

Froyle Village Magazine



March 2021

No. 474

<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 15 February with a number of matters discussed. The EHDC Monitoring Officer responded to the PC letter regarding the Froyle Park planning process saying that ‘after consideration, there are not enough grounds to warrant yet further investigation’. A similar response was received from the Chair of the Licencing Committee regarding a PC letter seeking clarification on the Froyle Park licencing process. The PC was disappointed with these responses which appear to have closed off all avenues for further objection. Attention will focus in future on working with Froyle Park owners and management as well as EHDC to ensure that when it reopens the venue is operated in a fashion that intrudes as little as possible into the lives of village residents.

Further information was reported on costs to progress the football hut redevelopment project including demolition and erection of a pre-fabricated, timber framed building to the same dimensions as present. Costs for the remaining elements of the project including groundworks and internal fit out are now being sought. It is hoped that this will prove to be a more attractive option than refurbishment of the existing structure and work can progress in the Spring.

The PC agreed to develop an ongoing programme that would enhance different aspects of life in Froyle and is considering several possible projects including enhanced recycling (see separate article and flyer re black bins), recreational facilities on Rec, dark skies etc. It was agreed that initiatives must be both large and small so there is something that appeals to everyone. One suggestion that has already been received by the PC is the potential creation of allotments. Before we pursue this any further, the PC would require an understanding of the level of demand. If you are interested in this or have any other ideas, please contact the Clerk.

An introductory meeting was held on 26 January with the new managers of the Froyle Estate where their plans for future development of the estate were outlined. The PC has agreed to provide information to them on regularly used walking routes to try and ensure access to these is maintained.

Around the village – four new planning applications have been received since the last PC meeting. A revised application has been submitted for the demolition of the bungalow opposite the Village Hall and replacement with a substantial family house (Ref 59006). The changes contained in the revision were deemed insufficient to alter the PC’s position of opposing the application on the basis of size and removal of a

smaller dwelling from the village's housing stock and a further objection will be submitted. An application to fell a Norway spruce in Lower Froyle was objected to as a significant tree and subsequently withdrawn.

The PC agreed not to comment on the other applications which included removal and subsequent replanting of a hedge near a pylon beside the A31 and crown reduction of a tree in Upper Froyle. All planning applications and PC's comments can be accessed via the EHDC Planning Portal using the link on the PC website.

Following a request from Bentley PC for support in their campaign against Thames Water to stop the discharge of raw sewage into the River Wey from the Bentley Sewage Works (BSW), the PC wrote to Damian Hinds MP. A supportive letter was received back and the PC has subsequently received advice from him that Thames Water have agreed to increase the treatment capacity at the BSW.

Thank you to all residents who have continued to support the campaign against Veolia's proposed Alton ERF and submitted objections during the second public consultation which closed on 15 February. Strong objections have again been submitted by our local MP, County Councillors, EHDC and the PC. The next step is for a recommendation to be put to the HCC Regulatory Committee who will make a decision, possibly as early as next month.

HCC Highways have advised the PC that the remaining patching repairs to Froyle Road as part of its Operation Resilience will be carried out on **10 March**. This might again involve a road closure so please look out for the information signs.

The PC understand that Royal Mail have now agreed to replace the mailbox that was stolen from its location in the hedge on Froyle Road just after Christmas.

In response to the information circulated previously about OpenReach Superfast broadband, a number of residents in Lower Froyle have joined together and applied to have their existing lines upgraded to fibre. Vouchers are available for each household that applies but this is unlikely to cover the full cost of the work. Further information can be obtained via the Clerk.

Other news and alerts

Community First are working in partnership with EHDC to recruit volunteers for a variety of roles at Alton's new Covid 19 testing site located in the Sports Centre. If you wish to register your interest, please contact the Clerk for details.

Don't forget Census Day on Sunday 21 March. This will be a digital-first census and people will be encouraged to respond online if they can. More details in the coming days.

The next PC meeting is scheduled for **Monday 15 March**. If you wish to join, please contact the Clerk for Zoom sign in details.

Do access the PC website and Facebook for information about the PC, useful links and activities in the surrounding area. If you wish to sign up to receive PC email alerts re service disruptions, alerts and information, please send your details to the Clerk (contact details on back page of the magazine).



Bookings:
Sarah Zorab
01420 520361

www.froylevillagehall.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Not much to report this month. It was good to see 'Dottie Tots', the Bentley based nursery school, using the hall for a couple of weeks. Do come again.

We now have a brand new website with plenty of information about the hall. It includes a gallery of photographs of village activity going back over a number of years: a reminder perhaps of what we have been missing during the pandemic but also what we have to look forward to when life gets back to normal or at least the new normal.

There is also a blog which provides an opportunity to tell stories about the hall and its history as well as promote activities and events. So if you have a memory you would like to contribute please let me know. The problem with websites is that they are often started with great enthusiasm but keeping them up to date is not that easy. And nothing is sadder than a blog to which nothing has been posted for five years. So please remember to contribute. In the next few weeks members of the Committee will be trained to maintain the website, change the copy and add new photographs etc. We shall then be all set to respond when the hall is finally allowed to reopen.

While we wait we are going to do some redecorating so all is fresh and clean for the party we intend to throw to celebrate reopening. There are lots of new faces in the village and we hope this will provide an opportunity to say hello and welcome and would you like to join the committee?

