

Froyle Village Magazine



October 2020

No. 469

<http://www.froyle.com/magazine/magazine.htm>

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PARISH NEWS & VIEWS

Parish Clerk - Andrew Potter - 07979 030571

Email: clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

Web: www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk



Report from Froyle Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on 14 September. It had been hoped that this would be back in the Village Hall but, as the more observant of you might have noticed on the posters, the introduction of Boris's 'Rule of 6' on the day of the meeting forced us back onto Zoom!

Following an open invitation to apply, three residents put their name forward to be co-opted onto the PC by the closing date. After following due process, Mrs Anthea McRiley was elected to the PC. The PC would like to thank all the applicants for their interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. We welcome Anthea and look forward to working with her.

In addition to the support given to Froyle Wildlife by the PC last month to plant saplings around the Rec to replace fallen trees, a tree surgeon will be employed to survey the trees around the Rec and recommend how to ensure these are safe.

It is bonfire season and those of you with larger gardens no doubt have plenty of rubbish to dispose of. This is fully recognised and appreciated by the PC but could we ask all residents to check the wind direction before lighting up to try to avoid smoke blowing over neighbours' properties. With Covid infections on the rise, the earlier advice from EHDC re bonfires - to be aware of neighbours who might have respiratory conditions as well as the nuisance of bonfire smoke - remains valid.

The football hut project continues to receive attention. The PC has received notifications that grants totalling £25,000 have been approved so the PC is now looking to finalise drawings and go out to tender. The aim, as always, will be to ensure that the new building represents best value for money now we have an agreed design and internal layout.

Unfortunately, the much heralded new Froyle Parish Council website has not been able to be launched yet but we will get there so keep watching this space!

Around the village – one new planning application has been received this month relating to a side extension to a property in Upper Froyle. The PC is considering its response. Planning applications can be reviewed and comments posted using the link <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-applications-and-appeals>.

The PC has written to Linden Homes to ask for all their signage to be taken down now that the development is effectively finished thus restoring the traditional vista of Upper Froyle when approaching up Hen & Chicken Hill.

The PC continues to closely monitor developments on the Veolia AAERF planning application (see separate NWI article). Many thanks to all residents who took the time and effort to send in their objections - over 2000 have now been received by HCC.

Further afield - Active Alton have recently launched a webpage in conjunction with Alton Town Council providing a comprehensive listing of all the recreational activities and opportunities in and around Alton. If you are interested in increasing your exercising, please visit <https://altonevents.co.uk/activealton> to see the wide range of opportunities on offer – everything from Archery to Zumba with lots in between. Click onto whatever interests you for full information with contact and joining details.

If you want to get ahead with Christmas cards and are wondering where to obtain them from this year, the Hampshire Countryside Charity (CPRE), which is supported by the PC, have a selection available online at <https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/christmas-cards>.

The Hampshire County Council Climate Change Strategy was approved in mid-July. This provides a clear direction and framework for the County Council's climate change programme and sets out the carbon baseline emissions and budgets for meeting the agreed 2050 climate change targets. One area of focus is on residential emissions and HCC have teamed up with Community Energy South to provide support for local communities who are interested in developing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The PC will be determining its response to this issue over the coming months so if you have any ideas that could be part of a Froyle plan please speak to any Parish Councillor or email them to clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk.

The next PC meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th October. Time and location will be posted on the notice boards and all residents are welcome to attend.

Information about the village and useful links can be found on the FPC website at www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk. Matters concerning residents should be addressed to the FPC via the Parish Clerk or, to seek wider views, post your suggestions on the FPC Facebook page. You can also be included in FPC email alerts by sending your details to fpc@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk with YES in the subject line.



Bookings:
Sarah Zorab
01420 520361

www.froylevillagehall.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Since I last wrote at the end of August the committee has discussed reopening the hall on a wider basis than described in last month's Magazine. However the new regulations introduced on Monday 14 September mean that this is no longer possible and we have to revert to plan A. Today, 18 September, we have received a 42 page document from our county village hall adviser which attempts to interpret the current rules, regulations and guidance. It is requiring stamina to keep up. As far as we can we are trying to keep the hall fully Covid 19 secure. We have undertaken a detailed risk assessment and have introduced significant changes to our hiring agreement. Baby Ballet will be starting up on a Saturday and the Baby and Toddler Group is already meeting on Thursdays. An art and yoga class have also been approved. These groups all in exempt categories from other Covid 19 restrictions. All groups will be responsible for cleaning before and after sessions, limiting numbers, maintaining contact details etc. No parties or informal groups will be permitted. We are increasing routine cleaning and I would like to thank our house keeper Cindy Dennis for taking this on. The Friday morning meeting will continue but great care must be taken to observe social distancing and to avoid congregating in groups of more than six which will now be against the law.

With regret and a heavy heart the hall trustees have decided to cancel the annual bonfire night party on 5 November. This means that you will not be able to bring material for the bonfire, (hedge trimmings and old doors and wooden furniture, etc) to the recreation ground as you have done in previous years. We apologise for the inconvenience and disappointment this will cause but we see no other option.

