

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Hay bales in Frant – photo by Carmel Kinley

IN THIS ISSUE ...

3	4	10	14	16	18
Letter from the Rectory by the Reverend Brendan Martin	News from the Pews – including Shoebox Appeal 2026	The rutting season – take care on the roads	space2make in Bells Yew Green – creative workshops	Update from Frant Parish Council	What’s on in the Parish: events, and useful contacts & dates

WADHURST OPTICIANS & HEARING CENTRE

Your local optical & hearing specialist

Hear more clearly with our earwax removal service

Wadhurst Opticians & Hearing Centre offer a complete Microsuction service for the removal of earwax.

To book your appointment please call: 01892 782674



BELLS YEW GREEN VILLAGE HALL

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

It has FREE WiFi, a fully functioning kitchen, toilets, a large hall, and a separate, smaller community room, which is available for hire separately.

This delightful hall is hired out for private parties, meetings, fitness classes as well as dance and yoga, art classes and more. Prices start at £12.50 per hour.

For further information, visit our website:
www.bellsyewgreen.org

To hire the hall, please contact Anna Lee-Davey on
07841 016558 | email annan83@yahoo.co.uk

Dragonfly Farm Shop & Cafe

Langton Road, Speldhurst, TN3 0NR

A haven for fresh produce, daily essentials,
great coffee & homemade delicious food



DRAGONFLY FARM SPELDHURST

Tuesday - Saturday 8:30am - 5pm
Sundays 10am - 4pm

www.dragonflyfarm.co.uk



STORE ANYTHING

FLEXIBLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSEHOLD & BUSINESS STORAGE

- Best value household and business storage in and around Tunbridge Wells.
- Immaculate, brand-new, secure containers in a range of sizes.
- Access your unit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Drive right up to your container to unload.



Call our friendly team now for a quote:
Store Anything | Telephone: 01892 752818
www.storeanything.co.uk

Unit 1, Stubby Grove Works, Bells Yew Green Road, Frant, East Sussex TN2 9BT

Masson

Masson Joinery
Hand crafted kitchens,
cabinetry and joinery

01892 750 351
info@massonjoinery.co.uk
massonjoinery.co.uk

@massonjoinery



From the Rectory



One of the joys of my role as Rector is to be involved as governor at our Parish School Frant CE Primary. We have just had a busy month, having had a church inspection (called SIAMS) and OFSTED – both in the same month! I can't share Ofsted results which come out in September but I can share a wonderful report from the church inspectors. As a church I was pleased when they said:

"A strong and cohesive Christian vision is carefully matched to the school's history and context. It is well known across the school community and consistently lived out."

We were really pleased with how the inspection went, with much thanks to staff, pupils, parents and governors which has enabled such positive results.

As a Church and parish, this is really encouraging. We started the school in our village more than 200 years ago. This was way before the Universal Education Act where all children we entitled to education, and showed that our church and people of our parish thought it was worth educating all children. This school wasn't built for those families who had money, they already sent their children to private schools, no, this school was built for those families who worked the farms or the estates in the parish.

This says a lot about the purpose of education for all children regardless of ability or future prospects. Education is valued for what it is. It isn't just that they were taught so that they could get great jobs – there was little prospects for children 200 years ago except to do what

their parents did which was work the farms and work in the local big Estates. Nor was it about just educating so that the children could read the Bible for themselves (as important as that is) – they didn't need to be taught maths for that. Education was about the right formation of a child so that they can relate well and properly to the world about them – as a school our vision is to enable children to relate well to God, each other, the world and themselves.

A couple of years ago we did a parent survey of what parents wanted from our school, and interestingly almost no-one talked about grades! They wanted their children to be resilient and confident for life.

Through those past 200 years our school motto has been:

Proverbs 22:6: *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

You will see this written on the wall of the current school, and the old school.

Training isn't like exercise, but like training a plant. A plant is trained when it is young like when you clip it to wire, it stays where it should be and becomes strong and eventually the wire isn't needed and the plant grows well and flourishes, going in the right direction throughout its life.

As the Rector and Governor of our Church School I take that responsibility very seriously. We want to see children developing their gifts, going in the right direction, relating well to everything around them – all in order to thrive throughout their life.

News From The Pews

Yvonne Bowman
Much loved Eridge resident, Yvonne Bowman, sadly died in July. The following memories were shared amongst Eridge residents.



“Yvonne was a wonderful lady: tough, resilient, inspirational, and full of character, warmth and energy. She will be remembered with great affection by all who knew her, from friends who shared tequila shots with her at a vintage party in Eridge to those who saw her delight in being driven at speed in a red Ferrari along the A26. She was a much-loved presence in the community, a close and loyal friend, and someone whose kindness and spirit touched many lives. Whether hosting a lunch party for twelve in her nineties, continuing by candlelight through a power cut because, as she said, “at my age you never cancel anything”, organising bridge lunches to raise much-needed funds for the Church, providing plums from her garden to feed seventy people plum crumble, or giving so much to Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club and Tunbridge Wells Wives, Yvonne lived with generosity, humour and purpose. An active, fun-loving and remarkable lady of towering intellect and vitality, she was a role model to many and a joy to know and be with. She will be very deeply missed, and remembered with love, gratitude and admiration.”



Bill Gingell
William, known to everyone simply as Bill Gingell, sadly died on the 5th of July 2026.

Bill was born in September 1949 to Norman and Maisie Gingell. Although he spent three years living in Essex while beginning his career, Frant was always home. His family moved to Earlye Farm in 1942, and Bill grew up there, attending Frant School before earning a place at Skinners School in Tunbridge Wells. He began his working life at Burroughs Wellcome in Beckenham and, while working, completed a three-year part-time degree in Applied Biology, as well as this working for May and Baker, a pharmaceutical company. In 1977, Bill returned to Frant to help with the running of the family farm alongside his brother, Joe. Farming was far more than a job to Bill; it was his passion and his way of serving his community. He gave generously his time as Chair of the Crowborough and District Ploughing Match and of the Frant branch of the National Farmers’ Union. Above all, Bill will be remembered as a true gentleman. He was a wonderful friend who never hesitated to help when someone was in need. If there was a crisis, Bill was there – quietly, reliably, and without expecting anything in return. In later years, he continued to serve his village by raising the church flag for special occasions and faithfully looking after the church clock. His kindness, generosity, and unwavering willingness to help others will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him.

Eridge Church Tour



The Friends of Eridge Church enjoyed a tour of the church and churchyard with Jonathan Lynn the churchwarden on Saturday 25th July at 4.00. The AGM was held afterwards with Pimms and other refreshments at Warren House. With thanks to Lesley and Jonathan Lynn for hosting this enjoyable event.

Shoebox Appeal 2026

It may seem early to be thinking about the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal; however, Carmel Kinley, who is coordinating the effort this year, is keen to give plenty of notice in an attempt to increase the number of boxes collected across our churches ready for the end of October deadline. The Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2026 brings practical help, dignity, and hope to families and elderly people living in poverty across Ukraine and Eastern Europe – not just children. Each shoebox supports an entire household or an elderly person facing isolation or hardship. Every shoebox contains a carefully selected mix of practical and thoughtful items for all family members, including toiletries, stationery, family games, gifts for mum and dad, sweets, soft toys, and seasonal essentials such as hats and scarves – each one a message of care and compassion.

For further information on how you can contribute to this cause, please contact carmel.kinley@gmail.com or call 01892 750217. Every shoebox brings joy to those who suffer.

Women’s Breakfast

Our next women’s breakfast is on 19 September at 9.00am in The Stables Hall in Frant. Everyone is welcome to this delightful event, with inspiring speaker and delicious food!

St Alban’s, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge



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

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



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

Services for
September/ October 2026

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	6th September	Communion Service	9.15am
10:30am	Communion Service	13th September	Morning Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	20th September	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Service	27th September	Communion Service	9:15am
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	4th October	Communion Service	9.15am
Harvest Festival				
10.30am	Communion Service	11th October	Morning Service	9.15am
Harvest Festival				
10.30am	Morning Service	18th October	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Morning Service	25th October	Communion Service	9.15am

WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

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



At Barefoot Flow Pilates Studio our small, welcoming mat and reformer classes offer a low-impact, all abilities approach to help you improve your health and well-being. Doing Pilates regularly may increase flexibility & strength; reduce stress; improve posture & balance, cultivating a stronger, more resilient you, whatever your age or experience. Join our friendly studio, where **every body is welcome**. Learn more today at www.barefootflow.com.

**Move Better.
Feel Better.**

PETER JENNER
Jewellery maker • designer

43 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TE 01892 521796

Specialist in Fine Hand Made Jewellery
Bespoke commissions, contemporary collections

www.peterjenner.com



AIRPORT CAR SERVICES
(01892) 731 221

Book online
www.airport-car-services.co.uk | bookings@twacs.co.uk

"Arrive in style with ACS Chauffeurs"



T.O. BASSETT & SON LTD
RMI

Vehicle air conditioning & computer diagnostics.
VEHICLE REPAIR SERVICES

**FORGE GARAGE, LITTLE BAYHAM,
LAMBERHURST, KENT TN3 8BB**

TELEPHONE: 01892 890201
EMAIL: OFFICE@FORGEGARAGEKENT.CO.UK



**THE
GEORGE
INN**
AT FRANT

Good food & real ales | Large, child friendly enclosed garden.
36 High Street, Frant, Nr Tunbridge Wells TN3 9DU. Tel: 01892 750350



TREEWORK
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

EST. 1985

All aspects of Arboriculture by fully insured experts.
Tree pruning, shaping and thinning. Dead and dangerous trees felled, stump and root removal.
Tree and hedge planting. Tree Condition surveys.
Council approved contractors for parks & gardens.
A local family run company now established for 40 years.

01892 750 172
treework.co.uk



sunniva
flooring

The Great Hall,
Mount pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells

01892 549050
email: sunnivaflooring@yahoo.com
web: www.sunnivaflooring.co.uk

Suppliers of quality carpets & flooring for over 34 years & proud sponsors for over 23 years of:

Frant Cricket Club
Village cricket at it's best.
To join or support us, call captain
Rory Williams: 07802 642085 or Will Patrick: 07884 187871

Frant Cricket Match Report

There were issues starting on Thursday night when a good friend, who was a leading member of the cricket team, became seriously ill and ended up in hospital with blood poisoning. By Friday morning I had lost 5 players for one reason or another, panic set in.

A call went out on Frant WhatsApp group for help and support, by lunchtime we had rebuilt the teams with friends and their children all adding to a real village affair.

As 5pm approached the players and their supporters started arriving at the Green on a very warm and sunny afternoon.

Chaos ensued as the beer barrel, kindly donated by Dom at the George, wouldn't work due to gas pressure and everything had to stop until this was resolved. Cannot have a cricket match without beer!

The match started with Frant winning the toss and going into bat, all was looking great with the runs totting up until the opening batsman, Peter, took a tumble and went head over heels. As a result the match was halted until he was ok. He recovered in the pavilion and returned to the crease at the end of Frants innings.

I am glad to report everything went smoothly for the rest of the innings

with Frant setting a score of 239 (we were playing Pairs cricket).

