

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Old Eridge Castle, c.1817

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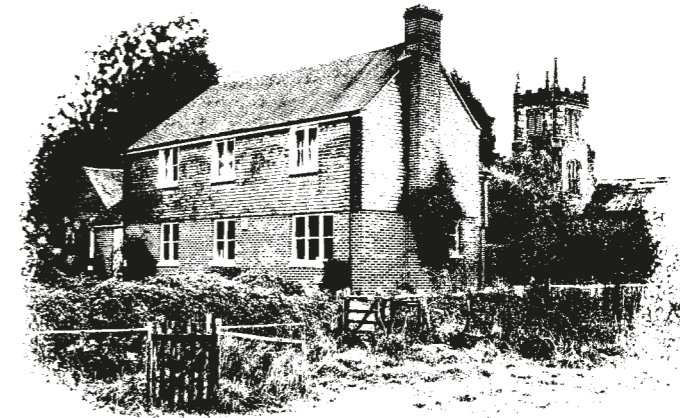
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From the Rectory



One of the nice things about ministry is that I often meet people at Church who are visiting our villages. I see people who are on holiday locally as they pop into our churches to have a look around – we have had people from America, New Zealand - all over the world coming to our villages. It makes me realise how connected we are.

When people come in we often talk about the history of our churches, and I enjoy sharing how Eridge Church was once a school, and actually faces North unlike most churches that face East. Everyone always thinks Frant Church is ancient, but I get to share with them how most of it is just 200 years old in the most part, because it was rebuilt in 1821. I read somewhere that there could have been a church at Frant there since the 8th century. I find local history fascinating as in some ways it feels more real to think you walk in the footsteps of those who went before.

As people we are connected not only geographically but across history as well. We all share in the collective experience of what it means to be human. We all know the ups and downs of life, the highs and the lows, the celebrations and the struggles, across different times and time-zones. There is something I find comforting in realising those connections that

we share together.

My hope is that our Churches can be places that bring people together across the places and across the ages. As people come and go and the world around us changes, the Church is a constant place of unity and peace, that we might find meaning, hope, assurance, and faith, together under God. We would love you to join us in that.

Thanks to people in our villages our churches have been sustained and maintained for centuries, but it has been increasingly difficult. Last year because of the lead theft and other things had unprecedented costs. We are hugely thankful though that we covered that cost mainly because of generous people locally.

We receive no money from the government or the Church of England, it all comes from local activities and people, and we are hugely thankful to all who support us, especially at this time when costs have increased massively. If you would like to support your local church go to our websites, frantChurch.org or eridgechurch.org and follow the links. You could give monthly or one off. We really appreciate everyone's support and hope that we can continue to serve our villages and communities into the next centuries!

— The Reverend Brendan Martin

News From The Pews

Let's start with the good news! It's always good to be able to report a happy event, so it's wonderful to be able to announce the arrival of Rev Brendan and Claire's new baby, Raphael, who joined the Martin family at the Rectory on 23rd May. Congratulations to you all!

On 7th May, special services of celebration and commemoration for the Coronation were held in both churches, and were very well attended. For one couple, May 6th will be remembered as not only the day on which the King was crowned, but the day on which they got married! Harry Berry and Katherine Broad had set the date for their wedding, and arrangements were well under way some time before the date for the Coronation was announced. Although it rained on both the King and the happy couple, it was a memorable day, and a day about which Harry and Katherine will love to tell their grandchildren.

After those two life changing events, the more mundane news - In April a team of volunteers gave the church a much needed clear out and thorough spring clean. As part of our Eco Church land management plan for 2023, we followed the national initiative and took part in 'No mow May'. This meant that all mowing and strimming in the church yard was suspended for a few weeks to allow time for early flowering wild flowers to set seed and encourage them to spread. Mowing continued in the small area from the Lychgate to the South door so that the front of the church looked neat for wedding photographs.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held early in May. At the meeting everyone was encouraged to read the review of the year and the supplementary reports to see what a busy year 2022 was for both churches, and to remind ourselves of what a very large number of volunteers are involved, in whatever capacity, in keeping our churches running and growing. The report showed that early in the year things were picking up well after Covid, the Tipi was up and running, the new office was up and running, then sadly the theft of lead from part of the roof in June dominated the rest of the year. Particular thanks were given to Rev Brendan for his leadership, for the example of faith and the good humour which he always shows although his patience is often sorely tried and tested!