Now to at least try to cheer you up and perhaps even make you smile. Earlier in the year we floated the idea of a safari supper. Sadly that idea has also bitten the dust along with the annual Froyle Quiz. However it is now proposed to hold a supper quiz via Zoom on Saturday 7 November combining, after a fashion, both events. We need a number of residents who will host teams of up to six and provide them with supper (courses could be shared out). Don't worry if you are Zoom-phobic - all can be explained. Teams may form spontaneously by friends/neighbours getting together but we will operate a clearing house to make sure lone individuals or couples are included

and made welcome. Don't be shy! Each team will be linked via Zoom so we can see who is eating what or even whom. During the evening there will be timed breaks for questions. Teams will have the opportunity to use Google to look up the answers (cheat!) but we hope they won't take it. Similarly teams will have to mark their own answers (honestly!). The evening will end with a virtual prize-giving and the singing of patriotic songs. Then at precisely 10 pm, each team will discharge a single rocket in remembrance of Guy Fawkes. The ordnance and instructions for firing will be supplied by the Village Hall.

I hope I have got the gist of the idea across albeit with a few suggestions of my own. If you would like to host, be a guest, help with logistics, think up Google-proof questions, are brilliant at the technology. Please email myself (secretary@froylevillagehall.co.uk), David Robertson (darinfroyle@aol.com) or Karen Potter (kevilson2525@btinternet.com) asap and a sub-committee will be formed. The idea will only work if residents step forward.

Thanks are due to Sylvia Chew and Sue Lelliott who have done just that and responded to last month's appeal for defibrillator guardians. Thank you both.

Thanks are also due to our web master Martin McCriley, who for many years has maintained the Village Hall website. Martin is standing down and we are now looking for someone with advanced Wordpress skills who can rebuild the site in such away that even our low tech committee can manage to update it regularly.



I am pleased to report that the hall has now acquired a fine new dishwasher with many programs and winking lights. Last month's Magazine featured a rather dull photo of the said appliance. Sadly the thoughts of the dishwasher at a time of lockdown and inactivity were censored by the Editor* who felt it necessary to come down hard on such outbreaks of levity. Now under the current,

more relaxed, humour-friendly regime you can see what previously you were denied.

*Fake news alert! There was no denial of free speech. The bubble disappeared in transit. Honest! (Previous Ed.)

So just what is your toaster or Hoover thinking? There will be a prize (modest) for the best appliance thought bubble received by the next Magazine deadline. (Current Ed.) Well I only said I would try to cheer you up.

Nick Whines secretary@froylevillagehall.co.uk

FROYLE 100 CLUB – SEPTEMBER DRAW

The 100 Club administrator is finally losing his mind...

In search of further independent assistants to help with the monthly draw (whoever thought the 100 Club would be homeless for so long, with no end in sight...?), he ventured into Lower Froyle, but he still hasn't made it as far as the Anchor (something to look forward to). Instead, he was accosted by the ducks who hang out on the village pond on the corner of Husseys Lane. It turns out that the challenge of engaging dogs and chickens in Upper Froyle in the 100 Club draw is as nothing compared to negotiating with those rather canny quackers – particularly since they cannot be bribed with bread, which is apparently bad for them....



Now where did that number 2 go....?

Nonetheless, with the able assistance of the Chairman of the Froyle Village Hall Committee (impeccably trustworthy), we got there in the end. It seems that ducks just love bingo calls. So:

- The first number out of the bag: 22 ('Two Little Ducks', as I'm sure you all knew). **Winner: Barbara Starduck.**
- The second prize: number 5 ('Duck and Dive'). **Winner: Beverley Morgan.**

We fully expected the next number to be number 2, which we think is the only other 'duck call' in the 90 bingo numbers – but, sorry Mr Whines, I'm afraid the quackers ducked out, so to speak, for the last two numbers:

- The third prize: number 15 ('Young and Keen'). **Winner: Janet Dobson** – that should cheer you up, Janet.
- The fourth prize: number 27 ('Gateway to Heaven'). **Winner: Marge Heyhurst.**

It is to be hoped that, by the time you read this, the inefficient 100 Club administrator will have caught up with the backlog of delivering envelopes to the winners – he sends his profound apologies. In the meantime, congratulations to all the September winners.

Quack quack...

William Knowles



The Meeting Place

As long as the weather is fine and warm enough, it is our intention to continue holding the Meeting place on the terrace at the village hall, on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon.

If you attend, please continue to follow the social distancing rules, and the new rule of six. Subject to Government guidelines, we will then go inside, with some changes. We will not be needing any kitchen helpers, but cakes from our bakers on the list would be much appreciated.



The Meeting Place will be holding a cake sale on October 2nd in aid of Macmillan, so please come and buy something delicious to support this fantastic charity, especially at this difficult time.

