

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Blossom in Frant by Carmel Kinley

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Almost immediately opposite Frant Station, the hall is at the centre of the growing community of Bells Yew Green.

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From the Rectory



When I arrived at the rectory in Frant nearly six years ago I soon realised part of the garden was an old vegetable patch – you can see it at the front of the picture above, behind the gate.

One of the previous Rectors clearly had green fingers, you could see lots of evidence of this previously very well-tended area with a neat little fence and gate.

When I arrived, the patch had been neglected over the years and you couldn't see the old fences (that had fallen down) and the old gate due to all the nettles.

It was tremendously exciting (with help from some willing volunteers) when we first got here to cut back the overgrown weeds and find gooseberry bushes, blackcurrant bushes, tayberries, raspberries and blackberries.

Clearly the area had been very productive. So, with the inspiration of previous generation planting, we build up our own vegetable patch, reinstalled the gate in the picture, and put up chicken wire to keep the rabbits out (which we love to watch in the garden – just not when they eat our food!).

I have never however really had enough time or effort to hold back the tidal waves of old weeds from taking over – every year was a battle bravely fought but ultimately lost, and the patch ended up looking like a wild garden.

So this year we'd had enough, and we bought raised beds, with weed membrane underneath and new compost – in the hope of growing less, but doing it better!

So far caring for and prioritising a smaller manageable area is working, and it occurred to me

that might say something about our lives too...

I think often we feel overwhelmed by the constant business of our lives, like fighting back the weeds, we are fighting for time here and there to do what we truly think is important. My perception is we are busier than we have ever been, but are we happier?

Mostly, I see stressed people in the busyness of life, trying to do too much. But if you sit back and think what is actually most important, would that change your priorities and efforts? Would it be better to do fewer things well, than manically run around trying to sort and solve everything?

As a Christian this is particularly important to me. I don't want to waste my life, I don't want to miss the important moments of my children's life, I want to serve God and our community well. In order to do that perhaps I need to focus my life like I focus my vegetable patch... that I might grow and mature well as a person in life, bearing good fruit.

Jesus said in Matthew 6 that we shouldn't worry about this or that, food, clothing, life, but rather seek the Kingdom of God. Perhaps I should have four main raised beds of my life to focus on in my own growth – growing for God, growing for family and friends, growing in work, growing in volunteering or hobbies. What in particular should I put into each of those raised beds?

How you grow this year as a person is important, and I would love to encourage you with us to put God at the centre of your life and growth as a person. At church we want to equip and inspire each of us to grow together and make those positive choices for life and we would love you to grow with us. —Rev Brendan Martin

News from the Pews

As the blossom floats gently down and the days stretch themselves out, spring is putting on its annual show across Frant Parish. The air feels lighter, the birds a touch more enthusiastic in their morning performances, and the scent of cut grass is giving us all the optimistic feeling that perhaps—just perhaps—summer might be on its way.

Easter brought with it all the joy and reflection we needed after a long winter. Good Friday was a chance to slow down and reflect, followed by the uplifting Easter Sunday services, reminded us of the beauty of faith and fellowship. And while there wasn't a formal village Easter event many homes were buzzing with their own traditions—egg hunts in gardens, shared meals, and plenty of chocolate-fuelled joy behind front doors and garden gates

And now, onto May Day – that most charming of spring traditions. This year, there's a whisper in the hedgerows and a rumour doing the rounds... Could a village dog competition be coming to The Green? We can neither confirm nor deny (yet), but if it does go ahead, we foresee an afternoon of wagging tails, rosettes, and more village spirit abound. Keep an eye out for more news—and prepare your pups!

And while you're out enjoying our stunning local walks, whether it's a gentle loop through the woods or a longer ramble across the fields, why not reward your efforts with a roast at The George (always a crowd-pleaser), or perhaps some refined dining delights at the Abergavenny Arms? If you are strolling through Eridge pastures, you have The Huntsman and Nevill Crest pubs and of course The Brecknock Arms if you find yourself enjoying the views in Bells Yew Green. All are true gems in our Parish crown

Now, a small but important reminder about church life: Every six years, the Church of England renews its Electoral Roll, and this is our year! That means everyone who wants to be part of our church family—whether you're renewing or joining for the first time—needs to sign up again. Being on the roll is a bit like becoming a member, and it gives you voting rights at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which takes place on Monday 12th May at 8pm. It's your chance to be part of the conversation, the vision, and the cake (probably).



