

Froyle Village Magazine



June 2026

No 529

<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 on 11th May and also held its AGM.

The first business of the AGM is to elect a Chair for the coming year without which the PC cannot conduct its business. Julie Southern had notified those present at the Annual Village Meeting in April that she would be standing down as PC Chair after serving in this capacity for the last 10 years. The PC elected Cllr Phil Roberts as Chair for the coming year with Cllr Mike Blanche as Deputy.

Dates of PC meetings and Councillors' responsibilities in 2026/27 were agreed and have been posted on the village noticeboards and [PC website](#). The next meeting of the PC will be held on **Monday 15 June at 19.00 in the Village Hall** - all residents are welcome to attend.

The PC expressed its sincere thanks to Julie for her service to the PC and Froyle community. It unanimously resolved to grant Julie with the Honorary Freedom of the Parish and she was presented with a scroll to confer this honour. Julie has asked for some time off over the summer but has agreed to continue as a member of the PC for the time being.

Business at the PC meeting was mainly procedural such as receiving the Internal Audit report and signing off the accounts for 2025/26, however there was discussion with the Tree Warden about the options for felling the geum (wild cherry) on Hadwicks Corner and how to replace it – more of this in the next issue.

A resident presented a case to re-start a Froyle football team and a full proposal for this was requested by the PC for consideration at its next meeting.

The grant from HCC to refurbish the Village Hall bus shelter has now been received, and discussions are being held with the contractor on when the work will be carried out. The HCC funded Lengthsman (gardening contractor) visited in late April and undertook work on the bus shelter by the Hen and Chicken and clearing roadside drains. The main task scheduled for the visit was to cut back the hedge on the corner of Ryebriidge Lane opposite the White House but this could not be completed due to birds nesting and will be rescheduled.

On the subject of nesting birds, concern was again expressed to the PC about dogs being allowed to run loose through fields causing disturbance to ground nesting birds. Reference was made to this in the previous issue and discussions have now taken place with landowners who will erect temporary signage during the nesting season to remind dog owners.

Following a successful grant application, work continues on playground equipment improvements with the frame of the basket swing also now repaired following the zipline repair last month. Work has also been approved by the PC to refurbish all the benches on the Rec and fit strim guards around the legs of playground equipment to minimise damage and extend their life.

A couple of planning applications in Lower Froyle were discussed.

The PC noted the approval of a proposed extension at Adams Field which will raise the roof line despite similar applications being refused by EHDC in the past.

It was decided to submit comments on an application to convert listed agricultural buildings at Rock House Farm to residential use as it was considered that the structural modifications being proposed would be detrimental to and fundamentally alter the listed buildings. The proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use may have an adverse impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties, with the potential for loss of privacy from overlooking.

The mobile health van will again be visiting Froyle on Wednesday 3 June. Eligible residents (75+ or immuno-compromised) are invited to drop in at the Village Hall car park between 10am and 3pm (no appointments necessary) when there will be opportunities for vaccinations including Covid; blood pressure and BMI checks; and health and wellbeing advice (see poster in Village Hall for details).

As previously advised to those on the Froyle Residents email circulation list, Hampshire County Council has launched a crisis and resilience fund targeting support and assistance to low-income households who rely on heating oil. If you, or anyone you know, is interested and would like more details of the fund including the eligibility criteria, please contact the [Clerk](#). (If you are not on the email list and would like to be, please contact the Clerk – you can unsubscribe at any time).

The PC has been informed that a Froyle resident was recently victim to a scam by individuals posing as police officers calling at their house. Please do remain vigilant to any cold callers or unsolicited calls or emails; take time to consider the request; and seek advice from family and friends before agreeing to anything, especially handing over money. See the [AgeUK](#) and [Hampshire Constabulary](#) websites for more advice.

Following the County Council elections on 7 May, Antonia Cox, the Conservative candidate, was elected to Hampshire County Council representing Alton Rural. Antonia replaces Mark Kemp-Gee who has been an active supporter and advocate of Froyle for the past 20 years. Antonia's contact details are on the [PC website](#). Antonia has agreed to come to Froyle and attend the PC meeting on 15 June.

There will be significant changes in Local Government over the coming two years which will affect how parishes are represented in the new Mid Hampshire Unitary Authority following the Local Government Re-organisation.

If you are interested in helping the PC determine how it will serve the community in future or just want to give your time to continue making Froyle a great place to live, why not consider putting yourself forward to be a Parish Councillor. Please contact the Clerk or speak to one of the current Councillors if you would like to know more about the role

Froyle Fête, Flower and Dog Show

Saturday 4th July 2026 1.00pm-4.30pm



Donations of bric-a-brac, books and crockery welcome as well as volunteers to help run the fete!

It's that time of year again and hopefully the sun will stay out until Froyle's village fete and flower show which is being held at the Recreation Ground the first Saturday in July.

Alongside the ever-popular Dog Show, we'll have the usual stalls – Bric-a-Brac, Books, the Grand Raffle with some great prizes, Tea and Cakes, Produce, the Beer Tent and a Barbeque, plus some lovely local crafts and food stalls, including jewellery, fashion and home wares. For children there will be a huge giraffe bouncy castle, arts and crafts with 'Froyle Rocks' and face painting and, of course, the usual children's games, the annual tug of war, welly wanging and crockery smashing

We'd love your help – whether it is just an hour or two or more - so if you would like to be involved, please do get in touch. It's a great event and a good way to get to know your neighbours better. Email Charlie (charlie.baikie2@gmail.com) for more information.

Donations of items for stalls are also most welcome. You can drop them off in advance (or they can be collected from you) – details are below - or leave items at the Village Hall on the morning of Friday 3rd July, when the Meeting Place is running, or bring them on the morning of the fete.