The Meeting Place Team



Gardening Club Report September

There was no Autumn Show on 12th September but on that date some of us visited Gill Bradley's garden, just two days before the 'Rule of 6' was in force.

On a fine morning it was a great treat to enjoy coffee and the company of friends we had not seen for many months all in a garden full of uplifting colour. It is difficult to believe that Gill's flourishing garden is only in its second

year. Very many thanks to her for the kind invitation.

Currently it is hard to make future plans. We do have the photographic competition on line and it is not too late to enter as the last date for entries is now extended to 3rd October. The entries will be on the website <https://froylegardenclub.weebly.com> shortly after that date, followed by the results. Chris Booth will be the judge.

All details for entries were in the September magazine. They should be sent to fgcshow1@aol.com.

If you are not able to send a digital photo but would like to enter a photograph/s please contact me a.s.a.p.

Anne Blunt (22262)

a.blunt247@btinternet.com

NO WEY INCINERATOR

OVER 2000 SAY NO AND STILL COUNTING

At the time of writing, the intense No Wey Incinerator (NWI) campaign had generated over 2,000 individual objections and 34 statutory consultee responses such as local Councils, Highways etc. The Hampshire County Council (HCC) website has only logged submissions up to August 12 so there is every reason to believe that the final total will be much higher with the public consultation closing on August 14.

The NWI website had over 5,300 visitors in the last 30 days of the campaign with 650 on the very last day. Hundreds of people used the guidance on the site to generate their objections, so we believe that the volume of emails and letters received by HCC will have quite an impact. Significant objections were submitted by EHDC, Alton and Farnham town councils, parish councils including Froyle, local MP's and other bodies such as South Downs National Park.

At the same time, a legal challenge has been mounted elsewhere (not by NWI) on the government's decision to exclude waste incinerators from its post-Brexit carbon emissions trading scheme. This confirms that the NWI campaign aligns with broader national concerns that incineration is both inefficient and outdated.

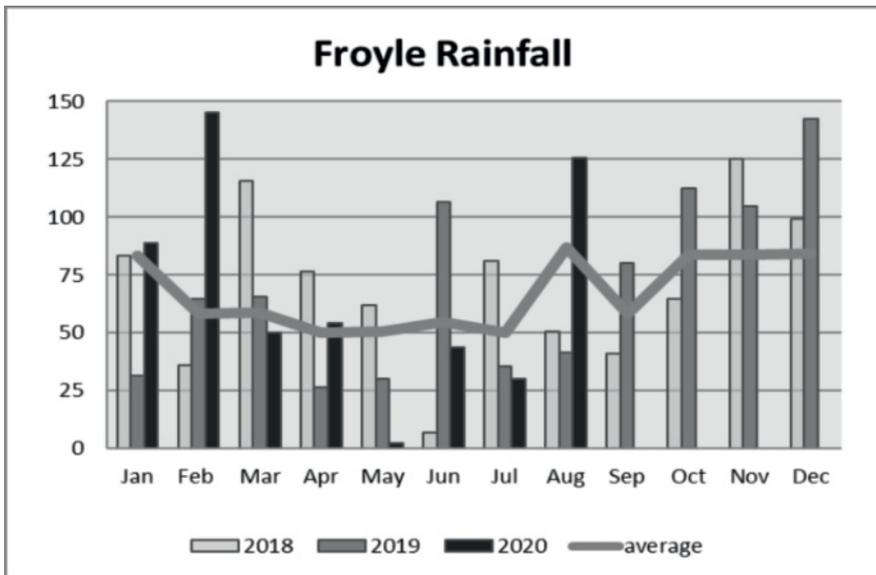
The latest information received by the NWI Planning Consultant from the HCC Case Officer is that a formal request to provide additional and missing information will be sent to Veolia in the next week. Once this additional information has been received there will be a further 30 days public consultation. During this time the NWI consultants will review and comment on the new information provided and residents will have the opportunity to resubmit their objections. The good thing is that this will all take time and cost Veolia money which, although an outside chance, will hopefully cause them to have second thoughts!

It is now expected that the application will not be heard by the HCC Committee deciding on it until the New Year.

NWI will continue to keep its supporters and all residents informed of developments as this is only the end of the beginning and there will be a lot more time and effort required from everyone to stop this application.

Froyle Rainfall for August 2020

This year	125.5 mm	4.9 ins
Last year	41.5 mm	1.6 ins
Wettest August (2001)	134 mm	5.3 ins
Driest August (1995)	3.5 mm	0.1 ins
Long-term average for August - 5th wettest month	63.3 mm	2.5 ins
Total rainfall for the year so far	538.5 mm	21.2 ins
Long-term average for the year so far	467.7 mm	18.4 ins



August may have begun hotter and drier than Costa Packet but ended more like the Indian Monsoon, making it the second wettest August in the last 40 years; in fact the last month of summer has only been wetter five times in the last 100 years... Despite this, at 201 mm, we were still below the long-term average of 218.3 mm for the four summer months.