After a 15 minute hydration break, more beer and Pimms, Friends of Frant were up next to bat. The competition was starting to get serious with everyone watching the scoreboard creeping up. Wickets were taken and catches were dropped (One by myself which I would later come to regret) until the final over was upon us.

Frant was still in the lead by 5 runs. Things were getting tense, friendly banter was in full swing. Sharon was next into bat, along with Danny from the corner shop (who was filling in for Friends of Frant), she missed the first 4 balls of the over but then managed to get a run on the fifth ball. Danny was now at the crease, facing the last ball of the match, 4 runs behind the Frant Team.

I am sad to report that he hit a six on the last ball and so Friends of Frant won by 2 runs.

Friends of Frant might have won the match but without any doubt the village were the winners as everyone was smiling and cheering.

Three cheers for Frant, it may have been chaotic and even looked like 'Vicar of Dibley' at times but everyone came together and had an amazing evening.

People stayed for the BBQ and watched the sun set.

Thank you to everybody who supported this event and to everyone that made generous donations towards the upkeep of the Village hall, that at times we all use and is very much part of the community.

Special thanks must go to Sharon Warwick who runs the hall and persuades people to take an active role in village life (Next time I see her in the pub I'm running! You have been warned).

To Will Patrick who was brave enough to let us use the pitch and Pavilion, to Dave Pearson and Marcus Holden-Craufurd, the umpires, who have never witnessed a cricket match quite like this one.

Thank you on behalf of the Village.

Ahoy there!

The Frant Panto & Dramatic Society is delighted to reveal that this year's pantomime is Robinson Crusoe.

Join Robinson, Nutty Nick and a fearless crew of pirates for a treasure chest full of laughter, adventure, catchy songs and festive fun for all the family. Expect swashbuckling antics, colourful characters and plenty of opportunities to cheer the heroes and boo the villains!

Performances are:

Thursday 3rd December

(evening performance)

Friday 4th December

(evening performance)

Saturday 5th December

(matinee and evening performances)

Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 15th September via our website www.frantpanto.co.uk, or contact us at frantpanto@gmail.com.

So gather your family and friends to enjoy a great village tradition and support your local panto – we can't wait to welcome you aboard!





RURAL ELM
BESPOKE BUILDINGS

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN

073 6007 6639 | info@ruralelm.com | ruralelm.com
instagram.com/ruralelm



Chris Murphy

- All aspects of interior woodwork
- Built-in & freestanding furniture
- Kitchen fitting & alterations

07769 790985

chris.saxonbury@gmail.com



Forest
FOOT CARE

Gillian Bryan
DipFH MCFHP MAFHP
FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER
mobile: 07442 562227
email: gb.forestfootcare@gmail.com

- Toenail Cutting Services
- Athlete's Foot
- Callus/Hard Skin Removal
- Corn Removal
- Thickened or Fungal Nails
- Neurovascular Assessment
- Cracked Heels
- Diabetic Footcare and Advice
- Partial Ingrown Nail Removal (Adults)

Home-visiting service available

WWW.FORESTFOOTCARE.CO.UK

Wildflower Meadows

Bring nature to your garden or small field

Wildflower meadows created and managed for beauty and biodiversity

Surveying, planning, sowing, cutting and raking

Barty Meredith-Hardy
07932 607 231
bmh@yourheadgardener.com
yourheadgardener.com/wildflower




SELF STORAGE
MARK CROSS

CALL STEVE: 07892713681
steve_cannings@hotmail.co.uk

- ★ 20ft Containers to rent
- ★ Insulated containers also available
- ★ Yard space sometimes available
- ★ 24/7 access
- ★ 24/7 CCTV

IS IT TIME FOR
A SIGHT TEST?



Wadhurst Opticians and Hearing Centre
01892 782674
Call or pop in to book a consultation
www.wadhurstopticians.co.uk

Carpets & Floors

Carpets and vinyl supplied and fitted at reduced rates.
Same choice as any shop but at up to half the price.



We can move your furniture for you and take away your old carpet.

For free home sample viewing and estimates please call Stuart on 01580 239770 / 07734 659834 or email bargainfloors@hotmail.co.uk

www.bargainfloors.co.uk

Frant Parish Friendship Group

We start the autumn season with our exercise classes beginning on Thursday 17th September at 2.30pm in the Stables. This is a course of six sessions and after September will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. All Welcome.

Then our first afternoon meeting will be on the 24th September at 2.30pm in the Stables when our speaker will be Janie Ramsey and her subject 'The 5 Queens of England'. On 22nd October we have Martin Robards with a talk on the Bayham Estate., 26th November will be our AGM and we will finish the year with our Christmas Tea Party on the 12th December.

Our Chairman Trudi Godfrey has written the following short history of the group from our beginnings in 2010,

In July 16 years ago the Parish Friendship group was born. Caroline Scotter of AIRS (Action in rural Sussex) was in contact with Brian and Angela Gill and Brian set up a group to get the ball rolling

We decided that we should discover if there was any interest for such a group amongst the seniors of the Parish and a sandwich lunch was organised.

The response was very encouraging, and the Friendship Group was born.

The activities that we decided on were monthly presentations (with tea and cake of course!) between September and April. A summer outing and if possible, a Christmas lunch with entertainer.

Our very first speaker was Susan Piccioni who educated and inspired us on the art of lace making. She still makes the most beautiful lace.

We took our courage in both hands and decided to have a Christmas lunch – turkey and all the trimmings. Our first entertainer was Malcolm Parry. He gave us a magnificent 'concert' with

hand bell ringing. It was truly amazing.

In 2011 we had our first summer outing, to the Llama Park, buses were much cheaper then and we had been awarded a generous grant from Sussex Community Foundation.

A second outing had us all on a boat sailing around Bewl Water. A lovely sunny day and everyone got onto the boat. Albeit many with their hearts in their mouths when they crossed the gangplank!

We decided that we could expand



some of our activities and set up a "Knit and Natter" group. Blankets were knitted for the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. Catherine Hamlin (pictured above), a friend of Annette Carruthers, ran this and the group liked the idea deciding that it was a very worthy cause.

We also decided to try and set up some 'chair based' exercises which were suitable for our age and health problem group. We tried yoga and basic exercises, and the vote went to the exercises. Thus, a twice monthly exercise class was started with Una Wareham. She, unfortunately, was unable to continue and we have been very lucky that Alison agreed to take us on. We are also extremely lucky that the School House Trust helps us by financing our tuition. Thank you.

The success of the Friendship Group is due not only to the support we get from the villagers but also to the generosity of many grant givers, Sussex Community Giving on several occasions, Gatwick airport trust, Wealden and recently the Councillor award budget scheme. These grants allow us to have the security to pay for the premises, insurance and ability to book speakers. Not forgetting the School House Trust which pays for our exercise tuition.

Our September Tea Party in the George is often subsidised by generous donations from the relative of members who have passed away. Thank you to all of you.

New members are always welcome please come along and try us out.

Enquiries Valerie Palmer
valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com 01892 750559

Frant School News

With a new school year on the horizon, we hope you will enjoy reading about the end of term in July.

A massive thank you to all the staff, parents and PTFA members who have made this year so special.

Good luck to our Year 6 pupils, who will be moving on to their new secondary schools in September. They have worked their socks off this year and will be greatly missed.

We ended our term with lots of lovely events, including a brilliant Sports Day organised by Mr Papper and Mrs Challis. Well done to the Blue Team, who won this year. We were then very lucky to enjoy a BBQ provided by the PTFA straight afterwards, complete with ice creams and a glitter bar.

The Year 6 vs Staff rounders' match took place and the score was tied. We decided to let one person from each team have one more turn at bat to

decide the winners. It was Mrs Hurter versus Bertie, and the winners were... Year 6! Well done to them.

Our Leavers' Service took place at St Alban's on 21 July. It was a very emotional service, with memories shared by Year 6, best wishes from Reception, and prayers read by Years 1 to 4. A big thank you to the Church Trust for giving Bibles to all our leavers. We hope you treasure them.

It is with a heavy heart that we said goodbye to Mrs Collison, our Year 1 and 2 teacher, and Mrs Beach. We wish them lots of joy and happiness in their new adventures. They will be missed but not forgotten, and they will need to come back and visit us regularly!

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our team. Mr Gurr, currently Head of School at one of our other Weald schools, Five Ashes, will be taking over as Head of School. Ms Gough will be joining us as the teacher of our Year 3 and 4 class.

Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would simply like to say hello.

*With very best wishes,
Mrs Joanna Challis
Executive Headteacher*

RSPB Broadwater Warren

Summer is in full swing at Broadwater Warren, and the results from this year's surveys are starting to come in. It has been another fantastic year for wildlife, with heathland birds continuing to thrive and a record 21 Dartford warbler territories recorded. Our first dormouse survey took place in May, finding one dormouse in torpor. While not the most exciting survey, it represents a 100% increase on last year!

Dragonflies are also having an excellent season, with 17 species already recorded—surpassing last



Dormouse sleeping (photo handling was done under an official statutory conservation licence)

year's total before the flight season has even finished. Highlights include the white-legged damselfly and black-tailed skimmer, neither of which had been seen on site since 2019 and 2022, respectively. New ponds dug along the green trail this winter have also proved great for dragonflies, as they are some of the only ponds still holding water. Take a look to see emperor, broad bodied chasers, four spotted chasers and azure damselflies making the most of this.



RSPB Sat working party

The staff team and our dedicated volunteers have also been busy with summer maintenance. Roadside fencing was completed last month, and this year's coppice plot has now been deer-fenced to protect young regrowth from browsing. This will allow a more diverse woodland structure to develop over time, creating better habitat for a wide range of wildlife. Several gates

have also been replaced to keep our conservation grazing animals secure. Meanwhile, the goats continue to enjoy the abundant vegetation, with this year's youngsters growing fast!

We hope you'll visit Broadwater Warren this summer and enjoy everything the reserve has to offer.

Drivers beware the rutting season



As autumn settles over Frant Parish, the changing light, damp roads and earlier evenings bring a familiar seasonal hazard: deer moving unpredictably across rural roads. The rutting season, which typically peaks through October and November for fallow deer, is a time when animals are more active, more distracted and more likely to cross carriageways suddenly. For drivers using the lanes around Frant, Bells Yew Green, Eridge and the wider High Weald, that means an increased risk of a collision that can injure people, damage vehicles and kill or seriously harm wildlife.

Deer do not treat roads as barriers. They follow woodland edges, hedgerows, fields and familiar crossing points, often emerging with little warning from cover close to the roadside. During the rut, males roam in search of mates and may chase or be chased by other deer. This can make their movements erratic, particularly around wooded routes and bends where a driver's view is limited. In a



Reception places available for September 2026

Frant Church of England Primary School currently has a limited number of Reception places available for September 2026.

We are a small, caring village primary school, with fewer than 100 pupils, located in the picturesque village of Frant. Our modern school building offers excellent facilities, alongside plenty of green space to support learning, play and wellbeing.

We pride ourselves on our warm, inclusive ethos, strong community links and nurturing environment where every child is known and valued.

To arrange a visit or enquire about spaces, please contact us on 01892 750243.

We would be delighted to talk you through the admissions process and welcome you for a tour of our beautiful school.

Frant Church of England Primary School, Church Lane, Frant TN3 9DX



Part of The Weald Federation

ST ALBAN'S STABLES



A modern hall with good facilities for instructional classes, meetings and family gatherings of up to 60.
Underfloor heating and projector available.
Fully equipped kitchen with dishwasher

Viewing and booking appointments

office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk; 01892 752261



**CURTAINS | SOFT FURNISHINGS
BLINDS & RE-UPHOLSTERY**

Appointments: 07957 811 589
The Black And White Shop, Groombridge
www.contessacurtains.co.uk



Fast local delivery

| Sleepers | Fencing |
| Decking |
| Construction Timber C24 |
| Sheds | Garden Essentials |

**20+ Sheds and
Wooden Buildings
on display**

Open Wed-Sun

01892 358000

sales@crispintimber.co.uk

crispintimber.co.uk

Your local timber yard on Frant Road



MUSIC IN FRANT

We have the following exciting concerts booked for 2026

All concerts will be in Frant Church starting at 7.30pm.

Doors will open from 6.30pm and there is a licensed bar area.

11 September 2026: The Dime Notes – Early Jazz, Stomp & Swing

14 November 2026: Caroline Tyler with Harriet McKenzie & Surround Sound

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

parish like Frant, where narrow roads pass through farmland, woodland and common land, the danger is not limited to large A-roads; it can arise on quiet lanes as well.

The scale of the problem is significant nationally. Deer-vehicle collisions in the UK are estimated to involve tens of thousands of animals each year, with incidents leading to human injuries, occasional fatalities and substantial repair costs. Recent AA figures have also pointed to a rise in reported deer strikes, with the rutting period showing a particular increase. While national statistics do not identify every local hotspot, communities such as Frant Parish are exactly the kind of rural, wooded area where vigilance matters.

The highest-risk times are around dusk, through the evening, and shortly before and after sunrise. These are also times when commuting, school runs and local journeys often coincide with poor visibility. Drivers should slow down where deer warning signs are present, near woodland, and on roads bordered by high hedges or verges. A lower speed gives more time to react and reduces the severity of any impact.

If one deer crosses the road, assume others may follow. Deer often move in groups, and the animal you first see may not be the only danger. At night, use full-beam headlights where appropriate, but dip them when deer are visible so they are not dazzled into freezing. Sounding the horn may help move a deer on, but sudden swerving is usually more dangerous than controlled braking. A swerve can send a vehicle into oncoming traffic, a tree, a ditch or a pedestrian.

Motorcyclists are especially vulnerable, and all road users should leave extra space, avoid distractions and expect the unexpected. Parish

residents can also help by reporting dead or injured deer, and by sharing local knowledge of regular crossing points with neighbours and community groups.

If a collision happens, stop only where it is safe, switch on hazard lights and check for injuries. Call emergency services if anyone is hurt or if the deer is creating an immediate danger on the road. Otherwise, report the incident to the police non-emergency number or the relevant highways authority so the animal can be dealt with safely.

Rutting season is part of the natural cycle of the countryside, but it creates a real and predictable road risk. By slowing down, scanning verges and treating every wooded bend as a possible crossing point, drivers in Frant Parish can help protect themselves, their passengers and the deer that share the local landscape.

Parish Past

For those of our ancestors who had survived the Black Death, the early 15th century was a good time to live. The population had nearly halved so land was plentiful and labour short, which meant that ordinary tenants and villagers were in a good bargaining position. Serfdom largely disappeared, rents and wages could be bargained to reasonable levels and local mixed farming provided enough food to live comfortably with (just) a little left over for extras. Of course some violent rows are recorded, especially between Bayham Abbey and its tenants, but it seems clear that the tenants basically won. This was the time when the west side of Frant street was rebuilt - what was not much better than a straggle of huts replaced with timber homes - not quite what we see today, it has changed a bit over the centuries but modern repair work often uncovers remnants

of this 15th century rebuilding.

The invention of chimneys too enabled these new homes to have upper floors when previously smoke drifting to holes in the roof made this space unusable. This happy state of affairs did not last long, because landlords discovered the answer to their dilemma: sheep. England as a whole was growing rich on the wool and cloth trade, and sheep provided not only meat but saleable wool and, if free of blemishes (rare, ticks were common) a skin could be sold to parchment-makers. Above all, sheep needed only a single shepherd so costs were low.

Locally, the rising iron industry offered alternative employment but with the forges mostly on parish outskirts communities scattered and this was when the previously thriving settlement of Lye Green, which had long existed between Frant and Bells Yew Green simply disappeared: the sharp bend by Stubby Grove marks where it once existed although one or two names survive, like Manor Farm and Barelands.

Pat Wright

Hospice Run for Hospice in the Weald

Sunday 20th September / Lower Common Cricket Ground, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1DT / 08:00-12:30

Hospice in the Weald is celebrating 20 years of Hospice Run this year, and we want you to join us!

Over the years our wonderful community has come together in support of hospice care, raising vital funds for those who need us most.

With your support, we can ensure this can continue.

Choose your challenge: 5k, 10k, Half Marathon - Whatever your ability, you can run, walk, or just come along on the day to cheer on our incredible runners.

For more information and to register for the event please visit the events section of our website

www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/hospice-run-2026/

Alternatively, you can contact our fundraising team on 01892 820533, or email fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Hospice in the Weald provides support for the community in West Kent and East Sussex. All entry fees and funds raised help the Hospice in the Weald in its provision of care for people facing life limiting illness, and their loved ones.

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

The following lectures are taking place at Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough, TN6 1FE. Everyone is welcome – members free, visitors £9. Refreshments are provided after the lecture. For further information see tasaf.org.uk

Dazzling Dufy: Invitation to a luminous feast with Raoul Dufy

Lecture by Mary Alexander
Thursday 10th September 2026
at 2.00 pm



Raoul Dufy was a key player in early twentieth century avant garde

art, design and literary/theatrical circles in Paris. His technical virtuosity - across a range of media including painting and lithography, posters, book illustration, theatrical set design, cut across all conventional boundaries.

Lecture by Sarah Burles

Thursday 12th November 2026
at 2.00 pm

In the 1860s Frédéric Bazille challenged the Parisian art establishment along with his friends Monet, Renoir and Sisley. His paintings of modern subjects would have secured him a place in the history of Impressionism, had it not been for his untimely death in 1870.



Space2Make in Bells Yew Green

A creative hub in the East Sussex countryside where ideas take shape and makers come together

In the heart of Bells Yew Green, space2make is a creative co-working space. Housed in a former cedar greenhouse factory, the atmospheric 22,000 sq ft industrial building on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells is a space designed to support all kinds of creatives and makers.



space2make was born out of the challenges of the Covid pandemic, when the building's former scenery workshop fell silent. As theatres closed, the space was reimagined – transforming into a creative hub that now supports makers with affordable workspace and shared equipment.

Stepping inside, you're met with a constant buzz of activity – from a florist creating wedding displays to a potter running workshops, alongside ever-changing artwork from resident artists, all set against the sounds and smells of busy woodworkers.

space2make is now a thriving hub of creativity and a hive of activity, with residents ranging from jewellers and potters to carpenters, upholsterers and kitchen makers - each contributing to the character and energy of the space. There are often classes and workshops going on in the building including art classes, Christmas wreath workshops and pottery classes for all ages.

Keep your eye out for events taking place too! We'll be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning and Open Studios on Thursday 24th September, kicking off a four-day exhibition showcasing work from our artists and ceramicists. Join us for coffee, cake and a good cause, or drop in over the weekend to meet the makers.

BURSLEM
STONEMASONS OF DISTINCTION SINCE 1880

**NEW MEMORIALS
ADDITIONAL
INSCRIPTIONS
RENOVATIONS
& CLEANING**

www.burslem.co.uk
Tel: 01892 750120
enquiries@burslem.co.uk

Visit our showroom at:
Stubby Grove Works,
Bells Yew Green Road,
Frant, East Sussex TN3 9BT
Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4pm

BRAMM

THE FRANT STORES

Images showing the interior of The Frant Stores, featuring shelves stocked with various goods including food, drinks, and household items.

The Green, Frant, East Sussex TN3 9DR
Open: Mon - Sat, 6am-9pm | Sun 7am-8pm

AMORA CARE

Regain peace of mind with our award-winning home care

- Personal care
- Companionship & home help
- Dementia care
- Live-in and night care
- From 30-minute visits to live-in care

Living Wage
Care Quality Commission
Trustpilot

"We only have positive things to say about the care Amora has provided to our mum over the past 18 months,"
Steve, Tonbridge ★★★★★

Book a free assessment today:
01892 336842
amoracare.co.uk

FRANT MEMORIAL HALL

A beautiful Arts and Crafts style venue in the heart of the village. Our hall offers two flexible spaces to suit every occasion. The Large Hall with Stage is ideal for weddings, anniversaries, family celebrations, performances, and community events. The Smaller Hall, perfect for meetings, workshops, and more intimate gatherings. With seating for up to 120 guests, a fully equipped kitchen, overhead projector, and even inflatables available for children's parties, our hall can be tailored to meet your needs.

Weekly/Monthly classes available in the halls are:

- Pilates
- Yoga
- Woodworking
- Lindy Hop
- Art
- Gardening Club
- Tai Chi
- Tonality
- Children's dance classes
- Baby and Toddler clubs and many more

Full details of any of the above classes are available on our website. If you're looking to set up a club or for any enquires contact us.

www.frantvillagehall.co.uk
bookings@frantvillagehall.co.uk

Whether you're planning a celebration, performance, or community event, Frant Memorial Hall provides the perfect backdrop.



The culmination of a busy and productive year at space2make is always our Festive Market, held on the last weekend in November. As well as our residents opening their studios, we host a number of external makers and local producers and it kicks off the Christmas season in a wonderfully creative way!

Whether you're looking for a workspace for your small business, a creative community, or simply inspiration, space2make is open to you. Come and see what's happening – or better still, become part of it!

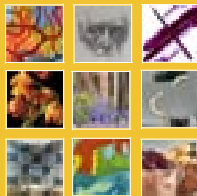
ART EXHIBITION at space2make

Painting

Drawing

Photography

Ceramics



Buckhurst Works
Bells Yew Green
East Sussex TN3 9BP

Thurs 24th - Sun 27th Sept 2026
10am - 4pm every day

Artists Studios open for viewing

Parish Council News

After the complex and difficult time dealing with recent planning issues and the draft Wealden Plan some sort of normality has returned to the Parish Council. Not for long I suspect as we now have a new Prime Minister particularly keen on devolving power to the regions and building many more council houses. What impact this will have on us remains to be seen but with more local elections planned for next year (for the new assembly), the demise of Wealden District Council and the focus on more affordable homes it will, I think, be significant. I hope that whatever is around the corner we don't have central government-imposed housing targets anymore and somebody recognises that you can't build houses without a guaranteed water supply!!

To continue this positive note I had a good meeting with the Frant Pedestrian Crossing Working Group and a potential contractor recently. With everything crossed it looks like we could, very shortly, have all our ducks in a row, although with this project (a first for a Parish Council) it's more like flocks and hopefully over the next few weeks we will have a price for the project and a potential start date. The next edition of the Parish News will make for compulsory reading!! It has taken over 10 years to get this far and many lessons have been learnt along the way which hopefully will help other Parish councils should they wish to embark on a project of this size. More importantly though, if we can slow down the traffic coming through Frant village and make crossing the A267 a non life threatening experience it will have been worth it.

Finally, a big thank you to those of you who participated in the recent Frant litter pick (and to Alex for

organising it for us). They make a big difference to our environment and are very worthwhile. I believe more are planned so if you are available please come and join us.

Cllr Stuart Crookshank

News from Nusrat Ghani, MP

I hope you had a lovely summer and managed to rest and enjoy just some of the activities that Sussex Weald had to offer. With the arrival of September, a new chapter starts as autumn slowly approaches and our local farmers and producers will be preparing for harvest.

Farmers are the lifeblood of our rural economy, and we are incredibly lucky that Sussex Weald is home to many exceptional family farms, producing some of the best British products enjoyed in the UK as well as overseas.

I regularly meet with members of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) to hear their views and concerns, and to offer support. Most recently, I was pleased to join a roundtable organised by The Country Land and Business Association (CLA), which brought together farmers, landowners and business owners from areas including Eridge, Rotherfield, Crowborough, Withyham and Hartfield, to discuss a range of rural issues such as animal welfare, support during weather emergencies, diversification of farms, farming policy, inheritance tax and food security.

I would like to extend my thanks especially to Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team who were also in attendance to address concerns around tackling, reporting and preventing organised rural crime and to discuss further support from Sussex Police on marking farming equipment.

When it comes to rural businesses, I must take this opportunity to once

again congratulate the fantastic team at Rushlake Green Village Stores, who also have a branch in Heathfield, and who were this year's winners of the Countryside Alliance Awards, also known as the Rural Oscars. They scooped up the trophy in the South East of England Village Shop/Post Office category, once again putting Sussex Weald on the map of excellent rural businesses. I joined the team at the annual Champions' Reception in the House of Lords, to congratulate them in person and celebrate this proud moment for the business.

Finally, we must not forget our vineyards, who are second to none and will also be preparing for their October harvest and another year of producing unique, award-winning products. I am proud that viticulture is a booming industry in Sussex Weald, and I catch up with our vineyards regularly, most recently with Off the Line in Hellingly, Hidden Spring in Horam and Birchden Vineyards in Groombridge.

It was great to catch up with many of you at local events before August came to a close and Parliament resumed, with new Ministers in place in Westminster. I will continue to advocate for local residents, so as ever, if there is anything I can provide assistance with, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via email nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk.



Birchden Vineyard

Parish Pets #24 Digby

My name's Digby and I'm a Basset Fauve de Bretagne puppy, which is a very grand name for someone with short legs and a nose that seems to have a mind of its own. If there's an interesting smell within a hundred paw-steps, I'll find it.

I had big paws to fill when I arrived in my new home but I'm starting to win the family over. They say I'm brave, cheerful and just a tiny bit stubborn. I prefer to think of it as being wonderfully determined. If I decide that a fascinating scent disappears under the garden hedge, I simply must investigate, even if they call my name three or four times.

When I'm not busy exploring though, I'm happiest curled up beside my favourite humans, dreaming of forests, rabbits and all the marvellous places my nose will take me when I grow.



The "Parish News" is published by the Church and distributed free by volunteers. The publisher acknowledges the support of the Parish Council. Any views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily shared by the Publisher. The "Parish News" reserves the right to edit submissions as it sees fit. Publisher: Brendan Martin. Editor: Carmel Kinley. Design: sarah@sarahbartholomew.co.uk. Advertising: carmel.kinley@gmail.com



*Printed locally by LR
Online Print Services
01892 752277
info@lr2k.co.uk
www.lr2k.co.uk
Printed on paper from
managed forests &
controlled sources.
Please recycle after use*

Parish Diary – July/August 2026

Thursday 10 September & 12 November
Arts Society Ashdown Forest lecture
See page 14

Friday 11 September

The Dime Notes Concert
St Alban's Church, Doors Open 6.30pm
See page 20

Thursday 17 September

Frant Parish Friendship Group
(Autumn season begins)
See page 9

Saturday 19 September

Women's breakfast
9.00am, The Stables Hall, Frant.

Sunday 20 September

Hospice in the Weald Charity Run
See page 13

Thursday 24 September

Macmillan Coffee Morning
& Open Studios
Space2Make, Bells Yew Green
See page 14

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:
carmel.kinley@gmail.com
Contributions for our next issue should be sent to the Editor:
carmel.kinley@gmail.com
or 01892 750217
Next deadline: 1st October 2026.

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
Michael Freestone; 750269.
vicecaptain@frantbowls.uk
Frant Cricket Club
Will Patrick: 07884 187871
Frant Garden Club
Dianna Tennant: 752029
Frant Panto & Drama Society
Sian Richardson;
frantpanto@gmail.com
St Alban's Bell-Ringers
Mary Freestone: 750269
Frant Stables
office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk
01892 752261
Frant Parish Friendship Group
Trudi Godfrey: 01892 750554
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

Council contacts**Frant Ward**

William Rutherford:
william.rutherford@frant-pc.gov.uk
Colin Steadman:
colin.steadman@frant-pc.gov.uk
Sarah Davies:
sarah.davies@frant-pc.gov.uk

BYG Ward

Stuart Crookshank – Chairman:
scrookshank@hotmail.co.uk
Deborah Park:
deborah.park@frant-pc.gov.uk
Sam Jenkins:
sam.jenkins@frant-pc.gov.uk