Bric-a-Brac

All items in decent condition which are no longer needed will be welcome. Drop donations at the Village Hall.

Books/DVDs/CDs

If you have any books, CDs or DVDs you no longer want, please do drop them at Park Edge in Upper Froyle in advance.

Crockery Smashing

Please drop any plates, cups etc in advance to the Village Hall the day before the fete or on the day itself.

Cakes and Produce

Cake bakers of Froyle: please do let us know if you would be able to bake a cake (or two) for the produce stall or the tea stall. Or do you have any home-made jams or chutneys you could donate or excess vegetables?

Bottle Stall

We will be collecting bottles on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June. If you could spare a bottle, or a few bottles, of anything drinkable we would be grateful. Please leave them outside your door on 24th if you don't want to be disturbed.

Please contact Charlie - charlie.baikie2@gmail.com – if you want to help in any way or have queries



It's been a busy time at the Village Hall.



The first weekend of May saw the 3rd annual Froyle Art Fair. 40 local artists, 250 visitors, almost £3,000 worth of art sold, and over £600 raised to support the village hall. The buzz in the hall was fantastic and everyone marvelled at the tremendous talent we have in the village. A huge thanks to the artists for their wonderful work, to Sally Turvil and David Birn for organizing the event, and to the 20+ volunteers who worked tirelessly over 4 days to bring this wonderful event to life.



Talking of fundraising, we are delighted to share that April's 10k Trail Run and Colour Dash raised a whopping £1.2k for the hall! Needless to say we are already working with our partners Blended Trails to plan a repeat of the event next year. Based on feedback from participants we are looking into the possibility of adding a half marathon to the event for those who want an even more serious challenge!



Congratulations also to the Froyle Church Car Boot sale for a successful event which took place in the most glorious sunshine.

So, what's in store for the coming months?

The ever popular Froyle Village Fete, Flower & Dog Show takes place on Saturday 4 July. It takes a lot of people to make this event happen. Please contact Charlie Baikie on charlie.baikie2@gmail.com if you would like to get involved in any way.

Safari Supper 2026 will take place on Saturday 26 September. It's a great way to have an amazing meal, meet friends and neighbours, and to support the Village Hall! It only happens every 2 years, so don't miss out! Contact David Robertson on darinfroyle@aol.com if you would like to host. Ticket information in the July magazine.

After a long and regrettable absence, we are glad to report there is movement afoot to bring back the Froyle Toddler Playgroup. It's a huge undertaking that will only happen if the community expresses sufficient interest in both helping and participating. Get in touch with Rebecca on 07786071900 if you are among the interested and willing.

As I shared at last month's AGM, it takes a village to run a village hall. We need help in lots of ways. Car parkers, bonfire builders, and cake bakers are needed for the events, of course, but we also need help with the day to day running of the hall: maintenance of the facility, logistical support for our users, and social media communication to mention only the most pressing.

If you are interested in getting involved in any way, big or small, occasionally or on a regular basis use the QR Code at right to join the Friends of the Village Hall, or email friends@froylevillagehall.co.uk

Finally, this month sees two changes to the Committee. Sadly, David Birn is leaving Froyle to return to the USA. This will be a tremendous loss to the Village Hall. His passion, energy and hard work have been a huge asset. We wish him and his wife Felicity the very best with their next adventure and hope he will come back to visit. On a happier note, I am delighted to announce that Sally Turvill has agreed to join the committee. Her energy and resourcefulness will be a valuable addition to the team. Welcome Sally!



Gillian Paul, Chair



The Meeting Place

The Meeting Place takes place every Friday morning in the Village Hall from 10am-12 noon, so do come and join us for delicious home made cake, hot drinks and good conversation.

Well behaved dogs are welcome too. Treats provided!

We also now have an ever changing selection of books and jigsaws to borrow.

FROYLE OPEN GARDENS are on 6 and 7 June. Please bake a cake to help make the teas as memorable as ever! Bring to the Meeting Place on Friday 5 June.

Friday 19 June. No Meeting Place as hall is in use for refreshments after the thanksgiving service for Margaret Stanford. Church service at 10.30am. Do ask one of us if you'd like a lift to the church that day.

June Kitchen Helpers

- 5th Lauraine Bourne
- 12th Jan Elliott
- 19th NO MEETING PLACE
- 26th Julie Southern

June Cake Bakers

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 5th | Charlie Inskip | Julie Southern | Sue Sharman |
| 12th | Gillian Pickering | Chris Muddiman | Corinna Whines |
| 19th | NO MEETING PLACE | | |
| 26th | Sarah Basey | Mary Chaplin | Caroline Findlay |

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

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

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

Gill Bradley 520484
gahbradley@gmail.com

Susie Robertson 520820
sjrinfroyle@gmail.com

Jenny Gove 23697
govejenny@gmail.com

MARGARET STANFORD

For those who don't already know the sad news, Margaret Stanford died peacefully on 1 May in Brendoncare Alton. A private funeral has taken place: a thanksgiving service for her life will be held on Friday 19 June at 10:30 am at Froyle church. All are welcome to that service, and afterwards at Froyle Village Hall (as noted elsewhere, the Meeting Place will not be held on that day).

Please do send any memories you may have of Margaret to the email below as there will be a tribute to her and to the huge contribution that she made to village life in the next (July) issue of the magazine.