We end our News from the Pews on a



very sad note, the death in May of Nick Jones left the village very shocked. Nick had health problems for several years, but hadn't allowed them to dominate his life and still managed to live a full life with his family. He was also a faithful servant to the church and the community, until the end. It's hard to imagine Frant without Nick, we will all miss him so much.

Frant Churchyard

Caring for our churchyard is a big undertaking and the Sussex Wildlife Trust and Kent High Weald Partnership are now advising us on the best way to care for it and a management plan is in place for its ongoing conservation. A plan of the churchyard giving a very brief description of the proposed work can be found in the church porch.

Following the great storm of 1987 Pat Wright took on the huge task of reclaiming the churchyard which, apart from a small area in front of the church, was totally overgrown with brambles. The pathways had disappeared under leaves which had not been cleared for many years. Pat would clear a patch and then hand it over to a parishioner for its continuing care, and we now have the lovely churchyard you see today. Having headed up the team for the last 35 years

Pat is now stepping back, although you will often find her working there. So we give a very big thank you to Pat for her years of dedication and hard work, and trust that we will be able to carry on that work in the coming years.

There are just six people on the team caring for the churchyard and apart from one, all are over 70. We do need more help and would welcome new members to the team. Just two or three hours every other week would make a real difference – and it's a good exercise too! However, we appreciate it is not easy for many people to give their time so, if you have a loved one interred in the churchyard or just enjoy walking through it, would you consider making a contribution to the Churchyard Fund? This will enable us to employ a gardening firm to take on some of the mowing in early summer - especially after "no mow May" - and clear leaves in the autumn.

All contributions will be very much appreciated and enable us to keep the churchyard from becoming overgrown again. They should be marked "Churchyard Fund" and be delivered to the church office (Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings) or posted in The Stables post box. Thank you.

—Sue Vincer (01892 740180)

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

July / August 2023

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	2nd July	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Communion Service	9th July	Morning Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	16th July	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Morning Service	23rd July	Communion Service	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church			
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	30th July	Morning Service	9.15am
	Frant Church Family BBQ			
10.30am	Frant as One (All Age)	6th August	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Communion Service	13th August	Morning Service	9.15am
10.30am	Morning Service	20th August	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Morning Service	27th August	Communion Service	9.15am

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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Eridge Church – “Regal Alter”

For the service to celebrate the coronation the altar in Holy Trinity Church was decorated with a suitably regal altar frontal (pictured right).

What makes the altar frontal particularly interesting is that it is made from some of the cloth which was hung to decorate Westminster Abbey for Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. The frontal as donated by a retired clergyman, Revd Philip Stewart - Browning, and his wife who were members of the Eridge congregation in the 1950s. Unfortunately we do not know exactly how the Stewart-Brownings managed to get the material from the Abbey but the frontal has been used in Eridge when there are special services for royal occasions ever since.

—Jonathan Lynn



Frant Parish Council

It will be interesting to see how the recent local election results change our District Council. The Conservatives have lost their majority after many years and we now have a Liberal Democrat/Green party alliance. The District Council has a big impact on our Parish in many ways but probably planning decisions are the most contentious. Jo Howell is still a District Councillor but after over 30 years has, understandably I think you will agree, decided to stand down from the Parish Council. She has been a loyal and positive member of the Parish Council over all these years and served our community, in that role with selfless distinction. We all owe her a great deal and our grateful thanks.

As I mentioned at our Annual Parish Meeting recently the newly elected Parish Council has some difficult decisions to make over the coming year. With only 5 elected Councillors (quality not quantity obviously!) and one co-opted Councillor we will welcome any new members to help us with the tasks ahead. The main one is the proposed pedestrian crossing in Frant. This project begun several years ago but the projected costs are now ballooning to over £250,000 and that is before a shovel hits the earth.