Now, do you use Amazon for your online shopping? I confess I have been known to. I mean it's so convenient. There you are fresh out of four inch screws or thermal socks and next day they appear on your doorstep as if by magic. Amazon has introduced an app called Amazon Smile which sends a small donation to a charity of your choice every time you buy something. So why not download the app, make Froyle Village Hall your nominated charity and start spending. It will help offset Covid gloom and any feelings of guilt about the fact that Amazon doesn't pay enough tax or that it is destroying the High Street. If enough residents join it might (eventually) pay for the paint. Here is the link to get you started. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/281141-0>

Nick Whines secretary@froylevillagehall.co.uk

Thank You

Barbara and her family would like to thank the villagers for all the kindness, prayers and help given to us during Michael's illness and subsequently, after his death on January 2nd.

It was wonderful to see so many standing quietly along the lanes in the sunshine on Friday 29th January to bid him a fond farewell - it will stay in my heart forever.

We are hoping to have a memorial service post-covid.

Barbara Starbuck



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

WEEKLY COVID VACCINATION UPDATES

Weekly Covid vaccination programme updates are published for each of the four practices within the A31 Group.

Bentley Village Surgery: <https://www.bentleysurgery.org.uk>

The Wilson Practice: <https://www.wilsonpractice.co.uk>

Chawton Park Surgery: <https://www.chawtonparksurgery.nhs.uk>

Boundaries: <https://www.boundaries-surgery.com/latest-news>

Please check the relevant practice website on Friday mornings for the latest information.

ST MARY'S CHURCH - EASTER

As we are still in uncertain times and don't yet know whether or not our Church will be open for services at Easter, we are suggesting that we should do Decorated Crosses which, if we are not able to put into the Church, we could display in our front gardens.

I am sure that nearer the time our Churchwardens will be letting us know what the plans are for Easter. Normally, we would decorate the Church on Easter Saturday, this year the 3rd April. Please get in touch if you have any queries.

Sarah 23294

Gill 520484



MARCH FROM THE POTTING SHED

The cold weather of February will have left its mark in the garden. Check plants in containers to make sure that they are still fine. Some pots may have even cracked due to the frost and will need to be replaced. Any shoots that have died due to the frost need to be cut back to live wood. It's always a good idea to check all plants at this time of the year and cut out any dead, diseased and damaged wood.

Borders can be cut back and any plants that need dividing can be done now. Mulch around plants with good garden compost. Do not worry if the compost has bits still in it, it is all useful for the plants and invertebrates in the soil.

Sowing can get going now for annuals and vegetables. Make sure seedlings are uncovered as soon as the shoots emerge and kept in good light but not in a hot position. This will stop the seedlings from getting leggy which is not good for them.

Lift, divide and replant snowdrops. About three bulbs per clump and space clumps around three to four inches apart. Cornus grown for colourful stems can be pruned back hard (about four inches from the ground). Clematis that flower in the spring will be pruned after flowering while the ones that flower after July can be cut back hard to produce new shoots which will grow and flower in late summer/autumn. Leave the large flowered clematis alone apart from removing any dead shoots.

It is a month of activity but be patient, enjoy the garden, do not become a slave to it.

Geoff Hawkins

FROYLE 100 CLUB

February Draw

The editor of the March edition of this fine publication was roped in to do the draw for February – accosted outside her house on a dog walk in the rain – but doesn't she look happy...?

This gives me the opportunity, on behalf (I am sure) of all members of the Froyle 100 Club, to say a very big THANK YOU to all the editors of the magazine, and also the team who distribute the magazine to our doors, for having kept the magazine going and the hard copies delivered each month throughout the pandemic. I'm sure it hasn't been easy, but for many of us it has been a lifeline.

A fine example of Froyle excellence at work.

The February winners were:

- 1st – Will Butler
- 2nd – Martin Wimshurst
- 3rd – Sue Sharman
- 4th – Maureen Fry

Congratulations to all the winners.

William Knowles Tel: 07775 928933

Email: wbk@wbknowles.com



LOST

Has anyone found a pair of tortoiseshell Ray-Ban sunglasses somewhere on the fields between Upper and Lower Froyle?



I managed to drop mine on Wednesday 10 February.

I would be very happy to be reunited with them.

Many thanks.

Corinna, Day Cottage, Tel 23130

FROYLE



THINKING GREEN

There's a rumbling in the jungle – and it's all about finding ways to help Froyle become a little greener. FPC and others would like to help everyone who is interested in making our village a greener place to live, by publishing regular environmentally-friendly, health and well-being ideas and initiatives. Even very small tweaks can make a difference.

We have lots of ideas, big and small, but suggestions from all interested residents are welcomed, particularly our younger ones. Our plans include encouraging home composting, attracting wildlife to your garden, suggestions for swapping products you buy to more eco-friendly alternatives, recycling more, making the Rec more attractive for outdoor activity, keeping our skies dark and much else besides. More on this to come.....

There is one pressing item, however, that needs attention without delay – **BLACK BINS**. It is easy to forget what is allowed in our black bins but if you put the wrong things in it, either the crew will leave the bin behind, or it could cause the *entire* recycling bin lorry contents to be rejected and sent for incineration!

Please check the enclosed flyer, keep it safe to remind yourself that:

- Only those **clean, dry** and **loose** items can be put in your black bin.
- **No** tins and cardboard covered in food waste, or delivery boxes containing packaging material like polystyrene will be recycled.
- **No plastic bags** are wanted, or other plastic items like crisp bags, plastic wrapping, hard plastic tubs, trays or yoghurt pots.
- **No textiles**, and glass goes separately.

Just because an item says it is recyclable, doesn't mean that Hampshire CC can recycle it. Not yet, anyway.

