

Froyle Village Magazine



February 2021

No. 473

<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



The PC met virtually on 11 January with the main discussion being on its response to the independent Governance Review Report prepared for EHDC and reported in *The Alton Herald* on 10 December. The issues raised reinforced our concerns with some of the unanswered questions that the PC was left with over the development of Froyle Park wedding venue. The PC agreed to bring this to the attention of the EHDC Monitoring Officer, asking him to determine whether the approvals granted and subsequent investigations into the operation of Froyle Park should be reviewed again. A letter to this effect has now been sent ([link on PC website](#)) and residents will be kept informed of any response received from EHDC.

Froyle Wildlife were granted permission to install six bird nest boxes on trees around Froyle recreation field to encourage more birds to breed within the village. A further six are planned to be installed within Froyle Park.

A grant of £500 was approved by Tony Costigan, our EHDC Councillor, to cover the cost of the new noticeboards that was reported last month.

Tenders were received in December for the renovation of the football hut. Unfortunately these came in at a higher price than had been anticipated, so the PC has decided to explore an alternative option to demolish the hut and erect a timber framed structure to the same design specification on the slab. Quotes have been requested and a decision will be taken on the way forward in February. 'Owners' of the jumble etc. stored in the hut will be contacted to arrange to empty the building once current Covid restrictions have been lifted.

It was agreed that the 2021/22 Council Tax Precept for the village would be set at the 2020/21 level plus inflation. This represents an annual increase of £1.08 on the Council Tax bill for a Band D property in Froyle. The final budget will be signed off by the PC in March. Any initiatives that residents would like to have considered for funding should be advised to the Clerk by the end of February.

Although the development of the football hut will be the major project for the PC this coming year, we are keen to hear about any other initiatives that residents would like to have considered for funding. One such initiative being considered by the PC is to improve accessibility to footpaths around the village possibly by replacing stiles with kissing gates. The PC will do their own survey, but please advise the Clerk of any footpaths that you consider would benefit from greater accessibility. We will of course have to work with local landowners to make any changes.

EHDC's scheduled litter pick on the A31 in the week ending 11 January had to be postponed due to traffic restrictions which have been put in place elsewhere on the A31. The PC will be seeking a new date for the litter pick from EHDC as soon as restrictions allow, but this is not expected to be before March.

The PC has arranged to meet with the new owners of Froyle Estate on 26 January to introduce ourselves, get a sense of the plans the new owners have for the estate and develop a strong, co-operative working relationship.

Around the village

Four new planning applications have been received since the last PC meeting. The PC agreed to object to one from Froyle Estate to demolish the bungalow opposite the Village Hall and replace it with a substantial family house (Ref 59006) but had no comment on the other three. All planning applications and the PC's comments can be accessed via the EHDC Planning Portal or the PC website.

The PC was disappointed that despite its concerns, EHDC has approved the felling of three mature trees at a property in Lower Froyle. An explanation of the rationale for this decision, especially regarding a prominent beech tree, has been requested of the EHDC Case Officer.

Bentley PC has asked the PC to support its complaint to Thames Water about the discharge of raw sewage into the River Wey from the Bentley Treatment Works. The PC has written to Damian Hinds MP and received a positive reply.

Veolia has provided additional information to support its application for a waste incinerator beside the A31. The NWI action group's experts are reviewing the new information and guidance will be posted on its website as to how residents can object effectively. The second public consultation closes on 20 February.

Residents in parts of Lower Froyle experienced power cuts this month as SSE worked to improve the quality of supply by replacing overhead lines with underground cables. Hopefully unscheduled outages will be a thing of the past!

The PC has reported the theft of the mailbox located in the hedge in Lower Froyle to Royal Mail and is seeking an early replacement.

Other news and alerts

CPRE are encouraging supporters to sign up for Star Count from their homes in February. The aim is to help to map the nation's view of the stars, so we can better protect our dark skies – the nearby South Downs National Park is a designated Dark Sky area. The next PC meeting is scheduled for **Monday 8 February**.

Please contact the Clerk if you require further information on any of the issues raised in this report or the Zoom sign-in details for the next PC meeting. Contact details are available on the back of the Magazine.

Do access the PC website and Facebook for information about the PC and activities in the surrounding area. If you wish to sign up to receive PC email alerts re service disruptions, road closure and other information please send your details to the Clerk.



Bookings:
Sarah Zorab
01420 520361

www.froylevillagehall.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is dark, as they would say in the theatrical trade. All closed up. Nothing stirring.

Then comes a distress signal from 'Dottie Dots', the Nursery School in Bentley: they need a home for a fortnight in February while essential work is undertaken on the Memorial Hall.

At first we are doubtful. Would this create a precedent? Who would do the cleaning? What do the regulations say? Risk assessment? On the other hand, the government allows nursery schools to continue operating as they help release key workers and, of course, it's good for the children. A quick consultation via email with the Committee and the decision is made. Welcome 'Dottie Tots'!

The Village Hall Committee continues to meet via Zoom every month and there always seems to be plenty to discuss. It also provides a break from lockdown blues. At the January meeting the Chairman thanked Roger Cooper for all his help over the last five years. Roger has decided to stand down from the Committee, but will continue to help and support.

