

# Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



*Detail of the Lewin Window, St Alban's, Frant by James Powell & Sons, Whitefriars, 1946. Picture by Budby via Flickr*

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**From the Rectory**



One of the things I have enjoyed thinking about is what makes us human? What is it that unites us in our humanity together?

There are lots of things we have in common; physical, emotional, or moral things that we all understand we share. One of those aspects I think is our in-built need and desire to praise people for outstanding work.

For instance, one of the things I love about being here, is the regular concerts we have in church. We have had amazingly talented musicians of world-wide acclaim perform here. The last chap we had, pianist Yevgeny Sudbin was incredible. When he finished his performance there is a natural outpouring of appreciation, people clapped, people stood up, people shared with him afterwards how much they appreciated his work.

For all of us I think there is this in built need to express ourselves in praise. If we go to a concert and just sit there grumpy and unengaged, we will not enjoy ourselves. If we let ourselves go into praise, applauding, congratulating – it feels good. When we find an artist we love, we naturally like to praise them and tell others about how great they are.

Remembering gratitude in life I hear a lot about on the radio and television - how helpful it is to remember your blessings and be grateful for what you have. People say it is good for our mental health. Sharing and showing gratitude, and praising the good we see is not only part of what it is to be human, but also necessary for our wellbeing.

One of the traps that we sometimes fall into which hinders us being truly grateful, is feeling entitled and not appreciating what we have as blessings. Sometimes we need to take time to reflect and appreciate what we have.

As a Christian this is what we are encouraged to do every day, to say thank you to God and praise him for all he has done for us. Psalm 139 says “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Showing gratitude then is part of what it means to be a Christian, and if God has made us to naturally want to express ourselves in praise, that should be no surprise.

If we want to be truly grateful or thankful in life, but we have no-one to thank, then our gratitude is going to be hindered. If everything is just a random chance and something good happens, we are at best lucky, but you can't be truly grateful in that, it is just random. Thankfulness in its fulness requires someone to thank.

If you want to know true gratitude and praise in your life, can I encourage you to reach out to God in praise? To thank him for the good things you see and experience. This is one of our focuses at church this year. To put praise and worship at the heart of our lives, to express our faith in joy.

Do join us on Sundays as we encourage worship, praise, gratitude, and thankfulness this year. Eridge 9:15am, Frant 10:30am and Festival Church 5pm at Frant restarts for Spring/Summer April 14th. —Rev Brendan Martin



**News from the Pews**

The Women's Breakfast (pictured above) on 27 January was a huge success. Julie and her team had set up The Stables beautifully with fresh bouquets of flowers on tablecloths, colourful bunting and the welcoming aroma of ground coffee and pastries to all who entered! There was a super turn out and some members of the church who have since moved away came back for the event. A real treat to catch up with friends, have a delicious breakfast including an abundance of delicious berries, yoghurt, granola and honey as well as the aforementioned pastries. No need for lunch that day!

Our guest speaker was Jenny Rees from All Saints Church in Crowborough. She delivered an inspiring message reflecting on Proverbs 31:10-31 and it was clear that her thoughts on the passage and how it relates to us were very much understood and shared by the women in the room.

There are other women's breakfasts planned and these will be highlighted in Brendan's newsletters nearer the time. If you have not been before, do sign up and come along – you won't regret it.

**Out in the wild is back!**

Come and join in the fun at our kids Easter Holiday Club from 10th-12th April. Get involved with archery, forest school activities, sports, wide games, group games, Bible activities and more! Sign up now - frantchurch.org

**Frant Music**

A huge thank you to all those that came to our sold out evening with classical pianist Yevgeny Sudbin in January this year. It was, as always, an incredible evening of world class music.

The world class music continues with the return visit of gypsy jazz and blues guitarist Remi Harris and his Hot Club Trio on Friday April 19th.

Many of you will remember Remi visiting us in the summer of 2022 with bass player Tom Moore as part of our jubilee celebrations in the village. It was a fantastic evening of lively gypsy jazz and blues from one of the best guitarist the UK has produced in recent years. He is returning with Tom and fellow guitarist Chris Nesbitt as part of their



international tour as the 'Hot Club Trio' keeping the spirit of Django (and Hendrix) alive!