Alex Roberts and Anthea McRiley
alex.roberts@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

(Editor's note: Please refer to page 40 for details of March Bin Collections. Recycling collections are scheduled on Mondays 1 March, 15 March and 29 March.)



Down Your Country Ways With R. Ambling (R. Ambling)



Circular walk of approximately one and a half hours

Maybe just one more walk on tracks and roads before we venture into what are still very muddy fields. So this walk is OK for joggers but there are a few places where boots or wellingtons may be the order of the day.

Start from the pond by Husseys Lane, follow Husseys Lane, it becomes a track at the end of the houses. The track goes up and down and can be quite muddy in places. Keep going until the track meets a tarmac road, turn right onto the lane. Follow the lane passing the entrance to Isnage farm on your right. Continue along the lane for approximate half a mile until you reach a tee junction on a tight bend. Turn left and follow the lane to the entrance to Bury Court, there are a couple of houses at the entrance. Follow the drive until you reach the barn entrance and turn right. This will take you past the house on the left and lead to a track. Follow this track which goes uphill and, after about a quarter of a mile, comes to Bentley Church.

At the church turn right and follow the lane until you reach another tee junction turn right and then immediately left keeping Jenkyn Place cottages on your left. Follow the path around the new storage barn and through the gate into the path with the vineyard on your left. Follow this path which can be quite muddy and you will reach a field with fenced paddocks. You then need to follow the path left and then right round the paddock. You will reach a gate, go through the gate and follow the narrow path until you reach Paxhill Drive. Turn left and walk down the drive until you get to the house on the right, just before the house you will see a stile on your right. Go over the stile and follow the path across the centre of the field. You then go through a gate and continue along the path until you reach Coldrey Drive, turn right keeping Coldrey House on your right. Go through a further gate and follow the Coldrey Cottages until you reach the road into the village turn right and you will pass the Anchor (still probably closed) and you will arrive back at Husseys Lane.



Next month we'll try to find some bluebells for your walk.

R. Ambling

Interested in finding new local walks?

In these peculiar times when people are walking more than usual then 'Walking in Hampshire' www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants could be the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So check out the website and get walking! There are many walks to choose in close proximity to Froyle.

John Harris
email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



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](#).



Menu Ideas

Garbure - The Mighty Bowl

Garbure is a wonderfully primitive soup/stew from the Bearnaise region of France. It's a comforting and nourishing meal, straightforward to cook and not too complicated to wash up afterwards. It goes down a treat on a chilly evening with some red wine. If you're starting to run out of menu ideas by now, why not try it out.

Suggested ingredients for 4 people - substitutions can be made:

Tin of white haricot or cannellini beans

1 large onion, chopped

1 small onion, stuck with two cloves

2 thin leeks, thinly sliced

1 lb/500g piece of smoked pork or mildly cured bacon joint, cut into 4 pieces (soak and blanch first, if you are using the bacon)

1 lb/500g (ish) boiling sausage. The ones you can get in any supermarket deli cabinet will do fine, or you can use cabanos, or a piece of garlic sausage.

2 or 3 cloves garlic, sliced

2 or 3 bay leaves

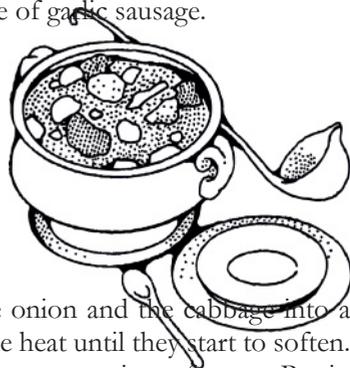
3 medium carrots, thinly sliced

1 small firm cabbage, finely shredded

2 sticks of celery, finely sliced

2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt, pepper and a dash of wine vinegar



Put all of the vegetables except the beans, the whole onion and the cabbage into a large saucepan with the olive oil and cook over a gentle heat until they start to soften. Add the garlic, the bay leaves, the small onion and about two pints of water. Put in the chunks of bacon or pork. Bring to the boil and then add the cabbage. Simmer for about an hour, then add the drained beans and the sausage. Simmer for another 30 minutes, by which time the bacon should be cooked through and crumbling slightly. Drain the meats and keep warm.

For true authenticity, prepare une fricassee. In a frying pan, melt a little olive oil with any of the fat that can be trimmed off the bacon or pork pieces. Add a chopped garlic clove, maybe some chopped sundried tomatoes if you like, and a handful of roughly chopped parsley or celery leaves. When this starts to sizzle, add a strained ladleful of vegetables from the Garbure. Let it all bubble for a bit, then stir it back into the saucepan with a little wine vinegar. Check the seasoning. You may not need salt, but plenty of black pepper is a must. Slice the meats and put them into some nice deep plates, and ladle on the vegetables and stock. Serve with a good loaf of bread and your favourite red wine. **BON APPETIT!**

Sue Lelliott

NO WEY INCINERATOR

THANK YOU FOR OBJECTING AGAIN

Objections to Veolia's application to build an enormous incinerator in Alton's rural Wey Valley poured in from all quarters in the final week of the second public consultation which ended on 15 February.

Mark Weldon, spokesman for action group No Wey Incinerator said:

'We are determined to oppose this development, which would make Hampshire the waste capital of the South of England, burning waste from other counties. Nothing Veolia has said in response to Hampshire County Council's searching questions in their three Regulation 25 notices has made the slightest bit of difference. We and our consultants have found no meaningful new information in the company's responses and conclude this is still an inappropriate development for this particular location.'

