

# Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



*Northern Lights over Frant. Photograph by Russell Hall*

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**From the Rectory**



We have come to that time of year when we have Remembrance Day. Over the years I have been aware that there has been a real change in how we remember. As I look back as a child in scouts I was regularly part of a big procession in my local town behind many veterans.

For my family it was an important time as my Grandparents were very much involved in their local veterans groups. My Nanna was in the WAAF and both my Grandads in the RAF. The war was in many ways the defining aspect of their life and when my Grandfather died he had his coffin draped with the RAF flag.

Today however there are so few veterans left. The Second World War came to an end 79 years ago. We read the names of the fallen in our churches, but now few will actually remember them.

It is hard I think to comprehend the sense of grief and loss our villages experienced through the First and Second World War. We read dozens of names, each one from a local family, I counted 63 from WW1 in our parish. The loss for individual villages like ours would have been devastating and you can see why people wanted to create the Memorial Hall in Frant in memory of loved ones.

What will we be remembering when there is no one left who remembers the men of our

villages who died in war?

We are remembering their ultimate sacrifice. Jesus says "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13) then Jesus says "You are my friends." The divine Son of God laid down his life for us on the cross for our forgiveness and salvation.

The sacrifice of so many men in our villages speaks of the cost of the greatest love of all, to lay down one's life for a friend, and so we remember.

We also remember the 7193 British servicemen and women who died in war since World War Two.

To stop, remember and honour those who died in war speaks of our own values as people. To know that there is something of greater importance than even our own life. In our often selfish world, which is full of pride and self-achievement, their most humble of sacrifice reminds us that our greatest purpose is not found in selfish ambition but in following the way of Christ. To accept Christ's love and sacrifice for us, and so in turn love and serve others, even at great cost.

Join us for our Remembrance Sunday Service. I believe it is important also to encourage children to remember too, so families please feel welcome to join us, Frant 10:30am, Eridge 10:50am.



**News from the Pews**

As the season turns, the village will be slowly wrapped in the golden hues of autumn. The trees along the lanes will shed their green in favour of reds, oranges, and yellows, making the walks around Frant and the surrounding countryside even more breathtaking. There's nothing quite like an autumn stroll, with the crunch of leaves underfoot and that crisp freshness in the air. For those who venture behind the church early in the morning, you might have been lucky enough to spot a stunning group of toadstools that recently popped up in the field, basking in the soft glow of the sunrise. I managed to capture this magical sight on camera, a reminder of nature's quiet beauty as the year begins to wind down.



September was a month full of music, memories, and s'mores here in Frant. We kicked off with a concert that will be talked about for years to come. On a mild September evening, two of the UK's guitar legends, Gordon Giltrap and John Etheridge, graced our village with a performance that had us all in awe. Their electrifying guitar skills, intertwined with witty banter, made it a night of top-tier musicianship and plenty of chuckles. A sell-out for the third time this year (clearly, we're on a roll), the concert raised over £2000 for the church. Thank you to all who made it happen—proof that when we come together, we can enjoy world-class talent while supporting our community. Bravo, everyone!

But don't put away your concert shoes just yet. We're keeping the momentum going with another extraordinary evening on Friday 25th October. Renowned cellist Raphael Wallfisch will be performing the Bach Cello Suites 1, 3, 4, and 6. And if that wasn't enough to have you scrambling for tickets, Raphael will be bringing these timeless works to life through the letters of Bach and his contemporaries, giving us a glimpse into the composer's mind. This promises to be an immersive experience like no other. Tickets are £20 and available online or at Brittens Music Store in Tunbridge Wells. And yes, the bar will be open. You're welcome!

In other community news, our Women's Event on 28th September was an afternoon filled with tea, art, and laughter. Emily, our very talented

artist, guided us through a calming watercolour workshop where everyone, regardless of experience, created beautiful postcards with a touch of calligraphy. It was the perfect way to unwind and connect. We'll surely be doing more of these delightful afternoons in the future—so stay tuned.