*"He's an absolutely extraordinary musician"* —Jamie Cullum, BBC Radio 2

Combining musical virtuosity with passion and flair, this dynamic trio deliver a mesmerising show inspired by Django Reinhardt, Peter Green, Wes Montgomery, Jimi Hendrix and Joe Pass.

The trio features Remi on a variety of acoustic and electric guitars playing an eclectic mix of original compositions, jazz standards and new arrangements of his favourite tunes. He has toured worldwide as well as performing at Buckingham Palace, Montreal Jazz Festival, BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall with Jamie Cullum, on BBC 4 Television and live on BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 3.

*"Remi is a phenomenal player specialising in both Gypsy Jazz, and Blues guitar. He's a true master of both genres. His live performances have audiences totally mesmerised with his artistry, virtuosity, musicality, and deeply felt passion for his music"*

—Martin Taylor MBE

*"The standard of playing is stunning"*

—Guitar Techniques Magazine

<https://www.remi-harris.com>  
Tickets are £20 and can be purchased at Brittens Music Shop in Tunbridge Wells, Frant Stores, or online

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

**Rector**

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



www.frantchurch.org  
**Churchwarden**

Juliet Nightingale—01580 200403  
Kyle Laidler—07775 855866



www.eridgechurch.org  
**Churchwardens**

Jonathan Lynn—07788 597051  
Stephen Barnes—861302

**Services for**

**March / April 2024**

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	<b>3rd March</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Mothering Sunday	<b>10th March</b>	Mothering Sunday	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Worship	<b>17th March</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Palm Sunday	<b>24th March</b>	Palm Sunday Communion	9.15am
		<b>28th March</b>	Maundy Thursday	8.00pm
			Tennebrae Communion	
10.30am	Good Friday as One	<b>29th March</b>	Last Hour at the Cross	2.00pm
10.30am	Easter Sunday as One	<b>31st March</b>	Easter Sunday	9.15am
	Communion Service		Communion Service	
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	<b>7th April</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
10.30am	Communion Service	<b>14th April</b>	Morning Prayer	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>21st April</b>	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>28th April</b>	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			

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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**Attention all dog walkers**

As a local resident, and a dog owner myself, I am saddened to see that some dog owners are not respecting our beautiful village as they should. On my walks around the village, I often see dog poo, left in verges, waiting for some unsuspecting person to tread in.

Even worse, I have seen poo bags hanging on trees, hanging on fences and thrown into brambles. These discarded poo bags have been left in fields, which contain livestock. If an animal swallowed these, then potentially, it could have tragic consequences as animals should not be eating plastic and dog poo contains deadly parasites.

I know that most dog owners are very considerate, but please can everyone take their dog waste away with them.

—Shirley Turner

**Frant Parish Council**

The long awaited draft Wealden Local Plan has just emerged. This plan details, amongst other things, the proposed sites that would be considered favourably for planning permission. There are a number of them, 7 in total, within our Parish.

The considered sites are at Benhall Mill Road (60 houses), Bayham Road (100 houses and 30 houses), Bells Yew Green (20 houses), St Mark's Road (7 houses), Frant Road (90 houses) and the big one Pinewood Farm, Frant Road (170 houses).

With the exception of Bells Yew Green these are all in effect, Tunbridge Wells spreading south. An urban creep and in one particular case leap into East Sussex and the AONB now called the 'National Landscape'!

There will of course be much consultation on this. The Parish Council has long held the view that we should protect our AONB (sorry National Landscape) heritage and this current plan proposes significant building on it and brings Tunbridge Wells further into our East Sussex landscape with all the infrastructure issues that come with that. The Parish Council recognises that there should be some development but on this scale, so close to Frant Village and so much of it on the long designated AONB High Weald is very questionable indeed. There will, no doubt, be some interesting meetings over the coming months!

We continue to discuss the 'Albert Well' as its position so close to the ever busy A267 does raise the question of its long term viability and thus the wisdom of spending thousands of pounds to repair it. We are now exploring a number of options including delisting it.

We are continuing to move forward on the proposed pedestrian crossing in Frant, successfully overcoming some legal obstacles, so that we can now make further progress and hopefully get this project completed!

—Cllr Stuart Crookshank

**News from Nus Ghani MP**

Winter is a beautiful time in Wealden and with periods of very low temperatures such as the ones we've seen at the beginning of the year, it is even more important to look after our health and to check in on vulnerable family, friends and neighbours. Following the forums with local NHS leaders which I convened in Uckfield and Crowborough last year, I continue working with our health and care teams to get regular updates on the delivery of primary care and emergency services in Wealden.

