

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



“Frant Church” by T. Henwood; 1834. See page 7

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From the Rectory



Next year I turn 40, and I have been reflecting on what has happened in our world over my time. During those years I have seen huge change in our country and our culture. When I was growing up my Grandparents heated house and water by coal fire and coke boiler, every morning Grandad was up at 6am to light the fires so you could have hot water to wash in. I can't imagine many do that now. Now at the flick of a button, or a push on our phone the heating comes on and the water heats up.

I am part of the last generation to remember life without internet and mobile phones, where if you wanted to meet up with someone you had to specify the exact time and place and be there or you would never find them!

Our world has changed immensely. My Great Grandfather, who I remember well (we all called him Gran-Gran), was born before aeroplanes were flown by the Wright brothers. Just a few short decades after that man was on the moon!

Our culture has changed too. When I grew up, we were in the modern age, when science and logic defined our understanding of truth. Now when I look at our world, I see people confused about what truth is, whether truth is subjective or universal. I see politicians bending the idea of what truth actually is. I see people muddled in their thinking about how we should live, how we

should act, and what we should do.

What do you think? Has our culture in our country improved over the years? Do you think our country has a better understanding of truth or become more muddled and confused?

The Christian belief is a claim on truth. It is a claim that this world is created by God. We see the hallmarks of the supreme power and intelligence of God in the laws of science, maths and logic by which we can properly know and understand creation and truth. The Christian belief is a claim that God is good, and therefore there is an objective standard of goodness and justice in our world. The Christian belief claims that the deepest questions in life have their true answer in Jesus Christ. When the world changes, the Bible says God does not change. There is truth, certainty, stability and hope found in God.

In January we are going to have a little series in our church services asking some big questions we have in life: Is God there? Does God care? Can God help? If God is there, these questions are supremely important for us to look into. We would love you to join us as we think together about these things.

If you want to know what is coming up each week at Church, sign up to our newsletter, go to frantchurch.org and follow the links or email me at rectoryfrant@gmail.com.

News from the Pews

We had a wonderful Harvest Festival service on 1st October. The church service was very well attended and there was enthusiastic participation from all in the activity which involved noting on a heart shaped piece of paper what they had to thank God for in the last year.

A difficult task, you may think, as we are all more likely to focus on the challenges we are presented with each year; however, the evidence of thanks was overwhelming! Ed collected a huge pile of hearts with written thank you notes which were displayed at the front of the church, pegged to lines in front of the altar.

We are excited to invite you to our Women's Christmas Event, Saturday 2nd December, 7:30 - 9:30pm. Come and enjoy a relaxed and festive evening and create a beautiful gift to take away with you. For more info and booking see: <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/ldxf4hb>. Book your ticket now!

Youth and Children at Frant Church

We have loads of activities for your child to get involved with. Here's a glimpse of life at Frant Church for children and young people.

» Youth Gathering

At the end of October, we hosted a youth gathering called 'Unite in the Wild' organised by Youth for Christ. They ascended on our Festival Church site for an evening of worship, talks, wide games, and BBQ, ending with s'mores round the campfire. It was great to see the young people from our church interact with other Christians from the area, and such positive feedback from all involved.

» Walking Nativity & Christingles

On Sunday 3rd December, we will be putting on our popular Walking Nativity around our Churchyard, finishing in the Church for the last scene and Christingles. Come and join us for the start of the Christmas season submersing yourself in the story of the birth of Jesus.

» Little Fishes

Our baby and toddler group runs every Tuesday in term time, 9.30am-11.30am. Come and join us for coffee, friendship, playing, Bible story, snacks, singing, and more.



» Sunday Club

Each Sunday (except Family Service) we run our Sunday club for kids during Church. We look at the Bible, play games, and make craft, all centred around God and His word. Come and join in, your child is very welcome!

» Encounter

It has been a great start to Encounter, our Church youth group for 10-18 year-olds, after the summer break. As tradition we will be going on our annual ice-skating trip in December at Caverley Park in Tunbridge Wells. We meet each week on Fridays, between 6.30pm-8.30pm. We have dinner together as well as looking at the Bible and playing epic games!