The current time lines are that even, with all our ducks in a row, it will be at least 2-3 years before work commences and the increased costs by then will put it beyond our reach in financial terms. We need to come up with a Plan B as we

all agree that the Frant Road desperately needs some urgent traffic calming measures all the way from the Wadhurst Road Junction to the Abergavenny Arms and these might prove to be a better use of the funds we have available.

We also need to get the Albert Well renovated and we are currently looking into the costs involved. You won't be surprised to learn that as a conservation listed building these are in the region of £45,000!!! Sadly, in many ways, the days are long gone when the local 'odd-job' person could do these things for a fraction of the price.

Finally we will also be looking at Frant Green and how to prevent cricket balls in summer crossing the road and off-road SUVs in winter from crossing the green. All this and the day to day stuff should keep the Parish Council busy but fulfilled over the coming months.

—Stuart Crookshank

News from Nus Ghani, MP

Aside from the royal celebrations, my diary over the past few weeks has been filled with lots of visits and meetings to support Wealden communities. Reports on just some of these are below.

Result! South East Water compensation payments secured for more Wealden households

Over 600 submissions have been made via the dedicated platform on my website to help assess the scale of South East Water's compensation chaos following the disruptive outage in the run up to last Christmas, which saw thousands of households across Wealden left without water for several days. Thank you to everyone who contributed. I shared

this evidence with South East Water to push for a comprehensive review of all impacted postcodes, and to ensure that the company directors were made aware of the personal impact of the disruption.

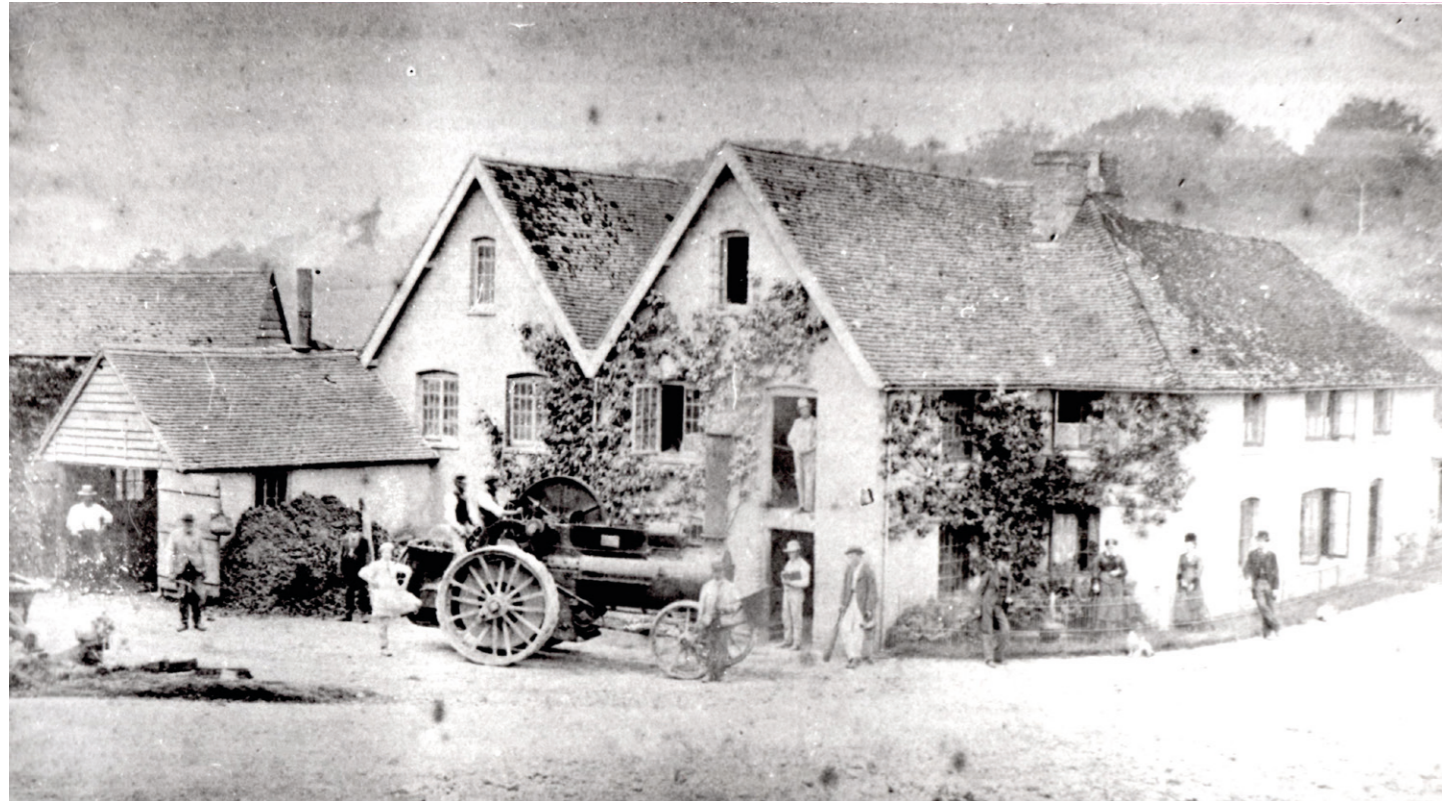
As a result, I secured payments to over 430 more households, which would have otherwise missed out on any compensation.

