

FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

February 2025

New year, same purpose

Welcome to the first edition of the Frieth Village Newsletter in 2025! As always, we seek to share inspiring stories, celebrate the spirit of community and keep you connected with what's going on in Frieth and the Hambleton Valley. Indeed, the Frieth Village Society is already hard at work on an exciting programme for the year ahead, so do join in, help out where you can, and most importantly, have some fun along the way!

Brain waves wash over Frieth – flood warnings issued!



The victors celebrate with prizes of inestimable worth!



The not so victorious play upon their ladles



The organisers still standing (just) – same time next year, lads?

Let's Get Quizzical

A cracking night was had by all as more than 70 enthusiastic villagers descended upon the Village Hall for the Annual Quiz Night – and what a night it was! After several hours of brain-bending questions that stretched even the sharpest minds, the victorious team *Make America Great Britain Again* (yes, feel free to read that a second time!) triumphed with the brainpower of Sam Joyce, Carey Griffiths, Rick Lilley, Rose Kennedy, Ian Cottam, and Suzanne and Jolyon Marshall. In second place, *Simple Minds* proved they were anything but, while the *Village Idiots* brought up a very respectable third position. The Wooden Spoon Award, for those who dared to try but perhaps shouldn't have (just joking!), went to *Pieces of Eight* – a fine effort team, better luck next year!

A real highlight of the evening, however, was Tony Poots' infamous *Bridge Too Far* challenge, which inspired both moments of genius and total chaos from aspiring engineers. Special kudos to Jess Harrison, whose design not only survived, but conquered the challenge with all the elegance of a well-engineered structure. We're still in awe of the accomplishment.

A big thanks to Patrick Joyce, Steve Taylor and Tony Poots, who, under the watchful gaze of the Frieth Village Society (FVS) Chair, David House, ran the show with their usual blend of style, flair, and flamboyance – a combination that made the evening truly memorable.

Any profits arising from the event will go to the Village Hall and FVS, ensuring their continued good works in the community. As a reminder, the FVS sets aside funds to help contribute to local initiatives that benefit the village and its amenities, so if you'd like to apply for funding, please make contact via info@fvs.org.uk

A huge thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and made it a night to remember; we're already looking forward to next year's shenanigans!

Electronic copies of the newsletter are 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

Please drive slowly through the village!



Bringing you up to date on Frieth's Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The CSW initiative has been in operation since the beginning of November 2024, and to date, a group of 16 volunteers has been trained to carry out roadside recording sessions using approved detection devices.

So far, they've been running early morning sessions on Frieth Hill, observing traffic entering the village. They typically see about 120 cars pass between 8am and 9:30am and, on average, 6% of those are reported to Thames Valley Police (TVP) as they are travelling in excess of 35mph. Of those caught speeding, the average are travelling at 37mph and the worst offender was recorded at 43mph 😞

Each vehicle reported to the police for speeding has received a letter from TVP. It is interesting to note that of those reported for speeding, 4 had no MOT; 3 had no Tax and 3 were declared SORN, so all these will also receive a home visit from TVP. Vehicles reported 3 times also get a home visit; one vehicle is already on 2 strikes!

A number of people, meanwhile, have stopped to provide encouragement for this initiative – **thank you** 😊

Only one person (there's always one!) has been abusive and drove off at high speed – not the kind of behaviour you'd expect from a school parent! To note: abusive drivers are always reported to TVP even if they are not speeding.

It's clear that our presence is slowing the traffic, and we all hope over time to see a downward trend in the number of reported vehicles.

If anyone would like to join the SpeedWatch group, or if you have any suggestions about times of day or locations in the village where a CSW session should take place, email the group at speedwatch@fvs.org.uk



Road Safety Issues

Please report any road safety incidents and near misses

Also, with a view to improving road safety, residents are being encouraged to report any incidents and 'near misses'. Such issues may include: speeding vehicles; dangerous driving; large numbers of vehicles at any one time that represent a safety hazard; inconsiderate or dangerous parking; a damaged road surface; insufficient parking and risks to health and welfare.

If you witness any of these or are involved in an accident or near miss incident, please send details of what happened to nearmisses@fvs.org.uk. Please record as much information as possible including the date, time, vehicles and people involved.

We are keeping a record so that action can be prioritised to address recurring and/or serious issues with the view to reducing the number of incidents and the risk of injury going forwards. Your help in this matter is much appreciated.



Community Matters

Swing into Spring and beyond...



Frieth's upgraded playground area

We are delighted to let you know that thanks to Hambleton Parish Council, the swings in the village playground on Ellery Rise have been fully refurbished. They now look fantastic and are sure to offer hours of fun and enjoyment for the children in the village for many years to come.

The playground provides a safe area for children to play, kick a ball around and enjoy being outside, especially with Spring on its way.

Calling all Gardeners!

Village Charity Gardens Day – Sunday 29th June, afternoon – TBC

FVS would like to run a charity gardens event in June 2025 which, for a small fee, will provide the opportunity for people to walk around the village and visit a range of gardens of different styles and sizes. Monies raised will be used for village projects.

For this event to run, we need 10-15 gardens for people to visit. If you are willing to open your garden for up to 4 hours during the afternoon of 29th June, please contact Sean Farrelly on seanf@fvs.org.uk or Suzanne Marshall on smarshall@fvs.org.uk by 16th March, so a decision can be made about the feasibility of holding this event.