Local Councillors, MPs and bodies such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England all voiced strong opposition to this inappropriate development.

For the latest news on the progress of this application please go to www.noweyincinerator.com.



ART at Bentley CE Primary School

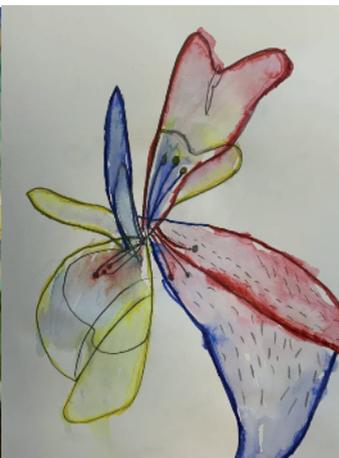
Happily, there are *some* things which are still the same in the COVID Lockdown. Art is most certainly one of these and many children and families have been enjoying some creativity through art lessons and art for fun. We have seen some beautiful work posted on Seesaw and Tapestry, our School Learning Platforms. We have also seen some great experimentation and progress in art skills as children practise and experiment, both very important skills for any artist!

We have recently reviewed our Art and Design curriculum over the seven years of learning at Bentley. We want all children to have the opportunity to develop skills from sketching and shading with a pencil, to confidence in colour mixing with a variety of paints. Over their time at primary school, the pupils get repeated opportunities with printing, clay work and collage. We also think that it is important that children have the opportunity to 'have a go' with one off art techniques, from tie-dye to papier-mâché. Some areas of Art overlap with Design Technology, such as sewing. Other areas overlap with Computing, such as photography.

The current National Curriculum includes a strong emphasis on children learning about art in the world around us. We are incredibly fortunate to have nature all around us in Bentley to capture the children's interest. From Andy Goldsworthy style outdoor art, to sketching the beautiful landscapes around us or using natural objects in still life drawings. There is much to inspire in our beautiful location. We also have a clear plan in place to ensure that children have an understanding and appreciation for the work of different artists, designers, architects and crafts people. Pupils in Year 5 study art linked to different religions. Pupils in Year 3 look to the Viking world to study artwork from another era. Year 6 pupils create propaganda posters linked to their study of World War 2.



Weaving



Y4 Flower Painting



Y3 Lego Portrait



Y1 Impressionist Flower

Pupil feedback has told us time and time again how much our children enjoy their weekly art lessons. Learning new skills, using different media and creating work to be proud of! Art gives us all the opportunity to explore and escape, both very welcome at this time. Art Leader, Mrs Scott-Bromley says, “At Bentley we want our children to enjoy the creative process, just as much as the outcome. We want children to be proud of their own work and not worry about comparisons. We teach them to appreciate art, to develop their own taste and opinions, about their own work and that of other artists”.

K. Pinchess, Headteacher

LITTER

With the current situation, walks around the village remind us of how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful rural location. Even when wet and muddy it is glorious, but often marred by litter along our lanes and footpaths.

So many thanks to all those who have taken it on themselves to litter-pick, your efforts improve the village for all of us. And to everyone else, please remember to take litter home! THANK YOU.

A Ghostly Update from The Froyle Archive

Following on from last month's piece we received an email from Ally Jarman.

"We have lived at Silvesters for around 4 years now and every so often I have sworn that I heard footsteps running across the floor at night when everyone else in my household is asleep. I never thought to investigate more as I knew that the house was old and there could be other explanations but for some reason I couldn't shake the oddly specific footstep like sounds from my mind. However, about a month ago when I was trying to sleep, I woke up at about 3am and started to hear the footsteps like I usually do but this time they appeared to be coming up my stairs. I started to panic as there was no chance that this sound could be mistaken. I decided to get up and walk over to my door in order to see what was going on. However as I attempted to get up, I found myself stuck to my bed. I couldn't move at all and I also began to notice that I couldn't close my eyes either. Suddenly, this vision of this girl came into my eyesight. She looked as if she was in her early 20s, shoulder length brown hair and also dressed in a style similar to the early 20th century. She looked very ghost-like but almost as if I could touch her too. I continued trying to move but it wasn't until I started screaming that the girl disappeared into the distance and I could find myself moving once again. I know this sounds insane, I would struggle to believe this too if I was a second hand reader but I sincerely swear that these events have occurred in Silvesters."

This description could easily apply to Lilian, one of the Westbrook girls who lived at Silvesters at that time. The photo below shows her, seated in front of the man wearing the straw boater, when she was a bridesmaid at her sister Edith's wedding on June 8th 1918 at Silvesters where the reception for some 70 friends and relations was held.



We are very grateful to Ally for telling us about her ‘experience’ and allowing us to report it here. Unfortunately she couldn’t directly associate her ‘vision’ with the photograph of Lilian, but I would like to think that Lilian, who supplied the Archive with so many tales of Froyle, is still keeping her eye on the village she was born in all those years ago.

If you have any such experiences of the supernatural in Froyle, we would love to hear from you.

Chris & Annette Booth. The Froyle Archive. 0142022364



The Choir that Can’t Stop Singing!

Alton choir, Luminosa, has been keeping music alive throughout the pandemic, rehearsing on Zoom each week.

The Choir was due to celebrate its 10th anniversary with a landmark concert in Odiham in March 2020. Plans are being made to mark Luminosa’s decade of choral success as soon as possible.

For now, members are rejoicing in Haydn’s *Creation*, full of unsullied hope expressed in some of the most lovable and life-affirming music ever composed. This is in preparation for a summer concert which the Choir is optimistically planning, to include Haydn’s magnificent oratorio and other positive music full of light and hope, with singing by Luminosa Chamber Voices, along a similar theme.