It is shocking and unacceptable that despite having no water in the run up to Christmas, these customers would have received no compensation without my involvement. I do hope that more good news will be forthcoming for other Wealden customers as I continue to campaign for a review of all impacted areas.

Visiting pupils at Framfield and Frant primary schools

It was an absolute pleasure to catch up with our young Wealden residents during my recent visits to Framfield and Frant primary schools for a Q&A session with Year 5 and 6 pupils about how laws are made in Westminster, and my duties and responsibilities as Member of Parliament and Minister of State.

On the day of my visit, the pupils at Frant school were learning about the Second World War and I enjoyed seeing their period costumes and pieces of equipment, as well as discussing the role of women in the war. It is always encouraging to see our young residents engaging in local issues and eager to make a positive contribution to their local area. I was impressed how courteous the students were while passionately expressing their views and there were some excellent suggestions for new laws which I will consider taking forward. >>



National Carers Week

Every June, I am proud to support National Carers Week to raise awareness of unpaid caring and recognise the invaluable contribution that carers across Wealden make to the livelihoods of unwell, older or disabled loved ones, and the vital role they play in ensuring that so many people across Wealden have better quality of life and personalised end of life care.

It is estimated that there are around 70,000 unpaid carers in East Sussex, with nearly 20,000 in Wealden. Without the right level of support, life as a carer can be extremely difficult. The wellbeing of carers is all too often forgotten, and Carers Week is an important campaign to raise awareness about the support available.

One of the local organisations providing support for unpaid carers across Wealden and East Sussex are *Care for the Carers*, who are an independent charity commissioned by East Sussex County Council and the NHS. They offer a free wraparound service including referrals to other local services, outreach support, one-to-one crisis help and guidance, coaching, training, wellbeing and support groups, activities and counselling. To find out more information, please visit www.cftc.org.uk or phone 01323 738390.

I also welcome The Carer's Leave Act,

which received Royal Assent recently and when in force next year will create a new statutory unpaid leave entitlement for employees who are caring for a dependant with a long-term care need. This will enable carers to better balance their caring and work responsibilities, supporting them to remain in employment.

I am hugely grateful for the amazing work Wealden carers do every day, and I continue working with our fantastic local charities, organisations and care homes to ensure that Wealden carers are better recognised and supported. If you know someone who is a carer and deserves recognition, please let me know via my website www.nusghani.org.uk as I would like to thank them personally and spread the word about the help available, to ensure that no one is left to care alone.

