

Parish News

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FRANT, ERIDGE & BELLS YEW GREEN



Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

"Lord Abergavenny's Dark Bay Carriage Horse with a Terrier", 1785, Oil on canvas, by Thomas Gooch

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

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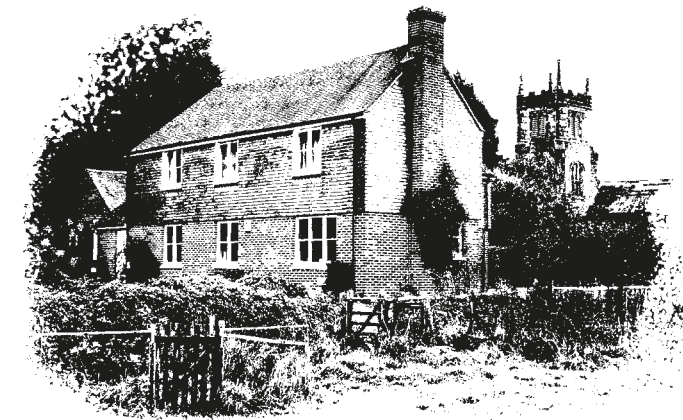
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From the Rectory



I am always very impressed by the history of our little parishes. Just the other day a man came into Frant Church who said he had been looking at Anglo Saxon Charters referring to our parish. A church at Frant apparently dates back to the late 8th century, and this chap reckoned a church here may well have been the oldest church in the local area. All churches are a product of their local community and embody the local history. Eridge Church was built by the 2nd Earl of Abergavenny in 1853 as a school room, but swiftly changed into a church for locals in 1856 and the school housed in another building. Both churches are Grade II listed buildings.

I often think of that previous local community who decided to build their church all those years ago. When it comes to our villages, no one was looking from afar and thought "we must build a church there" - there was not such far off benefactors. It was built by local people and maintained by local people ever since as a place of worship, wonder, and love of God. Our churches throughout history have completely relied on local people giving and local fundraising to exist, and it has never been the case that money comes from the Church of England or the government - they are the legacy of our own local communities.

So as I think of those countless generations that maintained our village churches over those years I feel inspired but I also feel the weight of responsibility for our generation and our future.

Both of our churches now need once in a generation building work.

Holy Trinity Church Eridge hasn't had major work for 75 years, but we must now renew all the electrics and the heating which needs replacing. The good news is that our church will be lighter, warmer, the church clock will run again for the first time in many years, and we will become a carbon neutral church - a significant achievement for us, and an inspiration to other churches. The cost of this is around £31,000

St. Alban's Church Frant requires urgent redecorating for the first time in decades, especially because of the staining that happened from water damage when the church lead roof was stolen three years ago. We also must urgently renew our broken vision system and update our struggling sound system. At the same time we want to look to the future and make the Dais (stage) larger and wheelchair accessible, which will aid our fantastic concerts and enable everyone access to the choir stalls and communion rail. Finally, we hope to renew our kitchen area for better hospitality in our services and concerts. This is a significant undertaking with the redecorating alone costing more than £36,000

We very much need and ask for your help locally to enable our beautiful church buildings to continue to be preserved for future generations. We will be letting everyone know more about our once in a generation building work this Autumn - please support our appeal - and gift aid if you can:

—Rev Brendan Martin



News from the Pews and Parish Round-up

As summer’s long golden evenings give way to cooler breezes and the first blush of autumn, our villages have been buzzing with life, laughter, and plenty of community spirit. From music that lifted our hearts to garden gates thrown wide open, it’s been a season to remember.

We began July with a musical treat as Frant hosted its very first Weald Youth Music Forum concert in the church. The Frant School Choir sang alongside the Lewes Sinfonietta, with our friend Ellie Gingell performing beautifully. This new initiative aims to bring live music closer to our rural communities, and judging by the smiles in the pews, it’s already struck the right chord.

Our Festival Church gatherings have continued to bring all ages together in worship, reflection, and plenty of hands-on fun. After sharing time in church, we’ve headed down to the Forest School area for crafts, activities, and outdoor adventures.

On Saturday 12th July, the bacon rolls were sizzling for our first Men’s Breakfast in years. Inspired by the success of our Women’s Breakfasts, our gentlemen enjoyed good food, warm fellowship, and an inspiring testimony to start the day.

We are also delighted to congratulate Tom & Rebecca who got married in Frant Church in July. It was a beautiful day (pictured) and there was such an atmosphere of joy amongst a stunning floral display in and around the church. We wish them all the best for their future together.