The Crowborough and Uckfield Minor Injuries Units are key services for Wealden residents, helping to relieve the pressure on A&E departments in nearby hospitals and I'm grateful for the continued work of Friends of Crowborough Hospital and the League of Friends of Uckfield Community Hospital for their ongoing support for these much-valued community assets. I continue working alongside both groups and the NHS leaders to explore opportunities for expansions to the current provisions available at both hospitals and to ensure that for the benefit of local residents, both facilities are used to their full potential.

In addition to our existing services, we've had some fantastic news for Mayfield last December, just before Christmas. I was delighted to support Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council in making representations to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and I'm thrilled that we secured £297,000 from the Community Ownership Fund. This boost in funding is a fantastic win for the communities of Mayfield and Five Ashes and will help deliver the new combined community hall and

health centre in Mayfield, replacing the existing Memorial Hall, which is beyond repair or refurbishment and cannot be made suitable for long-term use. This much-needed asset will make a huge difference in the provision of medical services in Wealden and ensure GP practice teams can deliver a higher quality of healthcare for local residents. Moreover, it will also bring enormous benefits as a multi-purpose social hub, improving opportunities for fitness and social activities.

**The Arts Society Ashdown Forest**

Thursday 14th March at 2pm at Crowborough Community Centre, TN6 1FE Lecture: 'The Golden Age of Spanish Painting 1560 - 1660' Lecturer: Gail Turner

This lecture introduces us to the most important Spanish artists of the 16th and 17th centuries. We look at El Greco's unique style of painting in Philip II's Spain. We consider Velasquez' formal and informal portraits of members of Philip IV's family and court, as well as the white robed monks and tranquil saints of Zurbaran, which contrast with the lively beggar boys and triumphant Virgins of Murillo.

Gail Turner is an historian, art historian and painter, with a deep knowledge of and passion for Spanish art and culture.

Thursday 11th April at 2pm Lecture: 'This is Wren - the Classical, the Baroque and the City of London Churches' Lecturer: Tony Tucker

This talk looks at Wren's life and his career as a scientist and astronomer, and goes on to consider his architectural achievements. It features all his buildings in London, Oxford and Cambridge, before focusing on his City of London churches. In addition to photographs of most of Wren's buildings, the lecture includes original research into the works of architects in Rome and Paris, which influenced Wren and provided much of his inspiration.

Tony Tucker studied Modern History at Oxford and is a qualified City Guide.

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](http://www.tasaf.org.uk)

**Helen Margaret Carpenter**

» 31 August 1924 - 27 January 2024

Frant loses a well-known personality...a sad loss. Did Helen really work at Bletchley Park during the War, decode messages and work on top-secret matters relating to the war effort? There is so much mystery surrounding Helen the we really know so little about. Everything was compartmentalised. She has one person doing this and another doing that and rarely would the 'twain meet. So what was her history?

Helen Margaret Carpenter (née Newington) was born on 31 August 1924 at South Lodge, Bells Yew Green Road, Frant at the entrance to Ely Grange. She lived there with her parents Frank, who was motor mechanic, and Elizabeth Newington (née Cripps). Longevity certainly existed in the Newington family. Helen's mother Elizabeth Cripps (born 1896) died in 1994 aged 98 having lived in Frant for 33 years at South Lodge. In 1943 the Welcome Veterinary Research Station (part of the Welcome Trust now absorbed into Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK)) was established in Ely Grange, Frant doing research into, for example, foot rot and anthrax in sheep. Helen stayed there for the next thirty years until it closed in 1973 After that Helen, still connected to the agricultural world, took a secretarial post with the National Fruit Show, Marden and subsequently was made an Honorary Vice President.

In the following years she joined the British Equine Veterinary Association



helping to organise scientific and international conferences. She married Gerald Sidney Carpenter in 1956 and moved to a house in Tunbridge Wells. Helen attended a secretarial course but, due to the call to National service, worked at Fernden Fencing, Bells Yew Green. This company, which was located near Frant Station, produced mining pit props and chestnut pale fencing for aerodromes. In 1995 Helen inherited Park Lodge and with Gerald set up a

small caravan site. About ten years later they moved to Silverstrode, their house overlooking Frant Green, wanting to be nearer the village. The first mention of Helen Newington in the local papers was in December 1950 when she ran a fundraising group for the Bells Yew Green Scout Hut. The event was held in the Frant Memorial Hall. Later that year, in June, Helen was involved with a competition 'Three skittles down with one ball', this was won by Mr D Corby, BYG, and the prize was a live pig.