Parish Past

Bartley Mill (pictured above, c.1880), which lies just south of BYG off the Lamberhurst Road, has had an interesting history. From the 13th Century the area was in the ownership of Bayham Abbey, and it was during this time a pond was dug and timber waterwheel built so the monks could mill their corn: bread and a corn-based "pottage" were staples of the medieval diet. The Winn stream is not large

and the millpond seems to have been enlarged several times to store enough water to drive the wheel. In 1311 there was a major row when the miller there, Matthew Scott, refused to obey a notice to quit. The abbot then ordered his house to be pulled down around his ears, not too difficult perhaps when it was most likely then constructed of timber and wattle, but not a particularly Christian act!

Bayham monastery was closed by order of Cardinal Wolsey in 1525, before the general closure by Henry VIII, and Bartley was bought first by John Lewkenor and then in 1536 by John Barham. The Barhams, who already owned land around Mayfield, claimed one of the murderers of Thomas a Becket as an ancestor but this John was known as "The Iern Man" owing to his success as an ironmaster. Under his ownership Bartley ceased to grind corn and became an ironworks, complete with a new iron waterwheel. One of several small ironworks along the valley to Riverhall Hill, Bartley remained in the ownership of the Barham family until 1723, when a later John died without children and his wife gave it and surrounding lands to her brother, Gabriel Egles of Uckfield, a much resented gift since it was recorded the "every stick and stone was signed away at the bidding

of a spiteful and domineering woman who ... had such advantage over her husband he would deny her nothing." By this time ironworking had ceased and Bartley returned to milling corn, to be eventually sold to the Bayham Estate in 1806. It continued to work until 1904, then became an engineering workshop in WW1. It reopened briefly to grind organic wholemeal in the 1980's.

—Pat Wright

Siegfried Sassoon and Eridge

Siegfried Sassoon was a poet and writer who became famous for his First World War poems. He survived the war, and lived until 1967. He was born at Matfield near Tunbridge Wells in 1886. His father was from a wealthy Jewish family who had lived in India and the Middle East as successful traders, but Siegfried's father Alfred had no need to work. He married Theresa Thornycroft, from an engineering family. She painted and her brother Hamo became a famous sculptor. Alfred and Theresa bought Weirleigh, a Victorian house outside Matfield. Siegfried was the middle one of three boys, named by his mother after the hero of a Wagner opera, and was baptised and brought up a Christian. He had little interest in his father's family or their Jewishness. His parents became estranged, and his father died in 1895.

Siegfried and his brothers had a thoroughly English country upbringing, and Siegfried learned to ride, which is where Eridge comes in. He wrote three volumes of autobiography, which were partly fictionalised. He described himself as an orphan only child brought up by a spinster aunt, whose groom Dixon encouraged Siegfried to ride and got him involved in hunting. This was not entirely selfless – Dixon was very keen on hunting and the only way he could get involved was through his employer – though Siegfried describes Dixon as taking great care of him. In the biography the maiden aunt was far too nervous a rider to hunt, but in fact Siegfried's mother was a fearless rider. The local hunt (in the book) was the Dumborough, led by Lord Dumborough, which was actually the Eridge Hunt, led by the Marquess of Abergavenny. The Master of the Hunt was his younger brother Lord Henry Nevill. It had been started by the 5th Earl in 1878. The title of the book is *Memoirs of a Fox-*

Hunting Man, and Sassoon became deeply involved in hunting as a young man. Dixon often talked to him about Mr Macdoggart 'Lord Dumborough's hard-riding agent', who had won the Hunt Steeplechase one year. He described him as 'a gaunt, ginger-haired man in a weather-stained scarlet coat'. In real life, this was Mr Macbean, the land-agent, who presumably did look the way Sassoon described him. Sassoon's pseudonyms are sometimes obvious: Dixon (Dick's son) was actually Richardson, Moon, tutor to the Sassoon boys, became Star, but Dumborough and Macdoggart are less obvious, except that Macbean was Scottish.