Caroline Findlay carolinefindlay@hotmail.com



**'SAVE THE DATE'
TEAS ON TUESDAY IN JUNE
ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
UPPER FROYLE**

**Tea, Scones, Cream & Jam
will be served
every Tuesday afternoon in June:
Tuesday 2nd 9th 16th, 23rd & 30th June.
2.30 – 4.30 PM**

EVERYONE WELCOME



BARBARA STARBUCK

Those of you who knew her will know by now that Barbara died very suddenly on 26 April – her 86th birthday. The funeral may already taken place by the time you first read this, but it is worth repeating the lovely words of her daughters, Catherine and Juliet, announcing the details of the funeral:



“Please join us in celebrating the life of our mother, Barbara Starbuck, whose laughter and kindness touched all who knew her. Her funeral will take place on Friday 29th May at 12 noon at St Mary’s Church, where we will celebrate both her life and that of our father, Michael Starbuck.

Family flowers only, please. Donations in aid of the Church may be given at the service. All mourners, family and friends will be warmly welcome immediately, afterwards at The Anchor Inn.”

Barbara’s death was such a shock to so many of us in Froyle. We had seen a lot of her in recent years as she struggled to come to terms with the death of her beloved husband, Mike, and eventually started to throw herself with renewed enthusiasm into so many local activities. There was the gardening club; the meeting place, U3A, the village fete and the church – in the case of the last, particularly nurturing and entertaining the young at Messy Church.

Barbara was also part of our bible study group, a ‘safe place’ where a group of eight or nine of us, in addition to studying the bible, freely discuss our own personal joys and struggles in day-to-day life – most of us are talkative men: Barbara knew how to gently stand her ground when she felt we were getting above ourselves.

But I prefer to remember her in happier times, with Mike, who, among other things, looked after the fabric of Froyle church, aided by a committee which (speaking for myself) spent more time drinking his wine and enjoying their hospitality in Glebe Cottage than we did helping him deal with the fabric of the church.

They were a wonderful couple, and Barbara was a lovely person who will be much missed.

William Knowles

Book the Hall

Contact: Sarah Zorab

01420 520361 or email to: bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk

Or visit the website for the booking calendar, hire charges and terms and conditions of hire www.froylevillagehall.co.uk

C18th **VESTMENT DISPLAY**

FROYLE VESTMENTS GROUP



1pm - 6pm Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June 2026
at St Mary's Church,
Upper Froyle, GU34 4LB

Our unique vestment display coincides with the NGS Froyle Open Gardens weekend. Delicious home-made teas will be served in the Village Hall, all excellent reasons to visit Froyle this summer.

www.froylevestmentsgroup.org.uk



Froyle Gardening Club

JUNE FROM THE POTTING SHED

Once again, the weather dictates the actions in the garden. Potatoes have been frosted, those of you who planted out runner beans have lost unprotected plants, wisteria and magnolia flowers have been damaged. But what is worse is the loss of fruit on the fruit trees. Victoria plum, some early flowering apple varieties have lost all the fruit that was just about to set. Potatoes will grow out of it, new runner beans can be sown but fruit will be lost.

Are you doing 'No Mow May'? But what happens after?

The idea behind No Mow May is to supply insects with food and increase the number of wild flowers. If you mow after May you will not only be killing off those insects but their young and so future food for birds and other predators. So, try and leave as much as possible, only mowing where necessary.

Pruning early flowering shrubs can be done now to allow this year's growth to get going and produce flowering wood for next spring.

Still time to do a late Chelsea chop on some of the perennials. This is where you cut down by around a half the herbaceous stems. This will give a later flowering but the plants will not need staking.

Dead heading of flowers will help prolong the flowering period and if you are using flowers for cutting then frequent picking will ensure more flowers.

In the vegetable garden sow every 3-4 weeks salad crops to keep a continuing supply, plant French beans, runner beans and sweet corn.

Geoff Hawkins

From Froyle to the Chelsea Flower Show - where to find the answers to your gardening problems

The combined wit and wisdom of our Question Time Panel: Peter Mills, John Negus and Geoff Hawkins made it a hugely enjoyable and informative evening on 13 May. Gritty questions about compost, a wisteria that hadn't bloomed and taking hardwood cuttings were among the problems solved by the team. Peter Mills invited anyone going to the Chelsea Flower Show to visit him on the Gardening Advice Stand.

We are very lucky in Froyle to have such distinguished gardeners prepared to share their years of experience with us.



FROYLE
GARDENING CLUB
SUMMER SHOW
2026

SATURDAY, 4 JULY



OPEN TO ALL!

- ➔ BAKERS, VEG & FLOWER GROWERS
- ➔ CRAFT MAKERS
- ➔ PHOTOGRAPHERS
- ➔ FLOWER ARRANGERS



PHOTOGRAPHERS



FLOWER ARRANGERS

FROYLE
VILLAGE HALL



RYEBRIDGE LANE, GU34 4LG

**ENTRY FORMS & DETAILS AVAILABLE AT
THE MEETING PLACE**

OR ONLINE AT www.froylegardeningclub.co.uk

FROYLE



Flora walk in Froyle Thursday 25 June at 6.30pm

Come along for an evening stroll in Froyle to identify local flora on Thursday 25 June. Meet 6.30pm at outside St Mary's Church, Upper Froyle. The walk will be led by Isobel Girvan, an experienced botanist who has previously surveyed plants in Froyle.

We'll be spotting wildflowers on roadside verges, field edges alongside public rights of way as well as other areas. All welcome, come and find out what British native plants occur locally and learn to identify them. For more information see <https://www.froylewildlife.co.uk/news/>

Froyle recreation ground

In June enjoy the wildflower areas on Froyle recreation ground with different species in the newer perennial plot; including wild carrot, sainfoin, red campion



and field scabious. Also look out for ox-eye daisy, knapweed, sorrel and birds-foot trefoil in the other perennial area. See yellow rattle that is semi-parasitic on grasses so assists maintaining a balance between wildflowers and grasses.

The new bee and insect hotel installed in March this year has already been occupied by mason bees. These solitary bees lay their eggs in holes capped off with mud. The larvae develop inside cells, feeding on pollen and then pupate over winter to emerge as adults next Spring.

At least one of the new bird nest boxes put up in April is occupied by blue tits. The RSPB say that it takes 18000 caterpillars to raise one brood of blue tits to fledge. The house sparrow boxes on the back of the village hall are fully being used for nesting.

Help to benefit wildlife: Our next work party at the wildlife pond area near Gid Lane is on Saturday 13th June 10am-12 when we'll be mowing paths through the meadow and removing bullrush seedheads. We always welcome volunteers to maintain the habitat, so come along and help to benefit wildlife and the community.

For more information contact info@froylewildlife.co.uk, phone 01420 23520 or just turn up.

Barry Clark

Guided Bird Walk in Froyle

Froyle Wildlife was fortunate to have Keith Betton guiding us on an early morning walk through Lower Froyle at the start of May, to observe and listen for birds. Keith is one of the top birders in the world, having seen just shy of 9,000 species. He was very informative about each of the birds we identified. We heard and/or saw 33 species of birds over the two hour walk. A full list of the birds we saw can be seen at <https://www.froylewildlife.co.uk/guided-bird-walk-in-froyle-2nd-may-2026>.

The wrens were singing their usual incredibly loud song, considering their diminutive size. Keith explained that the hairs in their ears that are responsible for hearing are able to regrow in wrens: their song is so loud it can deafen them! There were both adult and juvenile rooks flying over: the latter may be distinguished by a full black beak whereas the upper part of the beak in adults is white. During flight it is sometimes possible to see a sac below the beak of an adult rook, in which they are carrying insects back to their young.

It was a treat to hear and see several lapwing, possibly nesting. These are a Red Listed bird, their population having declined by 55% since the 1960s due to agricultural changes. The lapwing is also known as the peewit in imitation of its display calls. The name 'lapwing' refers to its wavering flight, as they zigzag through the sky.



A male yellowhammer, also a Red Listed species, with its striking yellow plumage was nicely perched on top of a hedge, enabling us all to get good views. We encountered white throats and swifts, both just returning to the UK, having overwintered in Africa.

The song of the male skylark, one of the finest songsters of the bird world, accompanied us in several locations. These are another Red Listed bird, but we are fortunate to have them around Froyle. They are unusual as they can breathe in and out while singing, thus enabling them to sing continuously for 2 minutes. They gradually ascend while the song is delivered, in hovering flight, typically up to heights of 50 to 100 metres, before parachuting back down to earth! In addition we enjoyed the melodic songs of the blackbird, song thrush and blackcap amongst others.

A scientific study, published earlier this year, showed that paying attention to birdsong can boost well-being and bring down stress levels. We all enjoyed the walk, and were grateful to Keith for having helped to open our eyes and ears to the birds around Froyle.

Jayne Fisher

FROYLE OPEN GARDENS (FOG 26)

Saturday and Sunday 6 and 7 June 2026 from 1.30 to 6pm

As I write this the weather is about to change. The cold wind is about to stop blowing. The sudden sharp showers will cease. By the end of the Whitsun weekend the temperature will be in the high 20s. The cool conditions have kept my periwinkle in flower much longer than usual. Much the same for the intense blue of the ceanothus.

The garden looks orderly. The plants form neat mounds respectful of their neighbours. With just two weeks to go before we open the garden, things will change dramatically and rampantly. In particular my favourite perennial weeds: couch grass, ground elder and bind weed will variously sprawl and climb with the clear intention of smothering everything else. Garden domination and nothing less. They are assisted in this effort by alkanet which seeds everywhere and the spiky acanthus (Bear's Breeches) which I mistakenly introduced into our fertile soil. On the upside the peonies and the poppies are about to burst and we are approaching peak rose and clematis. So, there should be lots of colour to distract the eye.

This year we have nine gardens opening in support of the National Garden Scheme (NGS). Tickets cost £10. Children under twelve are free. There will be plenty of plants for sale in some of the gardens, ideas to take away and delicious teas in the village hall. Maps will be provided to guide you round. For more information see our website at www.froylepengardens.org.uk Please come. It's a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon.

Can I take the opportunity to thank everybody who will be helping over the Open Gardens weekend, making cakes, serving teas, supervising the car parking, selling tickets, directing visitors and helping in individual gardens.

In June 2027 the NGS will be celebrating its centenary. FOG 27 will be taking part over the weekend 5 and 6 June. Now is therefore the moment when you should be considering whether you would like to join us. Some gardens are at their best in spring, others in autumn. However, if your garden is looking good in June and you think others would enjoy seeing it or if you know of such gardens, please do make it contact. We will provide plenty of support. There will be no long-term commitment. What we are looking for is enthusiasm rather than perfection. Please talk to any of the garden owners and they will tell you how rewarding it is to share your garden and raise money for a good cause at the same time.

Nick Whines 01420 23130 nick@whines.co.uk





NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Gardens Open For Charity



Froyle Gardens

Lower Froyle, Froyle, GU34 4LG

Aldersey House • Day Cottage • 2 Highway Cottage •
Old Brewery House • Old Stable Barn • 1 Turnpike
Cottages • 2 Turnpike Cottages • Walbury •
Well Lane Corner

Saturday 6 June

Sunday 7 June

1.30 - 6pm

Combined entry £10 Children free

Home-made teas in the village hall. Picnics welcome on the recreation ground.

