FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Welcome to our Late Summer edition!

From a Fete to a Forest, an MP to a Sweet Pea, and from Bowling to Bidding, we have another bumper newsletter for you as summer draws to a close. A report on our Open Gardens event, an update on the works in Hatchet Wood, and details of the Flower and Produce Show provide a very 'green' feel which, with the soft rain falling outside as this newsletter is produced, is a colour we might just see again soon in our surroundings!

Great produce as always from the Lady Ryder Memorial garden

An electrifying experience, albeit just 9 Volts

Donations aplenty for the tombola

After a year's absence from the FVS calendar, the Frieth Summer Fete made a very welcome return, and what a successful comeback it was! With a few tweaks to the schedule and attractions, enough volunteers came forward to help with both setting up and running the event, and we are hugely grateful to everyone who so willingly gave their time in support.

It seems that Friethians rather enjoy throwing things into the air, with both the Welly Throw and Loo Roll Lob proving to be firm favourites. Young and old alike displayed considerable skill, launching their chosen projectiles in a variety of styles, as they battled gravity in pursuit of that winning shot.

Elsewhere, toy rats were splatted, virtual reality aliens zapped, tombolas turned, horseshoes hurled and burgers flipped. The Tipsy Cow kept everyone suitably refreshed, while those in search of something sweeter made a beeline for the customary, and very tempting, array of cakes in the Village Hall, washed down with many a delightful cuppa.

Entertainment was certainly not in short supply. Tony Poots was an outstanding Master of Ceremonies, keeping us all beautifully and comprehensively informed throughout the afternoon, while Christian Broad provided a repertoire of music with something to please everyone.

(continued overleaf)

Getting ready to feed the fete goers

Watch that loo roll fly!

An underarm technique proves useful too

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

Community Matters

Frieth Summer Fete (continued)

A virtual reality contestant readies herself for battle!

Resistance was futile at the cake stall

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the many people who helped organise and run the fete, provided equipment, cars, bicycles and tractors, baked cakes, donated bottles and raffle prizes, manned stalls and generally did whatever was needed to make the day happen. A huge thank you to every one of you.

And the good news is, that all that effort was rewarded with a fantastic surplus of approximately £2,000 raised on the day. This will be distributed between a number of local causes and organisations, ensuring the benefits of the fete will continue well beyond the afternoon itself.

It was wonderful to have the Frieth Summer Fete back, and even better to see so many people from the village and beyond coming together to enjoy it.

While the fete has been run in early September on a number of occasions, did you welcome the change to earlier in the summer? Let us know your thoughts and help shape the FVS calendar for next year.

Our superb MC at work

It's a shoe-in surely?

Hambleden Parish Council get busy supporting Frieth

Guess who came to tea?

Earlier this summer, and organised by HPC, Frieth welcomed Emma Reynolds, then MP and Secretary of State (now Chief Secretary to the Treasury), for a series of discussions addressing various initiatives in the village and parishioners' concerns in general. You can read more about the visit in the accompanying insert to this newsletter, as well as on the HPC webpage, which has more details, and the list of actions that Emma's office has taken following the visit.
https://www.hambleden.org.uk/MP_Visit_to_the_Parish_52781.aspx

Something worth noticing

We are also now the proud owners of a new, beautifully made Notice Board for the village. The former structure had fallen into a state of disrepair, so we welcome the opportunity to once again display village and valley notices in a dry and secure case.

Tom Lumley and Angus Armstrong installing the new board

Tar very much!

Finally, many of you may have noticed the resurfacing of the car parking area by the Village Hall and school, providing much needed improvements to the worn out and potholed ground there before. What a pleasure it was setting up tents, tables and chairs for the fete this year, without having to navigate our way around depressions in which one could previously have lost a family pet!

Community Matters

Hatchet Wood: Managing our woodland for the future

Why today's changes are part of caring for tomorrow's woodland

Many of you will already be aware of the works that have been taking place in Hatchet Wood, involving the extensive felling and removal of Ash trees affected by Ash Dieback, together with other trees that were either in an unsafe condition or had already been brought down by the wind.

One view of Hatchet Wood "as was"

But look up and issues were clear

Access was not always so easy either

The scale of the work has inevitably changed the appearance of this much-loved wood, and it is entirely understandable that this has caused concern and disappointment among some villagers. For those of us who know and enjoy walking in Hatchet Wood, seeing familiar trees disappear can be genuinely upsetting. Nevertheless, woodland is a living and constantly changing environment, and there are times when intervention is necessary both to address safety concerns and to manage the woodland responsibly for the longer term.

