

# Froyle Village Magazine



March 2025

No. 516

<https://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk/village-magazine>



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# NEWS & VIEWS

*Parish Clerk - Andrew Potter*

*Email: [clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)*

*Web: [www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)*



The Parish Council (PC) met on 10 February when representatives of Wyld Cabins attended to provide an update on the proposed Eco retreat in woodland above Lower Froyle on land that they will lease from Froyle Estate. The item created significant interest from residents with 13 attending and asking questions. It was made clear that this briefing was an update as no application for planning permission has yet been submitted. Pre-planning discussions have taken place with EHDC Planners and Highways and there have been some changes made to the concept as a result of earlier feedback from the PC. A public consultation will be held when the project details have been finalised. The developers are keen to include a list of planning conditions that they feel are appropriate in their application and will be seeking suggestions on these from the PC and residents in the coming weeks.

Members of the PC met with representatives of EHDC Planning, Compliance and Environment & Neighbourhood to better understand how reporting of nuisances especially noise from the Froyle Park wedding venue was being addressed and what changes could be made, if any, to the premises licence and planning conditions. The PC made it clear that they had no intention to try and close the venue down but wanted to find ways for residents and the venue to live in harmony with each other. EHDC advised that, while accepting the venue was not a hotel, it was not operating outside of the planning permission originally granted. EHDC stressed that they needed evidence of the nuisances reported not just recordings on mobile phones. eHealth visits had not coincided with the times when residents had complained. It was suggested that a questionnaire be sent to residents to gauge the extent and depth of feeling and this was agreed with residents at a meeting in the church a few days later. A draft will now be developed with comments invited from Froyle Park and sent out as the wedding season starts to build up. A good response to this is critical to make any further progress with EHDC.

Residents have again been expressing concern about speeding traffic through the village and the PC have updated the guidance on the PC website of what actions are being taken. Looking back through PC minutes this problem has been a common one for over 50 years, which shows there is no easy solution. The PC has been in contact with the Hampshire Highways to investigate what Community Funded Traffic Measures are available. A request to further investigate the erection of Village Gateways with appropriate signage as you enter the village and designated road marking was passed back to Highways but unfortunately no resources are available to even investigate new schemes until the backlog of those under consideration has been completed. The PC encourages all residents to always drive at no more than the maximum 30 mph limit through the village and recognise when slower speeds

are appropriate such as when weather conditions dictate. **If we don't adhere to the speed limit ourselves, how can we expect others to do so?**

Chris Booth has now left Froyle for Dorset after many years as archivist with his wife Annette. The item in last month's Magazine about Froyle Archive seeking volunteers to maintain the Froyle Archive resulted in a few residents putting their names forward. A meeting of the group will be held in the coming days to determine how to move forward.

EHDC has introduced a new planning portal for submission of and commenting on planning applications. A user guide for the new system was circulated to all Froyle residents on the email list during February but if you did not receive this please contact the Clerk. The PC had been expecting a backlog of applications while the system was unavailable at the end of 2024 but to date only two have been received. One of these (EHDC-25-0066-PA3Q2) is to renew the previously approved change of use of the Saintbury Hill farm buildings to residential as the previous permission would expire before the houses could have been completed. This is **not** the full planning application for the development which the applicant plans to submit in the coming weeks. The PC intends to resubmit its previous comments stressing the narrowness of Bamber Lane makes it unsuitable for increased traffic and dangerous for pedestrians using it to access footpaths on Saintbury Hill.

The next PC meeting will be on **Monday 10 March at 19.00** in the Village Hall which all residents are encouraged to attend. The main focus of this meeting will be to consider the scope of a project to upgrade community facilities on the Rec.

The **Annual Parish Meeting (APM)** is currently scheduled for **Wednesday 16 April**. Please do make a note in your diaries to attend this meeting and enjoy refreshments before hearing reports from our local Councillors on issues affecting Froyle. These will include the proposed devolution of local government in Hampshire and new housing in the Alton area. Resident consultations will also be launched by the PC to progress its plans for the Rec and options to address speeding through the village.

There is still one **vacancy** on the Parish Council - if anyone is interested in joining, please contact the Clerk for details of the role and time commitment.

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## **Note from the Editors - The Froyle Archive**

As reported above, Chris Booth has now left the village for his new home in Dorset. For many years Chris and Annette were involved with the production of this magazine as well as with supplying an almost endless stream of pieces "From the Froyle Archive", which gave residents fascinating insights into the characters and happenings in the village in years gone by. We hope we shall only miss those pieces in the magazine for a short while, until the new team takes shape and is able to provide more items for your enjoyment.

Thank you to Chris and Annette.

*The Editors*



# Froyle Village Hall: hire charges

From 1 March 2025

To check availability and make a booking, please follow the link on the website <https://www.froylevillagehall.co.uk> or email [bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk).

Please complete a Hiring Agreement for each event and agree to the Standard Terms and Conditions, available on the website. The Hall is hired out for a whole morning, afternoon or evening session. Shorter periods can be booked by the hour.

	Resident	Non-Resident	Others
<b>Weekday</b>			
Morning (0830-1230)	£35.00	£55.00	£75.00
Afternoon (1330-1730)	£35.00	£55.00	£75.00
Evening (1800-2330)	£40.00	£65.00	£85.00
<i>Effective hourly rate</i>			
<i>Morning/ Afternoon</i>	£8.75	£13.75	£18.75
<i>Day (9hrs)</i>	£7.77	£12.22	£16.67
<b>Weekday Hourly Rate</b>	£17.50	£27.50	£37.50
<b>Weekend</b>			
Morning (0830-1230)	£40.00	£65.00	£85.00
Afternoon (1330-1730)	£40.00	£65.00	£85.00
Evening (1800-2330)	£50.00	£80.00	£100.00
<b>Weekend Hourly Rate</b>	£20.00	£32.50	£42.50

**Resident:** Froyle residents for not-for-profit events (approx. 40% discount)

**Non-resident:** Other individuals for not-for-profit events.

**Others:** All others.



**celebrating, encouraging  
& supporting volunteers**  
**Village Halls Week**  
**17-23 March 2025**



Bookings:  
Sarah Zorab  
01420 520361

[www.froylevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.froylevillagehall.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

After nine years as Chairman of the Froyle Village Hall Management Committee, David Robertson has decided to step down. He will be a hard act to follow, and he will be much missed. He has promised to remain an active volunteer which goes some way to soften the blow.

Managing the Committee is not for the faint-hearted. But thanks to David's enthusiasm and affability, Village Hall meetings have been marked by good humour, laughter and comradeship. And action has always followed the talking.

Very kindly David has agreed to stay on as Chairman until the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 16 April when we hope he will be able to pass on the baton. More information about the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting will be in the April Magazine. Do please make a note of the date in your diary and try to come along. As per our Constitution, the Committee will stand down and seek re-election.

So, we have just six weeks to identify a new Chair. It is a key role in the village but one which can be performed in many different ways. If you want to seek funding to raise the roof and build a stage so we can restore the Froyle Pantomime that would be great. Alternatively, if you want to dig up the Rec to install a ground source heating system that too would be appreciated as our gas bill is unsustainable. However, the basic requirement is simply to run an orderly monthly meeting and say a lot of thank-yous to the many helpers who keep the Hall going.

We are well aware that no one is likely to volunteer. The Speaker of the House of Commons has to be dragged to the Chair. Reluctance is a given but not an excuse. Your village needs you. You will be well supported both by the Committee and the Community. There have been only four Chairs since the Hall was built just over 40 years ago. That suggests that the job is felt to be worth doing and carries its own reward. If you are approached and you may well be, do not say no too readily. Consider saying yes!

17-23 March 2025 is National Village Halls Week. This year the emphasis is on encouraging and supporting the army of volunteers who run rural community buildings. In England alone, it is estimated that over 80,000 people regularly volunteer their time to help village halls, from those on management committees who oversee the day-to-day use of the building and its finances, to those who organise events and group activities for the benefit of the local community.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers or have ideas for events and activities we could run in the Hall, do please make contact.

