Froyle Village Magazine

March 2026

No 526

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 met as scheduled on 16 February when the main business was to receive feedback on the results of the Playground & Rec project questionnaire (see separate article on pages 4 and 5 of this issue), as well as responding to questions raised by residents about other matters including responsibility for hedges, gritting of the lanes by Highways, a parked van at the H&C, and the new lighting installed on the Avenue leading from Froyle Park wedding venue.

Plans are in place to get the zipline up and running again hopefully by Easter. Grants have been applied for to fund the zipline repair and to obtain dog waste bag dispensers for the Rec (a high priority item noted on the Rec questionnaire).

The PC was grateful to all residents who submitted incident reports about the Froyle Road flooding and to our Hampshire County Councillor who ensured that a high priority was assigned to resolve the problem. We are all pleased to see the road open again and hope the problem does not recur. As a concerted effort seems to work to get matters addressed by Highways we should perhaps turn our attention to reporting the potholes that are starting to plague the village.

The PC is grateful to residents and landowners for maintaining their roadside hedges. Keeping hedges in good order and especially to ensure that growth does not create safety or other issues for highway users is the landowner's responsibility. The bird nesting season will soon be upon us so if your hedge hasn't had its annual trim now is the time to do it.

Although this winter has been mild, it is a rare sight to see a gritting lorry in Froyle. Ryebridge Lane and Froyle Road from Hadwicks Corner towards the A31 are Priority 2 routes so these do get gritted by Highways if time and resources are available, but we are otherwise left to our own devices. Hampshire CC have provided grit bins at various locations around the village for public use to scatter grit on the road or pavement. The PC will consider ways in which we can all make better use of the grit in these bins in the future.

Lighting has been installed along the Avenue by the Froyle Park venue to assist its guests to progress from their cars to the venue entrance safely. Some residents have raised concerns about the intrusiveness of these lights to EHDC who have determined that they have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the property and the tranquillity of the area which includes the adjacent war graves.

As a follow up to the presentation by the A31 Alliance on the proposed housing developments along the A31, there is an article on page 3 reminding residents how

to make their voices heard with EHDC if they have not already done so.

Members of the PC met with representatives of NJG to discuss the potential development of houses on the land to the right of H&C Hill when proceeding out of the village. In response to the comments received, NJG have agreed to redesign the two houses on the overflow car park. We also learned that background assessments were being undertaken to determine whether/how the land down to the H&C could be developed. The PC will have further meetings with NJG as their plans get firmed up.

The PC submitted comments on the application to extend the bungalow (Adams Fields) in Froyle Road, and on the proposed farm shop, greenhouse etc at Aion Farm on the left of H&C Hill, where there are concerns about piecemeal development of the site and potential traffic impacts.

The owners of Froyle Estate have contacted the PC proposing a monthly meeting with them to allow them to work more openly with the community on village projects and to help develop a closer relationship and understanding of what the Estate was doing. Footpaths across the estate is a frequent issue raised with the PC so please contact Phil Roberts (phil.roberts@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk) or any other member of the PC if you have any matters that you would like raised at these meetings.

After a very wet winter, many parish footpaths are currently waterlogged and their surfaces slippery. The steps leading onto Park Lane below Westburn Fields are eroded by runoff and care should be taken when using them. The PC is investigating how to minimise this runoff.

The next PC meeting will be held on Monday 9 March @ 19.00 in the Village Hall and all members of the public are welcome to attend. Any resident can request an item be included on the agenda by advising the Clerk five days in advance of the meeting.

A vacancy exists on the PC and interest from any resident to join would be welcome. Being a Parish Councillor does require some time commitment to attend monthly Parish Council meetings but otherwise Councillors are encouraged to focus their time on areas of parish life that they are interested in making a difference to. If interested, please contact the Clerk or chat to any of the current councillors to understand more about the role.

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 including your Parish Councillors and elected representatives. There are over 200 residents signed up to the Froyle Residents' email distribution list who receive information about current village matters e.g. call-outs for volunteers, bin collection date changes, road closures and repairs etc. If you wish to join (or leave) please contact the Clerk (clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk).

Protect Our Village from Massive Housing Plans

Froyle Parish Council and the A31 Alliance would like to remind residents of the issues surrounding East Hampshire District Council's (EHDC) emerging new Local Plan. New proposals could see up to 12,000 new houses built along the A31 corridor between Bentley and Ropley over the next 18 years, including 153 new homes in Froyle and 900 in Bentley.

Why Is This Happening?

EHDC is facing doubled housing targets from the government. Because much of the district is protected or within the South Downs National Park, over 75% of all new housing is being funnelled into just 30% of the land - primarily along the A31.

The Risks to Our Community:

- **Loss of Identity**: Urban sprawl and ribbon development threatening the rural nature of "Jane Austen Country"
- **Infrastructure Strain**: Massive pressure on already stretched roads, schools, GP surgeries, and sewage plants.
- **Environmental Damage**: Risks to local rivers and significant loss of biodiversity.
- **Undemocratic Process**: EHDC is moving the emerging Local Plan to "Regulation 19" stage, meaning it does not have to respond to residents' feedback before the draft goes to the Planning Inspectorate for approval.

How You Can Help

We believe these plans are flawed and must be challenged before EHDC is abolished in 2028. If you haven't already, please take these steps today:

1. **Sign the Petition**: Join over 23,500 others at www.savejaneaustencountry.org.
2. **Email the Decision Makers**: Write to EHDC leaders and our MP to demand a new "Regulation 18" consultation so residents' views on these significantly higher new housing allocations are properly heard. Full details on the Parish Council website at https://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk/news/savejaneaustencountry

Who to Contact:

- **EHDC Leader**: richard.millard@easthants.gov.uk
- **EHDC District Councillor**: tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk
- **Local MP**: damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk
- **Hampshire County Councillor**: mark.kemp-gee@hants.gov.uk

Key points to raise: Why EHDC is rushing "irreversible" housing site allocations when a new, Unitary Authority with much broader scope will take over planning in 2028? Why is EHDC is not re-running its "Regulation 18" consultation given the huge changes in housing targets, potential sites and infrastructure requirements since early 2024? Why is EHDC not listening?

Froyle Rec Project

Froyle Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to participate in the questionnaire regarding the Rec proposals as well as those who have contacted the Parish Council with additional feedback. More than 115 villagers shared their views either on paper or online and the survey provided a clear snapshot of village sentiment. The Parish Council is very grateful for the time and thoughtful input residents have given so far.

Who Shared Their Voice?

The feedback largely came from the village's adult residents, with 87% of respondents aged 35 or older. While the 17% of respondents with mobility needs broadly aligns with Census data, youth participation was low; only eight under-18s shared their views, despite there being approximately 140 in the village. The Parish Council is therefore keen to explore ways to gather more input from these age groups.

What Matters to Residents?

The Rec is a cornerstone of village life, with 64% of residents visiting at least weekly. The primary draws are community events like the fete (61.2%) and simply getting outside to wander (47.4%). However, "unsuitable equipment" and "muddy access" were cited as the biggest barriers to use.

When it comes to improvements, the community's "High Priority" list is topped by:

- Maintaining a green space large enough for the fete or football.
- Replacing the main adventure play climbing unit.
- Multiuse games area to encourage physical activity and team sports.
- Adding accessible all-weather loop paths and additional seating for socialising.

While there is strong support for accessibility, residents were clear about wanting to keep the Rec's rural character.

Support for fruit trees and improved wildlife areas was not as strong as expected: the Parish Council has supported Froyle Wildlife in applying for their own grant to improve wildlife provision on the Rec with bug hotels and additional bird boxes.

Next Steps…

To help address the "youth participation gap," the Council will seek further feedback from younger residents and plans to hold drop-in sessions at different times, enabling residents to review emerging options in more detail.

A dedicated Steering Group will be established to review options when both upfront and maintenance costs are better understood and provide recommendations. Funding efforts will focus on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications and local grant fundraising to bring the community-led priorities to life.

The Parish Council will also seek to appoint an independent playground expert to support the project. As part of this process, bidders will be encouraged, where

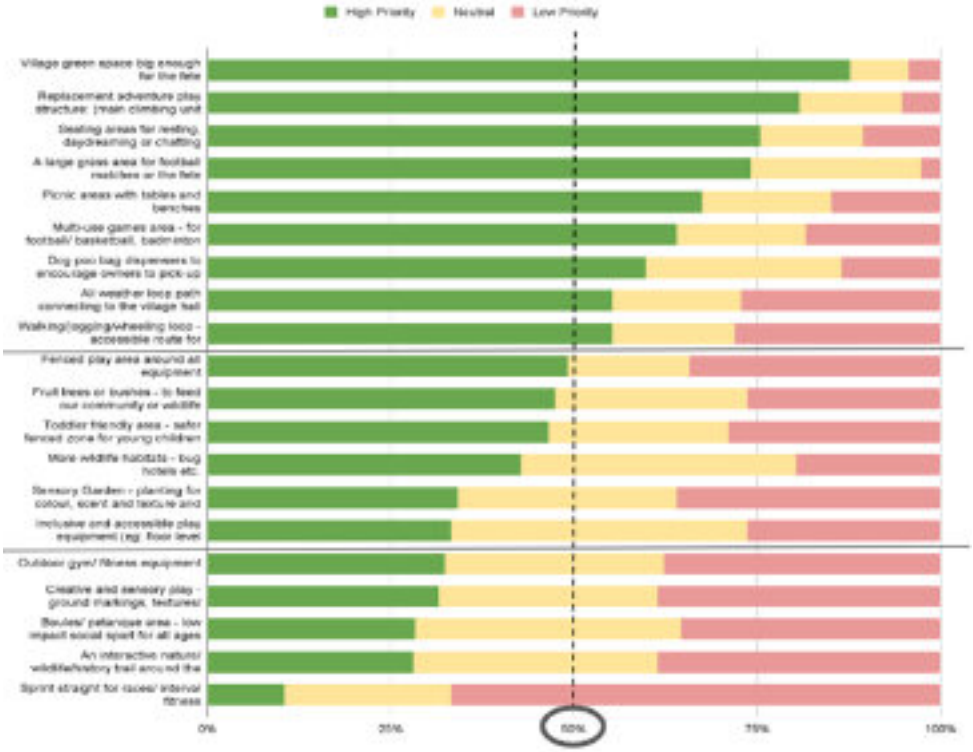
appropriate, to consider suitably qualified local businesses in Froyle for any subcontracted work.

No final decisions have been made at this stage and further community input will continue to shape the proposals as they develop.

As ever if you have any feedback please contact clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

Adam Birchall

Summary of questionnaire responses



Reminder

The Licence Review Hearing for Froyle Park Wedding Venue is starting on Monday 16 March for up to three days, owing to the volume of representations received by East Hampshire District Council. If you wish to attend or speak, please email Licensing@easthants.gov.uk but it should be available as a livestream online.

FROYLE VILLAGE HALL

February saw the usual bustle of community activities at the Hall including the Gardening Club, Froyle Wildlife, Life Drawing, the monthly Parish Council meeting, and the weekly Meeting place. The latter is especially lively, with long-time residents mixing happily with newcomers (and everyone in between) over coffee, tea, and delicious home-made cakes. As a newcomer myself, I am always delighted for the opportunity to catch up with people I already know and to meet new ones. If you haven't been, do. In this age of virtual everything, it's a great way to remind oneself how lucky we are to live in such a vibrant community and the pleasure of face-to-face connection.

Our next major event will be a new one, the **Froyle Village Hall Fun Run.** It will be held on Saturday, April 11th, and will include 3 separate events:

- a 10k timed trail run loop along the footpaths to the south of the village, up to the top of Holybourne Down and back
- a Colour Dash for kids around the Rec,
- A walk following the same route as the 10k, but for those of us who are not quite up to the run.

All participants will get numbered bibs for that official feeling and medals to commemorate the event. We are grateful that Phil Spencer has agreed to join us to start things off with a bang,

MARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Life Drawing 1 March (Sunday) 16:00

Pilates 2 March (Monday) 9:30 & 10:30

Meeting Place 6 March (Friday) 10:00-12:00

Pilates 9 March (Monday) 9:30 & 10:30

Parish Council 9 March (Monday) 19:00

Froyle Garden Club 11 March (Wednesday) 19:00

Meeting Place 13 March (Friday) 10:00 - 12:00

Pilates 16 March (Monday) 9:30 & 10:30

Life Drawing 17 March (Tuesday) 10:00-12:00

Meeting Place 20 March (Friday) 10:00 - 12:00

Froyle Wildlife 20 March (Friday) 18:00

Pilates 23 March (Monday) 9:30 & 10:30

Meeting Place 27 March (Friday) 10:00-12:00

and to the local running group Blended Trails for co-sponsoring the event and lending their organization and logistical expertise. It is shaping up to be a fun new community event, and we hope you and anyone you know who might be interested in a bit of a workout amidst Froyle's lovely surroundings will join us. Details and registration information can be found online at www.blendedtrails.co.uk.

Don't forget us for private events or parties You get a spacious, well equipped, and beautifully sited venue, and we get income needed to keep the doors open. See www.froylevillagehall.co.uk for details including our new hourly rental rates.

David Birn, Vice-Chair FVHC

Book the Hall!

Sarah Zorab
01420 520361
bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk
www.froylevillagehall.co.uk

The Meeting Place

This continues every Friday morning in the Village Hall from 10.00a.m. until 12 noon. Come and join us for coffee, tea, homemade cakes and a chat!

We have a selection of books and jigsaws to borrow, which are continually changed. We always look forward to seeing new faces.

March Kitchen Helpers

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

6th	Alex Roberts
13th	Sue Sharman
20th	Sue Carr
27th	Nigel Southern

Please organise swaps amongst yourselves, but do contact us if necessary.

March Cake Bakers

6th	Julie Southern	Sue Sharman	Gillian Pickering
13th	Chris Muddiman	Corinna Whines	Janet Dobson
20th	Sarah Larwood	Alice Ghinn	Sarah Basey
27th	Mary Chaplin	Caroline Findlay	Gina Kemp

We try to remind the bakers, but please do let us know if you can't bake for any reason. And you can always bake in advance and we can freeze your cake! It is helpful to know, if possible, what cakes are coming so that we don't get three of the same.

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

Gill Bradley 520484 *Susie Robertson 520820* *Jenny Gove 23697*

gahbradley@gmail.com *sjrinfroyle@gmail.com* *govejenny@gmail.com*

FROYLE 100 CLUB – DECEMBER AND JANUARY DRAWS

As explained in the February magazine, we postponed the first draw of the year until the end of January to enable us to make sure everyone who wanted to participate at the new rate of £2 a month was geared up to do so. In the end we have, as hoped, more or less doubled from last year the amount contributed – big thanks to all of you - and therefore the monthly prize money, divided into four prizes as previously.

The lucky winners for the first two months of the year were:

	January	**February**
1st	David Robertson	David Robertson
2nd	Paul Graham Clarke	Susie Robertson
3rd	Sarah Thursfield	Nigel Southern
4th	Mary Wilde	Bernie Wilks

Yes, I know – an extraordinary showing by the Robertsons…. Well earned in that I don't suppose any couple has contributed more of their time in recent years to the running of Froyle Village Hall than they have – but it is still going to be David's round in the pub for quite some time to come……

So well done everyone!

William Knowles

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

LENT SOUP LUNCHES 2026

Soup lunches continue in March. They comprise homemade soup, bread and cheese and all donations go to the charity chosen by the host/hostess. All lunches run from 12.30 to 2pm.

4 March: Alex Roberts, Froyle Cottage UF; in aid of the Stroke Association

11 March: Nigel Southern, Aldersey House, LF; in aid of Binsted Vicarage School and Community Garden

18 March: Aidan & Jo Wallis, St Joseph's UF; in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

25 March: Gillian Pickering, Warren Cottage, LF; in aid of the Stroke Association.

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

Jenny Gove
govejenny@gmail.com

Froyle Gardening Club

MARCH

From the Potting Shed

I think for most of us the exceptionally wet winter has put us behind with all the jobs that should have been doing in the garden. But not to worry - I am sure we will catch up as the season progresses.

Having somewhere to start off seedlings indoors is always helpful and seeds like sweet peas, broad beans, peas, lettuce, as well as onion sets and chitting potatoes can all be kept in the cool and dry before being hardened off prior to planting outside. If the soil is too wet then put cloches on the areas where you want to plant. This will warm up and also dry the soil making it better for planting.

As soon as you can get onto the garden, 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. Mulching will also go on at this time of the year to hold in as much moisture as possible just in case we have another dry summer.

Lawns will have taken the brunt of the wet weather and can now be treated with a bacteria based 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.

Geoff Hawkins

Wednesday 11 February – Sir Harold Hillier Gardens Through the Year with David Jewell

David Jewell, former curator of Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, transported us through the seasons with a fascinating talk about the beautiful gardens in Ampfield Hampshire.

The gardens were established by the distinguished plantsman Sir Harold Hillier. They now cover 180 acres and home to numerous National Collections and thousands of plants from around the world.

During spring the gardens have a stunning collection of plants, bulbs, Magnolias, Azaleas and Rhododenrons. In summer, the magnificent Centenary Border, one of the longest mixed double borders in Europe, bursts into colour with contrasting swathes of form and texture. Autumn brings the glory of 600 Champion Trees with gold and bronze foliage, fruits and berries. Followed by the stunning Winter Garden, which covers over four acres, and is one of the largest in Europe.

Wednesday 11 March 7.30pm - Green Secrets: Katie Blanche will explain The Mysteries of How Plants Work.

Katie will enthral us with everything you've ever wanted to know about how plants work... how they make food. How they move. How they know which way is up, how they communicate. How they deal with insect damage, why they're certain colours and why leaves turn red in autumn, even how they make babies.....

THE FROYLE GARDENING CLUB SPRING SHOW

SATURDAY MARCH 28th

AT FROYLE VILLAGE HALL

OPEN TO EVERYONE – BEGINNERS WELCOME – CLASSES FOR GROWERS, BAKERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS & FLOWER ARRANGERS

Full schedule and entry forms are available to download at froylegardeningclub.co.uk. Or pick up a printed copy at the Friday Meeting Place at Froyle Village Hall. If you have any queries please email janemacnabb@hotmail.com

Please submit your entry forms by Friday March 27th and bring your entries to the Village Hall 9-10.30 on March 28th Show opens 2.00pm

T

FROYLE WILDLIFE

Talk about Swifts

Friday 20 March 7.30pm

Come along to a talk about Swifts by Catharine Gale, a trustee of Hampshire Swifts. The charity was set up to address the decline in Common Swifts in the county. Hear about this iconic bird species covering its identification, how it differs from Swallows and Martins, feeding habits, migration, breeding behaviour, trends in population status in the UK, and potential reasons for its dramatic decline. She will describe what Hampshire Swifts has been doing to try to reverse Swifts' decline, including swift nest boxes and recommendations for how we can all help Swifts.

All welcome, Froyle Wildlife members free, non-members £3, teas and coffees, doors open 7pm for talk to start 7.30pm, Friday 20 March at Froyle Village Hall. See *www.froylewildlife.co.uk/news.*

JayneFisher

Free outdoor exercise?

Help to benefit local wildlife and the community by coming along to our activities that maintain areas in Froyle. These include the wildlife pond area near Gid Lane and the willow dome and wildflower areas on Froyle recreation ground. Many thanks to those who volunteered last year and we welcome extra help even if you can only spare an hour.

Recreation ground

- Living Willow Dome maintenance, trim top growth, tie in side shoots. Saturday 28 February 10.00am-12 noon and Sunday 1 March 10.00am-12 noon.

Wildlife pond area -maintain the surrounding meadow and cut paths for visitors on the following Saturdays:

- 14 March 2.00pm-4.00pm Remove electric sheep fence
- 28 March 2.00pm-4.00pm Mow paths and trim vegetation
- 18 April 2.00pm-4.00pm Mow paths - weed and sycamore seedlings

For more information contact info@froylewildlife.co.uk, phone 01420 23520 or just turn up at one of the activities.

Barry Clark

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

A 17th-century proverb predicting March weather: starting with stormy, winter-like conditions and ending with calm, mild, spring-like weather.

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

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

Lapwing - also known as Peewits, due to their call, appear black and white in flight, but their backs take on an iridescent greeny purple in sunlight; hence Green Plover is yet another name for them. Males perform spectacular diving, tumbling and swooping aerial displays in the spring. One pair is able to raise one brood of up to 4 chicks a year. The chicks can walk and feed themselves within hours of hatching; the parent birds, ever vigilant, will mob predators but this isn't guaranteed to keep them away. Lapwings prefer damp fields to breed on with ruts or depressions holding water. They feed on invertebrates in or on the ground.

Yellowhammer - males are easily recognised and their 'Little bit of bread and no cheese' song sung from hedgerows is a giveaway. They prefer to nest on the ground under or low down in thick hedgerows adjacent to damp/watery ditches. Mainly seed eaters, these birds can be found in winter stubbles, wild bird cover and anywhere with spilt grain. Chicks of this species must have a good supply of insect food and adults also benefit from this additional fare during the breeding season. Wide native grass and wildflower margins can provide this.

Skylark, Lapwing and Yellowhammer are included on the UK 'Red List' for birds, meaning they are in need of urgent conservation action having suffered major population declines. 70 species - one in four of UK birds - are now on the Red List of conservation concern.

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

Ground nesting birds are vulnerable during the breeding season of March to August to natural predators - raptors, foxes, badgers etc. Our best beloved canine friends still harbour primeval instincts and like nothing better than to rummage along hedgerows. So disturbance from dogs that are not on a lead could result in birds failing to nest.

Sue Clark

The Froyle Elm Epic Continues

In January 2025, we were lucky enough to receive eight disease resistant elm saplings from the Hampshire Forest Partnership, which were planted strategically around Upper and Lower Froyle.

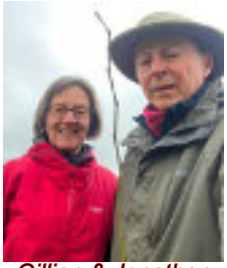
Barry, Ian & Mark at Goschens

In November of last year, I was invited to make a second application for a grant, and as a result, we received a further 16 elm whips, all of which have now been planted on land generously provided by local landowners, by groups of valiant volunteers who braved the rain and mud to plant these lovely young trees.

My sincere and grateful thanks to Ian and Jane Macnabb, who very kindly helped to collect the trees from Queen Elizabeth Park, and I would like to thank the following landowners for giving permission for trees to be planted on their land; Caroline Goschen (and Paul Graham Clark for helping us to site the trees), John and Vivienne Sexton (The Old Brewery), David Mayhew (Mill Farm), and Andrew Kirby (on behalf of Froyle Estate).

Alex & John on Froyle Estate

Once again, thanks to those brave souls who turned out in less than clement weather to plant; John and Vivienne Sexton, Barry Clark, Ian Deans, Jonathan and Gillian Pickering, Alex Roberts and Sam Morton, Mill Farm Manager. Last but by no means least, the indefatigable (and long-suffering!) Mark Lelliott.



Gillian & Jonathan on Froyle Estate

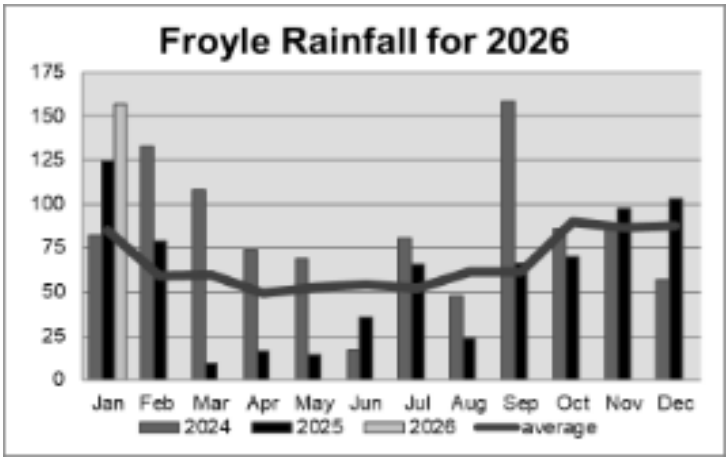
Let's hope that these young elms survive and grow to become an integral part of the local landscape for future generations to preserve and enjoy.

Sue Lelliott

Froyle Tree Warden

Froyle Rainfall for January, 2026

This year	156.5 mm	6.2 ins
Last year	124.5 mm	4.9 ins
Wettest January (2014)	191.5 mm	7.6 ins
Driest January (1997)	13 mm	0.5 ins
January long-term average – the 4th wettest month	84.8 mm	3.3 ins



I don't think anybody needs reminding how wet the first month of 2026 was; there was more rain in Froyle in January since 2014, and prior to that there were only five wetter Januarys since 1855.
And just to illustrate how the climate has changed, if we take the four winter months (October to January) combined, since 2020, the average has been 418mm, compared with 331mm for the previous 40 years.

"The Umbrella Man"

WWW.FROYLE.COM: CALLING ALL HISTORY LOVERS

Many thanks to all those who responded to the articles in the February Magazine concerning the future of the www.froyle.com website and the possibility of setting up a Froyle History Group to carry on the research of Annette and Chris Booth. There is still plenty to discover. It's been suggested that such a group could also arrange a series of talks by local historians in much the same way that the Gardening Club and Froyle Wildlife do. If you are interested, do please send me an email.

I have been in touch with Hampshire Record Office in Winchester where they already have a lot of material about Froyle. They are happy to help us by looking after any original paper documents and archiving the website. With over 1,500 pages, www.froyle.com really is well worth investigating.

From the 1840s to the present time, every ten years a census has been held recording the details of everybody present in every dwelling in the country on a particular night. They are a wonderful source of historical information.

www.froyle.com has all the census records for Froyle for the following years: 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 1901 and 1911. To read them, you don't have to struggle with the enumerator's handwriting because most of the information has been transcribed by the Booths and entered into a spreadsheet. If you live in a house that is old enough you can discover who lived there in the past, how old they were, where they were born and sometimes what job they did. A surprising number of people appear to have lived their whole lives in Froyle.

In the 19th century very few village houses had a name or a number as they do today. So working out which house is which is quite a challenge. The Booths have done their best to identify individual properties and the 1845 Tithe Map on display in the Village Hall can sometimes assist.

One house that is clearly identified is Froyle Place now known as Froyle Park. This dates back to around 1620 and probably much further. In 1782 it was bought by the Miller family who for 160 years became the Lords of the Manor.

The enumerator calls

Froyle Place in the 18th century

The 1851 census tells us that the head of the family is Sir Thomas Combe Miller aged 72, described as a 'Landed Proprietor'. He is also the Vicar but has a curate to do the work. His rather younger wife is Martha who comes from Norfolk.They have three daughters and a son, all born in Froyle, aged from 24 to 9. They have plenty of live-in staff to look after them including a cook/housekeeper and a nurse, six maids (the youngest of whom is 13 year old Sarah Walker who works in the scullery), two footmen and a gardener. No doubt many more servants and estate workers lived elsewhere in the village.

Ten years later at the time of the next census in 1861 not all that much has changed. Sir Thomas now 82 is listed as owning 1,028 acres and employing 44 men and 8 boys. His son is an undergraduate at Oxford and his three daughters are still living at home, it would appear unmarried. Of course, the census only recorded those present on the night of the census. Missing from the record are another 6 older children. They had big families then.

In 1864 old Sir Thomas died and his eldest son and heir Charles shortly after. Froyle's new Lord of the Manor was now another nine-year-old boy. Sir Hubert Miller never lived at Froyle Place. Too expensive to run, he once commented. When he wasn't in Venice adding to his collection of clerical vestments and statues of the saints, he preferred Shrubbery House opposite the Hen and Chicken. Thereafter Froyle Place was let to a variety of tenants, one of whom in the 1920s arranged the purchase of the recreation ground for the village. During the first World War Froyle Place was used as a military hospital and www.froyle.com has photos of the wounded soldiers and their nurses.

After the death of Sir Hubert in the 1940s, the house and parkland were bought by Lord Mayor Treloar's as a school for physically disabled boys and then in 2012 Treloars moved out to Holybourne and Froyle Place became a wedding and events venue. The plans for the new development and much else besides are all there for you to explore on .

I wonder what Sir Thomas would have thought of all the changes. If the idea of a Froyle History Group appeals, do get in touch and register your interest.

Nick Whines

01420 23130, nick@whines.co.uk

Waverley Singers

Saturday 21 March 2026, 7pm
Guildford Cathedral

Exaltation!

Vaughan Williams *Mass in G Minor*, *The Lark Ascending*, and *Te Deum*

Programme includes Bach *Violin Sonata No.1 in G minor* and Mazzoli *Vespers for Violin & Electronics*

Violin - Elizabeth Cooney
Organ - Philip Scriven
Conductor - Richard Pearce

Tickets: in advance/on the door
Premium £20/£22 General £18/£20
£5 Students U16 free subject to conditions

ticketsource.co.uk/waverleysingers

Platinum Celebrations 1935 - 2025

waverleysingers.com

The Waverley Singers is Registered Charity no. 284123

oakleaf

ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTES

Vicar: The Reverend Matt Boyes *07469 270590 E: matt@benbinfro.co.uk*
Administrators: *01420 23339* E: *admin@benbinfro.org* W: *www.benbinfro.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 sarahrfroyle@gmail.com

Benefice Pastoral Care
Nick Carter *01420 489122*
nick.carter1945@outlook.com
Anna Chaplain:
The Rev Fran Harrison *07765 058593*
annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

MARCH SERVICES

Sun 1 Mar	9.30am	Binsted	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am	Oakhanger	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Bentley	Praise
Sun 8 Mar	8.00am	Binsted	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Bentley	Morning Worship & Children's Church
	11.00am	**Froyle**	**Holy Communion**
	6.00pm	Kingsley	Praise
Sun 15 Mar (Mother's Day)	**9.30am**	**Froyle**	**Morning Worship & Messy Church**
	11.00am	Kingsley	Holy Communion
Sun 22 Mar	9.30am	Bentley	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am	Binsted	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	**Froyle**	**Evensong**
Sun 29 Mar (Palm Sunday)	11.00am	Binsted	Benefice Service

ST MARY'S NEWS

February is a relatively quiet month in the church calendar – a major highlight this year was the baptism of Ted Matthews at our morning worship service on 15 February, preceded by breakfast in the church. We were delighted to welcome Ted's family and friends to his special day, celebrated also by so many of our regular church community, who came in support of Ted and his family.

This service was followed in the afternoon by an entertaining Messy Church hosted by the Froyle messy church team and ending, as always, with an early evening meal for children, parents and helpers. Between the two events, much use was made of our kitchen in the church on that day!

Looking forward, things start to get busy again as we head towards Easter. There will be more to follow about the full Easter programme in next month's magazine, but we have already started this month with a moving Ash Wednesday Service on 18 February. Ash Wednesday occurring during the half term holidays allowed the average age of the service to be somewhat younger than usual this year….

Major events in March: please note in particular Mothering Sunday on 15 March, which will be combined with Messy Church – this time organised by the Binsted messy church team but hosted in Froyle church to make the most of the occasion of Mothering Sunday. It kicks off at 09:30 (see page 22).

We will also be holding our Benefice Weekend Away on 20-22 March, where we join with the other churches in the Benefice for a weekend of talks, worship, eating and drinking, family entertainment and relaxation. The event is at the De Vere Horsley Towers, in East Horsley near Guildford. At the time of writing, there are still a few places left. Anyone is welcome to join us, either for the weekend or on either of days. If you are interested, please contact Steve Fice on 07876 767990.

And then Easter will be upon us, starting with a joint Benefice communion on Palm Sunday, 29 March, at Binsted…..

Simon Marshall
Jack Stephenson
Churchwardens

THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Christ as a light, illumine and guide me.
Christ as a shield, overshadow me.
Christ under me; Christ over me;
Christ beside me, on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
Lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
In the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
Lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This version of the famous prayer known as “St. Patrick‘s Breastplate” is the perfect prayer for our journey through Lent which covers the whole of March, including St. Patrick’s feast day on 17 March.

Lent is the season of self-examination and simplicity which prepares us for the Easter story, the Last Supper, the trial and death of Jesus, and his victory over death by his resurrection. Lent reminds us of our frailty and need of God, particularly his strength in times of difficulty. It reminds us that we cannot draw near to God, but that he draws near to us. He knows our weakness and promises his presence and strength.

Lent confronts us with the challenge of what we do with all that God blesses us with and invites us to reorient ourselves, to act in service of others and to build up community. To see the value and worth of all people in God’s eyes and to confess our selfishness and greed.

It is a season of honesty, where our defences are lowered and we allow God to speak to us as we lift the needs of the world to him.

May God bless you and yours, this Lent. May you discover afresh his love for you and may we watch and wait for his salvation. I encourage you to pray St.Patrick’s Breastplate each day, and may you know God’s protection and care always.

Matt Boyes
Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

admin@benbinfro.org

Messy Church

March's theme: Mother's Day

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

9:30AM
DURING THE MORNING SERVICE

FROYLE CHURCH
GU34 4LB

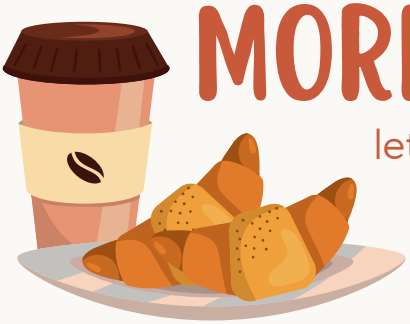
Mother's Day crafts and activities will take place during Froyle's Morning Worship service instead of the usual time in the afternoon. Refreshments will follow after the service.

No cost, just rock up and enjoy!

THE BENEFICE OF BENTLEY • BINSTED • FROYLE

breakfast & belief breakfast & belief breakfast & belief breakfast & belief breakfast & belief

GOOD MORNING



let's have breakfast

introducing

MATT'S CHATS

Good food and meaningful conversation.

A relaxed hour with our vicar, exploring Christian ideas from the big to the small. Open to all whether you're a lifelong believer or just curious.

9:30am
14th March 2026
The Star Inn, Bentley
Breakfast provided

Bring your questions, Bring a Friend and Bring an Appetite.

Pop us an email to let us know you are coming so we can provide enough food - admin@benbinfro.org

Easter 2026

Palm Sunday
Sunday 29th March

11am Benefice Holy Communion at Binsted

Maundy Thursday
Thursday 2nd April

6:30pm Choral Service at Froyle

Good Friday
Friday 3rd April

12pm Good Friday Reflection at Binsted

Easter Saturday
Saturday 4th April

10am Easter Garden Making at Froyle

9pm Easter Night Vigil at Bentley

Easter Sunday
Sunday 5th April

6:15am Sunrise Holy Communion at Bentley

9:30am Holy Communion at Bentley

9:30am Holy Communion at Binsted

11am Holy Communion at Froyle

11am Holy Communion at Oakhanger

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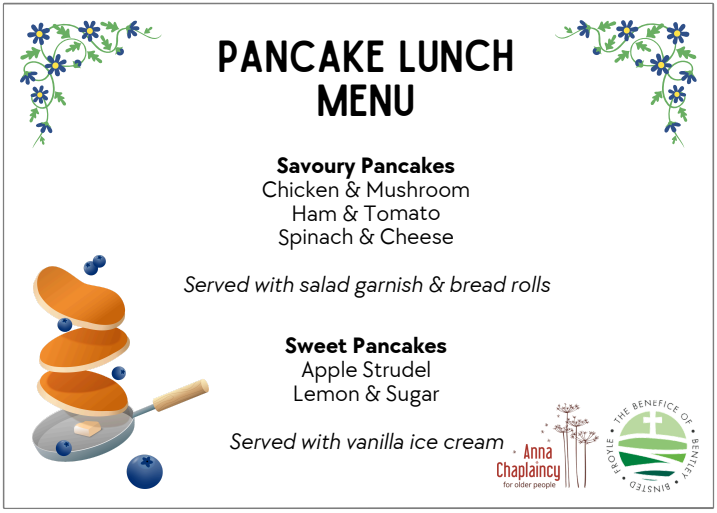
Pancake Lunch Party For Our Older Friends

We were delighted to welcome over 50 guests from Froyle, Bentley, Binsted, Kingsley and Oakhanger to celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a delicious pancake lunch, laid on by the wider Church pastoral care team at the Wickham Institute in Binsted. Over 200 pancakes, both savoury and sweet, were enjoyed by all. Each table became animated as they worked through a challenging quiz – the questions were distributed at the start, and the answers were revealed between courses. The questions were wide-ranging, and each table was well up to the challenge. I am pleased to report that the tables with a large Froyle contingent did particularly well…..

