FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Welcome to our Autumn issue of the Frieth Newsletter

In this edition, there's competitive action on the skittles lanes, green-fingered glory at the Flower and Produce Show, a fundraising auction and the Frieth Hilly, both run for good causes. We also pause to remember a villager whose life was woven into the fabric of our community for more than 70 years and, as always, many dates for your diaries – we're even having to mention Christmas.

Skittles, Sizzles and Some Serious Competition!



Before the onslaught



The Village Hall's New Dual Carriageway

Two lanes, nearly three hours of traditional skittles, a BBQ and a pay bar. What better way to spend an evening? And it was all happening at the Village Hall, courtesy of your Frieth Village Society!

This year's event took a slightly different approach to last year's knockout-based competition. Instead, we adopted a league format, with every team guaranteed at least four matches. That meant more opportunities to plot a winning strategy, demonstrate bowling prowess, and, of course, blame the occasional wayward throw on a variety of excuses, some more well thought out than others (the Village Hall does not in fact slope towards the playing fields!)

With plenty of friendly rivalry, good food and drink, and lots of laughter along the way, it was a terrific village evening. The 'Former Champions' took 1st prize, with 'Split Happens' in 2nd place and 'Pin and Tonic' coming in 3rd.

A huge thank you to our organisers and everyone who helped make it happen. Congratulations to all those who took part too, whether or not they managed to knock down quite as many skittles as they'd hoped!



Hungry bowlers place their orders



Tactical discussions underway



FVS Marquee erected in record time!

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

Village Events

Frieth Flower & Produce Show

We've almost reached 50!



The 48th Annual Flower & Produce Show was held on 13th September 2026. We feared that the brutally hot, dry summer might have wiped out many fruit and veg entries but were relieved to see the overall number actually increase. The number of Frieth residents entering also rose significantly, by 27 compared with last year.

We had hoped to attract more younger entrants, so it was great to see the creative plant pots, decorated jam jars and more entered by children from Frieth Afterschool Club, that together made a wonderful display. We hope to build on this momentum and encourage more children and young people to take part next year.









Stephanie Cripps kindly presented the trophies, and we were delighted to see some new names amongst the winners. Rather than holding our usual end-of-show auction, we took the donated flowers, preserves, vegetables, fruit and cakes to the Harvest Auction at the Yew Tree. Thanks to the proceeds raised there (see next article), we were delighted to receive a £400 donation, which will help cover the modest costs we incur in printing schedules and buying prize cards and rosettes.









We would like to thank everyone who entered, helped out or simply visited the hall to enjoy the refreshments (and the entries!) Our small committee, meanwhile, would love some new members to help keep the Show alive and kicking. If you would like to get involved, please contact Sam Joyce on 07827338796. We are a friendly, welcoming bunch, and the commitment is modest: just three meetings a year, plus the show day itself.

It may be of interest to note that the records of Frieth's Vegetable and Horticultural Society from 1886 show that 84 prizes were awarded with one winner receiving as much as £1 9s 6d (equivalent to a value of approx. £250 in today's money) leading to the rules being subsequently amended to "*prevent the prizes from falling continuously into the same hands*". Who this green-fingered winner was, was not revealed! Meanwhile, in a glorious nod to an enduring family presence in our midst, it was recorded that "*Mrs. C. A. Cripps gave away the prizes at 7 o'clock, and an enjoyable afternoon was brought to a close*."

Village Events

Harvest Auction





A bushel of bargains; a barrel of laughs

As mentioned in the prior article, this year's post-show auction moved to the Yew Tree pub, where, thanks to Joy and Carlos' hospitality, our enthusiastic auctioneers, Rob Hazlem and Tony Poots, together with Isobel Connell's excellent organisation, the evening was a roaring success.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, whether by bidding generously, donating entries from the Flower & Produce Show or contributing other items for the auctioneers to variously parade, promote and bring down the gavel on.



Explaining how it's all going to work



I am delighted to report that the auction raised £2,400, which will be shared between the Frieth Flower & Produce Show, Frieth Village Society, Frieth Village Hall Society, the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, Frieth CEC School and The Tea Club.

