

# Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



IN THIS ISSUE...

3

*Letter from the Rectory by the Reverend Brendan Martin*

4

*Church Services, features & News from the Pews*

7

*Frant Youth Club news and upcoming events*

9

*Coronation news and events from around the Parish and UK*

12

*News from Bells Yew Green*

14

*What's on in the Parish: events, useful contacts & dates*



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**From the Rectory**



This week I have seen the Union Flag bunting starting to appear in shops and houses as we look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III. The country prepares for great celebrations and pageantry!

Charles when he was Prince of Wales, came to my school when I was a boy, and I very much remember the privilege of standing in amongst the 1200 students he greeted. I was standing about 5 rows back from those shaking hands with him, but still a nice memory.

I guess we will all have our royal connections which we will no doubt share over the coronation weekend. On Sunday in Frant and Eridge Churches we will be holding Special Commemorative Services for the Coronation, with prayers for the King on Sunday 7th.

As I write the details of the Coronation service itself are still to be announced, it will bring longstanding Coronation tradition and the profound historical meaning, into our modern age. During the service in Westminster Abbey the King will be anointed, blessed, and consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, much of it remaining unchanged since the Coronation of King Edgar in 973.

At every Coronation a passage is heard from 1 Kings, when Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet anointed King David's son, Solomon as

King, and the people shouted "long live the King." Solomon would continue the throne of his Father David, which would be an everlasting Kingdom.

The Coronation service of King Charles will reverberate with that history as he is crowned, both in the service of his country and commonwealth, but also in the service of God as supreme governor of the Church of England, part of the Kingdom of God. His crown holds together the secular and the spiritual, the earthly and the eternal.

God's everlasting Kingdom continues, not merely through kings and countries, but through one man, the Son of David and King of Kings. Jesus was unique in that he was crowned twice. He was crowned with a crown of thorns at his death on the cross, and although this crown was done in contempt by the people at the time, it was literally his crowning achievement.

We just celebrated Easter, for on the cross Jesus died for us, he died for our forgiveness, he was punished instead of us, he died to save us from our sins.

Jesus was then crowned in heaven. The physical resurrection of Jesus not only proves that there is life after death, but means that Jesus has defeated sin and death for us. God's Kingdom is indeed an everlasting Kingdom.

We hold the earthly and the eternal in our minds and hearts as we say together: Long live the King!





**News From The Pews**

Easter has come and gone and time rushes on - faster each year, or so it seems. There were a good number of adults and children in church for the Easter morning service, with a surprise bonus for the children of an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. Festival Church, the Sunday afternoon services held in the Rectory paddock re started after the winter break in late March. It was rather a quiet start, due partly to the appalling weather.

At the end of last year it was suggested that we reconfigure the stairs in the Stables to make it possible for a partition with a door to be constructed in the hall at the foot of the stairs. This would allow the Pascoe family and any subsequent tenant of the first floor flat privacy and security. Thanks to some generous donations, the work was able to go ahead and was completed in February, it looks very good and is a great improvement.

At the end of March, 30 ladies from our congregations attended the 'Women's Breakfast'. It's probably not at all politically correct to say so, but it was really good to have some ladies only time, to meet together, be waited on and enjoy each other's company! After much chat and a delicious breakfast, (not a fry up, but a large number of pastries were consumed!) we watched a video made by Charlie Mackesy, the Christian author of the book 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse', which is described by the adventurer and writer, Bear Grylls as 'The book which speaks the universal language of love, friendship and kindness,' everyone should read it. We also listened to a brief talk by Caroline Creedy Smith, our Pastoral Care co ordinator. This was inevitably followed by more chat, (and a bit more eating) and

no one was in a great hurry to leave. It is hoped that this can be repeated later in the year.