On the littler side of life, we're thrilled to report that Little Fishes (our baby and toddler group) has made a splashy return on Tuesdays at 9:30am. We've welcomed some new faces and fresh helpers—though we're waving goodbye to our much-loved Julie Pascoe. Julie's move leaves a big gap, but her legacy of kindness and dedication to our little ones will remain a guiding light for us all. Thank you, Julie!

Our youth are in good hands too, with Brendan stepping up to lead Encounter Youth Group. Every Friday from 7-8:30pm, the Stables are buzzing with energy (and not just from the sugar in the desserts!). We've also invited Year 6s to join, creating a steady space where they can keep up with friends as they transition to secondary school. Brendan's passion for youth work is already making waves, and we're excited to see where he takes things from here.

Meanwhile, our Sunday Club leaders have been hard at work planning how we can grow this vibrant group

of children. With 24 kids attending recently, we're in the top 10% of all Church of England churches (pause for applause!). It's a joy, but also a responsibility, to guide our young ones in their faith. Please continue to pray for our leaders as they step into this important role.

On the outdoor front, we bid farewell to Festival Church for the winter months. Our final gathering on 22nd September featured Bible stories, songs, woodland crafts, and, of course, gooey, toasted s'mores and marshmallows around the campfire. We'll be counting down the days until we can sit around the fire again!

And finally, we said a bittersweet goodbye to the Pascoe family on Sunday 29th September. After eight years with us, they've headed off to Tonbridge Parish Church with our love, prayers, and very best wishes. They've left a lasting mark on our community, and we're so grateful for all they've done.

With so much happening in our bustling village, it's safe to say we're keeping busy! As always, your support and involvement make Frant the lively, loving community it is. Until next time, stay blessed, stay connected, and see you at the next event (preferably with a s'more in hand)



# 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**

**November / December 2024**

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age Service)	3rd November	Communion Service	9.15am
10:30am	Remembrance Sunday	10th November	Remembrance Sunday	10:50am
3.00pm	Remembrance Service at Frant Memorial Hall			
10:30am	Morning Service	17th November	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	24th November	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	1st December	Communion Service	9:15am
4.00pm	Christmas Christingle			
10:30am	Communion Service	8th December	Morning Prayer	9:15am
10.30am	Morning Service	15th December	Nine Lessons & Carols	6.00pm
6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight (with Frant School)			
10.30am	Morning Service	22nd December	Communion Service	9.15am
4.00pm	Crib Service (All Age)	24th December	Communion Service	9.15am
9.00pm	Midnight (Bethlehem Time)	Christmas Eve		
	Communion (till 10pm)			
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 2025		

WORSHIP AT BELLSYEW GREEN

Sunday Services: 10.30am & 3.00pm / Bible Study & Prayer: Thursdays, 7.00pm / Enquiries: Peter Arrowsmith, 01892 610309





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**Frant Music**

Our wonderful evenings of Music in Frant continue with world class music on our doorstep! Huge thanks to our loyal supporters and we encourage new members to come and experience one of our musical evenings in the months ahead.

Further to our greatly anticipated performance by the internationally renowned cellist Raphael Wallfisch on 25th October, our next concert will be on 17th January 2025 with the 2014 Young Musician of the Year pianist Martin James Bartlett (pictured below) performing. This promises to be a very special evening. Bartlett's early public success as the winner of the BBC Young Musician led to engagements with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Ulster Orchestra and, in 2015, his BBC Proms debut performing Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. For Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday, he performed at the National Service of Thanksgiving, which was broadcast live on BBC One

from St. Paul's Cathedral.

An exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics, Bartlett has released three widely acclaimed albums on the label. La Danse (2024) focuses on solo works by Couperin, Debussy, Hahn, Rameau and Ravel, and received 5-star reviews in The Times, as well as Editor's Choice on Gramophone. Rhapsody (2022), recorded with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Joshua Weilerstein and featuring concerti by Rachmaninoff and Gershwin, was released to critical acclaim, also receiving Gramophone's Editor's Choice accolade and a 5-star review in BBC Music Magazine. His debut recital album Love and Death (2019) also received outstanding reviews in The Times, The Guardian and The Sunday Times.