Luminosa Rising Voices (ages 10-16) and Young Voices (ages 6-11) are working on an exciting virtual choir project collaborating in the composition of an original song which they will showcase on-line later in the year. They will also perform in the summer concert.

The ‘connectedness’ of the Choir is one of the mainstays of its success, sustaining the emotional and mental health of its members, young and old.

Luminosa is always keen to hear from new members and there is a collective warm welcome waiting! *Please visit www.luminosamusic.com for information.*



Froyle Wildlife

'HART Wildlife Rescue'

Working in Hampshire to rescue British wildlife

Thursday 4 March 7.30pm

Join us for a zoom talk by Paul Reynolds from HART Wildlife at Medstead about their wildlife hospital which provides a rescue, treatment and rehabilitation service for wildlife. Paul will introduce the work of Hampshire Animal Rescue Team (HART) and cover some interesting case studies as well as what to do if you find an animal in distress. 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.

March –'In like a lion out like a lamb'

The gradual transformation from winter to spring

Many birds will begin nesting this month however Long-tailed Tits will have started nest construction in February; this is because it takes so long to create their cosy, stretchy, feather lined nests. They are made from moss, hair and cobwebs and then covered with lichens for camouflage. Other early nesters include Rook, Heron and Raven.

Three favourite species of farmland ground nesting birds which I look forward to seeing on walks in Lower Froyle are Skylark, Lapwing and Yellowhammer.

Skylark - males seemingly deliver their liquid nonstop song with effortless ease whilst hovering, sometimes so high up they are hard to spot. On the ground these brown birds are equally hard to see. Their diet consists of invertebrates, weed seeds and leaves and grain.

Lapwing - also known as Peewits due to their call, appear black and white in flight however their backs take on an iridescent greeny purple in sunlight; hence Green Plover is yet another name for them. Males perform spectacular diving, tumbling and swooping aerial displays in the spring. One pair is able to raise one brood of up to 4

chicks a year. The chicks can walk and feed themselves within hours of hatching, the parent birds, ever vigilant, will mob predators but this isn't guaranteed to keep them away. Lapwings prefer damp fields to breed on with ruts or depressions holding water. They feed on invertebrates in or on the ground. Later in the year quite large feeding flocks can sometimes be seen in Froyle.

Yellowhammer - males are an easily recognised and their 'Little bit of bread and no cheese' song sung from hedgerows is a giveaway. They prefer to nest on the ground under or low down in thick hedgerows adjacent to damp/watery ditches. The nature Poet John Clare writing in the 19th century described this in his poem 'The Yellowhammer's Nest'. Mainly seed eaters, these birds can be found in winter stubbles, wild bird cover and anywhere with spilt grain. Chicks of this species must have a good supple of insect food and adults also benefit from this additional fare during the breeding season. Wide native grass and wildflower margins can provide this. In Lower Froyle last year it was fantastic to see butterflies and bees where this had been created. Skylark, Lapwing and Yellowhammer are included on the UK 'Red List' for birds, meaning they are in need of urgent conservation action having suffered major population declines. Sixty seven species - one in 4 of UK birds are now on the Red List.

Ground nesting birds and dogs – ground nesting birds are vulnerable to natural predators - raptors, foxes, badgers etc. Our best beloved canine friends still harbour primeval instincts and like nothing better than to ferret along hedgerows. However disturbance from them could result in birds failing to nest, parents leaving the nest, eggs breaking or failing to hatch, nests becoming exposed to predators, chicks dying from cold, lack of food or being killed outright. To avoid this **please keep dogs on leads under close control** during the breeding season March - end of August.

Toads on the roads – toads will be on the move to their breeding ponds during mild damp nights having hibernated overwinter. Unfortunately many get squashed on the roads, Husseys Lane being a particular black spot for them with many run over each year.

Please be extra vigilant when driving in the evening, and drive slowly, toads can look like lumps of mud, also check under car wheels before you drive off. Remove them from the road to the pond if you can, they don't leap about like frogs or give me a call on 23520 and I will move them.



Hedgehogs may venture out of hibernation on warm nights - look out for their long black droppings on the lawn. Check bonfires thoroughly before lighting or, if large, move the bonfire before setting alight.

THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear all,

We all know how comforting it is to follow habits and rituals in our lives. Some of us have to start the day with two cups of tea, others cannot start their work without checking Twitter and Facebook and some look askance at anyone who doesn't think it is essential to read a daily newspaper. And during this strangest of years we have been experiencing since last March, rituals have become even more important, ensuring that our endless days have structure and even purpose.

Of course it is not just the start of the day that can benefit, but the close of the day too. For some the early evening news marks the end of the working day and the beginning of winding down time, while others may allow themselves a relaxing drink at 6pm or 'Gin O'clock' as one old friend used to say. All these scheduled activities help to give us a sense of order in this year when it has been hard sometimes to remember what time it is, let alone what day.

And in February we took up the invitation to add another ritual to the daily programme. Our Archbishops decided, following the terrible news that deaths from Covid 19 had escalated to 100,000, to invite all churches and their communities to pray every evening at 6pm. In a widely circulated letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said:

'As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic. 100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.'

Our parish decided to implement this initiative with the aid of Zoom and our evening prayer sessions were well attended from the beginning of February. Each evening we prayed for a different group in our community and across our nation. It has been both a heartening and a healing experience. As the Archbishops also said, 'More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.'