We are working hard at redesigning the website, which we hope to launch early next month. In the absence of anything recent, we are looking for photographs to illustrate past activity in and around the hall. If you have something suitable please email it to me. Reworking the copy for the site makes me appreciate how lucky we are to have such a bright, clean and well-equipped hall. Well done that early eighties committee who had the courage to condemn the old hall (think football hut), raise the funds, and design and build the hall we enjoy today. We hope to take advantage of the lockdown, to do some decoration, so that when the hall reopens - and it will reopen - it all looks fresh and welcoming. We also ought to get the curtains cleaned. Does anyone know a safe and cost effective way of getting this done?

Then there is the Great Froyle Treasure Hunt. Exactly what form this will take and exactly when (Easter perhaps) has yet to be revealed. Nor the nature and value of the treasure. Ideas and experience of treasure hunts, as always, welcome. Please contact Karen Potter.

It's that time of year when the Committee consider the accounts and the budget under the stern and masterful eye of the Honorary Treasurer. Although income has inevitably dwindled, thanks to a series of grants from HMG we are in a better position than many community halls. After such a long period of disruption and closure, when we reopen-

and we will - we will need to rebuild our user-base. We also need to increase the level of usage which prior to the pandemic averaged one three-hour session a day. So we shall have to improve our marketing skills, which will almost certainly involve greater use of 'social media' about which I, for one, know nothing.

Once the Froyle herd is safely vaccinated, if you have ideas for new activities or novel events in the hall or just want to throw a post-Brexit/Pandemic/Trump party, do let us know.

Just don't trample me in the rush.

Nick Whines secretary@froylevillagehall.co.uk



The Meeting Place

We cannot reopen the Meeting Place for the time being. We will start the Meeting Place just as soon as the village hall is open again.

The Meeting Place Team

THANK YOU

Thank you to the person who so kindly posted Mungo's identity disc through my letter box. He must have shed it during a walk. Your thoughtful action saved me a back-breaking trawl along my sopping flower beds, where I'd convinced myself it had landed!

Jane Palmer (Park Lane)

JIGSAWS

a.k.a. "Lockdown redemption"

Jigsaws are making a comeback. As if they ever went away!

We have two interesting (intact) 1000-piece items. If anyone would like to swap/loan on the basis of 'we'll show you ours, if you...' etc.

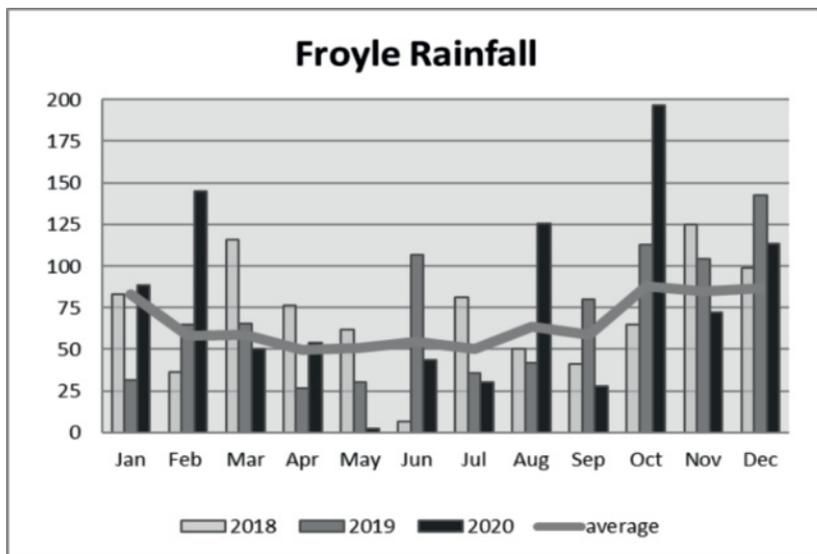
All items to be suitably quarantined and boxes sanitised.

The swap/load scheme could be expanded if there is sufficient interest.

Contact Gordon or Faith 0142023851

Froyle Rainfall for December 2020 and for the whole of 2020

| | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| This year | 113.5 mm | 4.5 ins |
| Last year | 142.5 mm | 5.6 ins |
| Wettest December (1989) | 167 mm | 6.6 ins |
| Driest December (1988) | 17 mm | 0.7 ins |
| December long-term average – the 2 nd wettest month | 86.6 mm | 3.4 ins |
| Total rainfall for the whole of 2020 | 948 mm | 37.3 ins |
| Long-term average for the year as a whole | 786.1 mm | 30.9 ins |



HOLD THE FRONT PAGE...

In the last 40-odd years, 2020's total rainfall for the year in Froyle has only been exceeded twice, and then only marginally; in 2014 by a mere 2.5 mm, and in 1986, by 5 mm. However, in the seven other years when the annual total has exceeded 900 mm – 15% above the average - in six of them the following January and February combined has been substantially below the average.



“The Umbrella Man”

Bruce Powell, MBE



Some of you may not have seen that Bruce was awarded an MBE in the 2021 New Year's Honours, for "services to education". Many of you will have known him because of his many years' tenure as the Chairman of the Trustees of Treloars and indeed he oversaw the move from Froyle to Holybourne in 2012.

Although Bruce and his family have lived in Bentley for 60-odd years, he continues to have many friends and connections in the village, not least from his continued management of the local shoot.

And even if our bowing and curtsying is in need a bit of practice, we nevertheless send him our heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of his many years' service to our community.