Tickets will soon be on sale at Brittens Music Shop in Tunbridge Wells and online at Frant Church website. We anticipate this will be a fast sell out, so don't delay securing your seat!

For future reference we have the following concerts already booked for 2025;

- 17 January 2025: Martin James Bartlett
- 21 March 2025: Budapest Café
- 17 May 2025: Jacqui Dankworth
- 25 October 2025: London Community Gospel Choir

**Frant Memorial Hall Upcoming events**

» **Frant Market**

Here's something new to be excited about—Frant now has its very own market!

Frant Market is a monthly event featuring an array of artisan stalls in the Village Hall, with everything from freshly baked goods to handcrafted textiles, and even some treats for your furry friends. It's held on the first Friday of every month from 11am to 2pm. Pop in, have a browse, and maybe snag a treat (or three).

» **Remembrance Sunday**

The commemoration will take place at Frant Memorial Hall on Sunday 10 November at 3.00pm. Refreshments will be offered afterwards for all who attend.

» **Quiz Night**

We will be having a Christmas Quiz night in the hall on Saturday 7th December. Come along and support your village hall. Prizes and a raffle. See posters on display around the village for full details.

If you would like to donate to the raffle, please contact Sharon Warwick on Tel:01892 750185, all donations are appreciated.

» **Frant Panto – Robin Hood**

Legend combines with rip roaring comedy as Robin and his trusted band of Merry Men try to outfox the baddie we love to hate - the sheriff of Nottingham.

It's fun and frolics all the way. Cram packed with comedy, this true pantomime offers chorus involvement, audience participation and honest to goodness family fun.

Show dates are 28,29 and 30th of December

Performances are 7:45pm with a matinee performance on the Saturday at 2:45pm

Tickets will be on sale as of the 1st week of November

Check our website for more details frantpanto.co.uk







**Frant School News**

We have had a busy start to the school year with many highlights already;

We have welcomed new members of staff to our school community including Mr Papper, Mrs Bones, Mrs Pascoe and Mrs Thomas.

Mrs Lauren Beach has been appointed as Head of School. Mrs Beach, formally Miss Maidman has been at Frant School for 7 years and worked in nearly every class in the school.

We have welcomed 14 new children to our school in our Chestnut Class (Reception age). They have all made a fantastic start to their school life with us at Frant. Our Year 6 buddies have been fantastic at helping our new Chestnut children to settle in.

We have already started our sports fixtures for the term with Football tournaments, both boys and girls and Cross-Country running.

Our Year 6's went on their residential trip to Kingswood in Ashford. They had a brilliant time, learnt lots of new skills and also slept through the night!

Hazel Class, Year 3 and 4 had a Stone Age workshop. They learnt how to dress, eat and be a Stone Age man/woman.

We have held our welcome back and Harvest service this term at St Alban's which was led by Rev Brendan. The children shared their learning for the term as well as giving thanks for the Harvest. Parents and families at the school donated an amazing amount of provisions for local charities.

We are very much looking forward to our annual PTFA Bonfire and Firework night on Saturday 9th November. Do come along and support if you are able to.

Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. We are both in school every day and will always find time for a chat. With very best wishes.

—Mrs Joanna Challis, Acting Executive Headteacher & Mrs Lauren Beach, Head of School



**Christmas at The Brecknock Arms**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to join us for our delicious Christmas menu which will be served from 25 November until 29 December, (excluding Christmas Day or Boxing Day). Please note it's on a bookings only basis. The menu is as follows:

- 2 courses £20
- 3 courses £30

**Starters:**

- Spiced Sweet Potato & Carrot Soup
- Chicken & Smoked Ham Hock Terrine
- Smoked Mackerel pate

**Mains:**

- Turkey Roast with all the trimmings
- Nut Roast Wellington with all the trimmings
- Pan Fried Cod with roasted new potatoes, French beans & honey roasted carrots

**Desserts:**

- Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce
- Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard
- Truffle Torte with a Shimmering Profiterole

Book now to avoid disappointment!