Even though we were aware that the Church already prays for the life of the nation every day throughout the year, this additional, fixed time of prayer, has felt like a very positive, constructive act. A variety of themes were available to us as guidance and we felt comforted in praying together at this time of uncertainty, using prayers such as:

My God,
I believe so firmly that You watch over all those who hope in You,
and that we can wait for nothing when we rely upon You in all things,
that I am therefore resolved for the future to have no anxieties,
and to cast all my cares upon You.
Amen.

Claude la Colombiere

Maybe these six o'clock prayers have become a new ritual for those who took part or those who heard about this initiative. It would be wonderful to think it has encouraged many around the country to pray regularly and often at this time of great need. And we can still have Gin O'clock as well, when our prayers are through.

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



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.

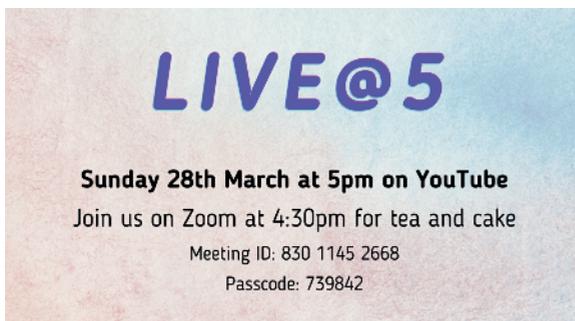
14th March 2021 at 4:30pm

Meeting ID: 816 5023 6547
Passcode: MessyZoom

We're looking forward to seeing you!



This month's theme is:
Happy Mother's Day



LIVE@5

Sunday 28th March at 5pm on YouTube

Join us on Zoom at 4:30pm for tea and cake

Meeting ID: 830 1145 2668
Passcode: 739842



A celebration of creativity online and around the village

HOW TO CREATE A CREATURE FOR FROYLE'S ARK

You don't have to be Grayson Perry, Tracy Emin or Damien Hirst to contribute to Froyle's very own Ark. There are easy ways to get involved including reusing and recycling everyday objects you have at home. At www.froylesark.com there are plenty of ideas for children and adults alike including all sorts of animals and materials. You can also take a behind the scenes look at people's work in progress. Why not get started by trying an egg box mouse? Send your creations to ahoy@froylesark.com

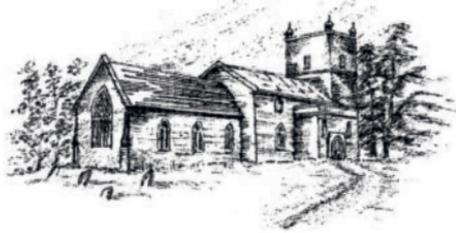


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ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTES

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)

FIND US ONLINE

Since making the decision to close our churches for now, you can find our online services on our YouTube Channel on Sundays at 11am.

Our services are also available to listen to via a phone line for those who have little or no internet connection. Just call 01420 552652.

We are still posting short Thought for the Day videos on YouTube at 6:30am Monday to Friday. It's been great to see how popular they continue to be!

Join in with our daily Lockdown Lent videos on YouTube - send us a photo of your Thankfulness Jar!

The church website is continually updated with any news and updated guidance, along with the links to all our online content, so do have a look or contact the church office if you have any questions.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

Those of you who are impressed by neat but complicated looking geometric (geometrical...?) designs will appreciate this drawing. This is the design for the new cabinets in the church vestry.

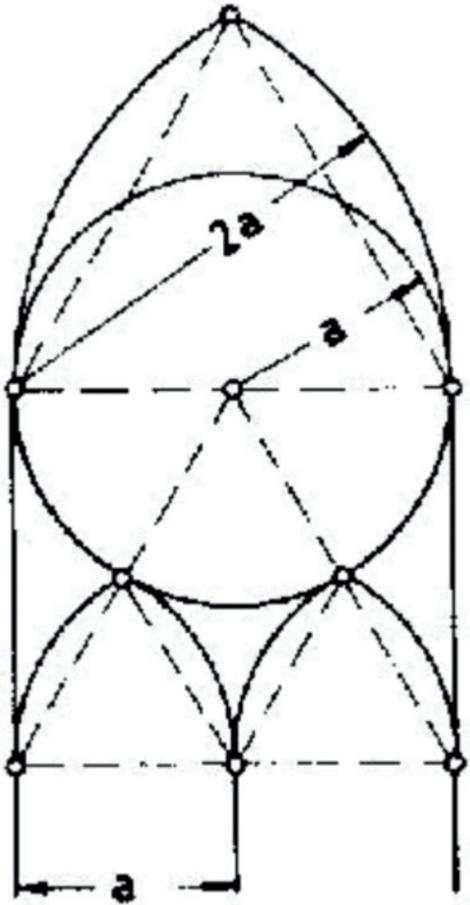
If you go for walks in Lower Froyle, you might have noticed the buzz of creativity apparent in a workshop somewhere in the village - following a pause over the winter, work on the vestry is about to explode again into life.

March will be a big month..... After all, when the waters of the flood/pandemic have subsided enough for Froyle's Ark (see update on page 20) to come to rest in the churchyard, it will need to have access to a good galley such as that which the upgraded vestry will contain.....

At the time we are writing this, we are still awaiting the Government's announcement of the 'road map' which we hope will give some indication of when, or at least in what order, life's everyday activities can start to return. We shall of course let everyone know when we can again have some form of public worship in the church.

In the meantime, have a look at Gill Bradley and Sarah Thursfield's lovely idea for marking the lead-up to Easter around the village (page 5).

