy.

On 1st January we changed the times of our Sunday services, Frant now has its service at 10.30, and Eridge at 9.15. As with any change, it suits the majority of people, but raises difficulties for others, particularly the children and young people who have sports commitments on Sunday morning. Festival Church, which is held on Sunday afternoons in the Rectory Paddock restarts later in the spring, so will provide an alternative for those who can't make 10.30.

Although numbers attending services are climbing back to pre-lockdown numbers, sadly finances are not recovering, and our reserves are reducing at an alarming rate each month. We rely mainly on the regular giving from our congregations to support our Rector and pay our running expenses. Money raised from fund raising events pays for fabric maintenance. We are doing all we can to reduce our running costs, taking steps where possible to be more efficient, but like all small Parishes, lack of funds remains a major concern.

Like any family, our congregation consists of members of all ages from 0 to nearly 100 years old. In January we were saddened by the death of one of our senior members, John Gibbons who was 93. John, with his wife, Esther moved to Tunbridge Wells from Leicester 8 years ago to be near their family. Sadly we never got to know John as well as we'd have liked to, as he was already suffering from the early stages of alzheimer's disease when they moved here, but amazingly, until quite recently he could still read fluently from the bible and take part in discussions at the home group of which he and Esther were members. In speaking about his father, Matthew his elder son said that John's great passions in life were mountains, being out of doors and music. He was indeed an accomplished and enthusiastic mountaineer, who with Esther, had climbed many famous peaks in several countries. At his funeral service we watched film of breathtaking mountain scenery accompanied by lovely music which reflected his life perfectly and was a very fitting tribute. One other great accomplishment was that John and



Esther would have been celebrating their 70th ! wedding anniversary later this year.

Youth Activities certainly haven't been taking a winter break as our Youth Minister Ed reports:- 'A few weeks ago, I was honoured to be the guest speaker at Lindfield Church's youth weekend away. 17 young people, plus leaders embarked on a trip to the middle of Ashdown Forest where the young people were given a full program of teaching, small group discussions, activities and social time. I gave four sessions on the theme 'Encountering Jesus'. It was great to be able to support another church, and for me it was good to experience how another church runs things. Our youth enjoyed meeting with other young people from Tunbridge Wells in February for another 'Youth for Christ' event. This time it was on the theme of 'Gaming and Pizza!' There were computer games, group games, board games, and of course PIZZA! A speaker from 'Youth for Christ' gave a message from the Bible to the young people.

Lego Club is still going strong (above). We have increased in numbers to our maximum of 12 children, and we even have a waiting list! This term we've been looking at Jesus' life and how he can affect ours... All through Lego!

Sunday Club has increased in number, back up to numbers we experienced before the pandemic. We had 18 children the other week, with 2 groups running at the same time. We've continued to teach

the children the same theme and passage as the adults to enable families to chat about the topic at home after the service.

Our parent and baby/toddler group, 'Little Fishes' is going from strength to strength, with the numbers having grown recently. We have bible stories, singing, playing, crafts, coffee and more. The welcoming and friendly atmosphere is very evident.' Thank you Ed and Julie for your hard work and dedication to our youth ministry. At the end of January we did some alterations to the Stables to allow Ed and Julie's family more space, privacy and security in their first floor flat. In order to add a locking door on the ground floor, the staircase had to be repositioned to comply with building regulations. Our thanks to architect Peter Payne and builder Alan Campey who have done an excellent job so that the new door and wall look as though they were always there.

Would you like to join members of our congregation at 'BIBLE BY THE BEACH'? - a Bible teaching conference in the Congress Theatre Eastbourne from 28th April - 1 May. Entitled 'Steadfast by Faith' - when the world gets tough, the conference is for the whole family with excellent youth and children's groups. There is a great line up of Seminar Speakers, and a variety of activities for every age. Accommodation is available in the B+B over the Bank Holiday, or book in for individual days. [www.biblebythebeach.com](http://www.biblebythebeach.com) [biblebythebeach@gmail.com](mailto:biblebythebeach@gmail.com)

# St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

**Rector**

The Reverend Brendan Martin — 01892 752003; [rectoryfrant@gmail.com](mailto:rectoryfrant@gmail.com)



[www.frantchurch.org](http://www.frantchurch.org)  
**Churchwardens**  
 Jane Emler—532233  
 Juliet Nightingale— 01580 200403