Exhibition of historic embroidered vestments in the Church in Upper Froyle.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS



DOGS WELCOME



PLANTS FOR SALE



TEAS



ACCEPTED



Registered charity No. 112064

More information at ngs.org.uk

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to share a couple of my observations from the results of the Rec project survey which were delivered during the February meeting of Froyle PC

The Parish Councillor responsible for delivering the results expressed absolute confidence in the response rate to the survey, reassuring the meeting that enough responses had been received for the results to be representative. When talking through ideas in the survey that had not gained much support, for example the sensory garden and outdoor gym equipment, the Parish Councillor explained this was not the response they had expected.

At this point another member of the PC said that they felt they should seek out and talk to people who would support these ideas. Another member of the PC added that the questions should be rephrased so that people understand what the benefit is and finally another member of the PC said “yes, we need to put spin on it.”

A definition of spin: An intentionally biased interpretation or emphasis placed on news or events to influence public opinion.

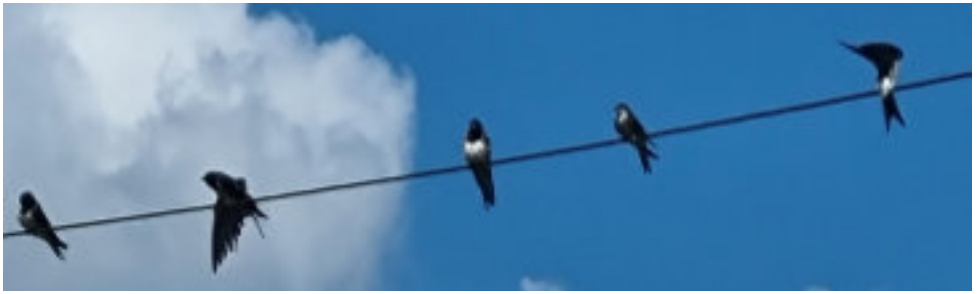
As an observer I was noting two potential types of bias. Confirmation bias as members of the PC were wanting to gather data that supported their expectations or preferences, and conformity bias where members of a board act inline with one another in quick succession; the band-wagon effect. If you seek out people who are going to give you the answers you want, then you invalidate the community survey, and you introduce sampling bias. And if conformity bias is in the process, you cease to be open-minded or objective.

The community's top requests include repair of the zip-line, the replacement of the pirate ship and the addition of more picnic benches. I interpret this as a community who are happy with what the rec has provided over the past decade. It reflects what a good job the previous Rec project team did when they had to sort through the suggestions from the village survey (including skate ramps and water features!), and their success in balancing the needs of residents with the rural tranquillity of the setting.

Anthea M^cRiley

Note from the Editor, June edition

Readers may be interested to read the latest progress report from the Parish Council on repairs to the zip-line and benches (page 1). A longer article about the Froyle Rec Project with details of the results of the community survey can be found at page 4 of the March edition. For those who are keen recyclers of this magazine, past editions are on the PC website: Froyle.com.



IN THE BARN YARD

4 April it's a still calm day with a ridge of high pressure building in from the south. Will they ride that wave and arrive on time? The yard has been quiet for months. Will they be here today? Our spring is bursting into flower. Or maybe tomorrow?

Saffie looks skyward over her stable door. Then a dip, a dive, a twist, a turn as they tumble out of the blue, twittering and trilling, the swallows are here!

One or two scouting about, more following. Is it still OK? Are our nests still there?

Over the next few days their numbers swell, partners arrive for happy re-unions chatting on the cables. There are definitely more this year.

Their acrobatics increase, in and out of barn doors, over Saffie's head into stables. As daring as they dare without collision. Sideways dives, like Star Wars fighters, between our buildings, chattering warnings and dive bombing our cat.

First thing, they perch on the stable doors, as if planning their day. Mud is gathered



from the fields and gateways, water from the troughs and puddles to repair and build those nests.

Thousands of insects are caught and plumage is preened. They flirt, work and flit through the morning until what seems like a siesta time. Perching on a useful wire slung between old oak beams in the big barn, or resting in their nests, there is a general hush in the yard. Maybe they are laying eggs?

Suddenly one of them chatters and off they go again in clouds of gleaming navy, cream and dots of Constable red, flashing through the sky until dusk sends them to roost.

Chaos will reign when the nestlings fledge and flying practice starts, more joys ahead to watch. But for now they herald our summer.

Rachel Chancellor

Summer - Paths and Protection: Navigating a Working Landscape



As our work continues to modernise Froyle Estate, we are very mindful of Health and Safety, for our team and for everyone who has access and wants to enjoy our beautiful countryside. I know how much the residents of Froyle cherish the footpaths and fields around us. This is an active, modern farm with machinery moving through the fields, we want to share a few updates on how we can best use the land together.

We have worked closely with HCC and Froyle Parish Council (PC) to confirm the exact locations of official public footpaths. These can be found on the PC's website. To manage estate operations smoothly - especially with pending improvement works; farm vehicle movements; and plans for managing local woodland and wildlife - we had to withdraw some of the previous permissive paths. However, we truly recognise how important countryside recreation is to the community. To that end, we are working with the PC to explore where we can introduce new, carefully planned permissive paths.

Our goal is to create where possible, great circular walking routes that offer well-structured access for walkers while allowing the farm to run smoothly. Once we finish essential woodland management in Round Wood, we will be able to finalise these routes and install new signage. The PC will update the village as soon as the paths are ready.

Spring and summer are always our busiest time of year as we head towards harvest. Over the coming months, you will see we are out and about with large farm machinery looking after the crops, as well as the cultivating in preparation for seeding our legume fallow and wild bird crops. As summer comes, tractors and trailers will be operating across our new internal tracks and combines will be busy in the fields. Because our work relies entirely on the weather, our team will often be working late into the night to bring the grain in safely while conditions are dry.