March also treated us to a beautiful Women's Breakfast in The Stables, where more than 30 women gathered for a morning of warmth, encouragement and perfectly brewed coffee. Cherice Laidler spoke movingly about the kindness of God in her life, and not a single person left without a posy of spring flowers—or a smile. Huge thanks go to Caroline Creedy and her team for creating something truly special. Don't miss the next one on 10th May!

And if music is more your thing, you'll want to act quickly—Frant Concerts are back in full swing, and this one's a hot ticket. With over two-thirds of seats already sold, the fabulous Jacqui Dankworth (above) will be joining us on Saturday 17th May. One of the UK's leading jazz vocalists, she blends jazz, soul, folk and blues into something quite

magical. If you missed out last time when we sold out weeks in advance... don't say we didn't warn you!

For more information and Booking visit <https://frantchurch.churchsuite.com/events/ig9gmer7>

Lastly, a heartfelt appeal: the Women's Refuge is in need of essential toiletries—shampoo, shower gel, sanitary items, and other everyday basics. If you're able to donate, please pop your items in the box at Frant Church. Your generosity could make a huge difference to someone rebuilding their life.

So here's to May and June in our Parish: a time for community, connection, and (hopefully) a competitive cockapoo in a novelty outfit. Let's enjoy every blossom, every gathering, and every little moment that makes our villages so very special.

St Alban's, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

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



www.frantchurch.org
Churchwarden
Juliet Nightingale—01580 200403
Kyle Laidler—07775 855866



www.eridgechurch.org
Churchwardens
Jonathan Lynn—07788 597051
Stephen Barnes—861302

Services for

May / June 2025

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	4th May	Communion Service	9.15am
10:30am	Communion Service	11th May	Morning Prayer	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Worship	18th May	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	25th May	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	1st June	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Communion Service	8th June	Morning Prayer	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Worship	15th June	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Morning Worship	22nd June	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10:30am	Communion Service	29th June	Morning Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			

WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

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



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Frant Village Shop

The re-opening of Frant Village Shop has arrived! I visited the shop and met the new owners in the midst of the extensive shop refit and can only imagine, at the time of writing this, what a luxury it will be for those either living in the village or passing through it to have this facility once again.

I was delighted to hear, as you all will be, that the coffee shop is also re-opening with the added bonus of the very friendly familiar face of Vicky Thompson behind the counter.

Here is what the new owner, Pamanathan, has to say:

My name is Pamanathan Nisanathan and my Wife Nittiyapiraba Nisanathan (pictured) since 2004. We have successfully owned and operated a Premier convenience store in Erith, Kent, and since 2014, we have also successfully managed a post office and Premier convenience store in Swanley, Kent. This new venture represents a significant expansion.

We are committed to providing exceptional customer service and

convenient grocery shopping. Our store will offer a comprehensive range of products and services, including National Lottery sales, fresh-brewed coffee, locally sourced fresh meats, hot pastries and snacks, free cash withdrawals, off-license sales, a wide selection of wines, beers, and spirits, newsagent services, local newspapers, tobacco products (including cigars, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and rolling tobacco), confectionery, bread, rolls, eggs, tinned, chilled, and frozen foods, household essentials, and Post Office services. Additionally, we operate a Hermes Parcel Shop.

Finally, we have rebranded our café from Daisy Café to Sunrise Café, retaining the same staff and implementing an updated storefront and menu. We have our grand opening on 30th of April 2025.

Our opening hours are Monday to Saturday 6am to 9pm and Sunday 7am to 8pm. Sunrise Café opening hours Monday to Friday 7am to 3pm. Weekends we are closed.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Parish News page designer vacancy

Fifteen years ago, Frant resident, Jonathan Christie, proposed a replacement design of the then Parish Plus newsletter, to Parish News. Over those years, the magazine has evolved from black and white, to sepia and now glossy colour. Jonathan's expert skill in transforming editorial text to beautifully designed page layout has set the bar high.