[www.eridgechurch.org](http://www.eridgechurch.org)  
**Churchwardens**  
 Jonathan Lynn—864304  
 Stephen Barnes—861302

**Services for**

**March / April 2023**

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	<b>5th March</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	<b>12th March</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Mothering Sunday	<b>19th March</b>	Mothering Sunday	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	<b>26th March</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Palm Sunday as One	<b>2nd April</b>	Palm Sunday Service	9:15am
			Communion	
		<b>6th April</b>	Maundy Thursday	8.00pm
			Tennebrae Communion	
10.30am	Good Friday as One	<b>7th April</b>	Last Hour at the Cross	2.00pm
10.30am	Easter Sunday as One	<b>9th April</b>	Easter Sunday	9:15am
	Communion Service		Communion Service	
10.30am	Morning Service	<b>16th April</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	<b>23rd April</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Communion Service	<b>30th April</b>	Morning Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			

**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, our afternoon Festival Church takes a pause in winter and back in Spring!**

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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**Frant Village Shop**

We thought we would give you an update on how your village shop is getting on during these challenging economic times.

Like so many other small independent businesses we have made some changes to address the cost of living issues, such as switching off some fridges and lighting as commercial energy prices have quadrupled and we have decided to no longer accept AMEX cards due to high transaction fees.

We continue to try to provide a variety of products for you to purchase locally. However, because of changes to our wholesale supplier it is not always possible to stock certain cheaper items as we have been able to do in the past - without advertising one of the largest supermarkets in the country!!! We believe it is very important to maintain our independence to continue to provide our customers with locally sourced products and from customer feedback this is an important aspect of the shop but in order for the village shop to stay open, it requires the village to support it.

Can we remind customers that Royal Mail are a completely separate company to the Post Office, When Royal Mail were striking before Christmas, we continued to be open and taking vast amounts of post which was not collected. Whilst the majority of customers understood, there were a certain amount that took offence that parcels had not been delivered or collected which is completely out of our control. It is the same with International Post, The Post Office are currently not allowed to send parcels abroad but you can send them via Royal Mail website!

Thank you all for your continued custom and we look forward to seeing you in the shop and in Daisy's Cafe next door. May we just finish on a small anecdote (just to help the independents!)

**One for us to think about.**

*Why are banks so keen on promoting a cashless society*  
 I have a £50 banknote in my pocket. I go to a restaurant and pay for dinner with it. The restaurant owner then uses the note to pay for his laundry. The laundry owner then uses the note to pay the barber. The barber uses the note for shopping etc. After an unlimited number of payments, the note will still retain its value of £50 and greedy banks have earned precisely nothing from any transaction.



But if I come to a restaurant and pay digitally - Card and bank fees for my transaction are charged to the seller at about 3%, so around £1.50 and the fees will continue for each further transaction in my previous list

Therefore, after 30 transactions of the initial £50 only £5 will technically still be in circulation with the remaining £45 now the property of the bank

We all have a choice that will cost us precisely nothing - give a little more to businesses that desperately need it or help greedy bankers get bigger bonuses  
 You choose - CASH is king

**Where is Eridge?**

Where is Eridge? Someone asked this recently, and it's a good question. If you are driving down the A26 towards Lewes you may see a pub and a church on your right. Further on you may see a village sign, apparently in the middle of nowhere, but you probably haven't seen a handful of houses hidden behind hedges (especially if you are speeding, as most people do). You don't understand why the speed limit should be 40 mph, but those of us who live there do, and you would never guess that the home of one of England's oldest noble families is nearby.

Eridge Green is technically a hamlet, but there is no real centre to it. There isn't even a green anymore, since it was taken into Eridge Park two hundred years ago. The pub was probably a farm then, and the church wasn't built until the 1850s, by the Earl of Abergavenny. It was for the use of his family, his servants and tenants and this is perhaps the answer to

where Eridge is.

The name Eridge means 'eagle's ridge' in Anglo-Saxon, but where is the ridge? There is nowhere very obvious that might attract eagles. Eridge Rocks are fine, but hardly mountainous. As you approach Eridge from the south the houses along the Forstal stand out, at the end of the outcrop of rock. There is something of a ridge where Eridge Park house is built, but the whole area is full of small hills and valleys. However, the Anglo-Saxons, who gave us most of our place-names, where very conscious of the landscape and there must have been something here which attracted eagles.