# March Activities at the Village Hall



Dynamic Pilates	Mondays Mar 3, 7, 10	10-11
Gentle Pilates	Mondays Mar 3, 7, 10	11-Noon
Mixed Pilates	Wednesdays Mar 5, 12, 19	6:30-7:30

Move with Tegan. £10 per class, £50 for a block of 6.

For bookings or more information contact Teagan on 07761209998  
or [teganhansensa@gmail.com](mailto:teganhansensa@gmail.com)



Life Drawing	Sunday Mar 2	4-6
	Tuesday Mar 18	10-Noon

Try your hand drawing the undraped figure from professional models.  
Beginners welcome! Sessions are untutored but advice is available for the asking.  
Bring your own materials. Drinks & snacks provided. £10 cash at the door.  
For more information contact David Birn at [froylelifedrawing@gmail.com](mailto:froylelifedrawing@gmail.com).



Meeting Place	Fridays Mar 7, 14, 21, 28	10-Noon
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Homemade cakes, hot drinks, and good conversation. Join us!



Froyle Parish Council	Monday Mar 10	6:30-10:30
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Agenda: <https://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk/your-council/agendas-and-minutes>

Members of the public are welcome to attend and comment on all items on the agenda identified as 'For Residents' or make representations regarding other concerns they may wish to bring to the Council's attention.



Froyle Gardening Club	Friday Mar 14	7:30-11
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This month we will offer practical demonstrations on everthing you need to know to grow Dahlias successfully. Non-members are welcome at £3 per talk or join the club for £10 at the door. Refreshments provided.

If you have never ever visited the Village Hall and would like to know more, perhaps because you have a party to arrange, have a look at our website which includes lots of information, photographs of all the facilities and details of how to book. Go to [www.froylevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.froylevillagehall.co.uk)  
Above is a diary of events and activities currently taking place in the Hall. We hope this will become a regular feature of the Magazine.

*Nick Whines 23130*  
*secretary@froylevillagehall.co.uk*

# The Meeting Place



The Meeting Place continues every Friday morning in the Froyle Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Do come and join us for homemade cakes, tea and coffee and good conversation. We also have a selection of books and jigsaws to borrow.

Come and see what the crocheters are up to and join in..... at the moment it's a SPITFIRE (yes!!) to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day this May.

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR PHYLLIS TUCKWELL HOSPICE, so bring them along any Friday.

## March Kitchen Helpers

7th Alex Roberts  
14th Sue Sharman  
21st Sue Carr  
28th Nigel Southern

## March Cake Bakers

7th	Julie Southern	Sue Sharman	Gillian Pickering
14th	Chris Muddiman	Corinna Whines	Janet Dobson
21st	Sarah Larwood	Alice Ghinn	Sarah Basey
28th	Mary Chaplin	Caroline Findlay	Gina Kemp

Please organise swaps amongst yourselves if possible, or contact us if you have a problem.

We try and remind the bakers, but please do let us know if you can't bake for any reason. It's also helpful to know what cakes are coming, just so we don't get three of the same variety!

Cakes can be left in the porch at Wykeham House, Lower Froyle on Thursdays or bring to the hall after 9.30 am on Fridays.

*Gill Bradley 520484  
gabb Bradley@gmail.com*

*Susie Robertson 520820  
sgrinfroyle@gmail.com*

*Jenny Gove 23697  
govejenny@gmail.com*



# FROYLE 100 CLUB

The winners in the **February Draw** were:

1st – Danny Waugh

2nd – Jan Elliott

3rd – Sarah Watkins

4th – Madeleine Black

Congratulations to all!

*William Knowles Tel: 07775 928933*

*email: [wbk@wbknowles.com](mailto:wbk@wbknowles.com)*



## LENT LUNCHES

Our first Lent lunch this year is on 5 March, Ash Wednesday and the lunches continue for the following 5 weeks. The lunches consist of bread, cheese and home made soup, with all donations going to the charity chosen by the hosts. All lunches run from 12.30 to 2.00 pm, except the first, so do please note the different time on 5 March.

**Wednesday 5 March:** Lara Spier at Brocas. Charity: Great Ormond St Hospital; **midday to 1.30 pm.**

**Wednesday 12 March:** John and Vivienne Sexton at Brewery House, Husseys Lane. Charity: St Michael's Hospice.

**Wednesday 19 March:** Caroline Findlay at Beech House. Charity: Natasha Allergy Research Foundation.

**Wednesday 26 March:** Sarah Roberts at The Old Dairy. Charity: RAF Association.

**Wednesday 2 April:** Yvonne & Jenny at the Village Hall. Charity: Motor Neurone Disease Research

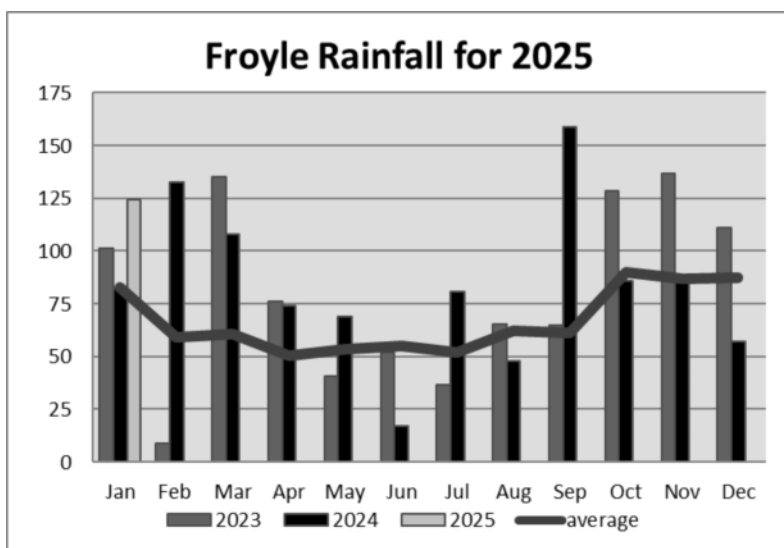
**Wednesday 9 April:** Mary & William at Park Edge. Charity: Trussell Trust.

If anyone has any questions or needs directions to a particular venue, do get in touch.

*Jenny Gove  
[govejenny@gmail.com](mailto:govejenny@gmail.com)*

## Froyle Rainfall for January, 2025

This year	124.5 mm	4.9 ins
Last year	82 mm	3.2 ins
Wettest January (2014)	191.5 mm	7.6 ins
Driest January (1997)	13 mm	0.5 ins
January long-term average – the 4 <sup>th</sup> wettest month	83.4 mm	3.3 ins



Looking back at the last four “winter” months (October 2024 to January 2025), it seems that we have had pretty much interminable rain. However, at 356 mm, that is only a smidgin above the long-term average of around 343 mm as can be seen from the above chart: the dark bars showing that the biggest surge in Froyle’s rainfall occurred in the first nine months of 2024 rather than the last three.



“The Umbrella Man”



Froyle Gardening Club

## March from the Potting Shed

Potatoes that have been chitting can be planted from the middle of the month, the earliest first. I will plant potatoes over a period of four weeks so as to get a continuity of supply.

Still time to sow sweet peas and broad beans. Early peas can also be started in the greenhouse and planted out later in the garden. If you were unable to get your tomatoes and peppers started earlier then get them sown now for cropping in the late summer.

Borders can now be tidied up of the old stems, and these stems can be composted. Look out for anything like ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies that may be hiding in the stems and let them stay on the ground to allow them to escape into the new foliage.

Lawns can be treated with moss killer such as Mo Bacter which does not require the moss to be removed once it has died. Bacteria will break down the moss which then feeds the lawn. Grass seed can be added once the moss has died back.

Check over fruit trees and bushes and remove any damaged branches that are the result of the strong winds that we had this winter. It is also a good time to plant any new bushes or trees and also apply a good organic mulch to established plants. To help control some of the pests of fruit you can place bird feeders around the plants to encourage the birds to feed on any pests that are starting to appear.

Now that the snowdrops are finished flowering they can be lifted and divided to give them more space to grow. Enjoy all the spring flowers and the fresh new shoots that are going to give promise to the year ahead. Herbaceous plants can be lifted and divided. Remember to keep some in pots for the FGC plant sales later in the year.