And who could forget Frant Open Gardens on 21st June? The village bloomed as residents welcomed visitors to gardens large and small. The family fun dog competition brought plenty of wagging tails, live music kept us tapping our toes, and tea and cakes flowed freely. The church was open too, with a clever “I Spy” challenge for children in the churchyard.

Our Holiday Club Day was fully booked and a joyful whirl of Forest School activities, games, crafts, Bible stories, and new friendships – open to all entering Y2 to Y7 in September.

July also saw a wonderful evening of 1950s fun in Eridge, raising an impressive £1,750 for Eridge Church. It was such a brilliant night – the classic cars and motorcycles made it extra special.



We also welcomed the newest members of Frant School with a teddy bears’ picnic in the Rectory Garden. New and current reception children (and their families) shared cake, games, and the chance to make new friends.

Across our villages, there’s been plenty more going on – the Bowls Club’s beautifully kept green has been in full swing, cricket matches have been played under blue skies, and at Bells Yew Green the hall is thriving again after a successful run of fundraising events, including a jumble sale that brought in over £1,400..

The Brecknock Arms in Bells Yew Green hosted a lively “Summer in August” day with tractors, an ice cream van, classic cars, BBQ, and live music. And they’re not stopping there – the Beer Festival is back from 5th–7th September,

offering a fine selection of local ales in their large, family (and dog) friendly garden.

We have also been treated to some live music on the green and food vans. Plenty of locals came to watch with their chairs and enjoyed the incredible music and social evening with friends and drinks as the night drew in.

Looking ahead, our Music in Frant series continues with the London Community Gospel Choir on 25th October. This will be their first visit to Frant, and we expect a sell-out, so this is your chance to get tickets before the wider world finds out!

As we step into autumn, may our parish continue to be a place where neighbours gather, music plays, and community life flourishes – whatever the season brings.

St Alban’s, Frant & Holy Trinity, Eridge

Rector

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



www.frantchurch.org
Churchwarden

Juliet Nightingale—01580 200403
Kyle Laidler—07775 855866



www.eridgechurch.org
Churchwardens

Jonathan Lynn—07788 597051
Stephen Barnes—861302

Services for

September / October 2025

10.30am	Frant as One (All Age).....	7th September	Communion Service	9.15am
10:30am	Communion Service.....	14th September	Morning Prayer	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church.....			
10:30am	Morning Worship	21st September	Communion Service	9:15am
10:30am	Morning Worship	28th September	Communion Service	9:15am
5.00pm	Festival Church.....			
10.30am	Harvest Festival	5th October	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Communion Service.....	12th October	Harvest Festival	9.15am
5.00pm	Festival Church.....			
10.30am	Morning Worship	19th October	Communion Service	9.15am
10.30am	Morning Worship	26th October	Communion Service	9.15am

WORSHIP AT BELLS YEW GREEN

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



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Equipping Frant Church for 21st Century

Exciting transformational work will be happening to the interior of our church at Frant over the next few months: for the first time in about 40 years all the walls and some of the ceilings will be painted and a pair of large folding TV monitors will be installed at the front. A small team of volunteers working with our Rector, Brendan, has been planning the projects over the past year and, thanks to some generous local residents and Church members, enough funding has been received to award contracts. Additional projects, such as extending the stage into the nave and installing a full oak kitchen to replace the tea station, are being planned and seeking funding; details of which will be shared later in this article.

We had thought that selecting colours would prove to be the most challenging aspect of the redecoration but, in fact, it was choosing the most appropriate type of paint for a 200 year old building with solid masonry walls and no damp course. Traditionally, churches have been painted using limewash—a compound of slaked lime and water—which enables moisture to evaporate from their

surfaces. This option, however, was not economically viable as it would have meant removing all the existing paint layers applied from Victorian through to more recent times. Equally, using modern impermeable paints was not practical as this would have quickly led to peeling surfaces, crumbling plaster and mildew. A paint was required that could address common issues in historic buildings and remain effective for many years with minimal maintenance.

With guidance from our Church Architect and other experts, the team selected Zinsser Grade 1—a high-performance, mould-resistant, permeable paint suitable for various surfaces. It blocks stains, dries without tension, and helps prevent cracking and peeling. In areas where the substrate is particularly problematic, the plan was to prime with a flexible breathable membrane called Zinsser Peel Stop.

