

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Frant Village Stores and Post Office, 1955

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From the Rectory



I bought a power washer this week. I saw it in the Easter sale, and thought it would be great at battling our dirty patio. I Tried it out, and what a satisfying job it was. The front patio I don't think had ever been cleaned. What I thought was a grey patio, turned out to be a red one! Blasting off years of dirt was very nourishing to the soul.

I even looked at videos on how to use it, many videos just showed that satisfying cleaning action, and it was quite mesmerising. I am ashamed to say I wasted at least half an hour of my life just watching cleaning videos.

I wonder what you find most satisfying? Maybe you're a gardener, who loves to get those hedges and edges just right. Or maybe the house has to be just so. Or maybe it is sport, or games, or putting your feet up on holiday. Whatever it is, part of life is seeking out those satisfying moments and enjoying them.

They only last so long though. My new looking red patio, will turn grey again. The hedges will grow unsightly, our house with four children naturally turns to mess in about 30 seconds. Perhaps some of the things we used to enjoy we can't do anymore.

Nothing lasts in this world, our best moments will all turn to distant memories

and sometimes even those memories fade. Our youngest is on the edge of making his first steps, but thinking back I can't actually remember the others first steps – I need to look at old photos to try and remember. Life was a bit of a blur of sleep deprivation back then. Maybe I just have a bad memory.

Joy that will last is what we need. As I write we just finished celebrating Easter, when Jesus died and rose again from the dead. When nothing lasts in this world, the hope of Easter means that there is a joy to come, there is a resurrection to come. It is a joy that cannot be taken away.

For me my deepest satisfaction and joy comes from my Christian faith. To know that there is more to life than this. To know that not all things come to an end, that there is eternal life on offer. To find in my faith, a deep closeness and relationship with God himself. Those moments are the deepest satisfaction to our souls.

Don't just fill up your heart with earthly things, for your heart will end up empty. Fill your heart with heavenly joy, hope and satisfaction in God. The good news of the resurrection, the good news that Jesus made a way to God beyond this world, is the ultimate satisfaction to for our souls we long for.

—Rev Brendan Martin

News from the Pews



» Frant Churchyard update

A fine January day in Frant saw two leaders and a large number of volunteers from the Kent High Weald Partnership tackle the Churchyard (pictured below) to remove much of the overgrown 'invasive' species that have overwhelmed the back of St Alban's Church over many years. Some of the volunteers knew Frant well, one even being married in Frant church over 40 years ago!

Volunteers from Frant's Eco Church group succeeded in obtaining significant funding from 'Sussex Lund, a grant programme supported by the Lund Trust and operated by the High Weald National Landscape Partnership' to carry out the works which included removing Rhododendron, Laurel, undergrowth and replacing fence posts and putting in a new accessible gate giving access to the footpath behind the church.

There is much truth in the saying 'many hands make light work' and if you add chain saws into the mix, some sunshine and free doughnuts it is truly miraculous what can be achieved! An enormous amount has been done in the 3 days funding that was obtained by the Eco Church Group and with the extra volunteers and advice and guidance from the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the back of St Alban's Church has now been restored to something more resembling its former glory. There is more work to be done of course but a promising start to 2024!



» Frant Flower Festival

Over the weekend of the 29th and 30th June 2024 St Alban's Church Frant invites you to a Floral Weekend celebrating the beauty of the natural world. Do come along and enjoy an extravaganza of displays by local groups, including Frant Garden Club, Little Fishes, Frant School, Eco Church, Knit and Natter, Frant Woodworking and the Bible Study Group.

The church will be open on both days from 10am - 4pm, with refreshments available. Call in and have a cuppa while the children have fun doing flowery craft activities or explore the nature trail in the churchyard.

On Saturday 29th at 10.45am there will be a floral demonstration of phormium leaf rose plaiting, and at 1.30pm there will be a demonstration of making buttonholes, both followed by an opportunity for you to have a go! On Saturday and Sunday the woodworking group and a local wool spinner will be busy demonstrating their creative skills. In a quiet area of the church there will be opportunities for reflective moments and a prayer tree for personal messages to be



added.