» Lego Bible Club

Our Lego Bible Club started back this term. It has been a great success with pupils from Frant School attending the after-school club. Each week I set them a challenge to build something out of Lego, and then watch a film clip based on what we're learning that week. This term we're looking at how people from the Old Testament reflected a characteristic of Jesus.

» Festival Church Kids

We have had a great time at Festival Church Kids this year. Learning about Jesus round the fire circle, climbing trees, lighting mini fires, playing in the mud kitchen, playing games, and eating s'mores. We have stopped for the winter but be sure to keep a look out next year.

» Archery

We are looking to start back our archery after school club after Christmas so be on the lookout for more information. If you would like to do archery but don't go to Frant School, keep an eye out for other

events that include this, i.e., dads & kids events and holiday clubs.

If you like the sound of anything you've read, go to our website to see how your child can get involved: frantchurch.org —Ed Pascoe, Youth and Families Minister, Frant Church. Email: frantjouth@gmail.com



» Freedom Camps

Freedom Camps is an exciting brand-new Christian events and activities charity directed by Ed Pascoe, the Youth and Families Minister at Frant Church.

The charity aim is to support local Churches reach local people, giving them the chance to hear the Gospel, by delivering affordable activity-based events for families and young people.

These include: Family Camps, Kids Activity Day Camps, Men's Events (inc. Dads & Kids adventure trips and events, Church Events (for individual Churches)

Activities that we aim to offer at our events include archery, campfire cooking, forest school activities, laser tag, archery tag, wide games, and water games, with all events having a Christian focus.

The Trustees of the charity include Matt Gurney, Allision Holton, Ian Holton, Kyle Laidler, and Josh Booth. We have also mission partnered with Frant Church and Scripture Union.

If you would like to support us, you can do this in a few ways. PRAY, DONATE or VOLUNTEER. Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

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



Churchwarden

Juliet Nightingale—01580 200403
Kyle Laidler—07775 855866



Churchwardens

Jonathan Lynn—07788 597051
Stephen Barnes—861302

Services for

November / December 2023

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age Service)	5th November	Communion Service	9.15am
10:30am	Remembrance Sunday	12th November	Remembrance Sunday	10:50am
3.00pm	Remembrance Service at Frant Memorial Hall			
10:30am	Morning Service	19th November	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	26th November	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	3rd December	Communion Service	9:15am
4.00pm	Walking Nativity with Christingle			
10:30am	Communion Service	10th December	Morning Prayer	9:15am
6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight			
10.30am	Morning Service	17th December	Nine Lessons and Carols	6.00pm
4.00pm	Crib Service (All Age Service)	24th December	Communion Service	9.15am
9.00pm	Bethlehem at Midnight Communion (till 10pm)	Christmas Eve		
10.30am	Frant as One at Christmas with Communion	25th December Christmas Day	Christmas Celebration with Communion	9.15am
10:30am	Joint Communion Service	1st January 2024		

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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Imagine Frant Church in ruins

What would Frant be like if the church was allowed to fall into ruin for lack of money; an abandoned building with a collapsed roof being taken over by brambles? Whether you are a regular church goer, a dog walker passing through the beautiful churchyard or an occasional visitor at weddings and funerals I think the feeling of loss in most local people would be palpable. This dilemma, however, was being faced by the local inhabitants in the second decade of the 19th century; the church having reached “such a ruinous state that it has been condemned and must be taken down”, the last straw being when a boy, John Harvey, was killed “by a stone falling from the old tower”.

The main landowner in the area, the Earl of Abergavenny, funded most of the rebuilding (as a Latin inscription above the South Porch records) with the Marquess of Camden at Bayham paying for the South Aisle which housed his family pew. The architect, John Montier, who had worked for the Earl on other projects, was chosen to design the new church which was constructed in local sandstone in the gothic style. The stump of the old tower was the first to be encased in new stonework in 1819, the nave and aisles followed quickly so by 1822 construction of the new church was complete.

