

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Frant Church at Christmas

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From the Rectory



Have you gone on a walk with a two-year-old recently? It takes ages. They want to stop every few steps to look intently at a plant, or feel some moss, or kick a stone down the path. I love the wonder of children in creation, as adults we too often become dull to the beauty of our world, and the inspiring intricacy that each tiny fragment.

My kids the other day were running around in delight trying to catch leaves that were blowing off the trees in the garden. When was the last time you really enjoyed the natural world like that? When was the last time you sat under a tree and just watched the leaves falling? When was the last time you sat and looked at the pictures in the clouds? When was the last time you stayed up late trying to see a shooting star?

We have spent the last few months making a nature area on part of our church land. We planted dozens of native English trees to make a hedge, we made a nature pond, we seeded some grass and in spring we will plant up a big area of bee loving wildflowers.

It has been great to see it develop already, to see little creatures seemingly magically arrive in the nature pond. It seems when we give nature a little helping hand, it provides back even more than we put into it.

November sees countries coming together for COP26, it is a shame that already as I write expectations are being lowered for this, with key members looking like they are holding back. Not only is sustainable living good for the planet, but it's increasingly more affordable too.

The church of England has set a target of 2030 to go carbon neutral, and we want to strive for that. At Frant and Eridge we are designating 2022 as our Year of Creation. We have loved building our outdoor activities for youth and kids at Festival Church, and we want to build on that, engaging our community in the nature all around us. At Eridge Church we are looking this next year to move away from carbon produced power and move to renewable energy for all our heating and lighting requirements. As we do that we hope we can take a lead with other churches to show what is possible. We are going to need help to do that and I really hope people can get involved in making a difference locally, and inspiring others more generally.

We want to make our wonder of creation, our care for creation, our joy at living in creation, all part of our worship of our creator God. Join us as we try and make that happen this next year.

Rev Brendan Martin

News From The Pews

When Brendan seeded the newly cleared land adjoining the churchyard he prayed a bit too hard for rain to make the grass grow, and boy did it rain, on and on and on! So hopefully by next Spring we'll have a lovely grass meadow with trees and flowers instead of a bramble patch. As Ed has now completed the final part of his training and is now a fully qualified Archery instructor, hopefully next year, among the flowers and trees there will be arrows flying in the meadow.

In September we celebrated the wedding of Tim Wedlake from Bells Yew Green and Amy Laurie, this was the last in a very busy year for weddings. We have also had the first baptisms for a long time when three members of our Junior Church, Rupert, May and Meg Minifie were baptised on 27th September. On 4th October at the Harvest Festival service, baby Isla Cooper seemed to enjoy everything that was happening including having water poured over her head.

Another reason for celebration in September, we were allowed to sing again in church and we heard our lovely organ for the first time in 18 months. Peter de Croos, our organist now for over 30 years received a huge welcome back at the beginning of the month, only to be hospitalised a few days later with kidney stones. We're pleased to report that Peter is now fully recovered and was back on the organ bench for the Harvest Festival Service on 4th October. Some of us remember the days when at Harvest time



At harvest time the church is full of tins and packets, which although not so pleasing to the eye and nose, are still the produce of the harvest for which we are giving thanks

the church was full of fruit, vegetables and autumn flowers, plaited loaves and sheaves of corn, when the church smelled of apples and chrysanthemums, the scents of harvest. But although we may look back with nostalgia, we have to meet the needs of the present, and there are still as many to be met, but the

needs are different, we now give to wider causes and organisations rather than to individuals. There is no point in sending the organisations which we support quantities of fragrant fresh fruit and vegetables, when it's food which will keep in the store cupboard that is of more use to them. So at harvest time the church is now full of tins and packets, which although not so pleasing to the eye and nose, are still the produce of the harvest for which we are giving thanks. This year we supported St Augustine's Food Bank, the Women's Refuge and the Diocese of Chichester Family Support Work. The FSW helps families in Sussex, those of all faiths or no faith, and is this year helping to care for refugees from Afghanistan

In October eight members of our youth group joined 60 other young people from Tunbridge Wells at a Youth For Christ day at Adamswell activity centre in Langton Green. They had a busy and exciting day, taking part in Tomahawk throwing and quad biking. However it wasn't entirely physical as they also listened to Christian speakers.