The team opted for colours that were somewhat more distinctive than the traditional white commonly used in church interiors over the previous century—including at Frant—but not as intense as a deep burgundy red, traces of which remain visible on the walls below the dado rail. Zinsser Grade 1 paint can

be tinted to any colour and by using the Farrow and Ball colour chart as a reference, several colours were tested on the south and north aisle walls. The team decided on a dual colour scheme with window, arch and door reveals and the ceiling beds highlighted in a pale off-white ('Wimborne White') in contrast to a darker off-white ('Shaded White') for the walls and ceiling beams. Brilliant white was to be reserved for the metal window frames and cast iron pillars.

Paul Keineder, who is well known by many Frant residents and who decorated the Lych Gate in 2019, will be undertaking the decoration starting mid-September.

Updating the audio-visual system has also had its challenges, not least being the need to incorporate 21st century technology into a historic building in a sympathetic way. A screen, or screens, would need to be located so that they can be clearly visible from all areas within the church. Our solution was to install two 6-foot screens on the south and north walls of the chancel, positioned above the pulpit and the rector's chair. When not in use, these screens can be moved back to rest flat against unadorned sections of wall. Ashdown Audio Visual of Uckfield will install the new system in early October.

So, what next? Well, we have plans to replace and extend the stage into the nave which will entail the removal of the first row of pews. This will provide more floor space for musicians at our concerts and, with the addition of a rail and ramp, enable greater access to the chancel. We would also like to replace and upgrade the kitchen with oak cabinets, granite work tops, dishwasher and fridge, to assist the concerts and other events requiring hospitality. We are also considering removing some of the back pews to create a more flexible space for socialising after church services and for community activities. This would also have the benefit of exposing the only surviving row of box pews from the 1820's Regency Gothic interior. Both these projects, as well as a myriad of smaller projects, many of which are about conserving and maintaining the existing fabric, depend on funding from local people like you. If you wish to support any of these projects, even in a small way, we would love to hear from you.

—David Torr, Ian Holton, Peter Payne, Rev. Brendan Martin

Summer in the Parish

What a wonderful summer it has been and continues to be in our beautiful Parish. Each of our three villages have enjoyed successful fundraising events which have once again demonstrated the huge sense of community spirit and, most importantly, fun. Here is what's been going on:

» Frant Open Gardens - Delight on Summer Solstice

Basking in wall-to-wall sunshine on Saturday 21st June, the longest and one of the most sweltering days of the year, Frant was filled with glorious colour and community spirit for its much heralded Open Gardens Event (pictured this page).

Twelve houses generously opened their gates inviting locals to share their pride and joy with fellow plant lovers and what a visual feast greeted us at every stop!

There was something for everyone from classic English cottage gardens where rows of hollyhocks stood tall like sentinels to Mediterranean-inspired spaces where the lavender teemed with bees necking nectar like happy drunks at The George.

One minute we were soaking up the scent of roses framed by freshly clipped box hedge parterres that transported us to a French chateau and the next we were grateful for the calm and cooling shade of a leafy green courtyard with a rainforest vibe.

Much of the fun was not knowing what discoveries lay in wait ... a hidden gem behind an innocuous hedge rubbed shoulders with another showstopper and perhaps the most dramatic of all



the gardens with vast sweeping lawns, cascading fountains and all the elegance and splendour of a luxury retreat or movie location.

The searing heat understandably saw fewer members of the canine community taking part in the Dog Show but we still enjoyed a decent four-legged turn-out with five dogs all crowned winners and rewarded with treats! Grateful thanks to the wonderful, patient pooches and their owners.

Thanks to the brilliant volunteers serving refreshments and delicious home-made cakes in the Village Hall which itself looked a picture, beautifully arranged with wild sweet peas and cut hydrangeas.

Despite the soaring temperatures, the mood stayed upbeat and even

the amazing plant stall holders kept themselves and their greenery from wilting, laughing through the heat to raise £2,150.00 for the Village Hall. Big thanks again.

Further donations are always welcome and can be made to:

Acc No 00276149, BSC 30 98 77, Frant Memorial Hall

It was lovely to enjoy our first Open Garden scheme as Frant residents and support an event that drew so many smiles and prompted friendly chats along the way. The day was a celebration not only of horticultural talent but also of the warmth and pride of our village community.

—Nadia Jones

Bells Yew Green Events

The group fund raising efforts continue for our village hall thanks to a team of enthusiastic volunteers and those in the Parish (and beyond) who support our events.

At the end of June was the much anticipated jumble sale. Having initially wondered what we would do if there was insufficient jumble to sell, by the time the day arrived, the hall was bursting with jumble! The next concern with non-ticket events is, of course, will people turn up? As you can see from the photograph, that was certainly not an issue. The hall was packed and busy with sales (and negotiations) and being one of the many boiling hot summer's days we have had this year, the tables and chairs under the trees outside were a popular choice for some who needed a "retail rest" with a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cake.