The Editors

New Owners of the Froyle Estate

After many months of uncertainty, it was confirmed at the end of 2020 that the Froyle Estate has been bought by a farms and estate investment business called Belport, based in Banbury in Oxfordshire.

Belport was founded in 2016 by Charles Buckley and Alistair Emery and they now run a business with £200m of assets, including Strutt & Parker Farms in East Anglia. As they say on their website, "its founders have extensive farming experience and a proven track record investing in and managing farms and estates".

We understand that they see the Froyle Estate as being one where they can invest in and manage the farming to improve the returns and, in parallel, look for development opportunities particularly with some of its brownfield sites, such as the unused farm buildings.

We understand that the Parish Council has an introductory meeting with Belport shortly, but ahead of that, this does look to be a positive outcome for the Village, as anybody who is prepared to invest in the area for the long-term can only be good news.

For more information see their website: <https://www.belport.co.uk/>

David Robertson

Covid Vaccination Update: A31 Primary Care Network – January 2021

The roll out of the vaccination programme will take place as quickly as supplies allow. Please note that so far, Covid vaccines have been very limited in terms of supplies, despite press and news coverage setting a different level of expectation. This is the case for both the Pfizer and the Astra Zeneca vaccines.

- 1. Please be patient and wait to be contacted:** Practice staff and NHS staff in a local contact centre will be handling appointment bookings for patients across North Hampshire, including patients registered at Bentley Village Surgery, Boundaries, Chawton Park Surgery and The Wilson Practice.
- 2. Please avoid calling your surgery for information:** Vaccine rollout is being planned and managed at scale across North Hampshire so that individual GP practices can continue to provide care in the normal way. Practice telephone lines need to remain open to patients for these services.
- 3. Please be reassured - YOU WILL BE CONTACTED when your appointment is due:**
 - Landline calls will be made to people without mobile phones. If contact cannot be established by mobile phone or landline, patients will receive a letter.
 - Within a priority group, patients will be called for vaccination in age order in accordance with guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
- 4. Please turn up for your appointment:** Every vaccine shot is a precious commodity. Although few in number, there have already been missed appointments. If you are unable to make your appointment, please call the number provided as soon as possible so that your appointment and vaccine can be reallocated.
- 5. After your vaccination, please continue to follow all guidance to control the virus:** The large increase in cases hospitals are seeing and the emergence of a new variant of the virus shows us that we cannot let our guard down. Even those who have received a vaccine still need to follow social distancing and all other guidance relating to reducing the spread, for example continuing to wear masks.

Although this is the biggest vaccination programme the NHS has ever undertaken, it is important to remember the NHS is used to delivering millions of vaccines a year. In our local area we are off to an excellent start with the rollout programme at our Covid vaccination hub at Chineham. For example, patients who were invited to receive the Pfizer vaccine before Christmas have received their second dose as originally scheduled.

The vaccine clinics are at a dedicated hub in Chineham: While recognising the challenges for a number of patients in terms of getting to Chineham, please understand that having a dedicated hub is the most effective way to deliver a mass vaccination programme alongside provision of normal practice-based GP services. *The Covid vaccination programme is very different when compared to the annual local flu clinics that you may be familiar with.* The scale, the process, the stringent requirements and the speed at which this must be delivered, added to the need to maintain day-to-day GP services and be there when patients need help in what must be the most challenging winter health crisis we have ever faced, all point to the need for a shared service to ensure that the vaccine can be distributed with minimum disruption and in the shortest possible time, subject to supply.

The aim is to give protection to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. The planning in our area has been GP-led and much thought has been given to balancing all the factors involved. Please be reassured vaccinations will be given locally to care-home residents and to patients who are house-bound.

For all other patients, please find ways to get yourself to Chineham, asking for support from relatives and support bubbles where necessary. Local Care Group Services and other volunteer groups may be able to help, depending on availability of drivers and Covid risk assessments.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and doing all you can to follow what is being asked of you here.

FROYLE'S FLYING CHORISTERS

There are usually at least five opportunities to sing Carols around the village in December: from community singing at The Meeting Place to the village Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's church.

When we were discussing the thin gruel of a 2020 Christmas celebration at the virtual Parochial Church Council meeting in November, we realised Community Carol Singing was likely to become a casualty of compliance with Government regulations. There was much consternation and a good deal of grumbling. A good grumble turned out to be the catalyst for new thinking as we started to examine what we were allowed to do under the regulations.



Many ideas were thrown around (one involving a donkey...) and we finally settled on four, socially distanced, outside Carol Hubs. There was much organising to be done. The core team got Zooming and ideas came thick and fast. Before we knew it there were magazine articles written, carol sheets printed, Mince Pie Delivery Teams, sleigh builders, Compliance Marshalls and Traffic Bollards being planned and activated all around the village.

December 21st came around frighteningly fast, everything was in place, except the weather. It was looking grim. Proper drizzly grim. The Church Warden made the final call: "Come on, let's get on with it, we're only going to get wet and the village expects!". Given the weather we didn't expect to see many villagers though....



The Sleigh, resplendent with lights and choristers, arrived in Miller Lane, Upper Froyle at 6:30pm to find a magnificent crowd of hardy villagers shrugging off the weather and in great voice. We were amazed and delighted by the turnout and how well it all worked out. We were in business!

