

Froyle Village Magazine



December 2025 & January 2026

No 524

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



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News from the Parish Council (PC)

Parish Clerk - Andrew Potter

E: clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

W: www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk



The PC meeting scheduled for 17 November was delayed to 24 November so this report does not include the outcome of items discussed at that meeting. The agenda contains items on Froyle Speedwatch, the planning application from Redbrown (Froyle Estate) for a housing development on Saintbury Hill, revisions to the Froyle Conservation Areas, housing development along the A31 corridor, and the PC's draft budget for 2026/27 - a packed agenda! The next PC meeting has provisionally been scheduled for Wednesday 10 December @ 19.30 in the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome to attend and can put an item on the agenda by advising the Clerk five days prior to the meeting.

The PC was disappointed to receive notice from Mark Freeman that he was resigning from the PC. In his short time on the PC, Mark has been busy in developing a plan for the Rec facilities upgrade. A resident has put their name forward to fill one of the vacancies on the PC but there is still one more position vacant so if anyone is interested in joining, please contact the Clerk for more details of the role of a Parish Councillor.

Footpaths and public rights of way (PROW) continue to be raised as an area of concern by residents, particularly the closure of the popular circular route through Round Wood in Upper Froyle. This path is not a PROW but the Froyle Estate manager recognises that it is a popular circular route frequently used by residents. Currently it has been blocked as it is unsafe for the public to access due to the creation of rainwater attenuation ponds and ditches draining into them. The PC are in regular contact with the Froyle Estate manager about the creation of a number of permissive routes across their land including through Round Wood and your patience is requested to allow the PC and Froyle Estate to agree on which routes can be recognised by the landowner as soon as possible. Any issues re footpaths should be referred to Cllr Phil Roberts who is responsible for this area.

In addition to the planning applications mentioned elsewhere, there are a number of other issues that may impact life in Froyle that are open for comment and were advised in an earlier email viz :

- consultation on a review of the Froyle Conservation Areas which closes at the end of November. Changes are proposed to the boundaries, as well as more prescriptive guidance on permitted changes to properties within the Conservation areas including maintenance and construction methods and requirements. If you live within the proposed conservation area you may want to consider what effect

the changes might have on any future plans you have for your property and submit comments; and

- a resident's application to East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) to have the Froyle Park wedding venue license reviewed.

If you wish to comment on either of these items please follow the links in the email or contact the Clerk for advice on how and where to submit them.

New central government house building targets could see tens of thousands of new homes built in East Hampshire over the next 20 years. The PC is in contact with a developing campaign against such proposals and Bentley PC has scheduled a public meeting on 11 December to discuss how to respond. The worldwide opposition to these plans has been reported in the media due to its damaging impact on an area rich in Jane Austen's heritage. A petition has already attracted over 15k signatures – go to www.savejaneaustencountry.org for more information.

Other PC activities around the village:

- a quote has been accepted to cut the hedges along Ryebidge Lane beside the Rec and down to Hadwick's corner junction with Froyle Road. This work will be undertaken in the coming weeks;
- following the decision not to burn the wood from the pirate ship due to the potentially toxic paint, this will be removed in a skip along with the remains of the bonfire by the end of the month;
- quotes have also been received to replace the legs at the far end of the zip line which are rotting. Consideration will be given whether, given its age, it is better to repair or acquire a new unit. It is hoped that a decision can be taken soon to allow the zip line to be reinstated for public use;
- consultation on proposals to upgrade the Rec facilities including a replacement for the pirate ship are planned to commence by end 2025;
- the door on the noticeboard at the end of Gid Lane has been repaired but the glass is now cracked so please be careful when opening it as the doors stick quite badly.

In addition to the housing development on Saintbury Hill (ref [EHDC-25-1137-FUL](#)), there were three other planning applications received since the October meeting. These relate to works on the Beaters barn at Saintbury Hill Farm, tree works at a property in Upper Froyle, and construction of two houses on the old Treloars overflow car park on H&C hill (ref [EHDC-25-1292-OUT](#)). Details can be found by following the application no. link and comments submitted via the EHDC Planning portal <https://publicaccess.easthants.gov.uk/planning/index.html>.

As always, don't forget to visit the Village website www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk to find out news, information about activities in and around Froyle, the village calendar, and useful contacts.

The PC send its best wishes to all Froyle residents for Christmas and for a happy and prosperous New Year.



A SPARKLING EVENING OF WINE AND CONVERSATION WITH CANDOVER BROOK

Tuesday 9th December 2025

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Froyle Village Hall GU34 4LG

To reserve your spot, please email
amanda@candoverbrook.co.uk

Please join us to find out more about Candover Brook, an award-winning Hampshire vineyard nestled in the heart of the Candover Valley where exceptional sparkling wine is crafted through regenerative viticulture.

Enjoy a short screening (30mins) of 'A Year in the Life of the Vineyard' which tells our story but also that of the wider English Sparkling Wine scene, a nascent industry on our doorstep which is really gaining momentum and we're hoping to help spread the word. The documentary offers a behind the scenes look at the journey so far followed by a Q&A.

All of this while savouring a sample of Candover Brook's finest Sparkling Brut or Rosé.

Opportunity to buy bottles or cases at a reduced rate...
Christmas sparkle? Look no further!

CANDOVER
Brook

www.candoverbrook.co.uk

Bonfire night on 5 November was a huge success. More than 200 people joined us, the weather was perfect, the bonfire roared, and the fireworks sparkled brilliantly. A great time was had by all.

It takes a village to run a village and it certainly takes an involved and engaged village to run a successful bonfire and firework night. Over 40 volunteered their time to bring this event to life and helped with everything from collecting wood, building the bonfire, arranging the fireworks, making mulled wine/cider, serving on the stalls, providing first aid support, and helping with the set up and take down. Without this generous support of time and skill we would never be able to make nights like this happen.



