

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



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From the Rectory



I turned 40 a few months ago, and I was reflecting the other day the way in which our society and culture has changed over the years.

When I was growing up, our culture it seems to me was quite a modernist one. Truth was generally seen as universal, and facts were known primarily through the exploration of science. There were lots of prominent atheists who pitted Christianity against atheism like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens – they proposed a world known almost exclusively through the prism of science. Yet that modernist view failed. It couldn't account for morality, and it didn't provide the answers we needed for living in our ever-changing and diverse world.

As time went on and we tried to live in a pluralised society we went into a kind of postmodernism. Our friends and neighbours believed very different things, and that was ok, but then people would say "I have my truth, and you have your truth" as if completely opposing ideas can both be true. Postmodernism left behind the idea of universal truth and facts.

Now though postmodernism has failed. Particularly since covid, it seems there has been an exponential rise of conspiracy theories, which can only be combated by actual truth. I saw a BBC advert come up on my social media the other week, which showed a fake AI video of the Eifel Tower on fire and said, "disinformation

distorts reality," "The fight for Truth is On," "Trust is Earned," "This is our BBC."

What you believe matters, and it matters whether something is actually true or not. Every day since President Trump's inauguration, the top of the news has been the latest globe affecting Executive Order he had signed that day. Some people hail Trump as a genius who is fighting for them, others think he is crazy and messing up the whole world – what everyone seems to now agree with though is the truth of it actually matters!

Where can you find truth? How can you know it? How do you know what is right and wrong? How can you know what is reality and what isn't?

This year at church we are celebrating a Year of Faith – it is the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene creed when in the year 325AD, 220 Bishops across the known world got together and universally acknowledged the foundational truth which the Bible teaches and wrote it down. Every Christian church in history since then has held to that creed as truth. Truth is not found merely in science, or opinions – as a Christian I believe that universal truth is essential, and that Truth has been revealed by God through Jesus. Join us as we unpack what that means for our lives today.

—Rev Brendan Martin

News from the Pews

Spring is creeping in, albeit rather cautiously, as February bids us farewell and March stretches its arms into longer days and (hopefully) warmer breezes. The snowdrops and crocuses have bravely poked their heads up, and we've already had some truly stunning early morning scenes around the village. It's a time of renewal, fresh starts, and perhaps even venturing outside without three layers of thermals!

As ever, Frant is buzzing with activity, and our church calendar is as full as a pancake on Shrove Tuesday. Speaking of which, if you're a lady who enjoys good company, warm conversation, and a hearty breakfast, then make sure you come along to our Women's Breakfast on 22nd March. A morning of encouragement, chat, and delicious food—what's not to love?

Our Sunday Club continues to be a lively and joy-filled part of our Sunday services, with these wonderful photos capturing the creativity, enthusiasm, and occasional stickiness of our younger members as they learn about faith in a fun and engaging way. If you're a family looking for a warm and welcoming place to belong, we'd love to see you join us—there's always room for more little hands to get involved (and probably covered in glue and glitter!).

January also brought us a dazzling evening of world-class music, as BBC Young Musician pianist Martin James Bartlett graced Frant Church with a truly breathtaking performance. Those lucky enough to attend were treated to an unforgettable night of music that transported us to another world. (And if you missed out, don't make the same mistake twice—there's plenty more to come!)

Speaking of exciting performances, if you're swift enough to grab one of the remaining tickets, don't miss Christian Garrick and The Budapest Café Orchestra on Friday, 21st March at Frant Church. Expect a night of gypsy beats, Eastern European waltzes, and Russian exuberance, all goulashed together with plenty of humour. Christian, a professor of jazz and non-classical violin studies, has been leading this vibrant ensemble since 2009, and their performances never fail to delight. Get your tickets while you can!

Meanwhile, Encounter Youth Group is going from strength to strength. It's a



small but growing community of young people (Year 6 upwards), gathering every Friday evening for desserts, games, and some seriously fun activities—including Angry Birds IRL (yes, we are launching things with catapults... but no real birds or pigs, we promise). Alongside the fun, we're also diving into big questions about Christianity, truth, and life. If you know a young person looking for a place to belong, invite them along—we'd love to welcome them!

Our local Federation of Schools (Frant,

Mark Cross, Mayfield, and Five Ashes) have been rather busy too! Five Ashes recently had their Ofsted inspection, and just two days later, Mayfield had their SIAMS (church school) inspection. Talk about a whirlwind! There's a strong vision for our schools moving forward, and we hope that by reinforcing our Christian ethos, we will see even more growth and flourishing in these wonderful little schools.

On the building front, exciting discussions are underway! Not only are we working on maintaining our beautiful church buildings for future generations, but we are also looking ahead to Frant Preschool! We've applied for a government grant, with additional funding from the Frant School Trust, to establish a preschool at Frant School. The decision is expected any day now—watch this space!

And so, as we step into March, with its promise of daffodils, blustery winds, and maybe even a glimpse of sunshine, we look forward to all that this new season will bring. Whether it's through music, youth groups, deep conversations over dinner, or simply a walk through the beautiful countryside, there's always something to celebrate in our wonderful village.

Wishing you all a joyful and hope-filled March—see you around the village!

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

Services for

March / April 2025



www.eridgechurch.org
Churchwardens

Jonathan Lynn—07788 597051
Stephen Barnes—861302

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	2nd March	Communion Service	9:15am
10.00am	Ash Wednesday	5th March		
10:30am	Communion Service	9th March	Morning Prayer	9.15am
10:30am	Morning Worship	16th March	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Worship	23rd March	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Mothering Sunday Communion Service	30th March	Mothering Sunday	9:15am
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	6th April	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Palm Sunday as One Communion Service	13th April	Palm Sunday	9.15am
		17th April	Maundy Thursday Tennebrae Communion	8.00pm
10.30am	Good Friday as One	18th April	Last Hour at the Cross	2.00pm
10.30am	Easter Sunday as One Communion Service	20th April	Easter Sunday Communion Service	9:15am
10.30am	Morning Worship	27th April	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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Councillor Surgeries in Frant
 Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and Cllr Johanna Howell (District) are having a parish surgery at the Stables, Frant on the 8th March. 10am to 12 am.
 Please let us know your concerns.

Parish Council News
 Always good at this time of year to be in receipt of positive news and it happens every year!

Each year the Parish Council receives £2,000 as a bequest to the Community from the Henry Smith foundation.

Who he I hear you say? He was apparently a 16th Century Philanthropist who made a fortune in salt amongst other things. The subsequent Trustees of his estate have developed a huge portfolio of landholdings and investments and in 2018 gave away £27 million pounds alone. Henry Smith wanted the poor of Sussex, some of his staff came from Sussex to benefit from his legacy and thus we receive this donation. About 7 years ago the Parish Council decided to use this money, following the closure of Frant surgery, to fund a taxi service to enable the

elderly/infirm residents of the Parish to access medical/dental care. One of our Councillors-Andrew Macdonald-Brown runs this for us and if anyone requires use of this facility, please get in touch with him on 891273 to become a member of the Dial to Drive service. It is free to use and all we ask for is a retainer of £20.

On the not quite sure whether its positive news or not front there are apparently changes afoot in how we are about to be governed.

The Government is launching its English Devolution White Paper. For us this means that East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council may merge into a Unitary body under an elected Mayor if it were to go ahead. The timeframe for this is within the next 2 years! District and Borough Councils will cease to exist but there doesn't as yet seem to be mention of Parish Councils. The purpose of this proposed major restructuring is to give the local people more of a voice apparently and provide significant economies of scale. Interestingly one of the functions destined for the Mayor's Office is I

believe planning! The consultation process will be starting imminently so we should know more soon hopefully.

Talking of planning the proposed move of Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club to a site off Bunny Lane and the building of 450 + houses is continuing to generate local concerns particularly from Tunbridge Wells residents who have set up an action group to challenge the proposals. They have attended the Parish Council meetings a couple of times and are doing some major research into the many reasons why this development should not go ahead. They can be contacted on 07557 475533 if anyone would like to offer them their support.

To finish with a flourish and a note of positivity Frant Green has been identified by an independent body as potentially one of the best managed greens for wildlife in East Sussex. More on this later but excellent that it appears that the good work of Frant residents, Parish Councillors and Contractors is not only succeeding but about to be acknowledged.

—Cllr Stuart Crookshank

Parishioner Surveys

Have your say on important issues affecting our Parish by going on the websites below and submitting your views.

» **Review of ESCC's Right of Way Access Plan - Have your say**
<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/eb728fd7/>

https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/rights-of-way-access-plan/?utm_source=shorturl-rights-of-way-survey&utm_medium=poster&utm_content=ROWsurvey&utm_campaign=rightsofway

» **TfSE Draft Transport Plan - Consultation - Have your say**
<https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/our-vision/transport-strategy/>

<https://tfse.engage-360.co.uk/surveys/1056>

<https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/wealden-climate-green-paper>





Yellow-legged Asian Hornets

Please take note of an important message from the British Beekeepers Association below:

It is vital that we find yellow-legged Asian Hornet nests to aid efforts to prevent this invasive species from becoming established in the UK. Please take a moment to LOOK UP next time you are out and about and if you see something that resembles this nest pictured, please take a photo (if you can) and email n+ylhnest@gmail.com immediately. DO NOT approach the nest but keep your distance.

Frant Parish Friendship Group

We said goodbye to 2024 with our Christmas Tea Party in the Stables on 14th December. This was very well attended and a great success. We were very honoured to have as our guest the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher (aka Tony Harris). Immaculately dressed she took us down memory lane and



the many ups and downs of her career. Tony as always was so entertaining and rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks to all those who worked so hard on the day with setting up and clearing away

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

The first meeting of year in January we welcomed as our guest speaker Gillian Lloyd and her subject 'Walking with Polar Bears'. Gillian, a wildlife photographer, had travelled to the Hudson Bay area of Canada in search of the wildlife. Her photos of the arctic fox, caribou, black wolf and the ptarmigan were amazing but the close up pictures of the polar bears was breathtaking. These amazing creatures, although stable at the moment are in danger, as due to global warming the sea ice they depend on for feeding is melting earlier and freezing later; this brings them into closer contact with humans as they search for food and can cause problems. The long term future of these beautiful animals is very much on a knife edge.

Also in January we said Happy Birthday to long time member Joy Bruce who was 100!

Exercises classes started again and will continue on the first and third Thursday of the month through till May. These are gentle chair based exercises and members have found them very beneficial. We meet in the Stables at 2.30 p.m. All welcome.

We will also be running a games afternoon on Thursday 13th March and 10th April and these will be at 2.30 pm in The George. This is a social afternoon where members bring along their favourite games and try new ones.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 27th March 2.30 pm in the Stables when our speaker will be Richard Griffin – Royal Protection Officer. Then in April (27th) the subject will be Charles Dickens – by Bertie Pearce.

Enquiries to Valerie Palmer 01892750559 valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com

Frant Memorial Hall

For those of you that have been to the village hall recently, you would have benefited from the installation of our new combi boiler which allows hot water on demand and more efficient heating of

the whole hall, replacing our 20+ year old boiler.

This was made possible by a bequest left to the hall by Helen Carpenter, which the Trustees and Committee were surprised and delighted to receive which enabled us to upgrade.

If you're looking to host a live music event, either a party, wedding or a musical event, look no further than the hall as we have a large stage complete with lighting, a bar area and a fully functional kitchen.

Whilst we are constantly on the lookout for new committee members to help run the hall, we appreciate that time is precious and that not everybody wants to become a full-time member. As we would like to hold more events at the hall but lack volunteers, we are proposing a sub-committee made up of people who would be happy to assist with events. If you feel you can and would like to be a part of our hall community, please let Sharon (blue2eyeslondon@yahoo.co.uk) or Phil (pscs2004@yaoo.com) know.

Some dates for your calendar:

» **Open Gardens 21 June 2025 (see separate article)**

» **Pantomime 4/5 December 2025**

» **Christmas Market 5 December 2025 (outside The George)**

» **Christmas Quiz 13 December 2025.**

We will be holding other events throughout the year so watch out on the village noticeboards and of course your Parish News.

Frant Village Open Gardens & Fete: 21st June 2025

Plans are beginning to get going for this wonderful village event. We are going to have a dog show, plant stalls, tea, cakes and lots of village fun.

Please get in touch to be involved. You may only have an hour to spare between all the garden visits but we would be so grateful if you would agree to offer to help. We need ticket sellers, marshals, washer uppers and tea makers. We also need plants for the plant stall. There is something everyone can do to take part.

Obviously if you feel you can open your garden that would be brilliant. It does not have to be big or even beautiful. As villagers we are all just nosy to see

around the back of houses we know well. If you feel able to offer any kind of help on the day

Please contact Sharon Warwick: blue2eyeslondon@yahoo.co.uk or 07815 052072

Frant Garden Club

Like all AGM's our meeting in November was a chance for us to look back over the previous year, and to report another busy and happy year for the Club. Our 2024 meetings gave us an opportunity to hear talks on a variety of subjects, including Sue Marshall's love affair with the iris, Clive Nuttman explaining the importance of insects and tiny creatures that inhabit our planet and which are so essential for its survival, and Caroline Halfpenny's whistle stop tour of the gardens of Cornwall, reminding us of the beauty of this island of ours. With enthusiastic support for our outings from members old and new, we ended the year on a high.

By the time you read this the Club will have held it's annual lunch at The George, and will be looking forward to the first talk of the year on Tuesday, 25th March which, I am delighted to say, will be a return of Morag from Rapkyns Nursery. This is always a wonderful opportunity for members to buy plants from her as well as gain her advice and encouragement at the beginning of another gardening year.



On Tuesday, 29th April, Anna Ribo, a local gardening expert, will give a talk that will explore ways of gardening that respects and enhances wildlife while leaving space for the keen gardener.

Our summer events will include an afternoon outing in early June to "Hollymount", a private garden at High Hurstwood consisting of 7 acres of beautiful garden centred around water, with the added attraction of pigs, alpacas, chickens and ducks, and then in September a trip to Charles Darwin's Down House. Our full day outing in July will be to St. Mary's House in Bramber (pictured), a house that dates back to c1470, and has gardens that include a series of 'garden rooms' and an exceptional example of the prehistoric Ginkgo Biloba 'living fossil' tree, to name but a few treats.

In Autumn we return to the Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 21st October, for a talk by Kathrin Lynn entitled 'Gardening with the Tudors', and we complete the year on Tuesday, 25th November, with our AGM and Christmas tea.

All meetings are held in the Frant Memorial Hall from 2.30 p.m., membership subscription is £5 for the year. If you feel we might be of interest to you, we would love to welcome you, so please get in touch with me, Dianna Tennant, (tennantdd@gmail.com/01892 752029), or come along to one of our meetings.

Parish Past

As you drive towards Mark Cross, have you ever wondered who or what the sign Pococksgate remembers? Actually it's the family Pocock who lived and farmed around there for around 200 years and probably much longer.

The first of that name of which there is any record is Robert, who was appointed beadle by the Manor Court in 1524, he later became clerk to the Court as well. A beadle was the local enforcer of customs and law, therefore often unpopular, but clearly to reach these positions the family was already long established in the parish and at Robert's death in 1543 he was able to leave 20 acres freely to his son, plus other rented land. The family continued to grow and extend their holding, possibly at their neighbours expense since we find Laurence Clark sentenced in 1601 for "casting stones and roots onto Richard Pocock's ditch" for which he was fined 5/-, later increased to 20/- for non payment. The ditch is likely to have marked a much resented encroachment into Clark's land. Bad feeling continued and not long after we find Alexander Pocock in trouble for "fisticuffs," but in the next generation the family's fortunes began to decline and a later Richard is selling land to the Clarks for no less than £21, a considerable sum for the time and denoting a good sized holding. The money was to be kept in trust for his children by the vicar, which suggests that for some reason Richard was incapable by that time: he died only a few years later in 1605.

The last mention of the Pococks is another Robert, who died in 1634, still possessed of some land, so probably the family continued in the area for some while. Interestingly the name Pocock derived in medieval times from a nickname (as many modern names do). It refers to a peacock or as we would say, popinjay, but we have no means of knowing which distant ancestor incurred this slightly derogatory moniker by over-flaunting their looks or accomplishments, but can maybe imagine some covert chuckles about the (perhaps) oppressive beadle's name in the 1530's.

—Pat Wright



Our BYG Village Hall Clock

Our Smith's timepiece is an early Setric clock that hasn't been working for a couple of years. Although it has an ordinary looking face, it was sufficiently modern at the time to be presented to the Hall by BYG residents on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. By chance I discovered a friend was an amateur horologist in Wadhurst who 'operated' on the bakelite casing and removed, disassembled, cleaned and oiled the very dirty mechanism. It has now been fully reassembled and restored to its rightful place and will give you an accurate time, when you next have occasion to hire/visit the hall!

Bells Yew Green Village Hall

There has been a huge effort by Bells Yew Green locals to organise events raising funds to keep the hall alive. The good news is that these have been well supported so the community spirit has once again saved the day. There is, however, never room for complacency so the efforts of many continue and there is certainly plenty of room for more bookings and enthusiastic volunteers to join in with any ideas or ways of contributing to this worthwhile cause.

By the time you are reading this, our music & chilli night will have come and gone. Ticket sales were hugely successful with a sell out! We are very grateful to Amazon Adventures, next door, who kindly allowed use of their car park.

At some point in the Spring, we are planning to hold a jumble sale. This is the perfect opportunity to have a declutter and donate unwanted items including clothing, bric a brac, toys, books and more for this event. All money raised will go towards the upkeep of the hall and unsold items will be collected for charity at the end of the event. More information in due course but the declutter can start now!

Do keep an eye on our Bells Yew Green Facebook page and sign up for our newsletter at bit.ly/.BYGNEWS.

Hospice Tree Recycling Campaign Grows and Raises Vital Funds

Hospice in the Weald's popular Christmas tree recycling scheme has once again proven to be a festive success, raising an incredible £57,675 to support local hospice care. This year's campaign saw an impressive 2,595 trees collected across the week commencing January 12th, thanks to the efforts of 120 volunteers and 54 vans.

The scheme, which offers a hassle-free way for households to dispose of their Christmas trees while supporting a vital cause, continues to grow year on year. Last year, the initiative raised £43,000, meaning this year's total represents a remarkable 34% increase. This growth is a testament to the generosity of our local community and the dedication of everyone involved.

Reflecting on this year's success, Lisa Browning, Relationship Fundraising Manager said: "We're absolutely thrilled with the incredible support we've received from our community and local businesses. The generosity and teamwork we've seen this year have been truly inspiring, and it's wonderful to know that every tree collected helps provide vital care for local people facing terminal illness."

With several vans and volunteers unexpectedly unable to support as planned this year, the Hospice team and community, plus local businesses, still pulled together to ensure all registered trees were collected. While this caused some delays, trees were collected as

promised—a testament to the dedication and resilience of everyone involved.

Every contribution through this campaign makes a significant impact on the care and support provided to local people facing terminal illness. Hospice in the Weald extends heartfelt thanks to all who participated, from the volunteers 'on the road' to those who donated generously. Among the local businesses who supported the effort, and who we thank greatly, are:

- Phillip Marks Removals
- Bournes
- Treeworks
- Amazon
- Estate and Field Management
- Box Logistics
- Paddock Wood Auto Repairs
- Royal Mail
- Kier
- Britannia Bearsbys
- Aztech Trees
- Adina
- Bournes Removals
- Naos Floors
- GetaMove On
- Tunbridge Wells Shutters
- The Indian Dish

If you'd like to get involved next year and help us collect more trees and raise more vital funds to support our community, then reach out to Lisa Browning, Relationship Fundraising Manager at 01892 820 533 or email lisa.browning@hospiceintheweald.org.uk.

Wadhurst Open Gardens

We are proud to present 11 wonderfully varied gardens in the Wadhurst area for our annual Open Gardens event on 7th and 8th June 2025 from 2.00pm – 6.00pm each day. All profits will go to Carillon Cottage - serving the whole community for over 20 years. The event will include:

- Plant stall at Carillon Cottage
- Refreshments in the Church from 2.00pm – 5.00pm
- Beat the queues buy a TEA TICKET when you buy your entrance ticket £5.00
- Exhibition of local Primary School Posters in the Church

Ticket price Early Bird saver £10.00 for weekend. After 1th May £12.00 Day Ticket £7.00. Tickets available from Carillon Cottage from 1st May We look forward to seeing you!

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» Thursday 13 March 2025 at 2.00 pm

'London, New York, St Ives: the Avant Garde in Cornwall, 1939-1964'

Lecturer Sarah Burles

The arrival of Ben Nicholson (pictured right), Barbara Hepworth and Naum Gabo in St Ives at the beginning of the Second World War marked a significant moment, both for them and the artists already living and working in the small Cornish town.

These three artists were key players in British modernism and soon challenged the status quo of the existing artists' colony, established at the end of the 19th century. They inspired and, in Hepworth's case employed, a younger generation of artists before they too were challenged by new ideas.

This lecture will chart the rise of St Ives as a centre for modern art after the war and show that it was not only Nicholson, Hepworth and Gabo who achieved international success, but other artists including Peter Lanyon, Roger Hilton, Terry Frost and Wilhemena Barns Graham.

Their successes meant that the town became a focal point for post-war avant garde art, which led the eyes of the modern art world to focus, for a brief period, on St Ives.

» Thursday 10 April 2025 at 2.00pm

'Riviera Paradise: Art, Design and Pleasure in the 1920s'

Lecturer Mary Alexander

Since the C19th, English high society had 'wintered over' on the Cote d'Azur, but always left by April. In the 1920s however an intoxicating mix of artists, writers, musicians and international visitors created a new summer season.

Suntans and sportswear soon became de rigeur in the chic new coastal resorts, villas and hotels. A liberating playground of ideas across the visual design arts was stimulated by impresarios Serge Diaghilev and Paul Poiret. Traditional boundaries were torn down. Matisse, Picasso, Dufy (pictured right), Cocteau and Chanel merged the worlds of fashion, theatre and interiors. Cole Porter and Scott Fitzgerald introduced an American perspective and attracted an influential new set of discerning patrons and collectors. We will 'time travel' to meet them all.



Mary trained as an art historian at UCL where she obtained a BA and MA in the history of art. She lectured on art history at the Open University and Leeds and Manchester Universities and at Christie's Education in London.

Mary contributes articles to magazines, newspapers and professional journals and as an experienced speaker

lectures regularly for the Arts Society. Lectures take place at Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough, TN6 1FE

Members free, £7 for visitors who are very welcome. Refreshments available at the end of the talk. For more information see tasaf.org.uk



Frant School News

Another term has flown by and we are half way through the year!

Our Forest School learning has continued with the brilliant Mrs Fox. We have now seen Reception, Year 1 and now Year 2 through their Forest School journey this academic year. The children have loved every minute – especially getting so muddy!

We were very lucky to have Katharine Jennings, local artist from Rotherfield to come and work with both staff and pupils to create an amazing piece based on the Frant logo. Each child created a piece based on their hopes and dreams for the year 2025. Once each piece was created it revealed the Frant school logo which is now on display in our school hall for all to see.

We have been taking part in our big Food Waste Challenge, working against 6 other schools to see if we can be the school to throw away the least amount of food waste. We have appointed ‘food waste heroes’, who have been weighing our waste each day, recording the results, creating a weekly average and comparing our weight to different animals. We will find out in Term 4 how we have done.

We held our first charity event for our chosen charity, working with the school in Nkuringo, Africa, where we sponsor a 9 year old boy, Leonari. The cake sale was a great success organised by Mrs McIntyre and our school council pupils. We are hoping the money raised can help and support his education.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Pascoe who has been working with us since September. We wish her and her family the best of luck.

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, Executive Headteacher & Mrs Beach, Head of School

News from Nus Ghani MP

I’m always keen to ensure that our democracy and Parliament is as open as possible, which is why I have welcomed hundreds of Sussex Weald constituents, local teachers and students, charity volunteers and businesses to Westminster over the past ten years. There are several ways you can take



advantage of the unique experience of exploring the beating heart of our democracy, and as your MP, I would be happy to assist you in arranging a visit free of charge. Please note that I am only able to assist with the booking of the tour itself and all travel to Parliament must be covered by visitors themselves separately.

Palace of Westminster Tours: With the help of a tour guide, you can explore the House of Commons, House of Lords and Westminster Hall, where Parliament first sat. You will also get to see the Speaker’s Chair, the famous green benches, the lobbies where votes take place, the Royal Throne in the House of Lords chamber, The King’s Robing Room and other iconic spaces in this world-famous building. Tours last approximately 75 minutes and take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons when Parliament is sitting.

Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) Tours: MPs only have a yearly allocation of eight tickets each to distribute to constituents free of charge, so you may be added to a waiting list. If you would rather book and pay for your own tickets, they are released to the general public to purchase on the second Wednesday of each month at £30 per adult. Big Ben tours run from Monday to Saturday, last approximately 1 hour 45 minutes, and you will be at the belfry for the o’clock songs.

Prime Minister’s Questions (PMQs) tickets: Why not watch the most iconic Parliamentary event right from the public gallery? Taking place every Wednesday at noon, this 40-minute session is very popular and due to limited tickets, there is a (up to several months long) waiting list. However, if you register your interest, I will contact you when tickets become available.

It is an honour and privilege to represent Sussex Weald in Parliament and in the Chair as Madam Deputy Speaker. I am always delighted to welcome local residents to Parliament for a first-hand experience of our democracy. If you are interested in any of the above and live in Sussex Weald constituency, please get in touch with me via my website www.nusghani.org.uk/visitparliament and I would be happy to assist.



Parish Pets #17: Raven

My name is Raven. I am 5 months old and I live with my human playmates/staff, horses and chickens. This morning I trashed 3 garden pots, a sponge and very nearly caught my first chicken. They make a wonderful noise and kaffuffle when I’m in hot pursuit.

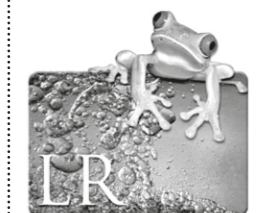
After such a productive morning - well I thought it was - I am now resting in my chair which smells like it belonged to another dog at some stage.

He was I am told the best behaved and nicest dog ever. This cannot be so - for a start I am female and therefore much more intelligent, my super powered nose gets everywhere and now that I am still growing I can easily reach most things put on tables or kitchen surfaces. What fun is that for me and the other co-habitants of the house? I am actually very loving and very well intentioned just quite long and large. At puppy meet and greet sessions held locally I was quite often sin binned for squashing other puppies - well they were all so small and my paws are not.

After a bit of a rest and some lunch I think I might see how I can help my human playmates with their chores and maybe find an unsuspecting chicken or two!

» 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:
March/April 2025**

» **Saturday 8 March**

County & District Cllr Surgery
The Stables, Frant 10am – 12 noon

» **Thursday 13 March & Thursday 10 April**

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest
Lectures, 2.00pm. See page 11 for full details

» **Saturday 22 March**

Women's Breakfast
The Stables, Frant from 9.30am (see page 4)

» **Tuesday, 25th March**

Frant Garden Club: Rapkyns Nursery
Memorial Hall, 2.30pm (see page 9)

» **Tuesday, 29th April**

Frant Garden Club: Anna Ribo
Gardening for nature & creative gardener. Memorial Hall, 2.30pm.

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 or www.eridgechurch.org

Advertising enquiries: office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk

Contributions for our next issue should be sent to the Editor: carmel.kinley@gmail.com or 01892 750217

Next deadline: 1st February 2025

Useful contacts

Frant

Frant CofE Primary School
Joanna Challis: 750243
Frant and Eridge Church Office
9-12am Mon/Wed/Fri; 01892 752261
office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk

Frant Church Youth and Kids

Rev Brendan Martin; 752261

Frant Bowls Club

Chris Hall, 01892 652483,
[email: chairman@frantbowls.uk](mailto:chairman@frantbowls.uk)

Frant Cricket Club

Will Patrick: 07884 187871

Frant Garden Club

Dianna Tennant: 752029

Frant Panto & Drama Society

Naomi Berwick; 07599 162222;
frantpanto@gmail.com

St Alban's Bell-Ringers

Mary Freestone: 750269

Frant Stables

sarah@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk
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Frant Parish Friendship Group

Brian Gill: 750266

Frant Memorial Hall

Sharon Warwick: 750185

Eridge

Eridge Garden Club

Jane Stevens: 01892 852739

Eridge Cricket Club

Luke Forbes: 670073

Eridge Village Hall Hire

www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk
bookevh@gmail.com

Eridge Choir

Tracy Bryant:

tracy@aldwickcottage.co.uk

Eridge Arts Club

Mary Helson: mary.helson@gmail.com

Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel

Peter Arrowsmith: 01892 610309

BYG Cricket Club

Andy Brooks: 07876 011782

Bells Yew Green Village Hall

Anna Lee-Davey: 07841 016558;
annan83@yahoo.co.uk

Friends of Bells Yew Green

07944 712000

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Eridge Ward

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MP for Wealden

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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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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