Sassoon does not actually describe going to Eridge, as he keeps everything a little vague in the *Memoirs*, and the hunt did not always start from there, but it seems very likely that he did. He bought a horse from a school friend who lived in Frant, Edgar Newgass. Siegfried became friendly with Norman Loder, a boy who hunted, and knew the Nevills, and later hunted with Norman's local hunt, the Southdown, further south in East Sussex, rather than the Eridge. The *Memoirs* therefore have little more to say about the Eridge Hunt. It is rather nice though to think about such a famous author riding around our area. Were Eridge and Frant in his thoughts during his awful experiences on the Western Front? The English countryside meant a great deal to him. —Mary Alexander

Exhibition of the Last 200 Years in Frant

The exhibition was held in the Memorial Hall on 29th May.

I would like to thank Alan and Sally Wilford, my son Jonathan Payne and Clive Welcher for helping to set up this exhibition. In addition, Alan and Sally ensured there were drinks and cakes for people to have while thinking over all the information within the exhibition.

Thanks to Pat Wright, Helen Carpenter, the other "elderly" residents and the Parish Magazine for giving me so much information and so many stories. Further thanks to over 100 people who viewed the exhibition, many of whom saw themselves and their relations in the photos and referred to in the articles.

The good news is that I have been encouraged by many to write a book about this past 200 years, so hopefully many others can read what an amazing

village we have and especially how many famous people lived or visited it in the last 200 years.

I have learnt so much even though I've been told so many stories, living here from 1972 and also from my wife, Wendy's family who have lived here since 1922. Thanks for all those who came and donated a total of £130:00 for the church restoration fund and £240:00 for McMillan Cancer.

—Peter Payne

Frant Parish Friendship Group

Our April meeting was the last get together until September and we finished with a fascinating talk on George Smart the Tailor of Frant by Jonathan Christie.

George Smart a tailor living in Frant, came to national fame in 2014 when Tate Britain had a Folk art exhibition and featured George Smart.

He was born in 1774 and died in 1846 and it is believed was buried in a pauper's grave outside the churchyard. Jonathan Christie explained how Smart used off-cuts of his fabrics to produce his pictures. Many of them depicting 'Bright the postman' and the Goosewoman. Frant owned 3 Smarts but unfortunately, they were stolen from the memorial Hall in 2015, after the Tate Exhibition. Two have been returned and are, at the moment, undergoing repair. Some damage was done when they were taken out of their frames. We are very lucky to have these returned allowing the parishioners of Frant to enjoy them again in the future.

The Spring programme has been very successful and well attended with excellent speakers. We will begin again in September with a tea party at the George on the 8th. Our first afternoon meeting will be September 28th in the Stables at 2.30. The speaker will be Bertie Pearce and the topic Victorian Pleasure. The exercise classes with Alison will start on the 21st September. We have recently received a very generous anonymous donation for which we are extremely grateful and can assure the donor this will be put to good use.

We are all very saddened by the death of our long time member Nick Jones (the Grand Master of the raffle) who has been a committed supporter of the group since its inception. He will be greatly missed.

We look forward to seeing everybody in September. Enquiries. Valerie Palmer 01892 750559

Hospice Run

Join us for the iconic Hospice Run

Calling all runners to join us for this year's Hospice Run. There are 1,000 places available and a variety of distances on offer, including our new half marathon, our 5k or 10k routes, or just having some fun on the family run.

The run will take place on Sunday 17th September between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., starting at the Lower Common Cricket Ground in Tunbridge Wells. The 5k and 10k courses will take you on a familiar scenic route past local landmarks such as the Spa Valley Railway Line and High Rocks, while the half-marathon will follow an undulating route through Groombridge and Eridge. Paralympian Will Bayley will be at the start line, welcoming runners and performing a warm-up routine to give everyone the best start in their challenge.

The Family Fun Run will go through the common and around Wellington Rocks with participants having the option of completing 1 or 2 laps. The theme of the Family Fun Run this year will be Hospice Heroes and participants will be encouraged to dress up as their hero, but do watch out for the 'bad guys' who might be looking for trouble along the route!

Speaking ahead of the run, Relationship Fundraising Manager for Hospice in the Weald, Jesse Ansbro-Brett, said: "The atmosphere is set to be amazing. There will be a samba band to spur you on to the finish line where you'll receive your medal and there



will be a great range of food and drink available from local vendors at the event village too."

Our fundraising team will be with you every step of the way to help you reach your fundraising target. All entry fees and fundraising will go directly to supporting Hospice in the Weald care for people in Kent and East Sussex at the end of their lives. This year we are aiming to raise over £60,000 in support of patients and their loved ones.

For more information and to sign up for a place, please go to 'Find Out More' under the Events section on our website by visiting hospiceintheweald.org.uk.



Frant Memorial Hall Defibrillator Fundraiser Update

We are pleased to report that we now have two defibrillators available for use located within Frant village. As many of you may have noticed one is located on the car park side of the village hall on the outside wall whilst the second one is a portable one which is kept in The George. This is intended for use by the various groups that meet in the village, particularly the football club, cricket club etc.

The defibrillator at the village hall is kept in a locked heated cupboard. If the emergency services are required in the case of a cardiac arrest when 999 is called the operators will say where the nearest defibrillator is located and give the code to access the cabinet. The emergency services will then take over when they arrive and deal with the patient and the defibrillator. The defibrillator at the village hall is now registered on the national data base so will be available to anyone, if required, who dials 999.

Thank you once again to everyone who supported the various fundraising events which have made the purchases possible. Special mention should be made of Frant Film Club, The George, Balanced Accounting as well as various individuals who made generous donations. The Christmas Fair, a defibrillator trainer session which over 70 people attended and then enjoyed tea and cakes afterwards and a very

Lara Melda and The Carducci Quartet Monday 3rd July 7.30pm

We are thrilled to welcome back to Frant Church the incredible virtuoso pianist Lara Melda (pictured below) alongside the brilliant Carducci Quartet on Monday 3rd July. Programme includes:

Mozart: String Quartet No.17 "The Hunt", Dvorak: "American" String Quartet No.12 and Chopin: Piano Concerto No.1

Lara Melda was the winner of the 2010 BBC Young Musician competition and Alfred Brendel's only student; she last played for us in Frant in 2013 to a packed audience. Together with the Carducci Quartet, who have played around the world to critical acclaim, we are guaranteed to be enthralled by an evening of chamber music at the highest calibre.

"[Melda] has won something of a reputation as a Chopin-player...the sound that Melda produces beguiles the ear with beautifully balanced, longbreathed cantabile phrases, played with no idiosyncratic interventions, and in short capturing the essence of what a nocturne should be... All in all, a fine Chopin recital that is

a cut above the average." —Jeremy Nicholas, Gramophone

Described by *The Strad* as presenting "a masterclass in unanimity of musical purpose, in which severity could melt seamlessly into charm, and drama into geniality", the award-winning Carducci Quartet is internationally acclaimed as one of the most accomplished and versatile ensembles of today.

"...the Carducci players displayed a deep and almost familial sense of unity in everything they played... full of life and vitality...extravagantly beautiful..." —*The Washington Post*

Tickets are £20 and can be purchased at Frant Stores, Britrens Music Store in Tunbridge Wells, or online by clicking the link below.

Brecknock Arms Forthcoming events

We've got a live music by Robyn Keene and karaoke night on the 15th July.

Our beer festival on 8, 9 & 10th September will have locally sourced beer, live music and fish and chips on Friday, hog roast on Saturday and BBQ on the Sunday. We are also planning a few other events which can be found on our website: <https://www.thebrecknockarmspub.com/> or on Facebook: The Brecknock Arms



successful Quiz Night held in March all contributed to the fund. Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported these events.

We hope that the acquisition of two defibrillators for Frant village will make everyone more confident that if anyone suffers a sudden cardiac arrest, they will have early access to this potentially lifesaving equipment.