So far as the level of funds raised is concerned, we have been absolutely astonished! Some of the very generous donations from residents were just too good to be sold as jumble so we had made over £600 in sales on Vinted before the day arrived. At the time of writing this piece, we have made just over £1400. Items are still selling on Vinted so who knows what the final figure will be.

A HUGE thank you to the residents who kindly donated jumble, the team of volunteers who baked cakes and helped on the day. It was a real team effort.

In August, we had professional haircuts fund raiser at the hall. Experienced hairdresser and Bells Yew Green resident, Amelia very kindly donated her time giving haircuts in the



hall with all proceeds going towards our funds. Smiles all round from ladies who benefited from this excellent and remarkably reasonable service!

» Brecknock Arms Summer Fete

On 10 August, Bells Yew Green was abuzz with activity around the Brecknock Arms and The Green. There was an impressive collection of tractors and classic motors on display as well as a miniature steam engine on show. On such a wonderfully warm summer's day, the refreshments van was a welcome addition to The Green as you can imagine.

There was a great turnout at the pub for its delicious BBQ, fun and games (including sticky peaches), craft stalls and live music. Thank you to the



Brecknock Arms' team for a fun filled afternoon.

» Eridge Vintage Party

We held the vintage party at the end of June to raise funds for the upkeep of Eridge church.

The weather was beautiful, the gin fizz nicely chilled and canapés ready to be served,

With 84 guests, 15 classic cars, a jazz trio, a 3 course meal, games and dancing, the vintage evening was a rip roaring success.

» The Happy Gardener Workshops at Bells Yew Green Village Hall

Workshops where local gardeners share their knowledge and experience.



- *Workshop 1*
- *Monday 15 September 10am to 12pm*
- *The Environmentally Friendly Garden and the Marvellous Magic of Manure Mulching*

Jan and Colin Steadman explain how they created an environmentally friendly garden in a small space, with slides to show how they achieved it. They unearth the secrets of manure mulching and explain how you too can grow beautiful roses! There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.

To book your place please email friendsofbyg@gmail.com

Venue: Bells Yew Green Village Hall
Price: £10 to include tea, coffee and cake

All proceeds to the Bells Yew Green Village Hall



Frant Panto & Dramatic Society

Frant Pantomime & Dramatic Society is delighted to announce this winter's production: the much-loved fairy tale Beauty and the Beast – brought to life in classic pantomime style!

This year's show promises something for everyone – music, laughter, magic, and plenty of audience participation. The production is based on the award-winning script by Alan P. Frayn, known for its fast-paced humour, clever characters, and heartwarming charm. Expect outrageous comedy from Belle's spoilt sisters, slapstick antics in the village beauty parlour, and, of course, a tale as old as time at the heart of it all.

The Society has been a proud part of village life since 1969, staging two productions each year at Frant Memorial Hall. Whether you're a regular in the audience or have never been to a local panto before – this is the perfect family outing to brighten up the darker months. We are starting rehearsals in September and are always happy to welcome new people either for on stage or backstage so if you would like to support your local group, email on frantpanto@gmail.com.

Performance dates are 4th, 5th and 6th December 2025 (including a Saturday matinee) and ticket details will be available on www.frantpanto.co.uk a month beforehand. Our Panto is timed to coincide with the Frant Christmas Market at The George too, so why not make a weekend of it and kick off your festive season in style.

Follow us @frant_pantomime_society_ on Instagram and Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society on Facebook for updates.

Let's all support this much-loved community tradition – and join in the fun this winter as the magic unfolds on stage! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Frant Parish Friendship Group

We start the autumn season with our exercise classes beginning on Thursday 18th September at 2.30 in the Stables. This is a course of six sessions and after September will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. All Welcome.

Then our first afternoon meeting will be on the 25th September at 2.30 in the Stables when our speaker will be Joe Mendell and his subject 'Houdini'. In October the 23d we have Jane Ramsey talking on the Antique Trade, November



the 27th will be our AGM and we will finish the year with our Christmas Tea Party on the 11th December.

We will also be continuing our games afternoons in the George and these will be on the 9th September, 11th October and 13th of November at 2.30 pm in the George Pub.

