

FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to the December edition

Greetings, good people, December is upon us, we won't mention it directly, but you do know that now is the time you need to decide if this year you're going tree and full decorations, or scattering a few baubles about the place, plus maybe a wreath? Or are you declaring 'bah humbug' and arguing that Christmas cards count as festive and for the cost of them (plus postage) they should stay up until next year. Ho ho ho?

Royal Recognition for the Lady Ryder Volunteers



The Lady Ryder Memorial Garden is a beautiful one acre walled garden, built more than a hundred years ago in the grounds of "Parmoor". Once the home of the Cripps family (Lord Parmoor), it became the St Katharine's convent after the war and is now a wonderful house for the Sue Ryder Prayer Fellowship. Unfortunately, the garden had gradually sunk into disrepair, all eight original glasshouses had collapsed, the walls were in urgent need of attention and nature had been busy reclaiming what had once been a well-tended garden. Fast forward to 2010, when a group of local enthusiasts got together under the leadership of Anne Parmoor, Keith Chanter and Robert Rendell, and set to work on a remarkable restoration project, which continues to the present day.

The Garden is, in fact, run entirely by volunteers (half of whom live in Frieth) who enjoy the camaraderie, the fresh air, the exercise and the satisfaction of gardening. This green-fingered brigade not only keep everything productive, neat and tidy, but also support the finances of the garden via a weekly produce sale over many months of the year - service highly appreciated by many Frieth residents who have come to value the freshness of the offerings straight out of the ground, with a zero carbon footprint!

Those volunteers have now been recognised for their sterling service to the community, as well as the education and support which is provided to schools and people with disabilities, and recently received "The King's Award for Voluntary Service". This is the highest honour open to voluntary workers, lasts forever and is equivalent to an MBE. Only those who have passed the most rigorous of assessments concerning the volunteer body and its activities can become recipients of this prestigious award – what an honour! There will be more to come on the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden in future editions of the Village Newsletter, but for now let us leave you with this special message from the core of the citation:

"His Majesty the King has approved the National Assessment Committee's recommendation that the volunteers of The Lady Ryder Memorial Garden Volunteer Group should receive The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) 2024. This represents a tremendous achievement and we hope the group's volunteers will feel immensely proud of it".

Electronic copies of the newsletter are now available via the Frieth Village Society website: www.fvs.org.uk

We welcome all your feedback, thoughts and ideas for future issues.

Please send all messages to our email address: newsletter@fvs.org.uk

The Village Voice

Litter Pick Autumn Tidy: Saturday 9th November

Keeping Frieth Free of Litter

Thanks to the Autumn litter pick heroes! It was also great to see the old faithful and a couple of younger additions who turned out early to pick up, tidy up and generally patrol the village to ensure no can, chocolate wrapper or Tupperware box was left to languish along our paths and hedgerows (yes, we find all sorts). As is now our tradition, we fuel up on tea and bacon rolls, while we await the assignment of territories, then get out and at it. If you didn't join us, you're missing out on a fun and strangely satisfying couple of hours - see you next time?



The Graveyard Shift

Grave Trimming and Tidy

As the regular walkers of the church path may have noticed, a sizeable group of volunteers have been tidying some of the graves, headstones, fencing and walls of the more invasive areas of ivy. The aim is to clear the more intrusive stretches of ivy threatening to pull down walls, etc. whilst retaining an abundance of natural habitat for slugs, snails, creepy crawlies and timorous beasts in which to thrive.



Spooktacular! Happy Halloween

Well done to all those who decorated their houses this year; a small selection of photographs really doesn't do you justice, but here they are nonetheless!



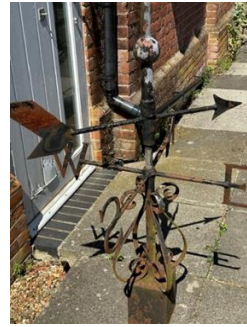
Community Matters

Recognition for Renovations, Refurbishment and Reinstallments!

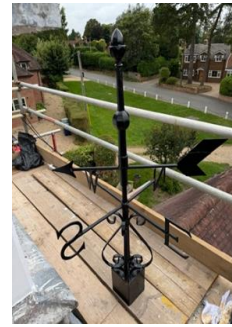
Over the last year, your Frieth Village Hall Committee has been hard at work maintaining and improving the Village Hall, an important community space, available to all for hire. For a few weeks in the summer, scaffolding was up around the tower whilst the landmark turret - which was rotting - was refurbished. The village weathervane and rear roof were also renovated. Windows throughout the building have been replaced with timber, double-glazed units to match the old style, and there is a new back door and side drainage. Additionally, new LED, cost-saving lighting and Internet-connected heating have been installed, along with 300mm of loft insulation to keep the hall warm. In the front lobby, two very attractive stained-glass windows, depicting scenes from the village in days gone by, have been put in. Obviously, none of this work is inexpensive, and your backing is necessary to ensure we can preserve the Village Hall for the future. So do 'use it' versus 'lose it' and help keep this community hub alive.