To help us keep the estate running smoothly and to keep everyone safe, we kindly ask our neighbours to keep a few things in mind:

Stick to the marked footpaths: New signs will be installed over the next year to guide you along official and newly agreed routes. If you see our team out and about, they'll be happy to point you in the right direction. Staying on the designated paths ensures our machinery operators always know where you are.

Keep dogs under control: Please keep your dogs on a lead or under very close control so they stay clear of moving farm vehicles and tractors.

Avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds: Protected species such as skylarks nest through to August and can easily abandon their nests if disturbed. Keeping paws and feet to the marked footpaths gives them the peace they need to thrive.

Our goal is to ensure that the modernisation of The Froyle Estate benefits everyone, and we are working alongside the Parish Council to achieve that balance. As we look forward to a successful harvest, on a final, proud note, I want to thank our staff, volunteers and gamekeeping team for recently raising over £6,000 for the Hampshire Air Ambulance. We are already looking into new ways to fund raise and connect with our neighbours, and we wish the entire village a safe and enjoyable summer.

Andy Kirby, Estate Manager



It's currently bird nesting season and in particular our ground nesting bird population are busy in some of the fields in Froyle. The farmed valley in between the Cemetery and Saintbury Hill has long been a breeding ground for skylarks and each year they seem to return here. Skylarks occupy open fields to avoid predators. Adult birds feed on leaves and seeds of crops and weeds.

Skylarks are a UK Red List species, whose population has declined by 63% since 1967 due to habitat loss and agricultural intensification. During the nesting season you can enjoy their song-flight above nesting territories as the birds pair up and build their nests. Skylarks nest on the ground in vegetation which is 20-50cm high and will raise two to three broods of young each year simply to sustain their population. Skylark chicks are fed exclusively on insects and spiders, collected from crops and pasture, for the first week of life. These are also an important part of the diet of adults from April until August. The nests are built in shallow scrapes directly in the grass or arable crops, which means the eggs and tiny chicks are particularly vulnerable to trampling and disturbance.



Nesting season for these birds commences in March and will run until August. As ground-nesting birds, skylarks are easily disturbed by dogs during the nesting period. Allowing your dog to run across the fields freely could result in distress, and nest or egg destruction so in order to allow this glorious bird to survive, please keep dogs under close control, do not allow them to run freely through the crops and stick to the nominated footpaths.

alex.roberts@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

Trees and Hedges – outside help



This is an update of an article I published first about 18 months ago; I think it bears another airing, as the subject covers is very important, and may save you a lot of trouble and financial loss.

At some time, many of us in Frayle are likely to need to employ a tree surgeon. Choosing a tree surgeon can be tricky, and it is worth knowing what to look for, to make sure that your precious trees are competently handled, and that your property is safe.

A qualified tree surgeon will have 'earned' a series of tickets and certificates to show that they are safe and competent in the use of equipment such as chainsaws, pole chainsaws and climbing with a saw. They also gain qualifications proving their ability to use machinery, such as 360° diggers, cherry pickers, stump grinders and woodchippers, additional health and safety training, e.g. PUWER, LOLER, manual handling and work at height. These qualifications are obtained via the industry's recognised bodies, LANTRA and NPCC, as well as the National Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture at Spaesholt College, in Hampshire. This two-year course involves the study of plant and soil science, planting and establishment, pests and diseases, advance machinery operations, silviculture and ecology.

Tree surgeons are obliged by law to keep to the British Standards for tree work. Two particularly relevant BS are BS3998: 2010, which covers the general work standards, and BS5837: 2012 which sets out guidelines on protecting trees in relation to design, demolition and construction work.

Tree surgeons should carry appropriate insurance, specifically Public Liability, (which covers damage done to a client or other person's property, and serious bodily injury inflicted on a client or member of the public as a result of the works undertaken) and Professional Indemnity for tree surgeons providing arboricultural advice or reports. Any tree surgeon or his staff should have a portfolio of insurance documentation and certificates, which you can view and discuss.

Now, clearly none of this comes cheap, and it's very tempting in these days of soaring prices to try to save money by responding to informal adverts offering low price tree work, but there are big risks to you and your property in employing under-qualified and under-insured people handling the kind of machinery necessary for this kind of work. For example, your own insurer may refuse to pay out against any claim for damage done to your property if you cannot demonstrate that you undertook appropriate due diligence. I would therefore **strongly** advise against employing any cold calling tree surgeons who offer instant estimates, unless you have an opportunity to scrutinise their qualifications and insurance first. Make sure that any estimate you obtain from any tree surgeon includes dealing with any spoil resulting from the works, and refuse under any circumstances to make an advance payment.

Not much about trees, this month, but hopefully a timely reminder that it is very important to ensure that anyone you employ to work on your property should be appropriately qualified and insured, in order to protect both you and your neighbours as well.

Sue Lelliott, Frayle Tree Warden.



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FINANCE

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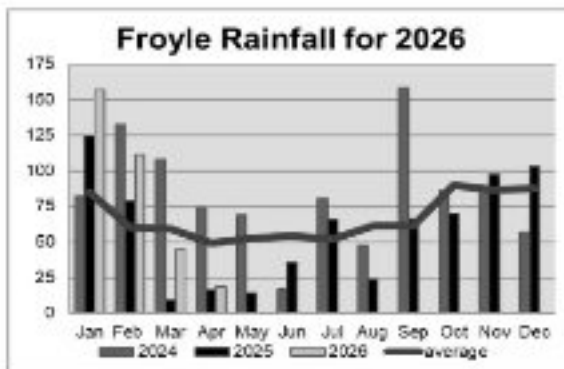
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TO STOP FRAUD™

Froyle Rainfall for April, 2026

This year	18.5 mm	0.7 ins
Last year	16.6 mm	0.6 ins
Wettest April (2000)	155 mm	6.1 ins
Driest April (2007 & 2011)	1 mm	0.04 ins
Long-term average for April – the driest month	48.8 mm	1.9 ins
Total rainfall for the year so far	331 mm	13 ins
Long-term average for the year so far	253.3 mm	10 ins



April continues to be Froyle's driest month, with some 3 mm less rain than in the next driest (July). This may seem strange, given "April showers" imply masses of rain, but in reality, because the air in April is generally quite cold, these convective – ie resulting from vertical movements of air - showers do not drop a large amount of water.