One piece of sad news was the death of Ros Burgess in September. Ros was an active member of our church and community for many years when she and Colin lived in Shernfold Park and later when they moved to Tunbridge Wells. She was a leading member of the church flower team, keeping the church looking lovely with fresh flowers throughout the year, particularly at festival times. She was also an accomplished pianist and provided music and accompaniment at church services on many occasions. Ros was also well known by the children and mums who came to our toddler group, where once a month she came along to play the piano for songs and nursery rhymes. Ros's great passion was her family, and she loved playing a significant part in caring for her five grandchildren, and was so very proud of them. The tributes which her daughter Claire and eldest grand daughter Bronte gave at Ros's funeral service showed how much she was cherished as a mother and grandmother, and how much she will be missed. We'll miss her too.

It seems incredible that this year of stop and start has almost gone and that in the next edition of Parish News, we'll be looking back on the services and activities of Christmas. But at least with any luck, unlike last year, Christmas won't be cancelled!

At the heart of Christmas



Join us as we celebrate Christmas this year

Christmas Services 2021
Frant and Eridge Churches

5th December
4pm Christingle, Frant

12th December
4pm Walking Nativity, Eridge
6pm Carols by Candlelight, Frant

19th December
4pm Walking Nativity, Frant
6pm Carols by Candlelight, Eridge

Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service, Frant
11pm Midnight Communion, Eridge

Christmas Day
9:30am Family Celebration, Frant
11:15am Christmas Communion, Eridge

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

November / December 2021

9:30am	Frant as One	7th November	Communion Service	11:15am
4:00pm	Festival Church as One			
9:30am	Communion Service	14th November	Morning Prayer	11:15am
4:00pm	Festival Church as One			
9:30am	Morning Worship	21st November	Communion Service	11:15am
4:00pm	Festival Church as One			
9:30am	Morning Worship	28th November	Communion Service	11:15am
4:00pm	Festival Church as One			
9:30am	Morning Worship	5th December	Communion Service	11:15am
4:00pm	Christingle			
9:30am	Communion Service	12th December	Morning Prayer	11:15am
6:00pm	Carols by Candlelight		Walking Nativity	4:00pm
9:30am	Morning Worship	19th December	Carols by Candlelight	6:00pm
4:00pm	Walking Nativity			
4:00pm	Crib Service	24th December	Midnight Communion	11:00pm
		<i>Christmas Eve</i>		
4:00pm	Crib Service	25th December	Midnight Communion	11:00pm
		<i>Christmas Day</i>		
		26th December	Morning Prayer	11:15am
		<i>Boxing Day</i>		

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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Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society presents...

» **Jack and the Beanstalk**
 2- 4 December 2021

**FEE, FI, FO, FUM...
 AN HILARIOUS PANTO
 THAT'S LOTS OF FUN**

Written by Alan. P. Frayn, this pantomime follows the comical antics of Dame Dotty Dimple and her Sons Jack and Simple Simon, and of course Buttermilk the cow.

Together with a whole host of characters causing mischief and mayhem, will they ever rescue Princess Primrose from the clutches of Buster Gut-Bucket the giant? (of course they will it's panto after all... oh no they won't... oh yes they will)

With lots of audience participation for all ages, this is sure to have you laughing fit to burst.

Come and join us for an evening of fun and frolics, mischief and mayhem...

Tickets available at Frant Village Shop

Frant Film Update

In the hope that we can have a short season, starting in January next year(2022), we have booked the Memorial Hall for the following dates:

- » **7th January**
- » **11th February**
- » **4th March**
- » **8th April**
- » **6th May**

So please put these dates in your diaries and/or calendars (possibly using a pencil would be best!).

Obviously, it all depends on the health of the Nation. We are yet to select the films but will keep you updated on this.

Fingers crossed.

—Greig and Anne Bannerman.

Frant Parish Council

The Parish Council covers a wide range of issues and therefore we benefit from having Councillors with diverse skills and experience. We do need more Council-lors to represent the community, so if you have ever thought that you might be in-terested in getting involved do come to a meeting and find out more. You can also contact Rosie Barnes our clerk for further information: clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk

» **Proposed Crossing over the A267 in Frant**

To support the new development at Fern Close and to improve pedestrian safety in the village, we are discussing building a crossing over the A267. We are currently obtaining street scene drawings and costings and will then consult with the community on the proposals. Please look out for information on our website, the Parish News and an information event at Frant Memorial Hall. Infrastructure is remarkably costly and the crossing would be a new feature in our landscape which must be carefully considered. We look forward to everyone participating in this process so that we can reach a positive community decision.