In March we were saddened by the death of Ian McNeil (the classic car man). Once again we're surprised by how little we actually know about our friends and acquaintances until after their death. Ian was born in Crewe and always had a very adventurous, or as his mother would say over adventurous nature! Motor cycle scrambling was one of his early interests, and at 16 he learned to drive a Bond three wheeler - remember those?. Having completed his apprenticeship with Rolls Royce he joined the Pilot Training Course with BA/BOAC then went on to Oxford Air Training School. He completed his training in 1968 and began his career as a pilot in Long Haul flying, starting with VC10s, then going on to fly Tristars, 767s and finally 747s. He had a wonderful career which took him all over the world. He had many hobbies, he loved wind surfing, sailing and skiing, and at one time he just had to 'have a go' at Hang gliding, a sport almost unheard of in the UK at the time. He made a Hang glider from patterns he bought from the States - and jumped! But his greatest love was his classic cars which attracted great interest when he brought them to village events, the last occasion being the Jubilee celebrations in 2022. After his retirement, Ian and his wife Sue bought an apartment in Mallorca which allowed him to spend time for 22 years sailing the Balearics. They started attending St Albans when their son Alastair and his wife Lucy were preparing to be married here. Sadly Alastair had already been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour, and Sue said that during this

time being members of St Albans was like being cared for by a big loving family. When Alastair died five years later, Ian played a significant part in the lives of his toddler grandsons, Harry and Alfie, which meant that once again, he was teaching little boys to ride their bikes. He took them skiing, brought them to church and watched over them as they grew up without their dad. Sue said that Ian's Christian faith although very private remained very strong.

**» Frant Youth Club News**

2 MINUTES OF FUN is back! Our after schools games sessions (for those who attend Frant Primary School) is starting back up straight after Easter. Come and join us every Friday at 3.25pm, located on the Stables drive, for fun and games... oh, and chocolate for taking part!

FESTIVAL CHURCH including FESTIVAL CHURCH KIDS starts again this term. Come and join us on Sundays, at 5pm-6pm, for our outside Church Service in the Rectory Paddock. It's a great time of worship, teaching, coffee and socialising for the adults, and Forest School type Sunday school for the kids - Kids gets to climb trees, discuss the Bible, build campfires and dens, woodland craft, eat marshmallows and more! All are welcome.

Last year, our HOLIDAY CLUB was a great success, therefore we are looking to run another one at the beginning on the summer holidays. Activities will involve archery, water games, Bible teaching, forest school activities, wide games, team games and more. Keep an eye out for more information soon.

Keep an eye on our website and newsletter for information - frantchurch.org. —Ed Pascoe, Youth and Families Minister, Frant Church

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

**Rector**

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



www.frantchurch.org  
**Churchwardens**  
 Jane Emler—532233  
 Juliet Nightingale— 01580 200403



www.eridgechurch.org  
**Churchwardens**  
 Jonathan Lynn—864304  
 Stephen Barnes—861302

**Services for**

**May / June 2023**

10.30am	Coronation: A Special Commemorative Service (All Age)	<b>7th May</b>	Coronation: A Special Commemorative Service	9.15am
10:30am	Communion Service	<b>14th May</b>	Morning Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10:30am	Morning Service	<b>21st May</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10:30am	Morning Service	<b>28th May</b>	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	<b>4th June</b>	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Communion Service	<b>11th June</b>	Morning Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	<b>18th June</b>	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	<b>25th June</b>	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			

**Please note:**

**From January 2023 our morning church services will be at new times, with Eridge Church at 9:15am and Frant Church at 10:30, our afternoon Festival Church takes a pause in winter and back in Spring!**

WORSHIP AT BELLSYEW GREEN

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





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**Parish Council News**

We hope you had a good Easter and that the Easter Bunny brought you loads of chocolate! It was so lovely to get into the garden, but unfortunately it hasn't lasted long, but hopefully summer is around the corner.

As I wrote last time we are looking forward to the Kings Coronation and are happy to support any local events you may wish to put on. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to please support our local businesses, they really do need it.

Your Parish Council needs support from local residents as we now struggle to make the meetings quorate. As you know the local elections will be happening in May, if you would like to join the Parish Council and make a difference locally, please contact the Parish Clerk. Also please be aware that you must take ID with a photo to the polling booths or you will not be able to vote if you don't.

I know I have written this before but, we do have a policy that prohibits parking on the Green. Please can I ask all residents to be respectful of this precious space, not to park on it or drive over it. It causes a lot of damage that is very costly to correct. This is a special space for the village and one of the landmarks in East Sussex.

Please do not hesitate to email the Parish Clerk clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk if you have anything you wish to take forward with the Parish Council.