*Geoff Hawkins*

### **Our February Meeting was “The History of Chocolate” with Jaqueline Aviolet.**

Who would have thought you could have such fun at a Froyle Gardening Club meeting? Well Jaqueline brought her unique humour to Froyle in February. The audience were entertained with wit and wisdom about ‘our favourite fruit’. She even provided a chocolate cake for us to have at half-time and also brought along plants from her nursery that members could purchase. An evening that brightened up our members on a dull February night.

### **Our next meeting Friday 14 March 7.30 pm – Propagating & growing Dahlias**

A talk/demonstration by Howard Cooper. All you need to know about growing Dahlias.

**Saturday 12 April - SPRING SHOW** – an informal show this year from 2.00pm. More details overleaf, on the website, or on Facebook.



# **Froyle Gardening Club Spring Show**

## **Veg Sow, Grow & Show**

**We'll show you how...** Learn to sow and grow your own vegetables in containers, no garden required!...we provide seeds, compost and pots. We have tomatoes, courgettes and dwarf beans.

Exhibit your produce at our Summer Show.. or just eat them yourself at home!

## **Spring Flowers Competition**

Arrangement of any Spring flowers in a posy  
Prizes for prettiest arrangement and for most interesting container  
Prize-giving at 4.30pm

## **Flower Arranging Demonstration**

There will be a demonstration of simple flower arranging techniques 2.30 - 3.30pm

## **Plant Stall & Seed Swap Tea, Coffee and Cakes!**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT [INFO@FROYLEGARDENINGCLUB.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@FROYLEGARDENINGCLUB.CO.UK)  
[FROYLEGARDENINGCLUB.CO.UK](http://FROYLEGARDENINGCLUB.CO.UK)**



We're trying something different this year for our Spring Show, mainly prompted by the unpredictability of daffodils which were the mainstay of the show over the last few years. It gives us the opportunity however to try a new format.

The new look show will be a mixture of competition, demonstrations and opportunities to have a go at something you may have never tried before, such as flower arranging or growing your own vegetables.

We'll still have the plant stall and the amazing tea, coffee and cake but we'll also have a seed swap, so bring along any you have left over and swap for something new to try and grow this year!

If you want to try and grow your own veg, you don't need a garden, just a suitable container such as a large pot or a grow bag. We will provide the pots, compost and seeds, and help you plant them to get you started!

Do come and join us and support your local gardening club.

Saturday 12 April, 2.00-5.00pm in the Village Hall.

# Froyle Gardening Club Events

# 2025

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## **Feb 14th 7.30 pm      The History of Chocolate**

A talk about the history & cultivation of the world's favourite fruit! There will be samples!

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## **Mar 14th 7.30 pm      Propagating & growing Dahlias**

Practical demonstrations on everything you'll ever need to know to grow Dahlias successfully.

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## **Apr 12th                      Spring Show**

A new look Spring Show with lots of opportunity to join in for all the family. Details on our website.

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## **May 9th 7.30 pm      Bees, wasps & hornets**

All about bees, their habits, biology, management and synchronicity with plants and seasons.

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## **Jul 5th                      Froyle Fete & Flower Show**

See our website or the Froyle Village Magazine for more details.

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## **Sept 13th                  Autumn Show**

See our website or the Froyle Village Magazine for more details.

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## **Oct 10th 7.30 pm      Wildflower hot spots of the world**

A talk about hiking and photography, using collected images of wildflowers .. what's not to love?

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## **Nov 14th 7.30 pm      The Wild Gardener**

The creator of Gravetye Manor in Sussex. "the best garden in England" gives us insights into his work.

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## **Dec 17th 7.30 pm      AGM**

Review of 2024 and plans for the next 12 months, subscriptions are due.

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Non-members are welcome to our talks at Froyle Village Hall, GU34 4LG  
£3 per talk or simply join the club for £10 on the door, refreshments provided.

More Info on our website [froylegardeningclub.co.uk](http://froylegardeningclub.co.uk) or  
email us at [info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk)





## UNDERSTANDING BIRDS AND HOW THEY LIVE

20 March, 7.30pm Village Hall

Local ornithologist Keith Betton makes a return visit to talk about how birds live. He will explain how they use enhanced hearing and eyesight to survive, and also how some of them manage to travel around the globe with amazing accuracy. Birds are amazing, and this talk will underline that fact.



All welcome to the talk on Thursday 20 March. As a regular visitor to Froyle, Keith's talks are always entertaining and informative, so come along and find out everything you wanted to know about birds but were afraid to ask.

Keith is a keen world birder having seen nearly 9,000 species in over 100 countries, so he is one of the world's top 40 birders of all time. He is heavily involved in bird monitoring in Hampshire, where he is Chair of the Hampshire Ornithological Society. He has been a Council member of both the RSPB and BTO, and Vice President of the latter. His two books (with Mark Avery) "Behind the Binoculars" and "Behind More Binoculars" have been very highly rated, as has his revision of "Where to Watch Birds in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight". He is particularly active in protecting Peregrines and Stone Curlews, and this has put him on BBC TV's Springwatch.

Froyle Village Hall, doors open 7pm for talk to start at 7.30pm, refreshments.

*Jayne Fisher*

In February, we enjoyed a talk about **'Wildlife Photography'** by Jon Hawkins, an award-winning professional photographer who has a passion for wildlife. He is based in Ash, Surrey. He was a knowledgeable speaker who entertainingly shared his approach, photographic technique, and a host of brilliant photos. Better than reading this report I highly recommend looking (or looking again) at his photos at: <https://surreyhillsphotography.smugmug.com/Galleries/Wildlife>; or at Instagram: [surrey\\_hills\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/surrey_hills_photography/); or YouTube: Surrey Hills Photography. Visiting

his media sites will take you to hundreds of photos covering mammals, reptiles, birds and insects that will cause you to marvel and wonder at the sheer beauty and diversity of the wildlife of Britain.

My first reaction was 'how did he get such a great photograph?'. The answers included: getting up early, knowing and respecting the animals' habits and feeding patterns, staying downwind, camouflage (including using a hide), investing in high quality photographic equipment, and being prepared to wait for four hours for one successful picture (or none). For example, in taking some of his fox photos Jon will place bait at a carefully selected photogenic spot with the desired background or other interesting feature. In his work he demonstrates a devotion and commitment that very few can match. (For those who are technically minded, many of his shots were taken with a 500 or 600mm lens often with a 1.4x teleconverter at high shutter speeds.) But thankfully all of us can enjoy his results!

*Nigel Hughes*



### **Froyle Recreation Ground**

Help to benefit wildlife and the community by coming along to some of our Froyle Wildlife activities. On Froyle Recreation Ground we'll be giving the Living Willow Dome its annual 'haircut' by trimming top growth and tying in loose rods. The dome has nearly doubled in height over the last growing season when we had plenty of rain.

**Sunday 2 March 10am-12noon and 2-4pm.**

**The wildlife pond area** near Gid Lane has been grazed by sheep in the winter as part of the maintenance plan. The meadow area has a diverse range of British native species and benefits from light weeding to avoid perennial weeds taking hold. Also paths need mowing in the meadow area for visitor access.

Please join us if you can help on the following Saturdays

**15 March 2pm-4pm** Remove electric sheep fence

**29 March 2pm-4pm** Mow paths and trim vegetation

See <https://www.froylewildlife.co.uk/news/> or contact me on 01420 23520 for more information.

Do tell us about wildlife that you see in Froyle, with or without photos, by email to [info@froylewildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@froylewildlife.co.uk) or post on Instagram with #froylewildlife.

*Barry Clark*



## Spring Care of Fruit Trees

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, there is plenty of work to be done among the trees in your garden! Here are a few March chores to keep your fruit trees healthy and productive.