» **Queen's Platinum Jubilee 5 June 2022**

H.M. Queen will celebrate 70 years on the throne in 2022. We are starting to think how we as a Parish would like to celebrate this occasion and join communities across the country to mark this milestone. Ideas to date include a Big Lunch street party, Tea Party or a fete. If you have any ideas on how to make this a memorable June day or would like to get involved in the organisation we would be delighted to hear from you.

All members of the public are welcome at Parish meetings and the public forum provides the opportunity to raise any concerns or queries. Details of meeting dates, times and venues can be found on notice boards and on the website: www.frant-pc.gov.uk

—Councillor Ann-Frances Luther



Daisy's Kitchen

What a year!!!! We would like to say a huge thank you to all our customers who have supported us throughout the last four years and especially the last 18 months! Daisy's Kitchen is currently still only doing takeaway food but as of 1st January 2022 we will be back and open as a seated cafe as well as take-away. We will not have quite as many tables as before as we now need more room to prepare your food!

Whether you fancy a latte, tea, sandwich, jacket potato with a variety of fillings, fresh homemade soup or a lovely English breakfast, we have it all for you at Daisy's. You also need to try Vicky's homemade cakes - renowned around these parts as amazing!!! Thank you again for your custom and Merry Christmas to all from Daisy's staff.

Frant Stores

It has been a very busy and stressful last 18 months or so but thanks to a great team of staff and loyal customers, we have just about come out the other side! You will have seen the new fridges at the back of the shop - courtesy of the torrential rain in July which flooded the shop and blew up the old fridge. We are also getting the roof fixed which should mean no more buckets on the counter and floor - fingers crossed.

We will have our usual supply of Christmas goodies this year along with lots of locally made goodies, ranging from candles to pottery and paintings and Christmas cards, crackers to decorations. Don't forget to your order your fabu-lous local Joe Gingell turkeys from us early to avoid disappointment

Christmas stamps are on sale from 2 November. Please bear with us again this year at the Post Office. It has been incredibly challenging since the first lockdown at the Post Office - home shopping returns have quadrupled as have our queues sometimes! We are now a drop off for DPD deliveries which again will have its challenges regarding space! Also a reminder that since Brexit every parcel going abroad needs a customs label so if you are posting a few this Christmas please can you pop in and get some labels from us beforehand so your parcel is ready to post and to avoid the queues!

Many thanks for all your support and custom, we would not be here without you. Merry Christmas to all of you from everyone at Frant Stores!



Frant School

We have welcomed new children and families to our school this September, which is always lovely. School has been a very busy place since we came back in September with a sense of normality returning to school life. Here are a few of our highlights.

School trips have resumed with our KS2 children visiting Lullingstone Castle and Wilderness Woods

Our curriculum is full of exciting topics and events over the coming terms. Please do take a look at our website to find out more. This morning (end of term 1) I was fortunate to be passing by Hazel Class (year 3 and 4) to sample Roman cakes and to see wonderful project work that had been done at home.

Swimming has resumed at St Mary's School in Crowborough for our year 3 and 4 children

On a PE front, we managed to choose one of the best Friday afternoons to hold a whole school Sports Day on our school field followed by a cake sale. It was absolutely wonderful to see all of our children taking part and to see so many parents and families back enjoying, in person, school events

A week later, we had to move our Church Harvest Festival to the school hall at the very last minute due to torrential rain. As always, we managed it and the children rose to the occasion, sharing their learning with a full audience

Our reception children have settled so well into school life – it is a real joy and privilege to see them gain in confidence

as they come through the school gate.

Their buddies in year 6 have been very supportive and kind in helping with their settling in process.

Throughout this term staff in school have run workshops to support parents with learning at home. These have included spellings, reading, phonics and maths sessions.

By the time you read this our play leaders in Oak Class (years 5 and 6) will have been trained by Mr Papper at Uplands to be play leaders and support the school with lunchtime games

This term we have been running Forest School on a Friday afternoon in our school grounds. The children love this time outside around the fire. Mrs Montebello manages this for our school.