—Johanna Howell

**Frant Parish Friendship Group**

The speaker for the February meeting was Janie Ramsay and the subject 'The Disgraceful Sons of George III'. This was quite a revelation! The extravagant life of the eldest Prince George later George IV is widely known but the lives of his six brothers were just as colourful including a suspected murder, attempted poisonings, court cases and even Parliamentary enquiries. Also between them they managed to father upwards of 50 illegitimate children. What a family!

At our March meeting the speaker was Gilly Halcrow with 'Whatever Happened to Christopher Robin?' A very interesting history of the Milne family their time on Ashdown Forest and the effect the Winnie the Pooh books had on Christopher Robin's later



life and his difficult relationship with his parents. The talk was illustrated with beautiful slides of Hartfield and the surrounding area and with many quotes from Pooh!

At our January meeting we had a quiz to see how many words could be made from Buckingham Palace – the record so far stands at 140 – any challengers!

There will be an exhibition of the last 200 years in Frant in the Village Hall on 29th May by Peter Payne.

Exercise classes with Alison will be continuing through May i.e. Thursday 4th and 18th at 2.30 in the Stables.

Our autumn programme is now in the process of being finalised and details of this will be in the next issue of the Parish News. New members always welcome. Enquiries Valerie Palmer 01892 750559

**Eridge Garden Club**

We organised a number of successful events during 2022.

We had a talk given by Kathryn Lynn in April which was well attended and very well received. The speaker was enthusiastic and entertaining, discussing the history of the tulip and also provided advice on how to grow tulips.

We organised a most successful outing to Leonardslee Gardens in May. The gardens were stunning, providing beautiful vistas and serenity with wonderful displays of azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons.

We ran a most successful stall at the Eridge Fair raising over £390, before expenses, selling beautiful handmade bunches of flowers as well as a selection of plants etc.

Yvonne and David Smith kindly opened their beautiful garden at Whipper's Inn Cottage in August. Despite the drought like conditions, the garden was stunning and all who attended appreciated its beauty and variety. Tea and cakes were provided and we are very grateful to Yvonne and David for opening their garden for us to visit and for their hospitality.

At the beginning of the 2023 season we were given a talk by a well-known garden designer Jo Arnell. Her topic was "Autumn is the new summer - how to keep the colour going and extend the season". The talk was extremely informative and entertaining and well attended. We hope to invite Jo to give another talk soon.

**Future 2023 events**

**Thursday 18 May:** A visit to Hole Park Gardens, Rolvenden Kent (above)  
**Wednesday 30 August:** A visit to a local garden and plant swap Groombridge.

Further details may be obtained from Jane Stevens (stitchesjane@gmail.com)

Eridge Garden Club membership is £5 per year and you can pay for each event if not a member. Membership discounts available at Royal Mires Nursery.



**News from Nus Ghani MP**

This month, people from across the country and the Commonwealth will come together in celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. It will be a historic occasion as it is the first Coronation of a British monarch since the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The Coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May 2023 with all the long-standing traditions and pageantry that best exemplifies our nation. A Coronation ceremony can be traced back more than 1,000 years and today, the United Kingdom is the only European monarchy to retain such a ceremony. The special Bank Holiday weekend will include an extensive programme of events across the nation, for families and communities to come together and celebrate this unique moment for our country.

On Sunday 7th May 2023, The Coronation Big Lunch will provide an opportunity to share food and fun in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship. A special Coronation Concert will also take place on this day at Windsor Castle. The centrepiece of the Coronation Concert, 'Lighting up the Nation', will see the country join in celebration as iconic locations across the United Kingdom are lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

On Monday 8th May 2023, members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

For more details, resources, ways to get involved and a map of community



events across the country, please visit the Government's interactive website coronation.gov.uk.

I know that Wealden will be no exception and communities across the constituency have been working hard to ensure that this historic occasion is marked fittingly. Further details about the various family days, picnics and street parties organised in Crowborough, Wadhurst, Fletching and Hailsham amongst others can be found at www.wealden.gov.uk/kings-coronation. I am very much looking forward to the celebrations in Wealden, and I hope to see you there!

**Frant School News**

Although the weather has been rather mixed this term Frant pupils have been involved in many activities. Please enjoy an update on our news.

