

# Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



*Winter Frost, Bells Yew Green*

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**From the Rectory**



This new year I want to look back - in order to strive forward. Our Diocese of Chichester is celebrating a Year of Faith - for it is 950 years since the foundation of Chichester Diocese. It is also 1700 years since the emergence of the great Nicene Creed, a summary explanation of our faith to which all Christian denominations (Protestant, Roman Catholic, Baptist... everyone!) hold to as an expression of our faith in Jesus.

We know there was already a Christian Church and community in our Parish before the Diocese was formed, and the coming together of all churches across Sussex into the Diocese of Chichester is something to remember and celebrate, especially when we see such division generally in the world.

I recently rediscovered our Frant Parish Magazine from January 1892, and I was amazed at all the church activity which was going on. Let me quote 'From the Rectory' over 130 years ago...

*"We have begun again this winter our service for men only at 3pm... numbers at services are a great help to the clergymen and the worshippers; but numbers are not got together by hearty singing alone, or stirring address, but by each person who makes up his mind to come asking someone else to come with him... we have started as you know a communicants guild, that is to say a union... the members of the guild undertake to*

*read a few verses of the Bible every day, to pray for one another, to do some small work on behalf of the church, and to come to Holy Communion... We still need a hundred pounds to complete the funds necessary for the new organ... the organ which will be an instrument of the very highest quality is being constructed by Mr. Gern of London... The mission room which is being built on Mayfield Road will we hope be the centre of much useful and happy work. As soon as it is ready for use Sunday services will begin in it."*

As I read, it all sounded quite exciting! A Church wanting to grow, a church enthusing and equipping people for service and worship. I often thought of the Victorian church as fairly stuffy in their box pews, but no, they were hugely active and passionate, and living out their faith.

This has inspired me for ministry in our Year of Faith, it is now our turn to encourage people in the Lord and to step out in faith and service in our community today. We continue in the legacy we inherited and walk in the footsteps of those that went before us. In our Year of Faith, I pray that we too might be able to engage and invite others, read the Bible and pray with people in the Parish, and develop our music and worship.

We would love you to join us in this endeavour and make an impact in our villages for the next 150 years! -Rev Brendan



**News from the Pews**  
**» Winter Welcomes in Our Wonderful Village**

As the crisp air settles and frost begins to weave its intricate patterns on our windows, our beautiful village community embraces the cozy charm of winter. This season brings not only festive cheer but also a delightful array of events that remind us why we love where we live. From sparkling fireworks to heartwarming traditions, the past months have been a whirlwind of joy, laughter, and community spirit. Let's take a moment to reflect on the highlights of October and November, celebrating the wonderful moments that brought us together.

**» Frant School Bonfire and Fireworks Night**

On Saturday, 9th November, the night sky above Frant was alight with dazzling fireworks, casting a magical glow over the village. Families wrapped in scarves and woolly hats gathered for this beloved annual tradition, where the Frant School PTFA worked their magic to host a night brimming with fun and purpose. The sweet crackle of the bonfire paired perfectly with the ooohs and ahhs of the crowd, while hot drinks and treats kept hands and hearts warm. It was more than just a spectacle; it was a night that helped support our school in providing those extra-special touches for our children.

**» A Blossoming Tradition at St. Alban's**

Following last year's successful Floral Weekend, fresh flowers have started making regular appearances at St. Alban's Church, adding bursts of natural beauty to our parish.

We would love to see more fresh flowers regularly gracing our church, and we're inviting everyone to join in by donating floral arrangements.

These contributions can mark a special event, anniversary, or simply be a kind gift to the community. Whether it's a vase of daffodils, cheerful sunflowers, or even a jam jar of garden blooms, every arrangement adds warmth and life to our cherished space. Children's creations are especially welcome and bring their own unique charm.

Flowers can be placed anywhere in the church throughout the year (except during Lent), and if you'd like, you can

include a note to say who they're from or why they were donated. It's a simple yet meaningful way to share beauty with our community

**» Rake & Cake: The Ultimate Combo**

The charm of village life was on full display during our latest Rake & Cake gathering. Bundled up against the chill, we met by the Lychgate, armed with rakes and enthusiasm, ready to tackle the fallen leaves carpeting the churchyard. An hour and a half of cheerful teamwork later, we indulged in a well-deserved spread of coffee and cake. It was a delightful mix of productivity and community spirit—a quintessential Frant moment. The only thing missing was you! Perhaps we'll see even more rakers (and cake-eaters) next time?