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

Enquiries Valerie Palmer
valeriepalmer1500@gmail.com 01892 750559

RSPB Broadwater Warren

Bird activity across Broadwater Warren has quietened as the breeding season draws to a close. However, our bird surveyors have observed mixed flocks starting to form and some recent notable sightings include a Dartford Warbler (pictured) near the car park and a Woodlark in flight over the western heath. A group of four fallow deer – two does accompanied by well-grown fawns – have recently been observed in good health. If you visit on a sunny, warm day, a trip to the decoy pond may offer opportunities to observe dragonflies and damselflies.

Habitat management activity also tends to slow during the busy spring and summer months to minimise disturbance to breeding wildlife. Nonetheless, essential work has continued, such as ride maintenance. As autumn approaches, management efforts are expected to increase and if you visit in the next few weeks you may see initial preparations for more extensive

work such as scalloping in the woodland margins.

We have also recently said goodbye to Alan Loweth, a much-valued member of the team who wore many hats over the years—Office Manager, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Volunteer Warden, Dormouse Monitor and Work Party Volunteer. He also used to write this very update. His time, energy, and deep knowledge of the reserve have made a lasting impact, and his presence will be greatly missed by everyone who worked alongside them.

Frant Garden Club

When the Frant Garden Club committee sit round my dining room table planning our programme for the coming year the one thing we hope for is fine weather for our garden visits, and this year you would have thought there would have been no problem in achieving this. It was not to be, however, as on the one day in June when the much needed rain fell heavily and the temperature dropped, we had booked an afternoon visit to “Hollymount”, a privately owned garden in High Hurstwood which opens for the National Garden Scheme. We were not to be deterred, and in the company of the owner, Jonathan, we enjoyed a delightful tour of his 7 acre garden which includes delights such as waterfalls, ponds, a huge variety of plants (many of which were in full bloom), a secret garden, and the added attraction of pigs, alpacas, chickens and ducks. None of us were in a hurry to leave, despite the weather, as we enjoyed tea, cakes and chatter overlooking his

formal garden, but, I think I was not the only one who hoped that fate would be kinder to us on our next trip, a full day outing to St. Mary's House in Bramber.

The day of this visit did not start well with the coach driver pointing out rain on the windscreen, but, by the time we reached the house, things were looking up and the sun came out. St Mary's House had started life as a pilgrims' inn in the 1400's so has a fascinating history, but the present day is just as fascinating because when it was bought in 1984 by its present owners (now aged in their 80's and 90's) the house and gardens were virtually derelict. They have worked tirelessly to restore the estate as evidenced by the MBE's they were awarded by Queen Elizabeth II for their efforts. The house, which is full of treasures and collections, has elements dating back to when it was first built, but also has had later additions including a grand Victorian music room which is now used for concerts. The five acres of gardens include a prehistoric Ginkgo Biloba tree, and have been divided up into separate rooms plus a large secret garden surrounding a lake. All of this is now supported by a band of volunteers who work in the gardens and act as guides in the house, and who helped to make our visit a most enjoyable and memorable experience.

We return indoors to the Memorial Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st October when Kathrine Lynn will give her talk “Gardening with the Tudors.” Kathrine is well known to us now, and we look forward to another lively and informative afternoon. Our programme ends for us on Tuesday, 25th November with our AGM and pre-Christmas gathering, and, so, another enjoyable year for the Garden Club will come to an end.

—*Dianna Tennant*

News from Nus Ghani, MP

I hope that you had a lovely summer and enjoyed some downtime in our beautiful countryside. With Parliament in recess over August, I had the opportunity to spend even more time at home in Sussex Weald and while out and about, I caught up with many residents on some of the top local issues.

One of the topics that kept coming up in our conversations was the access to banking services across the constituency and opportunities for

in-person consultations in light of the closures of many local bank branches. While decisions to open or close a bank branch are commercial decisions, it is imperative that banks and building societies recognise the needs of all their customers, including those of many Sussex Weald residents who still need to use in-person services.

The impact of bank closures must be mitigated where possible and I appreciate that many Post Office branches have stepped up to provide a greater range of banking services at their counters, including balance enquiries, cash withdrawals, and cash and cheques deposits. However, despite the growing use of online banking and remote access, I know from your correspondence and conversations that retaining access to face-to-face assistance with more complicated financial matters is still important to many of you.

I have recently welcomed the newly established banking hub in Hailsham, which has been operating from the High Street Post Office since March and was the first of its kind to open in East Sussex. It is a key, well used community facility similar to a traditional bank, which is shared by multiple providers whose representatives are present on a specific day of the week for customers to speak to them in a private space and get financial advice.

While this is a great win for Hailsham, I appreciate that not all residents are able to travel to access it and I am keen to ensure that other towns and villages across Sussex Weald have the opportunity to benefit from a similar provision within their community.