“The Umbrella Man”



Froyle Wildlife

Virtual AGM and talk 'Birds of the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica', Friday 15th October 7pm

Join us on zoom for our brief AGM at 7pm then a talk by our entertaining speaker Keith Betton. As a Farnham resident and Hampshire County Bird Recorder, Keith is a keen world birder and has visited the Antarctic oceans three times. In this talk he takes us through some of the amazing birds seen and he will explain how the wildlife of these areas fits together in a very challenging environment. All welcome to join this virtual meeting. The AGM pictorial review starts at 7pm, talk starts 7.30pm. For more information see www.froylewildlife.co.uk/news.

Note: The meeting invitation will be emailed beforehand to members and to those on our mailing list. Anyone who would like to join the zoom meeting can request an invitation by email to info@froylewildlife.co.uk.



Chalkhill Blue on Bird's-foot Trefoil

Benefit of wildflower meadows. The nectar rich flowers are a magnet for pollinators and all types of insects. In August we were excited to see a Chalkhill Blue butterfly visiting the meadow that surrounds the wildlife pond near Gid Lane. This butterfly was last seen in Froyle in 1997 and would have flown from miles away to find a nectar hotspot.

Crickets and grasshoppers can be numerous in long grasses by autumn and the first Froyle record of a Long-winged Conehead was this September.

Remember to send us your wildlife sightings in Froyle with photos if possible. See examples at www.instagram.com/froylewildlife including 7-spot ladybird, hedgehog, badger, hummingbird hawkmoth, toad and hornets nest.

Barry Clark



EVERY THURSDAY DURING TERM TIME, 9:45-11:45 AND
12:30-2:15, FROYLE VILLAGE HALL.

Froyle Baby and Toddler Group is back!

WITH LIMITED NUMBERS, THE COVID-
SECURE GROUPS ARE SPLIT INTO TWO
SESSIONS - 9:45-11:45 AND 12:30-2:15.
THESE ARE BY PRE-BOOKING ONLY.
PLEASE JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP AND
MESSAGE ME FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Find "Froyle Baby and Toddler Group" on facebook.

Please do not attend if you or anyone in your household has
symptoms of Coronavirus or is in quarantine.



The View from the Woods



This is just a short update on my report in the June magazine. I said then that we were “cautiously optimistic that we shall still be able to organise a shooting season this year, but on a rather smaller scale than normal.” As things currently stand, that is still the case. The government has ruled that shooting is an organised outdoor sporting activity which is exempted from the ‘rule of six’.

We shall of course comply with all the social distancing requirements that we have grown used to over recent months and, more fundamentally, ensure that we are operating in a way that makes everyone taking part (beaters, pickers up, Guns) feel comfortable. This will make it logistically challenging. It will be a reduced season – we shall start a few weeks later than usual, in late October, and shoot less frequently.

At the time of writing, we have been enjoying a beautiful, warm September after all the rain in August. Nature’s abundance, which is always so apparent at this time of year, has been particularly pronounced this year, despite the lack of rain in spring and most of the summer. While harvest yields have, in general, been down against expectations, autumn fruits – apples, plums, blackberries, sloes – have been plenteous, and the pheasants and partridge are thriving. As always, I am grateful to everyone for trying not to run the birds over when they (particularly pheasants) are encountered on the lanes. The birds may become particularly drawn to the lanes this year, because it looks like being a bumper year for acorns – when acorns fall in the road and get crushed by passing cars, they are irresistible to pheasants....!

Paul Edwards, Gamekeeper

Your Local Care Group Needs You!



Binstead Bently and Froyle care Group are looking for volunteer drivers, and coordinators. The Care Group provides a much needed service to our local residents and has been especially appreciated during the Covid-19 situation. Eventhough many hospital and other face to face health appointments have been cancelled, the car service continues to operate as does a collection and delivery service for prescriptions. Additionally a telephone ‘befriending’ service was set up during lockdown giving clients a chance for a friendly chat.

If you can offer the Care Group support by volunteering then do please get in touch. If you’re worried about leaving your home then you might consider being a coordinator - this involves telephone calls with clients and drivers, so no outside contact is required. If you have been volunteering for another local group which is not going to continue then we would be delighted to welcome you into our Care Group.

For further information please contact Cathy Smith, Secretary, on 01420 520169 or on 07887 742632.