**» Festive Fun at The George Christmas Market**

What a magical time we had at The George's Christmas Market! Outside, the village was aglow with festive cheer, thanks to the twinkling fairy lights and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree standing proudly at the pub's entrance.

Stepping into The George was like walking into a cozy winter haven. The fires were roaring, casting a warm, golden glow across the room, and the inviting scent of mulled wine filled the air. Villagers and visitors gathered together, drinks in hand, sharing laughter and stories as they browsed the market stalls. The pop-up market itself was a treasure trove of festive delights, with local artisans offering everything from handcrafted gifts to gourmet



treats.

The pub's warm atmosphere set the perfect backdrop for reconnecting with friends, meeting new neighbours, and simply soaking in the joy of the season. Whether you came for the shopping, the camaraderie, or just to warm your toes by the fire, The George's Christmas Market truly captured the heart of our community. It was a celebration of everything that makes our village special: friendship, festivity, and a deep appreciation for the little things that bring us together

**» Frant Pantomime: Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood**

Laughter echoed through the village hall as we booed, cheered, and sang along to Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood. The cast delivered a fabulous performance, bringing the story of Robin Hood and his merry men—and their quest to save the babes and defeat the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham—to life with wit and charm. As always, our village panto proved to be a joyous gathering for all ages. It's hard to beat the hilarity of good old-fashioned audience participation!

**» Frant Monthly Market**

November's Frant Monthly Market was another resounding success, with stallholders offering an array of unique and thoughtful Christmas gifts. The village hall was abuzz with friendly chatter as residents browsed and soaked in the festive atmosphere. Whether you were ticking off your gift list or simply enjoying the company, it was yet another reminder of how special these community gatherings are.

**» Looking Ahead: Music in Frant**

Mark your calendars! As we transition into the New Year, the magic of Music in Frant returns on January 17th, 2025. This time, we're in for a treat with a performance by Martin James Bartlett (pictured), the 2014 Young Musician of the Year. His talent promises to make for an unforgettable evening. With world-class music right here in our village, it's a night not to be missed!

As I end my round up here's to a season of joy, togetherness, and making memories. As winter settles in, may the warmth of our community continue to shine brightly through every frost-laden morning and starlit evening.

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

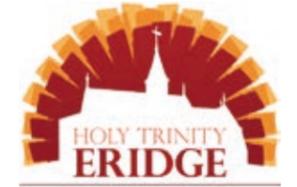
**Rector**

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**

**January / February 2025**

10.30am As One (All Age Service).....	<b>5th January</b> .....	Communion Service	9:15am
10.30am Communion Service.....	<b>12th January</b> .....	Morning Prayer	9:15am
10:30am Morning Service.....	<b>19th January</b> .....	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am Morning Service.....	<b>26th January</b> .....	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am As one (All Age Service).....	<b>2nd February</b> .....	Communion Service	9:15am
10.30am Communion Service.....	<b>9th February</b> .....	Morning Prayer	9.15am
10.30am Morning Service.....	<b>16th February</b> .....	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am Morning Service.....	<b>23rd February</b> .....	Communion Service	9.15am

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 Parish Council**

At our November meeting we were addressed by a group of residents from Tunbridge Wells who are objecting to the proposed move of the rugby club from Kent to East Sussex and the building of 400+ houses on AONB land. They have done a lot of research and will add their voice to the many who have real concerns about this proposed development. No formal planning application has been made yet but I suspect it will be forthcoming in the Spring. Where this development sits with Wealden's own local plan for 350+ houses in the same area right on the Kent/East Sussex border remains to be seen. More importantly both proposed developments present a very real challenge to the AONB status and how sacrosanct it actually is.

Progress on the pedestrian crossing is beginning to gather momentum now with some large invoices starting to come in. The most recent the upgrading design for the lights which now incorporate a pedestrian motion sensitivity function which means they will only come on at night if someone is using the crossing. The A267 there is due some more resurfacing works in March so we are trying to combine these works with the actual completion of the crossing which will be something of an achievement. For a small Parish Council like ours to fund and fully engage with a Highways project of this magnitude is quite unique and will hopefully provide something of a blueprint should other Parish Councils want to do something similar for their Parishes. Traffic calming measures are proving increasingly necessary with the volume and speed of traffic that our roads, especially our class 'B' and 'C' now have to deal with. County Highways Departments are as strapped for cash as most others so anything Parish Councils can contribute is a welcome bonus.