Jonathan is now ready to pass the baton and we are therefore looking for another enthusiastic volunteer to take on the role from November 2025. The Parish News is currently designed using Adobe InDesign where knowledge of style sheets is essential. It takes 4-6 hours per issue (every 2 months) to lay out and involves some picture sourcing too. The adverts need some designing, although many are supplied ready to go.

If you are interested in joining the Parish News team on a voluntary basis and have the requisite skills, please contact carmel.kinley@gmail.com.

Parish Surgeries

Cllr Bob Standley (County Councillor) and Cllr Johanna Howell (District Councillor) are having surgeries on the 3rd May in Carillion Cottage, Wadhurst and on 17th May in Bells Yew Green Village Hall 10am – 12 noon. We would love to see you.

Bells Yew Green Plant Sale and Open Gardens

On Sunday 25 May, an event has been arranged at Sunninglye in Bells Yew Green to raise funds for the Bells Yew Green Village Hall. The attractions include a pottery open studio and an art exhibition at the Oast, an opportunity to meet the animals and bottle feed lambs at the farm. The sales of plants, handcrafted mini hurdles, walking sticks and woven plant supports, also bags of sheep's fleece for plant protection at the Farmhouse, where there is an organic vegetable garden to see. Teas with home made cakes will also be available.

Gates open at 2pm and there is an entry fee of £2 per car (cash only please). Bring the family and the dog (on leads) and enjoy a country outing and support your village hall.

Address is Sunninglye, Dundale Road, Bells Yew Green TN3 9AG.



Hospice in the Weald Moonlight Walk 2025

» **Saturday 14th June 2025, Sevenoaks Rugby Club, 6pm-12:00am**
Our annual Moonlight Walk is back, so time to join hundreds of other motivated people for a memorable evening of walking, socialising, music and memories.

This year will see the introduction of some exciting new routes, alongside the familiar thirteen eight- and four-mile options, all set in Sevenoaks and the beautiful Knole Park.

Before heading off there will be a warm up to music, and on return, a glass of fizz at the finish line; also, food and coffee/tea will be available for purchase, with options en route too!

The evening is the perfect opportunity for those touched by the Hospice to walk in memory of someone they love and share their thoughts and reflections.

It's also a chance for anyone who enjoys the great outdoors to get together with friends or family and walk beneath the stars to raise funds for a great cause. Everyone is welcome including well behaved canine members of the family!

All entry fees and fundraising support Hospice in the Weald to care for people facing terminal illness and their loved ones.

We look forward to seeing you on the 14th of June.

To sign up or find out more, go to the events section of our website www.hospiceintheweald.org or call us on 01892 820533.



Frant Bowls Club

» Launching the 2025 Season

By the time you read this Frant Bowls Club will have started its 2025 Season. Part of the preparation for the season was the Spring Tidy-Up which is always the first action we have following the club's hibernation throughout the winter.

Despite the bowls green having 'been put to bed' over the winter, bowls green maintenance still needs to be done. Our green is cut, weather permitting, throughout the closed season. Moreover as the green is used two or three times a week from April to September, the grass does get a bit tired. Therefore top dressing and reseeding is required. One or two of our members had the strength and stamina to roll the green during March. Although moles are not a problem a few peaks and troughs do develop during the season and need to be 'ironed' out.

The green always looks good but we have to be alert to the green-keepers' enemies such as fusarium, pearlwort and to a lesser extent worm casts. In the main these problems are dealt with by an outside contractor who would use environmentally friendly applications to control these invaders. However you will see members on the green before a match and grass cutting giving the surface a good switching to remove the worm casts which are thrown by the worms. The worms are gently persuaded to leave the green but they soon return.

Anyway, back to the Spring Tidy-up, we do this every year at the start of the season. This involves cleaning our splendid club house, putting out the benches, mowing the surrounds and clearing out the ditches which tend to clog up with leaves during the winter. Then we reinstall the 'Hedgehog' mats in the ditches. These are rectangular mats

that we put in the ditches around the green to prevent damage to our bowls which sometimes go off the end of a rink either through tactics or just being too heavy handed.