What was most pleasing was that our volunteers spanned across a wide range of ages from 18 to... well best not to say but I can assure you it was a wide gap! We also had a few new villagers get involved and what better way to integrate into village life and connect with neighbours. I know from talking to many of the volunteers they love the ability to get involved and play their part however big or small to keep the spirit of Froyle alive.

This year we were also very lucky to be supported with generous donations from a number of local businesses; The Anchor Inn, Loaf Bakery, Redbrown Farm and Triple FFF brewery.

On behalf of the Village Hall I would like to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers and donors.

And the icing on the cake...we even made a small surplus from the takings which go toward the running of the village hall. We'll soon have to start planning for 5 November 2026, any suggestions for next year welcome.

By the time you read this it will nearly be December and the committee is already working on some new and exciting plans for 2026 both to spruce up the Village Hall and to bring some new activities to our program. Please remember the 100 Club subscription will change to £24 from 1 January, still great value, double the prize money and you support the Village Hall!

I, along with the entire Village Hall Committee, wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Gillian Paul

Dynamic Pilates	Monday 1, 8, 15 Dec & 5, 12, 19, 26 Jan	9:30 – 10:30am
Gentle Pilates	Monday 1, 8, 15 Dec & 5, 12, 19, 26 Jan	10:30 – 11:30am

Move with Tegan. £10 per class, £50 for a block of 6. For bookings or more information contact Tegan on 07761209998 or teganhansensa@gmail.com

Life Drawing	Sunday 7 Dec & 4 Jan Tuesday 16 Dec & 20 Jan	4 - 6pm 10am - Noon
Untutored, but beginners welcome. Bring your own materials. £10 cash at the door. dabirn@gmail.com for more information or to rsvp.		

Meeting Place	Fridays 5, 12, 19 Dec & 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jan	10am - Noon
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Join us for delicious homemade cakes, hot drinks and good conversation.
There are books and jigsaws to borrow, and you can learn to crochet if you'd like.
Everyone welcome.

Candover Brook	Tuesday 9 Dec	6:30-8:30pm
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Join us to find out more about Candover Brook, an award-winning Hampshire vineyard where sparkling wine is crafted through regenerative viticulture. Enjoy a short screening of "A Year in the Life of the Vinyard" and sample our wine. To reserve your spot, please email amanda@candoverbrook.co.uk

Parish Council	Weds 10 Dec & Mon 12 Jan	7 - 10:30pm
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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

Gardening Club	Friday 12 Dec Saturday 10 Jan	7:30-9pm
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The December meeting will be a review of 2025 and a discussion of plans for 2026. The January meeting will be the Gardening Club's New Year Party! For tickets and details, contact Gill Bradley gahbradley@gmail.com



The Meeting Place

This takes place every Friday morning in the Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon, so do come and join us for delicious homemade cake, hot drinks and good conversation. We have a selection of books and jigsaw puzzles to borrow.

On **Friday 5 December Treloar** will have a sales table with gifts and Christmas cards. All donations for coffee and tea etc will go to Treloar, so please come and support them and find that elusive gift!

The **Christmas Meeting Place** will take place on **Friday 19 December** when we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies as well as the usual cake and coffee. There will be a Christmas raffle and a quiz and we will hopefully sing some carols.

December Kitchen Helpers

(No need to be at the Hall till 10.00am)

5th (Treloar)	John Sexton
12th	Jan Elliott
19th (Xmas MP)	The Meeting Place Team

December Cake Bakers

5th (Treloar)	Jenny Gove	Sarah Roberts
12th	Janet Dobson	
19th (Xmas MP)		

January Kitchen Helpers

(No need to be at the Hall till 10.00am)

2nd	Yvonne Deans
9th	Lori Taylor
16th	David Robertson
23rd	Corinna Whines
30th	Jenny Bryan Brown

January Cake Bakers

2nd	Sally Turvill	Brian Jones	Sue Lelliott
9th	Andrea Kozak	Jo Mills	Barbara Graham-Clarke
16th	Lisa Bowler	Rachel Chancellor	Deborah Addison
23rd	Emma Archer Perkins	Lauraine Bourne	Mary Perryman
30th	Lucia Lindblom	Elizabeth Sealey	Jenny Gove

Please organise swaps amongst yourselves, but do contact us if necessary if you have a problem.

Please let us know if you can't bake for any reason, we can put cakes in the freezer if necessary!

It's helpful to know what you are making 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 brought to the Hall on Friday by 10.00.

You will be receiving your new rosters for 2026 shortly!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

Gill Bradley 520484 Susie Robertson 520820 Jenny Gove 23697
gahbradley@gmail.com sjrinfroyle@gmail.com govejenny@gmail.com

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came along to The Famous Froyle Quiz night. Your enthusiasm, generosity and community spirit made the evening great fun. Thanks to your support, we raised an amazing £1000 for Asthma & Lung UK, helping to fund vital research and support for those living with lung conditions.

Well done to team Ian Whitmore for not only winning the quiz but for drawing out of the hat to run it next year!

From The FFQ night organisers

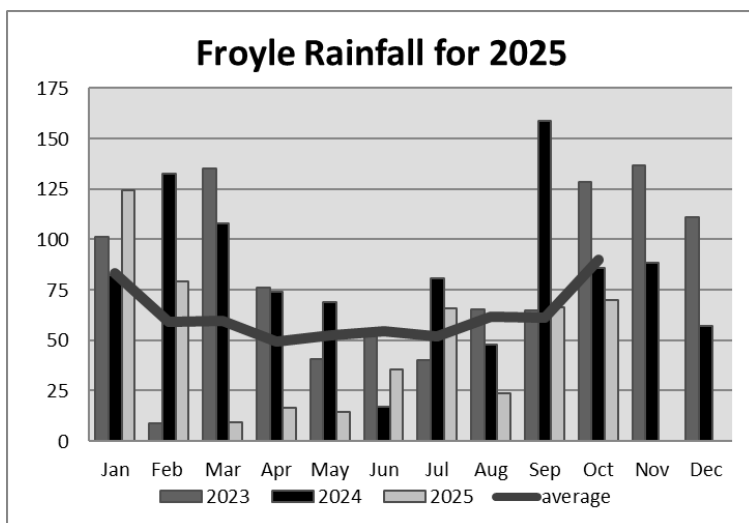
FIREWORKS - POLITE REQUEST

Following an incident on 15 November, which terrified my horse, sheep and my friends dogs, if you are planning Fireworks displays on any other occasion than Bonfire Night / New Years Eve, please could you let me know in advance on 07810047124. Many thanks.

Grace Sherfield

FROYLE RAINFALL FOR OCTOBER 2025

This year	70 mm	2.8 ins
Last year	86 mm	3.4 ins
Wettest October (1987), the wettest ever month	226 mm	8.9 ins
Driest October (1978)	7 mm	0.3 ins
October long-term average, the wettest month	89.7 mm	3.5 ins
Total rainfall for the year so far	505.5 mm	19.9 ins
Long-term average for the year so far	623.2 mm	24.5 ins



October used to be comfortably the wettest month of the year in Froyle and it still is, but for how much longer, because the averages for the next three – November, December and January - are all on the increase.



"The Umbrella Man"

FROYLE 100 CLUB – NOVEMBER DRAW

The winners in the November 2025 draw were:

1 st	Ali Cavannagh
2 nd	Roger Cooper
3 rd	June Fenn

Congratulations to all...

... AND REMEMBER ...

- The subscription amount increases (first time since 1982) to £24 a year from 1 January 2026 – this will be reflected in increased prize money!
- If you currently pay by standing order, please (if you have not already done so) replace/amend your standing order so that you pay £24 payable on 1 January 2026 and annually thereafter.
- If you currently pay by cash, you are welcome to set up a standing order (it is so much easier than it used to be) - or continue to pay by cash. New subscribers likewise.
- For standing orders, please use your draw number as a reference, so (a) ask me for your number (if you don't know it, which most of us don't), and (b) if, say, your number is 50, use as a reference for your payments 100Club50.
- The Froyle Village Hall's bank account details are:
Sort code: 30-90-15
Account number: 01305140

The more subscribers the better for everyone!!

If in doubt, call/message/email me.

William Knowles

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

PS If you are wondering why there is no fourth prize this month, well, there was, and I gave it to the winner at the Meeting Place at the time of the draw, and in my excitement I forgot to record who the lucky winner was.....



Froyle Gardening Club

DECEMBER/ JANUARY

In the Potting Shed

What a year. Middle of November and only today has the frost caught the dahlias, roses still blooming and some of the bulbs are far too forward for their own good. Difficult for us to predict the weather never mind what the plants are thinking. So let's go with the flow.

Hellebore leaves can be cut back to allow the new flowers below to have light. Any soggy plant debris should be removed off the crown of plants as this could cause rotting. If the weather does get wet then some plants may need either grit around the crown or straw to keep the crowns dry.

Patch repair of lawns may have to be put on hold if the weather is too cold as the seed may not germinate. There is some seed out there that can be sown in cooler conditions. Raise the mower height if you need to mow again before Christmas.

The New Year will mean we can start to do any winter pruning on apples and pears. Clean sharp tools at the ready. If the weather does get mild again think about attacking the wisteria at this time to encourage flower buds. Cut laterals back to 4 or 5 buds from the main stem.

Prepare for sowing sweet peas, broad beans and onions from seed. If you have a greenhouse and heat then you may get away with sowing tomatoes and aubergines to give you a longer season of harvest.

Seasons Greeting to All.

Geoff Hawkins

Froyle Gardening Club – 12 December AGM

If you have your Froyle Gardening Club Membership Card I'm afraid there was a mistake and the wrong date was printed for the AGM – it is at **Froyle Village Hall on 12 December at 7.30 pm**. Do come and renew your membership and enjoy a lively evening with wine nibbles, mince pies, teas and coffees plus Geoff's tips on making proper compost!

Membership is remaining at £10 for a year of fascinating talks. Our speakers include David Jewell, former Floral Superintendent at Wisley and Curator of Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Katie Snowball whose talk 'Green Secrets' will reveal the mysteries of how plants work. A Gardeners' Question Time panel will try to solve all your problems. Our Tree Warden, Sue Lelliot, will show us trees that offer year round interest and benefit wildlife: plus our renowned chairman, Geoff Hawkins will teach us how to keep houseplants happy!

If you can't come to the AGM you can renew your membership or join for the first time by emailing Gill Bradley, the membership secretary, gahbradley@gmail.com

Report on the Garden Club talk on 14 November

William Robinson 1838-1935

"Pugnacious and a Paradox"

Julie Verity opened a window on this nearly forgotten gardener and writer. Born in Ireland, he had to work from age 10 when his father left the family. He was apprenticed as a gardener but after a flaming row with an employer at 22, he moved to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, London. He travelled round the UK for them, visiting botanic gardens and collecting plants. He also spent a year in France studying French gardening as well as the native plants. He then quit Regent's Park to push his new style of more natural gardening, in his writing. "Pugnacious" he fought against the formal gardens, with statues, terraces, bright carpet bedding, yuccas and topiary of the Victorian country estates. "The Wild Garden" 1870 set the trend. His new magazine "The Garden" in 1872 became the magazine of choice, followed by the cheaper "Gardening Illustrated", which outstripped sales of all other horticultural magazines combined. However the RHS never acknowledged him with a medal.

William Robinson's book "The English Flower Garden" published in 1883 influenced many, including his contemporary, Gertrude Jekyll. He was then able to buy Gravetye Manor in East Grinstead and repair it, developing the gardens, and adding to the landholdings. After all his tirades against uniformity, "the Paradox" was the huge rectangular terrace with rectangular beds and yuccas, outside the Manor. After a fall he spent his last 25 years in a wheelchair, his young nurse insisting he was still able to write and enjoy his beautiful garden.

Yet we remember Gertrude Jekyll.

Madeleine Black

LENT SOUP LUNCHESES

Lent is supposed to be a time of abstinence and reflection, giving up some indulgences for a few weeks, so why not forego your 3 course lunches and come to enjoy the simplicity of home made soup, bread and cheese and good conversation?

The first soup lunch will be on Wednesday 18 February, followed by others every Wednesday until the last one on Wednesday 25 March.

Each lunch takes place in a different home, courtesy of generous hosts/esses and they run from 12.30 to 2pm. Your kind donations will go to the charity chosen by the host/ess.

I look forward to seeing many of you over a bowl of soup!

Any questions, please contact me.

govejenny@gmail.com



FROYLE WILDLIFE

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

The words of this traditional Christmas carol are thought to have Pagan origins and could date back over 1000 years. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) were taken indoors during the winter, the hope being that the occupants would endure the cold season just as these hardy plants do. In addition, they are both brilliant for wildlife, their flowers benefit pollinators and their berries are eaten by birds. Small mammals such as hedgehogs, as well as toads and slow worms may use the deep leaf litter produced to hibernate in winter and the dense evergreen foliage can provide birds with shelter for nesting in spring.

Stroll past any ivy clad wall or tree on a sunny day in late summer and early autumn and you will see a myriad of bees, flies, wasps and butterflies attracted to the rich nectar and pollen offering. A study by Sussex University demonstrated how significant ivy's presence is to insects. During September and October they showed that the majority of pollen pellets collected by honey bees were from ivy. Hoverflies were also observed to be particularly frequent visitors. Ivy even has its own specialists, including the [Ivy Bee](#) (*Colletes hedera*).



Ivy Bee



Holly Blue

The [Holly Blue](#) butterfly (*Celastrina argiolus*) generally has two generations each year the first in early spring emerging well before other blue butterflies. It tends to fly high around bushes and trees, whereas other grassland blues usually stay near ground level. It is by far the commonest blue butterfly to found in gardens with a second generation flying July to September. The larvae feed predominantly on the flower buds, berries and terminal leaves of Holly in the spring generation, and on Ivy in the summer generation.



Fieldfare on ivy

Although holly berries are often ripe by autumn, birds such as song thrushes, blackbirds, fieldfares and redwings don't usually feed on them until late winter. The dry pith of ivy berries contains nearly as many calories, weight for weight as Mars bars! In most cases, while the bird digests the pith and juice, the seeds travel undamaged through the bird's gut, and may be dropped many miles from the parent plant.

Wildlife Pond Area 2025

We record species seen at the wildlife pond and the surrounding wildflower meadow near Gid Lane. The list now includes: 26 species of butterfly; 137 species of moth, 19 species of dragonfly/damselfly; 4 species of amphibian; and 117 species of flowering plants. It is still surprising what turns up and in 2025 there were new species recorded such as; the micro-moth *Endothenia gentianaeana* whose larvae feed on teasels; the wildflower Red Bartsia, an annual that is semi parasitic on grasses; and the Emerald Damselfly was another first, with vivid blue eyes and metallic green body. The pond area is certainly a hotspot for local biodiversity.



Micro-moth Endothenia gentianaeana



Emerald Damselfly

RSPB Garden Bird Watch, 23-25 January 2026

Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. The RSPB would love to know what you see.

Bentley Station Meadow is our nearest SSSI and Butterfly Conservation who organise winter work parties. See <https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/webpage.php?name=workparties>. Meet monthly on Wednesdays, 10am, 3 Dec 2025, 7 Jan 2026.



ALTON FOOD BANK PLEASE SUPPORT

Thank you for your continued support to the Alton Foodbank. Your generous donations have enabled it to meet the growing demands which it is seeing locally.

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

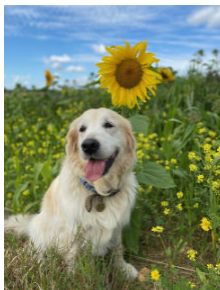
Tinned vegetables	Tinned meat
Rice (dry)	Sponge puddings (long life)
Tinned custard	Tinned meat (pies, stewing steak, hot dogs)
Tinned rice pudding	UHT milk
Bags of sugar	Antibacterial cleaning spray
Toilet rolls	Washing up liquid
Shower gel	Sanitary products
Conditioner	Shampoo

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.

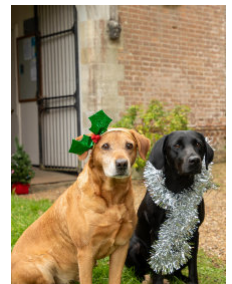
If you have any queries, please call me.

Louise Marston
07785 350381

A PRESENT TO LAST ALL YEAR! THE FROYLE DOG CALENDAR



A WONDERFUL SELECTION
OF PHOTOS PUT TOGETHER
BY
ANDREA KOZAK



All proceeds are going to St Mary's Church
Only £8 contact janemacnabb@hotmail.com for copies.

MORE ELMS FOR FROYLE?

I am delighted to report that Hampshire Forest Partnership have provided another opportunity for local Tree Wardens to apply for hybrid Elm saplings, sponsored by the Nature for Climate fund.



These trees are very important as they have been bred by scientists to resist Dutch Elm disease, and as a result should grow into large successful specimens. Although we still have elms in hedgerows around Froyle, they currently die at around 15 to 20 years old because of the disease, so they never become mature. Sadly, the white-letter hairstreak butterfly is now endangered, as they rely on mature elms as their sole food supply.

Elms are beautiful, graceful trees, famously beloved of Constable, who painted them many times. Both male and female reproductive parts are contained within the same flower, which appears in February and March, are dark pink to red, and hang in tassels. Once pollinated by wind, the flowers develop into tiny winged fruits, known as samaras. The leaves turn beautiful shades of yellow and gold in the autumn.

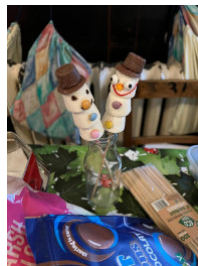
Many birds eat elm seeds and the leaves provide food for the caterpillars of many moths, including the peppered, light emerald and white-spotted pinion moths, as well as the caterpillars of the white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

Before Dutch Elm disease, we know that Froyle was home to many mature elms, and it will be wonderful to be able to have them back in our landscape again: if we are successful in our application, the trees will need to be planted by 30 January 2026, so please contact myself, or Barry Clark, Chair of Froyle Wildlife, if you would be able to give some time over a weekend in January to planting the trees, and then I can keep you informed of delivery and planting dates.

Sue Lelliott, Tree Warden

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

A wonderful collection of stalls with gifts, crafts and Froyle produce were on show on Saturday 22 November. There was a great variety of items and something to suit everyone. What a perfect way to start the festive season!





ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Instead of our normal Christmas decorations, St Mary's Church, Froyle, have decided to decorate the church with multiple Christmas trees thus giving everyone in the village the opportunity to join in.

WE WOULD LOVE AS MANY TREES AS POSSIBLE.

If you or your children would like to take part, here are the **TREE RULES**:

- Trees can be large or small, real or artificial. (The majority of trees will stand on a window sill).
- Trees can be decorated in any way, including lights, which **MUST BE BATTERY.**
- Trees can be decorated in the Church (bring your own decorations) or at home and transferred.
- Trees can have a theme or should be beautifully decorated.
- Please Deliver to the Church either 19th or 20th December
- Trees to be removed 29th December



JOIN IN – HAVE FUN
FOR EVERYONE IN FROYLE
YOUNG OR OLD

For further information contact: Gill Bradley 01420 520484
gahbradley@gmail.com



Nine Lessons and Carols

St Mary's Church, Froyle
Sunday 14th December
6:30pm

Join us for a festive evening singing
all the favourites!

Finishing with mulled wine and
mince pies.



CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

“Come round and have a mince pie,
we can have a cup of tea.
You can try a chocolate angel too,
from our Christmas Tree.”
“Are you away for Christmas?
No - then why don't you come here.
There's always room for someone else.
You're more than welcome dear.”

Sometimes the smallest gesture
is all it takes to save,
an over burdened heavy heart
from crashing -. so be brave.
A “Come round for a mince pie.”
A “Come here Christmas Day,”
maybe the very invite that
makes someone's world okay.

Little things can make that difference
when a life's in disarray
illuminating darkness
bringing help, along the way.
So light that Christmas candle
in your hearts, so all may see
Christmas kindness flickering brightly
as it dances merrily.

Lynda Ben-David
Christmas 2025



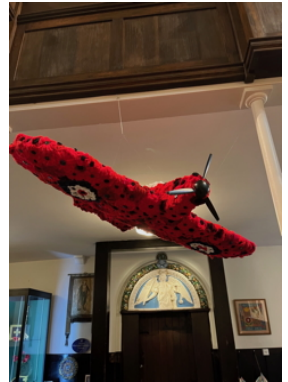
ST MARY'S NEWS

At the time of writing, we have just celebrated a very uplifting Remembrance Weekend, with our commemoration at the village memorial followed by the service at St Mary's.



Thank you to all those who, once again, made these ceremonies so dignified and moving. We are very fortunate to have so many talented volunteers.

We owe special thanks to the Flower team and the meeting place Crochet team for their inspired decoration and displays within the church: the poppy cascade on the Altar and the "Poppy" Spitfire were particularly beautiful and very moving.



After Remembrance we now look forward to a very busy festive season: the Christmas Fair on Saturday 22 November got us off to a fun start, followed on Saturday 29 by our Advent-by-Candlelight choral service at 6.30pm.

As we get closer to Christmas, our services become more family focussed:

- Sunday 14 December at 6.30pm, we have our very popular Froyle Family Carol service. There is also a Binsted Family Carol Service in Binsted Church the following Sunday 21 December, starting (please note) at 6:00pm. Do try to come to at least one of these....
- Tuesday 23 December: "The Real Nativity": our "live" re-enactment of the Christmas story. This is a new event for Froyle - inspired by the amazing event held in Binsted for many years. We start in the field opposite the church at 5:45pm for refreshments, (parking will be at West End farm yard) with the main event starting at 6pm. Bring clothing and footwear suitable for singing in a cold field on a winters' night! We then move into the church itself: for more details, see page 21.
- Christmas Eve, 5.30pm: Froyle Crib Service: we are also very much looking forward to our Crib Service: a quiet, gentle telling by Matt of the Christmas story, with the help of Froyle's lovely nineteenth century painted-plaster nativity scene figures (Mary, Joseph, wise men, animals and, of course, baby Jesus). This contrasts with the glorious sparkle and razzmatazz of the Bentley Christingle, held slightly earlier on Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm in Bentley Church.

All this culminates in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holy Communion services held across the benefice – check out the times on pages 20 and 21.

Happy Christmas!

Simon Marshall, Churchwarden

ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTES

Vicar: The Reverend Matt Boyes 07469 270590 E: matt@benbinfo.co.uk
 Administrators: 01420 23339 E: admin@benbinfo.org W: www.benbinfo.co.uk



Church Wardens:

Simon Marshall 07734 214419

sm517@icloud.com

Jack Stephenson 01420 23216

romanhorse@hotmail.co.uk

Anna Friend: Sarah Roberts

07831 294852 sarahfroyle@gmail.com

Benefice Pastoral Care

Nick Carter 01420 489122

nick.carter1945@outlook.com

Anna Chaplain:

The Rev Fran Harrison 07765 058593

annachaplain@benbinfo.co.uk

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sun 7 Dec	9.30am	Binsted	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am	Oakhanger	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Bentley	Praise
Sun 14 Dec	9.30am	Bentley	Morning Worship & Children's Church
	11.00am	Froyle	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Kingsley	Praise
Sun 21 Dec	6.30pm	Froyle	Carol Service
	9.30am	Froyle	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Kingsley	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Kingsley	Christingle
Tue 23 Dec	6.00pm	Binsted	Carol Service
	6.00pm	Froyle	Real Nativity
	4.00pm	Bentley	Christingle
Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Froyle	Crib Service
Wed 24 Dec	10.00pm	Froyle	Late Night Holy Communion
	10.30pm	Oakhanger	Late Night Holy Communion
	11.30pm	Bentley	Midnight Holy Communion
	11.30pm	Binsted	Midnight Holy Communion

December Services Continued

Christmas Day	9.30am Bentley	Holy Communion
Thu 25 Dec	9.30am Binsted	Holy Communion
	11.00am Froyle	Holy Communion
	11.00am Kingsley	Holy Communion
Sun 28 Dec	11.00am Binsted	Joint Holy Communion

JANUARY SERVICES

Sun 4 Jan	9.30am Binsted	Holy Communion
	11.00am Oakhanger	Holy Communion
	6.00pm Bentley	Praise
Sun 11 Jan	9.30am Bentley	Morning Worship & Children's Church
	11.00am Froyle	Holy Communion
	6.00pm Kingsley	Praise
Sun 18 Jan	9.30am Froyle	Morning Worship
	11.00am Kingsley	Holy Communion
	4.00pm Binsted	Messy Church
Sun 25 Jan	9.30am Bentley	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am Binsted	Morning Worship
	6.30pm Froyle	Evensong



The Real Nativity

St Mary's Church, Upper Froyle
Do come and join us at
6pm on Tuesday 23rd December



Come and join us and follow the Christmas story from the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to the birth of Jesus.

Wrap-up warm, wear appropriate footwear for a field and bring a torch. There'll be warm drinks and mince pies to get things started. There's plenty of parking, follow the road signs in Froyle and the Traffic Marshall's directions to the car park. It's short walk from the car park to the venue.

If you can be with us from 5:45pm, we can start promptly at 6pm and you'll be away by 7pm.

It will be an evening to get your Christmas off to a great start and a night to remember.

THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

What will 2026 hold for us? Perhaps you have a big family event, a holiday or a significant birthday planned. But as one year ends and another unfolds, we have a natural inclination to take stock and plan how the new year will be different. The one thing that doesn't change, is that we will take ourselves into it, with all our gifts, mistakes and hopes.

We live in uncertain times, with divided communities and political weakness. At the heart of things is the question of what story do we want to be part of? Do we believe that the human race is making inexorable progress, with technologies like AI providing tools to enable us to continue to grow? Or do we believe that we have come too far, too fast and have lost ourselves in the process? As a human race we take ourselves with our gifts, mistakes and hopes into the future too.

Many people are looking afresh at what has made us as a nation and there is a desire to preserve and celebrate what has shaped us. The historian, Tom Holland argues that Christianity, more than anything else, has had the biggest legacy and impact. Christian values such as serving others, all being equal before the law and the essential value of each human being made in the image of God seem so natural, but not all cultures see the world in the same way.

The Christmas story of the birth of Jesus is at the heart of this worldview and is worth re-examining. Humans, left to ourselves, are capable of the greatest achievements and the greatest crimes. Inside every one of us is the capacity to do good and evil. Our heroes are all flawed. Our mistakes, and the shame we carry, spoil the triumphs and peace we seek.

If our greatest need is to have good laws, Jesus would have come as a legislator. If we need education, he would have been a teacher. He was both of these of course, but his mission was summed up by the message of the angels to the shepherds, "A Saviour has been born." We need a saviour, because we need saving from ourselves. The shame we carry needs to be taken from us and carried by someone else, so that we are free. We need someone to stand in our place in order to escape the penalty of the wrong we have done.

In Jesus, God steps into his world and lives as one of us. Experiencing life in all its complexity, glory and infamy. He steps in to lift off from us all that chains us and traps us. He knows what we face and says "follow me" and "I will give you life in all its fullness."

May I invite you to explore for yourself what this means. We have an Alpha course starting on 9 January at 7pm and that is the perfect place to explore and bring your questions. May I also invite you to our busy series of Christmas services, each is different in style and we hope you will find one that suits you.

May you have a wonderful Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

Matt Boyes

Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

NEWS FROM PAX HILL

Autumn has been filled with activity here at Pax Hill, we have taken advantage of the mild November weather to make the most of our beautiful gardens, the turning of the leaves has been spectacular this year, enjoyed by all but our indefatigable gardener, Andy. We have had plenty of activity inside too, we enjoyed a Harvest Festival at Pax Hill as well as celebrating Diwali with staff and families. Halloween had us singing along to spooky songs from Stephen Morrish, and some horrifying dancing by our activity ladies. We had one of our regular afternoon teas, which is a lovely opportunity for families to chat and get to know each other, and enjoy delicious treats, both sweet and savoury, made by our Head Chef, Christo, and his team.

We started the Christmas shopping early with a trip to Country Market and our Bijou Christmas Fair in Reception at Pax Hill. Mince pies and Mulled wine greeted our shoppers at the fair, which included residents, families, and people from our local community. The Rock Choir came along to start the Festive season entertainment for us, it is always lovely to have them come to us, and of course there is always tea and cake after the performance.

We start December with Elf Day on 3 December, staff and residents are encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers, and we are raffling a gorgeous teddy in Reception. All proceeds from the day will go to The Alzheimer's Society. Every year Pax Hill participates in The Christmas Tree Festival at St Lawrence Church in Alton. Our residents have been busily making decorations for our contributions, and they are looking beautiful. The Christmas Tree Festival is on 13 and 14 December and is certainly worth a visit.

We have many and varied entertainers coming over the Christmas period, ranging from the U3A Ukelele Band and the Arford Hand Bell Ringers to Christmas Carols from Bentley School's Year 6 pupils and a Traditional Panto by the Carousel Theatre Company. We have Christmas parties planned for our residents and families and a New Year's Eve party with Jo on 31 December.

Whilst January can be cold and dark we like to keep things light at Pax Hill. Our gardening club begins again, sowing seeds and planning what to grow in the year ahead. We will participate in the RSPB Big Garden Watch and make bird feeders for the multitude of birds that visit our gardens. When the days are cold and fresh, there is nothing better than a walk in our gardens, wrapped up against the cold of course. When we stay inside, we will enjoy baking and crafts, we have singers and entertainers coming in to keep us going through the shorter, darker days. The last celebration of the month will be Burn's night, with Haggis, neeps and tatties and maybe a wee dram or two...

From all of us at Pax Hill, we hope you have a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Looking for something different to do next year. Why not explore what is on offer locally? How about sharing your experience with us... One of our more adventurous residents has been in touch and sent in his review of an outing at the Immersion Escape Rooms in Alton.

Our nephew and his wife are Escape Room aficionados. In fact they both love puzzles. As does Julie. I'm not that fussed, real life's challenging enough for me.... However, Harry and Rachel decided they'd 'treat' us to an Escape Room experience at Immersion Escape Rooms, Market Square, Alton.

As it was close to Halloween and they'd booked the Super-Scary Halloween Challenge Escape Room. Great, spooks as well as conundrums!

We filled out the inevitable disclaimer forms, were given a thorough briefing of the challenges that would face us over the next sixty minutes - if we were to escape and see our family and friends again we had to solve many scary puzzles - and we were off.

It was brilliant. Julie was screaming her head-off within the first thirty seconds and the puzzles were complex but fun. Blood and gore were an added highlight. We had to work as a team to get through the various 'levels' of the challenge. And we did!

We 'Escaped' with only forty five seconds to spare (it's an hour's session), were given feedback on our technique (they observe you all the way through with hidden cameras) and were exhilarated by our adventurous escape.

You know something is good when you haven't thought about anything else but the task in hand.

I'd give it ten out of ten. If you want something different to do with family or friends, give it a go. There are three different escape rooms to choose from, it's well presented and thought-out and we'll certainly be going back for more. (Harry and Rachel thought it was top-notch and they've escaped from many dungeons).

Nigel Southern

We'd love to hear from you with any such experiences, challenges, activities, family fun days out you find in our local area. Get in touch and email us on froylemageditor@gmail.com

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waverleysingers.com

Saturday 17 January, 2026

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10:30am-4:30pm Registration from 10am

Choral Workshop

Dvořák Stabat Mater

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Thursday 11th December - 5-6:30pm

Thursday 15th January - 5-6:30pm

Thursday 29th January - 5-6:30pm

Bentley Church Hall

admin@benbinfo.org



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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?

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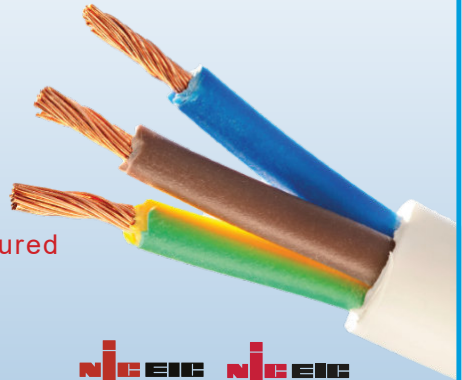
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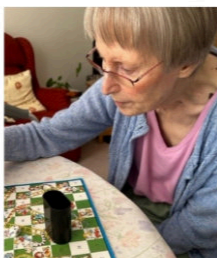
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What's On

Monthly Quiz

4th Dec + 8th January from 7:30pm – Booking is preferred

Max 6 people per team & prizes for the winner. Free entry

Monthly Bingo

11th Dec + from 7:30pm

At £2 per player, grab some friends and come along and win some fabulous prizes

Meet your neighbour Christmas Party

Friday 5th December from 6pm – booking is essential

Join us for a drink and free canapes to celebrate this Christmas with your friendly neighbours

SHANTIMEN IN CONCERT

Tue 16th Dec at 7pm

Enjoy some live singing from the local Kings Pond Shantimen group

Breakfast with Santa

13th December from 9am until 11am – booking is essential

Enjoy breakfast with Loyalty Discount, watch Christmas movies and meet Santa. If you have been good he might have a gift for you! 😊

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION

Sat 24th Jan at 7.30pm – Booking is essential

Supper Club of 3 course meal + whiskey tasting for £40 per person



athertongreenart Winter Show

23rd November - 7th December 2025

Open 11am - 4pm

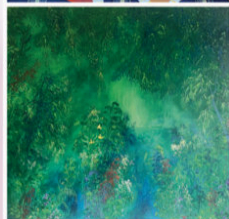
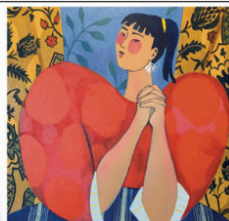
Thursday - Sunday. Other dates & times by appointment,
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For Froyle businesses: £40+VAT/year, £24+VAT/half year for advertisements of **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers.**

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.**

The advertising year begins with the April edition, and the half-year with either the April or October edition.