This is why I launched a short survey on my website, for you to share your views and help me make the case to Link and Cash Access UK who make assessments, and recommend, and deliver banking hubs. If you can, please spare a moment to let me know your views at: www.nusghani.org.uk/bankinghubs.

Your participation will ensure that I am better informed when making representations and campaigning for more local facilities.

Moon Dance

On 17th & 18th July, Moon Down hosted their charity music festival, Moon Dance.

Moon Down is based on Team Dynamics International's and Frant

Lakes Fishing site on the Hawkenbury Road.

This year Moon Dance was supporting three charities, Prostate Cancer UK, Thames Valley Air Ambulance and a Just Giving page for Thomas Chapman who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumour. These three charities were all personal choices. My husband and fellow Moon Dance organiser, Charlie, was diagnosed with early prostate cancer in January, so we hoped to raise the awareness of PSA testing for early diagnosis. Thames Valley Air Ambulance in memory of our friend, Colin Foster, who was fatally injured in a cycling accident on Father's Day. Lastly, but not least, another good friend, Iain Thomas's nephew, Tom Chapman, was diagnosed with grade 4 astrocytoma – an aggressive form of brain cancer, just 2 weeks after returning from this honeymoon.

Moon Dance started on the Friday evening with chilled acoustic sets in the bar, where the hardy weekend campers relaxed on a lovely summer's evening. The threatened rain didn't arrive until after midnight by which time everyone was safely snuggled in under canvas.

The crowd was entertained by an eclectic mix of rock, pop, country, Ska and reggae with our resident DJ, Fred, keeping the vibe going during each performance.

The bar did a roaring trade and our local food providers kept everyone's bellies full – Field & Flame with BBQ to die for, for those who like a little spice, VibeYourTasteBuds brought the flavour of the Caribbean with their jerk chicken and goat curry and to satisfy those with a sweet tooth and a caffeine habit, Annie's Treats in their signature pink van, offered cakes, cream teas, coffees, teas, smoothies and milkshakes!

Thank you to all those that attended and lovely to meet some locals that hadn't ventured to Moon Dance before and judging by the giggles and slightly wobbly walks, they enjoyed themselves immensely.

Charles and I are pleased to say that we raised just over £1,200 for Prostate Cancer UK and £250 each for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Tom's Just Giving page.

Moon Dance 17th & 18th July 2026 – early bird tickets will be available from 1 September. Just check my website for details.

Parish Past

You don't associate Frant with gunpowder. Iron and cannons, yes but gunpowder?

First invented in China around 900AD gunpowder was a mixture of charcoal, sulphur and saltpetre and by the 17th century there were various royal mills to combine these, the nearest being at Faversham, but minor mills existed elsewhere, locally at Battle and near Southborough, where Powdermill Lane still remembers its existence. Charcoal was produced locally but saltpetre only occurs naturally in the east, notably India, which made it difficult and expensive to obtain.

As relations with Spain worsened in the 16th century this became a major worry until it was discovered that it could be produced by mixing horse manure, earth and urine (the best from "those who drink wyne or strong bears") which was matured in heaps over months, then distilled and dried, and transported in oak barrels. When Armada year (1588) revealed just how serious the gunpowder shortage was, a system was installed for compulsory contributions of urine and provision of "dongheaps" to which all southeastern parishes were obliged to contribute, no doubt including Frant and Eridge, a dirty, onerous, and rarely paid for duty which as time went by was much resented. —*Pat Wright*

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest
» **Thursday 11 September 2025 at 2.00 pm - Bruegel: Peasants, Proverbs and Landscapes with lecturer Paula Nuttall.**
Paula's lecture focuses on the art of Peter Bruegel the Elder (c.1525/30-1569). The talk will explore his work and its meanings, from his beginnings in the style of Hieronymus Bosch, to the development of a highly original art that offered an alternative to the Italianate art then in vogue.

» **Thursday 9 October 2025 at 2.00pm - Painter and Plantsman: Cedric Morris, Irises and Beyond with lecturer Caroline Holmes**
The flower paintings of Cedric Morris (1889-1982), which captured plants from around the Mediterranean, the Canaries and beyond, reveal him as a consummate botanist. When Morris and his partner Arthur Lett-Haines relocated their East

Anglia School of Painting and Drawing to Benton End near Hadleigh in Suffolk they created not just a school but a vibrant, eclectic, artistic hub in a setting of Morris' horticultural genius.

Lectures take place at Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough, TN6 1FE

Everyone is welcome – members free, visitors £8. Refreshments are available at the end of the lecture. For further information see tasaf.org.uk

Frant School News
Another school year has flown by here at Frant School. Please enjoy reading about our news.