These community events are held three times a year and are always hugely enjoyable. In addition to the pancake lunch, there is a July summer afternoon tea generously hosted by the Ogilvie Thompsons in their splendid garden at Mill Court and an Advent lunch in December, held last year in Froyle Village Hall. We are very lucky as a church community to have a wonderful team prepared to do the hard work needed to organise these events. Fran Harrison, our Anna Chaplain, is usually present and delivers a short talk.

Who, you might ask, qualifies as an older friend or senior citizen? Well, it's pretty flexible, but our focus is to encourage attendance among those recently bereaved, living on their own, or who don't get out as much as they would like to, perhaps because of ill health or because they can no longer drive. Church attendance is not a prerequisite. It's always easier to come to one of these events with someone else, so do ask around and see who would like to come with you. Transport is always available. Any questions, the best person to speak to is Sarah Roberts (our Anna Friend, whose contact details can be found on the church and back pages of this magazine) or me.

William Knowles
Wbk@wbknowles.com; 07775 928933



Krishna Prawns

This is a recipe given us by friends 40 years ago but still very tasty today.

Ingredients to serve 4 people:

450g cooked peeled prawns

3 tbsp oil

2 medium onions, finely chopped

400g tin chopped tomatoes

½ level tsp chilli powder

½ level tsp turmeric

1 level tsp ground coriander

1 level tsp brown sugar

4 cloves

2 inch piece of cinnamon stick

2 tsp grated fresh root ginger

3 bayleaves

5 cm creamed coconut bar - crumbled

Salt

Method: heat oil in a heavy pan and gently fry onions until golden brown. Add all the spices, sugar, bay leaves and seasoning. Mix everything together for a minute or two then add tomatoes, bring to boil and simmer for about 10 minutes. This part can be done in advance.

When you are ready to eat add the crumbled coconut and prawns to the simmering sauce. Return to simmer and make sure the curry is really hot before you eat. This is best served with rice.

Gillian Pickering

ALTON FOOD BANK
PLEASE SUPPORT

Thank you for your continued support of 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
Jam	Peanut butter

There is a donation box in the Village Hall, or you can drop off at the 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

Bentley Primary School's Eco Warriors

Children at Bentley School are passionate about our planet and love getting involved in practical environmental action from litter picking to hosting second-hand stalls. Through regular meetings and school-based environmental projects, Bentley's Eco Council is definitely making a difference to our planet.

Last month, several members of Eco Council participated in large events with other schools in Hampshire. The first event was the Hampshire Climate Unity Virtual Conference for pupils in Years 5 and 6. The agenda for the morning's event was varied and exciting, ranging from conservation of painted dogs in Africa to learning about the world's most sustainable football club and seahorses in the Solent. The children who were lucky to attend were inspired by conservationists and environmentalists as well as fellow school eco warriors and have a long list of ideas ready for their next Eco Council meeting!

Following the virtual conference, Eco Council's Team Food attended the Young ACAN (Alton Climate Action Network) Schools Eco Conference, 'Eating for our Planet' at Alton College. Together with 13 other schools from the local area, the children from Years 1 to Year 6 participated in a range of workshops about food including making smoothies with the Smoothie Bike Company; seasonal food; food waste; permaculture in Gumbi, Africa and learning about milk production with Milk Club. The children were really enthused by the event and are now getting ready to lead a whole-school food day later in the month to share their knowledge with their peers with the aim of reducing food waste at lunchtime and raising the value of food.

If you would like to support Eco Council with their projects, they would love to hear from you. Please contact Emma Jones via the school office – adminoffice@bentley.hants.sch.uk.

Vicky Hallett, Headteacher

FROYLE SMALL ADS

A reminder - 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 photo if you have one - to *froylemageditor@gmail.com.*

PAX HILL

Care home for the elderly

News from Pax Hill

No one can deny that it has been a little damp of late, but whilst we haven't been able to spend a lot of time outside, we made bird feeders to encourage more birds into our gardens. The bird feeders are now empty, so we like to think it was a huge success, although you are never quite sure who has had the bigger lunch, our birds or the many squirrels that live around Pax Hill. Our gardening club has begun so keep your eyes out for our ever-popular plant sales, the first one being sweet peas in March.

As always, we keep busy inside: to keep us active we build in exercise each day and one day a week have Stephen Orwin, a neuro physical therapist taking a guided class focussed on falls prevention. He is putting our ladies and gentlemen through their paces whilst making it fun and accessible to all.

We had a special Valentine's lunch for our couples, with beautiful food presented by our Head Chef, Christo, and a Valentine's party for everyone in EMF. Our residents were made some beautiful Valentine's cards by Bentley 2nd Squirrels group who delighted us when they visited.

Shrove Tuesday and Chinese New Year fell on the same day this year, which meant double the fun. Pancake tossing for residents and staff in the morning and Chinese crafts and games in the afternoon.

We have had many and varied entertainers throughout February, some highlights include In Accord, an all-ladies *a cappella* group who harmonise and had us all joining in, and Paul who came to sing Frank Sinatra songs for us. In March we will have a 40's and 50's singalong, a violinist, and a musical memories theatre show. Some less energetic entertainment included the Haslemere Museum visit, a harpist, and a Cinema experience - we do like to keep things varied here.

Chef Christo will be hosting a menu tasting to choose a new menu for Spring and he will be providing us with afternoon teas for Mother's Day and a relatives afternoon tea: we like any excuse to get people together.

Looking a long way ahead, our fête this year is on Sunday 28 June. This is always a popular event with residents of our surrounding villages – pop it in your diary and we hope to see you there.

Save the date

Froyle Church

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Saturday 25 April 9.30 -12 noon

Froyle Rec & Village Hall

GU34 4LG

(Gates open from 9.00am for stall holders)

A New Chapter for Florence

This spring, Florence begins a new chapter in a gorgeous barn at The Chocolate Frog, Oakhanger.

Full of character, our new shop feels perfectly aligned with everything Florence has grown to be. Thoughtful clothing, carefully chosen homewares, and a space to gather, create and connect.

From 2nd March 2026, we will be open 7 days a week 10am-4pm, welcoming you into a space that reflects the heart of Florence.

This move gives us room to expand our creative workshops, and bring even more of what you love under one beautiful roof. We're so excited for what's ahead!

With sincere thanks to Rob, Trang, Dave & Anita plus the gorgeous team at the Hen & Chicken Pub, for the opportunities and support that helped shape our journey so far, and to every customer who has walked through our doors. You are the reason Florence continues to evolve.

We can't wait to welcome you into our new barn!

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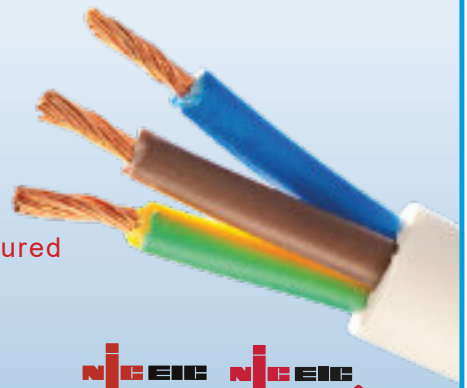

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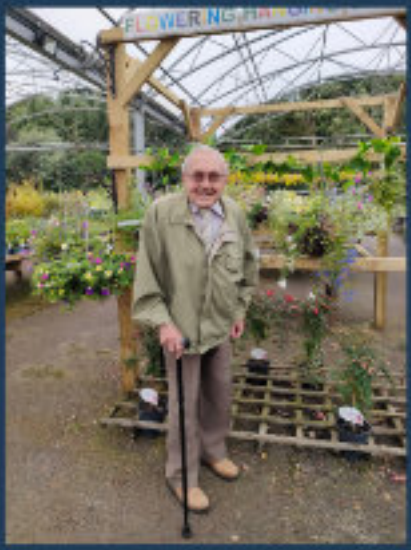
As part of the local community, we work closely with charities, wellbeing groups and local partners to help people stay connected and supported. Whether it's a friendly chat or practical help, we're here to make life at home safer, easier and more enjoyable.

Contact us today to discuss how we can help you, we're always happy to talk.



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THE
ANCHOR INN
AT LOWER FROYLE

What's On

Monthly Quiz night
Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm

Max 6 people per team. Free entry. Booking is preferable

Monthly Flower arranging workshop
Thursday 5th March at 11am

Contact Kathryn on flowers@kathrynnaustin.co.uk or 07802248862 to book your space

6 Nations Rugby tournament
6th, 7th & 14th March

We will be showing all 6 nations matches. Book your table to ensure the best seats.

Beer & Cheese Masterclass
Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm

Join our Master Brewer for a very interesting evening. Booking is essential. £15 per person

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The Beehive Montessori

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Instagram @acornsbnb

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Ryebridge Lane, Lower Froyle, Alton GU34 4LG

Monday

09:30 Dynamic Mat

10:30 Gentle Mat

Wednesday

Mixed Mat

18:30-19:30

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Advertising rates 2026/2027

Our costs have increased over the year and so we have increased our rates a little, to help defray the costs of production and printing. The new rates are:

For Froyle businesses: £41+VAT/year, £25+VAT/half year for advertisements of **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers**.

For non-Froyle businesses: £62+VAT/year, £38+VAT/half year for **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers**.

For both residents and non-residents: £125+VAT/year, £75+VAT/half year for **a full page,** £140.00+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.

We are happy to include one-off advertisements or notices free of charge for events associated with or put on by the village, as long as they are not for profit or part of a commercial venture. Otherwise the charge is £12.50+VAT per insertion.

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 March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1600-1800 Life drawing	2 Rubbish	3	4	5 Garden Waste	6 1000-1200 Meeting place	7
8 1100 HC	9 Recycling & Glass 1900 FPC	10	11 1930 Gardening Club	12	13 1000-1200 Meeting place	14
15 0930 Morning Worship & Messy Church	16 Rubbish	17 1000-1200 Life drawing	18	19 Garden Waste	20 1000-1200 Meeting place 1930 Froyle Wildlife	21
22 1830 Evensong	23 Recycling & Glass	24	25	26	27 1000-1200 Meeting place	28 1400 Gardening Club Spring Show
29	30 Rubbish	31				

PAX HILL

Care home for the elderly

Pax Hill provides person-centred care for Residential, Dementia, Nursing, and Palliative care needs in modern, comfortable accommodation.
Two purpose-built care homes are set in nine acres of beautiful gardens in the picturesque village of Bentley.

For more information or to discuss your individual needs, please call Angela.

01420 525882 | mail@paxhill.co.uk | www.paxhill.co.uk

Physiotherapy

In the centre of Bentley
by

Pippa Blizzard

Chartered Physiotherapist
MCSP HCPC BAHT AACP

physiotherapy@pippa-blizzard.co.uk 07714 239644 www.pippa-blizzard.co.uk

SILVERWING CARS

Call Tony on 07971 859947

Reliable Professional Taxi Service
Advanced Bookings Advised

Froyle Directory

Froyle Parish Council Ⓕ www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk
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 Ⓕ 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 Ⓕ www.froylegardeningclub.co.uk
Geoff Hawkins ✉ info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk ☎ 01420 88176

Froyle Wildlife www.froylewildlife.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 Ⓕ 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

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

Key: ☎ Telephone ✉ Email Ⓕ Facebook ✆ WhatsApp

APRIL DEADLINE: FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026

For Notes to Contributors, please see page 43.