As usual the Spring Tidy-up was well supported by our club members who brought along some their own gardening kit such as hoes, leaf blowers, shears and pressure washers to augment the bowls club's assortment of tools. The photograph shows what a happy bunch we are.

Refreshments during this clean up session are always welcome halfway through the morning. During the tea break there's chat about the coming fixtures and the club competitions which have already been drawn. Our first fixture was at Ringmer which was a good opportunity to renew old friendships and get back into the rhythm of lawn bowls. Finished by mid-day, we gave ourselves a pat on the back and looked forward to our first roll-up which was on 15th April followed by a BBQ.

Lawn bowls is a fascinating game of strategy. Whilst the objective is to deliver your bowls accurately and place them nearest the small white ball, the Jack, it can involve blocking your opponent and even pushing the opponent's bowls out of the way. Ultimately though bowls is a easy going, good humoured outdoor game.

Frant Bowls Club warmly welcomes new members. We have some very experienced players who will gladly provide an introduction to the congenial game of lawn bowls. As an added attraction we have sets of bowls you can try out, a good natured membership and a licensed bar. Come along for a chat and a demo on a Tuesday from about 5.00pm on 22 April onwards. Visit our website - frantbowls.uk —*Michael Freestone*

Frant Parish Friendship Group

Our February meeting was a social afternoon with a quiz. Sandra McDonald produced three excellent quiz sheets and after splitting into groups of four we all endeavoured to use our little grey cells. This proved to be a very entertaining afternoon. The winners receiving bunches of spring tulips. In March our speaker was Richard Griffin a former Royal Protection Officer to the late Queen, Prince Phillip and other members of the Royal family. Richard had a long and illustrious career first with Prince Edward through his university and army years and then with Prince Phillip and finally the Queen. Travelling across the world on royal visits, meeting heads of state, popes and celebrities; culminating with the Diamond Jubilee and the famous parachute jump at the 2012 Olympics!

On the theme of 'our little grey cells' the exercise classes with Alison have been very well attended and apart from the physical benefits she also improves our minds and memories with various mental exercises quite often with hilarious results! These classes will be continuing through May i.e. the 1st, 8th and 15th May. New members always welcome.

We have continued our games afternoons but with a change of venue to the George pub; these are very relaxed sessions with members bringing along their favourite board/card games and trying new ones.

We will be having a summer break from June until September when we will start again with the autumn programme which is currently being prepared.

Enquiries Valerie Palmer
(valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com)

Jumble Sale in Bells Yew Green

If you have been putting off that long awaited spring declutter, here is a real incentive to get going! On 29 June, there is a jumble sale in Bells Yew Green Village Hall from 2.00pm-4.00pm. All donations of unwanted clothing, accessories & shoes, books, bric a brac, children's toys etc will be gratefully received with funds raised going towards the maintenance costs of the hall.

If you live within the Parish and would like to have your donations collected, please contact carmel.kinley@gmail.com and I will be happy to come and collect them from you. Alternatively,

please leave your donations outside the hall on Saturday 28 June.

What is one person's jumble is another's treasure so do come along and see what bargains you can pick up on the day. There will be a café area serving tea, coffee and a variety of homemade cakes.

Pastoral Care in the Parish

Do you ever feel that you could just do with a chat with someone to talk things through? Maybe that's when one of our trained pastoral care team can help. We are happy to be contacted at any time to offer support in any way we can. If you need professional help we will do our best to point you in the right direction and still be there for you on an informal basis.

Our pastoral care team can be contacted on any of the following numbers:

- 07882 584669
- 07787 570981
- 07904 428396

We are also very fortunate in Frant to be able to call on the Dial2Drive service, subsidised by Frant Parish Council. If ever you need a lift to an appointment, or for some other reason, contact them in advance on 0300 777 1200 or email the office at: dial2drive@imago.community and they should be able to arrange transport for you.

Parish Past

It will probably come as a surprise to realise that many millions of years ago Frant lay at the bottom of an ocean that stretched from near modern London and deep into France. But, gradually, seismic pressures began to lift the land, swamps and deltas formed where dinosaurs roamed amid sandbanks, reeds and silt. More clay was deposited and the land sank under its weight until Frant again lay deep under water.

As it sank, shells and the remains of sea creatures began to form chalk, sealing in the mud, which in turn helped clear the water so even more sea life could thrive, adding to the chalk as they died. More millions of years, and upward pressure began again, shoving the chalk above the surface, cracking it too and making it more vulnerable to erosion.

So ... what we have now is Wealden clay soil in your garden which was long ago

deposited by that ancient ocean, and the North and South Downs which are the remaining uneroded edges of that chalk dome of long dead sea creatures. Difficult to get one's head around? Yes, but when thirty or so years ago a company drilled for oil near Ticehurst what they found in their clay cores from hundreds of feet deep were the unmistakable fossils of sea creatures and shells - unfortunately not oil in commercial quantities.

—*Pat Wright*

Events at the Brecknock Arms

Over the summer months, we are very pleased to be hosting the following music events to which all are very welcome. They are:

» **June 14th music by Ryan Weeks 7pm - 9pm**
» **July 12th Music Festival to raise money for hospice in the Weald**
» **September 5th, 6th & 7th Beer Festival**

If you are planning your own celebration, our barn is the perfect space for any event, from birthday parties to weddings and everything in-between. We offer several food packages to suit a multitude of events. You'll have your own private space to celebrate your occasion, with easy access to the bar and spacious garden. This space is ideal for wedding receptions, with the option to have someone decorate for you, plus we offer a wide range of catering options including 3 course meals and canapés. So why wait?

Contact us on 01892 750237 to secure your booking now!





LES CATER

Events at Broadwater Warren

We'd like to bring your attention to three events that we have planned at Broadwater over the coming months.

» Saturday 10th May, 05.00-07.30 Dawn Chorus Wildlife Walk

Get up very early and be rewarded by the wonders of the dawn chorus. Learn to identify the different melodies and calls of birds as they warm up their vocal chords. Our experts will help you distinguish between a melodious blackbird, a rather intense wren, a newly-arrived warbler and perhaps the beautiful song of the woodlark. If you're really lucky you might hear the scratchy song of the Dartford warbler, a bird that only started breeding at Broadwater in 2022.

» Friday 13th June, 20.30-22.30 Broadwater at Dusk

Join us on a guided walk to the best spots to see and hear nightjar. On the way we'll be looking out for the wildlife that comes to life as the sun goes down. We'll listen out for roving woodcock and then see the nightjars performing their fascinating churring and wing-clapping displays. On our way back to the car park we'll look for the bright green lights of glowworms at the sides of the tracks.



BEN ANDREW

» Sunday 28th September, 10.00-13.00

Fungus Identification Walk

Join nationally-recognised fungus expert Martin Allison on a hunt for the reserve's hidden gems. Martin will help you tell the difference between chantarelles, parasols, puffballs, deceivers, ceps and blewits. But even he won't know what he will find, so it really will be a voyage of discovery for everyone. Please note that this event is aimed at learning more about fungi and their habitats. It's not a fungus foray collecting fungi to eat and we won't be picking what we find.

We'd love to see you there!

News from Nus Ghani, MP

This month, we come together to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and pay our respects to those who fought in the Second World War. A series of events will take place locally in Sussex Weald and across the United Kingdom to mark this momentous occasion in our country's history and bind us together in a moment of reflection, celebration and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed defending the values of our great nation.

Our British Armed Forces are the ultimate defenders of our security and freedom. They are respected the world over and I always convey our gratitude when spending time with local residents whose family members worked with our Armed Forces overseas. I'm proud to have been working with the local branches of the Royal British Legion for many years and it is always an honour to stand with local veterans on Remembrance Sunday and meet those who serve our country at home or abroad today. Given the county's proximity to Europe, East Sussex has often been on the front line of war. As a result, many of our towns and villages across Sussex Weald have had a long connection to the military.