During that long hot summer Helen was also involved with the judging of the Frant Flower Show. In the same year Helen's father Frank Newington was fined 10s 6d resulting from his dog amongst others harassing sheep on Manor Farm. In December Helen was appointed Secretary of the Memorial Hall. In 1951 Helen had to report to the Hall Committee that the Ministry of Education had not approved a grant for an extension of the Hall which was a great disappointment. Did you know that Frant had a Squirrel Club the sole purpose of which was to destroy squirrels which were classed as vermin? In 1953, the Frant Squirrel Club shot 3000 squirrels bringing their tally to 13011 shot since the formation of the club in 1946. Helen was Secretary of that club. Needless to say, Helen and her parents were involved with raising funds for the Coronation in 1953.

More recently, Helen was a regular attendee with Gerald at Parish Council meetings and was an active member of the Parochial Church Council. She attended Church and could be seen at weddings and funerals handing out orders of service, twiddling the sound control knobs, shepherding people to their seats and generally helping the other church wardens. Helen was commissioned as a Lay Minister of Holy Communion in 2006 by the Revd. Alan Turner. Helen had a wide range of interests which included Sir Ernest Shackleton's voyage to the Antarctic in 1916. Ely Grange then known as Ely Place was the home of John Quiller Rowett. Both Rowett and Shackleton were students at Dulwich College and that's how their friendship began. Rowett gave large sums of money to finance the expedition. The Union Flag which was draped over Shackleton's coffin was passed to Helen from her father Frank Newington who worked as



a maintenance engineer and chauffeur to John Rowett. In 1998 Helen presented the flag to the explorer's grand-daughter the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, President, The James Caird Society, at a ceremony at Dulwich College.

Helen also presented the fine balaclava helmet that once belonged to Alex Macklin, surgeon on both the Endurance and Quest expeditions.

Helen was 99 years old and perhaps looked forward to her message and card from the King on her 100th. She has lived most of her life in Frant. She had a wide circle of friends, enjoyed coffee mornings and was very active in Frant and her church, St Alban's. My personal involvement with Helen started about 20 years ago. After Gerald died in 2005, we encouraged her to have a computer. She even did a course on Computer Skills in Crowborough. This enabled her to contact her many friends both home and abroad. However as time passed she needed help with her computer which seemed to have will of its own, according to Helen. She'd get frustrated and a couple of times a week I would have a cri-de-coeur to help her sort out a printing problem or the like. Mary and I helped her with her Sainsbury's shopping list, she would send Mary an email with her list of groceries which would terminate with 'End' and I would trundle across the road sometimes with a wheelbarrow full of goodies. Helen was a person who survived on lists or notes on scraps of paper which she would inevitably lose or forget where she left the memory

joggers.

Her telephone calls to us were not always good news but they were sometimes desperate. We would emphasise to her not to answer telephone calls that she couldn't identify. But the temptation was just too great; she had to answer most calls and then worry that her bank account was being raided. It wasn't. Other telephone calls related to accidents at home. She had a fall in her garden. We and her neighbours comforted and chatted her as she lay on the cold concrete for 4 hours waiting for the ambulance. Whilst outside in the chilly evening air by her garden shed we watched the International Space Station pass overhead. She had a bone fracture but didn't complain. Another occasion she fell in her bedroom at about 01.00am and couldn't move. But Helen didn't call us despite a nasty injury until much later thinking that she didn't want to disturb us so early in the morning and therefore called us at daybreak. Helen had a stroke on 17 March 2023. The day before I was introducing her to her new mobile phone. On the day of her stroke her carer arrived at 9.00am, just after she had collapsed on the floor, to give her a shower in her brand new walk-in shower; it never happened.

A stalwart, steadfast woman who was widely respected in Frant Parish. Helen Carpenter born on 31 August 1924 died on 27 January 2024 at Wadhurst Manor Care Home, Wadhurst aged 99 years 5 months.