Works get underway

The work undertaken in Hatchet Wood is intended not simply to deal with immediate hazards to walkers and others using the wood, but also to help safeguard its future. Ash Dieback presents a particular challenge, and removing trees that are diseased, unstable or already fallen can then form part of a wider programme of woodland management. The objective is not simply to remove trees, but to ensure that the woodland can regenerate and provide a rich and robust habitat for years to come.

Replanting will take place as soon as possible, using native species appropriate to the woodland. There is also a rather nice piece of continuity here: the planting will be undertaken by the same man who planted many of the trees in 1987, following the Great Storm of that year, which caused such devastation across the south of England. In a sense, the cycle continues: trees planted in response to one great disturbance are now themselves part of a woodland being renewed for future villagers and visitors to enjoy.

Hatchet Wood "as is"

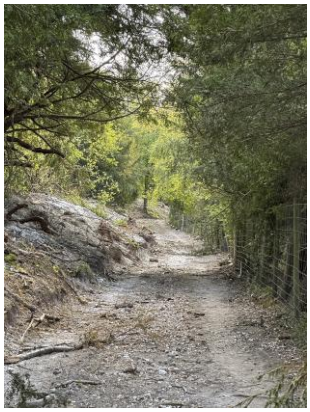
It is worth remembering too, that Britain's woodland has never been entirely static. While storms, disease and natural regeneration have always shaped our woods, human management has played an equally important role over many centuries. The countryside we regard today as quintessentially English has, in large part, been shaped by people from early history to the present, making decisions about which trees to plant, retain, manage and, sometimes, remove.

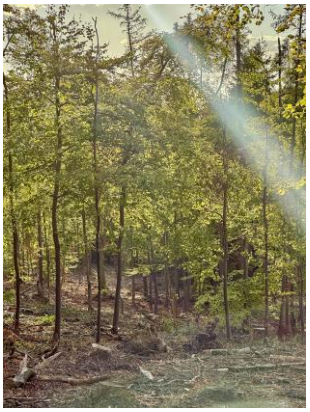
'Someone' to lean on

Community Matters

Hatchet Wood: Managing our woodland for the future (continued)

We are fortunate in the Hambleden Valley to have landowners who take that decision-making responsibility seriously and who recognise the importance of maintaining healthy, sustainable and biodiverse woodland. Hatchet Wood may look different for a while, but the hope and intention is that, with careful management - which will hopefully include support from the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) - and new planting, it will continue to be a much-loved part of our landscape, not just for us, but for those yet to come.





With a large portion of the work now complete we have clearer paths, a healthier wood, a more open canopy and a new beginning

Gardens Galore – and a little something underfoot

From perennials to pitfalls

On yet another glorious day in the Hambleden Valley (and beyond!), the Frieth Garden Walk bloomed once more on 14th June. With gardens to suit every taste, villagers and visitors alike enjoyed the chance to peer over the garden fence, so to speak, and explore the lovingly tended spaces of those who had been busy preparing their gardens, nurturing their perennials, vegetables and much more.

While most of the attention was, naturally, focused above ground, there was also a fascinating opportunity to discover what lay beneath it at Boundary House, where Gillian Swyft gave a highly informative account of the extensive chalk pit discovered beneath their lawn. A reminder, perhaps, that there can be rather more to a garden than meets the eye! A huge thank you to everyone who opened their gardens and shared them with us, and also to all those who helped make the day happen, from baking and serving the refreshments, to welcoming visitors and pointing people in the right direction after they had collected their maps at the Village Hall.

Following the very positive feedback from the open gardens events over the past couple of summers, the FVS is keen to make this a regular feature of the village calendar. If you enjoy your garden and would be happy to share it with fellow villagers and visitors, we would love to hear from you. Gardens of all shapes and sizes are welcome, and you don't need to think of your garden as being a "show garden"; part of the appeal is simply seeing the different ways people have created and enjoyed their outdoor spaces. If you'd consider opening your garden as part of a future event, please contact Sean at Farrelly3@btinternet.com There's no commitment at this stage, we'd simply like to hear from anyone who might be interested.

Community Matters

Strike Whilst You Can!

Being Bowled Over

Following last year's success, the **Skittles Event** will run again on **Saturday 17th October, 7-11pm in the Village Hall.** Doors open at 7pm with the first games starting promptly at 7.30pm.

The evening will be a competition for teams of 8 with street food included in the price. Food is being supplied by **'Up in Smoke BBQ'.** Tickets are £22 each (Player plus food). Spectator tickets are £16 each (Spectator plus food). There will be a licensed bar taking card payments.