To highlight a few of those local connections, Horam was home to a former RAF Squadron Leader and WWII Spitfire pilot Jack Hemmings, who sadly died at the age of 103 earlier this year. In Crowborough, we have a memorial dedicated to soldiers of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment from Canada, who were killed when a V1 bomb struck their encampment.

Similarly, Wadhurst was a home to William Broughton Gingell, a pilot from the Photographic Reconnaissance Units, which was an unarmed and unprotected unit taking photographs of strategically important sites which were then analysed for intelligence and used in strategic planning. Moreover, I am pleased to be supporting a new permanent memorial for Flying Officer Percy Burton in Hailsham, to mark the spot where his plane tragically crashed during the Battle of Britain.

Throughout the weekend and the week leading up to VE Day, many of our towns and villages including Hailsham, Crowborough, Heathfield, Wadhurst and Rotherfield will be lighting beacons and hosting a programme of events for our communities and families to bring the commemorations to life.

We shall never forget the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought for our country and our freedoms. I hope local residents of all ages will take the opportunity to reflect on and mark this important anniversary in our history, and I look forward to joining our communities at celebrations across Sussex Weald.

Litter

A big thank you to all of those who have been helping with the much needed spring litter picking across the Parish. It can be soul destroying spending hours collecting litter only to see it reappear almost immediately but without the volunteers who willingly set out on these tidy up missions, it would look a whole lot worse. There is no need to take the litter home with you – if you leave it in a layby and email recycling@wealden.gov.uk they will collect the bags.

If you are interested in joining in on the efforts to keep Britain tidy, please contact the Parish Council on this email address for details of where to collect a litter picking pack: dramb49@gmail.com. Thank you.

Frant Primary School News

Another term seems to have flown by very quickly here at Frant School. Please enjoy reading about our news.

Our Easter Service was held in school on Friday 4th April. A lovely service with the children all sharing their learning.

All our 4 schools in the Federation took part in Science Week recently. We had some brilliant talks from parents within



the STEM industry, Paul Shefford, ex Headteacher here at Frant, (STEM ambassador) came in to deliver a great and interactive assembly with the whole school. Each class learnt about a different Scientist, sharing this with parents during whole school worship.

The whole school have been involved with a 'Big Waste' initiative looking at how much food waste is thrown each lunch time. We have been involved in a county wide competition to see if we can be the school to throw away the least food.

We have been involved in lots of



sporting events, including 1 child attending the Cross Country finals, Federation Netball tournament here at Frant with Mrs Douch coming back to umpire and Stingers Netball tournament.

We had an amazing morning with Paralympian, Kylie Grimes, who was the first woman to win GOLD at the Paralympic games in Wheelchair Rugby. She came to Frant, put the children through their paces with a fitness circuit and then spoke to the school about her journey in her sport, Wheelchair Rugby. All the children had a fantastic morning and have been raising money for both the school and the Actikids Athlete Fund.

World Book Day was at the beginning of this term and the children had a great day dressing up and celebrating all things books! We had some great costumes by both children and staff and a fun day was enjoyed by all.

We also had a brilliant Mothers Day breakfast organised by the PTFA. A big thank you to The George Pub for helping make the event possible.

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 Lauren Beach, Head of School



The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

» Thursday 8 May 2025 at 2.00 pm Love and Loss: Orpheus and Eurydice in Art and Music

Lecturer Lois Oliver

Orpheus could charm the birds out of the trees with his music, yet he failed to bring his beloved Eurydice out of the Underworld. Lois Oliver will explore the wealth of art and music on the theme of love and loss, with a rich array of paintings and music from Monteverdi, Gluck and Offenbach and even the Can-Can!

» Thursday 12 June 2025 at 2.00 pm The Spirit of Place: Artists and the British Landscape.

Lecturer Susan Owens

Susan Owens will tell the story of our landscape art from its origins in manuscripts and maps, the Arcadian views of Gainsborough (pictured above), Constable's close observation of nature, watercolourists of the Golden Age, Millais, the Pre-Raphaelites and through to the 20th Century with Paul Nash and Eric Ravilious.