- Mulch any young trees, or trees which have had a hard or remedial winter prune. Just apply compost, chippings or manure in a thick layer to the bare earth at the base of the tree.
- Finish winter-pruning your apple and pear trees. If you have delayed because you are not sure how to do it, I have included a link below, which will give you all the information you need.
- Note that stone fruits (plums, damsons, gages and cherries) should not be pruned in the winter or early spring; they should only be pruned in summer between May and September, to minimise the risk of silver leaf infection. This also applies to ornamental species of cherry and plum.
- March is your last opportunity to plant bare-rooted trees. It is essential to make sure that late-planted fruit trees do not dry out - mulch with wet straw, hay or well-rotted compost or manure, and keep the tree roots well watered on a weekly basis, using a drought pipe.

Here are some excellent links with tips to help you with your planting and pruning, with warm thanks to Petersfield Climate Action Network (PeCAN), and the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/orchard-practical-guides/pruning/winter-pruning/>

<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/orchard-practical-guides/grafting/>

<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/orchard-practical-guides/planting-fruit-trees/>

*Sue Lelliott, Froyle Tree Warden*

## Notes From The Froyle Estate

After a very wet harvest, autumn and now winter we have, as you know, been inundated by rain pretty much ever since (according to our data we have already had nearly 160mm of rain in 2025 alone and the wettest autumn I can remember in my 37 years of farming). The brief, but late, respite towards the end of the autumn enabled us to drill the remaining crops, some of which have failed through the winter from waterlogged soils and will need to be resown with spring crops, so fingers crossed for a kind spring. Wildflower margins were sown as planned, let's hope they flourish in the warmer weather to come.

The new year has brought new challenges and despite the wet ground, we have started to make headway with our forestry work, clearing some of the dead and fallen trees to encourage new woodland regeneration. We have over 60 acres of Ash trees across the Estate that have succumbed to Ash Die-back and will need to be felled and replanted with native broad leaf trees over the next three years.

We have also made good progress on the farm tracks. The purpose of the new tracks is to keep large farm vehicles off the roads wherever possible, by connecting the four corners of the Estate with Home Farm, being the main farmyard. These tracks will help to reduce farm traffic considerably from the lanes and villages going forward.

As many of you are aware we have continued with our coppicing program which is currently being carried out on the Holybourne side of the Estate. The purpose of this is to revive the hedgerows and what may seem to be extreme, in terms of cutting them back, actually rejuvenates them, as you could see from what we did last year. Within 2-3 years they will provide a dense wildlife habitat with vibrant growth which can then be managed. The cuttings will be turned into woodchip, which is being used for Biomass boilers. As part of our ongoing works across the estate we will be creating and planting 1,500 metres of new hedges, 9,500 metres of "gapping up" (where we plant new hedge plants in the gaps left from the coppicing). This work will continue over the next three years.

This week we have finally been able to get back on the fields, applying fertilizer to promote spring growth. With kind weather, we are hoping to start spring drilling in the weeks to come. It is wonderful to see the tractors busy in the fields, marking the early preparations for our 2025 harvest.

We have also started to put up some new signage around the Estate to clearly mark the footpaths which will be an ongoing job this year. We are looking to add local maps to these signs to show exactly where the footpaths run, as we have been told by people in the village that there is currently some confusion. We want you to enjoy our beautiful countryside but for your own safety, we need to know where you are!

As we welcome warmer weather and longer days, we look forward to the changing of the clocks and the arrival of Spring.

With kind regards

*Andy Kirby*



With rising energy costs and growing environmental concerns, many homeowners are considering solar panels as a way to reduce their electricity bills. But is it cost-effective?

**Costs:** The cost of installing solar panels has decreased significantly over the past decade, making it more accessible to homeowners. The upfront costs depend on the size of your roof, the type of solar panels you choose, and the energy output you need. On average, the cost for solar panel installation in the UK ranges between £4,000 and £8,000 for a typical home system. This includes the solar panels, the inverter to convert the sunshine into usable electricity for your home, and the installation costs.

**Energy Savings:** In the UK, the average household spends around £1,400 per year on electricity, and solar panels can offset a significant portion of this cost. How much you can save depends on your energy consumption (obviously), the size of your solar panels and the amount of sunlight. A well-sized system can cover 50-70% of your electricity needs. This means that with solar panels, you could save hundreds of pounds each year on energy bills.

**Incentives:** There are several incentives available to make solar panels more affordable and they include **Smart Export Guarantee (SEG)** which allows homeowners to sell excess energy back to the grid, although the payment rates can vary. Also there is no VAT charged on residential solar panel installation until at least 31 March 2027. The **Green Homes Grant** scheme is currently paused, although it may reopen in the future to offer grants to homeowners for energy efficiency improvements.

**Return on Investment (ROI)** is measured by how long it takes to recover your initial investment through energy savings. On average, solar panel systems in the UK have a payback period of around **8 to 12 years**. This can vary depending on factors like energy consumption, the amount of sunlight your roof receives, and electricity prices. After the payback period, your system will continue to generate free electricity, leading to significant savings over the next 15-20 years (the typical lifespan of solar panels). Many homeowners can save thousands of pounds in total energy costs over this time frame.



## Factors to Consider

While solar panels can be a good investment for many, there are a few factors to keep in mind:

- **Upfront cost:** The initial cost may be a barrier for some. Financing options or loans may be available to help with installation costs. You need to consider the payback time in relation to your stage of life.

- **Roof suitability:** If your roof is shaded, small, or not oriented in a direction that gets enough sunlight, your solar panel system's efficiency will be reduced. A professional assessment is recommended before installation.

- **Maintenance:** Solar panels generally require little maintenance, but they do need to be cleaned occasionally to ensure they're working at maximum efficiency.

- **Energy storage:** If you want to store excess energy for use at night or on cloudy days, you'll need a battery storage system, which adds to the cost of installation, and has a life span too.

**Froyle Case Studies:** I asked two homes in Froyle that have invested in solar panels about their experiences. The first installed 8 panels on an outbuilding 10 years ago which have now paid back the initial outlay of £6,000-£7,000, so electricity generated is now free, and any excess sold back to the grid. Based on that, a further 24 have now been installed by a Reading-based energy company. With the addition of two Tesla batteries, the electricity is either used, stored or exported, all controlled by a neat phone app. It is estimated that these later additions will have an 11 year payback time. The homeowner reported that May to September are good months for sunshine hours and electricity generation but during the less sunny months you can have days where the electricity produced is barely enough to boil a kettle!

The second homeowner installed 15 panels last year on a south-facing outbuilding, with battery storage of 9.5 kW/h. A local energy company based in Farnborough supplied and installed the system and linked it all through cabling into the home and the smart meter. The energy provider (in this case Octopus) provided the best buy back price. Time will tell on the payback time on an overall outlay of around £11,000.

## Conclusion

Installing solar panels can be a cost-effective way to reduce your energy bills, especially if more government incentives come back on line. However the upfront cost is significant, the payback period of 8 to 12 years long and the process involves significant installation works within your property. Before making any decision it is important to do your research and use a reputable company for supply and installation as individual circumstances may vary. However, in a changeable world where energy prices are continuing to rise and there are many global uncertainties, it can be a worthwhile investment for many homeowners and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.

*Alex Roberts*  
*[alex.roberts@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:alex.roberts@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)*



## ALTON FOOD BANK PLEASE SUPPORT!

Thank you for your continued support for the Alton Foodbank.

Your generous donations have enabled them to meet the growing demands that they are seeing locally.

Please continue to support this amazing charity; it is particularly in need of the following items at the moment.

Tinned Vegetables	Tinned Potatoes
Rice (dry)	Sponge Puddings (long life)
Tinned Custard	Tinned Meat (pies, stewing steak, hot dogs)
Tinned Rice Pudding	UHT Milk
Bags of sugar	
Toilet Rolls	Antibacterial Cleaning Spray
Shower Gel	Washing up liquid
Sanitary Products	Loo roll
Conditioner	Shampoo

There is a donation box in the village hall, or you can drop off at Greenfields Cottage, Lower Froyle. There are also collection points in Bentley and Binsted churches, and at Alton Maltings where there is a drop box outside the main door.

They have very good supplies of: baked beans, soup, tinned tomatoes and pasta. Many thanks for your kind and continued generosity. If you have any queries please call me.