The pen and ink drawing on the front cover shows the north side of the

church just 12 years later, a view which is not possible today because of the abundance of mature specimen trees and rhododendrons in the churchyard. The building is somewhat shorter too as a new chancel was added in 1867. Not all trace of the previous medieval church was obliterated; some of the wall and floor memorials and a few pieces of stained glass were incorporated into the new church.

The 200th anniversary of the “new” church passed without fanfare last year, the only exception being an exhibition of photographs and stories about Frant in The Stables, and having survived Second World bombs, break-ins for the contents of the cash box, wall memorials collapsing on rusty fittings and, last year, the theft of its lead roof, it is unlikely to become a ruin anytime soon. However, the increasing cost of maintaining the building, particularly due to soaring energy costs, has been exercising the minds of the small team of volunteers who work with Reverend Brendan Martin to look after the building. For the last few years, expenditure has exceeded the money raised from members and fund-raising events. Despite this, the roof is now protected by an alarm, wall memorials considered at risk of falling have been given extra fixings and Improvements have been made in energy efficiency such as reducing the ambient temperature from 15 to 10 degrees C in winter while still protecting the

nationally important Gern organ. Some of these measures have helped to reduce the gap but there is still a shortfall, and what money is available is quickly used for essential repairs. Nothing remains for larger projects such as the redecoration of the interior, repointing and repairs to the exterior stonework and restoration of wooden pews and doors. The local community has rallied in the past, as it did in 2022 with the loss of the lead roof over the South Aisle, and we would like to call on your help again but this time by proposing a small monthly donation which would help to bridge the gap between income and expenditure and, if enough people were to participate, even allow money to accumulate for larger projects. This can be done by clicking on the green ‘Donate’ button on the www.frantchurch.org website.

Frant Pantomime & Dramatic Society

Frant Pantomime & Dramatic Society are performing Alan Frayne’s pantomime version of ‘ALI BABA & THE 40 THIEVES’ on Thursday November 30st, Friday December 1st and Saturday December 2nd, evening performances at 7.45, Saturday matinee at 2.45.

Full of Eastern promise, this inventive new version brings Ali Baba well and truly into the world of pantomime! The riveting storyline, along with heaps of comedy is sure to capture young and old alike.

Tickets available at Ticket Booking – www.frantpanto.co.uk

Rehearsals are well underway, and the Cast and Crew look forward to seeing you at one of the shows. There’s no better start to the Christmas festivities!





Eridge Village Hall

Eridge Village Hall is widely seen as a lovely venue to host a range of events from birthday parties and wedding receptions to weekly upholstery classes, art classes, yoga and physical training. Apart from being well-equipped inside, it also has a garden with stunning views across Eridge Park.

Eridge itself is also widely known as a place that works hard to counter its lack of a village centre by seeking to actively create a sense of community. The trustees of the Village Hall are keen to support this by encouraging community events to take place in the hall. In recent times the hall has hosted Jubilee parties, winter warmer meals, harvest suppers, the Bridge Club fundraising lunch to name but a few. At such times, residents can enjoy meeting up with each other and enjoy a meal together.

Events such as these are not charged to hire the hall. Clubs and societies formed by Eridge residents for Eridge residents are able to hire the hall for free.

The Eridge Arts Club is our most recently formed club to bring people together. The trustees would love to see more of this, so if anyone feels inspired to start a new club in Eridge and would like to use the hall as a venue, then please do get in touch. Contact: bookevh@gmail.com. <https://www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk/>

Music in Frant

Thank you to all those who came to an enchanting evening with Lara Meldal and the Carducci Quartet back in July. We were overwhelmed by the positive feedback we received regarding world class classical music returning to Frant church, and we are delighted to report that we are delivering on this demand!

On Friday November 17th, internationally acclaimed clarinetist

Emma Johnson (below) will visit Frant with pianist John Lenehan, performing a repertoire spanning Mozart to Bernstein and Benny Goodman entitled “Three Perspectives”. Tickets are £25 available from Frant stores or online at www.frantchurch.org.

Looking into 2024 we are thrilled to announce the return to Frant of classical pianist Yevgeny Sudbin, hailed by The Telegraph as “potentially one of the greatest pianists of the 21st century” on Friday 19th January.