Entry to the church and all activities is free, but donations towards our Silver Award winning Eco Church and Churchyard fund would be very welcome.

Come and join us in what promises to be a weekend full of colour, crafts and company!

If you would like to get involved, or for more information, contact Jayne Crookshank - mobile 07787 570981

» Out in the Wild Kids' Camp

Another busy holiday camp with children from across the Parish joining in the fun at the ever popular Out in the Wild activities. Thanks to Ed and his team (as well as the weather) the children had fun packed days with activities including laser tag, orienteering, campfires, archery and lego challenges. For lunch breaks, there was time to go to the chill out zone in the woods or play table tennis/table football amongst other things. The Bible theme of the week for talks and discussion was "Superheros of the Bible" giving the children an opportunity to participate in talks with Brendan, Ed and the other leaders. Look out for the dates of the next camp in the summer.



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

May / June 2024

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	5th May	Communion Service	9.15am
10:30am	Communion Service	12th May	Morning Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10:30am	Morning Service	19th May	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10:30am	Morning Service	26th May	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	2nd June	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Communion Service	9th June	Morning Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	16th June	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	23rd June	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10:30am	Communion Service	30th June	Morning 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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Parish Council News

Hopefully many of you will have read this electronically before the 23rd April as that is the day Wealden District Councillors came to the Memorial Hall in Frant to explain their reasonings for the decisions behind the draft Wealden Local Plan. It was really important that all of us expressed our views on this as if it is implemented it will have a huge impact on our Parish for at least the next 10 years or more.

The Parish Council will be submitting its official response shortly and as you know we are very concerned about any developments on the High Weald AONB and even more so when the number of houses proposed (over 450) when the total number of houses in Frant Ward is only about 440 is a hugely disproportionate quota of new houses for our part of East Sussex- in our view!!

Another date to mention is the 23rd May which is our Annual Parish Meeting. We hope to be able to have a fairly full presentation of the proposed new pedestrian crossing in Frant. We are starting to make real progress now and its reality is edging closer. It appears that it is slow progress as we are entering a new world as far as Highways is concerned and a relatively small Parish Council like ours pursuing the dream of a major (£250,000 project) like this one is unheard of and therefore requires very careful and skilful navigation through the various legal and other processes. On the plus side the longer the project has kept going the better the technology has become especially on negating the

impact of the lighting!

On a similar eco theme the Parish Council has been drawn into a difficulty between some structural engineers and a circa 300 year old Oak Tree in Bells Yew Green. Probably one of the older 'elder statesman' of the Parish its roots are apparently threatening a nearby house extension. Nobody in the Parish wants the tree removed including the owners of the tree and the said house but it appears the insurers and their lawyers are adamant that the tree must be removed even though it is much older than the nearby houses!!

After all the recent publicity about felling older healthy trees I am surprised that it is even an option but evidently the dollar still rules- for the moment!!

—Stuart Crookshank

Nus Ghani
» Proposed new housing numbers in Wealden

I receive a lot of correspondence on planning in Wealden, and many residents have been in touch with me to share their concerns about the new housing numbers proposed for our area by the current Council leadership.

As you may be aware, the Wealden District Council's Draft Local Plan is now out for public consultation and outlines where the new Wealden District Council leadership, which is a coalition of Liberal Democrats and Green councillors, intends to build 15,729 new homes between now and 2040. The Draft Local Plan consultation period runs until Friday 10th May and I would

like to encourage all Wealden residents to consider taking part and have their say. The consultation is available online at <https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse>.

I fully acknowledge that we do need more homes, and a level of development in Wealden is inevitable. I see the need for affordable homes pop up daily in my casework and I believe that we should be striving for sensible, affordable housing for first-time local buyers and renters, and those who wish to downsize locally. However, I do recognise the level of surprise and frustration at the numbers proposed in the Draft Local Plan, which are much higher compared to what the councillors had been proposing to residents last year.

I'm always keen to hear residents' views on local matters, but please remember that social media posts and emails to your MP regarding planning do not count as objections in a formal Council consultation and that I have no jurisdiction over individual planning applications or what is approved or dismissed on local planning by councillors. The Draft Local Plan is an initiative overseen, managed, and implemented by the new Wealden District Council leadership and the most appropriate way of shaping the final version of the Local Plan is via the official consultation.