Sport has continued to play an important role here at Frant with many tournaments attended with considerable success by a wide range of pupils. Please read our Sports News on the school website for more information. It was lovely to hold a Weald Federation Netball Tournament (Frant, Mark Cross, Mayfield and Five Ashes) on our playground with 2 matches taking place all afternoon. As we were hosting we were able to play 3 teams from years 3 to 6. All pupils played well, showed good team spirit and a positive have a go attitude.

Staff and children dressed as their favourite characters for World Book Day earlier this term

Hazel class (years 3 and 4) enjoyed a day out in Tunbridge Wells learning about the history of the town. Rain and wind did not stop their enjoyment!

During our Science week the children



managed to show, in so many creative ways, how a marble can be connected from one end of the school to the other.

Our PTFA organised a very successful Mothers Day Breakfast that was attended by over 100 adults plus our pupils and siblings. The lure of the bacon and the sausage sandwiches proved a huge success! This was followed at the end of the term with an Easter Egg Hunt and a cake sale. Our thanks as always to our very supportive PTFA.

Nus Ghani, MP, visited our Oak Class children (Years 5 and 6) towards the end of the term holding a Question and Answer session with them.

**Coronation of King Charles**

I am delighted to say that we have asked Deborah Tompsett to work with our children to create an art display on the outside wall by the entrance to the school to commemorate the Coronation. As you will see from these photos the children, and the staff, have all made and decorated leaves to form the tree that will take centre stage. We will be holding a Coronation event in school on Friday 5th May which will no doubt include the eating of cakes.

We are now moving into the summer terms and are hoping the weather will be kind so we can be outside enjoying our wonderful grounds. During these terms, the children in years 2 and 6 will sit SATS, year 1 will sit the national phonics tests and year 4 the multiplication tests.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our news. Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. I am in school every day and will always find time for a chat.

With very best wishes.

—Mrs Joanna Challis, Acting Executive Headteacher



**God Save The King! The King's Coronation – let's celebrate!**

There is much to celebrate over the weekend of the King's Coronation. Although there are no planned street parties in Frant Parish, as a community there are still plenty of options to come together and mark the occasion.

A good old fashioned English picnic, complete with flags and bunting, is always a winner! With a choice of beautiful greens in our villages, you could gather together with friends and family to mark the occasion in this way. With local pubs near the greens, it's a perfect set up. Alternatively, you could organise a "Street Meet" - neighbourly gatherings on a driveway, parking area, front garden, pavement or any practical spot on a street which doesn't involve closing the road. A perfect solution if you have the space, just make sure all of the neighbours are happy with the chosen spot, you don't block the pavement to

other pedestrians, and on the day keep children safe and ensure they can't wander into the road.

The Function Rooms at the Abergavenny Arms in Frant and Brecknock Arms in Bells Yew Green will be tuned in to the TV coverage and all are welcome to pull up a chair. Perhaps give them a call in advance to save you a seat.

On Sunday 7 May, Niall and Zoe from the Brecknock Arms will be hosting a disco and BBQ from 5-8pm at the pub. Come along and join in the fun!

Whatever you decide to do, have a fun filled weekend!

—Carmel Kinley

**200 Years in Frant / Exhibition**

On Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May 2023, an exhibition in Frant Memorial Hall covering the past 200 years in the village. Exhibits including events, clubs, school, buildings, people etc will be on display to coincide with

celebrating that the existing St Alban's Church was built 200 years ago.

—Peter Payne

**Frant Patomine and Dramatic Society**

Come along to our fundraising Murder Mystery Evening on Saturday 20 May at the Frant Memorial Hall. Fish and chip supper and entertainment all for the fantastic price of £18.00

For further information, please contact Russell Hall on the Committee – email russelltalklive@gmail.com.

**Eridge flagpole**

The flagpole outside Eridge church has been completely refurbished and is now "ship shape" and flying again.

Commodore Barry Bryant CVO and his wife Tracy worked hard removing decades of rust, repainting and refitting the flagpole so that the church can raise flags for all National events.





### Why I Play Lawn Green Bowls.

It all began in the early eighties. Playing the game of bowls was never an ambition and never featured as a sport in which I would be involved. I had watched bowls matches from the 'ring-side' when my grandfather played on a bowls green in Kingston-upon-Thames. This was before my teens but I was never allowed or invited to bowl on the hallowed turf. Much too young.