Next spring, jazz returns with guitarist Remi Harris, one of the leading gypsy jazz guitarists in the world, bringing his trio to Frant on Friday 19th April. Remi has visited Frant many times before and always leaves us spellbound with his artistry.

We hope to see you at one (or all!) of these wonderful events!



Parish Council News

By the time you have read this we will, hopefully, have made a decision on the pedestrian crossing in Frant. Having explored all options we now seem to be down to 3. A pedestrian crossing, an enlarged safety island or, of course do nothing. The first 2 are coming out at about £250,000 each and the do nothing option is difficult to comprehend. We do have funds available but any prolonged delay in construction could prove challenging with the current rate of inflation. It should make for a lively October meeting!

Our numbers are now on the up and we will shortly have 8 Councillors which is excellent news but there is always room for more volunteers. We can have up to 11 Councillors so we are now just 2 short for the Frant Ward.

We will also be considering how to



prevent vehicular access onto the cricket pitch from the A267. Most years 4 x 4s do considerable damage trialling their off road skills on the Green. An enhanced bank would appear to be the solution but easier said than done!

We are, however, beginning the process of getting it organised. We also have someone prepared to manage the BYG bund now. A very difficult challenge as the deer seem to eat almost anything except possibly daffodils!!

Speaking of deer it is that time of year already with the ‘rut’ starting and the deer moving around and across our roads and lanes. It seems odd with temperatures of 20c+ to be worried about deer collisions and even stranger to think we have just agreed to buy the Christmas lights for Frant and Bells Yew Green!

—Cllr Stuart Crookshank

Frant School News

We have had a lovely start to the new academic year. We have welcomed our new reception children who have all settled well with the support of our year 6 buddies who have been very supportive, kind and great ambassadors for our school.

A few highlights from this term: Harvest Festival in church on Thursday 28th September. The children were kind and generous with their donations and shared some lovely messages with our parents. I have to be honest, the singing from our new reception children, only a few weeks into their school journey, stole the show. KS2 had a day out in Battle Abbey as

part of their history learning

Children in Years 3 and 4 across the Federation had a successful visit to a Hindu Temple in Crawley

I was very proud on Friday to hear about the cross-country event that had taken place the previous day. Normally it rains, but this year it was warm and at times sunny. What stood out for me when the children stood up in assembly and spoke about the event was the teamwork, the sportsmanship and the care shown to every Frant child as they ran around the field. Well done to all our cross-country pupils.

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 4th November. Please do support this wonderful event as profits support our children here at school. Over the summer they paid for us to have wall built in the court that can be used for ball games and chalking!

Learning across the school this term has included the Toys, Vikings and Anglo Saxons, and All about Me.

We have run phonics meetings for parents in our Lower School which have been well attended.

Open Days for prospective new parents are planned for later this term and through into early January 2024. If you know of anyone who has a child of school age next September please direct them to our school website.

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 4th November from 4pm
- Lower School Nativity in church on Friday 15th December at 2pm
- KS2 will be singing at Glyndebourne as part of One Voice on Wednesday 13th December
- PTFA events – Christmas cards, school disco, Christmas market...
- 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



The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» **Lecture: “The Lure of the Midi: Modern Artists and the South of France” Lecturer: Monica Bohm-Duchen**

Ever since the late 19th Century, seduced by its intense light and sensual colours, visual artists have been irresistibly drawn to the Mediterranean coast of France. Claude Monet painted in Antibes in 1888, while in the same year, Van Gogh, persuaded Gauguin to join him in Arles. Cezanne’s roots of course lay in his beloved Midi, to which he returned for good in 1899. Meanwhile, in 1892, Paul Signac sailed into the unspoilt port of St Tropez, settling there and attracting large numbers of younger artists to the area – among them his Neo Impressionist disciples and members of the future Fauve group. In the early 20th Century, Renoir would make the Midi his home, as would Bonnard and Matisse and later on so too would Picasso and Chagall.

Monica Bohm-Duchen is a freelance lecturer, writer, exhibition organiser and tour leader. She has lectured for the Tate, the National Gallery, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Open University, Sotheby’s Institute of Art and the Courtauld Institute of Art and is an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College.