Open Days for prospective new parents in school are taking place. I am happy to show parents around school during term time. Please encourage any potential new parents to contact the school office.

On the last day of term 1 we held our celebration assembly in school. The children talked about their learning so far this term. For the first time since Jemima Kinley (ex pupil now reading Music at Oxford) wrote our school song the children were able to perform this to parents. I have to say it was truly amazing. We are looking forward to Jemima coming back into school to hear it performed.

Next term is always very busy in schools. A few snippets of what is to come; Parent consultations face to face in

school early in term 3

PTFA Bonfire behind the school on Saturday 6th November from 4pm – please do come and support us

Lower School Nativity in church on Friday 17th December at 2pm

KS2 Carol Concert in church on Tuesday 14th December at 6pm

PTFA events – Christmas cards, school disco, Christmas market to name a few.

Ice skating for the whole school in Tunbridge Wells

Christmas Lunch

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, Head of School

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Crowborough Community Centre
Pine Grove Crowborough TN6 1FE

» 11th November 2021 at 2pm

Lecturer: Georgina Bexon

Title: **Rituals and Riches: The History of the Southern Indian Temples**

Southern India offers up a treasure trove of visual history through its beautiful ancient temples, built by a succession of mighty dynasties. From the Pallavas to the Cholas, these beautifully decorated temples once acted as the religious, social and administrative centres of thriving communities, employing casts of thousands – priests, sculptors, engravers, carpenters, sacred parasol bearers, dancing girls, musicians, lamp-lighters, administrators, accountants and many more.

Georgina's lecture explores the fascinating temple tradition of Southern India – a journey of 2,000 years.

An art historian specialising in South Asian art Georgina has lived and worked in the UK, USA and Singapore. Her practice includes lecturing, writing, consulting and collecting. She is an official tour guide at Tate Modern and Art Historian at the Oriental Club, London and is a guest speaker on cruise ships for whom she has developed a series of art talks relating to Asian and Pacific destinations.

Georgina holds a BA in Art History from Southampton University, an MA

in Arts Management and Policy from City, University of London and an MA in Art History from SOAS, University of London. She is a Patron of the Contemporary Art Society, has been a Trustee of Salisbury Arts Centre and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Asiatic Society.

» 9th December 2021 at 2pm

Lecturer: Malcolm Jones

Title: **“Top of The Bill: Music Hall to Variety”**

The urban population exploded in the 19th century and demanded entertaining. The music halls grew out of the pubs and song and supper clubs and was a truly working class entertainment. The songs reflected the lives of its audience and the stars were the celebrities of the day. In the 20th century, Music Hall developed into Variety theatre and served the population its wonderfully eclectic mixture of acts from singers to magicians, eccentric dancers and comedians. The stars also began to use film and radio as a way to reach a wider audience.

Malcolm was Workshop and Events manager at the V&A Theatre Museum

in Covent Garden for 10 years where he was responsible for lectures, Study Days and workshops for adults. He has lectured and led workshops at many drama schools including RADA, The Actors Centre and Rose Bruford College and has contributed as a speaker on theatre to many television and radio programmes. He has worked with Age Exchange Community Arts since 2000 on many creative arts programmes with older people and intergenerational film and theatre projects.

We look forward to hearing his lecture, which will be our last of 2021.

Our lectures are currently available to members only, but if you would like to join, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01892 663388. For any further information, contact our Secretary on 07884 428780.

Nus Ghani, MP

Looking after our environment is one of the most important issues of this generation. Wealden countryside is one of the most beautiful parts of the country and I want to make sure that we pass on a healthy and clean environment to

our children. The UK is hosting the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 this month to bring together world leaders to commit to and to accelerate global climate action. However, each of us has a part to play and international ambitions will not mean anything without the commitment of small businesses and individuals locally. It is vital that we work towards making our transport cleaner and greener and I'm incredibly proud that many Wealden companies are already at the forefront of this change.

I was proud to support the Zero Carbon Tour of the UK's first fully electric coach launched by Wealden-born company Planet Mark. The coach was launched in June and is currently touring the country encouraging UK businesses to reduce their carbon print. I have also recently visited a Wealden-based engineering company JLC Group which makes fully electric and emission-free vehicles for city couriers, airports, seaports, local authorities, distribution centres or ware-houses. The vehicles are assembled on-site in Lower Dicker near Hailsham, providing green jobs and valuable work experience to young apprentices from local colleges.