The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Thursday 13th July at 2pm at Crowborough Community Centre, TN6 1FE

Lecture: "Baroque on a Roll: Classical Music in the Modern Media"
Lecturer: Tony Rawlins
In the last lecture of the 22/23 Season, Tony talks about the increasing popularity of classical music, especially amongst young people. He shows how classical music enhances the mood - the drama, the tension, the romance - of feature films and demonstrates how it has made many TV commercials truly memorable. He describes how a piece by an obscure 17th century German Composer has become our No.1 favourite at weddings and funerals and to finish he will demonstrate with his guitar how classical melodies and chord sequences have been borrowed for a huge number of popular hit records.

Tony started his career in advertising in 1965 as a mail boy in J. Walter Thompson, graduating through their training system to become an account director and subsequently worked in a number of agencies before setting up on his own. He remains active as a consultant in the industry, but now concentrates on more philanthropic projects - producing a film in the rural villages of Nigeria for the London School

of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and more recently he has completed a sanitation project in Haiti after it was devastated by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

We had a hugely entertaining lecture from Tony a couple of years ago and we look forward to this visit.

Members of the Society free. Visitors £6 per lecture.
www.tasaf.org.uk

Frant School News

We are now entering our final term of this academic year. It is great to have warmer weather to enjoy our grounds. Please enjoy an update on our news.

The summer terms are filled with lots of outdoor activities but also we have many assessments that have and are taking place - phonics screening for year 1s, multiplication tests for our Y4s, KS1 SATS for our year 2 and KS2 SATS for our year 6. Well done to all the children for their positive attitudes.

Sport has continued to play an important role here at Frant with many tournaments and events held and planned. I dropped in on a cricket festival at Buxted Park today enabling me to see the skills and positive attitudes of all our pupils. Please do take a look at our website for more information.

We held a wonderful Coronation Day on May 5th (pictured). So many



parents joined us for the unveiling of 'Our Coronation Tree' on our outside wall. The sun shone and the children, particularly our choir, sang beautifully. A great deal of chocolate, cake, and crisps was consumed by children and staff! All in a good cause. A huge thank you



goes to Mrs Snelling for co-ordinating events and to Deborah Tompsett for working with the children to create 'Our Coronation Tree'.

At the end of term 5 our year 5 and 6 children went on their week's residential to Blackland Farm. A wonderful time was had by all. The children were a delight with positive feedback from the instructors on Frant School - always lovely to hear.

So now, we start the process of

transitioning our year 6 children to their respective secondary schools and welcoming our new reception intake. This year seems to be going by far too quickly. We wish them all well.

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.

—Mrs Joanna Challis, Acting Executive Headteacher



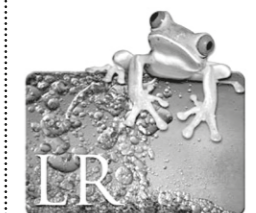
Parish Pets #7: Ralph

Ralph is a 17 month old, fox-red labradoodle. He is extremely energetic and playful. He loves his walks around Frant, one of his favourite routes being around the church grounds and into the fields beyond. The other place he can often be found is in front of one of the roaring open fires at his home, The Abergavenny Arms. Ralph is super friendly and loves company from all humans and fellow dogs...so please feel free to pop in to The Abergavenny for a quick drink, a bite to eat, or just to say hi to Ralph.

—James Murphy

» 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:
July/August 2023**

» **Monday 3 July**
Lara Melda & The Carducci Quartet; St Alban's Church, Frant. See page 11

» **Thursday 13 July**
Arts Society, Ashdown Forest Lecture; Classical Music in the Modern Media. See page 12

» **Saturday 15 July**
Live Music & Karaoke Night; Brecknock Arms. See page 11

» **Thursday 27th July**
Eridge Arts Club, Guided tours of the churches of All Saints, Tudeley and Chapel, St Thomas a Becket, Chapel 11.00 am to 3.30

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: frant youth@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
Next deadline: 1st August 2023

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Frant Memorial Hall
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Eridge Cricket Club
Luke Forbes: 670073
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www.eridge-village-hall.co.uk
Eridge Choir
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Bob Standley: 783579
Parish Council meetings
Full PC meetings are usually held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. 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/

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