» **Lecture: “Searching for Shakespeare” Lecturer: Jane Tapley**

After more than 400 years, William Shakespeare remains the most admired playwright and indeed the most famous Englishman in the world. In this talk, we explore his life, the influences on him of the Elizabethan age and how his work had an impact on the global stage. We learn what the first open-air theatres were like, the popularity of his plays with contemporary audiences, how his plays survived and who it was who saved them.

Jane Tapley is currently Special Events Organiser at the Theatre Royal Bath. She lectures regularly to theatre going societies, the National Trust and history, literary and fine arts societies and is a researcher and consultant in the world of theatre and TV productions.

Everyone welcome – members of the Society free, visitors £7 per lecture. Refreshments available at the end of the lecture.

For further information, contact our Membership Secretary on 01892 861015 www.tasaf.org.uk

Eridge Arts Club

At the Eridge Arts Club meeting on Wednesday 13 September Marcus Coles gave a fascinating talk about the publication of Shakespeare’s First Folio, published 400 years ago. Marcus, a noted Shakespearean enthusiast and creator of the website

“Folio400.com”, introduced us to the cast of characters to whom we

are indebted for the preservation of such plays as Macbeth, Julius Caesar, the Tempest and Much Ado about Nothing. The term “folio” refers to a size of paper and very roughly equates to one quarter of the front page of, say, the Financial Times. The decision to publish a collected folio edition of Shakespeare’s plays in 1623 was a bold one. Paper was not cheap and the production process neither easy nor quick. Printing itself was laborious, slow, dirty and smelly. As a result, the final bound volume would have been an expensive purchase. Of the original print run of 750, some 235 have survived in widely varying states of completeness. Errors in typesetting were far from uncommon and ranged from mis-spellings to mis-readings and, occasionally, whole lines were omitted. As a result no two copies of the First Folio are identical.

To celebrate the First Folio’s quatercentenary the British Library is publishing a facsimile edition. Marcus has also helped make a documentary about the First Folio which it is expected will be broadcast later in the year. All present enjoyed a thoroughly interesting and informative evening and in conclusion Marcus was given an enthusiastic vote of thanks.

The next Eridge Arts event, at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 29 November at Eridge Village Hall will be an evening with Chris Burvill entitled “And All That(s) Jazz - how jazz finally brought music to all”. Following on from his talk last year about the piano, Chris will trace jazz back to its early roots. He will discuss how it was widely assimilated into popular culture, and how it lies at the heart of so much of the music we hear today. Chris will finish off with a Name That Tune quiz. Tickets cost £5. To book please email susanna@blackdonfarm.com

Frant Parish Friendship Group

We started our autumn session with a tea party at the George Pub at the beginning of September on one of the hottest days of the year! However plenty of shade in the George’s garden and Dom as always did us proud with a lovely afternoon tea ending with a much needed scoop of ice cream.

The speaker for the September meeting was Bertie Pearce and the subject ‘Victorian Leisure’. Bertie has been to us before in his other capacity

as a magician so we knew we were in for a treat! A very amusing talk on the leisure activities of our Victorian ancestors. Queen Victoria’s reign saw the greatest upsurge in leisure pursuits ever witnessed. People earned more money and worked shorter hours than ever before and with the birth of the railways enjoyed much greater freedom. Millions flocked to exhibitions, museums, art galleries and of course the birth of the seaside holiday for the masses began. Bertie also punctuated his talk with a couple of magic tricks!

Our November meeting on the 23rd will be our AGM and Fish and Chip Lunch. This will be at the earlier time of 12.15 in the Stables. Then in December to round off the year we will be having our Christmas Tea Party with entertainer on Sunday the 10th December in the Stables 2.30-5.00 pm.

We are always happy to welcome new members from Frant and beyond so if interested please see contact details below. Valerie Palmer 01892 750559 valeriepalmer@uwclub.net

Frant’s Small World Connections

By Bob “the Cat” Bevan MBE

In 1980 I was PR Director for European Ferries Plc and an amateur after dinner comedian. In May of that year I spoke at the Footballer of the Year Dinner which would change my life.