"The Umbrella Man"

FROYLE 100 CLUB – MAY DRAW

The winners in the May 2026 draw were:

- 1st Gordon Grant
- 2nd Wendy Munt
- 3rd Debbie Addison
- 4th Alex Mundell

Congratulations to all!

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

St MARY'S NEWS

We ended April with our Annual Church Meetings (APCM). All current officers were reappointed. Jane Macnabb stepped down from the PCC and we took the opportunity to thank her for her service of the church. Amanda Maher was elected to the PCC. Many were impressed by our vicar's comments about the demoralising effect on parish churches of the C of E's controversial 'Project Spire' £100 million slavery reparations plan.

Early in May we had the Kingspond Sea Shanty Men event. It was well attended and the Shanty Men gave us an educational as well as entertaining performance.

The church community – indeed, the village community as a whole - was greatly shocked and saddened to hear of Barbara Starbuck's sudden death on 26 April. At the APCM Matt reflected on her life, mentioning by way of example that her “gentleness, soft-spoken-ness and love of children” would be greatly missed at Messy Church. See also William Knowles' article on page 8.

More sad news followed with the death on 1 May of Margaret Stanford. See Caroline Findlay's announcement on page 7.

At the time of writing, we are coming to the end of an annual prayer week which takes place around the country during the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost. In our benefice, the ground floor of the church hall in Bentley was converted into a prayer room in which a number of prayer stations were created by various groups in the benefice (including from Froyle). Some of the prayer stations were aimed at adults, others at children. As it is each year, the prayer room was a joy to visit for people of all ages, and the pupils of both Bentley and Binsted primary schools visited and had a lot of fun. Well done those involved!

We can also look forward to the lovely Teas on Tuesday at Froyle church in June. See page 7. If you haven't been before, we urge you to come along. It is one of the most pleasant ways that one can spend a Tuesday afternoon in June.

William Knowles and Jack Stephenson



Spring is here as are the bluebells

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



Benefice Pastoral Care

Nick Carter 01420 489122

nick.carter1945@outlook.com

Anna Chaplain:

The Rev Fran Harrison 07765 058593

annachaplain@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

JUNE SERVICES

Sunday 7 June	9.30am	Binsted	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am	Oakhanger	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Bentley	Praise
Sunday 14 June	8.00am	Binsted	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Bentley	Morning Worship & Children's Church
	11.00am	Froyle	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Kingsley	Praise
Sunday 21 June	9.30am	Froyle	Morning Worship with Messy Church for Fathers' Day
	11.00am	Kingsley	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 June	9.30am	Bentley	Holy Communion & Children's Church
	11.00am	Binsted	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Froyle	Evensong

THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

After the major Christian festivals of Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday in May, we move into what the Church calls “ordinary time”. No big festivals, no seasons of reflection or celebration. However, in June a number of significant Christians who have made huge contributions to our history and culture are celebrated.

1st June remembers Justin Martyr who died in 165. He was one of the earliest defenders of Christianity from a philosophical and theological point of view. One of his arguments was that the ethics that Christians follow are a benefit to society and not a threat. This was at a time when the early followers of Jesus were seen as a danger by persuading people not to worship the old gods and thus threatening social harmony.

5th June is the feast of Boniface. Born as Wynfrith in Crediton in Devon, Boniface was a Saxon missionary bishop whose ministry spread the Christian faith throughout Germany. He is credited with introducing the idea of the Christmas Tree as being more powerful than the oaks that pagans worshipped, because they are evergreen. He was martyred in Frisia in 754.

16th June is the day of Richard of Chichester 1253. Another bishop, he is famous for his prayer which says, “Dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow thee more nearly, Day by day.”

22nd June commemorates St. Alban d,250, the first British saint. Alban sheltered a priest and was executed in his place on a hill above the Roman city of Verulamium, where St. Alban’s cathedral now stands.

28th June celebrates the theologian, Ireneaus of Lyons d,200 who described life as “the vale of soul making”. As we go through life the soul we will live with in eternity is formed. All of our choices and decisions count.

So this June, may we think about the legacy we will leave. The bravery we will need to stand for what is right. The influence we have on others, for good or bad. May we pray the prayer of Richard of Chichester and allow God to lead us into, and by, his love.

*Matt Boyes
Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle*



Trinity's Big Sleep Out 2026

Friday 19th June 2026
Winchester Rugby Club

Something big is coming...

Trinity's Big Sleep Out is back for 2026, bringing our community together for one powerful night under the stars to raise awareness and vital funds for people experiencing homelessness. This year is even more significant as Trinity marks its 40th year in service.

On Friday 19th June 2026, the youth group at BenBinFro will be sleeping out at Winchester Rugby Club – challenging themselves, building community, and making a real difference.

Please consider sponsoring our young people as they spend the night out in cardboard boxes to raise money for Trinity Winchester - thank you!



<https://www.justgiving.com/page/benbinfro-youth>

FREE



Sunday 21st June

St Mary's Church, Froyle

GU34 4LB

**9:30am (during the morning
worship service)**



Messy Church is a brilliant time of fun, crafts, games, messy play, singing and stories. The whole family are invited and there is something for everyone. We'd love to meet you!

This month it is Father's Day! Come along for some Father's Day themed crafts and games, stories and songs. Let's celebrate the men in our lives who love and support us in every way.

It's free and brunch is included for everyone (even for the grown-ups!)

Annual General Meeting - Alton District U3A

The Alton District AGM will be on Friday 12 June at 2:00pm at Alton Community Centre. All members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Open Day

Saturday 8 August at the Alton Community Centre in the afternoon. An ideal opportunity to find out more about u3a and the activities that we offer. Meet and talk to our Group Leaders and members of the committee.

Annual Programme for 2026-27

Our new annual programme for the year ahead will be available from mid-July. Copies will be available from the Alton Community Centre, Alton Library and the Curtis Museum. Full details are available on our website.

Please visit our website at <https://alton.u3asite.uk/> for further information about your local u3a.

*Colin Aiken
u3a Alton Committee Member*

Celebrating Nature at Bentley Primary School

Last Thursday was a truly special day at Bentley School, as we were delighted to welcome Louise Purnell, WWF's Teaching Community Manager, to our school. As part of our ongoing work with the WWF Teaching Community, it was a wonderful opportunity for our children to engage directly with the inspiring "Happy by Nature" programme - an initiative launched to help children connect more deeply with the



natural world and experience the many benefits this brings to their well-being, focus and learning.

Louise spent time working alongside our fantastic Nature Guardians, leading a "bioblitz" in our beautiful Attenborough Garden. A bioblitz is a hands-on survey where participants work together to identify as many different species of plants, insects and wildlife as possible within a set time. It was a joy to see the children so engaged, curious and enthusiastic as they explored the area and recorded their findings.

During the bioblitz, the children discovered a range of living things including a huge range of plants and trees planted by the children, blue tits flying in and out of our new nesting boxes and a lovely damselfly by the pond.

Following the bioblitz, Louise also spent time with staff and children from Years R, 2 and 6 as they engaged in the WWF's Happy by Nature programme. The year 2 children were making micro habitats as part of their science learning, using recycled cardboard tubes as a home for sticks, leaves and pinecones, perfect for our tiny woodland creatures. Years R and 6 then showed Louise the power of our school buddy system where the Year 6 children shared their love of the natural world with their Year R buddies – there were lots of 'wows' to be heard as the children felt a sense of awe and wonder at finding a range of bugs in our school woods and nature reserve.



We were incredibly proud of how the children represented our school, showing such knowledge, teamwork and genuine excitement about the natural world. Louise herself was full of praise, commenting on how amazing our school grounds are and even saying she could happily stay here all the time! I could only agree. We are so fortunate at Bentley to have such a wonderful outdoor space, quietly tucked away behind the school, offering our children daily opportunities to explore, learn and thrive in nature.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Madame Jones, who continues to inspire so many of our children and staff in caring for our environment. Her passion, knowledge and dedication play a huge part in nurturing a love of the natural world across our school community.

It was a memorable visit that reminded us all just how important it is to nurture a love of the natural world in our children—and how lucky we are to do so in such a special setting.

Vicky Hallett

Headteacher Bentley CE Primary School



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now!**

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We currently have a small number of places available across the school, including Year R for 2026–2027. Get in touch with our office to arrange a visit and experience our wonderful school for yourself.

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Bentley CE Primary School

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bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk



Recycling blister packs

As I do not want the aluminium foil from blister packs of drugs to end up in landfill, I have been recycling them at Boots in Alton. To help those not able to get to Boots easily I can collect them from the Meeting Place on Friday mornings. There is a box in the hallway by the kitchen.

To help me, please remember:

- They must be empty packs
- No other packaging
- Please put them in a separate bag, not just loose.



Thank you

Sue Sharman



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. On Tuesdays in June you can also drop off donations at Froyle Church between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

If you have any queries, please call me.

Louise Marston
07785 350381

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A reminder - Small ads are free to all Froyle residents (one per month).

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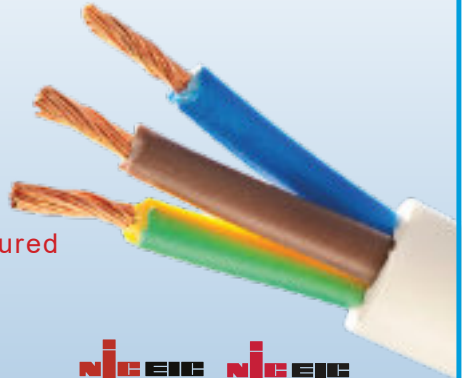
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For non-Froyle businesses: £62+VAT/year, £38+VAT/half year for **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers.**

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 June 2026

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Recycling & Glass	2 1430-1630 Teas in June	3 1000-1500 Health Outreach	4	5 1000-1200 Meeting place	6 1330-1700 Froyle Open Gardens and Vestments
7 1330-1700 Froyle Open Gardens and Vestments	8 Rubbish	9 1430-1630 Teas in June	10	11 Garden Waste	12 1000-1200 Meeting place	13 1000-1200 FWL Pond work party
14 1100 HC	15 Recycling & Glass 1900 PC	16 1430-1630 Teas in June	17	18	19 No Meeting place	20
21 0930 Morning Worship and Messy church	22 Rubbish	23 1430-1630 Teas in June	24	25 Garden Waste 1830 Flora walk - meet at church	26 1000-1200 Meeting place	27
28 1830 Evensong	29 Recycling & Glass	30 1430-1630 Teas in June				



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 Noticeboard*

Froyle on Instagram *#froylevillage @froylevillage*

Key:  Telephone  Email  Facebook  WhatsApp

JULY/AUGUST DEADLINE: FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2026

For Notes to Contributors, please see page 40.