The railway is already one of the most environmentally friendly ways to travel, but there is more to be done in Wealden to make it even greener. Last year, the local company Riding Sunbeams was awarded funds to build the world's first megawatt scale renewable solar energy plant on the border between Wealden and Lewes, which will directly power the Eastbourne-London line through solar panels.

Moreover, having secured multimillion-pound accessibility upgrades to Eridge and Crowborough train stations, it is my priority to keep pushing for a major investment into the electrification of the Uckfield Line. I have raised the matters with the Department for Transport repeatedly and I will continue this quest to get a firm commitment from Ministers as to when this investment will take place.

Wealden businesses are a perfect example of how small, local actions contribute to large collective goals. We need to empower more individuals, communities, and businesses to work towards net-zero goals and I will do all I can to support Wealden organisations in leading the initiative and ensuring a greener, more resilient future for us all.



Eridge Garden Club

» **Visit to Busi Jacobsohn Wine Estate**

Our members visited the beautiful vineyard at Busi Jacobsohn Wine Estate (pictured) in August and were warmly welcomed by vineyard owners, Douglas Jacobsohn and Susanna Busi Jacobsohn.

On a warm summer's afternoon Douglas guided us through the vineyard and told us the story of Busi Jacobsohn English Sparkling Wines and vineyard that they planted in 2015 here in Eridge. We were delighted to sample their delicious Cuvee' Brut and Extra Brut Rose' at the end of our tour.

» **Visit to Marchants Nursery**

In September we visited Marchants nursery and gardens in Laughton where plantsman, Graham Gough gave us a guided tour of the gardens and nursery. After an entertaining and informative talk, members walked through the gardens. We particularly enjoyed the great variety of grasses which are such a feature of the gardens, and the opportunity to buy some excellent plants from the nursery.

» **Autumn Plant Swap**

Our annual plant swap was kindly

hosted by Sharon Burvill in October. We were grateful for the donations of plants which we hope members will enjoy in their own gardens.

» **AGM and talk**

Wednesday 17th November we will meet up for the AGM followed by a talk on Growing Apples in the Weald by David Knight of Pippins Farm, Pembury.

Membership of the garden club is £5 a year, please contact Jane Stevens for membership, stitchesjane@gmail.com

Fuller's Christmas treats!

Fuller's are now taking Christmas orders and we have all of your Christmas meat favourites as well as Christmas present ideas and Hampers.

Please visit our website for more details www.fullers-tw.co.uk

Frant Parish Friendship Group

We are back at last – we began this new era with a Welcome Back tea party at the George in Frant on 7th September. This was made possible by a kind donation from the family of Jean Alvey. Our Chairman Brian Gill welcomed everybody with the following speech:

"How good for us to be at the George today. Firstly we are in Celebration Mode at the pleasure of all meeting up again after many months of constraint. Along with this we are thinking of Jean Alvey and the generous donation we received from her family. This was in gratitude for the way the Village had all-ways welcomed her with respect and love.

So let's begin this new session by looking at our Frant Parish Friendship Group.. The Charter states our aims to be: 1. To provide friendship and sociability 2. Help reduce loneliness and social isolation 3. Provide activities which are stimulating, interesting, fun and contribute to either or both our physical and mental well being.

Joyfully, there are more than 40 of us together this afternoon. Our Autumn and Winter meetings at The Stables. started again on Thursday September 23rd with a talk by Neil Sadler, of course with the usual tempting tea and cakes.!

I can tell you our November meeting will be different. It's at lunchtime! - it's the AGM and we'll have the fun of sharing a fish and chip meal together. Your Committee, having looked at the things you enjoy most will be presenting a programme for the future.

The last thing I want to say about our Group is that we are totally inclusive and welcome people from all walks of life – provided they are over 55!"