The Village Hall was next and then onto Hodges Farm and finally Goschen's Farm. At every Carol Hub there was a wonderment of singers and singing and a celebration of Christmas joy and village community life at its very best.

I have to confess that by the time we arrived at Goschen's I was totally overwhelmed and could hardly sing a word of the unaccompanied *Silent Night*. Despite all of the challenges Froyle and the world faced in December 2020, in the very strangest of Christmases, we all came together and pulled-off something quite magical.

The People who made the magic happen:

Amanda Maher, William Knowles, Simon Marshall, Jane Macnabb, Jan Elliott, Jos Cochrane, Julie Southern, George Harrison, Jane Palmer, Froyle Church Choir, Yann Dubreuil, David Robertson and every single village singer. Thank You!

Nigel Southern

PS. After many requests: Yes, we shall be doing it again next Christmas.



Although we remain optimistic about 2021, it is obvious that it will be several months before we can safely resume our meetings.

However it is not too soon to get to work in the garden and sowing some seeds.

Our professional gardener Geoff has kindly agreed to give us these valuable tips for the month. Thank you to Geoff - and may you all have a good gardening year.

Anne Blunt

FEBRUARY FROM THE POTTING SHED

Snowdrops are now bringing us a feeling of hope for the year ahead so let us see what we can get on and do in the garden once more.

Do not be in a rush to tidy up. Leave the leaves on the garden, the worms will love them and it will help to increase the organic matter in the soil. If herbaceous plants are still not cut down, then do not worry the stems will help protect the crown and can be cut down later and added to the compost heap.

In the veg garden you can get going with broad bean sowing, get your onion sets and seed potatoes organised. The onions can be planted later in the month provided it is not too wet and the seed potatoes can be placed in egg trays to chit and then they will be ready to plant up in end of March.

If you like sweet peas, now is the time to get the seed sown for good strong plants for planting in May.

Do not rush to prune the roses as a late frost in March can still cause the new shoots to cut back by frost. Inspect any dahlia tubers you may have stored over the winter. If buying new ones, get the tubers and plant them into pots and water carefully. From the new shoots you will be able to take cuttings in March/April. These will give you good strong plants for the summer.

It is a good time to prune apples and pears (not cherry or plum) to give more light and shape to the bushes.

Geoff Hawkins

Vision and hearing impairment



Sensory impairment is a very common issue for people as they grow older. Fortunately, there are lots of things you can do to help you cope with the issues arising from declining sight and hearing.

Visual impairment

Sight tests – You can arrange for an optician to visit you at home, by calling the Outside Clinic on 0800 640 9513 or booking online <https://www.outsideclinic.co.uk/eye-test-at-home/request-an-eye-test/>. Specsavers also offer a home visit service, which you can book by calling your local home visit team on 07796 705239. Both organisations offer free NHS sight tests and help towards the costs of glasses, if you are eligible.

Sight aids – Magnifiers, large button telephones, talking clocks and text-speak devices are available to help with everyday tasks. The NHS website provides more information <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vision-loss/>

Support organisations:

- The Macular Society 0300 3030111 <https://www.macularsociety.org/>
- Seeability 01372 755000 <https://www.seeability.org/>
- RNIB 0303 1239999 <https://www.rnib.org.uk/>
- Open Sight Hampshire 02380 641244 <https://www.opensight.org.uk/>
- The Partially Sighted Society 01302 965195 <https://www.partsight.org.uk/>

RNIB

Hearing impairment

Hearing tests - You can also arrange for a free hearing test at home, with the Outside Clinic, by calling 0333 255 4749 or booking online

<https://www.outsideclinic.co.uk/hearing-test-at-home/request-a-hearing-test/>

Depending on where you live, you may be able to have an NHS-funded test and also free NHS hearing aids, should you need them. Specsavers also offer hearing tests at home, at a cost, by calling 0800 023 2949 or online <https://www.specsavers.co.uk/hearing/hearing-tests-at-home>

Hearing aids – Audio amplifiers, text phones, specialist smoke detectors, vibrating clocks and watches, and flashing or vibrating doorbells, are available to help. The NHS website provides more information <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/hearing-aids/>

Support organisations:

- RNID 0808 8080123 www.rnid.org.uk/
- Sonus 02380 220225 <http://www.sonus.org.uk/index.html>

RNID

Alternatively, contact your local Village Agent,
Madeleine on 23371

Village Agents are volunteers who can help you find information and local services that will enable you to stay living safely and independently.

FROYLE 100 CLUB – JANUARY DRAW



The 100 Club administrator's travels around Froyle have been much curtailed by the lockdown. So for January we had a 'domestic' draw to start off the New Year, with Mrs Knowles doing the honours – supervised, as with so many of these draws, by a woofers. She (Mary, definitely not the dog) looks as if she is enjoying it, doesn't she? Despite the rain.... Maybe I'll ask her to do it again. I do hope, though, that at some point before the New Year becomes as old as I am, we'll be back in the village hall with the Meeting Place.

Many thanks to those who have paid their subscriptions for 2021. I shall be in touch with others in due course – the lockdown is a poor excuse for my inefficiency, both on collecting subscriptions and delivering winnings.

The numbers they drew were:

1st – Linda Bulpitt 2nd – Nick Whines
3rd – Teresa Ogden 4th – Julie Southern

Congratulations to all the winners,.