**Frant Parish Friendship Group**

The speaker for our first meeting after the summer break was Gilly Halcrow and her subject "The Shetland Bus". This was a fascinating talk about the brave Norwegian sailors, organised by the SOE, in their fishing boats who kept links open between occupied Norway and Britain during WWII, taking agents in with supplies for the resistance and escaping refugees out. Not only did they have to face sub-Arctic storms in the North Sea but also the might of the Nazi war machine out searching for them. First informally and then as a formal part of the war effort, the Shetland Bus operated more than 200 trips. Soldiers, intelligence personnel and military supplies were transported along with those fleeing capture.

Our exercise classes with Alison are going well and will continue through the winter months into May. New members are very welcome if you are interested but not sure if this is for you we do a taster session for £3.00 so why not come along and have a go. These sessions take place on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Stables at 2.30 pm.

Two things we would like to mention are the Farmers Markets (pictured above) being held on the first Friday of the month in the Village Hall, well worth a visit with several stalls. Also the parish subsidised transport for medical appointments. More information on this can be obtained from Andy Macdonald-Brown [andy.macdonald-brown@frant.pc.gov.uk](mailto:andy.macdonald-brown@frant.pc.gov.uk).

Our November meeting will be the AGM along with a fish and chip lunch. This is on Thursday 28th November in the Stables at 12.00 pm.

We will be rounding off the year with our Christmas Tea Party, with entertainer, on Saturday 14th December in the Stables at 2.30 pm. Enquiries Valerie Palmer – [valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com](mailto:valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com) 01892 750559

**Parish Past**

The first mention of Eridge, so far traced, occurs in a list of lands left in 1296 by the Earl of Hereford that includes "Eregge, a grange pertaining to Rotherfield with 100 acres of land worth yearly 25/- ... heath and fern worth little also rents and a watermill."

This all later came into the ownership of Edward Nevill (younger son of the Earl of Westmorland) through a fortunate marriage, although title was not proved for several years, eventually in 1450. The Nevills had actually been fortunate to survive the contemporary Wars of the Roses when six of them had been killed and at least one beheaded. During these wars, Edward was a Yorkist, and mostly absentee landlord and it seems to have been his grandson who first built a house - probably a cross between a hunting lodge and a farmhouse - "in a grange pertaining to Rotherfield a chace (ie a hunting area) containing 600 acres within which chace is a message called Eregge the greater part of which is heath worth only a halfpenny an acre."

However, a master forester and four

foresters were appointed there around 1470 and it is clear that extensive hunting and some itinerant occupation took place. A later group of foresters were accused of stealing peacocks in Rotherfield! Apart from them no permanent residents are noted but some certainly existed, the names Hamsell and Danegate being ancient and denoting some cleared and fenced pasture. Other groups were carrying on basic iron extraction in what then was still a widely wooded area as a document in 1573 gives permission for an enlarged, more modern works in the park providing it is on old foundations. Actually iron making did not survive long as the area became deforested to feed the furnaces. The Nevills remained largely caught up in battles and court affairs into the mid 16thC, enjoying or enduring various often dangerous fortunes - it was only from mid-century that both national and family fortunes settled somewhat and a cohesive village emerged. As a high point Elizabeth I was lavishly (and ruinously) entertained in a much enlarged Eridge Place in 1573.

—Pat Wright





**Parish Council News**

Our recent Parish Council meeting reflected the increasing concerns at the volume and speed of traffic moving around our Parish. Residents from both Frant and Bells Yew Green expressed their worries and real fears that a serious accident is bound to happen sooner rather than later.

Unfortunately, the ultimate responsibility for the roads, lineage, speed etc lies with East Sussex County Council not us but that doesn't mean to say that the Parish Council can do nothing. We hold a 6 monthly meeting with representatives of East Sussex Highways and their contractor Balfour Beatty. These meetings are useful in getting some things done- Lines repainted, signs put up, drains cleared etc but they do not address the speeding issue. The Parish Council, is as you know at quite an advanced stage in commissioning and paying for a pedestrian crossing on the A267 Frant Road which we all hope will not only make crossing the road safer but also act as a significant traffic calming measure for the whole of Frant village. We also commission and pay for traffic speeding surveys which are the very early stages of trying to address the speeding issue but in truth the process from the survey to actually getting something done is a long and tortuous one, taking many years.