Within a year I was working with the likes of Jimmy Tarbuck and Billy Connolly and became a full-time professional entertainer.

There that evening in 1980 was legendary Daily Mirror and latterly Daily Express football and tennis journalist Nigel Clarke. In 2008 he moved into his house opposite the George Inn and we became great friends.

That very year, when I had already lived in Bells Yew Green for 15 years, I was booked to speak at Southampton Football Club’s Centenary Dinner. I asked the guy next to me where he lived. To my astonishment he said “I live in a place called Frant.” He was Paul Gilchrist who had played up front for the club in their amazing win in the 1976 Cup Final against Manchester United. At the time Southampton were in the Second Division and very much the underdogs.

Paul scored the second goal in the Semi-Final against Crystal Palace where



I remain a season ticket holder.

Despite this, as a Palace season ticket holder to this day, I was still prepared to talk to him and the three of us now regularly meet in the pub, along with Paul’s neighbour Alex Wear who took these pictures. Alex is not into football but still comes for the beer.

Last time we met Paul had found in his loft some cuttings from the Mirror where Nigel had written about Paul exactly 50 years ago!

If you see us in the pub anytime do come up and say hello, if you can get a word in!

Parish Past

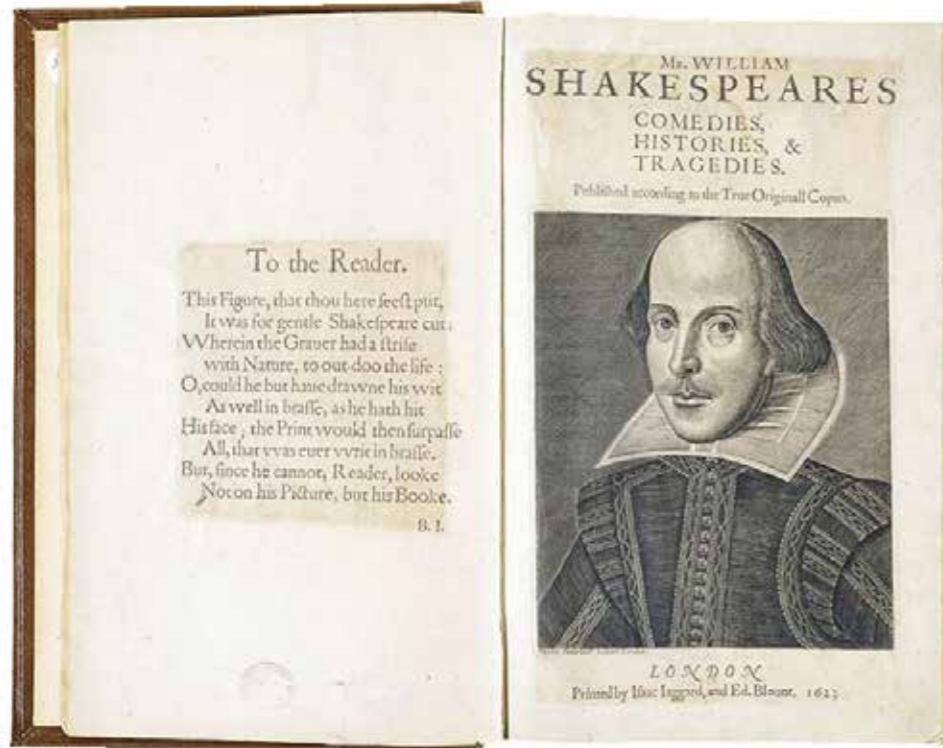
Have you ever wondered why Frant - almost alone among Wealden villages (Mayfield only fairly recently bypassed) - is lucky enough not to have a main road as our main street? The reason is that our focus, historically, was not north to south but east to west: Eridge to the west for work, rents, judgments etc and Bayham Abbey to the east, also for work and rent but also for social help.

Old maps show that Church Lane originally slanted to end opposite the park gate at the top of the hill, not straight as at present. Presumably this was altered when houses began to be

built there in the 19th century. The High Street still runs directly from the church, which became the village centre from the time of the first chapel was founded on the same site in the 12th century, to the old pond (where the play equipment now is) an even earlier gathering point for people and animals from the time the Weald began to be settled.