October News from The Froyle Archive

Froyle and its Ponds Part 2

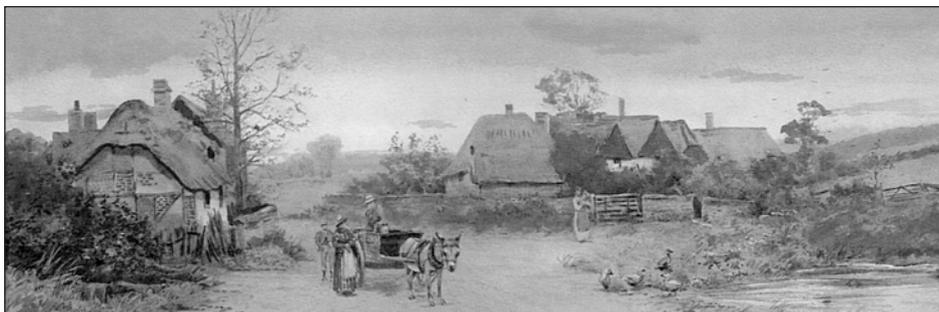
Last month we mentioned the ‘disappearance’ of the Anchor pond. Since publication one resident has suggested that the construction of the pipe-line from Fawley, (*which is soon to be upgraded*) coincided with the drying up of the pond, possibly as a result of changes in the water table. This photograph shows work on the pipeline in progress around 1970 before passing to the South of “The Anchor”.



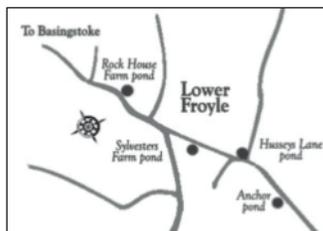
There is also no sign of water in the background of last month’s photograph either.



Back in 1997 we were loaned a copy of a painting entitled “At Froyle” by Will Anderson”, a local artist who exhibited between 1880 and 1895.



The location takes a while to pinpoint, especially as there is no trace of it today, except after very heavy rain, when the road floods. It lies on the corner by “Box House” (*ex “Traveller’s Rest”*) and opposite “Semley House” and “Coxes Meadow”. It’s an odd composition as, browsing the Internet, one comes across versions with a group of adults and children where the pony and trap are. In the distance (*right*) are “Five Cottages”, or “Westbrook Cottages”, which were demolished in 1962 and the materiel re-used in the construction of “Semley House”, and “Coxes Meadow”. Additionally there was a lot of new building at this North end of Froyle as it appears in the Parish registers.



Lilian Smither wrote in 1962 about the farm pond at **Sylvesters**:-

“The Farm Pond was a must in the old days. Such a pond existed adjacent to the road at the side of the farmhouse at Lower Froyle, where I was born. Cows drinking peacefully near the waters edge, some venturing in up to their knees (*if a cow has knees*) and others sometimes pushing and shoving; why, no-one could tell, as there



George Westbrook at Sylvesters Pond

seemed to be plenty of water. But what muddy water, surely not fit to drink, especially when 10 or 12 cows and heifers had walked this way and that stirring up the mud. One wonders what officials of the Milk Marketing Board (*as it was known then*) would say to such a state of affairs, their precious cows drinking such dirty water. My father’s horses also drank at the pond; they were usually brought to the water’s edge with a halter round their necks and were not allowed to walk far into the pond for fear they might get stuck in the mud, whereas the cows took pot luck and came to no harm. Or was that a reason why many new-born calves died and were buried in the back garden?

It was not unusual for father, during a dry summer, to draw 30 or more large buckets of water every day from the well, which stood at the back of the farmhouse; carry the water 100 yards or so and fill up the tanks in the farmyard and the earthenware pans in the house. The well never dried up in summer nor did it overflow in winter. By 1962 the pond was not there at all, trees and shrubs flourished on the site and taps and pipes replaced the well.”

Chris & Annette Booth (22364)

FROYLE OPEN GARDENS 2021

The recent beautiful weather combined with heavy rain earlier in the month has restored the gardens following the summer drought. The bare patches on the lawn have all but gone and the grass is growing furiously. Red hot poker and dahlias are clashing nicely in my garden and the newly emerged plumes of the pampas grass are spectacular against the blue sky. Hedge and meadow cutting have been keeping me busy and, it has to be admitted, rather noisy. The compost heaps have been turned and new ones started. Very soon the bulb planting season will begin, sweet pea seeds will need sowing and thoughts will turn to next year and FOG 21.

Cancelling FOG 20 was disappointing: we did our best with successful plant sales and a well-received video but it wasn't quite the same as welcoming a thousand enthusiastic garden visitors to view our horticultural efforts. However the thing about gardening is that while you are labouring away in the present you are always thinking about the future. Disappointment quickly fades. You may grieve over blossom end rot which has ruined your tomatoes but next year you get a chance to try again and perhaps do better. And it is that act of looking forward combined with the exercise and the appreciation of nature which makes gardening good for you, and particularly at a time of stress and difficulty.

I read that as a result of the pandemic the amount of time people have spent gardening has increased dramatically, which means there must be some much improved gardens out there. So, to cut to the chase, I am looking for new gardens to open as part of FOG 21 over the first weekend of June next year. National Garden Scheme (NGS) gardens come in all shapes and sizes and designs. And that's what our visitors love when they keep returning to Froyle: the variety, the individuality and the expression of personality. Gardeners being on the whole modest folk are unlikely to put themselves forward so I rely on residents who know where the interesting gardens are to tip me off or any other member of the FOG group. We will do the rest!