*Louise Marston 07785 350381*

# Waverley Singers

waverleysingers.com

Saturday 22 March 2025, 7:30pm

St Andrew's Garrison Church

Aldershot GU11 2BY

Mendelssohn

## Elijah

BARITONE - ANDREW RUPP

SOPRANO - MARIANA FERNANDES

MEZZO - JULIA MERINO

TENOR - HARUN TEKIN

CHAMELEON ARTS ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR - RICHARD PEARCE

### TICKETS

In advance/on the door

£20/£22 Premium

£15/ £17 General

£5 Students

U16 free subject to conditions

*Ticket price includes a complimentary drink*



[ticketsource.co.uk/waverleysingers](https://ticketsource.co.uk/waverleysingers)

RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF STEP BY STEP



The Waverley Singers is Registered Charity no. 284123

# ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTES

**Vicar:** The Reverend Matt Boyes 07469 270590 email: [matt@benbinfo.co.uk](mailto:matt@benbinfo.co.uk)

**Administrators:** 01420 23339 E: [admin@benbinfo.org](mailto:admin@benbinfo.org) W: [www.benbinfo.co.uk](http://www.benbinfo.co.uk)



## Church Warden:

Simon Marshall 07734 214419

[sm517@icloud.com](mailto:sm517@icloud.com)

**Anna Friend:** Sarah Roberts

07831 294852 [sarabrfroyle@gmail.com](mailto:sarabrfroyle@gmail.com)

## Benefice Pastoral Care:

Nick Carter 01420 489122

[nick.carter1945@outlook.com](mailto:nick.carter1945@outlook.com)

**Anna Chaplain:**

The Rev Fran Harrison 07765 058593

[annachaplain@benbinfo.co.uk](mailto:annachaplain@benbinfo.co.uk)

## MARCH SERVICES

Sunday 2 Mar	9.30am Binsted	Holy Communion
	11.00am Oakhanger	Holy Communion
	6.00pm Bentley	Praise
<b>Weds 5 Mar</b>	<b>9.30am Froyle</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	6.30pm Binsted	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 Mar	8.00am Binsted	Holy Communion
	9.30am Bentley	Morning Worship & Children's Church
	<b>11.00am Froyle</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	6.00pm Kingsley	Praise
Sunday 16 Mar	<b>9.30am Froyle</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
	11.00am Kingsley	Holy Communion
	<b>4.00pm Froyle</b>	<b>Benefice Messy Church</b>
Sunday 23 Mar	9.30am Bentley	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am Binsted	Morning Worship
	<b>6.30pm Froyle</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
Sunday 30 Mar	11.00am Binsted	Benefice Service
<i>Mother's Day</i>		

## THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Resilience is a buzz word at the moment. With our culture's recognition of the value of good mental health and well being, resilience is seen as a key factor in helping someone cope with the hardship and difficulties we all face at different times in our lives. The term comes from the science of physics, and studies of how springs return to their original shape when stretched or squashed. Engineers want to know the point when stress is too much and when failure is liable to occur; they also want to improve resilience so that important parts of a machine last longer.

With humans, we need to be resilient to life's difficulties, to be able to get back up after being knocked down and learn what we can do to help make us more resilient. The author Brene Brown suggests one strategy, "Joy, collected over time, fuels resilience." That the good times prepare us and help us in the difficult.

Resilience is not about putting a suit of armour on to shield ourselves from the pain or hurt, and not feel our environment. It is about being really human, and continuing to love and receive love in order to have something worth going on for, and something that we can draw strength from.

However, the Bible does not really use the word resilience, or the concept as we use it today. Instead, the connected Biblical word is perseverance. Victor Hugo, the author of *Les Miserables* and the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, wrote that "Perseverance is the secret of all triumphs." Perseverance says that it is not enough to just stand and be resilient and to be able to continue to take the knocks. Instead, perseverance implies motion despite opposition, To keep on keeping on, or as Winston Churchill famously said, "If you are going through hell, keep going!"

St. Paul writes that "Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." - Romans 5:4. So as we resiliently move forward in the face of difficulty, we grow as people, our character develops and we have increasing hope that as we overcame problems before, with God's help we will be able to cope the next time suffering comes knocking.

God has never promised that his people won't have difficulties and trials, quite the opposite. Instead, God is able to use these hard times to help us to grow and point others to how we managed to get through and not just cope. God is intimately concerned with our lives and wants to enable us to thrive, if we let him. As one Old Testament prophet puts it,

"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought, Their leaves stay green, and they go on producing delicious fruit." Jeremiah 17:8

May God help you to endure hard times that you might be going through. May he preserve and keep you, so that you can rejoice when victory comes.

*Matt Boyes, Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle*



## Church News

As we stand on the cusp of the Easter period (late this year: Easter Day 20 April), I am very happy to reflect on an amazing Christmas and New Year season, with nearly 200 participants at our beautiful Advent-by-Candlelight Service and nearly the same for the Carol Service - both incredibly moving and joyous occasions. And there is much to look forward to.

We continue to work towards building closer relationships with the other churches in the benefice, although the formal processes reflecting this move slowly.

### Events

In terms of forthcoming events as we approach Easter, I would draw your attention in particular to the following:

On Shrove Tuesday (4 March) we have the always delightful pancake lunch for senior residents in the benefice, held at The Wickham Institute in Binsted at 12:30 pm. Please contact Sarah Roberts (tel: 07831 294852) or William Knowles (tel: 07775 928933) if you would like to come.

The following day, Ash Wednesday (5 March) sees the start of Lent, with beautiful short Holy Communion services taking place in Froyle (9:30 am) and Binsted (6.30pm)

Also on Ash Wednesday there is the first of the weekly Lent lunches in Froyle (see page 7).

Our next Messy Church takes place in Froyle Church on Sunday 16 March (see page 24).

- On Saturday 22 March the Quattro string quartet are giving a concert in the church at 5 pm (see page 29). Those who have been to their concerts before will know how energising they are!

- Sunday 30 March is Mothering Sunday. This year, Mothering Sunday falls (unusually) on the fifth Sunday of the month, when we always have a single service for the whole benefice in one of the benefice churches – this year in Bentley at 11:00 am.

### Some ‘Save the Dates’ for April:

Wednesday 9 April: Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting (details next month).

There are many lovely events over Easter in all our churches. In Froyle, please note in particular:

Thursday 17 April (Maundy Thursday): one of our two main choral services of the year in Froyle, namely the beautifully atmospheric and contemplative commemoration of the Last Supper.

Saturday 19 April: we shall combine our usual Easter Saturday garden making and Easter egg hunt with a special Messy Church event in Froyle church and churchyard – held during the first half of the morning, exact time tbc; there will be coffee and croissants for grown-ups...

Saturday 26 April: Car Boot sale at Froyle village hall/rec (see page 28).

More details on all the April events will of course appear in the April magazine. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the Car Boot sale, call or WhatsApp Sarah Roberts on 07831 294852.

### **Training Session!**

As a very active and busy church, I would also like to highlight that we are always looking for new volunteers! If you would like to get involved, we are holding an Introduction and Training evening on Monday 10 March at 7.00 pm, at the Church. The main duties involve helping with setting up for a service, meeting and greeting participants, and helping with refreshments.

### **Electoral Roll**

And lastly may I draw your attention to the important notice on the next page about our electoral roll, which we now have to review and renew:

*Simon Marshall*  
*Churchwarden*  
*Sm517@icloud.com*  
*07734 214419*

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## **HELP NEEDED AT THE CEMETERY**

I am hoping to tidy up and keep tidy our lovely cemetery.

For those of you who visit the cemetery, can I make a request that you take as much of your own flowers, pots, glassware, plastic wrapping, bottles dog poo and general rubbish home with you ?

There are two bins there and I would ask you to only use them 'in extremis '.

Secondly, if anyone would like to join me in tidying up the cemetery , I am looking for volunteers on Tuesday 25 March at 2.30 .

Opportunities for clearing and burning twigs, branches etc. raking leaves, tidying up the spoil from graves, clearing the steps and entrance etc.etc.

Anyone interested please contact me.