The parish is the smallest unit of local government, and it has defined borders. A hamlet does not have borders; it's an area which the locals know and define themselves. Villages tend to be nucleated - that is, the houses are grouped together with a church and manor house (though there are exceptions). Hamlets might be, but in the case of Eridge the houses are isolated and scattered over a wide area. This may be because it was part of a medieval deer park. It is likely that the house in the park was first called Eridge and gave its name to the area.

Eridge was part of the manor and parish of Rotherfield. Later it became part of Frant parish, then it became its own parish when it had its own church until returning to Frant as it is today. The church is unusual in serving a congregation so hidden away, but there is a loyal group who keep it going as a centre for a settlement that has no centre.  
 —Mary Alexander





**Frant Memorial Hall Defibrillator Fundraiser**

Following on from our first fundraising event at the December Christmas Market, we invited the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Community First Responders to come along to the Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th January (pictured above). The aim of this event was to learn more about defibrillators and how to perform CPR. The four First Responders who came, gave very informative talks, answered questions and then tutored CPR on various manikins. In all, more than seventy people attended this drop in session. They learnt lots, asked lots of questions and many had a go at CPR. During the afternoon people socialised over a cup of tea and cake. Thank you to Sally and her helpers for organising the teas and everyone who provided a cake. A total of £310 was raised and added to the defibrillator fund. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this good cause.

Our next fundraising event is a Quiz Night in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th March. Teams of six or eight maximum, £5 per head. Bring your own

snack, nibbles and drink. We will also be holding a raffle, so bring along your cash. To register your team please contact Sharon Warwick – 01892 750185 by the Thursday 9th March. Looking forward to a fun and entertaining evening.

**News from Nus Ghani, MP**

Wealden always looks stunning with a bit of snow in the morning, but unfortunately, the end of last year exposed vulnerabilities in our infrastructure. When the icy spell hit in December, leaky or burst pipes meant that South East Water (SEW) reservoirs in the Tunbridge Wells area were drained of their necessary capacity and unfortunately, this resulted in many homes in Eridge, Crowborough, Mayfield, and Wadhurst areas losing water for several days.

Running up to Christmas, I had many angry exchanges with SEW staff including the Chief Executive every day of the outage, and I could not get any sensible response, especially with regards to when water would be returned and what additional support was being provided to vulnerable residents, who were my priority. SEW

inflicted unnecessary distress on so many local residents at a time when many families were preparing for Christmas, and I recognise the strength of feeling on the failure of their service locally.

I have been campaigning for full financial compensation and for many it has been forthcoming, but I was most concerned by reports that some residents have either not received compensation or have been told that they were not eligible for it. To assess the scale of this problem, I launched a dedicated platform on my website to gather evidence, and I was shocked to receive several hundred submissions. Please know that I have secured a further meeting with SEW, where I will use this data to push for compensation for all affected customers without delay.

Further south in Wealden, residents of Hailsham and Hellingly faced the opposite problem in January, when heavy rainfall resulted in severe flooding and sewage discharges into people's gardens. Getting a response from Southern Water and the Environment Agency has been appalling. I was regularly updated by the Parish Council that they too were unable to obtain a response, so I convened a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council, Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Highways and Southern Water directly on site in Hellingly to hold the water company and the Environment Agency to account.

I share everyone's frustration at the lack of planning and the speed of response when such disruptive events take place in Wealden. It is clear that SEW and Southern Water just aren't investing enough in their infrastructure and have a resilience problem. While severe weather conditions may be an explanation for the disruptions, they are not an acceptable excuse, and I am again incredibly disappointed that lessons do not appear to have been learnt.

I appreciate the misery that both the water outage and the flooding have caused to many households in the constituency. Please be assured that I am pursuing both matters further and will continue to push for more funding for critical infrastructure, better performance and response rate from these companies, and for regular updates on resilience and future planning with local communities.

**"A personal view of design" by Angela Dewar**

**Wednesday, 29 March at 7.30pm in Eridge Village Hall**

The next Eridge Arts Club event will be held in Eridge village hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 29 March when textile designer, Angela Dewar, will talk about her personal view of design.