Some better news on Frant Shop in that things are starting to move on the planning front. The new owners have come across some unexpected complications that they could not possibly have been aware of but hopefully with the advice and guidance of Wealden Planning Department they should be overcome. As soon as the shop/Post Office is open the better is our view.

Sadly it appears the Parish Council lacks green fingers! To celebrate the Queen's 70 years as our monarch we



planted 3 fruit trees by the school. A fairly formal occasion with County, District Councillors and the great and the good of our Parish present. They've all died- the trees that is!

We are now planting 3 more, apple this time, in a hopefully more fertile spot and less of a fanfare!

—Cllr Stuart Crookshank

**County & District Councillor Surgeries**

Come and raise your questions with Cllr Johanna Howell, Wealden District Councillor and Cllr Bob Standley, East Sussex County Councillor

At Carillon Cottage, Wadhurst from 10am to 12noon, please put the following dates in your diary:

- » 25th Jan 2025
- » 15th Feb 2025
- » 22nd Mar 2025

There will also be surgeries in Bells Yew Green and Frant early in 2025. Dates to be confirmed.

**News from Nus Ghani, MP**

Happy new year! I hope that you enjoyed the festive period. As we step into 2025, please allow me to reflect on some of the successes and work that has been done to support communities across Sussex Weald throughout the past year.

I am hugely grateful to the voters

of Sussex Weald for returning me to Parliament last July. I continue building on my strong record of delivery and I am pleased that we've had some great news for several local organisations receiving Government support. Amongst others, these included: Beacon Academy in Crowborough and Uplands Academy in Wadhurst benefiting from multi-million-pound funding for building upgrades; the 1st Horam Scouts receiving over £27,500 for improvements to their facilities; investment of over £70,000 to help Hailsham swimming pool improve its energy efficiency; and over £297,000 for a new Community and Health Centre in Mayfield and Five Ashes. Improvements to water infrastructure are also taking place across the constituency, including in Halland, Hellingly, Wadhurst, Rotherfield, Heathfield and Punnett's Town, as well as the £30 million upgrades at Bewl Water reservoir.

It's also been a year of huge success for TeamGB and I'm incredibly proud that Sussex Weald has its own Olympic Gold Medallist Emily Craig from Mark Cross, who began her career at Bewl Bridge Rowing Club. I was pleased to meet Emily to congratulate her in person, and I continue working with our organisations including Hailsham Active and Horam GAP project on boosting accessible sports facilities in the area.

There are many ongoing projects which I will continue progressing this year including work with: Southern Water to prevent flooding and sewage overflows; Sussex Police on tackling rural crime and enhancing road safety; Ashdown Forest CEO and Conservators; our local charities including Rotherfield St Martin, Care for the Carers and Wealden Works in Heathfield; and the National Farmers' Union and our fantastic local farmers.

It has been a busy year with lots of wonderful news and wins locally, but there is more to be done. Please be assured that I will continue to work hard in 2025 to campaign for more resources for Sussex Weald and to ensure that your concerns are heard in Westminster. I continue to hold weekly surgeries to provide advice and representation. If you need my assistance, please email me at nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk or visit my website www.nusghani.org.uk for more information on my work.

### Deer collisions

As the nights draw in, motorists in East Sussex are being urged to be #DeerAware and avoid collisions with animals on rural roads.

There are estimated to be more than 74,000 deer-related traffic collisions across the UK every year, and that risk increases during mating season in October and November.

As part of its #DeerAware campaign, East Sussex County Council is encouraging people to take care in heavily wooded areas or where there are deer warning signs as these are places where deer are most likely to venture out, particularly around dawn and dusk.

Cllr Claire Dowling, lead member for transport and environment, said: "Collisions with deer can result in injury or death for animals and drivers, and significant damage to vehicles.

"With plenty of rural roads across the county, I would urge drivers to take extra care this time of year as deer can appear

on the road unexpectedly.

"By following some simple tips, we hope that drivers can keep themselves safe and ensure our deer population can roam freely and thrive in our countryside."