We said a very fond farewell to our Year 6 leavers and had a lovely service at St Alban's on Tuesday 22nd July with the whole school. The Year 6's also enjoyed a gunging and water fight the previous week, as tradition on the school field – Mrs Challis couldn't help getting stuck in!

We are sad to say good bye to some staff who will be leaving the school; Mrs Speechley and Mrs Bones. We thank them for everything they have done for the children and the school this academic year.

A big thank you to Mrs Davey who came back to support the school and Oak class for a term and continuing her connections to the school as well as organising and putting on a fantastic end of year production.

We also held our annual rounders match between the year 6's and staff. We are pleased to say for the first time (in a long time) the staff won, but only by 1 ½ rounders. The Year 6's were a tough team but played incredibly well.

This term we hosted Parish lunch, inviting parishioners from the village to join the children for lunch and a tour of the school. We had some lovely feedback from our visitors to the school this term and our House Captains did a brilliant job of showing them around the school. We are pleased to say that we will be continuing this next academic year, so please keep your eye out for dates in the village if you would like to join us.

We have been working with the Church to host and support our new families whose children will start school in September through lots of exciting transition events. We have had a Forest School session with our Forest School teacher, Mrs Fox. A Teddy Bears picnic with our current Reception class and the

new, a music class with Boogie Mites and stay and play sessions within the school.

Forest School continued this term with our Year 5 and 6's taking part this time. We are very grateful that we were able to use the Church site for some of our sessions and also to the PTFA who have funded our Forest School sessions this year.

We were very fortunate this term to have a string quartet in school. Every child had a lesson with the four musicians and even played and sang alongside them. This was then performed to our parents at the end of the day. We were even lucky enough to have a performance at lunch time, which was beautiful and gained quite the crowd. Thank you to Oenone Warr for the organisation of this fantastic day. This also led to our school Choir singing in Church at The Weald Youth Music Forum on 6th July, which again, was a fantastic opportunity for all.

Sports day was a big success and we had a very warm, but brilliant afternoon. Thank you to Mr Papper for organising and to Mrs Douch, for coming back to support.

As part of their Topic lessons, Hazel class had an Olympics day held at Mark Cross with the other 3 schools within our federation. They crafted, processed and even had a Grand Prix event!

Our school production of Beauty and the Beast was a brilliant way to end the school year. Our Year 5's and 6's did a brilliant job of singing, dancing and acting and bought many a tear to their audience! Thank you to Mrs Davey and Mrs Speechley for all their hard work on putting on such a fabulous performance.

As always, we would like to thank our PTFA for a phenomenal year of fundraising and events for both the children and the community. The money they have raised this year has supported lots of different projects and equipment around the school. A massive thank you also goes to Katie Chamberlain, who will be stepping down as Chair of the PTFA this year and to all her hard work and dedication to making the PTFA who they are today.

Please do contact the school at any time if you have any questions or would just like to say hello. We are both in school every day and will always find time for a chat.

With very best wishes, Mrs Joanna Challis, Executive Headteacher & Mrs Lauren Beach, Head of School

The Hon. George Nevill 1760-1844
While researching something about Surrey I was surprised to come across the name Nevill. I was looking at a watercolour of a house entitled 'Godstone, Flower, the seat of the Hon. Mr. Neville' of 1822. Godstone is in Surrey, on the A25 and the A22. If you are driving along the A22 to the M25 you may see a sign for a farm shop. This is Flower Farm on the site of the demolished house where the Hon. George lived.

The Rev. and Hon. George Henry Nevill was the second son of the 1st Earl of Abergavenny who lived at Kidbrooke, south of East Grinstead, and died in 1785. His first son Henry moved back to Eridge shortly after his father's death. George went to Christ Church College Oxford in 1778, and was ordained. He married Caroline Walpole in 1787 in St. George's Hanover Square, which was her parish. He was living in St. James, Westminster. Their first child Catherine Caroline was born in 1789, but I have not found where. Her brother George was born at Croydon but christened in St. George's Hanover Square. The next two children, Henry 1803 and Reginald 1807, were born in Eridge Castle and christened at Frant. George's son George also went to Christ Church, and was ordained in 1816. He became curate of Horne in Surrey, not far from Godstone, and Rector of West Chiltington in Sussex. It is not clear whether his father ever had a parish. After young George's early death in 1826 his brother Henry, also ordained, took over at West Chiltington.