New for this year, is the opportunity to hire one of the skittle alleys at a cost of £30 for 50 minutes during the afternoon, perhaps as a family activity or to practise (for those who are serious about winning in the evening!) Hires are available between 1.30-5.45pm for any number of players, but we recommend a maximum of 12 people per lane. Please arrive 5 minutes ahead of your time to make a prompt start. **'Up in Smoke BBQ'** will be selling food during the afternoon if you also want to enjoy some street food.

Alley hire and evening tickets can be purchased from www.fvs.org.uk If you don't have an email address or would prefer to collect your tickets at the door, please enter noemail@fvs.org.uk in the email box at checkout.

Frieth Flower & Produce Show

Our 48th Annual Show beckons!

This year's Show will take place on **Sunday 13th September, 2-3.30pm in the Village Hall** and if you are new to the village or new to gardening and cooking, this is the event for you! It is a friendly community event where locals (and 'outsiders') compete to win in fruit, vegetables, garden flowers, flower arranging and home baking classes. Children have their own section and it's a great way to get them creating!

You need to **Register** using a green schedule (which has already been delivered to your home) on **Thursday 10th September in the Village Hall between 7-8.30 pm**. If you need another schedule, contact Sam, the Show Secretary, on 0782 733 8795. If you just want to have a look, you can view the Show on Sunday between 2-3.30pm. The show auction is being replaced by the **Frieth Harvest Auction**, which will take place at the Yew Tree Pub in the evening – see below.

Reintroduction of the Frieth Harvest Auction

Action the Auction!

The Frieth Flower & Produce Committee is thrilled to announce the reintroduction of the **Frieth Harvest Auction**, which will take place on **Sunday 13th September at The Yew Tree pub, starting at 7pm prompt**. Please arrive at about 6pm to register your interest and collect a bidder number, then buy your drinks and/or food and take a seat. The Yew Tree has kindly agreed to host our event and is also reintroducing the famous 'Harvest Loaf' and complimentary accompaniments to be shared out during the event.
ALL WELCOME!

We are hoping for more pledges and donations, so if you have something of interest to donate, email Sarah at Broaddas@googlemail.com All proceeds from the auction will be shared out to local community charities.

Dates for Your Diary

Frieth Church and related activities – ALL welcome

Sunday 6th September, 10am – **Group Service; 3pm Church Sandwich,** Hambleden
Sunday 20th September, 9am – **Communion**, Frieth
Sunday 27th September, 9am – **Communion**, Frieth
Sunday 4th October, 10am – **Group Service**; **3pm Harvest Festival**, **Frieth**

Frieth Village Society

Saturday 17th October – **Skittles & Nosh** – afternoon and evening – more details can be found within this newsletter. Buy tickets from www.fvs.org.uk
Saturday 7th November – **Autumn Village Tidy** – more details to follow see www.fvs.org.uk

Frieth Natural History Society

Wednesday 23rd September, 7.30pm – **'Chalk and Clay – The geology and flora of the Chilterns'** a talk by Dr Tim Harrison at Frieth Village Hall.
Everyone welcome but a small charge for non-members. For full details and to book your place, please contact: Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com

Hambleden Valley Garden Club

The club provides a focal point for people interested in gardening and the opportunity to exchange ideas and advice. Meetings at Frieth Village Hall with external speakers are held 6 for 6.30pm, October to March. In the summer, there is a range of garden visits.

Annual membership is £15, then members then pay £2 per meeting, which includes a raffle ticket. Membership includes priority access to garden visits in the summer. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £5 per meeting.
Tuesday 6th October – Rosemary Hardy – a 23-time RHS Chelsea Gold winner and recognised as a leading plantswoman in the UK for herbaceous perennials.
For more information, please contact Clair Honnor on clairhonnor1@gmail.com

Frieth Flower & Produce Show

Sunday 13th September, 2-3.30pm – The Show, Frieth Village Hall. **Register on Thursday 10th September, 7-8.30pm, VH**.
Sunday 13th September, 7pm – **Harvest Auction**, Yew Tree Pub.
More information within the newsletter.

Frieth Lunch Club: Yew Tree Pub

Last Friday of the month, 1pm – 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 a place on 01494 882227 or email ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

Afternoon Tea Club at St Katharine's, Parmoor

Tuesday afternoons, resuming on 22nd September, 2pm. All welcome for a chat over a cuppa and to play board games if you wish. Transport is available. Contact Judy on 01494 882227 or email ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

D. J. Macleod

Tree surgery, felling, planting, and hedge cutting. Fencing and gates supplied and erected. **Quality firewood** for sale; producer and supplier of wood chips and locally made traditional barbecue charcoal.
Cedar Cottage, Parmoor, RG9 6NN
Tel: 01494 882901 or Mob: 07850 724023
www.donlogs.com
email: donlogs@hotmail.com

Bad Joke Corner

Q: Where do bad rainbows go?

A: To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect!