

At the Millennium



H.R.H.Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, opens the new Heywood House at Lord Mayor Treloar School in 1997. She is seen here, accompanied by the Chief Executive of Treloar Trust, Col.J.W.F.Sweeting, talking to Joan, Richard and George Ezzard, all of whom work at the School

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And so we reach the 21st century. After the Second World War the village changed once again, this time the most dramatic change since the days of Henry VIII and the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Sir Hubert Miller had died in 1940, and in 1947 the Estate was sold to the trustees of the Lord Mayor Treloar College, who were to take over virtually the whole of Upper Froyle. Froyle Place would become Gasston House and be converted into classrooms and dormitories; Froyle House would become the Headquarters of the Treloar Trust, and many of the cottages attached to the old estate would become homes for employees of the College.

By the late 1950s the College had settled in, building new dormitories and classrooms in the grounds of Froyle Place and, consolidating their holdings, the Trust sold the unwanted parts of the estate to Mrs Joan Bootle-Wilbraham in 1960.

Mrs Bootle-Wilbraham paid £257,500 for four large farms, 2555 acres of land, the estate sawmill, two thatched cottages, a forester's house and a gamekeeper's cottage, besides lodges and farm workers' cottages. She died in 1995 and her properties are now managed by the Froyle Settled Estate.

Changes in the fabric of the village began immediately after the War with the building of the Westburn Fields council estate in 1947 and continued in the 1960s with the modern bungalows in the field originally known as Adams opposite the 'Prince of Wales' and with other individual houses, mainly in Lower Froyle. Accompanying all this was the influx of newcomers - people working at the College, and others (ourselves included) who were trying to find affordable homes near London.

The 'old' image of the village, with a genial Lord of the Manor looking over his employees had gone and there was a danger of the village becoming the home of two groups of people - those who were born and bred in Froyle, and the incomers, like us. Luckily, unlike many other rural communities, this division never really materialised, and, in the new Millennium, the spirit of community is stronger than ever.

Despite the fact that since 1980 we have lost our vicarage, our school, both our shops and Post Offices, our public house and our Methodist Church, the village is alive and well in the year 2000. One of the problems in recent years has been the rise in house prices, forcing our young people to move out of the village where they were born in search of a home they could afford. Froyle Parish Council took up the challenge of 'Village Homes for Village People' and, in 1992, some twelve new low cost houses, both equity share and to rent, were built on land provided by the Froyle Settled Estate at Barnfield Close in Lower Froyle. As this book goes



Barnfield Close, Lower Froyle

to print the search is still on for another site for additional affordable housing.

The other change has been the industry in the village. Gone are the small farms each employing a dozen or so workers - now more efficient management is needed and contractors handle the seasonal work. As a result a lot of the 'support' industries, the blacksmiths and farriers, have disappeared. Nowadays there are still plenty of signs of light industry in the village - vintage car restorers, interior decorators, and the like provide employment - instead of the village shop in Lower Froyle we have an Art Gallery and there is a flourishing pottery just up the road from it.

The rapidly advancing innovations in technology mean that more and more people can work from and at home. The yeoman farmers' houses of the 16th and 17th centuries are becoming the 'techno-cottages' of the 21st century.

Moving forward we may be, but we haven't forgotten the old traditional values. Mrs Alfred Brownjohn, talking about the Froyle of the early part of the 20th century, said "There was a great spirit of neighbourliness then and one was always ready to help another. Far from being the cause of quarrels or feuds, the one not in need of help would be only too pleased to think that the one who was had someone to see them through." That community spirit is as alive in Froyle

today as it was then, in fact it appears to be getting stronger year by year. Because whatever changes are made in the fabric of the village it is the people that matter - they are what make up the community and they are what makes Froyle such a special place to live today!

The Millennium Itself

For a small community of just under 300 households, Froyle celebrated the actual Millennium in style. A committee had been set up in December 1996, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Anne Wetherall and, following a survey of every household, five projects were selected and undertaken. This book is the last of these projects to have been completed.

The other projects were: A Stained Glass Window in St Mary's Church, possibly the only Millennium project that could see in the year 3000, the enlargement of the existing children's playground, a Parish Map drawn and decorated by local artists, and two videos; one charting the history of the village and the other following the villagers themselves from January to December in the last year of the twentieth century.

And the last night of the century was enjoyed by a large number of villagers as they sipped champagne and sang Auld Lang Syne round the bonfire on the Recreation Ground.

When D.H.Moutray Read wrote in 1908, "Though Froyle is old, it lacks all recorded history", he wasn't to know that within the next twenty years schoolteacher Tom Knight would be jotting down snippets of history on the back of his cigarette packets.