*Charlie Zorab*  
*[c.zorab@gmail.com](mailto:c.zorab@gmail.com)*

# AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

## 2025 marks a new Church electoral roll

Every six years each church parish up and down the country is required to prepare a **new** electoral roll. The roll is a list of people who can vote in church elections, the most important being for members of our Parochial Church Council (PCC), who run the church with our Vicar.

Signing up is easy: you complete and return a form, which asks for your name, postal and email addresses, and whether you have a sufficient link with the church. There is no cost involved. We promise only to use your data for church matters.

**Even if you are on the existing roll, you need to sign up again to remain on the roll.**

Please join if you're interested in the church, it is an important part of the village, and if you want your views to be represented. Once on the roll you're also eligible for election to the PCC, if you want to have a say yourself. The elections take place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in the church on **Wednesday 9 April**. You can apply for inclusion on the new roll until **Tuesday 25 March**. A form is available in the church, at the Meeting Place, or from me. We will send an email with the form to all on the existing electoral roll, so please look out for it and sign up.

Sarah Roberts

**Church Electoral Roll Officer**

**The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (*yes, this is our church's full name!*)

[sarahbfroyle@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbfroyle@gmail.com)

*The Old Dairy, Upper Froyle, GU34 4JP*

**Messy Church** Free entry

**FROYLE**

Benefice Messy Church at Froyle Church.  
GU34 4LB

**Sunday 16th March, 2025**  
**Starting at 4pm**

STORIES

CRAFTS

SONGS

GAMES

FAMILY MEAL

Join us for Spring creativity, including Mother's Day and the anniversary of the first flight of the Spitfire.

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All generations welcome!

THE BENEFICE OF FROYLE



## Gift to St Mary's Church

The members of the PCC of St Mary's Church would like to extend their grateful thanks to the very generous benefactor who has purchased 62 new chairs for the nave of the church. The 'Theo' ecclesiastical chairs have won many awards for their modern but classic design and are finished with an oak stain that complements the beautiful, historic interior of St. Mary's. The new lightweight, stackable chairs were needed to facilitate the different types of services and events that are now held in the church. The much-loved old chairs that they replace have found new homes with many parishioners in Froyle.

We are delighted that, thanks to the great generosity of the donor, we have been able to acquire these high-quality, long-lasting chairs that will serve the church and parishioners of St Mary's for generations to come.



## A Brief History of Time...(in Froyle).....

Don't worry, this isn't going to be a reprise of Stephen Hawking's famous 1988 book discussing the impenetrable maths of Quantum Mechanics, Singularities, Event Horizons and of course, Black Holes.

No, this is going to be all about our wonderful church clock, the one that's been ticking away for 302 years. In its day a wonder of modernity to rival any smartphone of the twenty first century.

A brief history of the church clock first:

The clock has a notable history dating back to the early 18th century. In 1722, the original church steeple was demolished and replaced by a tower featuring a clock. A stone above the clock bears the inscription "John Baldwin, 1722," indicating his significant contribution to this reconstruction. The stone below the clock likely once displayed the names of the churchwardens, as the word "Churchwardens" is still discernible. Additionally, the initials "H.B." over the tower door are believed to represent Henry Burningham, who died in 1735.

In 1724, five bells were installed in the new tower, each inscribed with "R. Phelps 1724 Fecit," acknowledging the bell founder. A sixth bell was added in 1757, bearing the inscription "Thomas Tower and Thomas Hall, Churchwardens. Thomas Swain made me, 1757."

The church underwent significant changes in the 19th century. The nave was rebuilt in 1812, as it was deemed more economical to reconstruct than to repair the existing structure. The chancel saw restoration in 1847, and by 1885, the church was described as a red brick and stone building in the Early English style, comprising a chancel, nave, and a square tower equipped with a clock and six bells.



Last year it was noted that the clockface had come loose and was preventing the hands from running smoothly around the dial. Fortunately, there is a firm of specialist clock engineers in Cumbria who were able to survey the damage and suggest a repair scheme.

St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building and the clock is an important element of its structure so the money had to be found for the expensive repair.

One of the problems with the repair though was how to access the clock face - which is thirty feet above ground. We sought a scaffolding quote but that was incredibly expensive; we considered an abseiling scheme, but that was fraught with health and safety issues. After some head-scratching I wondered if we could get a MEWP (Mobile Elevated Work Platform), or Cherry Picker to you and me, through the Churchyard and up to the clock.



Yes we could. And did. And this week (17 February 2025) we repaired the clock, cleaned its face and the engineer reckons it should be good for the next hundred years. Which will be a lot longer than your current Smartphone lasts.

And whilst we were up there we also cleaned out all of the clogged-up church gutters.

These repairs highlight the community's dedication to maintaining and enhancing the church's fabric, ensuring its continued role as a central landmark in Froyle.

A horological aside: early in February I visited England's last remaining manufacturer of handmade watches: Bremont. They're based near Henley-upon-Thames in a smart, modern building and produce a range of sports and dress watches which mix traditional and contemporary design. They're a fantastic advertisement for British manufacturing and their factory tour is two hours of watch making magic – do go!



*Nigel Southern*



What3Words is a phone app that can identify any location on Earth with a resolution of about 3 metres. The system encodes geographic coordinates into three permanently fixed dictionary words. Froyle Village Hall, for example, is pinpointed with the words, “pastels.foggy.remarks.” This may not sound especially useful, but it saves lives. If someone falls, or falls ill, in a remote place—say, a field, a forest or a beach—the Emergency Services get there much faster if they have a precise location. It's used for navigation by hikers and drivers. It's also very helpful for deliveries; transport services now often request “What3Words,” when arranging services.

It's free, easy to download and very user-friendly. Go to the “What3Words” website, and see how straightforward it is. The whole family should do it: you'll all feel a bit more secure, just knowing it's there.

*Mary Knowles*

**Froyle Church**

**CAR BOOT**

**+ FRESH VILLAGE PRODUCE**

**Saturday 26 April,  
10 – 12 noon**

**Froyle Rec &  
Village Hall  
GU34 4LG**

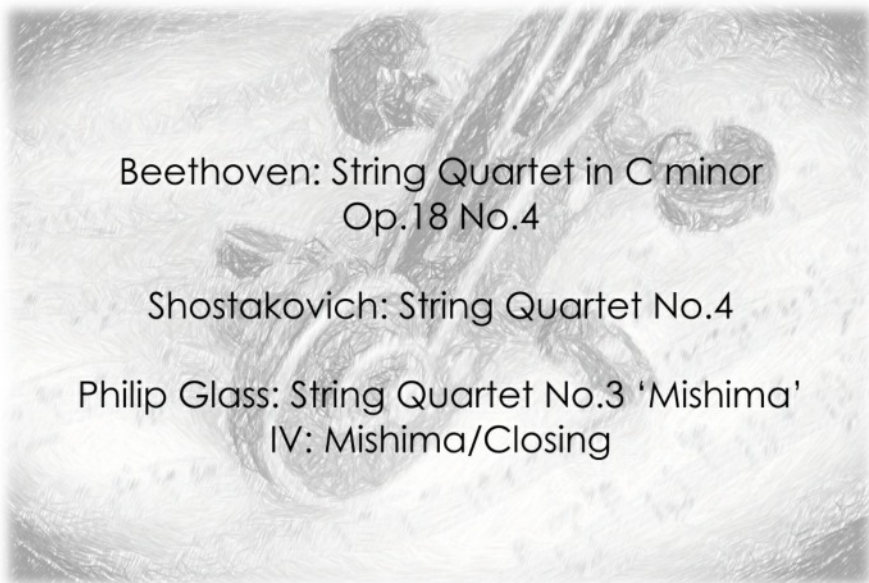
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*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 at 5pm*



Beethoven: String Quartet in C minor  
Op.18 No.4

Shostakovich: String Quartet No.4

Philip Glass: String Quartet No.3 'Mishima'  
IV: Mishima/Closing

St Mary's Church, Froyle GU34 4JY

Suggested voluntary donation: £20.00 per person.  
Under 18's free when accompanied by a paying adult.  
Wine and nibbles

To reserve seats please contact Karen Potter

Email: [kwilson2525@btinternet.com](mailto:kwilson2525@btinternet.com) or Phone: 01420 520294



## News from Bentley C E Primary School

The spring term is in full flow here at Bentley and the children have been learning lots! We have welcomed back class assemblies, where the children share their learning with the rest of the school and their parents. So far, we have had Year R share their learning on heroes, Year 6 on WW2 and Year 5 on space. They have been wonderful showcases of learning.

We have also had lots of opportunities to extend our learning by taking part in sporting events or going on educational visits. Here is an update on some of the things we have been doing during the first half of the spring term.

### Educational Visits

Year 4 visited Butser Ancient Farm to support their learning about the Anglo-Saxons. The children had the opportunity to experience what life was like in Anglo-Saxon times, exploring the houses and learning how people lived, cooked and spent their time.



Year 2 visited the SeaCity Museum in Southampton to support their learning about the Titanic. The children had a tour of the museum, learned about members of the crew and about those who had bravely helped others during the sinking.

Year R went on their very first local walk to the shop and the park. Whilst on their walk the children were looking out for words in their environment.

Year 1 visited Hogmore enclosure and focused on the play area! They were researching the different play equipment in order to design their own in DT later this term.

We have also had the Dogs Trust come into school to teach us all about dog safety when we are out and about. The children learned lots of interesting facts.

Year 3 have started their swimming lessons and are enjoying going to the pool weekly to learn the important life skill of swimming – we cannot wait to hear how they progress over the next few weeks.

### Sporting Events

A team of Key Stage 2 children from Years 3 – 6 represented Bentley at the Alton Schools' Swimming Gala with 11 schools taking part in total. Children competed in freestyle, backstroke and relay races. Our Bentley children demonstrated superb team spirit as they cheered each other on. We are incredibly proud of all of them.

Gymnasts from Year 3 and Year 4 took part in the local schools' gymnastics competition. The team had to learn and perform a floor routine: they all had a brilliant time and represented our school well.

A dodgeball event also took place at Eggar's recently. This fast paced game is thoroughly enjoyed by all the children who take part and encourages the development of skills such as teamwork, strategising and tactics. The adults who took the children were incredibly proud of their teamwork and honesty – ensuring they always stuck to the rules – well done team! We have lots more exciting events and experiences planned for the children over the rest of the spring term. If you would like to know more about our school or would like to visit, then please do get in touch. We always welcome visitors and the children are keen to show how proud they are of their school. If you are interested in your child joining us here at Bentley, we do have some places available in some of our classes across the school and would love to hear from you.

*Vicky Hallett*

*Headteacher, Bentley C E Primary School*

*01420 525010*

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## **Bonfires & thatched houses**

At this time of year the village seems to be alive with tree surgeons and garden maintenance firms doing major work on getting the garden trees and hedges back in shape. Whilst the majority of contractors come equipped with the ability to take all the rubbish away with them, one recently decided to burn some of the garden debris rather than take it away. Whilst this can be anti social for those nearby and will concern some from an environmental perspective, my concern is that I live in a thatched house.

Many people do not seem to be aware that thatch roofs are just straw with no protection at all from any passing spark and that the majority of thatch fires are caused by factors outside of the house itself. For this reason most people's thatched house insurance forbids any burning of anything within 100 metres. Most of the neighbours living near thatched houses are very careful and considerate, but could I ask people to make sure that they have explained the risk to any contractors they employ and ensure that they do not light any fires within a minimum of 100 metres of a thatched house.

Most of the thatched houses have been in the village much longer than we have and it would be nice if they could remain for the next generations to enjoy!

*Tony Durham*

*<https://ardurham59.wixsite.com/tonydurhamlimited>*



## News from Pax Hill

Well, it looks like spring is just around the corner, crocuses are appearing throughout our gardens and the evenings are finally beginning to get lighter.

We've been keeping busy inside; Wild about Britain came and gave us an informative talk about our varied native wildlife and brought with them some animals for a hands-on experience. From toads and grass snakes to a hedgehog to an owl, some animals were definitely better received than others!

The Windsor gardening club has begun: we have started sowing seeds for our spring plant sale, everyone gets involved throughout the year, planting, and potting on. Together with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch we have been feeling connected with nature, even if it's from the warmth of our resident lounges.

We are lucky to have three chefs at Pax Hill preparing food for our residents every day. Charlie is our head chef and alongside cooking fresh food for over one hundred people he caters our special events. We have had Burns Night, Chinese New Year, a romantic Valentine's Day lunch for our couples, and numerous afternoon teas for residents and families. We will have a spring and summer change to our menu so we have had a tasting morning with our residents to see which of the dishes they liked, and which should not make it onto the menu.

Chefs will be busy again through March starting with St David's Day and Shrove Tuesday; we have a nutrition and hydration focus week in the middle of March, so mocktails, smoothies and different food tastings daily. For Comic Relief's Red Nose Day on 21 March, we will have a cake sale in reception, do come along if you are passing. The last event of the month is a Mother's Day afternoon tea on 29 March: our Mums and families will be serenaded by a violinist whilst enjoying tea, cakes and of course Charlie's wonderful cheese straws.

As the days finally start to get a little warmer, we will start to go on more trips in our minibus: we are beginning slowly with a trip to the café in Bentley and then to the Watts Museum in Compton, and Gilbert White's House in Selborne.

We always welcome visitors to our beautiful grounds. Each season brings with it something different but there is something wonderful about seeing the daffodils come through, after the long winter: that splash of colour is so refreshing. Come by, sit on one of our benches and enjoy the peace and quiet.





## Advertising April 2025 to March 2026

As last year, we are offering two advertising plans: half-yearly, with five issues, or yearly, with ten issues. July-August and December-January are double issues. Our very efficient printer has had to increase her prices to meet rising costs, and so we must also raise our rates—but, we hope you will agree, only by very small amounts. There is a discounted rate per issue for the full-year plan.

We now distribute each issue to more than 350 households, reaching all our residents. The magazine is also available online, extending its readership to several surrounding villages.

The new rates are shown on the inside back cover. We thank you for your support and for choosing to promote your business in the Froyle Village magazine.

*The Editors*

### FROYLE SMALL ADS

**Don't forget - Small ads are *free* to all Froyle residents** (one per month)

So why not advertise items you no longer need, or are looking for, right here?

Or indeed services you can offer or are trying to find?

Just email your text - and a photo if you have one - to [froylemageditor@gmail.com](mailto:froylemageditor@gmail.com)

### HOW TO MAKE YOUR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTION LOOK GOOD

**Posters/Adverts – please apply in the normal way – see inside back cover.**

- If you want a full page design your page in portrait layout. For half pages use landscape.
- You can send your copy in any size but it will be resized to fit on A5. The easiest way to see how it will look is to design a full page as A5 portrait and a half page as A6 landscape.
- The magazine online is in colour but remember the printed version is in black and white.
- Our software struggles with complicated layouts so they may not transfer well: so please save the copy ideally as a JPG/PNG picture or PDF file, and send this along with the original Word or Powerpoint document.
- **Please remember to embed all fonts.**

#### **Articles**

- Please send text and pictures separately. As a rough guide a page is about 500 words – with no pictures.
- Pictures should be attached as JPEG or PNG files with as many pixels as possible!

All magazine contributions should be submitted to [froylemageditor@gmail.com](mailto:froylemageditor@gmail.com). Please refer to the back cover for next month's magazine deadline.

# A SEA SYMPHONY

Toward the Unknown Region  
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS  
Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes  
BENJAMIN BRITTEN

**Basingstoke Choral Society**  
**Croydon Philharmonic Choir**

**Conductor**  
**David Gibson**



**Sunday March 30th 2025 at 7.30pm**  
**The Anvil Basingstoke RG21 QR**  
Tickets: The Anvil Box Office: 01256 844244  
or [www.anvilarts.co.uk](http://www.anvilarts.co.uk)



[www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk)



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### **Members doing it for themselves!**

We are all guilty of thinking something should be done or sorted out .. and then look around for someone else to deal with it! One of the many advantages of the u3a is when something does need doing, there are usually other members around to help. Our u3a is run very much on the principle of a mutual self-help group.