Eridge Ward

Andrew Best: c/o clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council

Rosie Barnes: 07903 661581; clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk; www.frant-pc.gov.uk

Wealden District Councillor

Sarah Glynn-Ives:
cllr.sarah.glynn-ives@wealden.gov.uk
Johanna Howell: 750141
cllr.johanna.howell@wealden.gov.uk
Bob Standley: 783579
cllr.bob.standley@wealden.gov.uk

County Councillor

Johanna Howell: 750141
johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk
Bob Standley: 783579

Parish Council meetings

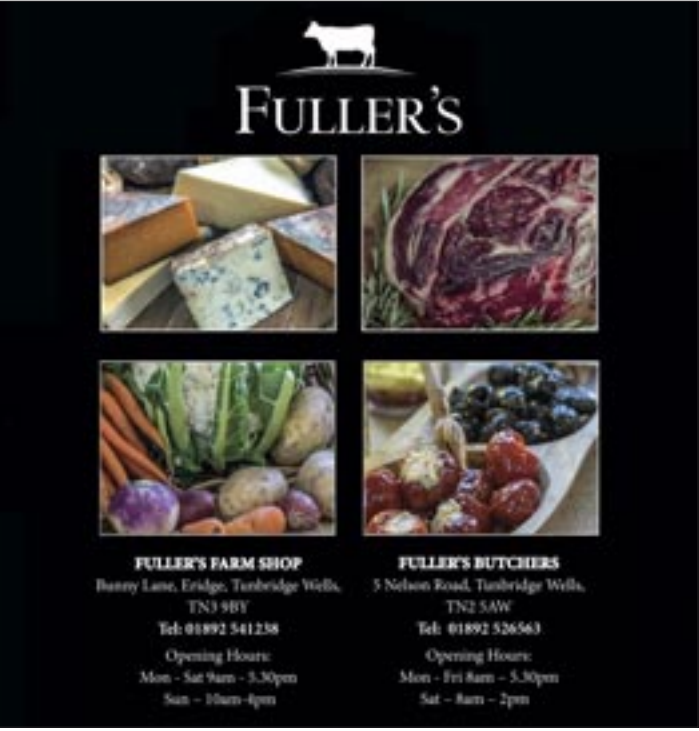
Full PC meetings are usually held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please check the Council's website at www.frant-pc.gov.uk

MP for Wealden

Nus Ghani MP:
nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Police Contact Details:

To report a crime or incident dial 101
For other police enquiries contact the Wealden unit on 01273 404938 or www.sussex.police.uk/wealden/



FULLER'S

FULLER'S FARM SHOP
Bunney Lane, Eridge, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9BY
Tel: 01892 541238
Opening Hours:
Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm
Sun - 10am - 4pm

FULLER'S BUTCHERS
5 Nelson Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5AW
Tel: 01892 526563
Opening Hours:
Mon - Fri 8am - 5.30pm
Sat - 8am - 2pm



Paul Keineder
Property Maintenance & Renovation
Consultation | Estimates | Plastering | Painting | Decorating | Carpentry
07917 523 979
paulkeineder47@yahoo.co.uk



LR
Online Print Services

Pantiles Chambers
85 High Street
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1XP
T: 01892 752277
M: 07740 611702
E: info@lr2k.co.uk
W: www.lr2k.co.uk

Promote your business, society, club or event with our one stop Design and Print Service

Printing, In-house Graphic Design & Photography for your printed brochure, newsletters, manuals & trade cards.

- Brochures • Booklets • Stationery
- Posters • Point of sale • Post cards
- Printed boxes • Printed carrier bags

See our website for current offers



W

Expert mowing & lawn care in Frant and the surrounding villages

WEALDEN MOWING
T: 07991 41313
E: contact@wealdenmowing.co.uk
W: www.wealdenmowing.co.uk



MERIDIAN FLOW
REFLEXOLOGY
Kellie Harris AoR

Reflexology works on the body's organs, structures and systems. It helps with anxiety, stress, insomnia, digestive problems, inflammation, hayfever, pain, migraines and immune system.

Contact 07704 274558 for a booking
VOUCHERS AVAILABLE



ENSOR
interior design
www.ensorinteriordesign.co.uk

frant@ensorinteriordesign.co.uk • 01892 750101
Unit 2, The Old Timber Yard, Groombridge Lane, Eridge, TN3 9LB



Balanced Accounting™

Local Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, our services for individuals and small/medium sized businesses include: tax returns, accounts, VAT, payroll, audit and other tax and accountancy services.

Based at Unit K, The Brewery, Bells Yew Green, we're ideally situated for clients in Frant, Eridge, Bells Yew Green and surrounding areas.

Please contact Hazel Wells, FCA for an informal chat or to arrange a FREE initial meeting.

www.balancedaccounting.co.uk
0330 111 5010
contact@balancedaccounting.co.uk



THE DIME NOTES

EARLY JAZZ, STOMP AND SWING

LONDON



"inspired" - The Sunday Times



11th SEPT

TICKETS: £20

from Brittens Music Shop, Tunbridge Wells
or online

FRANT CHURCH

HIGH ST, FRANT TN3 9DX

Concert time 7:30pm Doors open 6:30pm

www.frantchurch.org



REVOLUTIONARY, CONTROVERSIAL AND WILDLY POPULAR

IN AID OF THE CONSERVATION OF FRANT CHURCH REG. CHARITY 1162531

Sam Watts Piano Dave Kelbie Guitar	David Horniblow Clarinet Mark Elton Double bass
--	---



WWW.LEJAZZETAL.COM