From 1808-1812 the Hon. George was Master of the Old Surrey Foxhounds, which were, oddly, established at Bermondsey in 1750. The kennels moved to Marden Park in Godstone, then in 1820 to Chelsham, Surrey. Nevill's wife died in 1841 and was buried at East Grinstead, by Robert Gream, chaplain to the Earl of Abergavenny and Rector of Rotherfield. Gream was born in Godstone and it seems likely that Nevill found the positions for him. Gream was rector from 1837 to his death in 1856. In 1841 George was living alone with eight servants. He lived at Flore until his death in 1844 and was buried at East Grinstead where the family had been for a century. —*Mary Alexander*



Parish Pets #20: Triple A-Rated Bodyguard, Mabel
So, I have been asked to explain how I ended up hanging with this big guy this summer. He's my latest client as a Triple-A rated bodyguard. For those not au fait with Ryan Reynold's finest work, Triple-A is the top-rated bodyguard reserved for only the most highly trained, experienced and dedicated protection officers. Any of you cynically thinking I am making this up to make myself look good, can I remind you that I am not the American President and my very role depends on blending into the background and what better than hiding in the form of a tiny pony!!

My client, Gaston, is a 16.3hh eventer who is ridiculously photogenic and hangs out with one of the nearby human slaves. For humans who don't speak horse, 16.3hh is 16 hands 3 inches although why you would measure horses in hands, things we plainly don't have, is a mystery!! Despite the lack of hands, ponies are perfect for bodyguard work as we naturally come armed with strong teeth and small perfectly formed hoof-weapons for kicking. Despite being a herd animal, we form pair bonds hence making us ideal for close protection duties.

Gaston's work involves dressage (prancing around), show jumping (over big sticks that we randomly kick every now and again for the sheer joy of seeing daft humans pick them up) and cross country - oh the whole reason for living!!! Tearing around the countryside, leaping over ridiculously large jumps and you don't even have to pretend your human is in charge as they are just hanging on for dear life.

Talking of daft humans, Newton only has himself to blame. He could have had a fourth law for gravity if he hadn't been so wasteful with the apples. Let me explain, gravity is a force of attraction between any two objects with mass. Bigger objects have more gravity, so the moon rotates around the earth, but the earth rotates around the sun and, as any pony owner knows, the universe rotates around your pony. Anyway, stupidly Sir Issac wasted an apple back in 1666 and missed the chance of a fourth law - everyone knows apples are for ponies!

I'm only on assignment for the summer as Gaston will then return to university to study zoology with his human. A worthy pursuit as the course, contrary to its daft title, is animal biology in disguise, i.e. the pursuit of knowledge for better equine care. I will return to training on my home farm where I will perfect my 'fight not flight' response. Signing off, MAAA'bel

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Parish Diary:
September/October 2025

» 5th-7th September

Brecknock Arms Beer Festival

» Thursday 11 September & Thursday 11 October 2025 at 2.00 pm

The Arts Society Ashdown Forest, Lectures. See page 12

» Monday 15 September

The Happy Gardener Workshop
Bells Yew Green Village Hall. See page 9

» September – October

Frant Parish Friendship Group meetings and classes. See page 10

» Tuesday 21st October

Frant Garden Club: Kathrine Lynn talk
Gardening with the Tudors
Memorial Hall, 2.30 p.m.

» Saturday 25th October

London Community Gospel Choir
Concert, St Alban's Church, Frant. See page 4

Regular Meetings

Little Fishes: Baby & Toddler Group

Every Tuesday 9.30—11.30am in The Stables, Frant. A warm welcome to all.
Encounter (School Years 6–13)
Contact Rev Brendan Martin for more information: 752261

Coffee Morning at The Stables, Frant

Every Wednesday, 10:30am—12noon.
Come for a hot drink, a cake and a chat.
Festival Church Kids During 5pm outside service.

Parish News can be downloaded

from: www.frantchurch.org or www.eridgechurch.org

Advertising enquiries: office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk

Contributions for our next issue should be sent to the Editor: carmel.kinley@gmail.com or 01892 750217
Next deadline: 1st October 2025

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Parish Council meetings

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

MP for Wealden

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nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Police Contact Details:

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MUSIC IN FRANT

We have the following exciting concerts booked for 2025

All concerts will be in Frant Church starting at 7.30pm.
 Doors will open from 6.30pm and there is a licensed bar area.

30 August 2025: Ray Burley

25 October 2025: London Community Gospel Choir

Tickets will be on sale at Brittens Music Shop in Tunbridge Wells
 and online at Frant Church website.

We look forward to welcoming you! 'Music in Frant' Team



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