Frieth Sets Sights on Best Kept Village 2026



Frieth doesn't just have pristine gardens in its sights as, thanks to the FVS, several preparatory steps have been set in motion in anticipation of a potential entry into the **Best Kept Village Competition** in 2026. Stay tuned for more information and how you can help showcase our delightful village.

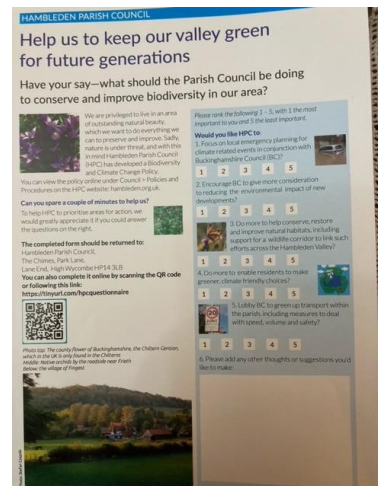
Follow up to Questionnaire on Climate and Biodiversity

A 'Thank YOU' from Hambleton Parish Council

Following the recent questionnaire on how the Parish Council (PC) should address the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, the PC would like to extend a warm thank you to all residents who took the time to respond and share their ideas. Such input is invaluable in shaping the PC's future actions.

In summary, the majority of responses expressed concern over the loss of natural habitats, while far fewer focused on the need for emergency planning. Comments regarding speed, traffic, and the condition of the roads were also common, as well as concerns about planning. Several residents highlighted the importance of a more coordinated approach, as these issues are all interconnected. A number of respondents noted they were pleased to see the PC addressing these challenges and working toward solutions within the community.

If you would like to read more of the comments received [you can view them online here](#) (or enter <https://bit.ly/4joApxD> into your browser). The PC will be discussing the points raised and exploring actions that can be taken to address them. Do keep an eye out for future updates, as the PC may well be inviting residents to get more closely involved in the upcoming initiatives.



Dates for your diary



Frieth Church

Sunday 16th February, 9am – Holy Communion, Frieth
Sunday 23rd February, 9am – Holy Communion, Frieth
Sunday 2nd March, 10am – Group Service, Fingest
Sunday 9th March, 3pm – Wild Church, Hanger Farm, Fingest

FVS – Spring Litter Pick and Village Tidy

Saturday 5th April, 10am – meet at Frieth Village Hall for tea, coffee and bacon rolls before heading out to pick up litter and tidy up the village. Please bring your own gloves and secateurs; bags will be provided. If you are unable to make this date but want to contribute, please let the FVS know which area you will be covering.



Celebration of the Village Clock Restoration

Friday 28th March, 7pm, Frieth Village Hall – complimentary food and drinks by way of thanks to all those who have donated to the project and other Village Hall improvements.
The evening will also be an opportunity for all the various clubs and societies that operate within Frieth to attend and share information about what they do and their upcoming events.

Frieth Natural History Society

Thursday 27th February, 7.30pm – Frieth Village Hall. Brief AGM followed by talk on Creating a Wildlife Garden by John Mason
Monday 10th March, 10.30am – Guided walk searching for and identifying mosses and other bryophytes.
Sunday 27th April, 4.30am – Local walk to hear the Dawn Chorus, followed by bacon butties.
Saturday 31st May, 10.15am – An exploration of Finings Wood.
For more information and to book a place, please contact Mary on 01494 881501 or Andy on 01494 881586. There is a small charge for non-members.

FVS – Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23rd April, 8pm – Frieth Village Hall. AGM followed by drinks and nibbles. All welcome.



Hambleden Cinema Club, Hambleden Village Hall

Saturday 15th February, ONE LIFE, Rating PG – Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham-Carter, Jonathan Pryce and Johnny Flynn. Doors and bar open at 7pm, programme starts at 8pm. Tickets £8 each, available from the Hambleden Village Store or from the website: <https://hambledencinema.co.uk>



Friendly Lunch Club

Saturday 8th March, 12-2pm – A community social, held during Lent, with homemade soup, crusty bread and good company. Frieth Village Hall. Donations to the British Red Cross. Sam Joyce is organising it and would welcome contributions of homemade soup and help on the day. If you wish to provide either (or both!), please contact Sam on 07827 338790 or Judy Hunt on 01491 882227.

Frieth Lunch Club: Last Friday of the month, Yew Tree Pub

Great food and wonderful company. **ALL** welcome. If you need help to get there, transport is available. Contact Judy for more information and to book on 01491 882227 or email ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com



Parmoor Afternoon Tea Club: Tuesday Afternoons, 2pm at St Katharine's, Parmoor

All are welcome for a chat over a cuppa and to play board games if you wish. If you need help to get there, transport is available. Contact Judy on 01491 882227 or email ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com



AD. J. Macleod

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SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday 21st June, 7pm – Ceilidh in the Village Hall. Search out your checked shirts and cowboy boots for a night of caper and fun with fish and chip supper.
Sunday 7th September, from noon – Frieth Village Fete.

Bad Joke Corner

Q: What do you get when you plant kisses?

A: Tu-lips