We have come a long way since then. Today the Froyle Archive reaches far beyond Hampshire to the rest of the world with a 300 page web site, whereby anyone with Internet access can trace their relatives and relive the history of this tiny Hampshire village. At the time of writing, the Internet address for the Froyle web site is <http://www.froyle.demon.co.uk>. This technology has given us the opportunity to convert the writings of Tom Knight, and those who followed him, into a digital form that stands a better chance of surviving for future generations than paper and ink.

This book is dedicated to the people of Froyle, past, present and future, and we hope that those in the future will continue to enjoy the records and memories of the past. After all, we live in a village that, even at the time of Domesday in 1086, was "ever there".

Appendix



A most delightful photograph of St Joseph's Church, Lower Froyle, in the snow in the early 1900s

The Vicars of St Mary's Church, Froyle

- 1274 The Vicar isn't named but he attended an enquiry as to whether the Rectory of Worldham was vacant or not.
- 1307 Walter de Bertone
- 1311 Philip
- 1342 John Quenyngdon
- 1381 William Bakere
- 1394 William Polhamptone
- 1400-1500 No Vicars can be traced during this century, and it is generally accepted that the Church was served by the monks of Neatham, or Neteham, which was at one time a more important place than Alton.
- 1529 William Wyncard
- 1542 Sir John Acrewe
- 1655 Roger Moor
- 1688 Richard Ffarrer
- 1697 Richard Jope
- 1719 John Greenway
- Between 1730 and 1733 there was probably no Vicar as there is a note in the Register to the effect that it was in the charge of Mr Burningham during this period.
- 1755 Thomas Loggin
- 1773 Richard Follen
- 1804 Sir Thomas Combe Miller
- 1864 William Astley Cooper
- 1876 H.Castle Floud
- 1897 B.H.S.Lethbridge
- 1908 T.D.Carter
- 1911 William Annesley
- 1928 C.H.Sangster
- 1943 W.V.Tunks
- 1958 E.P.Field
- 1961 R.Whalley
- 1966 L.A.Pickett
- 1975 K.C.Daubney
- 1983 K.G.Bachell
- 1988 C.A.Ardagh-Walter
- 1997 J.Croft

The Saints of Froyle

The Blessed Virgin Mary She stands high in a gable end with one foot on the Serpent who has an apple in his mouth	Saintbury Hill
Saint Katherine A beautiful little wooden statue; she holds her wheel	Saint Katherine's
The Blessed Virgin Mary A bronze plaque an the end of the building	Froyle Saw Mill
The Holy Family	Jasmine & Myrtle Cottages
Saint Peter Holding the Keys to Heaven	Blunden's House
The Sacred Heart of Jesus	Blunden's Farm House
Saint Antony of He carries the Holy Child. He is at the back of the house	Padua Park Edge
The Blessed Virgin Mary	Fern Cottage
Saint Hubert Beside him stands his stag bearing a cross between its antlers	Post Office Cottage
Saint Antony A coloured plaque. He holds a bell and is accompanied by his pig	The Chestnuts
Saint Paul He holds a sword, the instrument of his martyrdom	Saint Paul's House
Saint Joseph	Saint Joseph's Cottage
The Blessed Virgin Mary	Froyle Cottage
Saint Christopher He bears on his shoulder the Christ Child holding a globe, in his hand he holds his staff	The Manor House
The Good Shepherd	Turnpike Cottage
Saint Joseph	Villa Saint Joseph
Saint Michael Slaying the Dragon	Shrubbery House
Saint Christopher	Froyle Mill
Jesus Christ	West End Lodge
Saint Joan of Arc	An indoor Saint

Froyle Parish Council

Froyle's Parish Council was born at 6.30pm on Tuesday, December 4th 1894 in the Schoolroom in Upper Froyle - now a private house. The proceedings were minuted - as are all meetings - and so began a form of local government that would guide the fortunes of the village for over a 100 years. The list below records the Chairmen and Parish Clerks since the foundation of the Council.

Chairman of Froyle Parish Council

Rev H.C.Floud	1894 - 1897
Mr Harry Coster	1897 - 1904
Mr Bernhard W.Bentinck	1904 - 1908
Major Bryan	1908 - 1910
Sir Hubert Miller	1911 - 1941
Mr John Chubb	1941 - 1945
Col.Greville	1945 - 1946
Sir Hugh Smiley	1946 - 1952
Col.Newton-Davis	1952 - 1965
Col.John Willcocks	1965 - 1976
Mrs Pat Morris	1976 - 1986
Mr Andrew Pritchard	1986 - 1989
Mrs Jean Benson	1989 - 1999
Mr Ian Black	1999 -

Clerks to the Parish Council

Mr Walter Brownjohn	1895 - 1946
Mr Tom Knight	1946 - 1957
Mr Walter Start	1957 - 1973
Major Kenneth Leese	1973 - 1987
Mrs Joan Emery	1987 - 1988
Mrs Marsha Hadley	1988 - 1990
Mr Ted Crowhurst	1990 - 1992
Mr David Whitaker	1992 -