If you'd like to join our Auction Action group and help make next year's event another success, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Sarah Broad at Broaddas@aol.com

Uphill and Down Dale



And s-t-r-e-t-c-h!



Readying for the off



Smile please!

October in Frieth has become rather synonymous with the Frieth Hilly – 5km and 10km races that start outside Frieth's Village School and proceed along winding woodland paths and country roads in the Hambleden Valley, with a variety of ages taking part.



Leading the way

This year, 158 people ran the 10k race, and 96 took part in the 5k, and although it's hard to believe, the fastest runners completed the 10K race in under 39 minutes and under 19 minutes for the 5K.

Frieth Hilly is a member of the Association of Running Clubs but it is based at, and supported by, Frieth CEC School. It is a major fundraiser for the school; they are given a proportion of the entry fees, but raise further funds by providing refreshments for runners, their supporters and any spectators who choose to attend.

The event has a very positive vibe and people really seem to enjoy taking part.
Thanks to all those who helped to organise, run and administrate this event; as is always the case with occasions like this – a lot of work goes on behind the scenes.

Community Matters

Connecting the Community

In light of the various ways in which information can be exchanged in relation to our village and community, we thought it would be useful to summarise the major channels set up by Frieth Village Society on WhatsApp.

Anyone resident in the village can join 'Frieth Village Residents' and once you join a group you are automatically included in 'Announcements'. You can opt in and out of the WhatsApp sub-groups as you like and always choose to 'mute' for a time if you'd like to stay in a group but find the message alerts are annoying.

We should also mention that the Frieth Village & Community Group set up in Facebook, which covers general communication and updates on a very broad range of topics, is run completely independently of the Frieth Village Society.

If you would like more information on the WhatsApp Village groups, or are interested in joining, please contact David House at chair@fvs.org.uk

Name of Group/Subgroup	Purpose	Administered by	Who can post there?
Frieth Village Residents	Serves as a Community hub with a number of channels and topic-based subgroups. Important community information is posted here under 'Announcements'.	Village Society and Village Hall representatives	Community Administrators
Virtual Village Green	A subgroup for local news, miscellaneous requests, general chit-chat and requests for new topic-based subgroups.	Village Society	Anyone
Advice & Freebie Market	A subgroup for recommendations on tradespeople or if you have something to give away.	Village Society	Anyone
Village Watch & Safety	A subgroup to flag suspicious activity, report wandering livestock, missing pets, or warn each other about local road issues.	Village Society	Anyone

A Hall Full of History – Can You Help Tell Its Story?



Have You Got a Picture of the Past?

A project is underway to create a series of display boards celebrating the history of our Village Hall. Andrew Green is leading a small team of volunteers delving into the archives to uncover photographs that capture the Hall in action over the years, but we need your help too!

Do you have any photographs featuring the Village Hall, whether of events, activities or simply the building itself? We'd love to see them, whatever their age, as every picture could help bring a piece of our village's history to life.

If you can help, please contact Andrew Green and send your photographs by email to gardengreen333@yahoo.co.uk or drop them into 'Selborne' (which can be found on the main road between Hayles Field and Innings Road) in an envelope clearly marked with your name and address so they can be returned to you.

(And should you have difficulty locating the property, may we recommend the purchase of a Frieth Village Map Tea Towel, which you can obtain via the FVS website at https://fvs.org.uk And if you don't want one, try persuading a courier or two to buy one in the hope of more accurate deliveries in the village!)

In Remembrance

Rosemary Forrest

For more than 70 years, Rosemary Forrest called 1 Folly Cottages her home, in the village and community of Frieth she loved dearly.

For many years, she worked as the receptionist at Lane End Surgery, a job that gave her almost as much pleasure as the tea and cake she would enjoy at the Frieth Fete without fail. Whether sitting inside the Village Hall or enjoying the sunshine outside, she was always happy to strike up a conversation, catch up on news and enjoy the occasion.

It was not all a life of happiness unfortunately, as she suffered the devastating loss of her beloved son, Adrian, who died at just 16 from an aggressive brain tumour. His memory, however, lives on in Frieth Church, where a handcrafted chair stands as a lasting tribute to a much-loved young life cut tragically short.