I continue to work hard to ensure that your concerns are heard in Westminster. If you are a Wealden resident and require my assistance, please email nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk



Frant choir, c.1902

Parish Past

» More from Frank Sivyer:

The schoolmaster was also choirmaster and organist ... there was a waiting list to get into the choir but I made it at eleven and got a surprise at goings-on behind the scenes. I had formed the opinion that people in the choir would be good, this in my early days, but was shocked to see the schoolmaster light up a cigarette, he having caned five boys the previous week for smoking! I learned a lot of the ways of life from the choir, if not ones the parson expected: the tradesmen at the back did everything they could during the sermon to make us boys in the front giggle and get into trouble, little pieces of paper rolled up into balls and shot at you and other things.

The church was always full ... the two main families had raised pews at the back, seats in the front for their working folk so they could see who came and who didn't. The bell-ringers took a stone jar of ale with them before commencing ringing and then would sit in the gallery among the Sunday School children to drink it during the service. I also discovered what today would be called a fiddle because us choirboys began to be paid a halfpenny a showing therefore twice on Sunday, one practice a week, so a full quarter of thirteen weeks meant one shilling seven pence halfpenny, a fortune. The top boy kept the register,

so he himself always had a full card but if his chums played truant he gave them a mark anyway so of course they did the same for him. If you were disliked for any reason your card was always short if you were there or not ... quite a lot of switching and bargaining took place just before the annual treats to make sure you went even if you had missed often.

—Pat Wright

Annette's date slices

To the very many residents of Frant Parish who have, over several years, enjoyed the taste of Annette's delicious date slices - here is the recipe! Probably one of the best kept secrets in Frant. Annette is known to so many of us but for those of you who may not have had the privilege of enjoying a date slice with her, she now lives in Tunbridge Wells having previously resided in Lime Close in Frant. A huge number of us owe so much to Annette who, over 40 years ago, set up Mums and Toddlers in The Stables in Frant. It continues to this day (rebranded as Little Fishes) and for new mums, is a lifeline to meet others and give such fun interaction to the mums and their babies. A welcoming group offering coffee and biscuits, playtime and great fun singing along to songs with Brian (Gill) at the piano which is such a wonderful start to the day.

So, thank you Annette for the impact

you have had on so many families. A special thank you as well for this delicious date slice recipe!

Date Slices

8oz Stork Margerine
8oz Demerara Sugar
8oz Selfraising Flour
½ tsp Baking Powder
12oz Dates (chopped)
2 Large Eggs

- Line a 31cm x 27cm greased cake tin
- Set the oven to 170 degrees (fan)
- Melt the margarine in a saucepan
- Add the sugar, dates, flour and baking powder
- Add the eggs and mix all together
- Mix well and pour into the cake tin
- Bake for 20-25 minutes until firm
- Remove from oven, allow to cool and cut into squares and enjoy!

Eridge Garden Club

The Eridge Garden club has arranged a private tour of Clinton Lodge Gardens in Fletching (pictured below) on Wednesday 19 June at 1.45 pm. This is a 6 acre garden of formal and romantic planting overlooking parkland with old roses, herbaceous borders, yew hedges, bleached lime walks and much more.

It should be a super garden to visit. Tickets are priced £14 per person. If you are interested please let Jane Stevens know at stitchesjane@gmail.com. Numbers will be limited.



Eridge Arts Club

» Visit at The Towner Gallery in March

The Eridge Arts Club visited Eastbourne on Wednesday 20 March to see the Towner Gallery in its superb purpose-built premises. As arranged, we were given a guided tour of the reserve collection by Brian Cheeswright, himself an artist. He selected for us a number of works starting with examples from Alderman John Chisolm Towner's founding collection of 1923, and including works by such varied artists as William Gear - a past curator - Edward Bawden and John Piper. The Towner is probably best known for its collection of paintings by Eric Ravilious, above: *Cuckmere Haven* (1939), who studied and taught at Eastbourne College of Art. Brian showed us a wide range of his works including woodcuts, works on paper and war artist drawings and

paintings. Many were given to the Gallery in 1982 by the artist's family. In its public galleries the Towner was also displaying work by the finalists of the Turner Prize for contemporary artists, an intriguing and challenging exhibition which has drawn over 100,000 visitors to the Towner Gallery. The restaurant served an excellent light lunch and the sun encouraged many of us to stroll along the promenade before returning home.