Angela Dewar is an experienced embroiderer, designer and teacher, working in a wide range of techniques, specialising in machine embroidery. Her beautiful and striking textile designs are often drawn from her own art work and photography. Examples of her ecclesiastical designs are in churches of all denominations throughout the UK. One of Angela's special clients is Liberty of Regent Street for whom she designed an exclusive collection of embroidered waistcoats.

All are welcome. Tickets are £5. If you are planning to attend please let Michael Stevens know (stitchesmichael@gmail.com) so that we can provide sufficient refreshments.

**Time to get walking again!**

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Sussex <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex> has



loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Sussex (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so

whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

—John Harris  
[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)  
[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)







**Celebrating 200 years in Frant – St Alban’s Church**

We are preparing an exhibition in Memorial Hall on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2023 to show what has happened in Frant in the past 200 years including events, clubs, school, buildings, people etc to coincide with celebrating that the existing St Alban’s Church was built 200 years ago.

Please contact me Peter Payne on 01892 750608 or popbluebell@yahoo.co.uk with your photos/articles etc to include in exhibition or to discuss items, events etc thanks.

—Peter Payne

**Parish Past**

Sidney Lewis was only 12 years old when he ran away from home and enlisted to fight in The First World War - the youngest confirmed combatant on any side so far as is known. Apparently sufficiently robustly built to pass the medical, astonishingly no one questioned his age. He then underwent ten months training before being sent to the killing fields of the Somme in 1916. There he served as a machine-gunner for some weeks before his mother was finally able to trace him and notified the War Office of his true age, producing a birth certificate to prove it.

After an inevitable delay he was finally discharged in 1917, only to re-enlist in 1918 (still underage) and serve in the occupation force in Austria after the war’s end. He later became a police officer and volunteered to train in bomb disposal in WWII.

Sydney was born in Surrey but in the mid 1950’s became landlord of The George in Frant, finally retiring to Hailsham in 1963/4, where he died in 1967. What an extraordinary man!

—Pat Wright



**Frant Parish Friendship Group**

We finished 2022 on a high note with a very enjoyable and entertaining Christmas Tea Party. The entertainment being provided by none other than Henry VIII aka Tony Harris a veritable lookalike! Unfortunately we had to finish earlier than planned because the unpredictable British weather decided to send us a deluge of snow and getting everyone home safely proved a mammoth task. Especially our entertainer who came from Hastings and took 6 hours to return! Our thanks to all those who worked so hard on the day with setting up and clearing away.

Our speaker for the first meeting of 2023 was our very own Pat Wright on Buckingham Palace. This was a fascinating glimpse into the extraordinary history of one of our most icon buildings warts and all!! From its earliest beginnings in a swamp to the grandeur of the Victorians; as always informative, entertaining and very relevant in this coronation year.

The exercise classes with Alison are going well; these are gentle chair based exercises and members have found them very beneficial. We are always looking to encourage new members so please come along if interested. These take place in the Stables on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm.

Our next meeting is on March 23rd at 2.30 pm in the Stables; when our speaker will be Gilly Halcrow, with ‘Whatever Happened to Christopher Robin?’ Then on the 27th April our speaker will be Jonathan Christie on George Smart, the Tailor of Frant.

—Enquiries: Valerie Palmer 01892 750559

**Parish Council News**

At the beginning of this week it really felt at though Spring had arrived, but according to the weathermen we are due a very cold snap at the end of the month! We were made aware that during the recent snow and lack of water some of our vulnerable may not have been contacted by either the water provider or anyone else. If you would like to send your name and phone number to our Parish Clerk, we would be happy to contact you in an emergency situation, if one should occur.

We are looking forward to the Kings Coronation and we are happy to support any local events. I know that the Brecknock and George are making plans for the celebrations and I would also like to take this opportunity to please support our local businesses, they really do need it.

As you know the local elections will be happening in May, if you could like to join the Parish Council and make a difference locally, again, please contact the Parish Clerk. Also please be aware that you must take ID with a photo to the polling booths or you will not be able to vote.

Residents in Eridge will notice that a section behind the Church has been fenced off, although not finished it is moving along and we hope to have a ‘grand’ opening when finished. Frant Green – We do have a policy the prohibits parking on the Green. Please can I ask all residents to be respectful of this precious space, not to park on it or drive over it. We are losing nearly half a meter a year through car erosion and although we do take measures to protect it, it is costly and not enough.