William Knowles Tel: 07775 928933, email: wbk@wbknowles.com

FOR SALE



Green, heavy duty, top-loading storage bunker.

For Garden bits and bobs, or logs/coal.
970mm (H) x 780mm (D) x 870mm (W)
£20.00

Contact: Gordon Mitchell 0142023851

Church School Values at Bentley CE Primary School



As a Church School we use 'values' as a way to introduce children to teaching from the Bible as well as to support their development as citizens and community members. Each term we have a value word to focus our daily Collective Worship teaching towards. The themes are universal to us all, whether a child or adult has a religious faith or not. We learn about: Hope, Determination, Forgiveness, Peace, Remembrance, Justice and many more.

In the Spring term, as we approach Easter, we encourage our school to reflect on the three special values chosen by our staff, pupils and families. These values are extra special and we think they reflect our school best. They are 'Love, Community and Courage'. In the words of the children:

Love – we love our school, we love learning. We are loved by our families and friends and we show others love too. We love the planet too. We are kind to ourselves too and that can be tricky!

Courage – we want to be brave and try new things. We are courageous in doing the right thing even when it is difficult.

Community – we work together with the grown-ups at school, our families at home and in Bentley and the places we live. We support one another and we don't let people be lonely. We help people whenever we can; we support three charities every year, we do litter picking and we collect for the Food Bank so that things can be made fair for everyone in our community.

This year we would like to ask for your help to develop our Values work in school. We would like nominations for stories from the Bible which reflect 'Love', 'Courage' or 'Community'. We want to collect these stories and share them in school. If you have a good example from a different Faith we would be interested to have these too!

You can email your idea to us or write it down and pop it into our black post box on the school vehicle access gate.

Please give us your name, the name and details of the story (e.g. Daniel in the Lions Den Old Testament, Daniel 6) and we would like to know which of our three values you think it applies to and why.

We would very much appreciate your help and if you would like to submit several ideas then please do! We are hoping to create a long list of stories to link to 'Love', 'Courage' and 'Community' from many members of our Bentley community. We also plan to create some Bible story films and a Values' mural in the sports hall based on this project.

Thank you in advance for getting involved.



K. Pinchess, Headteacher



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

Froyle Baby and Toddler Group

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 -UPDATES WILL BE POSTED ON HERE. AT TIME OF PRINTING, I AM HOPING TO RE-OPEN AFTER FEB HALF TERM.



Froyle Wildlife

February signs of spring

Bumblebees - At the time of writing in late January, Winter Aconites and the Winter-flowering Honeysuckle – *Lonicera fragrantissima* - are flowering in our Froyle garden with hellebores and snowdrops soon to break open. These plants will be much sought after by Buff-tailed bumblebee and Tree Bumblebee queens who may venture out on sunny days during February to forage having hibernated over the winter. Other spring flowering plants that attract these bees and some solitary bees include Crocus, Primrose, *Pulmonaria officinalis* (Lungwort) and *Mabonia aquifolium*.



Butterflies – The first butterflies of the year can sometimes be seen flying in February. These will be the species that overwintered as adults in outbuildings, garages or dense vegetation. In 2019 on warm days from February 23rd - 26th we recorded Brimstone, Peacock, and Comma in the garden and a Small Tortoiseshell on the Rec. and another at the Wildlife pond area. Do send us your sightings to info@froylewildlife.co.uk or photos to Instagram with #froylewildlife.

Birds - The first tentative songs of Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush have been heard in the Froyle countryside whilst in the garden the Robin's rather melancholy autumn/winter song has given way to more optimistic and challenging tones in the hope of attracting a mate and guarding his territory from usurpers. With this in mind the **National Nest Box Week** runs yearly from 14th to 21st February, the aim being to encourage more people to put up nest boxes. Check out www.nestboxweek.com to discover why nest boxes matter, which bird species use which type of boxes, how

to choose or make a good nest box and where to site them. to encourage more people to put up nest boxes.



Wild Flowers – A few to look out for in February – Celandine, Coltsfoot, Sweet Violet, Dog’s Mercury, Barren Strawberry, Lesser Celandine, Groundsel, Common Chickweed, Shepherd’s purse, Winter Heliotrope, Petty Spurge, Danish Scurvygrass. The A31 towards Alton is usually beautiful with the blossom of Cherry Plum – the first Plum to bloom and often confused with Blackthorn which starts to flower about a month later.

Sue Clark



Citizens Advice East Hampshire

Website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Telephone number 0808 278 7901 (freephone)

COVID Winter Fuel Grant

Are you struggling to heat your home during Covid or do you have utility bills you are worried that you cannot afford? Please call us so we can support you and help you access the Winter Fuel Fund.

Details of your utility supplier and overall income will be needed but we can explain all this when you call.

January News from The Froyle Archive

Ghostly Activities - Part 2

Last month's piece seems to have aroused some interest in the stories of ghostly experiences in the village, mainly Upper Froyle, and, with the church dating back the best part of 1000 years, it is not surprising. There are also tales about hauntings by a large black dog in the Vicarage (*nowadays re-named St Paul's*) and adjacent properties. Previous owners who lived there in the late 1980s reported sighting a large black dog standing in the garden, which, when investigated, disappeared. The Reverend Tunks, (*right*) who was Vicar of Froyle from 1943 to 1958 owned a very large black dog.....