That's not to say we won't try but slowing traffic down is not just about speed limits and all initiatives need to be looked at and evaluated which of course takes time. The chicanes in Bells Yew Green took 5 years of negotiation but we got there in the end and the Pedestrian crossing has so far taken 8 years and hopefully will be completed next year.

The Parish Council has written to the owners of the shop in Frant Village to seek a meeting to try and move things on. We have also spoken to Wealden District Council expressing our concerns at the length of time it is taking to resolve the issues around the shop which is so important to the community and is sorely missed. It is, of course, a Grade 2 listed building so inevitably any modifications will require careful consideration by the planners.

Speaking of planners I understand that the developers involved in the proposed large development around the Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club and its move to a site off Bunny Lane and

the building of some 350 houses will be having an open day for all to see the proposed plans at the Rugby club in the next few weeks.

Worth a visit I'd have thought.  
—Cllr Stuart Crookshank

**Eridge Arts Club Event**

Gavin Barker, head of a leading boutique talent agency (and Eridge resident), entertained the Eridge Arts Club with a fascinating 'behind the scenes' account of his experiences as a talent agent. We learned that many talent agents had been performers first – Gavin had been a dancer for five years before spending the next 30 years as a talent agent. One part of the role was attending the drama schools' annual showcasing events where the agencies competed with each other to secure the most promising talent.

Another part was nurturing actors, dancers and entertainers, helping them to obtain opportunities and negotiating terms and fees on their behalf. (Negotiations could be a cat and mouse game, with negotiations lasting several weeks). Whilst a few of us had

some awareness of talent agents through the successful French television series, 'Call my Agent', it was illuminating to learn about casting directors who had an all-important role in finding actors for directors to audition. The rapport between leading actors would be critical and a 'chemistry test' essential to determine if the central relationships in a show would be convincing. The final say in casting would be the producer who was financing the production. It was clear from Gavin's talk how committed and supportive he is towards the entertainers he represents. The audience was full of questions about Gavin's fascinating career and thanked him for a very entertaining evening.

The next talk at the Eridge Arts Club will be 'Beneath the Surface: a New Look at Cezanne's painting "The Eternal Feminine" (pictured below), a talk by Ambrose Cicutti, recent Warburg and Courtauld Institute alumnus.

All are welcome. Tickets are £5. If you are planning to attend please let Mary Helson know: mary.helson@gmail.com



**Christmas Markets in the Parish Saturday 30 November**

**» Vintage & Crafts Sale**

Bells Yew Green Village Hall supporters are delighted to announce a community Vintage & Crafts Sale event on Saturday 30 November from 10am until 2.00pm. There will be a variety of stalls selling new and pre-loved items so why not make a start on the Christmas shopping list? You can also enjoy refreshments including, teas, coffees, soup and cake.

Please do come along and support this event. If you would like to have your own stall, the cost of a table is £10. Please text Sue Wallis on 07944 712000 to book and provide details of your items for sale.

**» Frant Christmas Market**

The annual Christmas Market in Frant High Street on 30 November runs from 3.00pm until 6.00pm. Come along and enjoy an array of food and gift stalls outside The George with Christmas

Carols by the Christmas tree (last year pictured above).

Please do support these festive events which are only possible thanks to local groups and volunteers in the community. Remember, charity begins at home!

**Christmas Market Hospice in the Weald**

**» Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th November**

Save the date in your diary as Hospice in the Weald's Christmas market heralds the start of the festive season. Taking place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November within the Hospice grounds in Pembury. Saturday opening and closing times are 10.00am to 4.00pm, and Sunday, 10.00am to 2.00pm.

This is a chance to support the Hospice and local small businesses and discover unique handmade items, which are perfect for gifts. The range of stalls includes crafts, decorations, jewellery, home decor and lots more.