Finally we are progressing with the crossing and hope to get work underway within the next year.

Please do not hesitate to email the Parish Clerk clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk if you have anything you wish to take forward with the Parish Council.

—Johanna Howell

**Mayfield and District U3A**

We are a small but thriving branch of the U3A, a national organisation that aims to enhance the lives of people who have either retired, or have some free time and energy to spare.

An annual fee of £14 gives access to monthly talks, which cover a wide variety of subjects, and to our many



interest groups. From Philosophy to Table Tennis, there is probably something to suit everybody, and if you have a particular interest that isn’t covered, we will help to start a new group of your own. Groups normally meet in each others’ houses, at a time and day chosen by the group itself, and are usually between 6-10 members.

New members are always welcome, so whether you are new to the area or have lived here for a long time but always thought of the U3A as something for other people, do look at our website u3asites.org.uk/mayfield/home, or contact our chairman, Mary Brentnall at marybrentnallu3a@hotmail.com for further details.

We are worth a look!

**New Sewing Classes in Frant**

These classes held at The Stables, and beginning in January, although primarily soft furnishings, will be student project led. This term we have

also covered beginners and intermediate dressmaking, patchwork and quilting, plus a variety of sewn craft items. As you can see, anything goes in these fun and friendly classes. Numbers are kept small (maximum 8 students) to allow for individual attention.

Following a successful Autumn term, limited spaces are available on Friday and Tuesday afternoons - Friday mornings are already full.

Tuesday afternoon class runs from 1pm to 4pm for 11 weeks, beginning January 10th.

Friday afternoon class runs for 11 weeks from 1pm to 3.30pm, beginning January 13th.

Subject to spaces being available on these days, I may also be able to offer pay-as-you-go sessions.

For full details of dates and fees, any other enquiries or to book a place on either of these courses, please email me, Carole Barter: addictedtostitch.info@gmail.com





**Kite Club Of Frant**

There is no need to go to the cinema to see Avatar because there was an unusual flying bird, a Dinosaur (Pterodactyl), on the village green, see photographs.

The reason was that Helen Carpenter and I have started a Kite Club. First meeting was held on 19/11/2022 in a medium wind and in front of a small crowd.

I have put photos in the village shop and pubs and will keep you informed of the date and time of the next meeting, via the shop and pubs. We would like to have a meeting once a month, obviously depending on the wind strength.

December there was too much snow etc for safe and stable kite flying, January is over so maybe at end of February, the second meeting could be on the green.

As stated in my articles in shop and pubs:-

Please phone me on 01892 750608 for information, meeting dates for kite flying on the green and hopefully your confirmation of joining the "Kite Club of Frant".

No entrance fee is needed to join, and do not need to live in Frant. Anyone is welcome. Just need a kite and some wind!

—Peter Payne

**Frant School**

As I write this - the first Friday of term 4 - the school has just returned from our start of term assembly in Church. I cannot put into words how proud I was (as were all the staff) of the children. Our focus this term is forgiveness. The children sang with such feeling, engagement and joy. They read with confidence and meaning. The year 6 children looked after the reception so kindly as they walked so sensibly and quietly to and from school. Importantly they listened to Ed's message on forgiveness and hopefully took away some key messages.

As a teacher it is so rewarding to be part of those moments when the children remind you why you joined this wonderful profession. This assembly was just one of those.

We have had a busy year so far with continued participation and success in sporting activities all organised by Mrs Douch. It is great to see so many pupils attend the clubs on offer. We have between 25 and 30 pupils in KS2 netball club each week. As a school we are really keen that children know how to be successful but more importantly how to be a positive team player, how to encourage others, how to show good sportsmanship and how to always be respectful, kind and polite to other teams.

This term the children across the school will be learning about people who help us, Florence Nightingale, Tunbridge Wells and the impact of WW2. Miss Maidman is focusing on reading in school and as a result we have introduced Reading Ambassadors across school, are dressing up for World Book Day and thanks to our ever supportive PTFA are able to refresh our library.

Our younger children continue to enjoy Forest School every Friday afternoon. It is lovely to see them leave school on a Friday afternoon having had an active afternoon outside that culminated in a well deserved hot chocolate.