While we are in Upper Froyle, there is an addition to our tale from last month of the sphere we drove through by Upper Froyle Post Office on our way home from the Pantomime. One person, who, when he was a pupil at Froyle School had seen a similar 'ball of light' to the one we witnessed in the field behind the playground. He had never told anyone else about it until he saw the article in the magazine. Froyle School, of course, is very near the Post Office. Also there have been sightings on more than one occasion of a young girl sitting on the wall where the path goes off at the end of St Mary's churchyard opposite the school. This whole area has had so many different sightings over the years that it is hard to ignore them. Lower Froyle has similar tales of 'Grey Ladies' associated with some of the older houses in the village, remember "Husseys" dates back to the 12th Century, and there

was a lot of building following that time to create the Lower Froyle we know today.



St Paul's in 1982



This delightful picture of Sylvesters Farm was taken in the 1880s.

Sylvesters Farm(1674) has a legend of its own. In 1922 Tom Knight came to Froyle as Headmaster of the village school, and his young daughter, Barbara, suffered at the hands of the other children. They would run after her calling “You’re a ghost! You’re a ghost! ”. It was said that the ghost of a certain Barbara Knight walked at Midsummer Eve on the lawn of Sylvesters Farm under the cedar tree.

The picture above of Sylvesters Farm in the 1880s, also shows Barbara Knight (*no relation of Tom Knight*) herself seated on the lawn, under the cedar tree.....

This enlargement shows Barbara seated, left, with members of her family.

Before moving to Sylvesters, she and her husband, William, had run the Froyle Brewery in Husseys Lane.



These are just a few of the Ghostly Happenings in this small village described in the Domesday Book as being “.....ever there”.

If YOU have any personal experiences or have been told something about your house we would love to hear from you!

Chris & Annette Booth. The Froyle Archive. 0142022364



**Scratchy, bored, frustrated, low,
directionless and without motivation?**

**GET OUT OF THAT COVID CLOUD AND
INTO A RAINBOW OF
CREATIVITY AND HAPPINESS.**



We're all in the midst of a great tumultuous pandemic storm together - a storm without end, wind and waves, thunder and lightening battering us from every side. At times like this getting creative and busy with our hands and making something helps a lot.

So, having put away the sleigh, and with the outdoor carols a receding memory, we thought we'd better build an ark: Froyle's Ark. We can't build it just yet, but we can start filling it with bugs and beasts and we need everyone's help.

Join us and manufacture a millipede, build a bison, crayon a creepy-crawly or paint a pig for the voyage. Froyle's Ark will be delighted to receive writings, drawings or objects of any kind which express your feelings. So: pen a poem, dream up a doodle, jot a joke and look afresh at the favourite things surrounding you. We can carry treasures of anything you'd like to preserve.

There are endless avenues of creative expression. We're all different; adults, children and families can make amazing things - Froyle's Ark has no limit to how many homemade beasts or cargo it can carry.



Here's the plan:

Soon there will be the www.froylesark.com website for you to visit where you will find ideas to inspire you and get you started. Let your imagination flow and get crafting and creating. Photograph your creation and submit the photos or documents to the Virtual Gallery at www.froylesark.com. The Ark Gallery opens for boarding and embarkation from 1st March 2021 and The Ark Gallery will open for visitors on April 1st 2021.

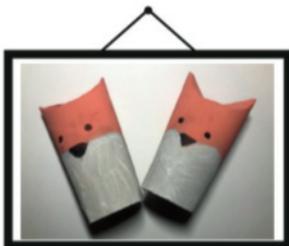
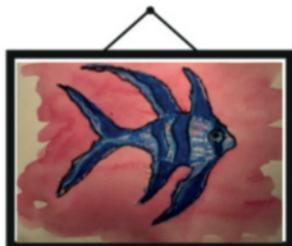


When the storm has passed, our ship of wonder will dock safely in the calm waters of St Mary's Church, Upper Froyle. All of the exhibits from the online gallery will be called into an actual, real life Ark that we'll all be able to visit. The spectacle of our collective creative talents will be something to behold after we've all spent so long in a storm of isolation!

For all details, please visit froylesark.com. Register your boarding card as we simply need to understand how big we need to make the Ark. The more the merrier. There are many ways to get involved in this exciting village event. We'll also be needing to recruit a team of Ark builders, so we hope there are some aspiring shipwrights out there? Let's get cracking. The future of our village and maybe our world depends upon it. Just how many of this amazing planets' 8.7 million species can we get into Froyle's Ark ...?



Questions or suggestions?
Email
getonboard@froylesark.com



With thanks to the MacInnes family for getting us started with their brilliant paintings and objects.



Down Your Country Ways With R. Ambling

(R. Ambling)



Here's another walk that avoids the continuous mud on many local walks and one that is fine for joggers. Did try jogging, but suffered chaffing and certainly didn't suit lycra! This route will be completed within covid regulations, so the Prittster won't send in the heavies to take you off to the clink.

Start by walking to The Hen and Chicken - hope everyone knows where that is. Once there follow the slip road towards the West End Farm at the entrance of the Farm cross the A31 with care and follow the lane towards Mill Court; go over the railway bridge and cross the River Wey. Then take the first left just after the lodge. The lane goes up hill and keeps Mill Court on your left.