On a related note, we are very pleased to have won a HIGHLY COMMENDED award from the South West Chilterns Community Board (Buckinghamshire Council). This was in recognition of the many improvements that Frieth Village Hall now offers to both existing hirers and hopefully many prospective hall users too.

To hire, donate or volunteer contact us at: www.friethvillagehall.org



Waiting (in vane?)



Ready for duty



Stained glass detail



Congratulations!

Time is Restored!

The **Thomas West Memorial Clock** is once again resident within our village – completely restored and regulated and looking forward to reaching its future bicentenary! The (re)installation went very smoothly overall and all is now in perfect order. We hope those visiting our Village Hall will be impressed with the improvements made, in particular, the newly lit clock box so, for the very first time, you can see the clock movement gearing, as well as being able to view inside the chamber that houses the descending clock weight.

If you would like to donate to ensure its annual service, please contact the Frieth Village Hall Committee – after all, the next major overhaul is already scheduled for 2032!



Thank you to a local Star(r)



This edition of the Newsletter represents the end of a five-year stretch for Julie Starr, as she now steps down from the Editorial Team to pursue other interests. We cannot let her departure go unremarked, since not only has she “done her time”, some years ago, there were periods when she was the sole member of the team keeping everything going. The same can be said for lockdown, unusual times for all, but our village newsletter continued to be produced by Julie, bringing updates, information and hopefully a smile to many a reader.

Julie will now spend more time on her creative writing. For those of you who don't know, she is already a published author of fiction for young adults (in addition to several well-regarded books in her professional field of Coaching and Mentoring). You will likely see Julie out on her dog walks with Scruffy, so do say a big 'thank you' if you bump into her, for all her work in supporting the village over the years.

Dates for your diary



Frieth Church & Group Services – Advent and Christmas

Sunday 1st December, 10 am, Group Service, Fawley
Sunday 1st December, 6pm, Advent Candlelit Service, Hambleden
Sunday 15th December, 9am, Communion, **Frieth**
Friday 20th December, 6pm, Christingle Service, **Frieth**
Sunday 22nd December, 10am, Communion, **Frieth**
Sunday 22nd December, 6pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, Hambleden
Tuesday 24th December, 3pm, Crib Service, Turville
Tuesday 24th December, 11.30pm, Midnight Mass, Hambleden and Turville
Wednesday 25th December, 9am, Family Communion, **Frieth**
Sunday 5th January 2025, 10am, Group Service, Medmenham



Christmas Carols around the Tree

Thursday 19th December, 6pm, Meet in Frieth Village Hall for mulled wine and mince pies followed by a good old sing song around the Christmas Tree in the church grounds.



New Pilates Class with Madeleine Lewis

Mondays, 6-7pm, Lane End Village Hall, and Tuesdays, 6-7pm via Zoom.
For more information, contact Madeleine on madeleined11@gmail.com

Hambleden Cinema Club, Hambleden Village Hall

EVITA, is screening in December, but has already sold out.

18th January 2025, **Untouchable**, 15, starring Francois Cluzet and Omar Sy. A true story of a quadriplegic aristocrat whose world is turned upside down when he hires a young, good humoured ex-con as his caretaker. It is subtitled, but the film is very visual and light on dialogue.

Doors and bar open 7pm, programme starts at 8pm. Tickets £8 each, available from the Hambleden Village Store or from the website: <https://hambledencinema.co.uk>



Frieth Natural History Society

No meetings in December or January.

27th February 2025, 7.30pm, Village Hall, AGM followed by talk. All welcome but there is a small charge for non-members. For full details and to book a place, please contact Mary on 01494 881501 or Andy on 01494 881586.



Frieth Lunch Club – different date for December; no lunch in January

Friday 13th December - Great food and wonderful company. **ALL** welcome. If you need help to get there, transport is available. Contact Judy 01491 882227, email ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

Parmoor Afternoon Tea Club, St Katharine's

Tuesday 3rd December, last meet of the year when children from Frieth School will be joining us for carol singing. All are welcome. If you need help to get there, transport is available. Contact Judy on 01491 882227 or email ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com For 2025, the club resumes on 14th January.



D. J. Macleod

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Bad Joke Corner

I was walking past a farm and saw a sign that said, "Duck, eggs."

I thought: 'That's an unnecessary comma', and then it hit me!