—Michael Freestone

**Frant Parish Friendship Group**

We said goodbye to 2023 with our Christmas Tea Party in the Stables on 10th December. This was very well attended and a great success. Tony Harris entertained us again but this year he came dressed as a 6ft pantomime dame which was a sight to behold! He told us the history of pantomime and how it had evolved over the centuries and then regaled us with hilarious anecdotes of his theatrical career. Our thanks to all those who worked so hard on the day with setting up and clearing away.

Congratulations to the Knit and Natter Group for their stall at the Christmas Fayre which showcased their skilful work and was a great success.

In January our speaker was Patrick Phillips a retired driving examiner talking on 'Driving Dilemmas in Later

Years'! He first showed us a highly amusing film of a driving test in 1935 hand signals and all! What a joy to be driving on nearly empty roads. However coming up to date he discussed the joys and pitfalls of driving in later years and the danger signs to be aware of as we get older and have to face the inevitable loss of independence. We also had Justin a representative from Wealden District Council giving advice and answering questions on energy costs, a matter of concern to us at all at the moment.

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 will be on Thursday March 28th at 2.30 in the Stables. Our speaker will be Natalie Cohen and her subject 'Knole House through the eyes of an Archaeologist'. Then in April (25th) our speaker will be Peter Payne on 'The Other Famous Frant Parish People'. All welcome.

Enquiries to Valerie Palmer 01892750559 or valeriepalmer@uwclub.net

**Penshurst Choral Society**

The Choral Society presents music from Haydn: Te Deum & Kleine Orgelmesse and Howells: The House of the Mind Please join us for a wonderful evening of music. You can get your tickets here: <https://event.bookitbee.com/47575/> Penshurst-choral-society-spring-concert-2

**Bells Yew Green Village Hall**

The Bells Yew Green village hall committee is very pleased to announce that the hall now has FREE INTERNET ACCESS. This will enable hirers to utilise the full range of services that are required for classes, parties and events. The hall, together with free parking and outside space, is available at very attractive rates, with charitable and community events often being free of charge.

We welcome enquiries from all potential hirers for regular, occasional or one-off bookings by emailing Anna, our Bookings Manager, at [annan83@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annan83@yahoo.co.uk). Check our website at [www.bellsyewgreen.org](http://www.bellsyewgreen.org) for availability.

**Who pays for the churches?**

In the parish we are very fortunate to have two beautiful churches St Albans in Frant and Holy Trinity in Eridge which are available for regular worship; for weddings and funerals and also casual visitors and tourists. I do wonder how many people know how much it costs to keep the churches open and where the money comes from.

I certainly did not think a lot about the costs of our churches until about five years ago when I volunteered to chair the Chichester Diocese Board of Finance (a Diocese is simply a collection of parishes in a region linked to a Cathedral (in our case Chichester) and under the supervision of a bishop (in Chichester, bishop Martin Warner).

A common misconception is that the churches are supported in some way by the government. In some other countries pay for churches and in France the government even owns the church buildings but in England the government pays nothing! All the funds needed to maintain Christian presence in every parish in Chichester Diocese come from the parishes themselves, both the members of the congregation and those in the community who -even if they don't attend regularly - wish to see the churches maintained and ministry continue

Another misconception is that our parish is supported by the National Church which is wealthy. The Church Commissioners (part of the National Church) do have an investment fund but this is entirely devoted to supporting the churches in the more deprived parts of the country - they pay absolutely nothing towards churches in Chichester (East and West Sussex).

How church finance work has changed several times in the past century, and that may be the cause of some confusion, but today there are few Diocese with any significant reserves left to draw upon, Chichester is relatively well off, but our Diocese is running a financial deficit of over £1.2 million every year, so those reserves we have are being depleted at an alarming rate.

Dioceses fund the stipends, national insurance and pension contributions for the clergy (including any curates - priests in training) in all the parishes within their geographic area. All clergy are paid the same stipend for the same role, although there is some flexibility



for Dioceses to pay to reflect the cost of living in their area. Sussex is expensive and so Chichester pays very marginally higher than the average to reflect that.

The Diocese also owns and maintains all the parsonages in which the clergy live, in Chichester's case that means we own over 400 houses across Sussex. Since these are carried on our balance sheet at market value, we show a high asset value on our accounts, but in practice the cost of maintaining those properties for clergy and their family is the second biggest expense in our

budget, and we rarely sell property - unless we replace an existing parsonage with a newer house that is more efficient to heat and to maintain. As clergy move around during the course of their life in service, we cover removal costs.