All lectures held 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



Eridge Arts Club

» **Franz Liszt: an Eridge Arts talk by St John Brown at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 14 May in Eridge Village Hall.**

The next Eridge Arts Club event will be a talk by St John Brown about the influential Romantic composer, Franz Liszt (pictured above). The talk will be on Wednesday, 14 May at 7.30pm in the Eridge Village Hall.

Liszt is recognised as one of the most brilliant musicians of the 19th Century. He significantly expanded the boundaries of both piano playing and what was possible on the piano, and his

compositions were a major influence on later composers. More busts were made of Liszt in the 19th century than anyone else - except Napoleon! He was arguably the first international celebrity. He entered Holy Orders late in life, and was extremely generous to other composers and pianists. Our speaker, St John Brown, who hosted a local radio classical music programme for five years, will talk about the life and music of this extraordinary musician. Tickets are £5 on the door. All are welcome. Please email mary.helson@gmail.com if you would like to come so that we have an idea of numbers for refreshments.

Frant and the Bayham Riot 1525

Bayham seems an unlikely place for a riot but on Whitsunday June 4th 1525 over a hundred armed men with painted faces (to avoid being recognised) arrived at the Abbey. Some of these men came from Frant, and perhaps some were from Eridge. Bayham Abbey is in the parish of Frant though the rest of Bayham is in Kent. The men were angry because the Abbey had been closed down by Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII's minister, along with eighteen others in England, so he could found a new college in Oxford, now called Christ Church. The rioters returned the canons and installed a new abbot. The rebellion lasted for eight days without any sign of government action. It may be that after the Whitsun Week holiday was over the rioters simply went home thinking they had done their job, but the canons were soon evicted again, permanently.

The riot was extremely unusual in the closing of monasteries and no-one knows quite why it happened. By the 16th century the monastic life was declining but the locals were clearly very attached to Bayham Abbey, and there had been no bad reports about it. It was part of the Premonstratensian Order of canons, who were priests living a monastic life. It would have had an important place in local life not only spiritually but in the employment it gave to farm labourers and local tradesmen. The canons had more freedom than monks and local villagers would have known them personally. The closure of Bayham Abbey may have been a last straw for local people after much heavy taxation by Wolsey. The lack of force to end the riot is also strange, but the Weald was inaccessible and the people known to be unruly and anyway there was no police force or standing army. Lord Abergavenny was the obvious person to put down the disturbance but it seems that he too may have been involved or at least supported the action. For example, William Roots, the rector of Buxted, had been Abergavenny's chaplain, and the newly installed 'abbot' Thomas Towers, had spent a year with Roots before going to Bayham. Also, two of Abergavenny's servants are said to have encouraged men to join in. Wolsey was Abergavenny's enemy and had caused him a great deal of trouble. Henry Darell of Scotney Castle kept Wolsey informed but took no action.

Afterwards twenty-seven men were indicted for the offence. The ring leaders were imprisoned. At its height there were said to be two hundred men involved and they claimed they had support from Bayham to Bramber. Nearly all of the twenty-seven came from Brenchley, Frant, Lamberhurst or Wadhurst: all close to Bayham, but many other places in Sussex and Kent were mentioned in reports. William Gale, the real abbot, was indicted but as he had been temporarily replaced in the riot presumably he did not agree with it. He was moved to be abbot of another less important abbey, but no provision was made for the other canons. This would have been a major source of unhappiness for them, and perhaps a source of anger to the rioters. The men from Frant were John Grangeman, a farm labourer, Thomas Mills, another farm labourer, William Mephram, a weaver, John Mower, a servingman, Robert Porter was described as a chaplain, and Robert Reynard was a husbandman, or farmer. Men from elsewhere included a brewer, shearman, tailor, smith and cordwainer. The rioters were a mixture of working men and tradesman. Robert Porter is interesting. He may have been one of the canons, or possibly a chaplain to a local gentleman. Scarcely a generation later John Porter of Bayham was having children christened at Frant from 1557. Might Robert have stayed on after the dissolution of Bayham, perhaps as a bailiff for the Abbey lands, and married and had children?