Next Eridge Arts Club event: June 12th

The next Eridge Arts Club event will be a talk on 12th June. Paul Avis will talk about the work of Decimus Burton (below), renowned for designing many landmark buildings in Tunbridge Wells. All are welcome. Tickets are £5. If you are planning to attend please let Michael Stevens know: stitchesmichael@gmail.com



Frant School News

As I write this I am hoping that the weather will be better by the time you read this and the children return to school for the summer terms!

We have had a busy few months with many highlights.

Sport has continued to play an important role here at Frant with many tournaments attended with considerable success by a wide range of pupils. Please read our Sports News on the school website for more information. It was lovely to hold a Weald Federation Netball Tournament (Frant, Mark Cross, Mayfield and Five Ashes) on our playground with 2 matches taking place all afternoon. All pupils played well, showed good team spirit and a positive have a go attitude. It rained most of the afternoon but no-one gave up or moaned. As always, thanks has to go to Mrs Douch who never seems to tire of going outside whatever the weather.

Staff and children dressed as their favourite characters for World Book Day earlier this term which was enjoyed by all.

Our PTFA organised a fun quiz night in school that was a lot of fun and brought out a very positive competitive spirit amongst our parents. We held a Mother's Day Breakfast in school that was very well attended and enjoyed by all. We have to thank the staff at The George for getting up super early to ensure we had bacon and sausages ready. This was followed at the end of the term with an Easter Egg Hunt and a cake sale, around the rain! Our thanks as always to our very supportive PTFA.

Our plans for a Pre School onsite are well underway. We do not have a definite opening date but are keen to get the build started once the planning is confirmed in the next few weeks.

On the last day of term 4, we held our Easter Service at St Alban's led by Rev Brendan. The children shared their learning about Easter and sang beautifully for all our parents and visitors.

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

Eridge Summer Fair

We are delighted to announce the return of the Eridge Summer Fair to the delightful grounds of Eridge Park on 30th June 2024 and we need your donations! The Fair is always a fantastic day of fundraising with entertainment for all the family. Featuring traditional stalls, tea tent, arena entertainment, grand draw and the famous fashion boutique! Tickets can be purchased on the day at £3 per adult and £1.50 per child, with all proceeds to local charities. Follow Eridge Fair on Facebook for further updates. Please note that we can only allow assistance dogs into the Fair. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any unwanted items in good condition to donate, or would be willing to help, please contact the relevant stallholders:

- **Books:**
Christina Humberston
miss-de@hotmail.co.uk
- **Bottles:**
Rebecca Hall
rebecca.lendon@hotmail.com
- **Boutique:**
Christine Freeman
cmf@hamsell.co.uk
- **Children's:**
Pete Collyer
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- **Cakes:**
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tennis9193@me.com
- **Tombola:**
Alex Iwinski
alex@iwinski.co.uk
- **Trash & Treasure:**
Matt Wilkey
mattwilkey@icloud.com

Donations can also be delivered to Stephen Barnes at Birchden Farm, Broadwater Forest Lane, TN3 9NR from mid April onwards.

If you are not already involved with this fantastic community event and would like to volunteer, please contact Dawn on 07876 564333. Additionally, we always need a fair amount of gazebos and carrier bags - if you have access to any please get in touch!



Discovering the Eridge gun

Readers probably know the pub in Eridge with the odd name of The Nevill Crest and Gun. It isn't like other paired pub names such as The Rose & Crown, or the Horse & Groom. The two parts don't seem to have any relationship to each other, and they don't.