Of course opening your garden can initially be stressful. What if the peonies don't come into flower in time? What if they are over before the visitors arrive? What if people see a weed?! But the pleasure your garden will give will more than compensate for the stress and that's what you will remember. And as your last visitor leaves you will begin thinking about next year because that's what gardeners do.

No one knows what next year will bring. Let's travel in the hope that it will be a better one.

Nick Whines for Froyle Open Gardens
nick@whines.co.uk

THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear all,

Writing this as August ended with a chilly wind and shivers that asked when the heating could be switched on again, it seemed that this summer, this whole year had melted away. Where has it all gone, we seemed to be saying. What ever happened to 2020? Here we are, labelling new school uniform, asking whether our WFH (working from home) outfits are suitable for a return to the office and wondering whether we have enough stocks of hand gel, masks and toilet paper to survive the winter, especially if there is a second wave.

It feels as if the year has slipped through our fingers and as the apples drop from the trees and the leaves start to fall, we are left feeling we haven't used this year well and haven't achieved anything. But is that true? Should we feel that way or should we be saying, 'Well done Class of 2020, you came through it all'? Shouldn't we in fact be saying, 'Well done all you care workers, all you utility workers, all the delivery drivers, supermarket staff and others who ensured that all our essential needs were met'?

Yes, it has been hard for many and painfully sad for those who were affected by the virus, but we should be congratulating the majority of people who stayed calm, stayed safe and stayed well. And here in our own little corner of the world, we have seen evidence of the innate goodness of people faced with a crisis. Like many other towns and villages around the country, our communities rallied to offer practical and moral support, fetching prescriptions, delivering shopping, ensuring none felt abandoned. Our churches organised online services once our beautiful buildings could no longer open and over-enthusiastic gardeners nurtured and then swapped seedlings as they became swamped by courgettes and runner beans. Parish councils continued to manage our affairs by resorting to the wonders of Zoom, which was also employed in mounting the No Wey campaign to prevent an enormous incinerator harming the air and landscape we all enjoy here.

And in the midst of this very strange time, there was also tragedy, with the mysterious disappearance of Richard Morris, whose body was finally located on August 31 in Alice Holt Forest. Despite the restrictions of lockdown and the exceptionally hot weather, local residents provided the search parties with a continual supply of substantial refreshments. It was a wonderful display of community spirit, albeit with a deeply sad outcome.

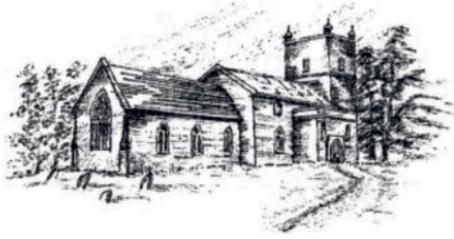
So we say, 'Well done Class of 2020'. Well done for being resilient, steadfast and kind. Let us pray that we all can continue to be strong and in words from Thessalonians, 'Let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.'

***Blessings,
Yann***

ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTES

Vicar: The Reverend Yann Dubreuil Tel: 07777 684 533 yann@benbinfro.org

Administrator: Tel 01420 23339 e-mail admin@benbinfro.org



Churchwarden:

William Knowles

Park Edge

Upper Froyle

Tel: 07775 928933

Benefice Pastoral Care:

Nick Carter (472861)

Anna Chaplain:

Nicky Smallwood (07765 058593)

annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

Services

We shall continue in October to provide a combination of YouTube and live services. Public worship was exempted from the 'rule of six' restriction introduced on 14 September. Our live services continue, though, to be restricted in many ways which, as the incidence of the virus continues to move in the wrong direction, seem unlikely to be lifted in the near future – so still no singing or Holy Communion, we still have to wear masks in the church, and we still have to sit apart from each other unless part of a family group. It is also important to remember that the 'rule of six' does apply when we leave the church.

As with so many aspects of this nightmare situation in which the world finds itself in trying to combat the virus, the frustrating inconsistency in all this just seems to get worse - and certainly makes the churchwarden get more and more grumpy.... It is important and precious, though, that we can at least now worship together in one place with a short, simple service every other Sunday. I recognise that aspects of the different forms of service we have been trying out have rankled. We shall keep responding to views, and I keep reminding my grumpier self to focus on the positive and manage the irritations. Our faith should support us in this.

We are hoping that, at the next evensong service (on 27 September, so before the month covered by this issue of the magazine, although many of you will be reading this before then), we shall have a harvest theme and a decorated church, even if in a more low key manner than usual – many thanks in advance to Gill Bradley and her decorating team.

In October, Benefice offerings on YouTube will continue to be the Sunday service each week at 11:00 am, plus the 'Thought for the Day' every weekday morning and other broadcasts – find the link on the Benefice website: www.benbinfro.co.uk. And remember

that you can listen to the Sunday service at any time during the week after it is broadcast by calling 01420 552652.