We moved to Frant in 1980 from Romsey, near Southampton. As Frant was a village we wanted to get involved in somehow with the local community. Bowls however had always seemed only for the elderly. You can picture the event. A warm, sunny afternoon with elderly gents perhaps smoking an aromatic pipe and matronly ladies some in tweeds walking up and down the green.

One day a very good friend of ours invited us to go to Frant Bowls Club. The introductions were friendly. Questions about past experience in the game of bowls were brief. I didn't have any bowls and had no idea about handling a bowl.

The members to whom I was introduced were nearly all locals living

in Frant. Some were old, some were younger, some were brusque and some were very helpful. Just what you'd expect in a small local club - real mixture of talents and characters. However although I had none of my own could borrow a set of bowls from the club.

My birthday was approaching. My mother knew about my new interest in bowls and having scanned the small ads in a local paper bought me a set. They were second hand, old but in remarkably good condition and made from lignum vitae, an extremely hard wood. It is a very dense wood and rumour has it that instead of floating in water it sinks. Bowls today are made from a composite material resistant to knocks and bashes which inevitably occur on the green.

At the time of joining we both had full-time jobs involving long hours, sometimes arriving home at six o'clock or later on some evenings. After changing into 'greys' or 'whites' going right out again to take part in a bowls match.

Today we both have new, individual sets of bowls. However the decision to have new bowls was quite difficult. My wooden bowls had enabled me to win a

number of competitions and matches. They had a very wide bias. This meant I could bowl my wood on the extreme edge of a rink and the bowl would curl in behind the jack sometimes to the amazement of my fellow players. New bowls meant sacrificing that facility. However, despite the winning characteristics, my old bowls were really too large and it was time to change to a more contemporary set which were more comfortable to handle and dare I say a bit more accurate.

Frant started playing lawn green bowls in the early 1920s and is a game requiring strategy, deftness of touch, an esprit de corps and good humour. In addition, and there is always a slight downside to membership, a willingness to play your part in maintaining the fabric of the club. The club house needs constant care, the area around the green requires cutting and the bowls green itself needs its share of TLC cutting it three times a week during the season.

Club membership clearly has its rewards. Our club has matches at Home and Away from April to September and the venues are within Sussex and Kent.

Frant bowls club has a good reputation throughout the bowling fraternity and whether we win or lose it's the game that matters. Many of our members have known other club members for several years and always are happy to renew friendships.

Frant Bowls Club has practice opportunities on usually Tuesday afternoons and evenings. Matches are arranged on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There may be matches on a couple of Sundays. To add to the enjoyment we have various club competitions which are open to all members.

When the final bowl is delivered at a Home match or practice session a good way to finish off is to congratulate the winners or indeed the losers and give your opposite number either a glass of wine, or a beer or soft drink.

If a congenial afternoon with good company in the fresh air is to your liking, with Spring just round the corner, think about joining Frant Bowls Club.

—Michael Freestone  
captain@frantbowls.uk

### Give Poetry a Platform

Give Poetry a Platform brings the spoken and written word to railway stations in East Sussex and Kent. The project is the result of a successful two year collaboration between Southeast Rail CRP and the Kent and Sussex Poetry Society. QR codes provide audio recordings of poets reading their work, with the accompanying text on display.



Frant station houses the first display with Tunbridge Wells now included this week. Further stations along the Hastings to Tonbridge line are scheduled to increase the reach of the project celebrating poetry in our public spaces and elevating our local stations.

### Where is Eridge: continued

In the magazine for March/April 2023 I wrote about Eridge and how it isn't very obvious as a settlement. It is more of an area or district than a place like Frant or Rotherfield or Groombridge. I thought that one way of defining it might be to look at official records such as parish registers and the census but this doesn't actually help: it makes things more confusing!

The parish system developed gradually from about 950 to 1150. At the beginning of this period people living in Eridge went to church in Rotherfield. By the end, there was a church nearer to them in Frant. Parish registers (from 1538) listing baptisms, marriages and burials often give extra information such as a man's occupation and where they lived if it wasn't in the core village. Sadly the Frant parish clerk didn't seem to mind where people lived. There are a few exceptions: in 1544 Joan Humphrey of Eridge was buried at Frant, and in 1590 'Long Thomas' was buried. It would be interesting to know why his name was recorded like that. Two other burials were of people linked to the Nevills. In 1582 'William, a smith, and my Lord's man' died, and in 1598 'an old maide from Eridge Place'. At that date 'maid' would have meant spinster, though she must also have been a servant, and not a very important one since the clerk did not know her name. The handful of other entries are for people from Hamsell and Steelbridge.