Follow this road for approximately a mile and a half. It allows good views over to Upper Froyle, but as it is very open so quite cold when windy. Keep on this lane until you reach a tee junction, turn left and follow the lane downhill over the railway bridge, at which point you will be a Mill Farm with the cow shed on your left. Keep right when the road forks by Mill Farm shop, and after about 100 yards turn left. You will now be going the opposite direction towards Isington Mill that you may have walked had you followed last month's walk.



Follow the road downhill passing Isington Mill on your right, over the River Wey and keep following the road up to the A31 at this point you can go straight over the A31 or if you would prefer a little safer route follow the lane and go under the A31. Whichever way you choose, either carry on up the road towards The Anchor or follow the drive through Coldrey and come out onto the road and turn right toward The Anchor. At this point I'm hoping you will know where you live and can make it back safely.

Hope you enjoy this walk, hopefully by March we may be able to get out and about on the footpaths and not have to walk past The Hen and Chicken, West End Farm and The Anchor.

R. Ambling

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



Church Wardens:

William Knowles
Park Edge, Upper Froyle
(07775 928933)
wbk@wbknowles.com

Simon Marshall
(07734 214419)
sm517@icloud.com

Benefice Pastoral Care:

Nick Carter (472861)

Anna Chaplain:

Nicky Smallwood (07765 058593)

Sunday services are suspended for now.

Following Boris Johnson's address on the 4th January and the imposition of another lockdown and in line with Winchester Diocese' recommendation for parishes to consider not holding services, we have reviewed what we should do about live services.

Although public worship is still allowed, the overall thrust of the Prime Minister's message and the extraordinary acceleration of the disease in all parts of the country, including our own, seemed to us to be incompatible with people continuing to gather for live services. With great reluctance, we have therefore decided not to hold further live services in the Benefice for the time being.

Our churches will continue to be made available for private prayer and we will continue to minister to those who are most vulnerable in our Benefice through our Anna Chaplaincy work and the Pastoral Team.

The Benefice online services (posted online at 11am on Sundays), Thought for the Day (posted online at 6.30am daily), School Assemblies and online Messy Church can be accessed through the benefice website address below or by searching 'BenBinFro Churches' on YouTube. Our service are also available to listen to via a phone line for those who have little or no internet connection. Just call 01420 552652. We're also due to start a weekly online Alpha Course on Thursday 28th January at 7pm.

The situation will of course be regularly reviewed and I want to thank you for your patience, prayers and understanding at this time.

Blessings, Yann and the Rector's Council

THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear all,

Settling down on a grey, wet January morning to write this letter immediately after the announcement of our third lockdown, it was hard at first to summon up the energy and will power to think of a positive message. But then one of the members of the team here said they'd just seen the first primrose of the year and we all decided to list all the things for which we can be thankful, rather than bemoaning what we can't do during this period of restrictions.

Firstly, we must give thanks for the tireless support of health workers and the arrival of vaccinations for all of us eventually. We are thankful for antibiotics and intensive care procedures, which mean that unlike the pandemic of the early twentieth century, when thousands died and many collapsed in the street, recovery rates are good and for many of those affected Covid will be no more than a dose of seasonal flu.

Secondly, we are grateful for the support of all those workers whose efforts sustain our lives during this challenging time. How would we cope without supermarket deliveries, checkout operators and shelf stackers keeping us supplied with food and other essential goods? What would life be like without regular rubbish collections, access to the recycling centre and delivery drivers? Bus drivers, train operators, taxi drivers may have far fewer passengers during this time, but they are still operating so those who can't work from home can keep their jobs and continue to provide services we all need.

Here in Benbinfro, we are grateful to all members of our communities who have reached out to neighbours with offers of shopping, collecting prescriptions and extending a hand of friendship. We are thankful for the imaginative ways in which Christmas was celebrated in our villages: the Binsted Village Advent Calendar, the Froyle Flying Carols and the film production of *The Real Nativity*, which has been watched on YouTube 1401 times.

And let's not forget the natural world, pointed out by our primrose-spotter. In staying home more than we did before, we have observed bullfinches, tree creepers and woodpeckers along with many species we might not normally have time to notice. We've walked every day, noting the changes in the seasons and appreciating the improvement in our waistlines. The days are already lengthening now we have passed the winter solstice and we are often blessed with glorious sunrises and sunsets over our beautiful woods, hills and fields.

Then one of the team, a keen singer, deprived at present of regular opportunities to sing in church, suggested we should all sing that gloriously triumphant hymn *Give Thanks*, so here are the words, which we invite you to belt out in your homes or when out on you're your daily walk. Don't worry about looking daft; it won't frighten the horses and it makes us all feel better! You have to sing it through twice to get the most out of it!

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.....
And now let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks.

***Blessings,
Yann and the team***

Church Update

Can any of us recall such a sad start to a year? Not only do we have the lockdown and the continuing ravages of the pandemic to cope with, but within the first week of January, we lost two very dear friends of many of us in the Froyle church and wider village community. Mike Starbuck died on 2nd January. As you will all know, he was a conscientious and invaluable member of the PCC for many years and applied his considerable professional abilities and determination to keeping the church in good repair and well maintained as head of the 'Fabric Group'. Chris Little, who died on 7th January, was an extraordinarily generous benefactor of Froyle church in recent years. Above all, both were warm and wonderful people of great integrity who were excellent company, and who will be much missed.