The 'live' services across the Benefice are:

Sunday 4 th October	11:00am Bentley	Morning Worship
Sunday 11th October	9:30am Froyle	Morning Worship
	11:00am Binsted	Morning Worship
	3:30pm Messy Church	Zoom
Sunday 18 th October	11:00am Bentley	Morning Worship
Sunday 25th October	11:00am Binsted	Morning Worship
	6:30pm Froyle	Evensong (said with organ music)

Froyle church is also open for private prayer on Wednesdays and on the Sundays when we do not have a service, in each case from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Other Church News

Renovation of the vestry under the bell tower: As reported last month, the first phase of this was satisfactorily concluded in August. The second phase (the installation of the kitchen and other equipment and fittings) was due to have started in mid-September. However, this work has been paused while we take a closer look, with professional consultants, at the structural movement which has been occurring in recent years between the bell tower and the main body of the church – seemingly on an accelerating basis. The cause of this movement has been under investigation for some years – and a complete answer is still another year or two away. We are assured that the church and bell tower structure are under no immediate threat; the view seems to be that the movement is caused by the drying out of the ground under the tower due to a combination of dryer weather and thirsty roots from neighbouring trees, and that it may well, in the longer term, stop of its own accord. Our minds were concentrated, though, by some plaster falling from the ceiling onto the gallery floor in a rather dramatic fashion when the bells were rung for the first time after the lockdown. So we are intensifying our investigatory efforts. The worst case result in terms of remedial work would involve underpinning the tower at considerable cost. Some extraordinarily generous donations have made it realistic for us to renovate the vestry and to plan for further upgrading the facilities in our lovely church. While such underpinning should not undermine the interior of the building, it would call these plans - which in any event require further fundraising - into question financially, which would be very sad given the unique opportunity those donations have offered us. The Froyle PCC will be considering all this in the coming weeks.

Weddings: Attendance at weddings is still restricted to 30. I'm pleased to say that, despite this and the other restrictions, three couples are going ahead with plans to be married in Froyle church before the end of the year – not the events they had planned, but I'm sure they will be lovely occasions nonetheless – we very much look forward to welcoming these couples and their guests to Froyle church!

Other events: I said last month that we would “continue to push to reintroduce church social and fundraising events as and when we can”. It remains to be seen what we can do as we move into autumn and then the run-up to Christmas. Everything will no doubt be a challenge, but you will see from the notice elsewhere in the magazine that we hope to do something by way of a Christmas Fair, and we shall look to celebrate the events in the Church calendar over that period (Remembrance, Advent, Christmas itself...) as well as we possibly can.

Churchyard wildlife: Those of you familiar with the churchyard round the church will have noticed that, encouraged by the Froyle Wildlife Group, we left an area of grass uncut through the summer (as we did last year), to allow wildlife to flourish – particularly flowers (over 40 different species), butterflies, moths and voles!



We then cut it back in August (as we should have done last year), as instructed by and under the skilled and patient guidance and help of Sue and Barry Clark. So, not to be outdone by the photos in last month’s entry from the Wildlife Group itself, you can see here evidence of PCC members wielding scythes as we cut the grass back. Gareth Wells, who maintains the rest of the

churchyard so well, was very tolerant of our antics, which we hope to repeat next year – while maintaining a more rigorous record of what we observe as a result...

As always, do get in touch at any time.

William Knowles

Youth Update

Having my birthday on New Year’s Eve is something special and despite what some people think, I love it! Lots of things come to mind when I think of New Year - the weird week of nothing between Christmas and New Year and counting down the days to another special day, singing Auld Lang Syne at midnight and taking my birthday badge off, always making the joke that I haven’t showered this year, writing the date wrong at school... But also, that weird feeling of knowing we have a chance to do something new, to try that thing we always wanted to. Who knew that at the turn of midnight on the 31st Dec 2019, the next year would hold whole new experience for the world?

The turn from August to September has felt a little like New Year’s Eve for me this year; I feel like we should’ve all listened to Auld Lang Syne and had a big socially distanced party! I haven’t had an extra birthday sadly, or a socially distanced party, but it seems we’re turning

a corner. Families are lining up at Clarkes to get new school shoes and we're creating new leading and preaching rotas for the new term. Dare I say it, things are looking more and more 'normal'.

Some of our children and young people haven't been to school since March. The only time I've ever been out of education for a long period of time was in between finishing my A-levels before starting university and that 3 months got boring! So, our children and young people have lots of catching up to do at school, lots of changes to deal with and, for some, even starting brand new schools. In amongst all this, I feel we need to play a consistent part in their lives, being a consistent church family, being there every step of the way.

So this 'new year' we have restarted Messy Church over Zoom, we are running weekly youth groups inside the church buildings, watching films and thinking about what it is to be Church and our online assemblies have reignited the creative brain in me! Our older girls group are meeting every other week too, and we are still hosting Zoom meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays for games, cooking and bible study with other local churches. I am so excited for what this 'new year' will bring, new opportunities: more terrible jokes, and a consistent church family to be there for everyone. Please pray for our children, young people and families as they tackle a new way of doing school and all the changes that brings.