Some people in Eridge preferred to go to Rotherfield church and were very occasionally listed as such in the register. In 1583 Elizabeth, daughter of John Crips of Eridge, was baptised at Rotherfield, and two children from Danegate were baptised in 1631 and 1643; Mary Weller and John Turner.

By 1856 Eridge had its own church and parish. The first baptism on August 31st 1856 was of William Goddard Overy, son of Thomas Secker Overy, a farmer, and his wife Mary of Eridge. There were four other baptisms that year, one from Eridge, two from Rotherfield and

one from Speldhurst. The 1851 census shows that Thomas Overy was living at Hamsell Farm, which was classed as being in Rotherfield. Thomas was the son of the farmer, and baby William became a farm labourer. In future censuses he described himself as being born in Rotherfield.

Very few of the babies baptised in the new church in 1856 and 1857 can be found in the census for 1861, even though their place of residence in the register is given as Eridge Green, probably because Eridge was defined too narrowly by the census. In 1861 the enumerator described the area covered, from the 'Cottage at Eridge Green and taking in all the houses within 50 yards of the Turnpike Road' (the A26) and all the houses in the parish on the North West of the road including Eridge Village, Broadwater Forest and the High Rocks, with Sumner Vale, Strawberry Hill and Ramsly Farm House. This however, was very much for administrative purposes and does not necessarily tell us what made up Eridge. As we have seen, Hamsell, which we would probably include in Eridge, was part of Rotherfield for census purposes. Rare exceptions are Elizabeth and Henry James, children of Obed and Jane Farmer baptised on the same day in July 1857. By 1861 Obed was a widower, James was 7 and had been born in Uckfield and Elizabeth was 5 and was born in Frant, so they were not babes in arms when they were baptised. Obed was an agricultural labourer. Another exception is William, son of Job and Sarah Izard. Job was also an agricultural labourer - not surprising given that 75 agricultural labourers are listed as being employed by the Abergavenny family in the 1851 census! In 1861 most of the babies baptised were from Eridge, with two from Rotherfield.

The census shows that people moved around a lot, even if it was usually in a small area. The grocer of Eridge, John Killick came from Rotherfield and married a girl from Tunbridge Wells. Their children were born in Speldhurst, Ashurst and Frant. The youngest in the 1861 Census, Walter, was baptised in Eridge though his birth place was given as Frant. However, in 1871 John gave his own place of birth as Withyham and his wife and ten children were said to have been born in Frant! So much for trying to define Eridge through official records.

—Mary Alexander





**Parish Past**

The Abergavenny Arms was for centuries known as “The Bull,” which is the crest of the Nevill family - the name apparently upgraded to the present title with the Marquisate in the 1820’s. Some of the timbers (rumoured to be old Elizabethan ship’s timbers) reinforce the idea that a hostelry has existed here for at least 600 years and probably longer. It was known as a coaching inn in the 18th and early 19th centuries, a place where horses were changed and travellers could temporarily rest.

From earlier times the saloon bar was

used as a local Sessions area, ie where a panel of villagers judged local crimes and criminals - a forerunner of our jury system. According to testimony and research from the Rev Dudgeon (Rector in the 1920’s) four men were condemned for sheep-stealing there in the 1560’s and hanged from a yew tree on the corner of the Green, possibly somewhere near the present shop.

No subsequent death sentences are known but underneath the bar a cell is still preserved: such a narrow, confined space that any lengthy stay there would have been a punishment in itself. In the 19th

Century the Abergavenny was famous for hosting the annual Fawn and Beefsteak Pudding Supper, held around Christmas time, mainly but not entirely for employees on the Eridge Estate - which provided the fawn, while beer (and “baccy” for the smokers) was donated by a local brewery. A happier note on which to end!