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, Acting Executive Headteacher

**Frant Garden Club**

A new year and a new programme of events for the Garden Club. We have found that our change to Tuesday afternoon meetings for the spring and autumn (2.30 to 4.15 p.m. in the Memorial Hall) has proved popular, with increased membership and attendance at meetings, so thank you one and all for your support. New members are warmly welcomed so, if you think you might be interested, please come along to a meeting or contact me on 01892 752029. Membership is £5 per annum.

**Tuesday, 28th March**

Kathrine Lynn talk - Learning to love weeds

**Tuesday, 25th April**

Graham Blunt (Plantbase) talk and plants for sale: Succulents for home and garden

**Tuesday, 23rd May**

Afternoon outing to Herstmonceux Castle and Gardens

**Thursday, 13th July**

Full day outing to Godinton House and Gardens

**Tuesday, 5th September**

Afternoon outing - TBA

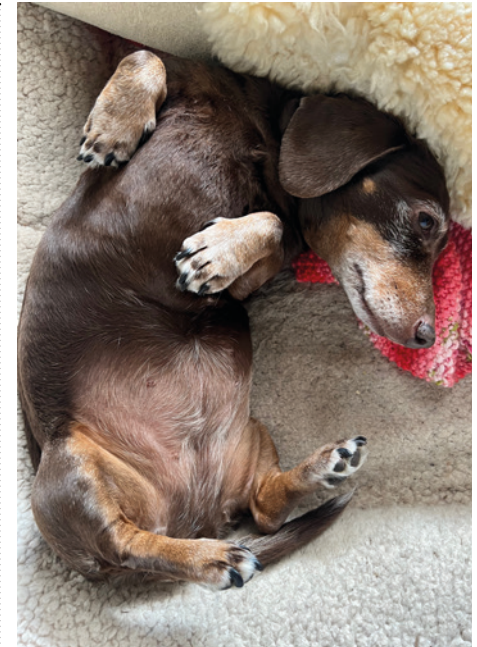
**Tuesday, 24th October**

Edward Flint (Tidebrook Manor garden) talk: Container gardening

**Tuesday, 28th November**

AGM

—Dianna Tennant



**Parish Pets #5: Coco**

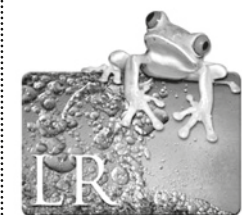
Coco is a 10 year old Chocolate and Tan Dachshund. She loves lying in her bed, breakfast, lunch and supper and any treats. She's not so fond of walks.

Coco is an active member of Frant Church and attends the women's bible study group fortnightly. She loves Festival Church in the summer, especially any left over sausage rolls. Coco is thinking of joining the PCC but only if food and naps are involved!

—Karen Murdoch

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

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**Parish Diary:  
March/April 2023**

» **Saturday 18 March**  
Quiz Night. Frant Memorial - see page 8

» **Sunday 19 March & 16 April**  
Groombridge Film Society  
Contact Janet : horshar@horshar.net

» **Tuesday, 28th March**  
Frant Garden Club, Kathrine Lynn talk:  
Learning to love weeds  
Memorial Hall: 2.30pm

» **Wednesday 29 March**  
Eridge Arts Club - Angela Dewar talk  
Eridge Village Hall - see page 9

» **Tuesday, 25th April**  
Frant Garden Club, Graham Blunt talk:  
Succulents. Memorial Hall: 2.30pm

**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](http://www.frantchurch.org) or  
[www.eridgechurch.org](http://www.eridgechurch.org)  
Advertising enquiries: 750285 or  
susan.piccioni@btinternet.com  
Contributions for our next issue  
should be sent to the Editor: carmel.  
kinley@gmail.com or 01892 750217  
Next deadline: 10th April 2023

**Useful contacts**

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Joanna Challis: 750243  
*Frant and Eridge Church Office*  
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; 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  
*Eridge Arts Club*  
Mary Helson: mary.helson@gmail.com

**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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gov.uk  
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**Clerk to the Council**  
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gov.uk; www.frant-pc.gov.uk  
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Keith Obbard: 07941 578427  
cldr.keith.obbard@wealden.gov.uk  
Bob Standley: 783579 cldr.robert.  
standley@wealden.gov.uk  
**County Councillor**  
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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  
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