Also, do take advantage of the many Lent-related offerings provided by the Benefice online – as always, keep an eye on the website (www.benbinfro.co.uk).



Simon Marshall and William Knowles

CHURCH YOUTH UPDATE

Happy March everyone! Spring is coming, hope is drawing closer and it's great to be sharing what the children and young people of BenBinFro (and the adults too!) have been getting up to.

This is the time of year when the 'L' word starts getting banded about. No not, *'lockdown'*, we're getting bored of that one, I mean **Lent!** There's often a panic of, 'oh I forgot about that, 'is it really that soon?!' and 'I have no idea what to give up this year...'. Well for me, instead of giving something up, Lent is a time where I reflect upon Jesus' unconditional love and my relationship with God. Many people like to take up a new activity, like doing an act of kindness every day, which is something I'm taking part in with our local Youth Worker's Network, United.

As a Benefice, instead of giving something up, we are encouraging everyone to be thankful through something called Thankfulness Jars. In a time when it's so easy to focus on the doom and gloom, we feel it is important to turn our attention to the good things, whether big or small. So, I encourage you to find yourself a jar and start writing down things you are thankful for to pop in the jar - you can decorate yours if you like! This is something we are doing throughout Lent, and within our Sunday services to nurture an attitude of thankfulness as we head towards Easter.

Also, much like our Advent Calendar videos back in December, Sam and I are creating daily *Lockdown Lent* videos to encourage people of all ages to reflect on the word of God and to be thankful. We are using our Thankfulness Jars as part of the videos too so feel free to join us on YouTube every day at 9am.

So, perhaps instead of giving something up, you'd join us every day throughout Lent to take time to reflect on God's word and to be thankful.

In other youth work news, our older girl's group are really enjoying the Prayer Course and our younger group are engaging in a course written by YouthScape, covering topics like can we earn God's love, and forgiveness. We have just watched *The Shack* which I highly recommend! And we've even been making burgers... well why not!

It's really encouraging to hear of lots of young people interested in a future Youth Alpha course too! Do get in contact with me if you would like to know more...

Have a great March!

Gemma Ball
Pastoral Assistant (Youth) and Administrator

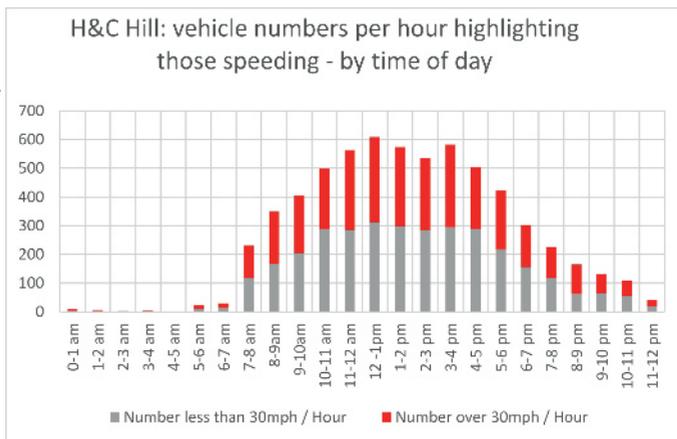
Froyle Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) Encouraging drivers to slow down

In December, we reported on traffic patterns through the day, highlighting the impact of school holidays and the introduction of the November 'lock-down'. In this edition, we focus on SPEED.

First, how many people are speeding?

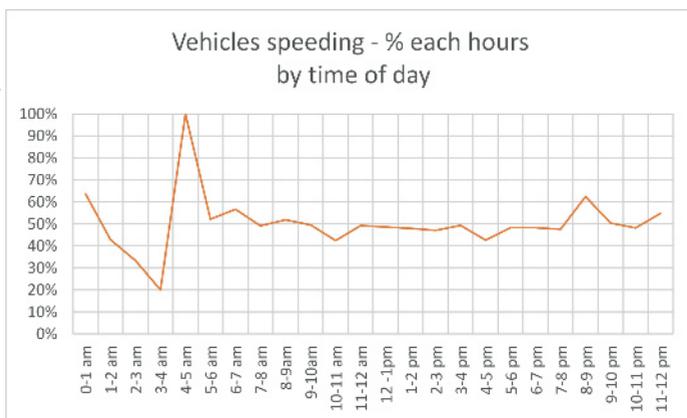
The answer from one location is 48%.

Taking the last two weeks of December into account, nearly half of the vehicles coming up the hill into Upper Froyle from the A31 were speeding.



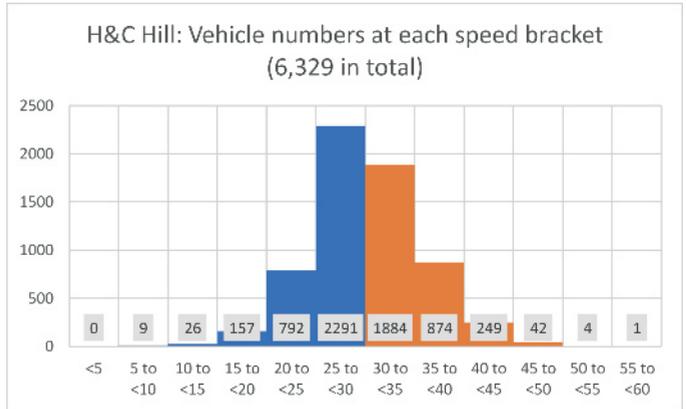
Given the data was collected during school holidays, one can see there was no morning nor afternoon 'rush hour' and this was not the school run causing the problem.