Our first afternoon meeting was on the 23rd September when we had an extremely amusing talk from Neil Sadler an ex policeman who during his career was sent to the Caribbean. His talk was entitled 'Almost Death in Paradise'. This was a nod to the popular TV series set on an idyllic tropical island. How-ever his time in Trinidad and Tobago was not so glamorous and far more dan-gerous! The October meeting on the 28th will be on the explorer Shackleton

Our November meeting on the 18th will be our AGM with fish and chip lunch and will start at 11.30 am. Then in December we are having a Christmas afternoon tea party on Sunday 12th December 2.30 – 400 pm. Our entertainer will be To-ny Harris on pantomimes.

We are always looking for new members – do come along and try us out. Enquiries Valerie Palmer 01892 750559



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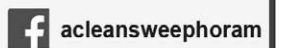
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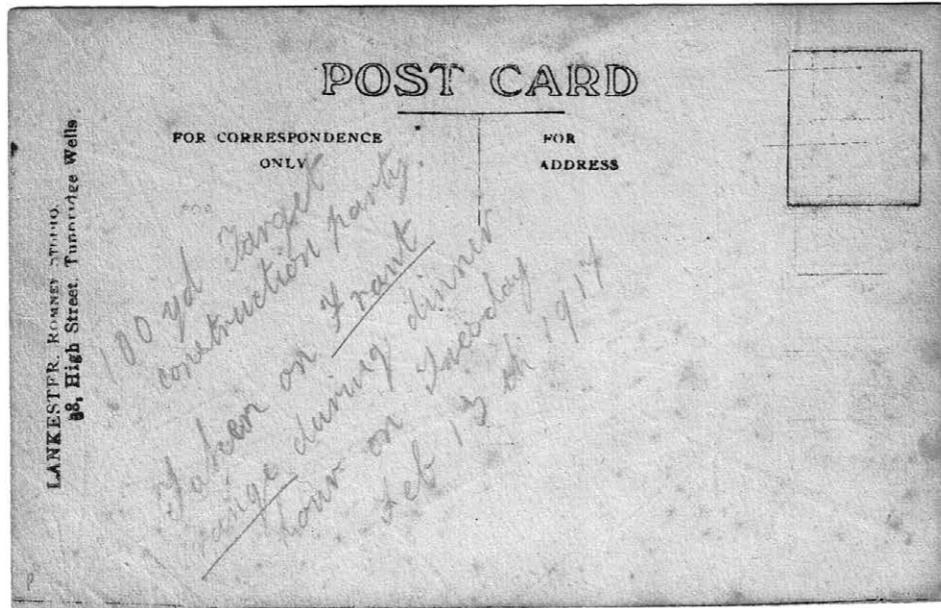
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Frant Range Postcard 1917

Can you help identify where this photo was taken. The postcard (right) that belongs to a friend of an RSPB volunteer. The volunteer forwarded them to a Frant resident who he thought might be able to identify where the photo was taken. Although the date of 1965 is stamped on the photo you'll see from what's written on the back of the card is that it was apparently taken on "Frant range" during dinner hour on Tuesday 13 February 1917 and shows the "100-yard target construction party". Any suggestions welcome!



Parish Past

With Remembrance Sunday ahead, it seems appropriate to reflect on our war memorials. 43 names in Frant for the First War and about another 10 in Eridge (more than named from recent research). In what was then a fairly thinly populated rural parish this may represent most males of working age when you add in those who came home but were permanently damaged. It must have thrown an almost impossible burden on women, the elderly and teenagers just to get the harvests in and keep some life going. A picture replicated across Europe. Happily, for Britain, the toll was less in the Second War but I would like to high-light one of those remembered --to stand for the rest - whose story I heard from his family who lived here all their lives.

Clifford Dearden was educated at Frant School, worked as a clerk when he left and also joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1939 to train as a pilot. He was assigned to fly Lysanders, outdated, slow (max 90mph!) artillery spotters with one machine gun as armament. But they could land and take off anywhere and in 1940 with the army in desperate peril his squadron was sent to the cliffs of Dover, ordered to circle over Dunkirk's beaches and radio back when they saw an approaching wave of German bombers. This gave precious time for Spitfires and Hurricanes to reach there from their Kent bases and defend the exposed troops: they were unable just to patrol there with the limited fuel such aircraft then carried. One by one the virtually defenceless Lysanders were shot down, including Clifford's. His body was never recovered but his unsung act of courage helped save an army and a country. —Pat Wright

Remembrance Sunday

» 14th November

Frant Memorial Hall AT 3.00 pm

The village commemoration for those who served in the two World Wars and in more recent times will be led by the Wadhurst Branch of the British Legion and the Rev. Brendan Martin. Everyone is welcome.