Despite this enormous sadness, Rosemary retained her positive outlook. Her glass was always half full, and she is remembered by her family and friends as a warm, caring, and positive person who brought happiness to those around her.

In later years, she continued to enjoy the companionship of village life. Tuesday afternoons at the Tea Club became a much-loved part of her week, while the monthly Lunch Club gatherings at The Yew Tree provided another welcome opportunity to catch up with friends, share a meal and enjoy a good chat.

Born on 11 July 1931, Rosemary passed away on 28 August 2026, leaving behind a remarkable connection with Frieth spanning more than seven decades. She also leaves her daughter Clare and husband John, two granddaughters and four great-grandchildren.

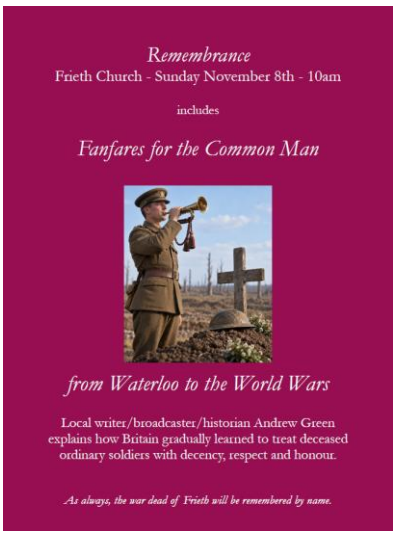
We wish all her family well.





Photos by Rachel Wallace

Fanfares for the Common Man



We will remember them

Each year on Remembrance Sunday, we keep the promise: “We will remember them”.

And the names of every member of our Frieth community who died in the World Wars are read out in Frieth Church from the memorials on the walls.

But there was a time when most of those who died in war weren’t treated with proper respect. Join us to hear the story of how things changed and make your contribution to our village’s remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives.

Sunday 8th November, 10am

Dates for your diary



Frieth Church and related activities – ALL welcome

Sunday 8th November, 10am – **Remembrance Service with talk** (see below), Frieth
Sunday 15th November, 9am – **Communion**, Frieth
Sunday 22nd November, 9am – **Communion**, Frieth
Sunday 29th November, 8am – **BCP Communion**, Frieth
Sunday 13th December, 6pm – **Carol Service,** Frieth
Sunday 20th December, 9am – **Communion**, Frieth
Thursday 24th December, 3pm – **Crib Service**, Turville;
Thursday 24th December, 5pm – **Christingle**; **11.30pm** – **Midnight Mass**, Hambleden
Friday 25th December, 9am – **Family Communion**, Frieth

Remembrance – Fanfares for the common man – from Waterloo to the World Wars



Sunday 8th November, 10am, Frieth Church – Talk by Andrew Green – local writer/broadcaster/historian will explain how Britain has gradually learned to treat deceased ordinary soldiers with decency, respect and honour. As always, the war dead of Frieth will be remembered by name.

Frieth Village Society

Saturday 7th November, 9.30 for 10am start – **Autumn Village Tidy** – Meet at the village hall for drinks and bacon butties; start the tidy at 10. Please bring gloves. If anyone has long-armed hedge cutters, they would be useful. Litterpickers and bags will be provided. All help very much appreciated as there are several jobs to do apart from litter picking. Thanks
Thursday 17th December – **Carols Around the Tree** – more details to follow on the website: www.fvs.org.uk



Frieth Natural History Society

Saturday 21st November – **'Birding Walk around Space Oak Gravel Pits'**
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 with external speakers are held October to March. In the summer, there are a range of garden visits. Annual membership fee is £15 single or £25 for a couple; members then pay £2 per meeting. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £5 per meeting – one visit allowed. Garden visit fees are charged separately, in advance and are non-refundable.
Tuesday 3rd November, 7.15pm – **Kerrie Lloyd-Dawson** – 'Blank canvas to National Garden Scheme in 4 years.'
Tuesday 1st December, 7.15pm – **Chris Day** – 'The productive cut your own garden.'

Any queries, please get in touch at info@hvgc.org.uk

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, 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

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Bad Joke Corner