Gemma Ball - Pastoral Assistant (Youth) and Administrator



Medicine for the (locked-down) Soul



Being a fan of spy fiction (eg John le Carre), I was intrigued to read a recent newspaper review of recent titles in this genre, including **“The Stranger”** by Simon Conway: “...The scene-setting feels real, the sense of danger is deep and unsettling and the characters are well-drawn...”

It's a really gripping read, and, if the other books recommended are half as good, then I am in for a great autumn on the reading front.

They included:

“Ride or Die”, which “confirms Khurram Rahman’s place in the first division of new British thriller writers...”;

“Blood Red City” by Rod Reynolds, “a fine example of London noir...”;
and

“The Englishman” by David Gilman, “a cracking, finely crafted thriller.”

David Robertson (520820)



Easy Courgette Fritters with Feta and Mint



An easy recipe for those with a surfeit of courgettes.

Makes 10-12.

Ingredients

- 1 lb (450-500 grams) courgettes (about 3 medium), trimmed (not peeled)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 2 spring onions, minced
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh dill
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 medium garlic clove, minced or pressed through a garlic press
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour (or cornflour)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, plus more if necessary
- Lemon wedges, for serving (optional—I never do)

1. Grate the courgettes on the large holes of a grater or shred in food processor. Sprinkle with salt then wring out excess liquid - the fastest way to do this is to wrap the grated veg in a tea towel and wring.
2. Beat eggs in a large bowl. Mix in dried-out courgettes, spring onions, dill, feta, garlic and black pepper. Sprinkle with flour and baking powder and stir till all incorporated.
3. Heat 3 tablespoons olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Drop 2-tablespoon sized portions into the pan and gently press the batter into 2-inch-wide fritters. Pan-fry until golden brown on both sides, 2-3 minutes per side. Transfer the fritters to a paper towel-lined plate. Add a bit more oil to the pan if necessary, then repeat with the remaining batter. Serve warm.

Mary Knowles



ST. MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Due to current restrictions we are planning something different for the Church Christmas Fair in November.....

**LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS IN THE
NEXT MAGAZINE!**



PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, FROYLE

A note about the Church electoral roll

As a result of Covid-19, Froyle's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which had been scheduled for 2 April, was postponed. It has now been decided that it will be on Thursday 22 October. One of the matters dealt with at the APCM is the church's electoral roll.

Last year, St Mary's prepared a new roll. The roll is a list of people who can vote in some church elections, the most important being for members of our Parochial Church Council. The PCC, along with the priests in the parish, is the group which runs the church, looking after things like service arrangements, the building and the churchyard.

Being on the roll means you can vote in the PCC elections, which gives you a say in who runs the church. Please enrol if you're interested in the church, and the village, of which it is an important part, and want your views to be represented. Once on the roll you're also eligible for election to the PCC, if you want to have a say yourself. The elections take place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which will be on Thursday 22 October.

This year I will be revising the roll, to take account of changes in its membership and to include anyone who would like to be on it. Signing up is easy: you have to complete and return a form, which simply asks for your name, address, email address and whether you have a sufficient link with the church. You don't have to pay, and we promise only to use your data in relation to church electoral roll matters. If you're already on the roll (including if you signed up in March this year) and want to stay on it, you don't have to do anything; if you'd like to be included, please complete an enrolment form.

You can apply for inclusion on the new roll from 24 September till 7 October.

You can find a form in the church, or obtain one from me. Please do sign up.

Jonathan Pickering
Warren Cottage, Lower Froyle
Church Electoral Roll Officer
jonathan@warrencottage.org.uk

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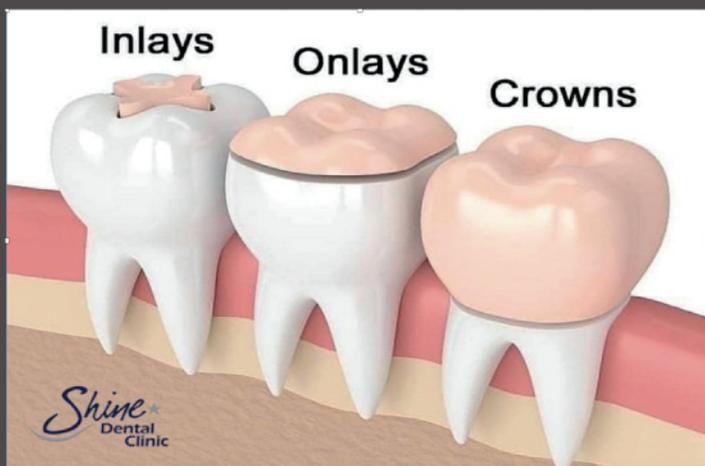
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District Councillor	<i>Tony Costigan - 07770 666896 - tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk</i>
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NHS non-emergency	111
The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted & Froyle.....	www.benbinfro.co.uk
Froyle Residents' Facebook Group	simon@watmore.com

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Friday 23 October 2020

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