Memories of Auntie Phyl

» Down Lane during World War II

This is the second story from my aunt-in-law, Phyl Sismore, who was born at 8 Rock Cottages in Down Lane in 1926. She has so many memories and stories, I thought I'd put them in print.

» Plane spotting!

During the Second World War, Phyl

was a "plane spotter" in the village – she was only 14 years old when the Battle of Britain and the Blitz happened. The job entailed looking up in the sky and recording the type and number of German planes flying overhead, then reporting them to her father Frank who was in a "Dad's Army" station in the pill box on the village green.

Phyl recalls many bombing raids happening and she and her older sister Molly used to hide either inside the house under the stairs or upstairs in the wardrobe below trays for protection. If outside, Molly and Phyl were told by their father and mother, Clara, to "hide in the bean run"!

She recalls once cycling back from Tunbridge Wells when halfway up Frant Hill she heard bombers coming, so she

jumped off her bike and hid in Chase Wood until they passed.

» Bombs on Down Lane.

During the raids, it was quite usual for the German pilots to drop bombs that they hadn't released over London in the countryside on their return to Germany. One such time, a bomb blew up the barn opposite the house, within the Woodside estate. This bomb blew out the gable end of Phyl's house. Fortunately, no one was injured but the whole wall had to be rebuilt.

When my wife Wendy (Phyl's niece) and I obtained the house after Phyl's mother died in 1986 at the grand age of 96, we put windows in this gable wall and change the staircase around – it was during this work that I discovered the original rebuilt stairs were not structurally connected to the rebuilt wall! So, for 45 years, people walking up the stairs could have fallen down.

» The army close at hand

Before the war, a large property halfway along Down Lane called Hazelhurst was a Jewish boys school. During the Second World War, it was changed into an army barracks.

When the army was at Hazelhurst, Phyl, her sister Molly and other teenagers were invited to dances at the barracks in the ballroom. Molly was two years older than Phyl and met her future husband, Doug Matthews, at one of the balls.

Doug had a great army friend called



Bomb damage at Eaton House, Church Lane, 1943

Bob Ball and they got to know Phyl, Molly, Clara and Frank. Clara used to sell things to the residents, including the soldiers, in Down Lane. Frank used to buy things from Tunbridge Wells in bulk and Clara would store them under the stairs in her "shop".

Bob would drive the bus from Hazelhurst to the village and further afield for war duties. On the return to Down Lane he would stop the bus outside the house and go in to have a drink with Clara and Frank while the soldiers would queue for the shop in the

understairs cupboard, before taking their purchases back to the barracks.

One day, Bob was at the house having a drink and chat on the way from walking back from the village in the dark. Soon after he left the house for the barracks, walking across the fields, he fell over something on the ground. He thought it was a body and quickly got his gun ready thinking it was a German soldier, but suddenly realised it was a cow asleep!

If there are other residents living in Frant, Eridge or Bells Yew Green who may like to share their stories with others, do get in touch.

Carmel.kinley@gmail.com



Sherfold Hospital, 1915

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**Parish Diary
November/December 2021**

» **Thursday 11 November & 9 December;** Arts Society Ashdown Forest, Lectures; See page 8

» **Wednesday 17 November**
Frant Garden Club AGM
Frant Memorial Hall; 7.30pm

» **Wednesday 17 November**
Eridge Garden Club AGM; See page 10

» **Thursday 18 November**
Frant Parish Friendship Group AGM
See page 10

» **2nd, 3rd & 4th December**
Frant Pantomime, Jack & The Beanstalk
See page 7

» **Sunday 12 December**
Frant Parish Friendship Group
Christmas Tea Party – see page 10

Regular Meetings

Little Fishes: Baby & Toddler Group
Every Tuesday 10–11.30am 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
Next deadline: 10th December 2021

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Eridge Village Hall Hire
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Tracy Bryant

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Bob Standley: 783579

Parish Council meetings

Full PC meetings are held at 7.30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Planning meetings are held on the first Monday of the month.

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nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Police Contact Details:

To report a crime or incident dial 101
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