It is refreshing to read about a riot with no bloodshed or damage, apparently,



although the men were armed with long-bows, cross-bows, swords and clubs. They told the canons that if there was any more trouble they had only to ring the bell and help would come. It must have been a terrible shock to have such a local institution closed down suddenly for no good reason. Eleven years later every monastery would suffer the same fate.

Bayham is now a lovely, peaceful place but before 1525 it would have been very busy, lively place that seemed to be a permanent part of the landscape and local life.

—Mary Alexander

Frant Open Gardens and Family Fun Dog show

» **21st June; 11am - 4pm**

Frant is preparing for another wonderful village event on 21st June. We are planning to open gardens, large and small in walking distance around the village. We are very excited to be invited to a newly developed architect designed garden to see all the amazing work that has gone on there. Equally charming will be some small but inspiring High Street gardens, plus many other beautiful private gardens open for just this one day. Maps of the gardens, will be available from The Village Hall for £8 (please bring cash) along with tea and cakes, from 10.30. To add to the fun The George will be hosting live music. Food will be available all day from The George and The Abergavenny Arms, so lots of opportunity to get refreshments on the tour.

There is to be a Family Fun Dog Show at 1p.m. on The Cricket Green with three categories for entry. The event will kick off with a Fancy Dress competition for dogs!! This will be followed by a competition to find The Bravest Rescue Dog and finally there is a category for the Best Young Handler. All doggies will be welcome to join the fun. Entry £10. There will be rosette prizes and doggie treats with kind sponsorship and judging by Victoria from Yogis Dog Training, to whom we are very grateful.

Other villagers will be sharing their skills in various crafts in The Village Hall. Finally, there will be a plant stall to buy plants once you are inspired by your visit to go home and garden.

All we need is sunshine to make this a perfect day in our beautiful village setting.

We look forward to seeing you all



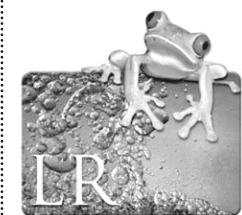
Parish Pets #18: Kaya

My name is Kaya. I am a 15-month-old golden retriever and I live very near Frant village. I am a huge enthusiast for life and my favourite type of day involves at least two good walks in the countryside. Now the weather has improved, I no longer come back looking as dirty as I did which is a huge relief to me (I hate being hosed off!) - and my owners!

I am a very placid girl indoors and just love cuddles and lying in the sun. I do leave hairs wherever I go but like to think that nobody minds, although people wearing black trousers do seem a bit more adverse to cuddling too close... Outside, I just want to run and explore, and I truly love meeting other canine friends to play with. I am really enjoying the sunny weather as it means more time for new adventures with my family!

» **Like your pet featured in *Parish News*..? If so, send a description and photo to: carmel.kinley@gmail.com**

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Parish Diary: May/June 2025

» Thursday 8 May & 12 June

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest Lectures. Crowborough Community Centre, 2pm (See page 11)

» Wednesday 14 May

Erige Arts Club Event
Erige Village Hall 7.30pm (see page 12)

» Saturday 17 May

Jacqui Dankworth Concert
St Alban's Church Frant (see page 4)

» Sunday 25 May

Bells Yew Green Plant Sale & Open Gardens. Sunninglye, Bells Yew Green 2.00pm – 4.00pm (see page 7)

» Saturday 21 June

Frant Open Gardens & Dog Show
From 11am - 4pm (see page 13)

» Sunday 29 June

Jumble Sale. Bells Yew Green Village Hall 2-4pm (see page 9)

» June – September

Brecknock Arms Music Events,
(see page 9)

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 June 2025

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Erige

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Erige Arts Club

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Bells Yew Green

Bells Yew Green Chapel

Peter Arrowsmith: 01892 610309

BYG Cricket Club

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Bells Yew Green Village Hall

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Bob Standley: 783579

cllr.bob.standley@wealden.gov.uk

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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
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 TN2 5AW
 Tel: 01892 526563
 Opening Hours:
 Mon - Fri 8am - 5.30pm
 Sat - 8am - 2pm

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



Paul Keineder
 Property Maintenance & Renovation
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