The pub may have been a pub since the mid to late 17th century (around 1650-1700) when a cellar was inserted. The first written reference to the pub (that I know of) is in the Census for 1861 when it was called the Nevill Crest & Gun, as now. However, on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map published in 1878 the pub is marked as The Bull and Gun. In the 1871 census it was The Gun, and in 1881 and 1901. It was not named in 1891 but it was still operating. The publicans were also farmers, and the building may have been a farmhouse for centuries, as well as being a pub. The Bull was the large moulded and coloured relief of the Nevill crest of a bull on the coach-house. It presumably dates after the family's return to Eridge in the 1780s. (They had been living at Kidbrooke near East Grinstead.)

The 'Gun' was an old gun or cannon which stood in front of the pub and was fired on holidays and fair days for fun. An article in the learned journal of the Society of Antiquaries for 1792 showed an engraving of the gun made in 1768, with a short text. The author called it a mortar (wrongly) and said that it was understood to be the first made in England, and that the first guns were made at Buxted, not far away. This is probably not true and is based on a misunderstanding. The gun is actually a bombard, which gave us the words 'bombardment' and 'to bombard'. They were large guns made from flat strips of wrought iron formed into a circle and held in place with iron hoops. The breech, where the gunpowder was put, was made of cast iron. This was the

first type of gun made and was used in sieges. Such guns were being made in the south-east from about 1350. This gun dates from a hundred years later, around 1450, and it might have been made in the Eridge area, though this cannot be proved. The iron founders of Buxted were casting iron from 1492, and cast-iron guns were being made in the Weald from about 1500. They replaced the earlier wrought-iron guns such as our bombard. Not much is known about medieval ironworking, but it was definitely happening at Eridge by Elizabethan times and very likely earlier.

How did the bombard get to the pub? The 1792 note says that 'it lies now at Eridge green', not specifically near the pub, but it would be an obvious place for it. The note goes on that it 'has served for many years for the amusement of the people on a holiday or fair day; when they collect money to buy gunpowder to throw the shell to a hill about a mile distant. The weight of the shell sinks it so deep in the earth, that it costs no little pains to dig it out after each discharge, which is repeated as long as the money lasts.' The engraving shows a cannonball beside the gun, 13 inches in diameter! A famous bombard is Mons Meg, now at Edinburgh Castle and of the same date as the Eridge gun. Guns often had names, such as The Good Grace, Henry and The Crown made in the later 15th century.

The pub was on the west side of the green which has now disappeared. It must have been taken into the park after the Nevills returned to Eridge, probably in the 1820s when the cottages near the church were built. It is interesting that the name 'Eridge Green' survives two hundred years after the green disappeared. The bombard would have been very heavy so it is unlikely that it was moved far. There were two gunneries at Eridge in 1603 and probably earlier. The gun might possibly

have been made there, but we just don't know. It may have been old stock that was lying about, and had been made obsolete by the new cast guns. Other theories would be welcome! However, on the 1846 Tithe map the field north of the pub was called 'Gun Meadow' so may have been where the gun was kept. There may be other explanations for the name.

I would also like to know where the gun was aimed. If it was fired from the pub at a hill, the obvious direction is east or south-east across the park. The range was a mile, so it would take quite a time to fire the gun, retrieve the cannon ball, and start again. Doubtless the crowds whiled away the time drinking. Since the Nevills were at Kidbrooke they were not there to object.

However, they did have a steward, Thomas Weller, whose grandson George, inherited Buxted Hall in Suffolk. It was he who moved the gun to his new house before 1778 when he died. His connection with Eridge was slight, as far as we can tell, but he must have had a great interest in the gun to have taken the immense trouble to move it to Suffolk. The Eridge people cannot have been pleased.

Its fate was forgotten, though its existence was not, and even 250 years later it is remembered in Eridge. People assumed it had rusted away, or was sunk in the lake in the park. It was not easy to track down, but following a hint that it had been given to a museum I followed a trail which led to the Royal Armouries, and there was the gun! It is known as the Buxted Bombard after the place where it was discovered in the 1970s. An excellent article was written about it in the 1987 volume of the Society of Antiquaries' journal, but as it was called 'The Buxted Bombard' it took a while to find it. It is now on display at Fort Nelson near Portsmouth.

—Mary Alexander





Christopher Woods Obituary
 » 27.02.1947 - 29.03.2024

Chris, beloved brother to John and uncle to Lucy, Julian, Thomas, Richard, Angus, Hugh, Roderick and Jessica died peacefully in Heather View care-home, Crowborough on Good Friday, 29th March 2024.

Christopher Charles Upton Woods was born in Liverpool on 27th February 1947 as were his sister Diana (born on 27th February 1945 so they shared a birthday exactly 2 years apart) and brother John but as his Dad, Douglas moved to a job in Sussex, Chris spent only 3 years in the North West (not long enough to be a Scouser!).

At school in Horsham, the College of Richard Collyer he concentrated on Maths and Physics which lead to him going to Oxford and graduating in Physics at St John's; and then a Masters in Operational Research at Sussex University.

He was employed in the Operational Research department in British Rail, Channel Tunnel section. There then followed various jobs in teaching and finance generally within greater London, with a move to Frant in the mid 80s.

In sport he was an amateur skier but in rifle shooting he was very accomplished, representing the British under 18s in 1965 in the Athelings team to Ottawa. His keenness in cycling also lead to amassing half a dozen machines, some built to his design.

Chris had an abiding interest in the Royal Observer Corps and purchased one of their bunkers in Cheshire - renovating it in the course of many visits there (hitherto virtually unknown to the family)

Chris never married: his sister Diana predeceased him: he is survived by his elder brother John and the nieces and nephews as above, and their families who all miss him dearly.

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» **Thursday 9th May** at 2pm at Crowborough Community Centre, TN6 1FE Lecture: 'The Gilded Stage: A Social and Cultural History of Opera' Lecturer: Daniel Snowman

Most histories of opera concentrate on great composers and their works and perhaps some of the famous singers who performed them. Daniel invites us to look at opera in its wider context; the production as well as the consumption, the supply and the demand. He touches on monarchs, money-makers, artists and audiences, theatres and the people who ran them, and the impact of new technologies from gaslight to photography, recording, film and digital. In the 20th Century, with the huge problems the world faces, the question must be addressed: does opera have a future and what exactly do we mean by 'opera' anyway?

Daniel is an academic, broadcaster, professional lecturer and author of over a dozen books on social and cultural history. A graduate of Cambridge and Cornell, he was a lecturer at the University of Sussex and the Chief Producer, BBC Radio (Features).

» **Thursday 13th June** at 2pm at Crowborough Community Centre, TN6 1FE Lecture: 'A Brief Story of Wine' Lecturer: David Wright

Wine has been an important part of society for over 7,000 years and this lecture tells of its story in communities across the Mediterranean and Europe. There is rich evidence of the role of wine as an important component of faith, well-being and festivity. From the kwevris of Georgia in 5,000 B.C., symposia in ancient Greece, thermopolia of Pompeii, and the hospices of Europe to the dining tables of fine society wine has been ever present. Drawings, paintings, buildings, pottery and wine labels all help tell the story.

David Wright is a wine retailer, importer and distributor. He regularly presents tastings and talks on wine to trade and private audiences. This is a talk on a great subject, full of rich evidence in the form of visual arts, artefacts and literature that illustrate a fascinating story.

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

Frant Parish Friendship Group

Our speaker in February was Janie Ramsey and her subject 'Without Reserve' anecdotes from the auction house. Janie had run her own antiques business in Tunbridge Wells many years ago and then gone on to work for Sotheby's. Her behind the scenes revelations were extremely interesting and during her talk she involved members in some role play to explain the interaction between dealers. This was very amusing however our acting skills left something to be desired!

The March we had a fascinating talk on Knole House in Sevenoaks; given by Natalie Cohen an archaeologist with the National Trust. Natalie had been involved with the huge restoration project that took place at Knole over a period of six years. Knole is one of the country's most exceptional historic houses, containing world-class collections of royal furniture, silver, paintings and tapestries. In 2012 Knole was facing crisis – the building was deteriorating and its interiors and collections were suffering from the damp environment. During the renovations that followed as the building was stripped back the archaeology team were able to uncover hundreds of everyday artefacts left by generations of working men and women. Also they uncovered a mass of graffiti which gave a wealth of information about the people living and working in Knole going back to its earliest days.

In January we said goodbye to Helen Carpenter a founder member of the group and lifelong resident of Frant. Helen had been very active committee member and is greatly missed.

The exercise classes have been a great success with numbers increasing these will be starting again in September. Our autumn programme is now in the process of being finalised and details of this will be in the next issue of the Parish News.

New members always welcome; we meet in the Stables on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.30pm, from September to April.

Enquiries Valerie Palmer
 valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com



Wadhurst Open Gardens

We are proud to present 10 wonderfully varied gardens in the Wadhurst area for our annual event on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June 2024 from 2pm-6pm each day.

Details as follows:

- Plant stall at Carillon Cottage
- Refreshments in the Church from 2pm – 5.30pm
- Beat the queues buy a TEA TICKET when you buy your entrance ticket £5.00
- Exhibition of local Primary School Posters in the Church
- All profits will go to Carillon Cottage - Serving the whole community for over 20 years.
- TICKETS: Carillon Cottage 9.30am – 12.30 from 20th April: Weekend Early Bird Super Saver ticket £10. £12 after 20th May and on the day

For further information please call Sonia 01892 785671. We look forward to seeing you!



Parish Pets #12: Flaubert

I'm Flaubert, named after a writer who had a parrot. Well I suppose it's better than being called Polly! I was born in 1986 in Cameroon where my owners bought me.

In 1989 I flew to England (in a plane, not under my own steam) and spent the next 4 years wandering round a house and garden in Frant. Then it was up sticks and off to Canada. The day I arrived in Montreal it was -25 Celsius, far too cold for an African Grey. But everyone ensured I was kept warm.

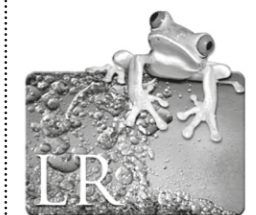
After 4 years in Quebec we jumped in a car, drove to New York, boarded the QE2 and sailed across the Atlantic. A few weeks in England followed before a journey through the Channel Tunnel and by car across France into Southern Germany where I lived for 8 years. In 2005 back in the car to return to Frant, where I have been ever since.

I think my travelling days are over, but you never know. I now hang out mainly in the kitchen, where I listen to BBC Radio 3. I especially like opera and whistle along with the tunes. Most evenings I enjoy watching tv in the study. Wildlife programmes are my favourite. I haven't forgotten the sounds of Africa.

All this wandering around the world has left me repeating French, German and English words. Because I share the house with a dog, I also bark! Moreover I can imitate the sounds of the dishwasher being unloaded and the clatter of cooking utensils. So you had better watch your language if you come to see me!

» **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:
May/June 2024**

» **Thursday 9th May & Thursday 13 June**

Arts Society Ashdown Forest Lectures
Crowborough Community Centre
(see page 12)

» **Thursday 23 May**

Annual Parish Meeting, Frant Memorial Hall (see page 7)

» **Saturday 1 June – Sunday 2 June**

Wadhurst Open Gardens, Carrillon Cottage (see page 12)

» **Wednesday 12 June**

Eridge Arts Club talk (see page 9)

» **Saturday 29 June – Sunday 30 June**

Frant Flower Festival, St Albans Church, Frant (see page 4)

» **Sunday 30 June**

Eridge Summer Fair, Eridge Park (see page 10)

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: frantyouth@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 June 2024

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Frant Bowls Club

Chris Hall, 01892 652483,

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Frant Cricket Club

David Pearson: 750789

Frant Garden Club

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Frant Memorial Hall

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Eridge

Eridge Garden Club

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Eridge Arts Club

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Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel

Peter Arrowsmith: 01892 610309

BYG Cricket Club

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Bells Yew Green Village Hall

Anna Lee-Davey: 07841 016558;

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Friends of Bells Yew Green

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cllr.johanna.howell@wealden.gov.uk

Bob Standley: 783579

cllr.bob.standley@wealden.gov.uk

County Councillor

Johanna Howell: 750141

johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk

Bob Standley: 783579

Parish Council meetings

Full PC meetings are usually held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday 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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www.frantvillagehall.co.uk
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