An example of this was the formation of the Short Walks group. For some time a number of members, for a variety of reasons, felt they needed a shorter walk than those undertaken by the Walking for Pleasure and Nordic Walking groups. So they gathered together for a cup of coffee and planning session in the Bel and the Dragon and the rest, as they say, is history, and the first Short Walk has now taken place.



Meanwhile, Wine Group 2 undertook research into non-alcohol and low-alcohol wines as part of their 'slightly damp' January. As the u3a has no wish to cause this publication any grief with the purveyors of these beverages, it suffices to say that they were not well received. Apparently a recent article in The Times stated that when you strip out the alcohol, it affects the flavour. However, the wine group were happy to report there were some acceptable low(ish) alcohol wines – including a Prosecco, a Sauvignon Blanc and a Val de Loire Malbec – to be had.


And what a difference Pickle Ball has made! From a casual conversation in the Spring of 2023, through the first trial sessions in September 2023, involving just 8 players, playing fortnightly, our group has now grown to include 50 registered members playing on a weekly basis. The participants are from all the local u3a's and the group provides an excellent opportunity to swap ideas across the local branches.

If you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

To find out more, please visit our website.

<https://odiham.u3asite.uk/>





# LIFE DRAWING

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*Follow our instagram for more updates! @shopflorenceclothing*

*We look forward to seeing you!*



# What's On at The Anchor Inn



Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March


## Monthly Quiz Night

Start at 7.30pm. Free entry. 6 people max per team.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March

## Monthly Bingo Night

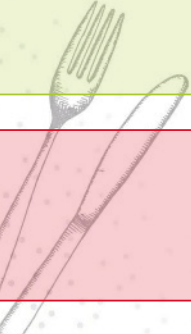
Start at 7.30pm. £2 per game, 3 games played each night. Cash prizes



Sat 15<sup>th</sup> March

## Six Nations Finale


Book your table today to watch all the action!



Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> from midday

## Mothering Sunday

Book your table today to avoid disappointment



Watch out for our next Supper Club.....

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**

More details coming out soon.....





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[www.athertongreen.art](http://www.athertongreen.art)



Farringdon Place Church Road, Upper Farringdon, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3EH  
+44 (0) 7890 098 036 [sue@athertongreen.art](mailto:sue@athertongreen.art) @athertongnart



## Move with Tegan

Froyle Village Hall  
Ryebridge Lane, Lower  
Froyle, Alton GU34  
4LG

## Pilates in Froyle

### Monday

10-11 Dynamic Pilates

11-12 Gentle Pilates

### Wednesday

Mixed Pilates

18:30-19:30

For bookings, contact Tegan on  
07761209998 or email  
[teganhansensa@gmail.com](mailto:teganhansensa@gmail.com).

£10 per Pilates Class  
£50 for block of 6 classes



# ESCAPE AND CREATE



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## Acorns B&B



Acorns is a self-contained guest cottage, located in the picturesque village of Lower Froyle.

It has its own entrance, parking, and a south facing terrace which offers beautiful views across open fields.

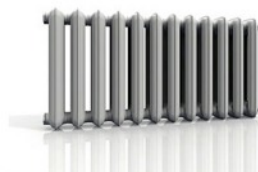
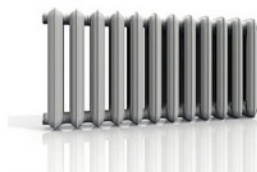
It has a generous double bedroom, comfortable sitting room with a smart TV, and a luxury shower room, together with a small but well-equipped kitchen.

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Contact Alice for further information on 07768 165233 or [ghinns@gmail.com](mailto:ghinns@gmail.com)

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***info@shinedentalclinic.co.uk.***

March						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 <i>Rubbish</i>					1
2  1600-1800 <i>Life drawing</i>	3  <i>Rubbish</i>	4	5	6  <i>Garden waste</i>	7  1000-1200 <i>Meeting place</i>	8
9  1100 <i>Holy Communion</i>	10  <i>Recycling &amp; glass</i>  1900 <i>Parish Council</i>	11  <i>1830 VH Committee</i>	12	13	14  1000-1200 <i>Meeting place</i>  1900 <i>Gardening Club</i>	15
16  0930 <i>Morning Worship</i>  1600 <i>Messy Church</i>	17  <i>Rubbish</i>	18  1000-1200 <i>Life drawing</i>	19	20  <i>Garden waste</i>  1400 <i>Flower arranging</i>  1900 <i>Froyle Wildlife</i>	21  1000-1200 <i>Meeting place</i>	22
23  1830 <i>Choral Evensong</i>	24  <i>Recycling &amp; glass</i>	25	26	27	28  1000-1200 <i>Meeting place</i>	29

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### Advertising rates in the Froyle Village Magazine - 2025/2026

For Froyle businesses: £40 +VAT/year, £24+VAT/half year for advertisements of **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers.**

For non-Froyle businesses: £60+VAT/year, £36+VAT/half year for **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers.**

For both residents and non-residents: £120 +VAT/year, £72+VAT/half year for **a full page, £137.50+VAT/year for inside cover full page.**

**All advertising must be requested and paid for through the Parish Clerk at [Froylemagads@gmail.com](mailto:Froylemagads@gmail.com) and copied to [clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)**

We are pleased that local tradesmen and service providers advertise with us, and hope you support them. However, we don't check or endorse them in any way.



## Froyle Directory

**Froyle Parish Council** ⑆ [www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)

Andrew Potter, Clerk ✉ [clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk) ☎ 07979 030571

**Froyle Residents Email List** email to join ✉ [clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)

**East Hampshire District Council** [www.easthants.gov.uk](http://www.easthants.gov.uk)

Tony Costigan, District Councillor ✉ [tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk) ☎ 07770 666896

**Hampshire County Council** [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Mark Kemp-Gee, County Councillor ✉ [mark.kemp-gee@hants.gov.uk](mailto:mark.kemp-gee@hants.gov.uk) ☎ 07748 945947

**Froyle Village Hall** ⑆ [www.froylevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.froylevillagehall.co.uk)

David Robertson, Committee Chair ☎ 01420 520820

Bookings: Sarah Zorab ✉ [bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk) ☎ 01420 520361

**The Meeting Place - Fridays 10-12 at the Village Hall** Susie Robertson ☎ 01420 520820

**Froyle Gardening Club** ⑆ [www.froylegardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.froylegardeningclub.co.uk)

Geoff Hawkins ✉ [info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk) ☎ 01420 88176

**Froyle Wildlife** [www.frolewildlife.co.uk](http://www.frolewildlife.co.uk) - Barry Clark ☎ 01420 23520

**Tree Warden** Sue Lelliott ✉ [tree.warden@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:tree.warden@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk) ☎ 01420 22015

**Neighbourhood Watch** ⑆ Stephen Inskip ✉ [stephen.inskip22@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.inskip22@gmail.com) ☎ 07581 211595

**Speedwatch Group** Gordon Mitchell ✉ [champersg@hotmail.com](mailto:champersg@hotmail.com) ☎ 01420 23851

**Police Community Support Officers** ☎ 101

PC Harvey Bennett ✉ [harvey.bennett@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:harvey.bennett@hampshire.police.uk) or

PC Jess Hornsby ✉ [jessica.hornsby@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:jessica.hornsby@hampshire.police.uk)

**Froyle Archive** [www.froyle.com/archive](http://www.froyle.com/archive)

**The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted & Froyle** ⑆ [www.benbinfro.co.uk](http://www.benbinfro.co.uk)

Matt Boyes, Vicar - ✉ [matt@benbinfro.co.uk](mailto:matt@benbinfro.co.uk) ☎ 07469 270590

Sarah Roberts, Anna Friend - ✉ [sarahrfroyle@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrfroyle@gmail.com) ☎ 07831 294852

St Mary's Church Flower Rota - Gill Bradley ☎ 01420 520484

**Bentley, Binsted and Froyle Care Group** - Bookings ☎ 07775 458873

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### APRIL DEADLINE: FRIDAY 21 MARCH 2025

For guidance on formatting contributions, see **page 33**. For advertising rates, please refer to the inside back cover.