All advertising must be requested and paid for through the Parish Clerk at froylemageditor@gmail.com and copied to clerk@froyleparishcouncil.co.uk.

We are pleased that local trades and service providers advertise with us and we do hope that you support them. However we do not check or endorse them in any way.

NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

The magazine is published in A5 size, portrait orientation, both online and in print. The online version is in colour but the printed version is in black and white.

Posters/Adverts

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 portrait. To see how it will look is to design a full page as A5 portrait and a half page as A6 landscape.

Please submit artwork and copy as a JPG/PNG picture or PDF file, with, if available, the original Word or Powerpoint document and any photographs.

Articles

Please send text and pictures separately as well as in your complete article. As a rough guide a page is about 500 words – with no pictures.

Pictures should be high resolution JPEG or PNG files.

General

All magazine contributions should be submitted to froylemageditor@gmail.com. Please refer to the back cover for next month's magazine deadline.

In the event of any question over including or excluding any item or part of an item, or in relation to any other matter, the Editor's decision is final.

Village Events December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Recycling & glass</i>	2	3 <i>1000 FW Bentley Station Meadow</i>	4	5 <i>1000- 1200 MP (Treloar)</i>	6
7 <i>1600-1800 Life drawing</i>	8 <i>Rubbish</i>	9	10 <i>1930 FPC</i>	11 <i>Garden waste</i>	12 <i>1000- 1200 Meeting place</i> <i>1930 FGC AGM</i>	13
14 <i>1100 HC</i> <i>1830 Carol Service</i>	15 <i>Recycling & glass</i> <i>1830 VH Committee</i>	16 <i>10-1200 Life drawing</i>	17	18	19 <i>1000- 1200 Xmas MP</i>	20
21 <i>0930 Morning Worship</i>	22 <i>Rubbish</i>	23 <i>1745 Real Nativity</i>	24 <i>1730 Crib Service</i> <i>2200 Late Night Communion</i>	25 <i>1100 HC</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Recycling & Glass</i>			

Please note that the Christmas Tree Festival is taking place from 19-29 December

Village Events January 2026

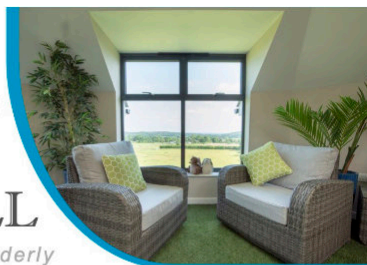
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 1000-1200 Meeting place	3
4 1600-1800 Life drawing	5	6	7 Rubbish 1000 FW Bentley Station Meadow	8 Garden Waste	9 1000-1200 Meeting place	10 1930 FGC NY party
11 1100 HC	12 1930 FPC	13 Recycling & Glass	14	15	16 1000-1200 Meeting place	17
18 0930 Morning Worship	19 Rubbish	20 10-1200 Life drawing	21	22 Garden waste	23 1000-1200 Meeting place	24
25 1830 Evensong	26 Recycling & Glass	27	28	29	30 1000-1200 Meeting place	31

Please note that bin collections have changed from 22.12.25 up to 19.01.26



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Andrew Potter, Clerk ✉ clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk ☎ 07979 030571

Froyle Residents Email List email to join ✉ clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

East Hampshire District Council www.easthants.gov.uk

Tony Costigan, District Councillor ✉ tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk ☎ 07770 666896

Hampshire County Council www.hants.gov.uk

Mark Kemp-Gee, County Councillor ✉ mark.kemp-gee@hants.gov.uk ☎ 07748 945947

Froyle Village Hall ⑤ www.froylevillagehall.co.uk

Chair: Gillian Paul: chairman@froylevillagehall.co.uk ☎ 07774880885

Bookings: Sarah Zorab ✉ bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk ☎ 01420 520361

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

Froyle Gardening Club ⑤ www.froylegardeningclub.co.uk

Geoff Hawkins ✉ info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk ☎ 01420 88176

Froyle Wildlife www.frolewildlife.co.uk - Barry Clark ☎ 01420 23520

Tree Warden Sue Lelliott ✉ tree.warden@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk ☎ 01420 22015

Speedwatch Group Gordon Mitchell ✉ champersg@hotmail.com ☎ 01420 23851

Police Community Support Officers ☎ 101

PC Alex Routt ✉ alex.routt@hampshire.police.uk or 07891 484 670

PC Jess Hornsby ✉ jessica.hornsby@hampshire.police.uk

Froyle Archive www.froyle.com/archive

The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted & Froyle ⑤ www.benbinfro.co.uk

Matt Boyes, Vicar - ✉ matt@benbinfro.co.uk ☎ 07469 270590

Sarah Roberts, Anna Friend - ✉ sarahrfroyle@gmail.com ☎ 07831 294852

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

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

⑤ **Froyle on Facebook** - *Froyle Residents, Froyle Advertising*

Key: ☎ Telephone ✉ Email ⑤ Facebook ⑥ WhatsApp

FEBRUARY DEADLINE: FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2026

For Notes to Contributors, please see page 38.