In addition, you can try your luck with our raffle and tombola, indulge in delicious festive food and drinks, and practice your creativity at craft workshops, including wreath making.

Finally, no Christmas event would be complete without visiting Father Christmas in his grotto, for a festive photo. As he is going to be in demand, you will need to pre-book a time, which you can do on our website, listed below.

Canine members of the family are welcome, and parking is just a five-minute walk from the Hospice grounds.

To get more details, and to pre book the Santa visit please visit the events section of the Hospice's website at hospiceintheweald.org.uk or call the friendly Fundraising Team on 01892 820533. We look forward to seeing you at the event.

—All proceeds help to fund the free care and support Hospice in the Weald offers to adults and children in our community facing life-limiting and life-limiting illness



**The Arts Society Ashdown Forest**

» **Thursday 14th November**  
*Marc Chagall by Monica Bohm-Duchen at the Crowborough Community Centre, 2pm*

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest. Marc Chagall was an early modernist painter who also worked with a wide range of artistic formats, including stained glass – for example locally, he designed all the windows in the All Saints Church, Tudeley, Kent.

Members free, visitors £7. See [tasaf.org.uk](http://tasaf.org.uk)

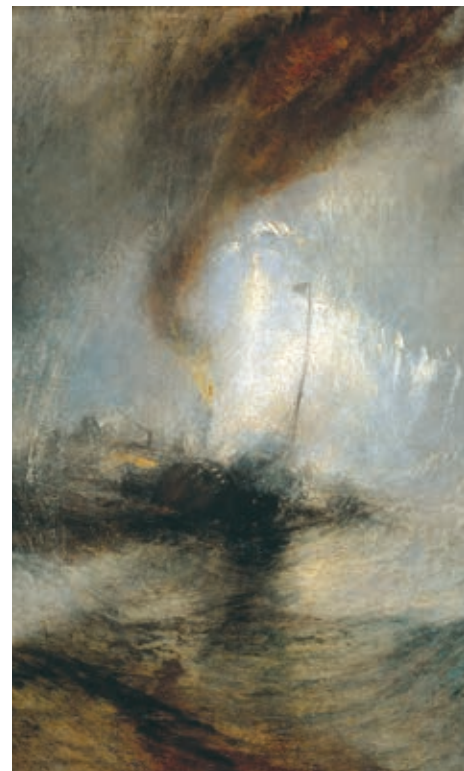
» **Thursday 12th December**  
*The Art of Snow and Ice by Sue Jackson at the Crowborough Community Centre, 2pm*

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest. From the tempestuous snow storms of Turner, to the snow effects by the Impressionists, Sue looks at the ability of artists to convey snow as a symbol of peace but also of grandeur and terror.

Members free, visitors £7. See [tasaf.org.uk](http://tasaf.org.uk)

Right: The Memorial Window, All Saints' Church, Tudeley, Kent; Marc Chagall, installed 1967

Below: *Snow Storm: Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth*; J.M.W. Turner, 1842 (detail).



**News from Nus Ghani MP**

Remembrance brings us together in recognition of all who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country, defending the freedoms and values of our great nation and protecting our way of life.

The annual act of remembrance on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday binds us and the rest of the nation together in a sobering moment of reflection. As I join our communities every year on Remembrance Sunday to pay respects to our Armed Forces past and present, it is always an honour to stand with local veterans and meet those who serve our country at home or abroad today. I will also plant a remembrance cross in the Remembrance Garden at the Houses of Parliament, to represent the many fallen men and women from our constituency of Sussex Weald.

Our British Armed Forces are the ultimate defenders of our security and freedom. They are respected the world over and we depend on them to keep us safe at home and abroad. It is important that we also support our current military personnel, and I will continue to campaign for the recognition, care, and post-service security that they deserve.

This year, we will also continue thinking of our friends and allies in Ukraine and the brave soldiers as they continue to defend their country's sovereignty against Russian aggression and fight for freedom. But while Putin's illegal war continues, the rebuilding work is already underway. As Minister of State at the Department of Business and Trade and Minister for Europe at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, I oversaw the UK's role in Ukraine reconstruction, co-chaired the UK-Ukraine Infrastructure Taskforce and hosted the Ukraine Recovery Conference, which brought together thousands of representatives from public and private sectors to commit support to Ukraine's recovery and accelerate restoring its key services.

I continue supporting Ukrainian families living in Sussex Weald, but I know from my many meetings and correspondence with them that what they want most is to return home safely and reunite with their loved ones. The UK's support for Ukraine must remain steadfast so that our efforts to help with the rebuilding of Ukraine will enable them to do just that.



**Parish Pets #15: Tana & Troy**

I believe that Troy and I are the first equines to be featured in this prestigious magazine. This is just as it should be as I am often referred to as 'The Spanish Princess' being a pure-bred Andalusian. My loyal companion (it may be going a bit too far to refer to him as my subject) comes from a far humbler – or should I say travelling – background but we will gloss over that as I wouldn't want to hurt his feelings. I emigrated from Spain when I was just four years old, and I have been with my current stable hands ever since. I was joined by Troy soon after I arrived when he was just three years old, and we have been the closest of companions for fourteen years. Like all close friends we have our disagreements of course, but as long as he does as he is told, i.e. letting me have my own way in absolutely everything, we get along very well.

Troy is always looking for mischief, and one of his more useful party tricks is being able to open any gate that isn't at least triple locked – especially when there is the possibility of food the other side. Unfortunately, at the end of August this led to me having a nasty accident. The result was that I have had to have even more special treatment than I would expect normally. To be honest with you, being cosseted in my stable for 5 weeks, having the best quality food, my bed constantly changed, the best medical care possible, being hand fed tit bits and even having daily fresh grass cut daily for me by one of my dotting stable hands, was actually very acceptable. Indeed, my stable hand was overheard

to say that I was a delight to look after due to my exquisitely well-bred manners and gentle nature. My dear companion soon realised that he was going to have to take even more of a back seat than usual, although I did insist that he was allowed to visit me on regular occasions – on the understanding that he didn't expect me to share my treats with him, naturally.

I am hoping that I will soon be back in my lovely field again, having the odd chat with the neighbours over the fence and generally living the life of luxury I am used to, grazing companionably next to my Houdini friend until our next adventure – which my stable hands hope won't be for a very long time!

» **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:  
November/December 2024**

» **Sunday 10 November**  
Remembrance Sunday Commemoration  
Frant Memorial Hall at 3.00pm

» **Thursday 14 November and 12 December**  
The Arts Society Ashdown Forest events.  
See page 12

» **Tuesday, 19th November**  
Frant Garden Club AGM; Memorial  
Hall, 2.30 p.m.

» **Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 November**  
Hospice in the Weald Christmas Market  
See page 11

» **Thursday 28 November**  
Frant Parish Friendship Group AGM  
The Stables, Frant 12.00 noon

» **Saturday 30 November**  
Bells Yew Green Vintage & Crafts Sale;  
Bells Yew Green Village Hall, 10am –  
2.00pm

» **Saturday 30 November**  
Frant Christmas Market, High Street,  
Frant 3.00pm – 6.00pm

» **Saturday 7 December**  
Frant Memorial Hall Quiz Night. See  
page 7

» **28-30 December**  
Frant Pantomime – Robin Hood.  
Memorial Hall. See page 7

**Regular Meetings**

**Little Fishes: Baby & Toddler Group**  
Every Tuesday 9.30–11.30am in The  
Stables, Frant. A warm welcome to all.

**Encounter (School Years 6–13)**  
Contact Rev Brendan Martin for more  
information: 752261

**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: [office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk)  
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 December 2024

**Useful contacts**

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*Frant and Eridge Church Office*  
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[office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk)  
*Frant Church Youth and Kids*  
Rev Brendan Martin; 752261  
*Frant Bowls Club*  
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*Frant Garden Club*  
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*Eridge Cricket Club*  
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*Eridge Village Hall Hire*  
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*Friends of Bells Yew Green*  
07944 712000

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[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:**  
To report a crime or incident dial 101  
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