It's not just early morning or late at night, the proportion of vehicles speeding is roughly the same during the day (except for a single car travelling 30-35mph between 4-5am one morning during the period).



Next question: how fast were they going?

Again, from the same period, we can see that while the average speed was 30mph, a significant number would have lost their licence if they had been caught.



Last question: where is the speeding worse in the village?

LOCATION	TRAFFIC DIRECTION	SPEEDING
Anchor	Entering village from Bentley	19%
	Leaving village to Bentley	17%
Park Lane	Entering village from Bentley	12%
	Leaving village to Bentley	3%
Golden Pot Road	Entering village from Golden Pot	41%
	Leaving village to Golden Pot	15%
Recreation Ground	From Hall, towards Upper Froyle	33%
	Towards Hall, from Upper Froyle	19%
Hen & Chicken Hill	Uphill from A31	48%
	Downhill towards A31*	30%

The % speeding at each location does not vary much by the volume of traffic, nor school term dates, nor the Covid situation. (*Note, the bottom figure is taken from only a couple of days as each time we pointed SID in that direction, some not-so-helpful person turned it back to face down the hill.)

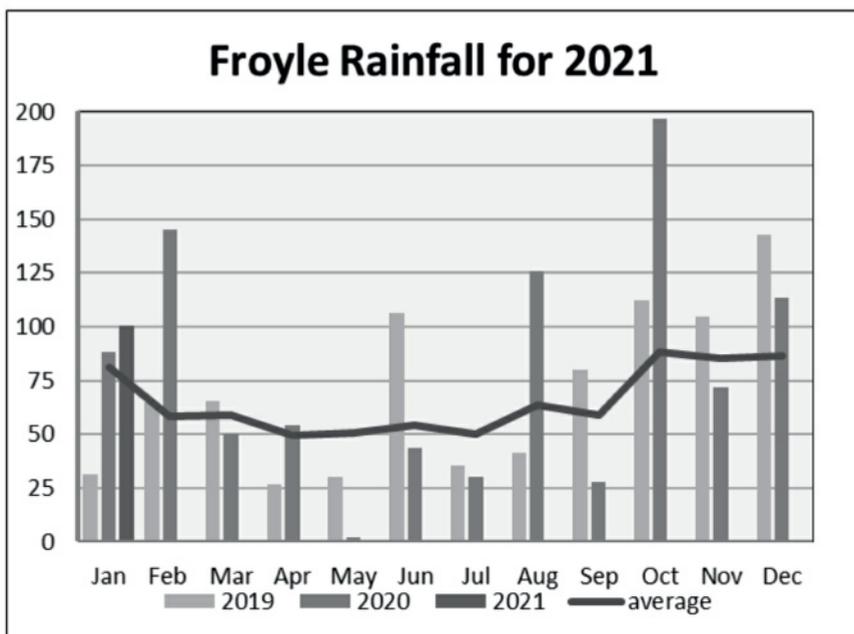
So, the data supports the general view that people do drive too fast through the village. But it is not the school run and there aren't that number of delivery vans so it's you, us, me.

Now we have got some comparative data, we will deploy SID to best effect with greater emphasis on the locations and directions where the problem is most pressing. Current thinking is that 2 weeks is the right time at each, balancing impact vs seeing it so often it becomes part of the background 'noise'.

Charlie Findlay

Froyle Rainfall for January, 2021

This year	100.5 mm	4 ins
Last year	88.5 mm	3.5 ins
Wettest January (2014)	191.5 mm	7.6 ins
Driest January (1997)	13 mm	0.5 ins
January long-term average – the 4 th wettest month	81.1 mm	3.2 ins



The first 3 months of the year average just under 200 mm in total, so we have already had more than half of that in January alone. What this means is, based on 13 of the last 15 times this has happened, January through March is likely to be around 10% above the average.



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Yoga- Thursday 5.30pm at Froyle Village Hall
Yoga- Saturday 10am at Wickham Institute, Binsted

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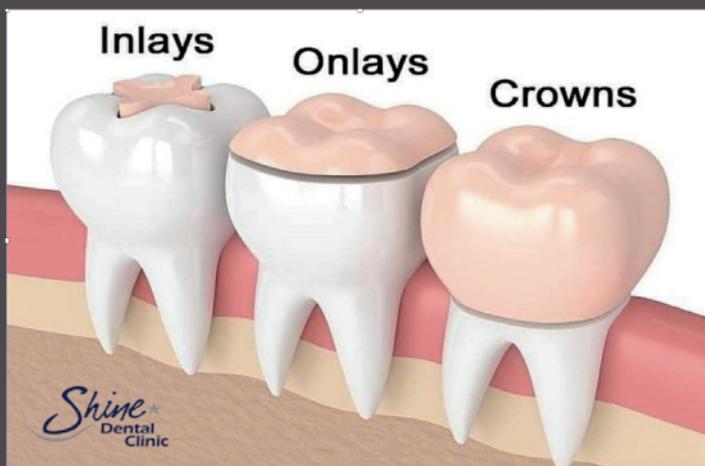
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District Councillor	<i>Tony Costigan - 07770 666896 - tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk</i>
Froyle Village Hall Committee Chairman	<i>David Robertson - 520820</i> www.froylevillagehall.co.uk
Froyle Gardening Club	<i>Anne Blunt - 22262</i>
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Froyle Archive	<i>Chris & Annette Booth - 22364</i> www.froyle.com
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The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted & Froyle	www.benbinfro.co.uk
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NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE DEADLINE Friday 19th March 2021

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Please remember to check out the magazine online at:
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