Advice to motorists includes:

- Drivers are advised to use full-beam headlights at night if no other cars are around, as they will reflect the deer's eyes, but dip their headlights when they see a deer to avoid startling it.
- Deer often cross the roads in the same locations. Where there are deer warning signs motorists should slow down, stay alert and be prepared to stop.
- Deer often travel in groups so if drivers see one crossing the road they should slow down and drive with caution as others may follow.

If motorists hit deer they should to park in a safe place with hazard lights on and call 101 if the deer is on the side of the road and not causing a danger to others,

or 999 if someone is injured or the deer is in the road and a danger to other road users.

More information and advice available at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/roads/road-safety/deer>

### Art Lecture at the Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» **Thursday 17 January: The Clash of the Titans: Michelangelo and his Rivals. Lecturer Paula Nuttall**

This lecture offers a fresh angle on some of the greatest masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance, from the viewpoint of the fierce and often bitter rivalries that existed between the artistic Titans of the day. Set against the backdrop of Florence, Venice and Rome, with Michelangelo (pictured left) as its protagonist and Leonardo, Raphael and Titian in supporting roles, it draws on contemporary anecdote to evoke personalities and tell the stories behind many of the most iconic works of the High Renaissance, providing an entertaining yet illuminating glimpse into the creation of some of the most iconic paintings in western art.

Paula Nuttall is a specialist in Renaissance art, both Italian and Northern European, on which she has published widely. She has collaborated on major exhibitions, including Jan van Eyck; an Optical Revolution. Former director of the V & A Medieval and Renaissance course and lecturer at, among others, the Courtauld Institute, the British Institute of Florence and for the Arts Society.

Everyone warmly welcome - members free, visitors £7. Refreshments available at the end of the lecture.

» **Thursday 13 February: 'The Wind in the Willows, revisited through its illustrators'. Lecturer John Ericson**

The beauty of Kenneth Grahame's prose is widely acknowledged but the story is so full of wonderful imagery that it almost demands to be illustrated. First published in 1908 without illustration, the classic tale has been in print ever since, and during that time it has been illustrated by more than ninety artists, making it the most illustrated book in the English language.

It is a far more interesting book than its popular and young audience may appreciate. It deserves recognition as a novel in which adult readers will find



not just humour and entertainment, but wisdom and meaning. This engaging presentation will revisit the story as depicted by numerous well-known illustrators, including of course E H Shepherd and Arthur Rackham.

It will also explore how the story came to be written for Grahame's son Alastair and the interesting but ultimately tragic life of Kenneth Grahame himself.

Members free, £7 for visitors who are very welcome. Refreshments available at the end of the lecture

### Frant Parish Friendship Group

Our October meeting and talk took place in 'Woodside' the 19th century home of Oenone and George Warr. This provided a beautiful context for Oenone Warr's talk on Charles Darwin.

Darwin proposed the theory of the origin of species by natural selection. In view of religious opposition, he wisely waited to publish the theory. Building from his initial medical education he assembled and published an amazing range of supporting scientific evidence, including observations from fossils, the sex lives of barnacles, and other disciplines. For example, his work established a theory of coral reef growth

He also supported other colleagues in the development of groundbreaking developments. For example, Captain Fitzroy who navigated the Beagle, started the science of meteorology. His impact on our lives continues. His final

publication was on how worms create the compost that enables plants to thrive - let the worms do the work. This is influencing our response to climate change and reducing world hunger.

Thank you Oenone for a very stimulating afternoon including tea and Mrs. Darwin's fruitcake.

Also during October and November we started a new venture of a games afternoon in Bells Yew Green Village Hall. So far this has been very well received and we hope to continue once a month throughout the winter months. Members brought along their favourite games and also their expertise which made for a very entertaining social afternoon.

The November meeting was our AGM and fish and chip lunch. Sadly our long time Chairman and founding member Brian Gill (pictured below) was stepping down after 14 years of sterling work in keeping us all in check! Brian gave a wonderful farewell address looking back to many happy memories and friends no longer with us and also forward to the new year and new programme. He handed over to Trudi Godfrey the next chairman and sat down to much applause.

On the 30th November our hard working Knit and Natter group had a stall at the Frant Christmas Fayre to sell their wonderful knitted creations.

The last event of the year was our Christmas Tea Party on the 14th December in the Stables.

