

School Exchange April 2012

Lamberhurst & Blangy sur Ternoise Primary Schools



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The footsteps of Jack Frost

In the heart of the Lamberhurst village, in 1890, a man, known as 'Hookshaver', lived in a small ancient woodland.

Jack Frost was his real name and he lived on this land in a small wooden cabin, on commonland known now as the Gravel Pit.



Jack lived off this woodland, by coppicing the wood for fuel, for his heating and cooking.

When trees are cut to the ground they grow several stems, called poles. This produces small areas of natural light which can reach the woodland floor and encourages plant growth and insect activity. Through Jack living off this land, he actively

helped the woodland to have lots of wonderful wildflowers and wildlife.



He made a living from making wooden hoops for barrels of beer, and his name may have come from the instrument he used to scrape the bark to make the hoops. He produced these hoops for the local brewery, called at the time, Smith & Co Brewery, Lamberhurst Ltd., Ales & Stouts.



Jack Frost died in 1920 and maybe you will see his foot steps or hear the sound of the cutting of the wood when you visit the Gravel Pit today.

The Gravel Pit is now a woodland nature reserve, home to rare species, such as the Great Crested Newt.



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