The Diocese also bears all the costs of training ministers - both lay and ordained and whether they are volunteers or stipendiary. Most priests spend more than two years in theological college just like a university, and are paid grants by the church to maintain their families while training. Once in posts,

there is the cost of continued training for the first few years after ordination.

Across Sussex we are proud to have over 144 Church of England Schools. The Diocese has statutory responsibilities towards CoE schools and are required to have a staff to carry that work out. At a cost of 50p per pupil per week our schools exceed others in most OFSTEAD measures.

Legislation requires that the Dioceses are responsible for several other activities

Safeguarding - both training and dealing with any past or current case work.

Church Buildings - as these are mostly listed, the Diocese serves in place of

listed building consent through a similar process we are required to provide in house

Keeping proper records and accounts and having those accounts audited and reviewed by the Charity Commission

All this leads to the Diocese of Chichester having a budget of over £18 million per year. Of that about £3 million per year is covered by income from investments, rents from property during short periods when it is not required for clergy, and income from fees (Weddings and Funerals).

The £15 million difference in Chichester has to be met by payments made by parishes towards these costs - payments we call "Parish Share".



Now at the local parish level there are also significant - and rising with inflation - costs that have to be met by the "PCC", the Parochial Church Council Trustees (not to be mistaken for the Parish Council which is part of local civil government).

The church buildings and the activities of the church have to be insured.

Gas, water and electricity have to be paid for and all appliances safety tested regularly.

Organs are expensive to maintain.

Any work required on the fabric of the church or the churchyard must be carried out according to the listed building requirements - which pushes costs up.

PCC's themselves are usually run entirely by volunteers - but in Frant there are paid staff - our Youth Worker and our part time administrator, and

PCC's still need to keep proper books and records to be reviewed for submission to the Charity Commission.

Sometimes - there are grants available to PCC's for work on the fabric of churches - a decade ago Eridge church was fortunate to get a Grant from the Listed Places of Worship fund - but these sources are drying up and competition for grants is fierce.

Local churches and specifically our churches of St. Alban's Frant and Holy Trinity Eridge rely entirely on the generosity of the local community - those who come to church regularly, those that come from time to time and those who attend very occasionally, but wish to see the church presence in the villages continue. Giving can be by regular direct debit, weekly donations in church, or one off gifts - the most important of which are usually legacies.

In addition to financial giving the community also support the churches through volunteering at fundraising events - the Frant Music Concerts, the Harvest Suppers, the biannual Eridge Fair and other one-off fundraisers all make contribute significantly to PCC funds.

**Eridge Concert**

On Friday 3 May at 7pm in Holy Trinity Church, Eridge, a concert is taking place for "Good Vibrations" with Dave Johnstone and Friends - Songs and Readings in aid of [www.good-vibrations.org.uk](http://www.good-vibrations.org.uk). £15 on the door (cash or card) to include a drink and nibbles.



**Frant School News**

Children from reception through to year 3 have all taken part in cooking workshops that focused on the origins of food and how we can eat more sustainably.

Mrs Snelling will be championing initiatives across the school to encourage change locally in response to climate changes issues.

Children across the school have taken part in a range of sporting events with amazing success for such a small school. Of particular note, our girls football came 3rd in the Year 5/6 County Final - this is the first time we have reached this level. The tournament was held at Lancing at the Sussex County Ground where our girls faced the winners of the 9 other Area Finals in Sussex. The girls were up against schools where one year group was larger than our whole school! A huge achievement to be proud of.



Our PTFA organised a fun and well attended quiz night in the school hall. We are now looking to extend our equipment outside for the children to use as a result of the fund raising. More news in due course.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our news. Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. I am in school every day and will always find time for a chat.

—Mrs Joanna Challis, Acting Executive Headteacher

**Parish past**

More from Frank Sivyer ... “There were many gypsies passing and sometimes camping a day or so selling homemade clothes pegs, always very friendly the children not at all afraid of them. They would buy rabbit skins and rags, a lot of wild rabbits eaten in those days. Every Saturday an Italian organ grinder would pass complete with her children and monkey. Her reward for the tunes she played was Bread and Jam for the kids and perhaps a halfpenny, but how she earned it pulling her contraption up hill and down dale all those miles.

Sunday mornings saw a man pass, almost tottering with a huge wicker basket on his head, within it winkles, whelks, bananas boiled sweets etc for market; then there was the tin can

man, he had a pony and cart with an assortment of tin cans, basins, bowls very much used for many things. Cider makers came to farms with their portable presses ... after the press they scooped the liquid from under it into casks.

The farmers did their own maturing after, many had their own secret for doing this and many Potent Brews resulted. Chunks of beef sometimes I know and men assured me some used nice fat rats. Whatever was used the acid from it absorbed all the wrong contents before it was finally Barrelled. One glass of the good old farm cider would knock most people stone cold, perhaps an apt name for some old brews would be Daddy’s Nightshade!”

—Pat Wright

**Eridge Arts Club**

What exactly is jazz? A question entertainingly answered for those who attended Chris Burvill’s excellent, informative talk to the Eridge Arts Club on 29 November. Tracing the evolution of jazz from its turn-of-the-century roots in ragtime and blues through its heyday in the 1930s and onwards into the postwar years, Chris discussed the contribution of many of the great names in jazz, among them Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, Fats Waller, and Duke Ellington. Jazz was a major influence

not only on George Gershwin but also on later musicians, including Chuck Berry, the Beatles and Eric Clapton, and was absorbed into the film and musical repertoire. Chris illustrated his talk by playing on his keyboard some of the great jazz standards from Scott Joplin onwards, interspersed with original recordings - and against a backdrop of images, sheet music and lyrics displayed onto the projector screen. In conclusion he set his audience a “name that tune” quiz which provoked erudition and laughter in equal quantities.

A highly enjoyable evening for all present.

The next Eridge Arts event is a visit at 11am on 20 March to the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne which is currently hosting the Turner Prize exhibition. The Turner prize aims to support public engagement with cutting edge developments in British visual arts. The visit will include an introduction to the Turner Prize exhibition and to the Ravilious Collection, and a private tour of the Towner gallery’s Art Store. The tour is an opportunity to go behind the scenes with an expert guide and find out more about the works and artists in the Towner Gallery’s extensive and varied collection.

Tickets are £11 per person. To book please email Paula Ingham paula.bostoningham@outlook.com.



**Frant Garden Club**

It’s late January as I’m writing this and the days are still cold and miserable, but, when the sun came out briefly today, I grabbed my garden fork and found myself tickling the soil in our front garden and, despite the cold, I rather enjoyed myself.

The Garden Club comes out of hibernation in February and we hold an annual lunch at The George. Our programme gets underway again from March to November. Talks are held in the Frant Memorial Hall from 2.30 p.m. and this year are:

Tuesday, 19th March: Sue Marshall - The English love affair with the Iris

Tuesday, 16th April: Clive Nuttman - The little things that run the world

Tuesday, 15th October: Caroline Halfpenny - Gardens of Cornwall

We have two private afternoon visits (May and September) to local gardens which open under the NGS, and our full day outing on Wednesday 17th July, will be to Belmont House and Garden near Faversham (pictured below).

The year ends on Tuesday, 19th November, when we hold our AGM and enjoy an early Christmas tea party.

Annual membership of the Club is £5. If you would like to join us, contact me on 01892 752029 or email: tennantdd@gmail.com

—Dianna Tennant (Secretary)

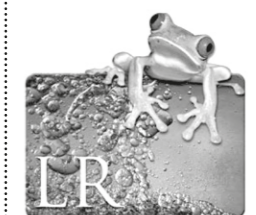


**Parish Pets #11: Doug & Stitch**

Doug & Stitch, pictured, on their daily walk along the footpath between Bayham Road and Frant. Doug is 13 and Stitch is 10 so our walks are more of a gentle stroll these days! They are both rescue dogs and so can be timid at first, but in return for a biscuit they’ll soon readily make friends. Doug & Stitch live with Becky & Marek. Feel free to say hello if you see us out on our walk.

» 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 2024**

» **Wednesday 6 March**  
Eridge Village Hall AGM; Eridge Village Hall, 6.30pm

» **Thursday 14 March**  
Arts Society Ashdown Forest Lecture "The Golden Age of Spanish Painting" (see page 7)

» **Tuesday, 19th March**  
Frant Garden Club: Sue Marshall talk The English love affair with the Iris Memorial Hall, 2.30 p.m.

» **Wednesday 20 March**  
Eridge Arts Club outing; Towner Gallery Eastbourne (see page 12)

» **Thursday 28 March**  
Frant Parish Friendship Group, The Stables, Frant; Guest Speaker (see page 9)

» **Tuesday, 16th April**  
Frant Garden Club: Clive Nuttman talk The little things that run the world Memorial Hall, 2.30 p.m.

» **Friday 19 April**  
Remi Harris Concert; St Alban's Church, Frant (see page 4)

» **Thursday 25 April**  
Frant Parish Friendship Group, The Stables, Frant; Guest Speaker (see page 9)

» **Friday 3rd May**  
Good Vibrations Concert; Holy Trinity Church, Eridge (see page 11)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:susan.piccioni@btinternet.com)  
Contributions for our next issue should be sent to the Editor: [carmel.kinley@gmail.com](mailto:carmel.kinley@gmail.com) or 01892 750217  
Next deadline: 1st April 2024

**Useful contacts**

**Frant**  
*Frant CofE Primary School*  
Joanna Challis: 750243  
*Frant and Eridge Church Office*  
9-12am Mon/Wed/Fri; 01892 752261  
[office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk)  
*Frant Church Youth and Kids*  
Ed Pascoe: [frantyouth@gmail.com](mailto:frantyouth@gmail.com)  
*Frant Bowls Club*  
Barry Dean: 661386; [barryglenys68@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:frantpanto@gmail.com)  
*St Alban's Bell-Ringers*  
Mary Freestone: 750269  
*Frant Stables*  
Julie Pascoe: 07850 091428; [juliedanielle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliedanielle@hotmail.co.uk)  
*Frant Parish Friendship Group*  
Brian Gill: 750266  
*Frant Memorial Hall*  
Sharon Warwick: 750185

**Eridge**  
*Eridge Garden Club*  
Jane Stevens: 01892 852739  
*Eridge Cricket Club*  
Luke Forbes: 670073  
*Eridge Village Hall Hire*  
[www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk](http://www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk)  
[bookevh@gmail.com](mailto:bookevh@gmail.com)  
*Eridge Choir*  
Tracy Bryant:  
[tracy@aldwickcottage.co.uk](mailto:tracy@aldwickcottage.co.uk)  
*Eridge Arts Club*  
Mary Helson: [mary.helson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:annan83@yahoo.co.uk)  
*Friends of Bells Yew Green*  
07944 712000

**Council contacts**

**Frant Ward**  
William Rutherford:  
[william.rutherford@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:william.rutherford@frant-pc.gov.uk)  
Colin Steadman:  
[colin.steadman@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:colin.steadman@frant-pc.gov.uk)  
Deborah Park:  
[deborah.park@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.park@frant-pc.gov.uk)  
Sarah Davies:  
[sarah.davies@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.davies@frant-pc.gov.uk)

**BYG Ward**  
Stuart Crookshank — Chairman:  
[scrookshank@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scrookshank@hotmail.co.uk)  
Gillian Miles:  
[gillian.miles@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.miles@frant-pc.gov.uk)  
Andrew Macdonald-Brown:  
[andrew.macdonald-brown@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.macdonald-brown@frant-pc.gov.uk)

**Eridge Ward**  
Andrew Best: [c/o clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:c/o clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk)

**Clerk to the Council**  
Rosie Barnes: 07903 661581; [clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk); [www.frant-pc.gov.uk](http://www.frant-pc.gov.uk)

**Wealden District Councillor**  
Sarah Glynn-Ives:  
[cllr.sarah.glynn-ives@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.sarah.glynn-ives@wealden.gov.uk)  
Johanna Howell: 750141  
[cllr.johanna.howell@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.johanna.howell@wealden.gov.uk)  
Bob Standley: 783579  
[cllr.bob.standley@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.bob.standley@wealden.gov.uk)

**County Councillor**  
Johanna Howell: 750141  
[johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk)  
Bob Standley: 783579

**Parish Council meetings**  
Full PC meetings are usually held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please check the Council's website at [www.frant-pc.gov.uk](http://www.frant-pc.gov.uk)

**MP for Wealden**  
Nus Ghani MP:  
[nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk)

**Police Contact Details:**  
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