We now look forward to the New



Year - our first meeting is on January 23rd at 2.30 pm in the Stables and our speaker will be Gillian Lloyd and her subject 'Walking with Polar Bears'. The exercise classes with Alison will start on Thursday 16th January and thereafter will be continuing on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 2.30 pm in the Stables. We will also be having a games afternoon in Bells Yew Green Village Hall on Thursday 9th January at 2.30 pm. Our February meeting will be on Thursday 27th at 2.30pm in the Stables the speaker for this meeting is yet to be confirmed.

A Happy and Peaceful Year to one and all. Valerie Palmer - 01892 750559 [valerepalmer1500@gmail.com](mailto:valerepalmer1500@gmail.com)

### Gardener Required

Experienced reliable gardener required one to two days per week, preferably RHS qualified, for mature landscaped garden near Frant.

Garden has a mixture of mature borders, potager and greenhouse, mixed orchard and woodland

Please apply to 07736 673017

### Christmas tree recycling

Have your unwanted Christmas tree collected from your home and recycled, courtesy of Hospice in the Weald.

This popular service is offered to residents covering twenty postcodes in West Kent and East Sussex, from Westerham in the Northwest of Kent to Mayfield in East Sussex, including the Frant TN3 postcode. In fact, anyone living in any of the postcodes TN1 -TN20 can take advantage of this service, so pass the message on to friends in the area. It will save time while raising funds to provide free care for those facing terminal illness and their loved ones.

In exchange for a donation of £20, the Hospice's elves will collect and recycle your Christmas tree. No hassle, no waste, and no needles in your car!

The team of amazing volunteers will be collecting trees from 12th-14th January.

More than £40,000 was raised last year with tree chippings donated for use in the community.

Please register via the Hospice's website [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk). Registration closes on 7th January.

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 illness.





**Frant School News**

We are already nearing the beginning of Term 3 here at Frant School and we have had an incredibly busy time so far.

- We had an amazing Bonfire Night which was organised and run by our brilliant PTFA. We raised £6597.45 for the school, which is greatly appreciated by all in the school to help and support the learning of the children.
- Our new Chestnut Class children (Reception) have made a fantastic start to their school journey.
- We have appointed a Forest School teacher, Mrs Fox, at the school to



allow all children in the school to have access to Forest School learning. So far Chestnut class have been very busy outside making fires and building dens as part of their outdoor learning.

- We have made a great start to our sports fixtures, and have competed in Cross Country events – we have one child who has made it to the county finals! We have also participated in football tournaments and festivals and have also participated in a badminton festival.
- In the lead up to Christmas we had lots of lovely Christmas events. There was our annual Nativity, led by the Lower School, on 13th December and the Carol Concert, led by Key Stage 2, on 15th December.
- Our PTFA ran several events which included a secret present room, disco and a trip to the Assembly Halls in Tunbridge Wells to see Aladdin with the rest of the Weald Federation.
- We were very sad to say goodbye to two members of staff at the end of the term; Mr MacNab who has been working in Year 1 and 2 and Miss Campbell who has been working in Year 5 and 6.

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 and a Happy New Year.  
 –Mrs Joanna Challis, Executive Headteacher  
 ☪ Mrs Lauren Beach, Head of School

**RSPB Weald Reserves Newsletter Winter 2024**

Welcome to our 6-monthly newsletter of what’s been happening and what’s planned at Broadwater Warren. In the months since our April edition habitat management paused for the wildlife breeding season and work concentrated on reserve infrastructure maintenance and species surveys. We are writing a little later than planned, but some important news and final wildlife survey results only came through at the end of October.

» **Broadwater Ponies**

You may have noticed that our signs about our herd of 4 Konik ponies have disappeared and the ponies too. There were concerns that the ponies were overgrazing the ride edges and eating wildflower species before they had a chance to flower and set seed. Experience has also shown that there isn’t sufficient natural food on the reserve to keep the ponies in good health through the winter months which means we have had to buy in quite large quantities of hay. It was decided, albeit reluctantly because we know that many visitors look forward to seeing the ponies and we have grown very fond of them, that we should give Broadwater a rest from year-round grazing. On 25 October the two gelded males, Max and Glen, were transported to our sister reserve, Farnham Heath in Surrey, to join the small herd they have there and where there is a lot more grass. The plan is that we will borrow some of Farnham’s ponies for summer grazing each year to keep the grasses under control once the wildflowers have bloomed, thereby improving the floral diversity and nectar source on the reserve. It means we may see Max and Glen again along with some new faces from the Farnham herd. Also, on 25 October our two female Koniks, Drina and Mucky, travelled down to a conservation grazer in Dorset where they will hopefully become part of a breeding herd.