Incidentally, The George seems to have been originally known as The Mercers Arms, the name changed sometime in the 18th Century in deference to one of the four royal Georges. The earliest recorded owner (he was probably too comfortably off to be the landlord) was Nicolas Hosmer in the 1640’s, whose gravestone is the oldest surviving with an inscription in the churchyard: it gives his date of death as 1670. He seems to have traded as a mercer - that is a trader in better quality cloths, hence the pub name. A Hosmer ancestor, resident in Rotherfield, was burned at the stake as one of the Lewes protestant martyrs under “bloody” Queen Mary in 1556.

—Pat Wright

**News from Bells Yew Green**

A winter of snow, relentless rain and just plain chilly weather has made Bells Yew Green’s Winter Warmer Mondays very popular with our merry band of regulars. It has been lovely to meet up for a lunchtime chat over a simply delicious bowl or two of good hot homemade soup



and bread, plus cake of course, in our toasty warm village hall.

The idea was the brainchild of the Sussex Community Fund which sponsored local community teams to provide warm hubs around the county. As long time local Gill Buss explained, “it’s been lovely to meet up each week through the worst of the winter with cheerful folk, sharing stories and making new friends - it gives you a real lift to feel part of our community”.

As the days begin to lengthen and the village green is ablaze with the lovely nodding heads of daffodils, we are planning some afternoon teas by way

of a change! Head over to our website at [www.bellsyewgreen.org](http://www.bellsyewgreen.org) to find out the date of the next one (not a computer person? Phone Sue!) and please feel free to join us. Everyone in our Parish is welcome but we will need to know that you’re coming, so please text or phone us on one of the numbers below to book your place.

Very many thanks go to the Sussex Community Fund for their sponsorship as well as a huge thank you to our brilliant volunteers - you’re amazing! Friends of Bells Yew Green Team 07944-712000 book by text please or phone Sue on 750635



**Parish Pets #6: Rose & Cocco**

Rose and Cocco are our rescue Cavalier King Charles spaniels and have been with us for just over a year. They like to watch us gardening whilst relaxing on the patio. Last Eastertime we planted out our seed potatoes and we’re surprised to find that overnight they had been dug up and scattered around the lawn. Muddy paws were a give away. We are hoping there won’t be a repeat performance.

—David and Barbara Tasker

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

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**Parish Diary:  
May/June 2023**

» **Saturday 6 – Monday 8 May**  
King Charles III Coronation weekend  
See page 8 & 9

» **Thursday 18 May**  
Eridge Garden Club visit to Hole Park  
Gardens, Rolvenden Kent. See page 9

» **Saturday 20 May**  
Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society  
Murder Mystery Evening, Frant  
Memorial Hall. See page 9

**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*  
Ed Pascoe: frantyouth@gmail.com  
*Frant Bowls Club*  
Barry Dean: 661386; barryglens68@hotmail.com  
*Frant Cricket Club*  
David Pearson: 750789  
*Frant Garden Club*  
Dianna Tennant: 752029  
*Frant Panto & Drama Society*  
Naomi Berwick; 07599 162222;  
frantpanto@gmail.com  
*St Alban's Bell-Ringers*  
Mary Freestone: 750269  
*Frant Stables*  
Julie Pascoe: 07850 091428;  
juliedanielle@hotmail.co.uk  
*Frant Parish Friendship Group*  
Brian Gill: 750266  
*Frant Memorial Hall*  
Sharon Warwick: 750185

**Eridge**

*Eridge Garden Club*  
Jean Howells: 864310  
*Eridge Cricket Club*  
Luke Forbes: 670073  
*Eridge Village Hall Hire*  
www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk  
*Eridge Choir*  
Tracy Bryant  
*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**

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johanna.howell@frant-pc.gov.uk

**Frant Ward**

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Colin Steadman:  
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**BYG Ward**

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Andy Macdonald-Brown: 891273  
andrew.macdonald-brown@frant-pc.gov.uk

**Eridge Ward**

Andrew Best: 5279319

**Clerk to the Council**

Rosie Barnes: 653357; clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk; www.frant-pc.gov.uk

**Wealden District Councillor**

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cllr.johanna.howell@wealden.gov.uk

Keith Obbard: 07941 578427  
cllr.keith.obbard@wealden.gov.uk

Bob Standley: 783579 cllr.robert.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. Planning meetings are held on the first Monday 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/

**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 Ed Pascoe for more information: frantyouth@gmail.com

**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: 750285 or susan.piccioni@btinternet.com

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

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