Some more positive news:

You will see elsewhere in the magazine that we are attempting to push back on the doom and gloom by launching a 'Froyle's' Ark' project to help us all through the late winter months. This is being launched under the banner of Froyle church, but it is intended as a broad community project. It is being supported by the Parish Council and the Froyle Village Hall Committee and also by Bentley and Binsted parishes, so we hope the whole benefice will get involved. It is also an opportunity for us as Christians to revisit the Noah story and think about the messages it has for us today, of which there are many – I hope we get lots of doves for the ark, even if we have no olive trees in the churchyard.....

The clock in the Froyle church tower is working again! Some rare and skilled workmanship was needed to replace a worn part of the mechanism, which took some time. Our thanks to Jenny G for her persistence and devotion to the cause in organising this. Having the clock working again after so long must be a good omen. Remember that, although there are no services, the church remains open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm) and can be opened at other times on request. Please contact us if you would like to visit the church.

Don't forget the various online offerings from the benefice, accessible through the benefice website (www.benbinfro.co.uk), which get ever more sophisticated thanks to the talented team producing them.

An update from our Anna Chaplain

Our wonderful team of Anna Friends - Liz Carey, Marilyn Greenway, Nick Carter, Richard Greenway, Sarah Roberts and Steve Fice - hadn't yet been commissioned at a service so we decided to gather at St. Mary's Church, Bentley on Sunday December 13 to record a socially distanced commissioning Service, led by Revd. Yann.

If you missed the commissioning service you can watch it on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42A2nfNQ9_I&t=845s. Debbie Thrower then followed up the story in one of her Anna Chaplaincy blogs, which you can read here: <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/post/motivations-of-a-group-of-hampshire-anna-friends>.

With Candlemas on 2 February, it's a great time of year to celebrate Anna Chaplaincy Ministry and indeed all older people in our families and communities. At Candlemas we remember the presentation of Christ in the Temple, which fulfilled Old Testament scripture.

The account in Luke's gospel details the encounter between Mary, Joseph and Jesus and Simeon and Anna. Both Simeon and Anna are described as elderly, with Simeon being led to the Temple that day by the Holy Spirit to see the Messiah; and Anna being an 84 year old widow who, "never left the Temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day" (Luke 2:37).

Anna and Simeon are two remarkable characters, and wonderful examples of God working through older people in the most significant story of all time. No matter what stage of life we are at, God has important roles for each of us.

Wishing you love, peace and comfort for this New Year.

Revd. Nicky Smallwood (Anna Chaplain)
annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk 07765 058593



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(The session will last about 1-1½ hours)

For details contact Benbinfro Churches:

The Church Office: 01420 23339 or admin@benbinfro.org

Christopher OT: 07776178690 or christopherot@me.com

Messy Church

ZOOM

You're all invited! Whatever age you are, join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month to get stuck in with crafts, songs and a Bible story.

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Yoga- Saturday 10am at Wickham Institute, Binsted

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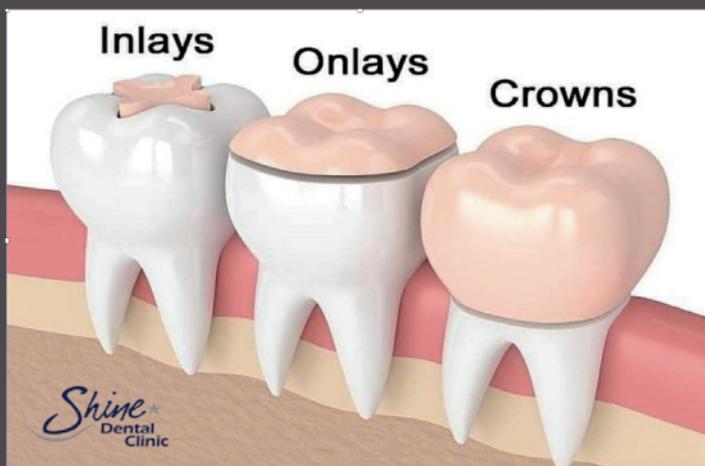
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| District Councillor | <i>Tony Costigan - 07770 666896 - tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk</i> |
| Froyle Village Hall Committee Chairman | <i>David Robertson - 520820</i> www.froylevillagehall.co.uk |
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| Froyle Wildlife..... | <i>Barry Clark - 23520</i> www.froylewildlife.co.uk |
| Froyle Village Agent for Age Concern | <i>Madeleine Black - 23371</i> |
| Bentley, Binsted & Froyle Care Group (<i>transport to medical appointments</i>) | - 23440 |
| Police | Call 101 (999) in an emergency) |
| Wildlife Crime Officer | <i>PC Scott Graham</i> <i>Scott.graham@hampshire.pnn.police.uk</i> |
| NHS non-emergency | 111 |
| The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted & Froyle..... | www.benbinfro.co.uk |
| Froyle Residents' Facebook Group | simon@watmore.com |

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Friday 19th February 2021

For advertising details, please refer to our rates outlined
on the **inside back cover**.

All booking enquiries should be addressed in the first instance to:

magazine@froyle.com and copied to *clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk*.

Magazine contributions should be submitted **by the above deadline** to:

magazine@froyle.com

Please remember to check out the magazine online at:

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