A traveller heading to Bayham would branch past Mastigate (the name suggests a grazing enclosure) and then bear right near what is now the steep corner at Stubby Grove. Here there was once a small settlement called Lye Green, which did not prevent you from still heading directly for Bayham, a way largely but not completely disused when Bayham fell in 1529 and almost simultaneously Lye Green was lost to sheep enclosures. An old sub-ownership, probably remembered by the name Court Lodge, then grew in local importance, necessitating treks to Bells Yew Green and the development of the sharp corner we know today. A route which grew in importance with the arrival of the Pratts at Bayham and, later, the railway.

Just think when you next walk along the High Street of the two thousand years of ancestors who have gone that way before! —Pat Wright



Something New Appears in Frant Village

Since the last magazine there is something new in Frant village. Does anyone know what it is?? IT IS A VILLAGE SIGN. Further to the idea of a village sign being put forward a few years ago it has now come to be true.

On one side of the sign is Colonel John By (1779-1836) our famous engineer, who lived in Shernfold. He designed and built the Rideau Canal in Canada and built a town for his workers originally called Bytown, after him. The name was changed by Queen Victoria to Ottawa and developed to become Capital of Canada. The other side has George Smart (1774-1846) who lived in Frant village for 60 years as a tailor but with the offcuts of his clothing did 3D patchwork paintings that has made him one of the major Folk Art Artists in England.

News from Hospice Run 23

More than 900 runners of all ages put their best foot forward to share fun, fitness and memories at Hospice Run 23 in the heart of Tunbridge Wells on Sunday 17th September.

From toddling legs to seasoned running pros, supporters gave their all for Hospice in the Weald, taking part in the new Family Fun Run and half marathon, along with the classic 5k and

10k routes.

Special guest Paralympian Will Bayley gave rousing words of encouragement to the crowd, explaining that the Hospice is close to his heart as family members had benefitted from its care, while local trainer and Hospice Ambassador ospice Hospice Ollie McCarthy got everyone limbered up with a group warm-up.

Runners set off to the stirring sounds of Old School Samba as they left Lower Common with crowds lining the streets to cheer them on along the way. Commentary and music came courtesy of Lee, from DJs and Bands, while a bouncy castle and array of food and refreshment stalls at the event village kept everyone fuelled and entertained.

There were emotional scenes at the finish line as participants celebrated their achievements and the lives of loved ones who had received Hospice care.

Sisters Lottie, Olivia and Issy Ramsey were part of 'Sue's Jovials', a team of family and friends who together ran the 10k route in memory of their mum Sue Ramsey, cared for at the Hospice in October 2021. They have already raised over £3,000 with funds still coming in.

Lottie said: "We wanted a challenge, to come together with our close friends and family to do it for Mum. After everything Mum went through, we wanted to put in some hard work and give back for the incredible care she received at the

Hospice in Pembury.

Issy added: "We were also able to stay overnight with Mum at the Hospice and bring our dog Marnie too, which made all the difference. Mum did the 10k route about five years ago, in memory of her own mum, also cared for at the Hospice, so we did it for our grandma and our mum. Taking part in events like this are so important as it keeps Mum's memory alive and helps us to feel closer to her."

Meanwhile, the new Half Marathon route was the fourth fundraising challenge that dedicated supporter Hanna Pepe has clocked up for the Hospice in the past six months. Hanna took part in London Landmark's Half Marathon in April, Moonlight Walk in June, and two weeks ago returned from trekking Mont Blanc, all in memory of beloved father Steve, who was cared for at the Hospice.

"It was a challenging course but the sense of achievement and seeing my family at the end was amazing. There was such a sense of community and togetherness - Groombridge was incredible with families coming out in the streets - and I was thinking of my Dad the whole way around!"

Hanna has already raised more than £4,000 through her collective endeavours and has set her sights on even greater fundraising challenges, including climbing Mount Toubkal next

year, Mount Kilimanjaro the year after and Everest Base camp in 2026.