» **Broadwater Goats**

On the subject of grazing, our herd of 13 rare-breed goats have done a good job at munching the birch which grows so prolifically on the heath. Birch control is key to keeping the heathland in good health and having the goats on site means that we have been able to stop



using pesticide to prevent re-growth and they have given our volunteer team a real helping hand in their work to manage the birch. While the goats were grazing the northern heath we took the opportunity to introduce them to Nofence grazing which involves their wearing a GPS-connected collar and the drawing of a virtual fence. To the right is our Royal Golden Guernsey goat Bambi with his collar. You can read about the technology here Nofence - World’s first virtual fence for livestock. The goats learned very quickly how to respond to the warning signals they receive if they get too close to the “fence” and the system has proved to be very robust. It worked so well that the herd was successfully moved to the much larger Eastern Heath, and you may now catch sight of them when walking from the car park down towards the Decoy Pond. The

Nofence technology and app enables our volunteer livestock checkers to find the goats much more easily and the staff can also monitor where the goats are grazing and decide when they need to be moved to another part of the reserve. This screenshot of the app shows green and red areas, where the goats are spending most of their time. For the time being the Northern Heath paddock will remain closed to visitors because we may acquire a second herd of goats who will also begin their time at Broadwater in this paddock and go through the same introductory and training process.

» **Broadwater Forestry Work**

Forestry contractors started working at Broadwater at the end of October, they have finished felling and are currently extracting the timber. The rutted tracks will be made good in

due course. They mainly removed Norway and Sitka Spruce trees and other plantation softwoods (conifers). Removal of Spruce began last winter, and this is phase two. It’s being done at the request of the Forestry Commission, as they are trying to create a buffer zone free of Spruce in the south-east to try and prevent the spread of the spruce bark beetle (Ips beetle). There’s still no evidence of the beetle being present at Broadwater, although it has been found elsewhere in Sussex. Other softwoods are being selectively felled in order to improve woodland structure and produce woodland with a variety of tree species where previously there was a monoculture of conifers. It is likely that this will be our last year of large-scale timber harvesting at Broadwater and we should be able to do future forestry work in-house.



**Bells Yew Green Village Hall Events**

There has been a much appreciated gathering of support from residents across the Parish to encourage the use of our lovely village hall. Recently, we held a Pop-up Craft & Vintage Fair. On a wintery Saturday morning, an enthusiastic team of volunteers set up the hall with no less than 18 stalls which were occupied by a variety of enterprises selling jewellery, artwork (wood, glass, stationery, watercolours, Christmas decorations, sustainable cosmetics,

pottery, locally produced honey, plants, bric-a-brac, knitted goods and much more).

There was no danger of retailers or customers leaving the hall hungry either. The kitchen was abuzz with a team of friendly ladies selling homemade soups, tea and cakes all donated by the generous folk of our community.

It is extremely heartwarming to witness the determination and support from people who all have very busy lives and yet carve out some time to support an event like this.



The event was very well attended and raised a staggering £800 with stallholders getting value for money with the cost of a stall being just £10. Funds raised will go towards replacing the outdated website, improving advertising, buying some solid A boards for pop-up use in the parish and a permanent "What's On" board for outside the Hall. It will also go towards replacing four expensive night storage heaters.

Upcoming Events: **SAVE THE DATES!** Firstly, 22 February an Evening with the King Aardvark Big Band. Secondly, 10 May An Evening with The Fireflies. (These are both benefit nights for the hall.

Plans are also afoot for a Jumble Sale in the Spring and Plant Sale. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

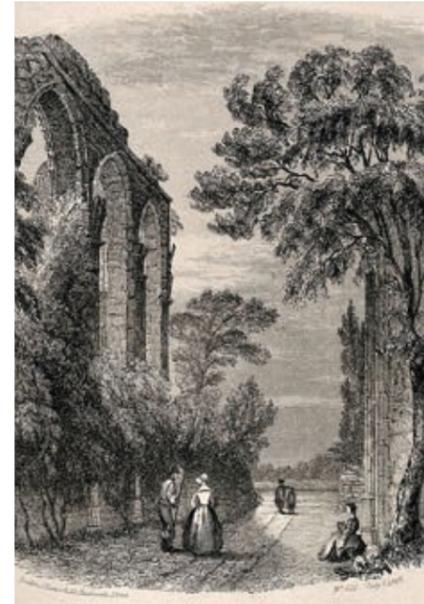
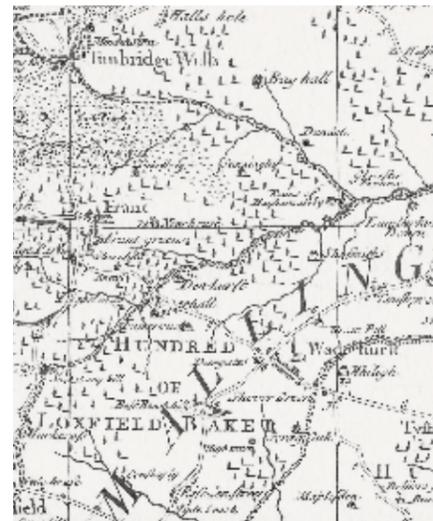
Thank you to all who are supporting our Hall. It is very much appreciated.

—BYG Village Hall Committee

**Parish Past – Bells Yew Green**

After Eridge in the last issue it is now time to look at the history of Bells Yew Green.

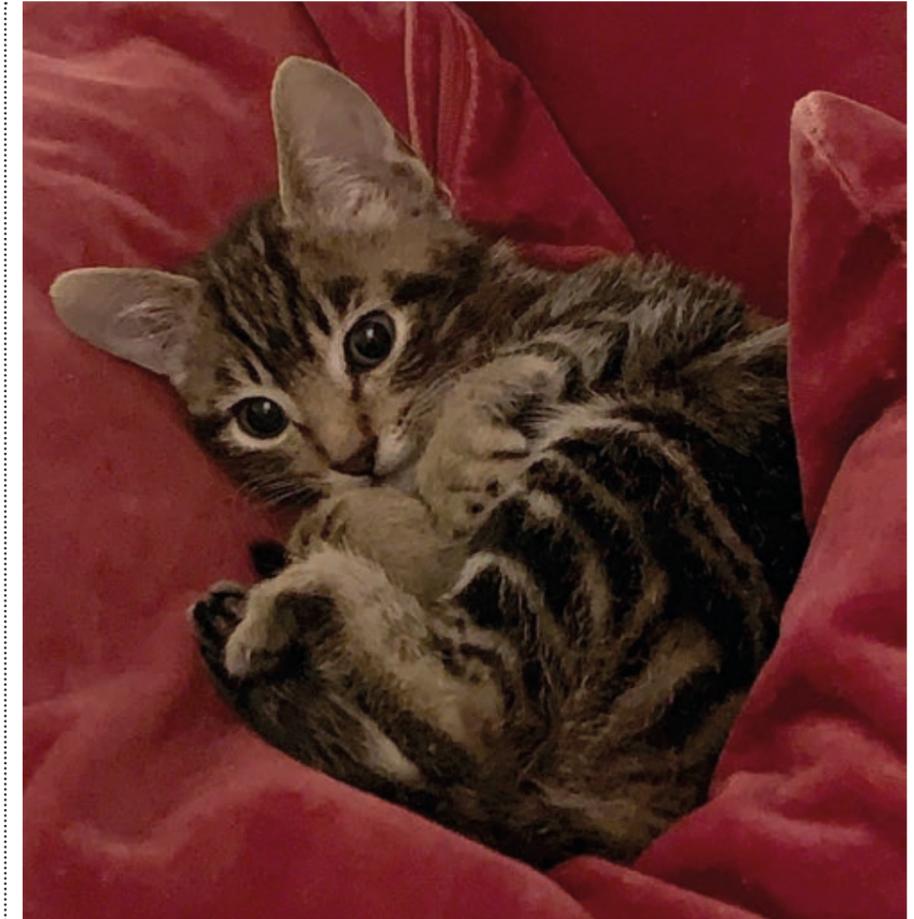
The oldest surviving name in the whole parish is Sunninglye on the BYG-Kippings Cross road, translating roughly as "settled by the followers of Sunni." It denotes Anglo-Saxon incomers and likely dates from the 6th or 7th centuries. In the hundreds of years afterwards other small clearances followed probably including Rushlye of which the green may be a remnant, but the only village to emerge was Lay Green at Stubby Grove. You still have to negotiate the sharp corner there which marked the corner of its village green - the settlement



disappeared in the late 15th or early 16thC when landlords were making savage clearances for more profitable sheep grazing. The area around present BYG village remained largely forest or heathland with isolated farmsteads until after 1200 when Bayham Abbey began to be built, but it was split off as a separate holding by the Nevills and held for some time by the Bromfield family for rent or service. They were unlikely to be resident but built a hunting lodge there and would have come periodically to hunt and hold a manorial court: much of the area would have looked like Eridge Park today only more forested.

Court Lodge today is not an ancient building but the name probably remembers these times. The Abbey was known as Beaulieu (a beautiful place) until the late 15thC, it only changed from French into Bayham just before its forced closure by Cardinal Wolsey in 1524, by which time it had a poor reputation for monastic discipline and the buildings were reported as dilapidated. Unsurprisingly the village, which by then largely depended on the Abbey, was known by the same name and its villagers joined Frant in trying unsuccessfully to reinstate the abbot. In the 18thC Bush House was a tavern and reputed haunt of smugglers, but it was the coming of the railway in the 19thC which formed the present village into a whole, out of what had previously remained fairly scattered holdings.

—Pat Wright



**Parish Pets #16: Milo**

At the tender age of 8 weeks, I moved into my new family home in Bells Yew Green. To be honest, it feels like I have lived here for ever and I don't really remember anything before this.

To begin with, every night, I was put in a room downstairs when the rest of the household went to bed upstairs. Whilst my quarters may sound really luxurious with an en-suite litter tray, dining area and a "cave bed" complete with a variety of mouse toys, I was really pleased when, after a couple of weeks, this rule was relaxed. I can now sleep upstairs and, if I fancy a trip to my quarters, it is accessible too. It's a win-win. Day times are spent following my house mates around (when they are home) and every now and then surprising them from behind by clawing my way up their trousers (hilarious - it really is), sleeping quite a lot and being told how funny and cute I am. At night, my pupils apparently dilate and I go a bit crazy for a while before deciding where I am going to sleep until the morning.

Around the house, there are glass areas

in the walls and when I look through them there seems to be another world out there. Perhaps the rules will relax about accessing that too when I am little bit older - oh so much to look forward to. I love my life in Bells Yew Green!

» 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:  
January/February 2025**

» **Thursday 9 January & Thursday 13 February**

Art Lectures at the Arts Society Ashdown Forest. See page 8

» **Friday 17 January**

James Bartlett, Pianist and “Young Musician of the Year 2014”; St Alban’s Church, Frant 7.30pm (ticket only event). See page 4.

» **25th January, 15th February & 22nd March**

County & District Councillor Surgeries; Carillon Cottage, Wadhurst from 10am to 12noon. 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 February 2025

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Frant Cricket Club

Will Patrick: 07884 187871

Frant Garden Club

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Sharon Warwick: 750185

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Eridge Cricket Club

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Friends of Bells Yew Green

07944 712000

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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

For other police enquiries contact the

Wealden unit on 01273 404938 or

[www.sussex.police.uk/wealden/](http://www.sussex.police.uk/wealden/)





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## MUSIC IN FRANT

*We have the following exciting concerts booked for 2025*

All concerts will be in Frant Church starting at 7.30pm.  
Doors will open from 6.30pm and there is a licensed bar area.

**17 January 2025:** Martin James Bartlett  
BBC Young Musician of the Year 2014. Performing pieces from Bach, Gluck, Schubert, Schumann, Liszt, Ravel, Debussy and Wagner.  
Tickets are £20. Booking Link:  
<https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/7nyztfme>

**21 March 2025:** Budapest Café  
**17 May 2025:** Jacqui Dankworth  
**30 August 2025:** Ray Burley  
**25 October 2025:** London Community Gospel Choir

Tickets will be on sale at Brittens Music Shop in Tunbridge Wells and online at Frant Church website.

*We look forward to welcoming you! 'Music in Frant' Team*



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