She said: "My dad was my hero. He was my confidant and reality checker, he was honest and my respect for him reaches higher than any mountain I will ever climb."

Jesse Ansbro-Brett, Relationship Manager at Hospice in the Weald said: "Thank you so much to all who helped to make Hospice Run 23 such an incredible event. That includes every single runner, our donors, ambassadors, staff, volunteers and all the local people and businesses who so generously supported this special community event. More than £91,000 has already been raised with funds still coming in. Every penny will help Hospice in the Weald to continue to make a vital difference to the lives of those in our community facing terminal illness and their loved ones."

Hospice in the Weald Christmas Market

Hospice in the Weald Christmas Market is set to return this year and promises to be bigger and better than ever!

From 10am until 4pm on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November, the Hospice gardens will be transformed into a winter wonderland with sparkling lights, a wonderful Christmas market, games, crafts and performances by Women in Harmony, Saxissimo, Sarah Harris and the Tonbridge Scout and Guide Band.

With over forty stalls selling locally made crafts and produce including decorations, fashion, jewellery, home decor and more, visitors can enjoy

browsing and buying, as well as sampling the range of food on offer from the Scandilicious food van, Simply Wafflez and, of course, the Hospice café will be open too.

There will be plenty of Christmas crafts available for you to try your hand at, including a wreath-making workshop with Tilly Bee Flowers, as well as other activities for all the family. You'll also have the chance to win fabulous prizes in our raffle and tombola.

And let's not forget the big man himself, who will, of course, be making a special appearance. Set in his magical grotto, Father Christmas will be supported by the cheeky Hospice elves who will help make Christmas all the more special for your little ones.

Speaking ahead of the Christmas Market, Fundraising Manager Lisa Browning said: 'It's so exciting to be holding the Christmas Market in our Hospice grounds again. It'll be a wonderful opportunity for visitors to find Christmas gifts from local sellers while supporting a great cause and experiencing the magic of Christmas.'

It's never too early to put the date in the diary. Also, don't forget to visit our website to book to meet Father Christmas. Please pre-book the wreath-making activity on the Tilly Bee Flowers website. There is a suggested £5 donation to enter the Christmas Market with all proceeds going to support Hospice in the Weald.

For details and to sign up, visit the Events section at hospiceintheweald.org.uk or call the Fundraising Team on 01892 820533.



Parish Pets #9: Marti, Rocco & Bob

Marti, Rocco and Bob chilling in the Brecknock Arms' games room with Nick Gray. Marti is the pub dog and Rocco is Marti's brother. Bob is fairly new to the village and belongs to Lill. All are the best of friends and love pool nights where they can enjoy the company, atmosphere and of course the attention! The Brecknock Arms welcomes all so no need to leave your pooch at home, bring them along to make new friends too!

» 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 2023**

» **Saturday 4 November**
Frant PTFA Bonfire Night

» **Friday 17 November**
Emma Johnson Concert, St Alban's Church, Frant

» **Thursday 23 November**
Frant Parish Friendship Group AGM The Stables, Frant. 12.15pm

» **Tuesday, 28th November**
Frant Garden Club: AGM & Quiz Memorial Hall, 2.30pm

» **Wednesday 29 November**
Eridge Arts Club Event Eridge Village Hall, 7.30pm

» **Thursday November 30st - Saturday December 2nd**
Frant Pantomime & Dramatic Society – Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves. Frant Memorial Hall

» **Friday 1 December**
Frant Christmas Market. The George/High Street, Frant 3 – 7pm

» **Saturday 2 December**
Women's Christmas Event 7.30pm – 9.30pm. The Stables, Frant

» **Sunday 10 December**
Frant Parish Friendship Group Christmas Tea Party. The Stables, Frant 2.30 – 5.00pm

» **Thursday 9th November & 14 December**
Arts Society Ashdown Forest lectures. 2pm, Crowborough Community Centre, TN6 1FE

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: 1st December 2023

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Parish Council meetings
Full PC meetings are usually held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Planning meetings are held on the first Monday of the month.
Please check the Council's website at www.frant-pc.gov.uk


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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